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Vol. 4, Issue 26 February 6th, 2026

House on 4th Ave Deemed Total Loss

City By Karen Anderson: February 5, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt



Photo credit Great Falls Fire Rescue

On February 4th, at approximately 7:30 p.m., Great Falls Fire Rescue's B Platoon was dispatched to a reported structure fire at 1525 4th Avenue N.W. Truck 2 was the first unit to arrive and encountered a well-advanced fire with heavy involvement of the residence, including flames actively venting through the roof and a camper in the driveway fully engulfed in flames. large amounts of debris burning in the yard and dense vegetation obstructing the approach to the home. After crews cleared a safe access path, Truck 2 initiated an exterior fire attack to reduce the most intense fire conditions. Firefighters then entered through the kitchen door and conducted a primary search of the residence, but no occupants or pets were found inside.

Initial access to the structure was significantly hindered by Due to the extent of the fire damage and

(Continued on page 3)

The Great Falls Gazette Celebrates 300th Issue

Business By Karen Anderson: February 5, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt



The first issue of The Great Falls Gazette was distributed on August 4, 2023. This beginning issue was composed of eight pages and delivered once a week. Thanks to the incredible support and encouragement from our community, we have experienced substantial growth and are now proud to publish our newspaper daily, delivered Sunday through Friday, right to your door. From the beginning, The Great Falls Gazette has been dedicated to serving as a vital source of local news and information for our community. Our mission is to provide a platform where community members can share their stories, opinions, and happenings. As a small, family-owned business, we take great pride in producing and printing The Great Falls Gazette right here in Great Falls.

(Continued on page 2)

**The Great Falls
Gazette
Issue 300**



Your source for local news and information

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Editor: Karen Anderson
Publisher: Andy Anderson

Subscription coupon is located on page 3

The Great Falls Gazette Celebrates 300th Issue

(Continued from page 1)

We actively encourage submissions from community members, whether it's news tips, stories, or letters to the editor. Your feedback is invaluable to us, as it helps shape our content better to reflect the interests and needs of the community. If you have ideas or suggestions on what you would like to see featured in The Great Falls Gazette, we invite you to reach out via email at info@gfgazette.com or by phone at 406-952-3021.

The journey so far has been inspiring, and we would not have achieved this level of success without the amazing support of our community. We look forward to continuing to grow and provide relevant and timely local news for many years to come.

Thank you to all our supporters for being a vital part of The Great Falls Gazette!



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Time is running out for The Great Falls Gazette yearly special of \$290.

This special will end on February 14th, so renew now with the reduced rate before time ends.



All checks must be received by the deadline.

8

Days remaining

CrimeStoppers	9	Market	7
Fun-E-Pages	6	Obituaries	4
Legal	7	Weather	8
Living	5		

House on 4th Ave Deemed Total Loss (Continued from page 1)

structural involvement, command decided to transition to a defensive strategy. Crews exited the structure and, alongside Engine 4, continued suppression operations from the exterior, successfully containing the fire and preventing further spread.

Mutual aid was requested from the Malmstrom Air Force Base Fire Department and the Montana Air National Guard Fire Department to ensure adequate citywide emergency coverage while Great Falls Fire

Rescue activated callback staffing. Great Falls Fire Rescue expressed great appreciation for the support of the military fire service partners, recognizing that their primary missions always take precedence, which means availability cannot be assumed for every incident.

At this time, the cause of the fire remains under investigation. The residence is considered a total loss, but the occupants were not displaced, as the home was unoccupied at the time of the fire.



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1st Friday Art Walk

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Obituaries

Obituary of Katherine Hirst

Katherine Hirst was born on July 25, 1975, in Helena, Montana, and died on January 26, 2026, in Great Falls, Montana. Katherine grew up in Browning, Montana, with her mother, Lee Ann, and in Wolf Point, Montana, with her uncle, Greg. Katherine was the daughter of Lee Ann (Hirst) Racine. Her stepfather was Robert Virgil (Madman) Racine. She attended elementary school in Poplar, Montana, and later transferred to Browning Public Schools. While attending school, Katherine took interest in art, music, and drama, at which she excelled.

Later on, Katherine took a serious interest in computer literacy and became quite proficient. If anyone needed assistance, Katherine willingly helped, taking pride in her ability. Like her mother, Lee Ann, Katherine had a great love for animals and raised many pets during her life. Katherine had a quick mind, a wry sense of humor, and readily accepted what life had to offer.



Katherine was enrolled in the Blackfeet tribe and was proud of her heritage. Her maternal grandparents were Jack and Katherine Lucille (Kipp) Hirst. It was her Kipp/Heavy Runner ancestry that held the most interest in Katherine. Joseph (Eagle Shoe) Kipp and Isabelle (Kills on the Shore) Cook were her great-grandparents. Katherine's great-

great-grandparents were (Takes Gun at Night) Cut Bank John (Heavy Runner) Kipp and Katherine Calf Woman (Middle Calf) Kipp. Katherine's Piegan name was A-Kops-Sis-So, Many Cuts With, who was her great-great-great-grandmother. Of historical note, Katherine is a direct descendant of Heavy Runner, whose village was slaughtered along the Marias River in 1870, known as the infamous Baker Massacre.

Katherine never married. She is survived by an uncle, Greg Hirst, in Great Falls, and an aunt, Carol (Hirst) Shield, of Frisco, Texas. She was preceded in death by her mother, Lee Ann, and her uncles, John Allen, Charles Lee, James Anthony, and Clayton David Hirst.


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Obituary and death notices are a difficult fact of life. They are a reminder of those we have loved and lost. The Great Falls Gazette does not require payment for submission of local obituaries or death notices, however, you are welcome to donate to our many programs to help people in our community to receive newspapers that they can enjoy. To submit an obituary or death notice, email them to info@gfgazette.com or call us at (406) 952-3021



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Living

Fur-Ever Love - Bilbo

By Joseph Parchen, City of Great Falls Animal Shelter: February 5, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt

Furever Love: Meet Bilbo

Bilbo is a buff tabby with white markings and a personality as big as his curiosity. At just over three years old, this energetic and confident cat is always ready for his next adventure. Bilbo approaches life with a “go, go, go” attitude, eagerly exploring his surroundings and engaging with anything that catches his interest. His playful nature makes him a joy to watch, whether he is investigating a new space or initiating play with his favorite toys.

Despite his adventurous spirit, Bilbo also has a deeply affectionate side. He enjoys spending time with people, offering loving moments and impressive purrs that make his presence both comforting and memorable. Bilbo is also quite chatty and known for his vocal nature, especially when he feels like sharing

his thoughts—or serenading those around him.

Potential adopters should note one important detail: Bilbo prefers to be the only cat in the household. He does not get along with other cats and can become hissy or growly in their presence. In a home where he can be the sole feline, Bilbo truly shines and forms strong bonds with his humans.

If you are looking for an active, engaging, and affectionate companion to call your own, Bilbo may be the perfect match.

Adoption Application: <https://gfmt.link/gfasapp>

Available dogs and cats: <https://gfmt.link/gfasadopt>

By Joseph Parchen, City of Great Falls Animal Shelter: February 5, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt



Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

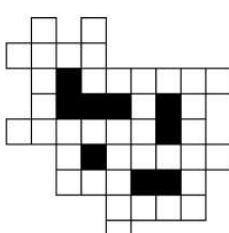
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Young female horse | __ I ____ | Foolishness | __ O ____ |
| 2. Restaurant server | __ I ____ | Mr. Mitty or Cronkite | __ L ____ |
| 3. Serena Williams' tool | __ A ____ | Spaceship | __ O ____ |
| 4. Sluggish creature | S ____ | Fabric | C ____ |
| 5. Code inventor | __ R ____ | Mickey or Minnie | __ U ____ |
| 6. Alternate route | __ T ____ | Wolf down | __ V ____ |
| 7. Boxer Sonny | __ O ____ | Eavesdrop | __ E ____ |
| 8. Groucho's quiet kin | __ O ____ | Angelic instruments | __ S ____ |
| 9. Deep red gem | __ T ____ | Harvest | __ R ____ |
| 10. Alf or ET | __ I ____ | Steve or Woody | __ L ____ |

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FEAR & KNIGHT

By: rj Johnson
DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

UYG
EGSAKT
CHEAD
NAUL
♥ ROIGNE
AKY
♥ RUCE
MOKUA
GKE
UARKEE
♥ REGUS
NSCY



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

CRISSCROSS – VALENTINE'S DAY GIFTS

Each word will fit into one spot in the grid. Use the starting letters as a guide and fit each word into its spot. All words will be used, so cross off each one after you put it into the grid.

3 Letters

KIT
MUG
PIE

4 Letters

CAKE
GAME
KITE
MASK
POEM
ROSE
TUTU
YO-YO

5 Letters

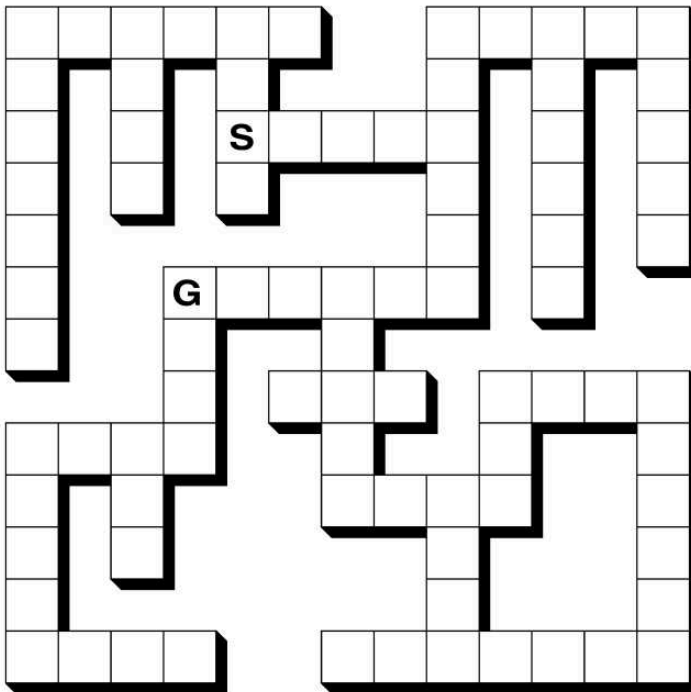
CANDY
PAPER
RADIO
SOCKS
TRUCK

6 Letters

CAMERA
GUITAR
MAGNET
PENCIL
POSTER

7 Letters

CRAYONS
DRUM SET



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KNIGHT MOVES

A	Y	S
I		L
L	C	F

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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Gazette**

PUBLIC - LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices

Legal Notice

Notice of Hearing

RE: Change of Name of a Natural Person

Notice is hereby given that a hearing to change the name of a natural person, Janis Lynn Griggs, shall occur on February 25, 2026 at 9:00 am at the Cascade County District Courthouse, 415 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, MT, 59401 in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Courtroom of the honorable Judge David J. Grubich.

Published in the Great Falls Gazette on January 16th, 23rd, 30th, and February, 6th, 2026.

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Events

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Saturday, February 14th 9a - 6p
Sunday, February 16th 9a - 3p

\$5 for the weekend, kids under 15 free with adults.

Mark (406) 868-9185
Jan (406) 788-6104

Civilized letters to the editor may be sent to letters@gfgazette.com or mailed to Letter To The Editor, 1601 2nd Ave N, Suite 345, Great Falls, MT 59401. Letters must include name (we print first name, last initial), hometown, and either a phone number or email address. Letters that attack others, are patently untrue, or are of a harmful nature WILL be rejected!



Local Weather For Great Falls

NWS Forecast for: Cascade County below 5000ft
Issued by: National Weather Service Great Falls, MT
Last Update: [9:57 am MST Feb 5, 2026]

Friday Sunny, with a high near 67. Light south southwest wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.

Friday Night Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Southwest wind around 11 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to 16 to 21 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 33 mph.

Saturday Night Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. Southwest wind 16 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62. Southwest wind 16 to 21 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph.

Sunday Night A slight chance of rain after 11pm. Cloudy, with a low around 38. West southwest wind 8 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Keep an eye on the weather all week long, you can get a monthly subscription to Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday of the Gazette for about the price of three large lattes!




Gospel Music Concert

The Johnson Brothers
Winter Gospel Concert

February 15th, 2026
Potluck Dinner 5pm
Concert 6pm

St John's 9th Ave South
Great Falls, Montana

Free Family Event!



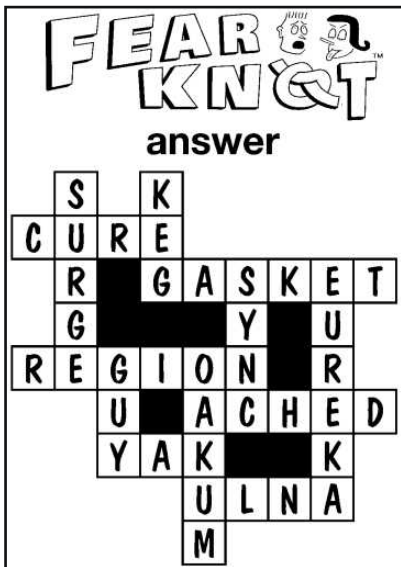
Celebrations

Celebrations is a great way to say "Happy Birthday", "Happy Anniversary", "Congratulations", or other positive messages to share with the whole city. It's a great way to be positive in a challenging world; it's fun, and it's FREE! You can even include a small (tastefully fun) photo! Just email info@gfgazette.com or call 406 952-3021, and we'll get the positive word out.

Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

- 1. Filly, Folly
- 2. Waiter, Walter
- 3. Racket, Rocket
- 4. Sloth, Cloth
- 5. Morse, Mouse
- 6. Detour, Devour
- 7. Liston, Listen
- 8. Harpo, Harps
- 9. Garnet, Garner
- 10. Alien, Allen



— KNIGHT MOVES —
Answer

A	Y	S
5	8	3
I		L
2		6
L	C	F
7	4	1

FISCALLY



CrimeStoppers Most Wanted



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Great Falls/Cascade County CrimeStoppers, the Great Falls Police Department, and the Cascade County Sheriff's Office make every effort to keep the Most Wanted list current. We cannot guarantee the currency of the information. If you have reason to believe that any of the information contained on the list is inaccurate, call the Cascade County Sheriff's Office at (406) 454-6820 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

If you have any information to report, please call (406) 727-8477 (TIPS) or go to P3TIPS.COM (For a situation in progress, call 911). All callers remain anonymous and a reward can be paid for tips leading to an arrest. Help keep our community safe by sharing this information.



Dubois, Tashina Michelle: 29 yoa, Native American female, 5'2", 230 #, brown eyes, brown hair, wanted on: 2 warrants, violation of the terms of suspended sentence on theft, felony, and driving a motor vehicle while privilege to do so is suspended or revoked, 1st offense, misdemeanor. Total bond \$30,285.

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