

THE FALLON POST



KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

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Rural Residency Program Aims to Bring More Doctors to Fallon

By Christy Lattin

Fallon and Banner Churchill Community Hospital will help train the next generation of Nevada physicians following the award of a \$750,000 grant to establish a new Rural Residency Program.

“This is a very competitive grant, and we were fortunate to receive a really good score,” said Gerald Ackerman, M.S., Assistant Dean of Rural Programs at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine. “Our application was strong because of all the ground-work that had already been laid, and the many letters of support we received.”

Only about 2 percent of medical residencies take place in rural areas, even though rural communities consistently face the steepest health care shortages. Dr. Amy McGaha, professor and chair of Family and Community Medicine at UNR Med and lead for the new residency program, said the Fallon initiative is designed to change that. In November, a consultant team visited Fallon to evaluate the hospital and the community’s readiness to host residents. Following a favorable review, a steering committee was formed and has met regularly since January to move the program forward.

The residency is structured as a three-year program, with the first year spent at a Renown Health facility in Reno and the final two years at Banner Churchill. The program will focus on family medicine, training doctors in everything from preventive care to chronic disease management.

“An important component of residency is for each physician to build their own panel of patients,” said Dr. Tedd McDonald, health



Banner Churchill Community Hospital. File photo.

officer for the Central Nevada Health District. “They need to show continuity of care over a two-year period. That means building relationships, following patients over time, and proving they can provide comprehensive family medicine.”

McDonald has worked toward bringing graduate medical education to Fallon since 2006. The city came close in 2008 and 2012, but both attempts fell through. This time, the pieces fell into place. Banner Churchill has the required infrastructure—emergency services, imaging, laboratory facilities, and clinic space—and strong partnerships with both UNR Med and Renown.

The \$750,000 HRSA grant will fund the groundwork required to launch the residency. That includes training local doctors and hospital staff in how to mentor residents and covering the costs of applying for accreditation.

[Rural Residency continued on page 2]

City of Fallon Stay Safe Campaign Launched

Drivers, Parents, and Students Encouraged to Focus on Safety with School Back in Session

Staff Report

With the start of a new school year, the City of Fallon is reminding the community to keep crosswalk and pedestrian safety top of mind.

“School is back in session, and that means more kids are walking, biking, and crossing our streets every day,” said Fallon Police Chief Daniel Babiarz. “Whether you’re a driver, parent, or student, crosswalk safety is everyone’s responsibility.”

According to state data, more than 100 pedestrians lost their lives in Nevada last year. City leaders say many of those tragedies could have been prevented with just a little more awareness.

CHIEF BABIARZ OFFERS THE FOLLOWING REMINDERS:

- Drivers – Slow down in school zones, stay alert, and never pass a stopped school bus. Look twice before turning or entering a crosswalk.
- Parents – Remind your children to stop, look left, right, then left again before crossing. Encourage them to make eye contact with drivers before stepping off the curb.
- Students – Put the phone away, turn down the earbuds, and always use designated crosswalks.

“A few extra seconds of caution can prevent a lifetime of regret,” Babiarz said. “Let’s work together to make this school



year a safe one for everyone, both on and off the road.”

This message is brought to you by the City of Fallon.



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PERIODICAL
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log

We Have Peacocks

By Rachel Dahl

The menagerie at Boyer Bunny Ranch has grown and is growing.

Since the disaster of the peacock hatch-
ing was a miserable failure, I decided to
hold off a while and be happy with all the
little chicks, as my hens are so good at
hatching. They have been quite prolific all
summer, and we have various-sized
clutches of baby chicks scattered through
the yard.

But then this sweet gal posted on social
media that she had peacock chicks for
sale. So, I bought myself some as my very
own birthday present.

Ever since I was little, growing up on
Swingle Bench, I’ve wanted peacocks. One
of the neighbors had them, and my sisters
and I were just fascinated with how beau-
tiful they were. I loved waking up to that
noise they make – the one that sounds like
Vikings pillaging a small village – but in my
mind, that sound is connected to how pretty
those birds are, and I just love it.


After an appropriate staging period, the
beauties – one boy and two girls, in theory –
were released into gen-pop with everyone
else. They immediately excused themselves to
hide down in the tamaracks, and I was a little
afraid they would be permanent recluses, and
I wouldn’t be able to enjoy them.

Never fear, I awoke to that beautiful honk-
ing this morning outside my window with
three beauties happily eating cat food on the
front porch, sunning themselves with the
tabbies and the Great Dane.

In addition to the peacocks, Leanna and I
ran into the girls from the animal shelter the
other day, who asked if I would be willing to
take their random “exotics.” The pets that
get surrendered that aren’t cats or dogs.

Why, of course I would – so glad you asked.

This immediately resulted in a call about
an abandoned baby duck.



Ducky lives with his two similar-sized
pullet sisters in a chicken tractor while they
get old enough and big enough to intimidate
the kittens.

And then there is Beatrice.

You will have to wait until next week to
hear about the escapades of Beatrice the
Angora Goat. Suffice it to say, all the neigh-
bors know her on sight, and luckily, they’ve
all been very kind in helping me retrieve
her sneaky little self. Although one of the
neighbor kids really, really loves her,
and I suspect would hide her if she ends up
over there again.

So, while we wrangle the Beast on Boyer,
we’ll all still be right here...

... Keeping you Posted.

Rach

[Rural Residency continued from page 1]

“Expanding opportunities for residency training throughout the state of Nevada is a key initiative for UNR Med,” said Dean of the School of Medicine Paul J. Hauptman, M.D. “As one of the most critically under-served states in the nation when it comes to patient-to-physician ratio, our goal in expanding graduate medical education in rural regions is to not only offer increased clinical care, but also to retain more physicians to practice in our state when their residency training is complete.”

Retention is a central concern. To support it, UNR Med pairs residency programs with the Nevada Health Service Corps and its State Loan Repayment Program, a state-federal partnership that helps physicians and nurse practitioners repay student loans in exchange for serving in underserved communities.

Established in 1989, the program provides \$75,000 in tax-free loan repayment for a two-year commitment. After two years, participants may renew annually, with Nevada-trained students given top priority.

“If we’ve invested seven years in a student, we want to keep them,” Ackerman said. “We don’t want to ship them to another state.”

And while Fallon will benefit directly, Ackerman hopes the impact will ripple outward. “We’d like to see some of these physicians leak out of Fallon into neighboring towns like

Yerington and Lovelock,” he said.

For Fallon residents, the program means more physicians, shorter wait times, and better access to family medicine. For Banner Churchill, it means becoming a training hub and raising the hospital’s profile in Nevada’s medical education system.

Perhaps most importantly, it means continuity. By training physicians in Fallon, the hope is that many will choose to stay after their residency, creating a stable pipeline of rural doctors.

“The purpose of having a rural residency program is to recruit and train physicians for rural practice. Residents who train in rural settings are more likely to practice in a rural community,” McGaha said.

For McDonald, who has been pushing for this program for nearly 20 years, the moment is both professional and personal. “We’ve worked a long time to bring this to Fallon,” he said. “It’s exciting to see it finally come together.”

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FEATURES

In case you missed it, here are some of the best shots from the 40th Annual Cantaloupe Festival and Country Fair

CUTEST LITTLE COWBOY AND COWGIRL CONTEST



Ava Duncan from Hawthorne with her stick horse smokey. Photo by Nancy Chapman.



Tristan and Adaline Hoefer with their stick horses, Tumbleweed and Applejack. Photo by Nancy Chapman.



Miss Rodeo Universe Kaili Hill with Weston. Photo by John Baker.

STICK HORSE RACES



Little Stick Horse racers. Front row, Carter, Isabella, James, Augustus, Andy, Jayden, Autumn, Remi, Caroline, and Roy. Photo by John Baker.



Remi makes a run for it. Stick horses were donated by Big R. Photo by John Baker.



Jayden shoots for a tight turn on the second barrel. Photo by John Baker.

BUCKAROO BOUNCE OFF



Buckaroo Bounce Off top riders, L to R, Rostin, Benjamin, Quincy, Roy, and Zack. Photo by John Baker.



Buckin' Benjamin. Photo by John Baker.



Quick Quincy. Photo by John Baker.

FESTIVAL FAVORITES



Karen Quest cowgirl tricks star as Lucky Starr, Over the Top Characters - Stilt Walker L-R: Ruth Cramer, Hearts of Gold Quilters, Lucky Starr, Vicky Eckert, Hearts of Gold Quilters. Photo by Nancy Chapman.



Pick'n and Grin'n Produce Stand, Farmers Market inside the Rafter 3C. Photo by Nancy Chapman.



Mexican dancers. Photo by John Baker.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Movies and More

By Kelli Perez

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Community Reunion festivities and our Cantaloupe Canter 5K last weekend! We’re so grateful for the support and energy you bring to the Fallon Theatre - it’s what keeps this historic venue alive and thriving. The fun continues with another great weekend of movies and entertainment waiting for you right here on Maine Street.

This Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., bring the family for The Angry Birds Movie 2 (2019). In this hilarious sequel, the flightless birds and the scheming green pigs must set aside their rivalry and team up when a new threat puts both their islands in danger. Packed with laughs and colorful adventure, it’s rated PG and runs 1 hour and 37 minutes.

Then at 7 p.m., join us for the classic road-trip comedy National Lampoon’s Vacation (1983). Chevy Chase stars as Clark Griswold, determined to give his family the perfect trip to the Walley World theme park, no matter how many disasters happen along the way. It’s rated R and runs 1 hour and 38 minutes.

Looking ahead, don’t miss David Hayes – Master Showman on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. David brings music, comedy, and plenty of surprises together in one family-friendly variety show. Tickets will be available at the door for just \$15.

On Friday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m., get ready to rock with “Absolom” live at the Fallon Theatre. This Reno-based hard rock band

is making waves in the local music scene and bringing their high-energy sound to our stage for one night only. Admission is free, so come out and show your support for live music while enjoying a powerful performance from a band on the rise.

The next day, our annual Show ‘N’ Shine returns to downtown Fallon on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This free community favorite fills Maine Street with classic cars, live music, food, and fun for all ages. Vehicle registration is now open at fallontheatre.com.

And after a day of cars and music, come back to the Fallon Theatre that evening at 7 p.m. for a special night of live classical music. We’re proud to partner with the Toiyabe Chamber Music Society to present The ‘Not-So-Lonely’ Illustrated Concert Series, featuring the return of the Toiyabe Trio. Their beautiful performance will be paired with projected images to create an immersive, multi-sensory experience. Suggested donation for admission is \$5.

In October, we’re transforming movie night into an adventure with our Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl 4D weekend. Seating is limited, so reserve your spot now on our website for a small fee.

As always, movie screenings at the Fallon Theatre are free. Want to rent the theatre for your own event or put a special message on our marquee? Give us a call at 775-423-6210 or email us at thefallontheatre@gmail.com. We’ll see you at the theatre!

AAUW to Meet Sept. 6

Staff Report

The Fallon Branch of American Association of University Women will hold its annual Membership Drive on Saturday, Sept. 6, at 11:30 a.m. at The Venue, 111 S. Allen Rd., for a taco bar luncheon.

AAUW Organizer Kathleen Williams-Miller said the group meets monthly to hear presentations from local organizations, take tours, and they even have their own book club! She said the Fallon Branch of AAUW would love to welcome younger members as most of their members are older. The group meets the first Saturday of each month, and Williams-Miller said meeting attendance isn’t mandatory to maintain membership. All women are invited to join – a college degree isn’t needed to be a part of AAUW.

“We need younger women out there fighting for their rights,” Williams-Miller said.

The Fallon Branch sponsors scholarships for local graduates (boys too!), and many of the members are former scholarship recipients. AAUW empowers women and girls by championing their success in higher education and pushing for bold policy solutions to create lasting change. For more than 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity in higher education and beyond.



CAPS Annual Spaghetti Dinner

FUNDRAISER

September 6, 2025 5:00PM

Fallon Convention Center
100 Campus Way, Fallon NV 89406

TICKETS
\$15 Adults | \$10 Kids (4-12) | Kids 3 & Under Free
Dinner will include spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, drinks, and dessert.
Beer and wine available for purchase

FOOD - DRINKS -
SILENT AUCTION -
RAFFLES

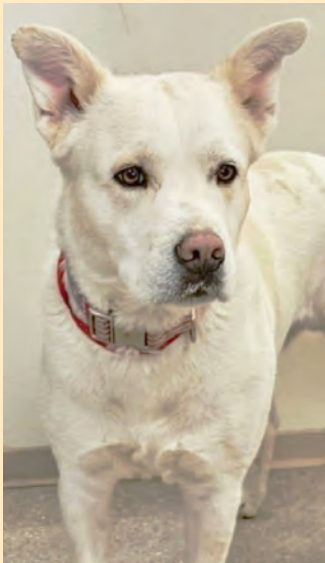
MEETINGS

September 1-5, 2025

Churchill County School District 4th Wednesday of the Month at 5:30 p.m. CCSD Admin Bldg., 690 S. Maine St. Next Meetings: Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 12	County Meetings 155 N. Taylor St., Commission Chambers County Commission Meets 1st Thursday and 3rd Wednesday of the Month Next meeting: Sept. 4 at 8:15 a.m.
Fallon City Council 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month at 9 a.m. City Hall, 55 W. Williams Ave. Next meeting Sept. 2	Parks & Rec, Sept. 2 at 7 p.m.
TCID Next Meetings: Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 at 9 a.m. 2666 Harrigan Road	CC Communications Sept. 4 at 11 a.m.
	Social Services Advisory Sept. 4 at 2 p.m.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Baxter Would Like A Home

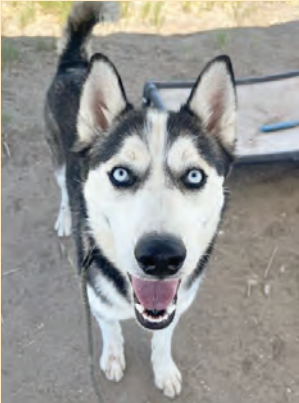


as in, he ignores them completely. He’s calm, collected, and might just be the missing piece of your family puzzle. Come meet him—you’ll see why we love him.

Meet Baxter! He’s about 6 years old, mellow, and wicked leash-trained. He’s our longest resident—waiting since April 18—and he’s still quietly hoping for his forever home. Baxter’s good with other dogs (though we recommend a meet-and-greet) and is surprisingly respectful of cats...

City of Fallon Animal Shelter
1255 Airport Rd, Fallon
775-423-2282

Kento is Ready to Adopt



hikes, fetch marathons—you name it. This boy is built for action! Kento plays well with other dogs but isn’t a fan of cats. He’s smart, spunky, and ready to be someone’s new best trail buddy.

Also, our sweet DANTE needs surgery on both knees. If you can help with his medical costs, give us a call.

Churchill Animal Protection Society
5894 Pasture Rd, Fallon
775-423-7500 | capsnevada.org
caps@cccomm.net

Meet Gizmo



and pouncing around, but he’s just as happy to curl up for snuggles and pets. He gets along well with other cats and has done great with children, showing his adaptable and affectionate nature.

With his sweet personality and loving spirit, Gizmo is ready to bring joy to his forever home.

Gizmo is a gorgeous kitten with striking blue eyes that will melt your heart. He’s already fixed, vaccinated, and ready to go—just waiting for the perfect family.

Playful and curious, Gizmo loves chasing toys

Fallon Animal Welfare Group is a 501(c)(3) charity supporting the welfare of cats in Churchill County, Nevada. Questions? Call 775-217-4745 or, for barn cats, call Pat at 775-217-7248.

OBITUARIES

LUELLA MAY (DROWN) DEMERS
September 1921 – August 21, 2025

Born in September, 1921 in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Transitioned to a peaceful end of this life on August 21, 2025, after a very brief health crisis resulting from a fall.

Graduated from St. Johnsbury Academy, Class of 1940, and Gifford Nursing School, Class of 1944 (Randolph, VT).

Married her childhood love in St. Johnsbury on Nov 11, 1944. Husband, Lieutenant Julian G. (Pappy) Demers, US Army Air Corps, proposed upon his return from a 50-mission fighter escort tour in Italy.

Served alongside Pappy until his retirement from the USAF in 1967 to live in San Jose, CA. Moved to Fallon, NV in 1981.

Resident of West Haven, Utah since 2021.



Lu was preceded in death by Pappy in 1988 and is survived by her three children, Julie A. Atwater (Ogden, UT), Richard J Demers (Prescott Valley, AZ), Joseph J Demers (San Jose, CA), and their loving spouses. She has five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. The youngest is over 100 years younger than Lu.

Lu led a very active life of service in every way possible. Although she gave up her responsibilities with honors at the Fallon NAS Red Cross before she left Nevada, she maintained her nursing license until she was over 100. She was always attentive to her children’s pursuits, her civic duty, and to regular physical activities. In preparation for the US and San Jose bicentennial in 1976 and 1977, she served as Chair of the Heritage Task Force to honor 100+ year old San Jose businesses. She was also a very good bowler and league officer

well into her nineties. Since the oldest bowler gets the honor of throwing the first ball of the season, the entire league watched as the local Fallon newspaper photographer took her picture. She threw a strike. This actually happened more than once in her nineties.

Everyone that our dear “Mutti” met over the years in many social settings seemed to love and cherish her as much as her entire family always did. At 99, she moved to Lotus Park Assisted Living in Utah to be near her daughter. She found a new family of friends there who also loved her dearly. She passed peacefully in the home of her grandson with her whole family surrounding her with love. She will be forever missed but well remembered in the telling of the many stories that made her and Pappy a prime example of America’s greatest generation. Her family, which loves her dearly, will always enjoy her rich legacy.

A celebration will be held at Lotus Park Retirement Community on August 30, 2025, from 4 – 6 p.m., 2639 W 3520 S, West Haven, Utah 84401, phone number 801-732-5290.

FARREN CROSSLAND
July 25, 1967 – August 15, 2025

On August 15, 2025, the world lost a bright light when Farren Crossland's life was tragically cut short in a car accident.

Farren was born July 25, 1967, at Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego to Terry Crossland and Maureen Mitchell. His sister, Jerdie, loved to tease that he was "born at the zoo," a playful nod that captured the kind of humor Farren inspired everywhere he went.

Farren grew up in Fallon and was a graduate of Churchill County High School, class of 1986. He was a multi-sport athlete including football, baseball and wrestling.

From childhood on, Farren was unforgettable. Once you met him, you never forgot him. He had a one-of-a-kind presence – hilarious, mischievous, and always wearing a smile. He had a huge heart, and children, animals, and people of all kinds were naturally drawn to him. In addition to his love for children and animals, anyone who

knew Farren knew how much he loved his Raiders and his naps.

Growing up, his sister Jerdie loved nothing more than trailing after her big brother in Fallon – whether it was learning life lessons or learning how to sneak Christmas lightbulbs off neighbors' houses, she admired him every step of the way. Those memories became some of her most cherished.

In the 1990s, Farren met Stephenie, the woman who would become his wife. Though life took them in different directions for more than 20 years, their connection never faded. When they reunited in 2014, it was as though no time had passed, and the two were married that same year. For 11 beautiful years, they shared adventures, laughter, travels, bowling nights, and the kind of love story that proves soulmates really do exist.



Farren leaves behind his wife, Stephenie Crossland; parents Terry and Loretta Crossland and Maureen Mitchell (Lee); sister Jerdie Crossland (Eden); uncle Pat Crossland (Beverly); uncle Sam Crossland; aunt Dennise Mello (Garnett); uncle Tom Bartel; and brother-in-law Barry Lagan (Jill). He also leaves behind his fur babies and a wide circle of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will forever remember his laughter, kindness, and the way he made life brighter.

Celebrations of Life will be held in Arizona on October 11, and in Nevada on October 25, with details to follow.

Farren's story is one of love, laughter, and connection. Though his life ended far too soon, the joy he brought to others will live on in every story, every memory, and every smile shared in his honor.

Fallon Youth Club
Celebrating

September 20, 2025
Cocktails at 5:30 Dinner at 7:00
324 Pennington Cir

20
Years of Service

SENIOR CENTER MENU

WILLIAM N. PENNINGTON LIFE CENTER 952 S. MAINE STREET, FALLON, NV | 775-423-7096

Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lunch is \$6 for those under 60 and a suggested donation of \$3 for those 60 and older.

Monday, Sept. 1 – Closed for Labor Day –	Tuesday, Sept. 2 Biscuits & Sausage Gravy Scrambled Eggs Potatoes O'Brien Peppers & Onions Cottage Cheese & Peaches	Wednesday, Sept. 3 Meatball Sub on WW Hoagie Garlic Grean Beans French Fries Apple Coleslaw	Thursday, Sept. 4 Tomato Soup Pasta Salad Mixed Vegetables Pumpnickel Bread Blueberry Cup	Friday, Sept. 5 Chef's Salad Lentil Soup Mandarin Oranges Oatmeal Muffin
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FALLON DAILY BREAD

WOLF CENTER | 457 ESERALDA AVE., FALLON NV | 775-423-4714

Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 1 – Closed for Labor Day –	Thursday, Sept. 4 Pancake & Eggs Sausage or Bacon	Monday, Sept. 8 Enchilada Casserole Rice & Salad	Thursday, Sept. 11 Chili & Corn Bread	Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.
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COMMUNITY

Stockman’s Casino Unites with Folds of Honor for Families



L to R: Back row, Mike Marsh and Alex Butterworth. Front row, Anthony Dolson, Pamela Kendall, Toni Trujillo. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

Rooney has committed his life to rallying patriotic Americans and meeting sacrifice with hope through the Folds of Honor. Since 2007, the organization has provided life-changing scholarships to the spouses and children of America’s fallen or disabled military. The mission has now expanded to support families of America’s first responders. On their watch, those who protect our freedoms and our families will know they are not forgotten.

Pamela Kendall, Folds of Honor Nevada President, and Michael Gaughan, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Folds of Honor, attended the 2025 Cantaloupe Festival. Michael, along with business partner David Ross (doing business as Clarity Game Nevada LLC), became co-owners of Stockman’s Casino on April 1, 2025.

Pamela became personally acquainted with Folds of Honor when her husband passed away in 2016. He had retired from the Air Force and suffered from PTSD along with physical injuries. With his unexpected passing, the family’s household income disappeared. One of the first questions asked of her by her then sixteen-year-old son was, “mom, can I still go to college?” Pamela said, “I had not even thought about any of that.”

When her husband retired from the military, he was affiliated with the VA (Department of Veterans Affairs). As a result, the VA connected her with TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors), and through that program, Folds of Honor awarded Christian Mesa, Pamela’s eldest son, a scholarship for higher education. He would eventually graduate from the University of Utah. Her younger son, Kaden Mesa, also received a scholarship. Christian is now a guest speaker with Folds of Honor at many functions, and he shares, “The Folds of Honor stepped into the shoes where my dad would have been.”

Folds of Honor has special partnerships with the NFL, Anheuser-Busch/Budweiser, Heinz, PGA, One Million Pints for Patriots at South Point Casino, and now Stockman’s Casino in Fallon, just to name a few. Funds collected in each state remain there to support the education of children and family members of fallen or injured military personnel and first responders—from kindergarten through graduate or trade school.

Pamela Kendall is so grateful for Folds of Honor. “My children lost their father but were fortunate not to lose their education.” Last year they received 1,300 applications for education assistance, and proudly she said we were able to help them all with scholarships of up to \$5,000.

To become involved with Folds of Honor or to host a fundraiser, email contact@foldsofhonor.org or call 918-274-4700. To join their squadron, visit foldsofhonor.org (donations start at \$13 per month), or text USA to 833-843-1313 to make a pledge.

By Nancy Chapman

It began with Lt. Col. Dan Rooney’s flight home from his second tour of duty in Iraq. An F-16 fighter pilot in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, he became painfully aware of the realities families face when a loved one in uniform has fallen or been disabled.

As his flight landed, the pilot announced they carried the remains of Corporal Brock Bucklin on board. Lt. Col. Rooney watched as Corporal Bucklin’s twin brother walked somberly alongside the flag-covered casket to meet his family on the tarmac. Among them was his young son, Jacob.

Since that night, Lt. Col.

Churchill County Library Announces September Programs

The Churchill County Library invites residents to ease into fall with free programs for all ages. A reminder that all events are open to the public at no cost. The library will be closed Sept. 1 in observance of Labor Day.

- PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS AND TEENS
- Life Skills Class

New Frontier hosts a life skills workshop on Friday, Sept. 5 at 10 a.m. A new topic is featured each month. Geared toward teens and young adults, but all are welcome.
- Sourdough Starter Class

Curious about baking sourdough? Join the starter class on Sept. 11 at 4 p.m.
- New Book Club

Launching Sept. 12 at 12:15 p.m., this month’s pick is The Lost Bookshop by Evie Woods.
- Financial Literacy Presentation

On Sept. 13 at 2 p.m., staff from Navy Federal Credit Union will offer tips on buying a car.
- Author Talk

Sept. 23 at 6 p.m., local author J. A. Forde shares her swoon-worthy travel romance novels.
- Senator Jacky Rosen’s Office Hours

A representative from Sen. Rosen’s office will be available at the library on Sept. 11 at 1 p.m. to hear community concerns.
- Crafting for Grownups

Make your own candles during one of two sessions: Sept. 25 at 4 p.m. or Sept. 27 at 2 p.m.
- Spice Club

September’s featured flavor is za’atar.

- YOUTH PROGRAMMING
- Reading with Rover

Practice reading with a canine companion on Sept. 11 at 3:30 p.m. Children may keep the book they read.
- STEAM Fridays

Hands-on activities in science, technology, engineering, art, and math every Friday at 1:30 p.m. for ages 6–11.
- Story Time

Weekly stories and crafts for ages 3–5 on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. (No story time on Sept. 17–18.)
- Elementary Book Club

Meets virtually on Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. for students in grades 3–5. Register at bit.ly/CCLElementaryBookClub
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Ongoing sign-ups available at bit.ly/CCL1000BBK
- FOR EVERYONE
- Game Night

Every Wednesday at 4 p.m. Bring your favorite game or use the library’s selection.
- Virtual Reality Tuesdays

Try VR on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. (ages 10+; minors need signed permission).
- Seed Library Donations

Bring non-invasive seeds in a sealed bag to the front desk to help grow the library’s collection.
- Reading Challenges

Available for all ages at churchillcountylibrary.beanstack.org

- LIBRARY SERVICES & HOURS
- Free computer access, low-cost printing, meeting room reservations, and online learning tools are available. No overdue fines. Open Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–6 p.m., and Sat., 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sundays and major holidays. Call 775-423-7581 or visit churchillcountylibrary.org.

TRIS MUNSICK
AND THE INNOCENTS

SATURDAY
SEPT. 13
CHURCHILLARTS.ORG

OATS PARK ART CENTER
151 EAST PARK STREET
FALLON, NV

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM
PERFORMANCE AT 7 PM
TICKET PRICE \$25

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE

Community members are working hard to bring Maine Street Spooktacular 2025 this Halloween season. Participation is free to businesses/organizations who wish to join in. We are looking for Sponsors to help this festive family-friendly event happen. Deadline: September 19th, 2025

With your sponsorship you will receive:

- Business logo placement on sponsorship collateral at the event
- Logo placement on promotional flyers and other advertisement for the event
- Recognition in press releases sent to media contacts
- Any additional display of self provided flyers, banners, etc.

SPONSORSHIP FEE \$250

All donations welcome

If interested please contact Jessica Huckaby

P: 775-217-4142 / E: huck_salt@yahoo.com

Please make all checks payable to “FCT” and give to Jessica or drop off at CEDA office

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Reports Rafter 3C Generated \$30+ Million in Economic Impact in Three Years

Staff Report

Three years after opening, the Rafter 3C Arena and the larger 3C Event Complex are showing strong returns for Churchill County. According to county figures, the facilities generated more than \$12 million in local economic impact during the 2024–25 fiscal year.

The complex, formerly the county fairgrounds, has steadily increased its contributions to the community since opening. In 2022–23, the economic impact totaled \$8.49 million, rising to \$11.6 million in 2023–24, and topping \$12 million in 2024–25.

County staff attribute much of that growth to multi-day events that draw visitors from outside Churchill County. The NIAA State Wrestling Tournament, held in February, was the largest generator last year, bringing in 560 contestants and roughly 8,000 spectators. County estimates indicate 6,720 of those visitors traveled from outside the area, spending money on lodging, food, fuel, and other purchases.

Using conservative state economic impact formulas, officials estimate each out-of-town visitor spends \$147 per day while in the community, though county leaders believe the actual figure is likely higher due to inflation. Because the complex can host multiple events at once—including the Rafter 3C Arena, Fairview Arena, Lee Green Arena, and the festival grounds—several events often contribute to the local economy simultaneously.

Deputy Director of the 3C Event Complex, Jesse Segura, said out-of-town groups also spend locally on event supplies and prizes,

further supporting small businesses. “It’s important to draw in folks from out of town to see our area and all it offers, while giving them the opportunity to shop at local stores and eat at local restaurants,” he said.

The five largest economic impact generators in 2024–25 were the NIAA State Wrestling Tournament, Top Shelf Breeders, Fallon PRCA Rodeo, Cowboy Fast Draw, and the Fallon High School Rodeo. Together, those events accounted for more than

\$4.7 million in spending and 18,000 visitors. The next six highest-generating events added more than \$3 million.

Overall, the complex hosted more than 400 daily rentals across its facilities last year, producing 247,000 total visits. Events were booked during 46 of the 52 weeks.

County staff report that 2025-26 is expected to be equally busy, with all of the top impact-driving events returning.



Cowboy Fast Draw competition at the Rafter 3C Arena. Photo courtesy Churchill County.

County to Establish New Industrial Zoning Districts

By Christy Lattin

Churchill County is poised to overhaul its industrial zoning code with an amended ordinance aimed at providing clearer development standards and guiding future growth.

The Planning and Public Works Department began work on the ordinance in March, collaborating with the Churchill County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners. Joint workshops in April and June helped refine the proposal. Officials said the update is designed to simplify the zoning code, support economic development, and create a more structured approach to managing industrial activity countywide.

Under the revised ordinance, the county’s single industrial zoning designation would be replaced with three distinct categories: I-1 (light industrial), I-2 (medium industrial), and I-3 (heavy industrial). Each district reflects the intensity of allowed uses, helping planners and property owners better align projects with surrounding land uses.

In addition to restructuring the zoning districts, the ordinance introduces new tools and procedures. Key changes include:

- **Conditional Zoning Permits:** These permits allow property owners to pursue uses under certain conditions, with public hearings and neighbor notifications required.

- **Power Generation Facilities:** The code now encompasses all types of power generation—renewable and non-renewable—classified as either minor or major generators.
 - **Hazardous Materials:** Properties handling explosives or highly hazardous substances must now secure a Conditional Use Permit.
 - **Administrative Processes:** The ordinance standardizes notice procedures, requiring notifications to be sent to at least 30 neighboring properties. It also eliminates administrative special use permits in favor of more transparent public processes.
 - **Zoning Review:** A new process authorizes uses that already comply with ordinance standards without requiring a full public hearing.
- The ordinance also clarifies definitions for chemical manufacturing, explosive testing, and other industrial activities. Several new land-use tables spell out what uses are permitted or restricted within each district.
- Planning commissioners unanimously approved the ordinance during their Aug. 13 meeting. It now moves to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration, with a first reading set for Sept. 4 and a second reading and possible adoption scheduled for Sept. 17.
- The proposal is formally titled Ordinance Bill 2025-A, Ordinance 32 Amending Title 16 of the Churchill County Code.

City Council Approves New Tenant for New River Business Park



New River Business Park property. Photo by Christy Lattin

By Christy Lattin

The Fallon City Council approved the sale of 9.6 acres in the New River Business Park at its Aug. 19 meeting. The council first voted to approve a resolution authorizing the intended use of the property before approving the sale.

Rudy Zavalani plans to use the property to establish a northern Nevada presence for his paving and striping businesses. Zavalani operates Pave-Tech Inc. and Cal Stripe Inc., both based in Southern California. His companies specialize in paving and striping, and he has been contracting with NAS Fallon since the 1990s.

Zavalani stated he would build an office building on site, and have a yard to store materials, all located on pallets and wrapped. He will also park vehicles such as trucks, sweepers, dump trucks, and grinding trucks. City Attorney Trent deBraga said there would not be a hot plant or a mixing plant on this property, as materials are mixed on job sites. Zavalani noted the cleanliness of his

Southern California business sites in discussions with city staff. The vacant parcel sits directly east of the Lahontan Valley VA Clinic and across the street from the DaVita Fallon Dialysis Center and Amazon distribution center.

deBraga also said the companies will create 20–50 prevailing wage jobs. The council approved the sale for \$620,000.

During the police department report, Mayor Ken Tedford asked Chief Daniel Babiarz to begin a campaign about pedestrian and crosswalk safety and to work with the city’s public relations firm.

The council also approved an ordinance to annex the property at 690 E. Front St. The zoning will be R2 Limited Multiple Residence District. The council will vote to adopt the ordinance at a public hearing on Sept. 16. A liquor license, applied for by Torie Sandberg for her mobile bar Revel & Roam Cocktail Co. LLC, was approved at the council’s Aug. 5 meeting.

The City Council meets next on Sept. 2 at 9 a.m. at 55 W. Williams Ave.

COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

Tuesday, August 19 Judge Thomas Stockard presiding

By Teresa Moon

Charlette Mariah Brooks pleaded guilty to two Category B Felonies of Battery by a Probationer, Parolee, or a Prisoner and to the Misdemeanor of Battery Constituting Domestic Violence, first offense. The felonies are each punishable by 1–6 years in prison. The misdemeanor carries a penalty of 2 days to 6 months in jail, 48–120 hours of community service, a fine up to \$1,000, and mandatory domestic violence counseling. Judge Stockard ordered a Pre-Sentencing Investigation (PSI) and set sentencing for Oct. 21.

Jordan Anthony Lopez pleaded guilty to the Category B Felony of Ownership or Possession of a Firearm by Certain Prohibited Persons, punishable by 1–6 years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000. Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set sentencing for Oct. 21.

Billie Jean Stagmeyer-Daugherty pleaded guilty to the Category E Felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine), first or second offense, punishable by 1-4 years and a fine up to \$5,000. Sentencing was set for Sept. 30.

Joe Henry Schilder pleaded guilty to the Category B Felony of Ownership or Possession of a Firearm by Certain Prohibited Persons, punishable by 1–6 years and a fine up to \$5,000. Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set sentencing for Oct. 21.

Reginald Charles Anderson appeared for sentencing on Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor or a Controlled or Prohibited Substance, third or subsequent offense, which he pleaded guilty to in June. Judge Stockard noted the court had received an application for DUI Diversion and that Anderson had been provisionally participating in the program. The defense asked for formal admission, said that Anderson qualifies, and has been exceptional in the program. Judge Stockard suspended proceedings and placed Anderson on probation for five years. In addition to standard conditions, he must complete the DUI Diversion Program.



Joe Ed McCoy appeared for sentencing on the Category D Felony of Possession of a Controlled or Prohibited Substance (Methamphetamine), third or subsequent offense, to which he pleaded guilty in June. Judge Stockard accepted the plea agreement submitted by Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker and Churchill County Deputy Public Defender Hampton Young, granting probation on a suspended sentence of 19–48 months in prison and ordered McCoy to maintain full-time employment. “Mr. McCoy, I hope it takes,” Stockard said. “It sounds like you’ve made some positive changes. But the proof will be in the next 24 months. Good luck.”

Lonnie Todd Lewis appeared for sentencing on the Category E Felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance (Methamphetamine), to which he pleaded guilty in June. DDA Priscilla Baker cited Lewis’s lengthy criminal history, including probation violations, revocations, and dismissals from diversion. She asked the court to hold a lengthy sentence over his head, encouraging the defendant to take this opportunity to better himself,” said Baker. Alternate Public Defender (APD) Wright Noel urged the court to consider Lewis’s recent progress. “He got caught here—which I think is a good thing,” Noel said. “He’s been

on Court Services. He’s been clean for quite a while. He has a job. And he’s an excellent candidate for the Drug Court program.” Lewis told the court he relapsed in July after his mother’s death. “I’m back on track, doing everything I can to be an upstanding citizen. I’d just like a chance to be free and live my life that way.” Judge Stockard imposed a suspended sentence of 19-48 months in prison and placed Lewis on probation for 18 months. In addition to standard conditions, he must obtain a substance abuse evaluation and follow all recommendations.

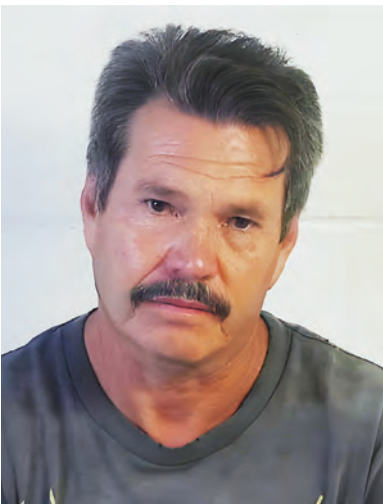
Nike Salas, in custody, pleaded guilty to the Category B Felony of Battery on a Health Care Provider Causing Substantial Bodily Injury, punishable by 2–10 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. The factual basis for the charge was that Salas struck his counselor during a home visit, causing prolonged pain or disfigurement. Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer addressed Napora’s custodial status, stating that he has employment and a place to live in Hawthorne, where he is on probation for a different case, and he has means of transportation to attend hearings in Churchill County. Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set sentencing for Oct. 21 and released Napora on his own recognizance.

Man Accused of Sexual Assault Released on OR, Detained by ICE
Defense Claims Wife Recanted

By Leanna Lehman

Juan Perez-Santillan appeared in New River Township Justice Court on July 31 before Judge Benjamin Trotter for a status hearing on two Category A felony charges stemming from a July 19 incident at a residence south of Fallon. The criminal complaint charges Perez-Santillan with Sexual Assault and Battery with Intent to Commit Sexual Assault, both punishable by life in prison with the possibility of parole after 10 years if the victim sustained no substantial bodily harm. If convicted, Perez-Santillan, who was arrested on July 19, would also be required to register as a sex offender and submit to lifetime supervision. According to the allegations, Perez-Santillan forced himself upon Monica Perez against her will, using force or violence with the intent to sexually assault her. The complaint further states that Perez-Santillan grabbed Monica by the arms and struck her in the eye after she withdrew consent. Defense attorney Charles Woodman urged the court to release Perez-Santillan on his own recognizance (OR), citing a recantation by the alleged victim and raising serious concerns about the legitimacy of the charges.

Woodman told the court the alleged victim—his client’s wife—was present in the courtroom and prepared to testify that the assault never occurred. According to Woodman, Monica Perez had been hallucinating due to a combination of new medication and critically low sodium, potassium, and magnesium levels confirmed during a hospital stay. “She told me that this didn’t happen. It was all hallucination,” Woodman said, adding that she reported being confused for several days before and after the incident. “I read this file, and I was shocked that he was arrested—more shocked that he was charged,” Woodman told the court. He noted that Perez-Santillan had lived in Fallon since 1993, worked for the same ranch for 30 years, and had multiple family members, including his son and stepson, in court to support him.



Juan Perez-Santillan. Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff’s Office.

Woodman also expressed concern about an immigration hold placed on his client and warned that federal authorities might remove Perez-Santillan before the charges could be addressed. “If ICE takes off with him, I have a feeling this case will absolutely evaporate,” he said. Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford acknowledged the victim’s recantation but cautioned the court that such reversals are common in sexual assault cases and do not automatically nullify charges under Nevada law. “We are not like some states where a recantation ends the case,” Sanford said. “These are serious charges.” Judge Trotter granted the OR release, lifting daily check-in requirements and a prior no-contact order, and allowing Perez-Santillan to return home. Conditions of release included weekly contact with counsel, no new criminal violations, and appearance at all court hearings.

Despite the court-ordered release, Perez-Santillan was taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Aug. 2. According to the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office, ICE had placed a hold on Perez-Santillan prior to the hearing. An ICE hold, formally called an immigration detainer, is a request—not a legal mandate—for local law enforcement to notify ICE before releasing a defendant and to hold that person for up to 48 additional hours (excluding weekends and holidays) so federal agents can take custody. Many counties in Nevada choose to honor these detainers, although they are not required by law to do so. “I don’t have any reason to consider him a flight risk or a danger to the community,” Judge Trotter said, citing Perez-Santillan’s long-term residence and employment. Perez-Santillan did not appear for his Aug. 14 status and preliminary hearing, as he remained in federal immigration custody. Defendants detained by ICE are typically transferred to federal facilities and, in most cases, do not return for state prosecution. Although the case is not dismissed, it is often placed on inactive status, and further court proceedings are paused indefinitely.

COURT

“No Such Thing as a Victimless Image”

Fonder Sentenced in Child Exploitation Case

By Teresa Moon

Eugene Norbert Fonder, 55, in custody, appeared for sentencing in the Tenth Judicial District Court before Judge Thomas Stockard on Aug. 19. In June, Fonder pleaded guilty to three Category B Felonies of Prepare, Advertise, or Distribute Pornographic Material Involving a Minor, and one Category B Felony of Possession of Pornography of a Person Under 16 Years of Age.

Under Nevada law, it is a felony to knowingly create, promote, or share material depicting a minor engaged in or simulating sexual acts, or displaying private body parts. A child’s appearance in a sexual image is sufficient to meet the threshold for exploitation.

Fonder was arrested on Mar. 13, 2025, and initially charged with 56 counts of exploitation of children and using technology to lure a child. He later accepted a plea agreement dropping 52 counts, with a provision barring additional charges related to the case.

At the Aug. 19 hearing, Judge Stockard admitted four sealed video files into evidence and stated the court was in possession of the Pre-Sentence Investigation and results from Fonder’s Psychosexual Risk Assessment, which indicated a moderately high risk to reoffend. Stockard closed the court to review the highly sensitive exhibits, also allowing Foder to leave the courtroom at the request of his attorney, Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer.

When court resumed, Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills said the case began in Orange County, Florida, where an undercover officer posing as a 14-year-old boy contacted Fonder in a Kick group — an online platform used to share child pornography. Mills said Fonder was the group’s administrator and helped disseminate content linked to an unrelated child pornography series in Sacramento. A warrant was issued, and a search of Fonder’s home followed.

Mills told the court Fonder admitted he was addicted to child pornography and had regularly sent and received illegal material.

“We have a defendant here who says that he is not attracted to prepubescent children,” Mills said, “That he only keeps the child pornography of prepubescent children to trade.” He questioned the evaluation’s conclusion that there was insufficient data to determine whether Fonder met the clinical criteria for pedophilia.

Mills said the sheer volume of material Fonder possessed and distributed “is a risk to our society. This is the kind of depraved material that affects anybody it is sent to or who’s seen it.”

He emphasized the far-reaching impact of Fonder’s conduct. “Fonder created victims, created defendants, created demand for this kind of material by sharing and distributing it... I’m not sure we can even quantify the damage this does to our society... in the people portrayed in this every time it is shared. These are unknown children. But this is damaging. And Your Honor, we need to protect society.”



Eugene Fonder. Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff’s Office.

It is critical to understand the uniquely devastating nature of child exploitation crimes. Unlike other offenses, the harm does not end when the abuse stops. Psychological research shows that each time an explicit image is shared or viewed, the victim is forced to relive the original trauma, enduring the emotional and psychological impact again and again.

In her evaluation, Dr. Hixon-Brenenstall wrote, “He [Fonder] put forward effort and spent time and money, such cost and effort involved in purchasing multiple cell phones so he could create new accounts and resume the inappropriate activity after his Kick accounts were banned.” Fonder stated he would “never do this in reality; that this is just a fantasy he has. “But then why would he go and be talking to an undercover officer who has purported himself to be fourteen years old?” Mills asked.

“This is not just a Nevada problem,” Mills argued, “This case touched from coast to coast. And we need to protect our children... and society from Mr. Fonder.”

“These are grave, serious, and reprehensible crimes,” said Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer. “We do not ask the court—Mr. Fonder does not ask the court—to pretend otherwise. There’s no minimizing the harm that this type of conduct creates. And there’s no such thing as a victimless crime in this situation. Every image represents real harm.”

Sommer said the justice system requires “more than condemnation.” He urged the court to impose a sentence grounded in reason, measured judgment, and free from passion or vengeance.

He noted that Fonder accepted responsibility early, was honest with investigators, and expressed remorse. “A willingness to admit

guilt on the part of Mr. Fonder shows that he understands the wrongfulness of his conduct and that he wants to begin the process of change.”

Aside from one misdemeanor, Fonder had no prior criminal record. “The law also requires and recognizes the possibility for reformation and change,” said Sommer. “We must consider not only the seriousness of crime, but also the humanity and the potential of the person who is seated right next to me. Structured treatment, counseling, and supervision can help Mr. Fonder address the factors that led him to be here, while also protecting the public.”

Sommer said the consequences for Fonder extend far beyond incarceration. “Prison is not the only punishment he will receive. Society will punish him every single day after he’s released. My client has chosen responsibility over denial... I ask the court to impose a sentence that reflects both of those important principles.”

Fonder told the court, “I know I made a terrible choice, and I need to pay for my choices as this goes on. And there’s nothing I can really say to change it or fix it... I’m sorry.”

Judge Stockard said he had considered the psychosexual evaluation and found Fonder eligible for probation on all four counts. However, after some time of consideration, Stockard imposed three consecutive sentences of 60–120 months on Counts I, II, and III for preparing and distributing child pornography. On Count IV, possession of child pornography, Fonder was sentenced to 24–60 months for a total sentence of 204–576 months in the Nevada State Prison. He will be subject to lifetime sex offender registration upon release.

BUSINESS

Fallon Chamber Hosts Business Expo Oct. 15

Staff Report

The Fallon Chamber of Commerce will host a Business Expo on Oct. 15 at the Fallon Convention Center. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and booth spaces are free for all chamber members.

The Chamber previously held two hiring events each year but has not hosted one since fall 2021. Executive Director Lucy Carnahan said she attended a Small Business Administration (SBA) expo in Reno this past May and was impressed with the turnout. Since the SBA was unable to bring its expo to Fallon, the Chamber decided to hold its own in recognition of National Chamber of Commerce Day.

The Business Expo offers local businesses an opportunity to showcase their services and connect with the community. Businesses interested in reserving a booth must submit their logo to the Chamber by Sept. 12. Each booth will include one eight-foot table and two chairs. Electrical power is available on a first-come, first-served basis. To maintain a professional atmosphere, no amplified sound or merchandise sales will be allowed.

Booth setup begins at 7 a.m., and businesses are asked to staff their tables for the duration of the event.

For more information, contact the Fallon Chamber of Commerce at 775-423-2544.

SMALL BUSINESS EXPO

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER

Would you like to be a sponsor for this unique business event?

Great advertising opportunity

For only \$250.00

FREE booth space for current chamber businesses.

Call the Chamber to be added to growing list of sponsors.

775-423-2544

WEDNESDAY DAY

100 CAMPUS WAY FALLON, NEVADA

8:00 AM

the CHAMBER

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

FORMER NEVADA SUPERINTENDENT DALE ERQUIAGA
INSPIRES OASIS ACADEMY TEACHERS



K8 Vice Principal Shannon Garcia and Dale Erquiaga.

Oasis Academy welcomed Dale Erquiaga, former Nevada State Superintendent of Public Instruction and Nevada System of Higher Education Chancellor, as a guest speaker during its staff development sessions held last week. Erquiaga, a Fallon native with deep ties to Nevada education, shared personal stories and insights that encouraged teachers to reflect on both the history and the future of their profession. Erquiaga recounted the legacy of his great-grandfather, a pioneer in Nevada education. He reminded teachers that the state’s commitment to learning has always been rooted in determination, innovation, and community. Turning to today’s classrooms, Erquiaga emphasized the importance of early literacy, highlighting his contribution to the “Read by Grade 3” initiative. He stressed that ensuring every child can read proficiently by third grade is one of the most impactful goals educators can pursue. Erquiaga also spoke about the rapid rise of artificial intelligence in education, urging teachers to view it not as a threat, but as a tool that can help personalize learning and expand opportunities for students. He closed his talk with a memorable story and piece of advice for the Oasis Academy staff. “Look up. When you look up, you can see clearer and further than what’s right in front of you—and the load you carry will be lighter,” he said.

VETERAN EDUCATOR AND COACH JOHN KEITZ
JOINS OASIS ACADEMY STAFF

Oasis Academy has welcomed longtime educator and coach John Keitz for the 2025-26 school year. With 35 years of teaching experience, Keitz brings a wealth of knowledge, energy, and dedication to the classroom. He spent five years teaching in Brooklyn, NY, and the next 30 years teaching in Lovelock.

Keitz will teach high school special education, robotics, and WNC Computer Science. He will also coach boys lacrosse. “Well, actually, I didn’t choose education. Education chose me,” he said. “I had a short hockey career, and after that I went to law school. While I was attending law school at night, my father-in-law (the best teacher I’ve known) suggested I try teaching. I was hooked and never looked back.” Keitz shared that what excites him most about joining Oasis is the opportunity to work with its students full-time. “The students,” he said. “I have already had the privilege of coaching many Oasis students in lacrosse and robotics, and I am so excited to work with them full time. My wonderful wife Kathy has worked at Oasis from its beginning. I also have two sons who both graduated from Oasis Academy and played lacrosse here.”



John Keitz.

SANTOS RETURNS TO OASIS ACADEMY,
READY TO INSPIRE STUDENTS

Oasis Academy is welcoming back a familiar face this fall as teacher Melinda Santos returns to the classroom, bringing with her eight years of teaching experience and a passion for helping students succeed. Santos has taught first, second, and third grade during her career, and this year she is stepping into a new role, teaching K–2 special education students. “From a pretty early age I knew I wanted to be a teacher,” Santos shared. “Although I had a few different careers before making my way to education, I chose this career because I love watching students experience their own ‘light bulb’ moments. I also like being a positive influence in their lives.” Her love for her students and her dedication to their success is what makes her most excited about returning to Oasis. “I am very much looking forward to seeing some familiar faces and catching up with my previous students,” she said.

Veritas Preparatory School – Classical and Christian
Back to School

By Assistant Headmaster David Ernst with photos courtesy of Veritas.

The first day of school at Veritas Preparatory School was filled with excitement, laughter, and a strong sense of community as students and families gathered to begin a brand-new year. The morning opened with upbeat music playing across campus, setting a cheerful tone as students arrived with backpacks in hand and smiles on their faces. Families paused at the entrance to take photos with the VERITAS display before moving on to the official photo booth for another round of snapshots. Siblings, friends, and parents posed together, capturing memories of the milestone day before students headed to class. Inside the classrooms, teachers greeted students with bright bulletin boards, neatly arranged supplies, and fresh lesson plans. Younger students showed a mix of nerves and excitement, while older students eagerly reconnected



Veritas students return to classes.

with friends and shared summer stories. This year, Veritas welcomed two new teachers: Mrs. Buller, teaching second grade, and Ms. Behimer, teaching grades 7-8 and Latin for grades 3–8. The school also expanded its curriculum to include music classes for K4–2nd grade and weekly physical education for grades 3–6. Enrollment has grown by 14% over the previous school year. “We are very excited about the growth in our student population, the improvements to our campus, and the additions to our curriculum,” said Headmaster Jill Rosario. “We are seeing an increased demand for alternative schooling options, and our Classical Christian model serves that need.” With the first day behind them, students at Veritas Preparatory School are ready to embrace the year ahead—full of learning, growth, and new memories.

WNC Recognizes 76 Students on Summer Dean’s List

Staff Report

Western Nevada College is delighted to announce that 76 students have made the grades necessary for inclusion on the 2025 Summer Dean’s List. To earn this recognition during the summer term, students attained a grade point average of 3.50 or higher and completed six units of classes or more. “We are incredibly proud of these 76 students for their commitment to academic excellence during the summer term,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. “Balancing coursework with other responsibilities is never easy, and achieving this level of success is a true testament to their dedication, focus, and perseverance. They are an inspiration to the entire Wildcat community.” From Fernley: Veronica Davis, Tyler Francis, Sevann Parnham, and Jeff Poeschel. From Wellington: Emma Aynedter, Karlee Iverson, and Noel Sweeney. From Schurz: Claudia Benton-Nielsen. From Silver Springs: Owen Lopez, Mikayla Swoverland, and Rosalita Vanroon. From Carson City: Mekoh Benbrooks, Alexander Bevans, Kalip Brown, Keegan Drumm, Alicia Evans, Meagan Kiesow, Janet

Landa-Ramirez, Jade Malterer, Hailley Matusenos, Carl Mayes, Aiden Melinger, Cameron Miller, Taylor Monge, Dakota Pacheco-Sexton, Madelyn Peachay, Charles Rodriguez, Deborah Stovall, Eloisa Trujillo, Maria Vazquez Gutierrez, Cody Williamson, and Keana Wong. From Dayton: Chloe Donnels, Sydnea Hanses, Richard Tidrick, and Alexandra Tucker. From Gardnerville: Kylee Barron, Johnathan Gonzales, Jacquelyn Kendrick, David Manners, ReMaulis, Avarie Ramsey-Kruse, William Sandvik, Ximena Mata Sanchez, and Rodney Vonahsen. From Genoa: Aurora Knowles. From Minden: Joseph Castro, Grant Gomes, and Lila Kaufmann. From Mound House: Max Bachman. From New Washoe City: Noah Macabales. From Reno: Ava Brigger, Knokwan Chumphang, Austin Feise, Jonathan Gerodias, Brooke Lamoreaux, Dennis Lebaron III, Gino Luchetti, Shannon Segerer, and Sebastian Stormo. From Sparks: Jeremie Dangtran, Alexia Estrella Velazquez, Savannah Lagorio, and Ruben Renteria. From Stateline: Jeric Ritchie Bayani. And a very special congratulations to our Fallon Campus students: Nicolle Cassidy, Kelti Koehler, Zachary Mullins, Kassandra Porretta, and Mason Rolfe. The community recognizes your hard work and academic achievement—well done!

SPORTS

“Do It for Darius” Hornets Tournament Victory

By Nancy Chapman

Tahoe Woody Wood Bat Tournament held in Truckee, CA, Aug. 9–10, 2025, held special meaning for the Fallon Hornets 13U baseball team. It was the team’s first tournament since the unexpected passing of teammate Darius Fruzza in July.



Fallon Hornets 13U Baseball Team, Tournament Champions, pictured L-R: Front: Mason Judd, Luke McCallum, Michael Lister, Bryce Timmons, Easton Escovedo, Keagan Craig, Brayden Bryant BACK ROW: Coach Josh McCallum, Coach Justin Judd, Teagan Glenn, Mason White, Teegan Karol, Jackson Macy, Lelan White Carter Larson, Samuel Vinsonhaler, Coach Andrew Craig Not Pictured: Jackson Frey. Banner created by Ranson Photography. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

In game two Saturday, the Hornets faced the Samurais of Caldwell, Idaho, and won 10-7. After trailing 6-0 in the top of the second, Fallon answered with five runs in the bottom of the frame. In the third, Teegan Karol scored one run, Sam Vinsonhaler hit a two-run double, and Mason White singled in another. White then hit an inside-the-park home run in the fourth.

On Sunday, the Hornets met the Reno Muckdogs Baseball Club 13U in the championship game. Sam Vinsonhaler started on the mound for Fallon. Easton Escovedo drew a bases-loaded walk to put the Hornets on the board in the bottom of the first. Though the Muckdogs led 3-1 after two innings, Fallon rallied with seven runs on three hits in the third to take an 8-3 lead.

Mason Judd reached base on walks in all three plate appearances. Michael Lister and Judd each stole multiple bases, with the team totaling eight stolen bases. The key hit of the inning was a two-RBI single by Keagan Carter. Fallon added seven more runs on five hits in the bottom of the fourth, including a run-scoring single by Jackson Macy. The Hornets showed patience at the plate, drawing nine walks and stealing multiple bases en route to a 15-5 win and the Tahoe Woody Wood Bat Tournament championship.

The Hornets and Muckdogs have met in championship games many times before, not always in Fallon’s favor—but this time, the Hornets won it all, and they did it for Darius.

CCHS Varsity Game 2025 Schedule

Schedule by MaxPreps.com

CCHS GREENWAVE VARSITY FOOTBALL

- Aug. 29 South Tahoe, 7 p.m. – Home
- Sept. 5 Truckee, 7 p.m. – Truckee High School (Truckee, CA)
- Sept. 12 Sparks, 7 p.m. – Sparks High School (Sparks, NV)
- Sept. 26 Spring Creek, 7 p.m. – Home
- Oct. 3 Dayton, 7 p.m. – Home
- Oct. 10 Fernley, 7 p.m. – Fernley High School (Fernley, NV)
- Oct. 17 Elko, 7 p.m. – Elko High School (Elko, NV)
- Oct. 24 Lowry, 7 p.m. – Home

CCHS GREENWAVE BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

- Sept. 4 Incline, 5 p.m. – Home
- Sept. 20 Elko, 11 a.m. – Home
- Sept. 26 Lowry, 5 p.m. – Lowry High School (Winnemucca, NV)
- Sept. 27 Spring Creek, 11:45 a.m. – Spring Creek High School (Spring Creek, NV)
- Oct. 10 Elko, 3:45 p.m. – Elko High School (Elko, NV)
- Oct. 17 Lowry, 4 p.m. – Home
- Oct. 18 Spring Creek, 11:45 a.m. – Home at Churchill County High School

CCHS GREENWAVE GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

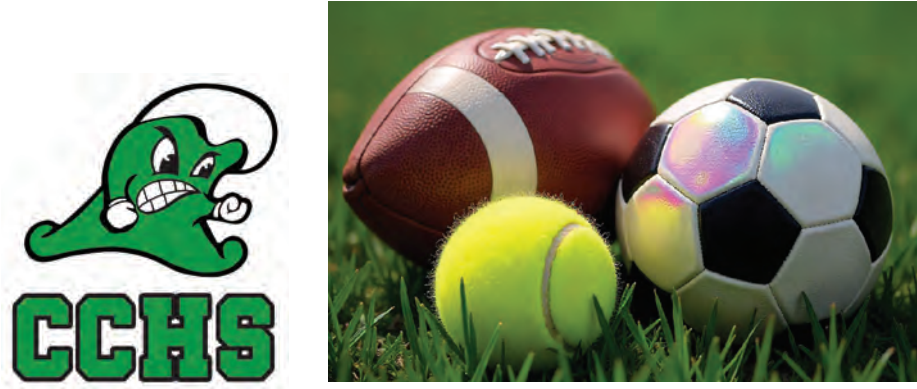
- Aug. 29 Incline, 5 p.m. – Home
- Aug. 30 South Tahoe, 12 p.m. – Home
- Sept. 5 Sparks, 3 p.m. – Sparks High School (Sparks, NV)
- Sept. 9 Wooster, 5 p.m. – Home
- Sept. 11 Debbie Smith CTE Academy, 5 p.m. – Home
- Sept. 19 Lowry, 5 p.m. – Lowry High School (Winnemucca, NV)
- Sept. 26 Elko, 5 p.m. – Home at Churchill County High School
- Sept. 27 Spring Creek, 11:45 a.m. – Home at Churchill County High School
- Oct. 4 Fernley, 12 p.m. – Fernley High School (Fernley, NV)
- Oct. 10 Lowry, 4 p.m. – Home (Pink Out Game in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month)

CCHS GREENWAVE VARSITY BOYS TENNIS

- Aug. 28 Wooster, 3 p.m. – Wooster High School
- Sept. 2 Incline, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Sept. 4 North Tahoe, 3 p.m. – North Tahoe High School
- Sept. 9 Debbie Smith, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Sept. 11 South Tahoe, 3 p.m. – South Tahoe High School
- Sept. 16 Sparks, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Sept. 18 Truckee, 3 p.m. – Truckee High School
- Sept. 23 Wooster, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Sept. 25 Incline, 3 p.m. – Incline High School
- Sept. 30 North Tahoe, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Oct. 2 Debbie Smith, 3 p.m. – Debbie Smith High School

CCHS GREENWAVE VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

- Aug. 19 South Tahoe, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Aug. 21 Sparks, 3 p.m. – Sparks High School
- Aug. 26 Truckee, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Aug. 28 Wooster, 3 p.m. – Wooster High School
- Sept. 2 Incline, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Sept. 4 North Tahoe, 3 p.m. – North Tahoe High School
- Sept. 9 Debbie Smith, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Sept. 11 South Tahoe, 3 p.m. – South Tahoe High School
- Sept. 16 Sparks, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Sept. 18 Truckee, 3 p.m. – Truckee High School
- Sept. 23 Wooster, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Sept. 25 Incline, 3 p.m. – Incline High School
- Sept. 30 North Tahoe, 3 p.m. – Churchill County High School
- Oct. 2 Debbie Smith, 3 p.m. – Debbie Smith High School



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COLUMNS

What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen:
The Delightful Cantaloupe

By Kelli Kelly

Greetings, Farm Fans! Have you hit your cantaloupe threshold yet? I haven’t! While the festival is in our rearview mirror, the cantaloupe harvest (and love) continues unabated. We’re nearing the transition to the fall harvest season — think flannel shirts, braised meats, and all the hard winter squash you can eat — but for now, we get to enjoy the end-of-summer bounty for a few more weeks.

Here are just a few of the ways I love using our top-notch Fallon melons:

Cantaloupe & Cucumber Salad with Hot Honey Lime Dressing
Ingredients

- 1–2 Fallon cantaloupes (must buy local!)
- 1 Red onion, thinly sliced
- 3–5 Cucumbers (I used Armenian and lemon cucumbers from Lattin Farm’s produce stand)
- 1 Bunch Mint, chiffonade (this means thinly sliced)
- 2–3 tbsp. Hot honey
- 2 Limes, juice and zest
- 1/4 cup. Olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- (Optional) dry, crumbly cheese like feta or cotija

DIRECTIONS:

1. Prepare the cantaloupe: Cut off the top and bottom, remove the rind in strips, halve the melon, scoop out seeds, and cut into bite-sized chunks.
2. Add sliced red onion and cubed cucumber. If you’re using local cucumbers, no need to peel. If using store-bought, peel and remove seeds.
3. In a small bowl, whisk together honey, lime juice and zest, then olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.
4. Toss melon mixture with dressing and garnish with mint and cheese, if using.

Cantaloupe Ceviche Ingredients

- 8 oz. Firm white fish (sea bass, halibut, mahi, snapper, cod)
- 1 Fallon cantaloupe, peeled, seeded, and cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 Shallot, minced (or 1/4 red onion)
- 2 Lemons, zest and juice
- 2 tbsp. White wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp. Fresh dill, minced
- 1 tsp. Sugar, plus more to taste
- 1/4 tsp. Salt, plus more to taste
- 1/4 tsp. Black pepper, plus more to taste

DIRECTIONS:

1. Remove skin and bones from fish, then cut into small pieces. Combine with cantaloupe and shallot.
2. Mix lemon juice, vinegar, sugar, salt, and pepper. Toss with cantaloupe mix, then stir in dill.
3. Refrigerate for 1 to 3 hours, stirring occasionally — the citrus acids will “cook” the fish.
4. Taste and adjust seasoning before serving.



Kelli Kelly, Slinger of Produce.
Slurper of Dumplings.
Person of the Bean.

Allison’s Book Report:
“Real Americans”
by Rachel Khong

By Allison Diegel

Another week has gone by and it is time to settle into a three-day weekend! What better way to make the most of all long weekend than by losing yourself a sprawling family drama that spans over several decades and is sure to live rent-free in your brain for a while after reading it? I can’t think of one – and if you agree, I happen to have the perfect book for you! “Real Americans” by Rachel Khong is a powerful



and touching novel that explores themes of family, identity, and the American dream through the lives of a Chinese American family. The story is told in three parts and covers multiple decades, offering a deep and intimate look into the characters’ evolving relationships and struggles.

The first part introduces us to Lily, a young woman living in New York City with her seemingly perfect boyfriend, Matthew. When Matthew suddenly breaks up with her, her world is turned upside down. This event prompts her to re-evaluate her life and her connection to her past. She feels a deep sense of displacement and questions her place in the world.

The second part of the book takes us back in time to Lily’s mother, May, in China. It chronicles her journey from her village to a new life in America. We learn about her struggles, sacrifices, and the challenges she faces as an immigrant. This section is a raw and honest portrayal of the immigrant experience, highlighting the emotional and cultural gaps that can arise between generations.

In the third and final part, the narratives of Lily and May converge. Lily embarks on a journey to reconnect with her mother and uncover the secrets of her family’s past. She learns about the true meaning of sacrifice and discovers that her mother’s story is far more complex than she ever knew. Through this process, Lily comes to a deeper understanding of herself and her heritage.

“Real Americans” is a beautifully written novel that will resonate with anyone who has ever felt caught between two cultures or struggled to understand their family’s history. It’s a story about the messy, complicated, and ultimately beautiful reality of what it means to be a ‘real American.’ The book is both a quiet meditation and a vibrant, sweeping epic. It’s a compelling read that will make you reflect on your own identity and what home truly means. The novel’s strength lies in its ability to tell a big story through small, intimate moments. It’s a book that stays with you long after you’ve finished reading.

I hope you all have an amazing and relaxing Labor Day weekend and I’ll be back with another page-turner next week. Until then, don’t forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more recommendations!

Allison Diegel is the Executive Chaos Coordinator at the Diegel Home for Wayward Girls. She has been reading since before she could talk, and now she likes doing lots of both.

Crossword

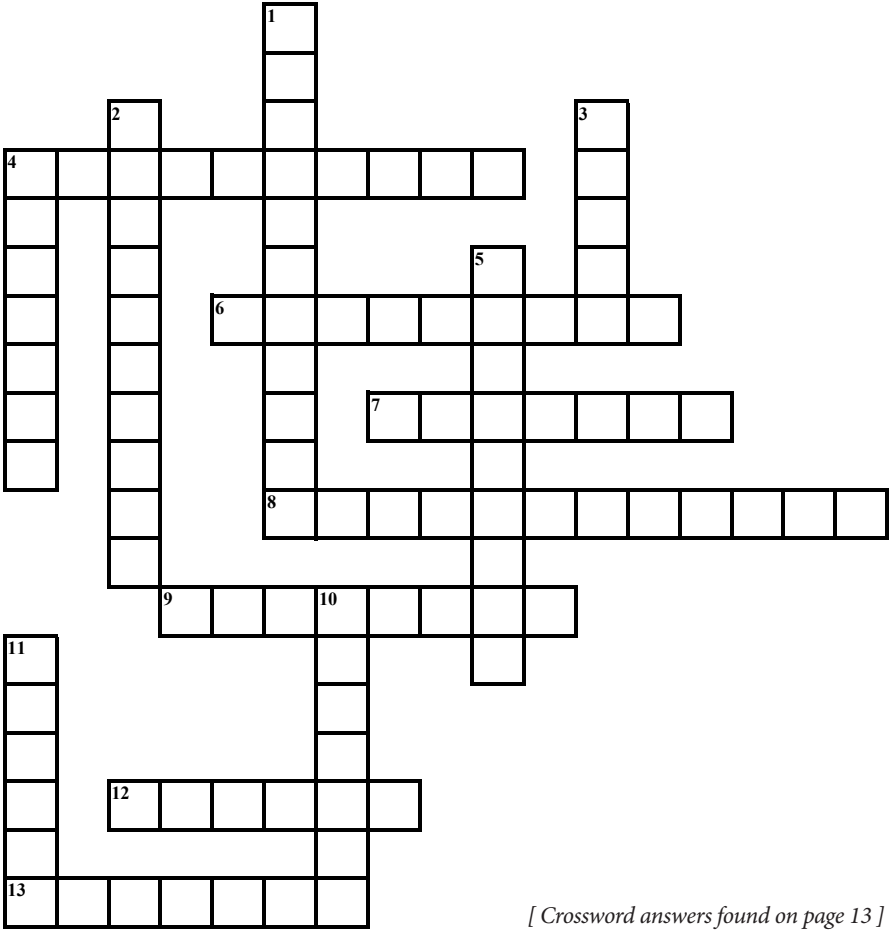
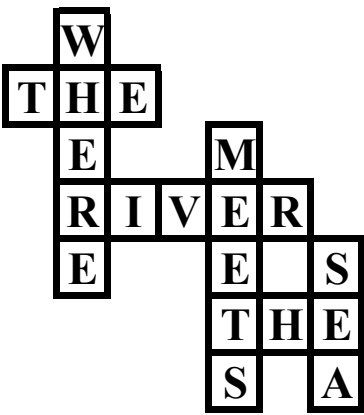
By Peanut

Across

4. Nile & Mediterranean
6. Rio Grande & the Gulf
7. Columbia & Pacific
8. Sacramento & Pacific
9. Yangtze & E China Sea
12. Thames & North Sea
13. James & Atlantic

Down

1. Rio de la Plata & Atlantic
2. Mississippi & the Gulf
3. Douro & Atlantic
4. Rhine & North Sea
5. Meuse & North Sea
10. Hudson & Atlantic
11. Liffey & Irish Sea



[Crossword answers found on page 13]

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In Remembrance

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

HVAC Removal / Replacement Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Indian Reservation

Scope of work: The FPST Housing Department is soliciting bids from qualified contractors to perform the removal and replacement of HVAC systems in 49 occupied residential housing units.

This project is funded by Indian Housing Block Grant and is subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO), and tribal tax policies.

Key Dates: Pre Bid Meeting:
Aug. 14, 2025, at 10 a.m.
(FPST Housing Department)
Bid Deadline: Sept. 2, 2025, by 5 p.m.

A full RFP packet is available upon request by contacting:
Housingdevelopment@fpst.org
775-423-3321

Published in
The Fallon Post
Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29 and Sept. 5, 2025
Ad #6356

CITY OF FALLON

Notice of Deposit of Copies and Public Hearing to Adopt Bill No. 805

Notice is hereby given that the Honorable City Council of the City of Fallon will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 55 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada 89406, to consider possible adoption of Bill No. 805.

Bill No. 805, if adopted as an Ordinance will accomplish the following: the annexation of 10,521 square feet of land, more or less, located at 690 East Front Street, owned by Scott and Sue Payne and contiguous to the corporate limits of the City of Fallon, Nevada, and for other matters properly related thereto.


Notice is hereby further given that copies of the Bill have been deposited with the City Clerk, City Hall, 55 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada 89406, for public examination and distribution upon request. Members of the public may request a copy of the Bill by contacting Elsie Lee, Deputy City Clerk, at 775-423-5104 or elee@fallonnevada.gov.

Published in
The Fallon Post
August 29, 2025
Ad #6363

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 12

ALEXANDRIA	LONDON	PORTO
ANTWERP	MATAMOROS	ROTTERDAM
ASTORIA	NEWORLEANS	SANFRANCISCO
BUENOSAIRE	NEWYORK	SHANGHAI
DUBLIN	NORFOLK	





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COLUMNS

Postcards: The Spudnut Shop

By Michon Mackedon

Last week, I wrote about Helen Millward, National Sandwich Queen and co-owner, with her husband Bill, of Fallon’s Spudnut Shop. Anyone living in Fallon during its years of operation (1953-1978) will remember the Spudnut Shop—for the Spudnuts, of course, as well as for hearty breakfasts, pies—wonderful homemade pies—and creative sandwiches, including Helen’s award-winning Atlasta Beef Sandwich.

Spudnuts were a culinary invention of brothers Al and Bob Pelton, of Salt Lake City. The brothers had eaten potato-based doughnuts in Germany, and, after a number of failed experiments, they developed a dry potato mix that worked for them and made it possible to franchise a chain of Spudnut Shops. In 1953, Helen and Bill visited Utah, where she tasted a Spudnut. “I thought it was the best thing I had ever eaten in my life... I thought it would be a good business to go into.” They started out selling just Spudnuts, coffee, soft ice cream and soda pop from a small building constructed on the Atlasta Ranch owned by Helen’s mother, Minnie Blair (1350 South Taylor Street).

The rest of the story is a local version of achieving the American Dream through luck, talent and seized opportunities.

According to Helen’s Oral History (1990, Churchill County Museum), first, they added a sandwich called the barbecue bun. “People meet me yet and say they sure would like to have a barbecue bun. It was a hamburger bun but it wasn’t cut in two halves — it was the whole bun and you made a slit in the bun with a knife and you put it on a toaster, slid it so it was toasted on both sides, and you wanted it nice and crisp and then you had this hot barbecued beef . . . we got a special spice, we ordered it out of Chicago. ... Then, the teachers would come out and have a barbecue bun and a Spudnut and I’d think, ‘Oh it’s a shame,’ so I’d make a lemon pie and they’d all have a piece of lemon pie for their lunch besides their barbecue bun. Then I started making a tuna sandwich or a deviled egg sandwich. Then I decided I could make a ‘little special’ for their lunch, so I would make a pasta dish or a casserole or I’d make them crab salad.”

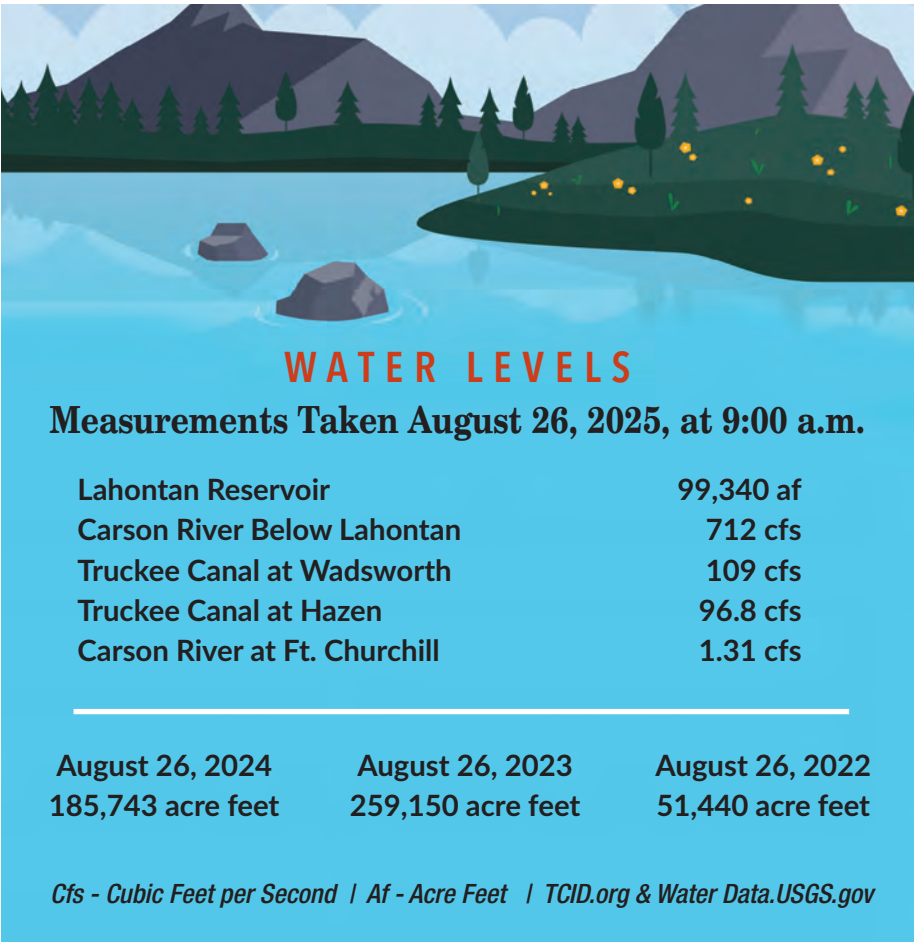
As quickly as the teachers discovered this little gem of a restaurant, so did the truckers. “The truck drivers came right from the very beginning. There were ammunition trucks going to Hawthorne and they could not stop in town and we were out of the city limits. They would stop for a Spudnut and coffee. And after I came one morning, a truck driver came and he said, ‘I am sick and tired of eating a Spudnut and coffee every morning for breakfast.’ And I said, ‘Do you want two fried eggs?’ He said, ‘Yes.’ I said, ‘watch the shop.’ I ran out to the henhouse behind the shop and grabbed two eggs from under a hen, I ran to the house and got two slices of bread and popped it in the toaster and fried the two eggs and ran back to the shop and set it down in front of the truck driver. He said, ‘Well that is service!’”

Next, the early morning duck hunters made eating at the Spudnut Shop a ritual. “Oh, yes, we got it finally to the point where I was there about five o’clock or maybe three o’clock. When we still had the little old shop, we got a stove, then there was a group of duck hunters that used to come from Reno, they were doctors and had a duck pond on the Sorensen Ranch. It was a private club. They always used to stop and buy Spudnuts on their way back to Reno. One day they called me from Reno and asked me if I would open up and cook them breakfast at four o’clock the next morning and I said yes. So at four o’clock the next morning I was over there, and I had ham and bacon and eggs ready to cook for them.”

Helen and Bill remodeled and expanded the building in 1957, and business got bigger and better. Helen said of their success, “Well, I get bright ideas and I like to carry them out, but I had lots of help.” In 1978, the Millwards, ready to retire, sold the Spudnut Shop to a new owner who changed its name to The Cock and Bull. An era had ended.

Please send your stories and ideas for stories to mackedon@phonewave.net.

Michon Mackedon is a native of Fallon and a retired professor of English and Humanities (WNC). She loves her family, her home, her dog, reading, writing, making good food, and sipping a glass of fine white wine. Beyond that, she refuses to be categorized.



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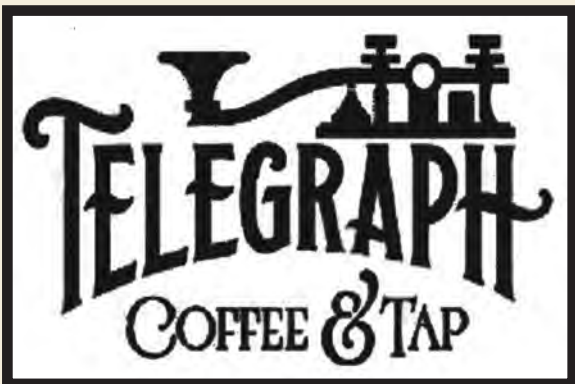
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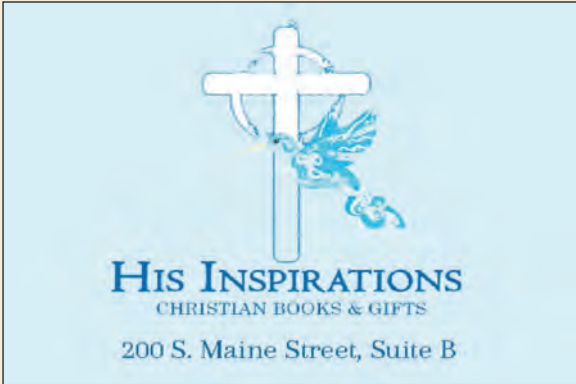
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Pancake Breakfast

Monday, September 1
From 7 - 10 am.



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Pancakes,
Sausage, Eggs,
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A Fallon Labor Day Pre-Parade Tradition

\$10 Adults
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WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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