

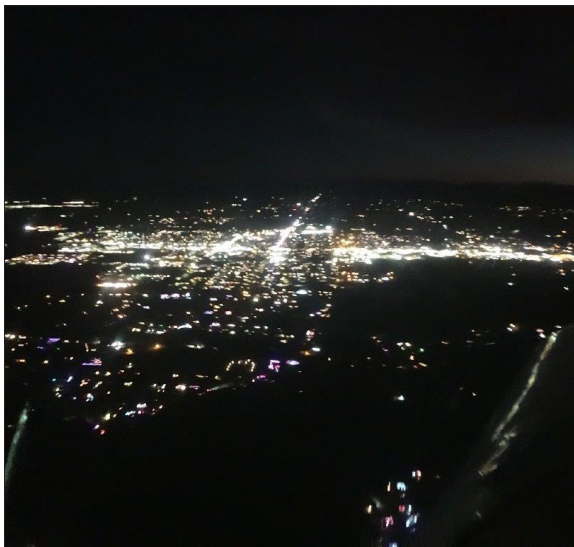
THE FALLON POST



Merry Christmas From The Fallon Post



Leslie Wood took this beautiful photo on Donner Summit, December 21st saying she was glad to bring happiness to so many people. "Many assume the brightest light is the planets Jupiter and Saturn," she said. They are in the photo, but are the very small stars near the center bottom of the photo. "The moon became a star in my exposure due to the lens I used and has confused many commenters," she said of the photo posted to social media. It is essentially a photo of a clear Solstice night on Donner Summit, with a bright moon and a dim conjunction in the sky near the horizon. Wood is not a professional photographer, but posted for the joy and to reflect the beauty of Donner Summit.



(Above) Downtown Fallon at Christmas from the air.
(Right) Fallon/Churchill Fire Department escorting Santa around town for kids to see from their homes.



From the Publisher

Captain's log... December 24th

"Are you insane?" she keeps saying to me. When we were Sophomores in high school she would ask, "have you hit your head?"

Leanna is often the voice of reason on this team.

What the heck were we thinking (and by we, I mean I, I'm the one who thought it would work) scheduling the first edition of the magazine to come out three days after Christmas, and four days after we print the weekly paper. Admittedly, I was not thinking of all those details, and was blissfully unaware at the time that all my kids were going to descend on my house for a visit – with their pets.

But here we are, madly working to make our deadlines (And by we, I mean the Royal We, meaning this amazing little team we have) and bring you a great little Christmas edition of *The Fallon Post*.

We are also reprising the one and only, Vic Williams. Many of you will remember him from years past as an award-winning political cartoonist, and the guy who started the Bird Farm which eventually became Boomers.

How lucky are we?!?

We feel lucky and happy during this season, and we hope you are feeling a little of the same. We wish you all a Merry, Merry Christmas.

Keeping you posted,
Rachel



Subscription orders can be placed online, by mail at 1951 W. Williams #385 or phone at 775-423-4545. Single copies may be purchased for \$1.00 at local merchants. Subscribe online at: www.theFallonPost.org. Subscription rate is \$9.95 monthly, or \$119.49.

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A special thanks to Jewel Fain for her creative touches with the owl tracks and barbed wire fence posts.

Photo credit - Willie Topken, cover, Fallon from the air. Rachel Dahl, Christmas Tree.

Wreaths Across America: Veterans Remembered in Fallon

By Leanna Lehman

Volunteers gathered at the Fallon Cemetery on Saturday, December 19th to honor the many Fallon veterans laid to rest there.

National Wreaths Across America is held each December and serves to honor and remember the many fallen military veterans that have served our country. The wreath laying event takes place in over 2,100 locations in the U.S., at sea, and beyond, according to the Wreath Across America (WAA) organization.

In recent years, the remembrance took place at the the Veterans Cemetery in Fernley. Lisa Duvall, who was instrumental in bringing the event to Fallon, wanted to make sure the 1,400 fallen veterans buried in Fallon were also honored. Kneeling in respect, each volunteer laid their wreaths at each veteran's grave and paused to whisper the words, "Thank you for your service - you will not be forgotten."

Naval air traffic controller, Arron Gutierrez, was one such volunteer. For Gutierrez, who is in the ninth year of his military career, has been on multiple deployments, from which not everyone came back. "They gave the ultimate sacrifice," said Gutierrez, "and it's important that sacrifice is remembered." From South Texas, Gutierrez hasn't been home since he was stationed here nearly five years ago. A third generation serviceman, he comes from a long line of men accustomed to sacrifice, as his father was a Vietnam War Veteran and his grandfather fought in WWII. But he's grateful for the opportunity, stating, "It gives us a chance to say thank you on behalf of all of the people we've served with."

Veterans, family members of veterans, volunteers from the community, and members from the Churchill County High School FFA chapter also participated in the wreath laying event.



Gutierrez (above), Wandrell Whaley and Gavin McLean (below) place wreaths at the cemetery.

"Thank you for your service - you will not be forgotten."



Features

NAS Fallon Fed Fire Passes Accreditation Visit



Chief Willie Youles (center, in blue) is flanked by base XO Cmdr. Marshall Chastain (left, in flight suit) and CO Capt. Evan Morrison (right, in flight suit) and members of the Federal Fire Department in August, 2020. US Navy photo by MCI Larry Carlson.

Press Release by Michael Cornista

On 9 December, the Federal Fire Department onboard Naval Air Station Fallon passed an intensive accreditation visit that brings the department one step closer to full accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI).

Over the course of the last two years, Fed Fire has embarked on the CFAI accreditation process to internally assess the effectiveness and delivery of fire service programs to NAS Fallon and the Churchill County community. Currently there are 281 fire departments across the globe that are CFAI Accredited protecting 11% of the U.S. population with 65 of those accredited agencies deriving from a Department of Defense or federal entity. In the state of Nevada, only one other fire department has achieved accredited status, the City of Henderson Fire Department.

The accreditation process includes the creation of a five-year Strategic Plan, a Community Risk Assessment – Standards of Cover, and the Fire & Emergency Services Self-Assessment Manual. During the two-year span, NAS Fallon F&ES progressed through the phases of Applicant, Registered, and currently Candidate statuses, with the culmination being an oral assessment and line of questioning from an 11-member commission panel representing a cross-section of North American fire and emergency services, including fire departments, city and county managers, labor leaders, standards development organizations, and the Department of Defense.

Most members of our community may be more familiar with the Insurance Services Office, or better known as the ISO Rating. The ISO rating uses the Public Protection Classification on a 1 to 10 scale to gauge the ability of a local fire department to respond to fires. The ISO rating is then used by the insurance industry in determining insurance premiums for properties within the community. CFAI Accreditation is a non-profit organization that offers independent verification and validation of an agency's performance and operations. The accreditation process encompasses

ten categories in which a fire department is assessed and evaluated against national standards and similar fire organizations under a Peer-Review model. It is not uncommon for a fire organization to carry CFAI Accreditation and an ISO "One" rating as there are currently 102 fire service organizations that hold both.

For three days in December, an independent four-person team comprising of fire service professionals located around the country visited NAS Fallon to validate the documents submitted and conduct a "hands-on" assessment, to include interviews, in order to determine the credibility of NAS Fallon's Federal Fire Department as it relates to fire protection services. Upon conclusion of the Peer Team site-visit, NAS Fallon Federal Fire Department was provided recommendations on areas of improvement, but was most importantly recommended for accredited status.

Michael Cornista, Accreditation Manager for NAS Fallon Federal Fire Department, was grateful for the recommendation and knows there is still work to be done. "The accreditation process has provided our fire department an opportunity to identify areas within our program services that we can improve upon in order to provide better fire protection and prevention services for our customers and the NAS Fallon community. A lot of work was done to get where we are and many departments and individuals throughout the Churchill community and NAS Fallon helped get us to this point. We are looking forward to sitting in front of the commission to represent NAS Fallon and Navy Region Southwest Fire and Emergency Services," said Cornista.

The next steps in the fire department's accreditation process are to implement the recommendations from the Peer Review Team and prepare for the commission hearings scheduled for March 2021.

"I am very pleased with the results from this visit," said Capt. Evan Morrison, Commanding Officer of NAS Fallon. "All of Fed Fire's hard work is being recognized. It is truly a great accomplishment for our firefighters."

Obituaries

Ralph Joseph Sanchez



On Friday November 27th, Ralph Joseph Sanchez, passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 94.

Ralph was born on February 23, 1926 in Magdalena, New Mexico to Francisco Fajardo and Anna Maria (Pino) Sanchez.

Mr. Sanchez is survived by a son, Anthony, a grandson Zarek, a granddaughter Brianna, and his only remaining sibling, Bernice Santillan of Pasadena, CA. He was loved by many family, especially his nieces, nephews

and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Francisco and Anna Sanchez, of Magdalena, NM and his siblings, Frank, Benny, Eunice and Billy.

Ralph loved music... singing and playing the guitar. While in the service he would record albums of songs and would mail them home to his Mom so she wouldn't worry about him. He moved from NM to California in 1941. He lived in Pasadena, CA for over 30 years until his move to Fallon, NV in the mid

70's. He was a delight to our community and could be seen riding his bike to the gym.

Ralph is a WWII and Korean War veteran, where he earned several Medals, including EAME Campaign Ribbon with a Bronze Star, Victory Ribbon, Army of Occupation Ribbon (Germany), 2 Overseas Service Bars, Parachute Badge, and a National Service Medal. Ralph served in the army as a paratrooper, part of the 11th Airborne Division, and earned the rank of a Sergeant.

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Notes From This Week at District Court



Tom Lee Furr reads his statement to the court - Photo taken over Zoom

By Leanna Lehman

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened December 22nd, with Judge Tom Stockard presiding.

Mary Ann Banuelos pled guilty to offering, attempting, or committing an unauthorized act relating to manufacturing or compounding of certain controlled substances (a first offense), a category C felony that carries 1-5 years in prison. Banuelos will appear for sentencing on March 23rd.

Clinton Adrian Boots (in custody) appeared for a status hearing after pleading guilty in November to charges of battery with a deadly weapon, a category B felony carrying a penalty of 2-10 years. According to the allegations, on September 17th, at Coleman Road and the Reno Highway, Boots did stab another individual. Boots' defense counsel, Charles Woodman, Esq., petitioned the court to release Boots on his own recognizance (OR) to the Mikey House, a transitional sober living facility in Silver Springs. According to Parole and Probation, Boots has an extensive criminal history that includes three felonies, 13 misdemeanors, and 11 failure-to-appear charges. Judge Stockard did not grant the release. Boots will remain in custody until he appears for sentencing on February 2nd.

Tom Lee Furr (in custody) appeared for sentencing on charges of battery with a deadly weapon. According to Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills, "Furr has a very escalating and disturbing criminal history which includes stalking, two assaults on females, assault on a government

official, and a larceny conviction." The allegations state that Furr got into an altercation with Alexander Lewis outside of the Pizza Factory last December, chased him into the restaurant, and then stabbed him. Mills reported that the victim had to be transported to the hospital in serious condition. Furr was initially charged with attempted murder and fled to California. According to public defender Jacob Sommer, Furr was so intoxicated at the time that he had no recollection of the event. He eventually self-surrendered and returned to Nevada to face the charges. Addressing the court, Furr stated, "I don't remember what happened, but if I could go back, I would. I regret that anyone got hurt." Furr was sentenced to 40-100 months in prison and will receive 366 days credit for time served. He was also ordered to pay \$650 in restitution to Pizza Factory for damages.

Janel Nicole Marable was arraigned on a DUI charge, a 3rd or subsequent offense – a category B felony that carries 1-6 years. Nevada statutes call for a mandatory prison sentence unless the defendant qualifies for the DUI diversion program. According to Jacob Sommer, defense counsel for Marable, on October 25th, she was in control of a motor vehicle while with a blood-alcohol level of .246 while having two or more DUI convictions within seven years. Marable, who pled guilty to the charge, has been wearing a SCRAM unit that monitors and reports her blood alcohol level and has an Interlock device installed on her vehicle that does the same. Judge Stockard granted Marable provisional placement into the DUI diversion program. She is to appear for sentencing on March 23rd.

Jordan Paul Tracy appeared for sentencing on a charge of possessing a firearm with a domestic battery conviction, a category B felony. He also appeared for sentencing on charges of preventing or dissuading a victim, a person acting on behalf of a victim, or a witness from reporting a crime. According to Assist District Attorney Priscilla Baker, while on house arrest for domestic battery, Tracy went to his former wife's place of employment with a gun and threatened to kill her, a friend that was with her, and himself. When she attempted to call 911, he unplugged the landline so she could not get through to dispatchers. Tracy received probation on a suspended prison sentence of 26-66 months on the firearms charge and 17-44 months for preventing the crime from being reported.



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Library Director to Serve as Acting Museum Director



By Rachel Dahl

Churchill County Library Director Carol Lloyd has been tapped to serve as the acting museum director while a national search is conducted to find a permanent director following the death of Dan Ingram earlier this month.

County Manager Jim Barbee and Human Resources Director Geof Stark approached Lloyd with the proposal last week and she agreed to serve until a new director is hired.

Since museum programming has been sidelined by the pandemic, Lloyd will focus on administrative tasks including interacting with staff and the museum board, meeting deadlines, applying for grants that may come up, organizing files, paying the bills and the like.

“My goal is to keep the museum moving forward until a new, permanent director arrives, but not making any huge changes,” Lloyd said.

Lloyd has high praise for the museum staff who have jumped in to support her in this new role. “They have really been wonderful,” she said.

When ready, the job posting for the Churchill County Museum Director position will be on the county’s website at: www.churchillcountynv.gov/careers

Last Meeting of 2020 for City Council

By Viviane Ugalde

The Fallon City Council convened on Monday, December 21st, for the last meeting of the year. Mayor Ken Tedford presided over the meeting, happy to be in attendance after a brief absence to recover from COVID-19.

Fallon resident Geoff Knell offered public comment, taking a few moments to read some scripture and thank the council for their hard work throughout the year.

City of Fallon Police Captain Chris Alexander reported on the November calls and arrests, which decreased slightly from those reported in 2019. Alexander stated the downturn was most likely due to COVID, with residents spending more time at home. The Captain also mentioned that the police department continues to keep officers and residents safe by limiting in-person contact and remaining outside of homes whenever possible when responding to calls. Alexander said the numbers for the animal shelter were also down from last year.

Councilwoman Karla Kent thanked Alexander for his efforts. She also commented on the new solar speed panel that was installed by Laura Mills Park. Kent stated that she thought it was a good idea to control speeders in that area.

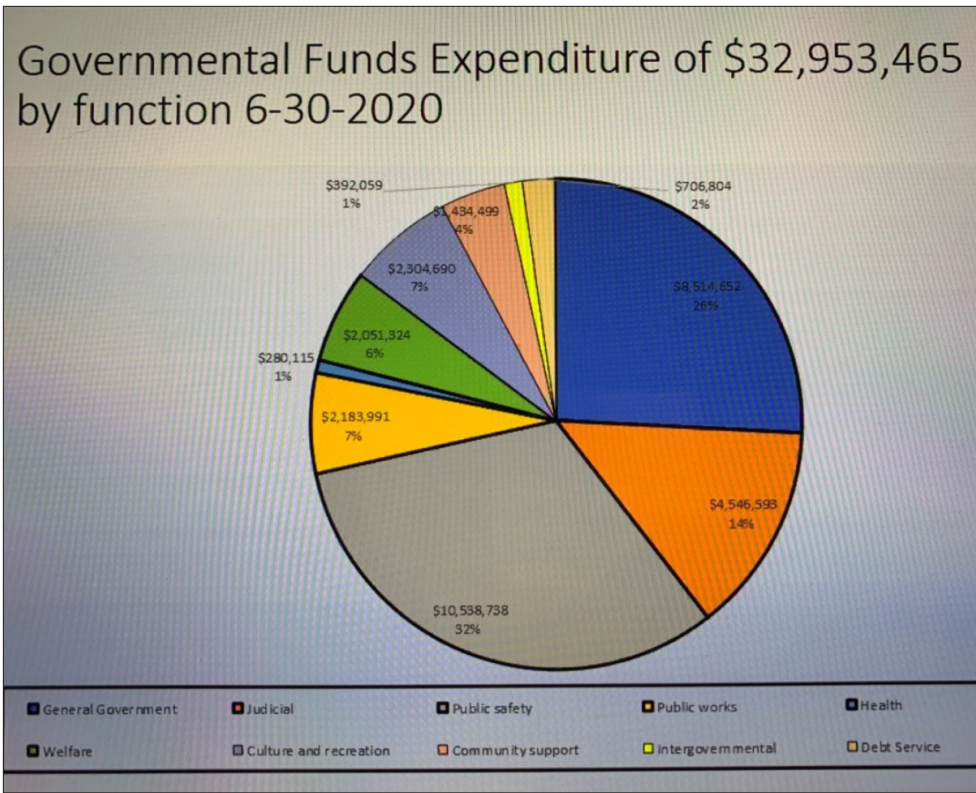
Councilwoman Kelly Frost thanked the Fire Department for escorting Santa around neighborhoods last Friday night during their fire truck parade. Councilman Richardson thanked the Fire Department as well, saying, “these are strange times.”

Mayor Tedford and the City Council wished the City and the community a very merry Christmas.



File photo

Commissioners-Elect Get Day-Long Briefing



Governmental Funds Expenditure pie chart - Photo taken over Zoom.

By Rachel Dahl

“Like drinking from a firehouse” was the term used several times during a briefing held recently for County Commissioners-elect, Justin Heath and Greg Koenig. Throwing around the short-hand language of acronyms used by state and local bureaucrats; WNDD, CEDA, EIS, BOR, county commissioners shared their wealth of experience, and staff provided an overview of departments and issues.

Koenig eventually stopped the presentation asking for clarification, “Nevada Association of County Officials, I don’t know what that means.”

Commission Chairman Pete Olsen said the phone company will also provide the new commissioners with a manual with a whole new list of acronyms. “You’ll like them even less than us,” he said.

Commissioners, along with County Manager Jim Barbee gave an overview of each committee and department, who is assigned to each, along with a schedule of when each typically meets. There was also a discussion of the budgeting process which includes two days of hearings along with two days of department tours.

Koenig raised a question regarding scheduling extra meetings around the existing committee meetings. “Justin and I both have nine to five jobs, and if I take nine committees, that’s nine half days plus two more days, I’m like 11 days off next month,” he said. “I know what time it takes, I took of the first Thursday and the third Wednesday half day (regular commission meeting days) but to add five or six more days in the middle of the month, I can’t do that.”

He said that while he was on the school board they held as many meetings as possible at night and extra meetings on Saturday. During his time on the school board, he said the staff accommodated the school board members, “and here it’s like we have to totally accommodate to what they’re doing.”

Barbee clarified, “the meetings are not held to accommodate the staff,” but more toward the groups who are presenting to the

commission which could be anyone from the director of the Bureau of Reclamation to geothermal companies. “They practice regular business hours,” said Barbee, “the rationale is not because any of the staff is unwilling to be here at six o’clock at night.”

Discussion will continue on accommodating schedules.

Ben Shawcroft, Civil Deputy from the District Attorney’s office presented information regarding the Open Meeting Law and Ethics. Because of the three member commission, any two commissioners are not allowed to speak to each other or they would constitute a quorum and would be considered deliberating. “Don’t call each other, don’t text, don’t email,” he said. In addition, if commissioners receive an email addressed to all three of them, they should not hit “reply to all” as that would also be considered deliberating. He reminded them to use their county email for all county business as that makes it easier when dealing with public records requests.

In terms of social media, Shawcroft warned commissioners not to use their private social media to address issues that will appear to the public to be official county messages. He said there have been several cases lately where elected officials ask the public a question about taxes or zone changes, etc. which turns their personal site into a public forum causing a plethora of laws to be activated, including records requirements.

Geof Stark, human resources director for the county discussed the issues involved in managing 250 county employees. Title 3 of the County Code governs employee matters, due to the fact that county employees are not represented by a union or association other than the 50 sheriff deputies and 6 dispatchers. “We have a really good team which has been evidenced by what’s going on with COVID right now – we have road department staff helping with testing, social services has been involved, the library has been involved, we have a lot of people pulling together.”

Comptroller Sherry Wideman discussed property taxes and the budget, along with Assessor Denise Mondhink-Felton and county Clerk/Treasurer Lindsay Rothery.

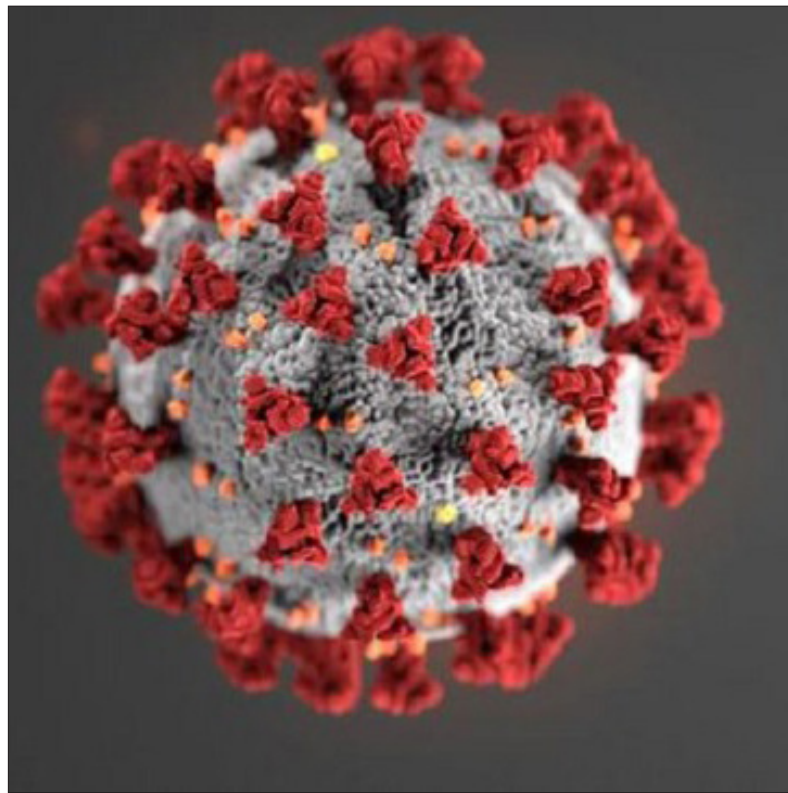
Commissioners-elect also heard from consultants Jeremy Drew regarding the Navy expansion issue, Kia Anderson regarding the Churchill Lands Bill, and Chris Mahannah who covered the extensive issue of water in the community. Mahannah covered the importance of the Newlands Project to the recharge of community ground water.

Heath said it was great to learn about the departments and meet all the leaders of each department. “One of the best things was to hear how they restructured the public works department and also how the roads are maintained here in the county and how the wells are recharged from the canals,” he said. “There was a lot of things I didn’t know about the valley.” He said he is really looking forward to serving he community.

Koenig echoed the drinking from a firehouse comment, “they had so much coming at us at once it was a little overwhelming, there are so many acronyms.” He is comfortable with the process because of his experience on the school board and exposure to the Open Meeting Law and Ethics, but says the commission will be like, “being on the school board on steroids.” He is also impressed by the staff and their knowledge and looks forward to working with them as well as the commissioners.

“One of the things I really liked and was kind of a relief is that they have a really good relationship with their employees. That was the part I hated the most with the school board is the contentious negotiations with the teacher’s union every single year,” he said. “I was really glad to hear that.”

COVID Relief Funds Ahead, Vaccinations Underway, Positive Cases Slow



By Leanna Lehman

COVID continues to weigh heavy on the minds of many Americans, however, some good news is beginning to surface. Not only has Congress passed another relief package, but fewer Nevadans are testing positive for the virus.

<i>Churchill County</i>	<i>As of Nov. 11th</i>	<i>As of Dec. 16th</i>	<i>As of Dec. 22nd</i>
Active Positive Cases	227	154	226
Tests Administered since March	11,030	15,828	16,412
Recovered Individuals	218	1,091	1,019
Currently Hospitalized	8	8	7
Total Deaths	4	28	35
Total Positive Cases since March	449	1,201	1,280
Asymptomatic Positives since March	40	96	101

COVID relief funds passed: On Monday, December 21st, the Senate voted 92-6 on a second COVID-19 relief bill totaling nearly \$2.3 trillion, with \$1.4 trillion slated for government funding and \$900 billion in economic relief. Direct stimulus payments of \$600 are included in the bill with additional unemployment funds, business loans, funds for colleges and schools, and a \$25 billion rental assistance program.

Positive cases: The total number of positive COVID-19 cases in Nevada hit 203,945 on Sunday, December 20th, with the current positivity rate now at 19.7%. Despite the high numbers, the positivity rate has continued to decline slightly over the last two weeks.

Vaccinations: Last week, Nevada state officials received information from the Department of Defense and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) that the second shipment of vaccines would be 17,550 instead of 30,225 doses, 42% less than expected.

Nevada has outlined a tiered priority approach to distributing doses of the vaccine in the state's Vaccination Program Playbook. "I want all Nevadans to know that while this first allocation is small, it is the first of many," stated Governor Steve Sisolak, "It's critical to remember we won't see large-scale vaccination throughout America until the spring."

The Playbook notes that the vaccine supply will be limited in the beginning, so the allocation of doses must focus on critical populations to ensure that health care workers and clinicians receive the vaccine first. State officials hope to have 80% of Tier 1 critical population vaccinated within the first 60 days.

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Tiers

Tier 1: Healthcare workers, clinicians, and those that will be administering the vaccines, along with hospitals and surgical centers, long term care facility staff and residents, pharmacy technicians, and law enforcement.

Tier 2: Military personnel and a broad scope of public workers including individuals working in education and child care, those considered "essential workers", and inmates.

Tier 3: People with underlying health conditions that are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, elderly Nevadans age 65 and older without underlying health conditions, released offenders in transitional housing, and homeless individuals.

Tier 4: Healthy people aged 16-64.

For a complete list of Tier information, visit nvhealthresponse.nv.gov

Ninth Circuit Court ruling: Church attendance caps increased after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled earlier this month that the COVID-19 capacity restriction placed on churches and houses of worship by Governor Sisolak was unconstitutional. The court found that the Governor's church capacity restrictions were harsher than other limits set for casinos and secular businesses. Churches were initially required to cap their attendance at 50 people, regardless of church size or building capacity. The cap has since increased to 25%.

Coronavirus mutations: The COVID-19 virus continues to mutate throughout the country. In June, a unique strain of the virus was discovered in Northern Nevada by Dr. Subhash Verma, associate professor of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the UNR School of Medicine. UNR continues to study the mutation. Presently, no information has is available on how the varied strain may impact vaccine efficacy.

Satellite lab: Churchill County continues their efforts to install a satellite COVID-19 testing lab to minimize the waiting time for test results. The commissioners hope to see the lab up and running by the end of the year. The County also continues to offer free, drive-through COVID testing at the Churchill County Fairgrounds.

Company Spotlight -- Tedford Tire Co., 74 Years in the Making



By Rachel Dahl

Most Fallon residents are well acquainted with Tedford Tire, however, what most people don't know is that the company began as an oil company in 1947. Delivering gasoline and heating oil to customers in the Lahontan Valley, Ken Tedford, Sr., quickly saw another opportunity and soon expanded their operation. Purchasing E.L. Company Tire Shop in 1951, Tedford renamed the shop to Tedford Recapping and has been running strong for 74 years.

It is also not widely known that the mayor of the City of Fallon, Ken Tedford, Jr., started sweeping out the shop when he was six years old. He and his three sisters all worked for their parents, first in the oil shop and then in the tire shop.

"Right from when they started the tire shop, Mom worked right out there with Dad. First, they added new shops, then the new business office, and another new back office when I came home in 1978," said Tedford. "There were three desks in that back office, Mom's, Dad's, and mine. Now I sit at his desk. We worked together for over 20 years."

A great admirer of his mother, Tedford still carries a deep sense of appreciation for what she brought to the business that would be his legacy. "My parents met at the University of Nevada when they were in college and she was a very smart businesswoman. Dad would give her all the credit for where he got," said the Mayor. "My mom, Betty Kornmayer, came from a long-time Reno family, growing up in Washoe Valley. She ran the family business, Peterson Rock and Gravel, when her two brothers went off to war."

Recalling the story of his sister Brenda when she was first teaching school and his dad would tell her she had to come home and work over Christmas break. "She would say, 'well I'm teaching now, dad' and he would say, 'it doesn't matter, we're busy,' and she would come to work."

The family has always focused on customer service, a core trait Ken, Sr. instilled in all his children. Tedford's sister Jani, the oldest, is a go-getter, he said. "We used to leave a heating oil truck at the house because people ran out at night, I remember many a Christmas Eve taking heating oil to someone who ran out. One-time Jani didn't have a ride to school, so she took one of the heating oil trucks to school."

Tedford has four children who have all done their time; sweeping the shop, working the counter throughout their youth, and returning from college during their summers to help out. Kenny is now a practicing attorney working in the District Attorney's office in Washoe County, Dillon is practicing law at a firm in Los Angeles, Darcie is teaching elementary school in Ft. Worth, Texas, and Alexandria is working on her master's degree in athletic leadership at Boise State.

Tedford Tire supports eleven employees, with Randy Sharp in his 25th year as manager. "He's been wonderful," said Tedford. "My dad always said to surround yourself with really good people, and that's what I've tried to do, it's the only way I can really run the City and the tire shop at the same time. I have really good help in the office and really good help at the shop."

Tedford always considered his dad a very good leader of people, who taught him at the highest level how to lead people in his own right. He has always seen small businesses as the backbone of a community, and by extension - the country. "Small business is what drives this community, and we can't lose sight of that." He says the people who work in our small businesses are the volunteers, the coaches, the people who make quilts. And these are the people who become family.

"All these people who work for me become like family," he said. "You sit down and tell them, 'I'm going to take care of you' so you make decisions to make sure they're taken care of and that's important, you don't want to make a wrong decision and have to lay anyone off. It's very important."

Newlands Project Water Levels

Measurements taken
December 23th at 4:30 p.m.

**Lahontan Reservoir
67,180 af**

**Truckee Canal at Hazen
207 cfs**

**Truckee Canal at Wadsworth
204 cfs**

**Carson River Below Lahontan
1.71 cfs**

**Carson River at Ft. Churchill
83.8 cfs**

cfs - Cubic Feet per Second
af - Acre Feet

United Way Shares the Joy of Giving, Instills a Love of Books



Photos provided by United Way

By Susan Weikel

Have you ever watched the smile on a child's face as they open up a new book, and find out that book is theirs to keep? Well, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierras (UWNNS) staff members got to experience just that. On December 17th, 4,800 books were delivered to Churchill County School District students at Northside Early Learning Center (NELC/Prekindergarten), Lahontan Elementary School (LES/kindergarten and 1st grades), and E.C. Best Elementary (ECB.2nd and 3rd grades).



CCSD Superintendent Summer Stephens was excited to welcome this project into the district. "The amazing amount of books made available to our Pre-K 3 year-olds through 3rd graders is so unbelievable," Stephens said, "It will certainly bring joy and a love of reading to our children."



These deliveries put new books in the hands of over 1,000 students just in time for Christmas and winter break. Each student received a bag with three to five books. Michael Brazier, President and CEO of UWNNS proudly stated, "We are excited to be able to partner with Churchill County School District to encourage reading over the winter break."

Ashely Cabrera, Director of Marketing and Engagement for UWNNS, said, "It takes the entire community working together to support our young readers. And that support was found in corporate partners like NV Energy, Kennametal, New Millennium, Washington Federal, and Better World Book."

It's hard to say who was more excited, UWNNS, or the students. "It was so great to see the enthusiasm in the students' faces," said Brazier after delivering to second and third graders at E.C. Best. "Do I really get to keep these books?" one student asked. We told them all five books were for them to keep and take home!"

As students left for the winter break, bags of new books that now belonged to them were happily carried home to be shared with family and friends.

We the People: Citizen and The Constitution District Invitational



Congressman Mark Amodei speaking during the We the People District Invitational award ceremony - Photo taken over Zoom

By Rachel Dahl

Eleven spirited Oasis Academy high school students recently competed in the We the People: Citizen and The Constitution District Invitational contest, a program for civic education, bringing home the prestigious Northwestern Regional Award.

"As the advisor of the group, I'm always stressed about what they know, what they don't know and this year in particular because of COVID and social distancing," said Eric Grimes, "I get to the point where this is just a hot mess and in typical form, the kids just do remarkably well. The last couple of weeks they just brought it together and was impressive to watch."

Generally, Grimes says, the students participating in the competition from other schools are seniors. "Oasis students are Freshman and Sophomores who go against seniors, so for us to receive the Northwest Regional Award and to finish 4th overall was really pretty cool, especially considering there were seven schools and many of them were much larger than us," he said.

Rochelle Tisdale, chief academic officer at Oasis Academy, said she is very proud of the students who participated in the virtual competition against all the 4A schools. "We have 9th and 10th grade students competing and all the other schools have 11th and 12th grades competing," she said. "We consistently place high with younger participants. They do an amazing job and Eric Grimes works hard to prepare them."

In other schools, underclassmen participate in "We the People," but don't compete. They spend time learning and honing their research skills then as seniors, they step into the competition. Oasis Academy has one team with eleven students with each student covering twice the amount of material as students from the larger schools.

During the competition, students address topics such as: the philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system; how the Framers created the constitution, including the influences of early theorists such as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Locke; how the Constitution has changed to further the ideals contained in the Declaration of Independence; how have the values and principals embodied in the Constitution shaped American

institutions and practices, Bill of Rights, the future of America and what does it mean to be a citizen, and what are the challenges that face American Constitutionalism in the 21st Century.

Two years ago, Oasis teacher Amy O'Flaherty, started a "We the People" unit in the 8th grade. Her goal was to "build a foundation in middle school for us going forward in the high school, so next year these winning students will act as the coaches for the incoming team and to help the new kids get prepared," said Grimes. Grimes acts as the advisor, teaching the class and clarifying case law and constitutional issues. "It's really on them, they just practice and hone their skills, each week it just gets better and better," he said.

The guiding principle of the "We the People" program is civic engagement, which the organization quotes Thomas Ehrlich in saying, "working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes."

During the virtual awards ceremony, organizers said there were a total of 350 secondary students, 17 teams, and 55 volunteer judges participated in the process during the contest, with 120 people actively engaged in civic discourse at any one time during the day.

Congressman Mark Amodei presented a virtual congratulatory speech during the awards ceremony, telling students, "What you are doing is a phenomenal building block to take over for all us old guys who are much closer to the end than to the beginning. Congratulations to the winners, and let's not have any raucous behavior during this virtual awards ceremony."

The Southern Regional Award went to Cimarron Memorial High School, while the Northwest Region Award was given to Oasis Academy. Judge's gave feedback for the performance by Oasis Academy, with one judge stating during the ceremony, "You all know the Constitution like the back of your hand. Seriously, your Constitutional application absolutely blew me away. Great work."

Oasis students participating in the competition: Julie Bell, Stacie Bogdanowicz, Brandon Calkins, Matthew Christopherson, Andrew Catlin, Claudia Esposito, Aubrey Vaughn, Hunter McNabb, Abril Ugalde, Lilyann Lawson, and Tylie Norcutt.

We the People District Invitational

Awards Ceremony 2020

Regional Awards

**Northwestern Regional Award
Oasis Academy**



We the People District Invitational

Logos Christian Academy Carolers Spread Joy

By Susan Weikel

Students from Logos Christian Academy spread some Christmas joy in the Fallon Community this past week. They made their way from the school on flatbed trailers, singing their way to Maine Street, then on to Highland Village and Homestead to perform Christmas carols. One first grade student, Riata Ethridge, was very happy to go caroling with her classmates. When asked by her mom if she had a good time, Riata said, "We spread so much Christmas cheer today, Mom!" Students learned that joy can be discovered in giving to others.

Important Dates

January 4 – Return to School
January 13 & 14 – Logos Spelling Bee (Grades 2-8)
January 15 – School Spirit Day
January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 22 – End of 1st Semester



Photos provided by Logos Christian Academy

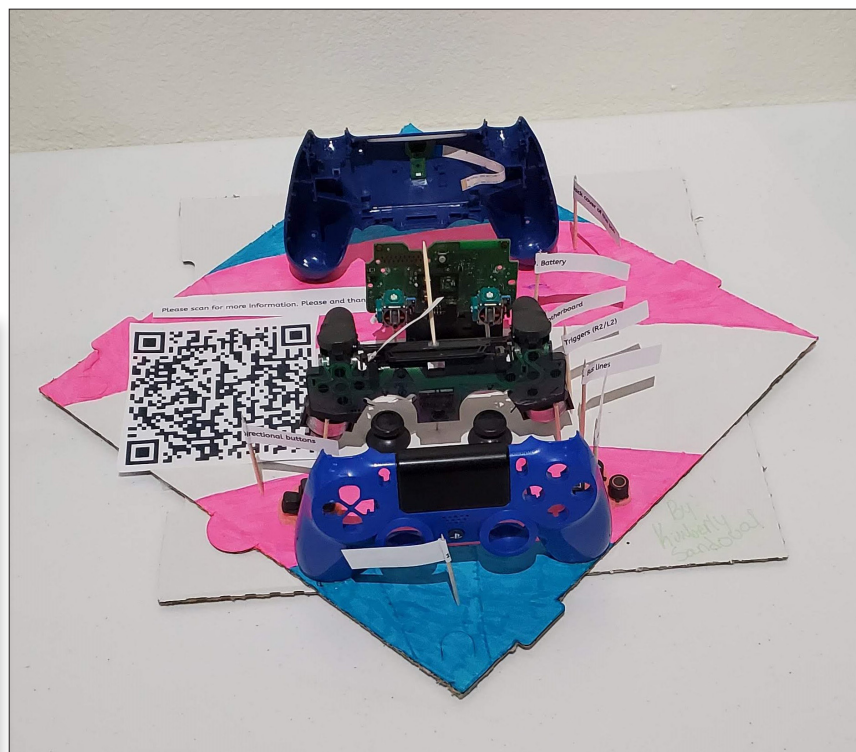


Education

A Blast from the Past - Computer Education Technology

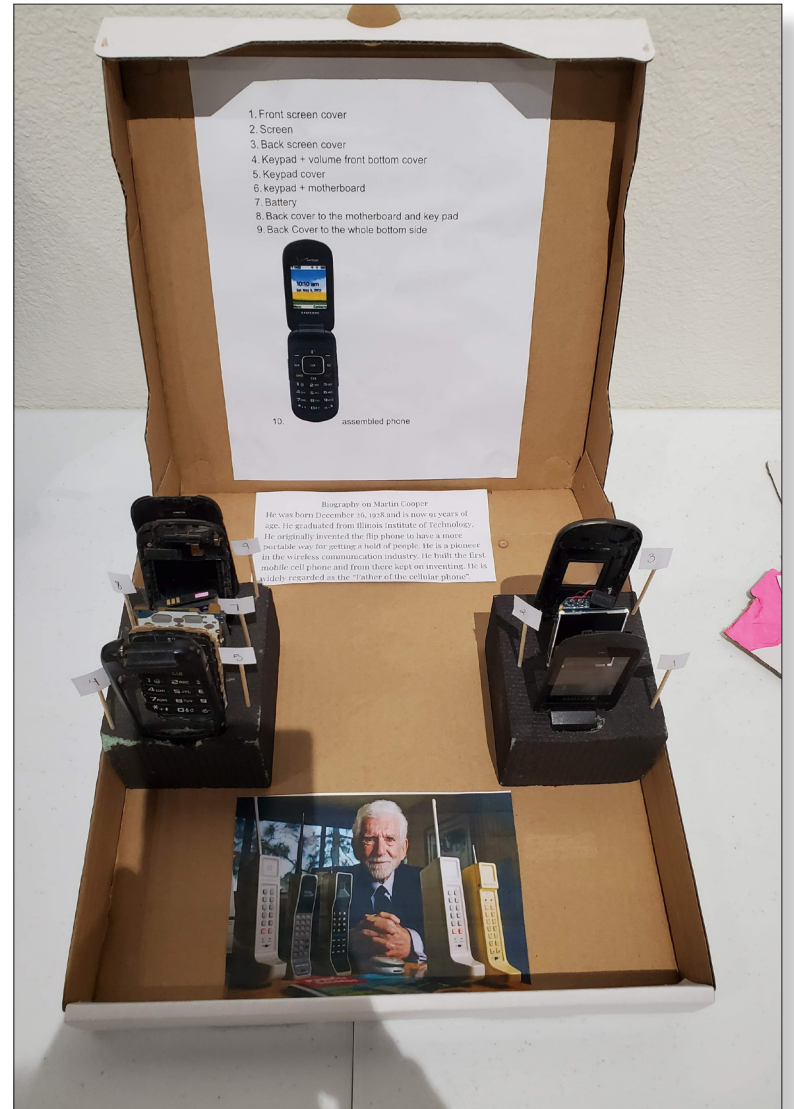
By Susan Weikel

Students in Aaron Holt's computer education technology class at CCHS were given an unusual hands-on project – obsolete technology. In their research, students had to dissect some obsolete form of technology, label its components, and look into the inventor behind its patent. Students also learned about how many modern innovations stemmed from old technology and the impact it is having on their lives today.



Photos provided by Aaron Holt and Churchill County High School

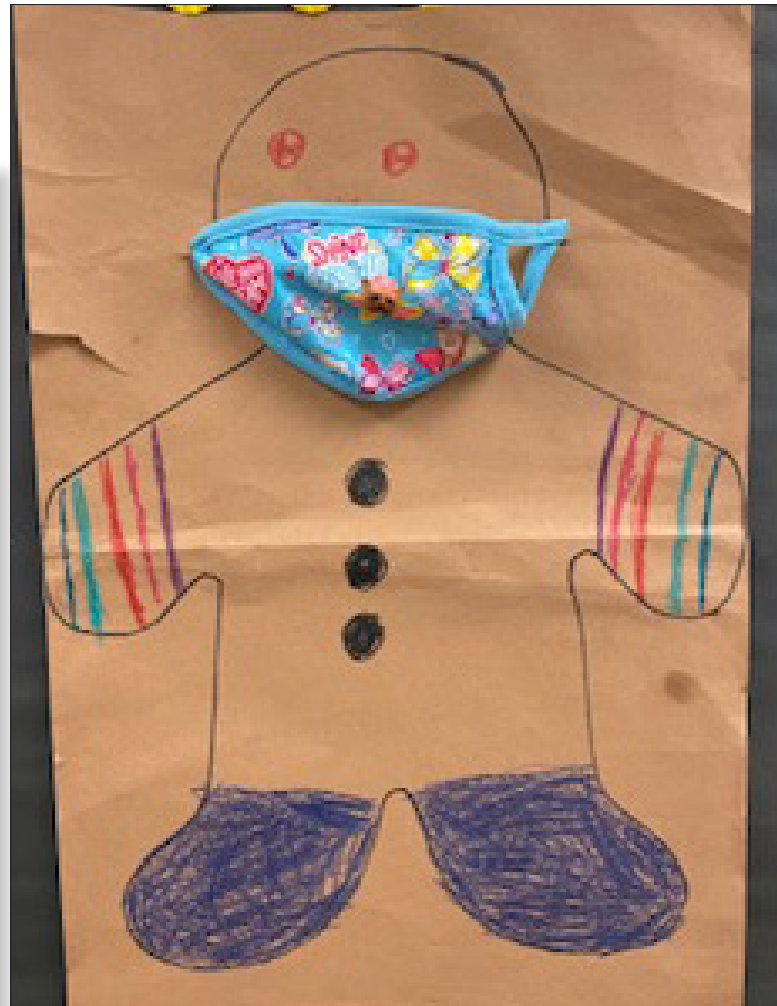
Student Work from Churchill County High School



Education

Lahontan Elementary School

First graders at Lahontan Elementary made gingerbread decorations as part of their holiday crafts.



Mrs. Gehant Kindergarten decorated for holiday times by creating their own holiday trees. All photos provided by Lahontan Elemen-



Mrs. Dolan Kindergarten students made applications for employment as an elf to help Santa complete his holiday work.



Bill Murray & Han Vogler

One of my favorite things to enjoy after the holidays is listening to Bill Murray and world-renowned cellist Han Vogler. Luckily, they teamed up for the album *New Worlds*.

Bill Murray is known for picking projects that many would not expect of him. While this album is no different, I will say – who knew he could carry a tune?

New World first dropped in 2017 and uses multiple music mediums. While the album includes a few classical songs from composers like Bach, the overall sound is transformed by Murray's voice and Vogler on the cello. The song list takes a unique turn into film themes like "Moon River", that play as a backdrop to Murray reciting excerpts from "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". Finally, the album takes another hard turn into Broadway show tunes from the likes of "West Side Story" and "Porgy and Bess".

This album is always a thrill for me to listen to after the holidays because it feels like attending the theater while on winter vacation, but within the comfort of my own home... and it has Bill Murray in it!

Viviane Ugalde is a recent University of Nevada grad who is from Fallon. She is a staff writer, and the entertainment correspondent. She is teaching our Fallon post team design and layout, is willing to do any little thing that needs to be tackled, and is also a stand-up comic.


Doctor Who

I am currently on a British television binge and would be remiss if I did not recommend the series, *Doctor Who*. The long-running program series is over 50 years and has gained a much larger U.S. following over the last decade. Like, *Star Trek*, *Dr. Who* relies heavily on science fiction and traditionally begins every season with a Christmas Day special episode.

This year, the new season begins on New Year's Day. So, December 26th is the perfect time to be introduced to a world of sonic screwdrivers, cybermen, and to refresh your memory of the story line before the new season premiere.

Many *Dr. Who* forums and chat rooms insist that viewers start with episode one from 1963, but you don't have to. One of the best things about this series is you can start anywhere. The Doctor and his companions' adventures stand on their own and usually reiterate the history of past years. For extreme science fiction fans, the character lore is interesting and well-worth starting from the beginning. For the less committed fan, watching the series sequence is not required.

Once the family leaves to head back home and the wrapping paper is in the trash can, start your holiday recovery with *Doctor Who*.



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FALL 2021
DEC 7, 2020 - FEB 18, 2021**

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Binge a Fantasy

Last week, I gave you some entertainment ideas to ramp up your excitement for the holiday season before Christmas morning. While our paper graces your doors just in time for the big day, I figured it was the perfect time to recommend some things for the second-best day of the month – December 26th.

While everyone is still in food comas and opening their new gadgets the day after Christmas, it might be difficult to find something that the whole family can enjoy and hasn't already made its way across the small screen in your living room. So, why not make December 26th a little different? Or, as many Europeans like to call it, Boxing Day – which is the best day for fantasy movie marathons.

Now, I do not want to create a family civil war, so I will not say one series is better than the other. Whether it is the Marvel *Avengers* collection, *Lord of the Rings* anthology, or the *Harry Potter* series, the day after Christmas is the perfect day to binge the entirety of your favorite fantastical universe.

Families are home together, hopefully not at wit's end after straight 24 hours with relatives, and just may need to sit, relax, and fantasy binge – or take a catnap. So, enjoy a delicious leftover turkey, cranberry, and stuffing sandwich on the couch while watching actors wield swords, shields, or wands.



Happy Holidays All!

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LIVE MUSIC ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

FEATURING STEVEN CHRISTIE AND JAHE JACOBSON

La Fiesta

My favorite restaurant to go to after Christmas is La Fiesta.







After a large-scale and stressful holiday like Christmas, no one really wants to cook. Perhaps, you are also extremely tired of eating leftover Christmas dishes for every meal. La Fiesta is a perfect replacement. The family-owned and operated local icon, with its deliciously fresh culinary delights, almost feels like a second Christmas meal.

I have a vivid memory from my time at school with one of the Sanchez children. He brought his lunch from home to the West End cafeteria -and we all begged him for a trade from our bologna sandwiches or Peanut Butter and Jellies. Fortunately, we can now join the Sanchez family for dinner any time. La Fiesta is also a great New Year's Eve dinner option. Why not trade left-overs for some warm, tasty food from La Fiesta Mexican Cuisine? My recommendation - the light and perfectly seasoned fish tacos.

Fallon Theatre

DECEMBER MOVIES

ALL MOVIES START AT 6:30 AND ARE FREE

 MIRACLE ON 34th STREET 12/3	 IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE 12/5
 SCROOGED 12/10	 CHRISTMAS VACATION 12/12
 HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS & THE GRINCH 12/17 <small>The original will play first (26 min) then the 2018 movie will start after (90 min)</small>	 THE POLAR EXPRESS 12/19 <small>Includes FREE hot cocoa bar</small>


Join us for our
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
 as Fallon Community Theatre
 turns 100 years old!

OPEN HOUSE
 Wednesday, December 30th
 6-8 pm
Enjoy "CHAMPAGNE, SPARKLING CIDER, AND CHOCOLATE TO HELP US CELEBRATE!"

WONDER WOMAN 1984 HAS BEEN RELEASED!

December 25, 26, 31 & January 2

NEW RELEASE movies will have
 a charge of \$5 per person



HOLIDAY PEANUT BRITTLE

2 cups sugar

1 cup white corn syrup

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup water

$\frac{3}{4}$ tsp salt

1 tbs. butter

2 cups raw peanuts

2 tsp baking soda



Boil sugar, syrup, water, and salt together until it spins a thread (hard ball in water or 262 degrees on a candy thermometer). Add butter or margarine and peanuts. Cook and stir until syrup is a golden brown. Remove from heat. Add soda and stir well. This will bubble up when soda is added,

so be careful. When well mixed, pour in two well-greased cookie sheets and spread thin. Let harden then break into chunks. It's perfectly alright to use up to 1 pound of raw peanuts in this recipe. It simply gives more nuts to the candy. The flavor combination is wonderful.

*noisy
Christmas*



~Jennie Norcutt

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Councilman James Richardson
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Crossword Answers	
1. WISH	8. NUTCRACKER
2. HOPE	9. CAROL
3. FRUITCAKE	10. JOLLY
4. YULETIDE	11. CHESTNUTS
5. EXCHANGE	12. GARLAND
6. TABOGGAN	13. BLUSTERY
7. POINTSETTIA	14. SUGARPLUM
	15. MISTLETOE

NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT OF SALE OF MOBILE HOME

Pursuant to NRS Chapter 108, notice is hereby given that the mobile home hereafter described will be sold at public auction to satisfy the lien claim of Ideal Mobile Home Park.

1. The name of the owner or person under whose account the mobile home is held is: Teresa Leon, James R. Herring, The CIT Group/Sales Financing, Inc..
2. The description of the mobile home to be sold is: **1988 Kit, 27 x 44 ft., Serial No. L88732B20SN11295AB.**

The time and place of the sale are:
 1/5/2021, at 9:00 AM, at Ideal Mobile Home Park,
 750 E. Stillwater #151, Fallon, NV 89406.

Dated this 8th day of December 2020.

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Published in *The Fallon Post* December 24, 2020,
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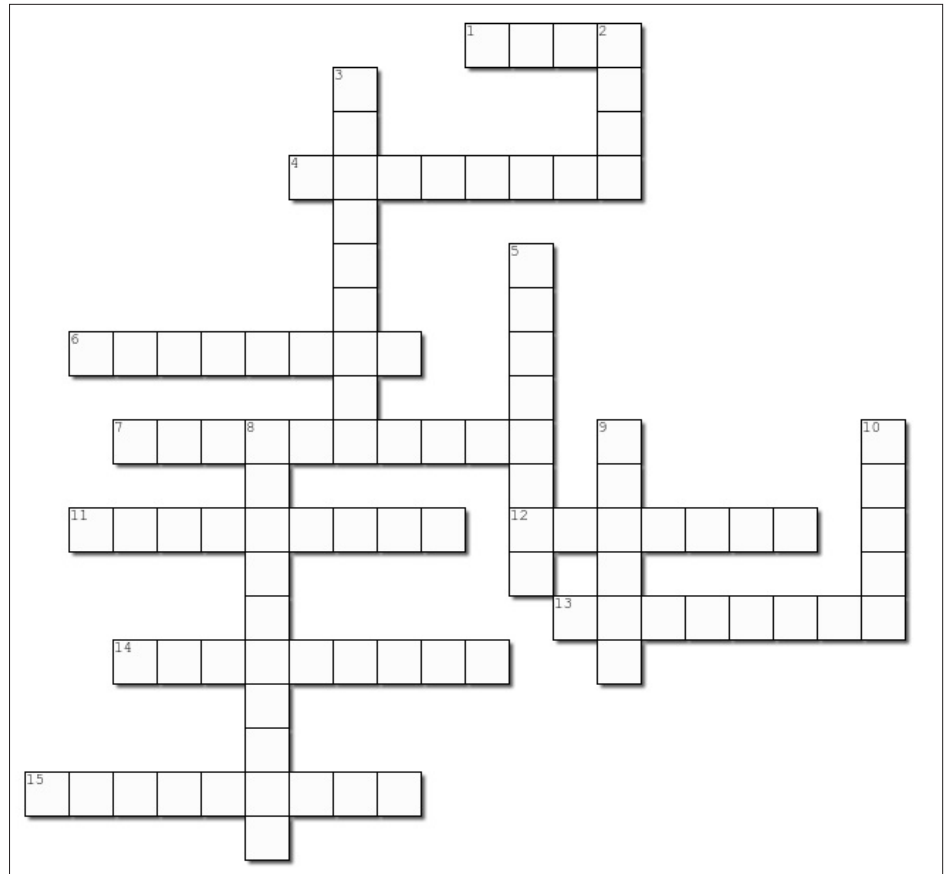
Crossword

Across

1. To silently want something
4. A similar word for Christmas
6. A long and narrow sled
7. A red-leafed plant common at Christmas
11. Commonly roasted nut on an open fire
12. A decorative wreath, or spiral arrangement with leaves and/or flowers
13. A type of day with strong blowing winds
14. A small round candy that dances in heads
15. The only plant people kiss under

Down

2. Feeling of expectation or desire; want for something to happen
3. made with candied fruit and soaked in alcohol
5. To give a gift and receive one in turn
8. A device for cracking
9. A happy song associated with Christmas
10. Happy or cheerful; lively and entertaining



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HOME MEANS NEVADA FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

Life may look and feel a little different this holiday season. However, lucky for us, Nevada won't. In fact, perhaps this year presents the perfect opportunity for an unforgettable right-here excursion. To stay "home" and venture out —safely— among some stunning Silver State scenery to make the kind of lifelong, only-in-Nevada memories that your family will cherish. (Plus, of course, to snag a few made-in-Nevada goodies along the way.)

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