

THE FALLON POST



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Fallon Theatre Launches “Seat Rescue Mission”

By Rachel Dahl

It’s not every day a road trip helps preserve a piece of history, but that’s exactly what happened this past weekend when volunteers and board members from The Fallon Theatre hit the highway for Mesquite, Nevada. Their mission: to rescue 260 gently used theater seats from a venue that had recently closed its doors.

Instead of letting those seats go to waste, the group gave them a second life in Fallon. Thanks to a caravan of trucks, trailers, and determined volunteers, all 260 seats are now safely home and ready to take center stage in the historic downtown theater. The project, affectionately dubbed the “Seat Rescue Mission,” is part of The Fallon Theatre’s ongoing effort to preserve its 1920s-era building while improving the experience for audiences. “We’re so grateful for this amazing community,” board member Glen Perazzo said in a post. “Our volunteers and board members gave up their weekend, drove hundreds of miles, disassembled, loaded, and unloaded every single seat. Their hard work and heart are what keep this theater thriving.” With the new seating now on site, preparations are underway to install them in the upper theater, one of several ongoing upgrades planned to enhance comfort and continue the theater’s revitalization efforts. The Fallon Theatre team said they’ll be sharing progress updates and inviting the community to celebrate once the installation is complete. “We can’t wait for you to see the upgrades in person,” Perazzo said. “These rescued seats are ready for their next act.”



Glen Perazzo, Dr. Stuart Richardson, Mike Berney, Joey and Star Olsen. Photo courtesy of the Fallon Theatre.

County Sells Land for 444-unit Riverstone Apartments Development

By Christy Lattin

Churchill County Commissioners have approved the sale of county-owned land and the final subdivision map for a project that will bring 444 new apartment units to Fallon. The new development also sets in motion the long-planned Moody Lane extension project. The 31-acre site, located north of Coleman Road, was purchased by the county five years ago for its potential role in a future river crossing and north-south traffic corridor — and to encourage apartment construction to help ease Fallon’s ongoing housing shortage. At their Oct. 15 meeting, Commissioners approved the sale of the property to Vertex Fund 3 LLC for \$600,000. The county had previously entered into a purchase agreement with Vertex, a Colorado company, but both parties agreed to amend the terms to reflect current conditions and project needs. The revised agreement includes an easement across the property for utilities and roadway purposes. Assistant County Manager Joe Sanford said the sale will close within 15 days. Vertex granted an on-site access and utility easement to the county. In exchange, the county agreed to a one-time credit of up to \$200,000 against impact and hookup fees. County staff described the credit as applying to the property and not transferable to other projects. The county and Vertex removed a prior water-rate guarantee

provision; Vertex will obtain water at standard county rates when and if development proceeds. Stephen Tuck, representing Vertex, said the company has always intended to develop the property, but financing firms required an approved final development map before considering project funding. That map, drawn in 2023, will remain valid until March 2027. Plans for the Riverstone Apartments include 17 three-story buildings with a total of 444 units, along with a clubhouse, rental office, pool, playground, picnic areas, and volleyball court. The design also incorporates five ponds and a river “take-out” spot for residents floating the river. The take-out area will include a boat ramp and parking. The county obtained an upstream “put-in” spot on Sheckler Cut-Off several years ago. County staff, hoping to create a County River Takeout Park, have recommended adding an ADA-accessible pathway, an all-weather restroom, and a paved lot with 20 parking spaces. The development will be accessed from Coleman Road via two new roads — the Moody Lane extension on the west side and Riverstone Drive on the east. The Moody Lane-Coleman Road Connector Project will extend Moody Lane directly south to Coleman Road, emerging just east of the Onde Verde subdivision.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log

I Need...

By Rachel Dahl

There’s a song by a woman I’ve listened to over the years whose name, at this moment in time I can’t remember as the tune, “I Need” runs through my head. Looking through my trusty iTunes, it is surprising how many songs there are about being in need of one thing or another.

From Don Williams to Jelly Roll and Julio Iglesias to Meredith Brooks – that’s her – “needing” is apparently a pretty solid theme for songs.

Over the years one of the things I’ve noticed as I’ve kept a journal is how often there are mentions through the pages of, “I need to...”

An inordinate amount of my life has been spent needing to run kids around, clean the house, the truck, the garage, get organized, get fit, and on and on and on it goes, needing to get stuff done.

It actually started to bug me one day so now I write, “I would like to...” or “Wouldn’t it be nice if...” instead.

Another interesting thing eternal introspection revealed, is the constant mom scan that started when my life revolved around

children – and the weirdness that as they all live far away and have their own lives, still continues. When they were little my subconscious brain would always be running a scan... “that one is at ball practice, that one is at work, that one has chores,” as soon as their location in the world was mentally checked, then I could go on about my business.

The other day as I left my office late in the day, the mom scan ran really quick – Oakland, North Dakota, Spring Creek, and then began the “I need...” scan. It sort of goes from the gas gauge to the grocery store to whatever else is going on.

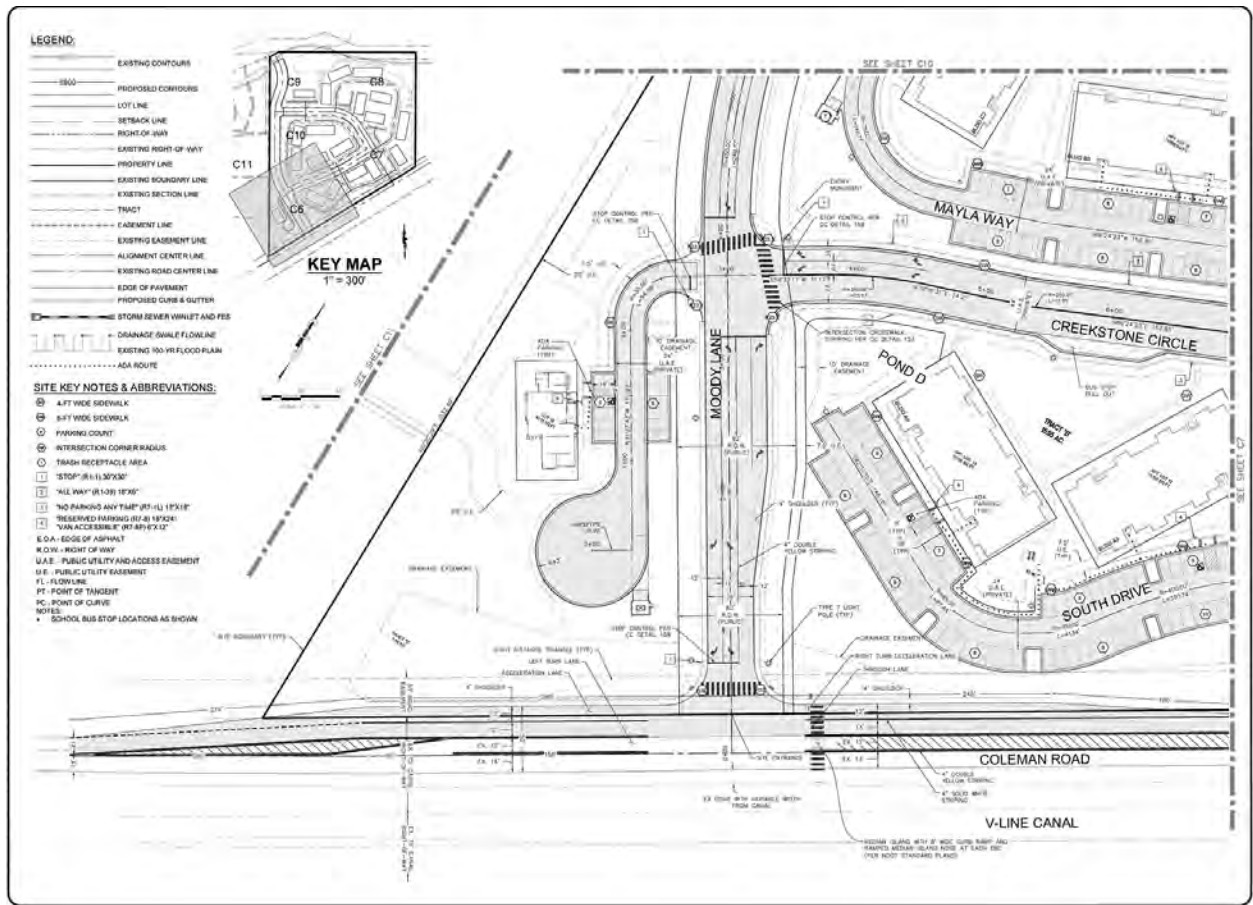
For the first time in my life, I couldn’t think of one single thing I needed. Not a thing, not a to do, no rush or hurry or scrambling from here to there. All that was left to do was drive home in the golden sunset and enjoy my place and my pets.

What a lovely, foreign feeling. What a joy.

So while we get used to whatever grown up phenomena this is, we’ll still be right here...
...Keeping you Posted.

—Rach

[Riverstone Apartments continued from page 1]



Map of the proposed Riverstone Apartment project north of Coleman Road, as drafted by Phelps Engineering.

Randy Hines, director of Public Works, Planning and Building Department, said comments received during the project’s tentative map stage were included in the final subdivision map. The final map was reviewed by the Planning Commission in 2023. Neighboring properties were given notice of new development during the tentative map stage, but the final map approval isn’t subject to the same extensive noticing rules.

To complete the connector project, the county secured rights-of-way from several property owners, including River Homes in Fallon (RHF) based in Las Vegas. In exchange for granting a right-of-way, RHF received a release of potential legal claims against the county. RHF also received R-3 zoning on 155 acres for residential and commercial use. The agreement resolves the legal concerns, provides the necessary access, and clears the way for RHF’s future development.

Commissioners also approved an access and utility easement agreement with Colorado-based Churchill Village LLC for a vacant Verona Drive property, in coordination with the Riverstone Apartments project.



In Remembrance

For obituaries please call 775-426-4545
or email: admin@thefallonpost.org

FEATURES

CC Communications: A Decade of Transformation

— Part 3 —

By Nancy Chapman

CC Communications has always been part of Churchill County’s story, first as a telegraph company in 1889, then a telephone provider, and today as a modern broadband utility. Over the past decade, the company has undergone a remarkable transformation, shifting from traditional phone service to an ultramodern telecommunications provider connecting rural Nevada to the world.

In 2007, CC Communications was a full-service telecommunications provider offering telephone, long distance, Internet, television, computer repair and support, and managed data services. But keeping pace with rapidly evolving cellular technology made it cost-prohibitive to maintain local cellular service. By December 2008, the company had begun the process of selling its cellular division, a decision noted in the County Commissioners’ meeting that month.

When Chief Executive Officer Mark Feest took the helm in 2013—the fourth person to hold that role in nearly 40 years—he inherited a company ready to reinvent itself.

At the time, only 18 percent of homes nationwide had fiber-to-the-home access. In contrast, CC Communications was already delivering fiber connections to 80 percent of Churchill County and expanding services into personal emergency and home and business security monitoring.

Over the last decade, CC Communications has invested more than \$60 million to modernize and expand its network. The company upgraded electronics along the 60-mile fiber route to Reno, improving reliability and speed, and expanded the statewide transport network by more than 400 route miles, connecting Reno and Las Vegas and establishing



CC Communications employees with parade float September 2025. Photo courtesy of CC Comm.

points of presence in Silver Springs, Yerington, Schurz, Hawthorne, Mina, Tonopah, Beatty, Amargosa Valley, and Pahrump. Additional points between Reno, Fallon, Elko, and Salt Lake City now strengthen redundancy and open opportunities for further growth along the I-80 corridor. Around Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, more than 50 new fiber route miles have been deployed to support carrier and data-center customers.

Partnerships have also been key. Agreements with Elko and Storey Counties and with the Walker River Paiute, Yomba Paiute, and Te-Moak (Elko Band) Tribes are helping extend fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) service into rural and tribal communities. The company is simultaneously completing the final few hundred copper-based connections in Churchill County.

To reach the county’s most remote customers, CC Communications has introduced new wireless technology capable of delivering speeds up to 25 Mbps. The company continues to partner with regional carriers in California, Idaho, and Utah to interconnect fiber transport networks, ensuring Nevada’s data traffic has multiple resilient routes in and out of the state.

“Our vision is that every customer has at least three paths to the Internet,” Feest said. “We’re building a fully redundant network for voice and data traffic so service is seamless, no matter where that traffic enters our system.”

One difficult decision came in 2024, when CC Communications ended its television service. Rising content costs and increasing maintenance made the product no longer financially viable.

Feest said the company’s shift from an old telephone model to a broadband enterprise

has also reshaped its workforce. “The new network is less labor-intensive and more capital-intensive,” he explained. “Our employees need a much more technical skill set. On copper cable, they’d spend time behind a windshield, driving from terminal to terminal. Now, much of the work happens remotely at a workstation, configuring and troubleshooting the network.”

With roughly 50 employees, CC Communications now operates with fewer staff per customer connection but a higher level of technical expertise. Training, local recruitment, and long-term relationships with specialized consultants have become essential.

Feest emphasized that while CC Communications is a county-owned company, it receives no county tax dollars. “By law, no money can flow from the county to CC Communications,” he noted. “In fact, we provide financial contributions back to the county.”

Looking ahead, the company will continue expanding its fiber network to reduce dependence on outside carriers, increase redundancy, and boost reliability. Efforts are underway to deliver FTTP to all remaining residential, small-business, and enterprise customers, while providing high-capacity circuits for large data users and transport services for other carriers.

From its telegraph beginnings to today’s digital age, CC Communications remains a point of pride in Churchill County—locally owned, community-focused, and dedicated to keeping its customers connected.

“Our people have always been the heart of the company,” Feest said. “We’re proud to deliver world-class technology while keeping that home-grown personal touch.”



Ted Hunnewell congratulating Don Mello as new CC Communications General Manager. Photo by Sandra Mello.

TOPGUN Weekend Brings VIP Visitors to Fallon

Staff Report

It was a weekend to remember in Fallon as high-profile visitors touched down at Naval Air Station Fallon, home of the Navy’s elite TOPGUN program.

Among them was U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who paid a visit to NAS Fallon on Sunday to experience a flight with the Navy’s fighter training school. In a short video shared on his X account, Hegseth grinned from the tarmac and shouted the pilot’s rallying cry, “TURN AND BURN!” teasing that a full-length version of his flight, complete with cockpit footage, will be released soon.

Local residents may have noticed heightened activity around the base over the weekend, including reports of government aircraft in the area. While official details about visiting dignitaries were not released, speculation circulated online about additional high-level guests, including possible Department of Defense and Navy officials.

Cranberry Cottage shared that it had been closed Saturday evening for a last-minute private function hosting John C. Phelan, the 79th Secretary of the Navy, along with members of his staff and security team. “It was definitely an evening we will never forget,” the post read. “What an incredible honor!”

Between the sounds of jets overhead and the sudden appearance



General Dan Caine (left), Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with Pete Hegseth, U.S. Secretary of War at NAS Fallon on the tarmac with an F-18 Super Hornet.

of VIP security details, Fallon residents caught a glimpse of the unique intersection of small-town life and national defense that comes with hosting the Navy’s premier aviation training command.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

A big thank-you to everyone who joined us last weekend for Performing Arts of Churchill County’s (PACC) “Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.” The show was a huge success and such a joy to host on our historic stage. We’re proud to support PACC and the local talent that brings our community together through the arts.

Spooky-season fun continues at the Fallon Theatre with two family-friendly Halloween favorites.

This Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., join us for “Casper” (1995), the heartwarming tale of a friendly ghost who befriends a young girl after she moves into a haunted mansion. Rated PG; 1 hour, 40 minutes.

Then at 7 p.m., stick around for “Hocus Pocus” (1993), the fan-favorite Halloween classic where three resurrected witches return to modern-day Salem for a night of spooky adventure. Rated PG; 1 hour, 36 minutes.

Also, this Saturday, Oct. 25, at 3 p.m., the Fallon Theatre hosts the Churchill County Museum’s annual Adult Chautauqua Theater Program. This year’s theme is Agriculture, following previous sold-out shows “Shades of Yesteryear” and “Nevada’s Pioneering Spirits.” The production features talented local performers, including our own Glen Perazzo as Alfred Oats. Tickets are \$25 at the door, with discounts for advance purchase at the Churchill County Museum or by calling 775-423-3677, ext. 1.

Halloween night is shaping up to be one of the best yet. From 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31, downtown transforms for the Maine Street Spooktacular. Families can enjoy safe trick-or-treating, games, costumes, and decorations as Maine Street closes to traffic for this beloved community event. Keep an eye out for something new

towering above the crowd this year — a giant pumpkin surprise you won’t want to miss. Organizers are still welcoming sponsors and donations to keep this tradition growing.

At 7 p.m., cap off the night inside the Fallon Theatre with the interactive cult classic “The Rocky Horror Picture Show.” Admission is \$10, and props are welcome (nothing wet or messy inside the theatre, please). Grab your friends, get ready to do the Time Warp, and close out Halloween with a lively evening of music, laughter, and audience participation.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER:

Fri., Nov. 14, 7 p.m. — Nashville comedian Lee Hardin returns with a clean stand-up set. Tickets: \$20.

Sat., Nov. 15, 7 p.m. — River Rogue in concert, blending country, rock, and blues. Free admission; tips appreciated.

Sat., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. — The Kindred North, acoustic duo founded in Fallon by Raena Blais and McKenzie Warren. Admission: \$12.

Our full schedules for November and December will be released soon with more movies, concerts, and community events for the holiday season.

If you’ve enjoyed our 4D movie events, watch the December schedule — another immersive adventure is on the way.

As always, movie screenings at the Fallon Theatre are free to attend, and our concession stand is stocked with popcorn, candy, and great snacks. To rent the theatre for your own gathering or put a special message on our marquee, call 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com



September 2025 Marriages

- 9/2/2025 Shaylin Lanae Lehman, 26, to Aaron Charles Sims, 32, both of Fallon
- 9/2/2025 Benjiman L. Wilkinson, 81, to Joni Rachelle Stillabower, 59, both of Fallon
- 9/3/2025 Tyrone Barrington Kent, 27, to Michelle Kotlowski, 25, both of Fallon
- 9/3/2025 Keelyn Signe Horigan, 21, to Blake James Allison, 22, both of Fallon
- 9/4/2025 Bryan Joseph Shishido, 42, to Anissa Renee Haze, 47, both of Fallon
- 9/5/2025 Tyler John Meroth, 30, to Anh Ky Ngo, 25, both of Fallon
- 9/5/2025 Jenna Dene Snead, 27, to Austin William Muma, 26, both of Silver Springs
- 9/8/2025 Michael Thomas Caperton, 37, to Camen Lynn Labelle, 43, both of Fallon
- 9/12/2025 Nicolas Ortega Saavedra, 23, to Jessica Julieta Villarreal Venegas, 25, both of Fallon
- 9/12/2025 Angel De Jesus Perez, 29, to Corina Andrea Romero, 29, both of Fallon
- 9/12/2025 Shannon Michelle Miller, 37, to Dean Everett Fritz, 31, both of Fallon
- 9/12/2025 Jordan Khaled Orvold, 40, of Fallon, to Karen Marie Hogaas Himberg, 33, of Harstad, Norway
- 9/15/2025 Olivia Leigh Parkerson, 24, to Cody Allen Wilson, 25, both of Fallon
- 9/17/2025 Kenneth Hunt Tedford III, 35, to Amanda Lynn Taylor, 35, both of Fallon
- 9/18/2025 Jennifer Lynnee Santos, 35, to Kyle Andrew Burns, 35, both of Fernley

September Births

at Banner Hospital

Tugg Joseph Boatman
born September 10 to Hillary Picotte and William Boatman
weighing 8 lbs., 6 oz.,
measuring 20 inches.

Velena Sage Reid
born September 12
to Kaitlynn and Bryce Reid
weighing 7 lbs., 8 oz.,
measuring 20 1/2 inches.

Malachi Quinn Anderson
born September 23 to Michala Luning
weighing 6 lbs., 5 oz.,
measuring 19 1/2 inches.

Let us add your newborn to our birth announcements, no matter where they were born, or contact us for a special birth announcement with a photo. We would love to share the great news!

PETS OF THE WEEK



Feline Friends

We have plenty of cats and kittens waiting for homes! The adoption fee for cats is \$50, and each adoption includes a voucher for spay or neuter services and a rabies vaccination when the animal reaches six months of age. Come by the shelter to meet your new furry feline friend today, or give us a call for more information.



Meet Lucky Cat

A beautiful and affectionate kitty who adores attention, cuddles, and curling up on your lap while purring happily. Lucky is ready to bring joy and companionship to a loving home. Who will be the lucky one to welcome Lucky as their new best friend?

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

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

OBITUARIES

FARREN CROSSLAND
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 grew up in Fallon, NV from the age of one and was a graduate of Churchill County High School, class of 1986. He was a multi-sport athlete including football, baseball and wrestling.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Fallon at The Twisted Branch on Saturday, October 25th from 1-4, we would love anyone and everyone who knew Farren to come out and share stories with the family.

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.



KAARON FAYE DEESE
August 25, 1952 – September 23, 2025

Kaaron Faye Deese passed away unexpectedly at Sierra Medical Center in Reno on Sept. 23, 2025, with her beloved children by her side.

Kaaron was born at Ft. Hamilton Hospital on Aug. 25, 1952, to Aaron Samuel Kendel and Wilma Gene King.

She grew up in Hamilton, Ohio, for most of her younger years. Her father was in the Army and stationed in Germany, where she attended American School Giessen from 1959 to 1960. After returning to the United States, Kaaron attended Garfield Senior High School and graduated in 1972. She moved shortly after high school to Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kaaron worked in security at the Thomas & Mack Center in the early 1980s, as well as at a souvenir shop on the



Las Vegas Strip. In 1988, she married Thomas Deese, the love of her life. Shortly after being married, they moved to Fallon, Nevada, where they lived the remainder of their lives.

Kaaron was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Thomas, and her parents, Aaron and Wilma. She is survived by her most precious gifts — her children, Aaron French, Samantha French and Paul French II, all of Fallon; her grandchildren, Brandon, Aryia and Kandace; and two great-grandchildren, Kehaulani and Emersynne. She is also survived by her sister, Sondra Kaye McQuinn; nephew, William Edward Proctor II; and Amanda Kaye Proctor.

A gathering for family and friends will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at The Gardens Funeral Home, 2949 Austin Highway, Fallon, NV 89406; 775-423-8928.

TYLER MICHAEL CRYSTAL
August 27, 2010 – September 27, 2025

Tyler Michael Crystal did not slip quietly from this world when he left us on September 27, 2025. Rather, he departed from the Mineral County Rodeo Arena in a flurry of dust, angel wings, and a fire in his belly for the thing he loved doing most – ranch bronc riding.

An old soul in a young man’s body, Tyler was very much becoming the cattleman his hero and grandpa, Pete Crystal, had been. With a playlist of country hits from the 1950s and ‘60s, his cowboy heart resonated with the likes of Hank Williams Sr. and George Jones. Tyler was almost certainly the only teenager in America whose all-time favorite song was “Seven Year Ache” by Rosanne Cash.

Born to Shawn and Victoria Crystal on August 27, 2010, Tyler entered the world a month early and on his own terms. For the next 15 years, he would face every challenge placed before him with the same eagerness and determination. Well, except for school, that is – as all his classmates would attest. Despite his lack of enthusiasm for square roots and the scientific method, he never wanted to get behind on his schoolwork. It was at school that he often shone the brightest – always with a ready smile, a silly joke, or an encouraging word.

Tyler was so well known for his big smile and cowboy attire that upon his passing, Oasis Academy held a “Dress Like Ty” fundraising day. Students donned their cowboy best and raised more than \$3,500 for the Crystal family. Deeply impacted by his passing, they wrote dozens of letters to the Crystals and made western-themed “Live Like Ty” posters in remembrance.

Life was about being a cowboy, and doing “cowboy stuff” was what mattered most to Tyler – even though much of that stuff meant hard work. Working cows, feeding horses, fixing fence, you name it. The older he got, the more he grew to love all things associated with ranching and farming. He learned to operate farm equipment before he learned algebra, even driving the family’s antique Ford tractor to school for FFA Days.

Tyler was deeply connected to his family. He didn’t need to venture far from the homeplace to find connection and happiness. Fiercely loyal to those he loved, he also had a soft spot for kids who seemed to be alone or struggling. He often used humor and kindness to help them feel part of the group.



Tyler was too big for this life. Even his body was trying to out-grow him from the inside. Despite multiple surgeries on his feet and occasional broken bones, nothing slowed him down. He earned his first buckle at age 7 in mutton busting, getting his first taste of rodeo life. Over the summer, Tyler’s real passion was born – riding ranch broncs across Northern Nevada.

From his first ride, Tyler fell in love with the sport, the thrill, and the people he met along the way. With humor at hand and duct tape wrapped around his boots (even though one boot was fine – he said they needed to match), he would jokingly tell his competitors that he was going to take their money and buy a new pair of boots. And while Tyler didn’t quite win enough money to buy those fancy custom-made boots he craved, he was making eight-second rides and catching the attention of older, more seasoned, and even professional ranch bronc riders.

Tyler’s Pops once told him, “The only reason to rodeo is for what benefits you on the hill.” He believed ranch bronc riding would make him a better horseman. He liked the idea of training horses so much that he decided he wanted a career with the mustang program in Carson City. His plan was to get paid to work with horses, earn a pension, and spend the rest of his life buying cows and doing cowboy stuff.

Tyler, who was taken from so many who loved him, will be greatly missed. He is preceded in death by grandfathers Pete “Pops” Crystal and Larry Craig; sister Alyssa Garcia; aunt Sabrina Hoover; niece Iris White Eagle Rivers; and his “uncle” Don Bowman.

He is survived by his parents, Shawn and Victoria Crystal; his brothers Jesse and Colt Crystal, Maverik Boney, David Brown (Donna), and Robert Brown; his sister, Kimber Brown (Tyler); niece Eva Rivers; and nephews Noah Sarabia and Colby Brown. Tyler also leaves behind a great number of extended family members and friends – too many to count.

Sadly, it was the thing he loved doing the most that took him from all those who loved him. Trading his spur for the great beyond – cowboy heaven – Tyler left his mark not only on the hides of the horses he rode but on the lives of so very many people.

A memorial benefit rodeo will be held at a later date at Rafter 3C Arena, with funds raised to provide scholarships for rodeo athletes. #RideforTy, #IRideforTy.



COMMUNITY

Homemade Ornaments Bring Comfort After Disaster

By Rachel Dahl

Sometimes it’s the smallest things that bring the greatest comfort. For families who have lost everything in floods, fires, or other disasters, one of the most common laments is the loss of their Christmas ornaments — the handmade treasures that hold years of family memories.



Hundreds of handmade ornaments, created by local volunteers and Numa Elementary students, are packaged and ready to ship through Operation Ornaments, a nonprofit that delivers family packs of ornaments to people who've lost their homes in disasters across the country.

That’s where Operation Ornaments comes in. The nonprofit began about six years ago when a small group of women set out to do something simple but meaningful: replace a bit of what was lost. They started making homemade ornaments and distributing them to families recovering from disasters. What began as a few friends sharing by word of mouth has grown into a national network of volunteers.

Fallon’s Lana Scharmann has been part of Operation Ornaments for the past three years. “It’s all volunteer,”

she said. “Crafters make ornaments at their own expense. Everything is donated. Sometimes there’s a little help for travel, but mostly it’s just people who care, doing what they can.”

The ornaments are packaged into “family packs” and shipped to communities where disaster has struck. “It’s a way to give a little hope and beauty back during a really hard time,” Scharmann said.

Last year, she helped bring the project into the classroom at Numa Elementary. With the support of fifth grade teacher Leslie Brown, students learned about disaster recovery and the power of service, then created ornaments to send to families in need.

“Leslie taught about disasters and service,” Scharmann said. “Other teachers heard about it, and soon ten classes joined in. They made 263 ornaments! That’s so exciting — thank you, Numa teachers and Leslie!”

This year, the Fallon volunteers have again been busy creating, packaging, and preparing ornaments for distribution — each one a small, hand-decorated symbol of care and connection.

Operation Ornaments continues to invite new participants nationwide. As the group’s website explains, “Each year, many people across the country experience loss due to wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, flooding, and other natural disasters. These people often lose everything, including their treasured Christmas ornaments. We love to bring Christmas cheer to some of these families by making and donating ornaments. Whether you’re able to make one or one hundred, we’d love to have you join us.”

Those who aren’t crafty can still help through monetary donations to cover shipping and distribution costs.

“It’s such a simple act,” Scharmann said, “but it means so much. Every ornament carries love from one family to another.”

Agencies Unite in “Zero Tolerance” Stance on School Violence

By Rachel Dahl

Churchill County’s law enforcement and education leaders have released a rare joint statement reinforcing a zero-tolerance policy toward violence and weapons on school campuses.

The message, issued October 15, comes from the Churchill County School District, City of Fallon Police Department, Churchill County Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney’s Office, and Juvenile Probation Office. It follows what officials describe as an increase in reports of violence and weapons at schools nationwide.

The statement reaffirms that any fight, threat, or possession of a weapon on district property will be investigated and prosecuted “to the fullest extent of the law.”

“Law enforcement personnel responding to incidents of violence, weapons, or allegations of such activity at ChurchillCSD schools, events, or properties will conduct thorough investigations and pursue prosecution in collaboration with prosecutors and juvenile probation officers,” the agencies said.

Superintendent Derild Parsons shared the message with staff and families last week. “We are unified in ensuring that our schools remain safe, respectful environments for all students,” Parsons said.

Under the policy, administrators and teachers will educate students age 11 and older on state laws related to school violence, consequences of those actions, and the meaning of “zero tolerance.” Law enforcement will also maintain a more visible presence through school walk-throughs and event patrols.

The statement emphasizes that incidents such as fighting, assault, unlawful assembly, possession of weapons, and disturbances of the peace “will not be tolerated or allowed to stand without legal action.” School administrators are also directed to impose disciplinary measures under Board Policy 5135.2 – Policy on Student Discipline.

Officials from all agencies encourage parents and students to reach out with questions or concerns about the measures.

The Fallon Post will continue to follow up on this issue with a series exploring the Policy on Student Discipline as well as the education of students in regards to laws related to school violence, consequences, and “zero tolerance.”



The Sorooptimist International of Fallon hosted its 13th Annual Quarter Auction on Saturday, October 18, at the Fallon Convention Center, transforming the evening into a “Cauldrons & Cosmos” Spooktacular. Guests turned out in festive spirit for one of Fallon’s most beloved fundraising events, bidding on dozens of items donated by local businesses and supporters. Proceeds from the lively auction benefit the organization’s Live Your Dream scholarships, Dream It, Be It mentoring programs, and other Sorooptimist projects that empower women and girls in the community. “Last night’s Quarter Auction was one for the books,” members posted afterward. “Thank you to our amazing community for always coming out to support us—we’re already looking forward to next year!”

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, Oct. 27 Shepherd's Pie Fresh Spinach w/ Apricot Bran Muffin Banana	Tuesday, Oct. 28 Fish Sticks Tartar Sauce Mac & Cheese WW 3 Bean Salad Steamed Carrots Strawberries & Whipped Cream	Wednesday, Oct. 29 Spanish Omelet Onion roasted Potatoes Steamed Mix Veggie Oat Bran Roll Apple Crisp	Thursday, Oct. 30 Witch's Cauldron Chicken Stew w/carrots, peas, & potatoes Goul Green Salad Anti Vampire Garlic Breadsticks Pumpkin Pie	Friday, Oct. 31 – Center Closed for Nevada Day –
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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, Oct. 27 Baked Potato Bar Bread & Dessert	Thursday, Oct. 30 Taco Bar Dessert	Monday, Nov. 3 Bean & Cheese Burritos Rice & Salad	Thursday, Nov. 6 Rotary Night	Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.
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BUSINESS

Packed House at the Cottage Food Meeting

By Rachel Dahl

When it comes to cottage food, homemade cosmetics, craft fermentation, and mobile meat processing, producers in Fallon and surrounding communities are ready for clarity.

At a standing-room-only meeting hosted at the VFW Hall last week, Kelli Kelly, food systems business advisor with the Nevada Small Business Development Center, led a detailed presentation on recent legislative changes that will reshape how Nevada regulates home-based food and cosmetic businesses.

“This isn’t a class, I’m not taking attendance,” Kelly told the crowd as she kicked off the session. “We’re here to listen to you. We want to hear what’s working, what’s not, and what you need as these rules are written.”

Kelly was joined by Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President of the Nevada Farm Bureau, as well as Staci Emm and Andrew Waaswa from UNR Extension, all part of a coalition working with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) as it assumes regulatory authority for cottage food, craft food, and inspected food establishments.

The packed room represented a cross-section of Nevada’s local food economy from bakers, soap makers, livestock producers, herbalists, and farmers from as far as Virginia City and Yerington, each curious how the new rules would affect their businesses.

One of the most significant changes comes from Senate Bill 466, which transfers oversight of food establishment laws (Chapter 446 of the Nevada Revised Statutes) from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

In practical terms, Kelly explained, that means environmental health specialists, many of whom currently work for county

or regional health districts, will now operate under NDA.

“For areas like Churchill County that already have a local health district, you’ll keep the same inspectors and relationships you have now,” Kelly said. “The difference is administrative; their contract will shift from Health and Human Services to Agriculture.”

For rural counties without a local health department, such as Lyon and Storey, inspections and licensing will now be handled directly by NDA staff. Kelly said the state expects to streamline permitting with online applications and standardized forms to replace the county-by-county patchwork that’s frustrated many home producers.

One Lyon County baker shared her story of spending a month calling between counties before finally driving to Elko to get her cottage license. “I shouldn’t have to drive four hours to do that,” she said, drawing nods around the room.

Kelly outlined the key reforms passed in Assembly Bill 352, the sweeping “Cottage Food Reform Bill,” carried by Assemblywoman Natha Anderson. The bill modernizes how small food and cosmetic producers operate in Nevada:

- Cottage Food sales cap increases from \$35,000 to \$100,000 per year.
- Expanded sales options: Producers will be able to sell through email, online, or third-party delivery within Nevada, not just face-to-face “whites of the eyes” transactions.
- Still direct-to-consumer: Cottage products cannot be sold for resale to coffee shops or stores.
- Cottage Cosmetics Program: New legal framework allowing small producers (under \$100,000 in sales) to make and sell non-hazardous skin and body products such as lotions, soaps, and scrubs.
- Craft Foods: Expanded to include naturally fermented products, such as hot sauces or sauerkraut, with testing and ServSafe requirements.
- Mobile Meat Processing: Creates a path for

state-inspected mobile units that can process meat for resale directly on-farm.

The new programs are slated for full implementation by July 1, 2027, though Kelly said the coalition hopes to accelerate that timeline by working closely with NDA.

Although the shift to the Department of Agriculture marks a major administrative change, local health departments will continue to play a central role in inspections, particularly for food establishments and shared commercial kitchens.

“Your local health inspectors aren’t going away,” Kelly emphasized. “If you already have a good relationship with your inspector, keep it, they’ll just be working under a new agency contract.”

For small rural counties, NDA will take the lead directly. “The goal is to make it easier, not harder,” Kelly said. “We’ve heard you loud and clear that the current patchwork system isn’t working.”

After the presentation, the discussion turned into a brainstorming session. Entrepreneurs called for clearer ingredient rules, flexibility for seasonal recipes, permission to offer product samples, and a more streamlined process for fermented foods and dairy-based baked goods.

Kelly encouraged everyone to join the coalition’s mailing list to stay informed as the Nevada Department of Agriculture drafts new administrative codes. Future listening sessions are planned across the state and online.

“This is how the sausage gets made—literally and figuratively,” Kelly joked, drawing laughter. “Your feedback will help shape how these programs work for years to come.”

Producers can find summaries, handouts, and the full text of the new laws on the Nevada Small Business Development Center’s website or sign up for updates from UNR Extension and the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Virtual listening session hosted by UNR Extension Office, Oct. 21. More information is available at extension.unr.edu

New Businesses September

Customized Dreams LLC. dba D50 Customized Designs 2155 West Williams Avenue Fallon, NV 89406, 775-423-1620 Retail Customized Dream LLC. (owner)	Change of Ownership Rogne Realty 590 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, NV 89406, 775-423-3700 Real Estate Was: Kelly Rogne Now: Lauren Wilson (owner)
Kind Cakes 1240 Lattin Road Fallon, NV 89406, 575-621-7261 Cottage Foods Sarah Anderson (owner)	SDI of Fallon LLC. dba Sonic Drive In 2070 Reno Highway, Fallon, NV 89406, 775-853-1484 Food Taylor Cain (owner)
Patrick Silva LLC 2975 Reno Highway Fallon, NV 89406, 775-294-5940 Yard Services Patricio Silva (owner)	Stephen Cooper Concrete LLC 1845 Chelcie Street Fallon, NV 89406, 775-225-6315 Masonry Stephen Cooper (owner)

Fallon Chamber Holds Inaugural Business Expo



The first Fallon Chamber Business Expo drew 29 business and 100 residents. Photo by Christy Lattin.

By Christy Lattin

The Fallon Chamber of Commerce hosted its first Business Expo on Oct. 15, drawing 29 businesses and numerous attendees. The event was timed to coincide with National Chamber of Commerce Day.

Chamber Executive Director Lucy Carnahan said about 100 members of the public visited the Convention Center to connect with local businesses. She hopes to double the number of exhibitors and increase community turnout next year.

“This is a big turnout for the first expo,” said Eric Gotham, a realtor with Sierra Nevada Properties. “It’s great to meet all the business owners and see how they’re doing.”

Networking proved to be one of the expo’s biggest benefits. Representatives from Employ NV, Stinky Puppy’s Bakery, and First Command Financial Services all praised the event’s opportunities to connect with others.

Kathleen Wellman, owner of Stinky Puppy’s Bakery, said she enjoyed meeting other business owners and discovering small, local enterprises she hadn’t known about. She also appreciated the exposure for her home-based bakery.

Carnahan noted that many businesses at the expo were also looking to hire, and she envisions future expos including a job fair component.

“With our incredibly low unemployment rate in the Fallon area, it is still hard to find viable employees for every position,” Carnahan said. “We’ll continue to have job placement services available to help those seeking the right opportunity.”

According to the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, Churchill County’s unemployment rate is 4.2%. Nevada’s statewide rate is 5.3%, and the national rate is 4.3%.

Chamber board members helped manage raffles and provided each business a chance to address attendees about their products and services.

Churchill County Museum Presents

CHAUTAUQUA THEATRE

“AGRICULTURE”

Saturday,
October 25th
3:00 P.M. At The
Fallon Theatre

Mel Glover...Clarence King
Zip Upham...J.J. Cushman
Jennie Mader... Nancy Ann Whitney Sanford
Ernie Schank...Le Roy Cyril Schank
Glen Perazzo...Alfred Oats
Pam Duarte...Mary Odessa Van Why Johnson

Advance Tickets May
Be Purchased At The
Museum Front Desk

General Admission:
\$10 CCM \$20
Seniors, Military,
Children Under 12
\$15
\$7.50 CCM

CCM Members
get 1/2 Price!!

All Tickets \$25 on
the day of event!

GOVERNMENT

County Settlement Paves the Way for Moody Lane Extension; Sets Course for Salary Study

By Christy Lattin

Churchill County has reached a settlement with a developer that clears the way for its Moody Lane–Coleman Road Connector Project (MLCRC). The project includes construction of a new bridge over the Carson River and an extension of Moody Lane south to Coleman Road, terminating east of the Onde Verde subdivision. The plan requires rights-of-way through several properties, including more than 155 acres owned by River Homes In Fallon, LLC (RHF).

The property is located east of the golf course and spans from the Carson River north to Rice Road. River Homes In Fallon, LLC is owned by the River Homes In Fallon Management Trust from Las Vegas. The settlement document lists Steve Mack and Sherri Hughes as signators; both are listed online as leaders of Bravo Store Systems, a 40-year-old company that creates business management software for retailers like pawn shops and gun stores.

In the settlement agreement, RHF maintains it has several potential legal claims against the county “for inverse condemnation of real property, including water rights, pre-condemnation damages, and breach of a Water Banking and Dedication Agreement dated April 18, 2012 (“RHF Claims”) and the County contests the RHF Claims.”

RHF began its Fallon project in 2005 with

a planned unit development (PUD) for two parcels totaling 155.25 acres. The company was unable to continue development due to financing issues, and the county extended the PUD for 15 years. Assistant County Manager Joe Sanford said the county declined to renew the PUD in 2020 because the development was based on outdated land-use maps.

Under the new agreement, the county will receive a right-of-way through RHF’s property in exchange for a release of potential legal claims. RHF plans to rezone its property for residential and commercial uses. The deal resolves potential claims, secures the right-of-way for the MLCRC project, and provides zoning needed for future development.

The county’s cost totals \$125,188.30, including \$114,855 in abated wastewater operations and maintenance (O&M) fees over five years and \$10,333.30 in waived outstanding wastewater O&M fees and finance charges.

The settlement grants RHF R-3 zoning, allowing up to 661 residential units, including a maximum of 330 apartment units, and 15 acres of commercial development. Although the PUD has expired, the new zoning will guide future land use. Commissioners approved the agreement unanimously.

In other business, commissioners authorized the Human Resources Department to

begin a salary compensation study to ensure county wages remain competitive. Previous studies were completed in 2015, 2018, and 2022. Sanford presented two options: conducting the study internally or hiring an outside vendor. Quotes from vendors ranged from \$52,750 to \$92,000. Commissioners early on indicated a preference for using an external firm to avoid any appearance of bias.

District Attorney Art Mallory and Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills urged the commission to include a private-sector comparison in the study, noting that both the District Attorney’s and Public Defender’s offices have struggled to retain and recruit attorneys due to pay disparities.

Commissioners voted to use an outside vendor and directed Sanford to organize a workshop for vendors to present their proposals.

Commissioners also approved \$450 per day in holiday standby pay for district attorneys, public defenders, and the Justice of the Peace. State law requires arrestees to receive a bail hearing within 48 hours, including weekends and holidays. The new rate takes effect Oct. 15, 2025, with one-time retroactive payments for work performed on July 4 and Sept. 1, 2025. Funding will come from the Department of Indigent Defense Services and will cover nine holidays in fiscal year 2025–2026.

Nevada Moves to Protect Its Fuel Supply



KM Fuel Terminal, photo courtesy of Kinder Morgan Fuel.

By Rachel Dahl

Governor Joe Lombardo says Nevada needs to be ready to take care of itself when it comes to fuel, the gas and diesel that keeps our cars and trucks and tractors, and in Churchill County our Navy airplanes moving.

Right now, almost all of Nevada’s fuel comes from California. Pipelines carry gasoline and jet fuel across the state line to Sparks, Las Vegas, and even the Navy base in Fallon. That works fine, until something goes wrong.

Two of California’s biggest refineries are closing soon, one near Los Angeles next year and another near San Francisco in 2026. Together, those two refineries make about one-fifth of California’s fuel. When they shut down, the whole region will feel it. Prices could jump, supplies could run short, and Nevada could be left waiting at the end of the pipeline.

Governor Lombardo wants to fix that before it happens. Last week, he announced plans to form a Fuel Resiliency Subcommittee, to study where Nevada gets its fuel, how much we use, and what could be done to make sure we don’t run out if something happens in California.

“Energy security is national security,” Lombardo said. “We need to make sure Nevadans have reliable access to the fuel that keeps our economy and communities running.”

The new subcommittee will work with experts, energy companies, and federal agencies to:

- Look for weak spots in how Nevada gets its fuel.
 - Plan for emergencies like refinery shut-downs or pipeline breaks.
 - Explore new ideas for fuel storage, transportation, and backup supply routes.
 - Recommend investments to make the system stronger and more independent.
- Because rural communities are dependent on secure, reliable supply lines for everything from fuel to food, State Senator Robin Titus (R-17) has been urging state officials to act for years.
- Titus tried to pass a bill last session to create an Energy Independence Task Force. The bill never got a hearing, but the governor encouraged her to keep pushing and now that effort is moving forward.
- Energy experts say Nevada doesn’t have much oil of its own, just a small refinery in Nye County that makes asphalt for roads. With most of the state’s fuel imported, it’s easy to see how one impact in California could have a ripple effect through the rural parts of Nevada.
- “We’re at the end of the pipe,” said Miranda Hoover, state executive for the Energy and Convenience Association of Nevada. “To keep prices stable, Nevada needs to look for other fuel sources to make up for what’s being lost.”
- According to the Governor’s press release, the Fuel Resiliency Subcommittee will deliver its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security in 2026.

Where Nevada’s Fuel Comes From

Nevada doesn’t make its own gasoline. Almost all of the state’s fuel comes from neighboring states through a network of pipelines and rail lines:

- CALIFORNIA PIPELINES:**
- About 88% of Nevada’s gasoline comes from California refineries, according to Stillwater Associates. The Kinder Morgan SFPP North Line brings fuel from the Bay Area to terminals in Sparks and Reno, and a smaller six-inch line carries jet fuel 63 miles to Naval Air Station Fallon.
- SOUTHERN NEVADA SUPPLY**
- The CALNEVA pipeline, also operated by Kinder Morgan, runs from Colton, California, to Las Vegas and supplies 90% of Southern Nevada’s fuel, including jet fuel for Nellis Air Force Base.

UTAH PIPELINE

The UNEV pipeline carries about 15% of Nevada’s total fuel from Utah, serving parts of eastern Nevada and supplementing the Las Vegas market.

RAIL TERMINALS

Northern Nevada also receives shipments by rail at terminals in the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, Sparks, Tonopah, and Dunphy.

REFINERIES AND PRODUCTION

Nevada has just one small refinery, producing asphalt rather than gasoline. In 2024, the state produced fewer than 140,000 barrels of crude oil, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

With two major California refineries, Phillips 66 in Los Angeles and Valero in Benicia, scheduled to close by 2026, energy leaders warn that Nevada could face supply shortages and price spikes if the state doesn’t diversify its sources soon.

Sources: Governor Joe Lombardo’s Office, Energy & Convenience Association of Nevada, Stillwater Associates, U.S. Energy Information Administration.

COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

Tuesday, October 14 Judge Thomas Stockard Presiding

Yovani Alfredo Fernandez appeared for sentencing on the Category C Felony of Attempt to Commit a Residential Burglary, to which he pleaded guilty in August.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker said the victim called Fernandez for a ride home after a night out. When she went to the Depot to meet a friend after he left her in the vehicle at Golden Gate for over an hour, Fernandez followed, accelerated toward her, and drove circles in the parking lot, forcing her and others to jump out of the way. He later went to her home uninvited, kicked her, and smashed her phone to destroy video of the incident, which constituted residential burglary. Baker requested probation with Drug Court and \$1,200 restitution for the phone

Judge Stockard imposed a suspended 24–60 months in prison, placed Fernandez on probation, and ordered him to obtain substance abuse evaluation, maintain employment, avoid contact with the victim, and pay restitution.

Stefanie Marie Bousquet appeared for arraignment on two charges: (1) Possession of a Controlled Substance, First or Second Offense, a Category E Felony punishable by one to four years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000; and (2) Driving Under the Influence, First Offense, a misdemeanor punishable by two to 180 days in jail or 48 to 96 hours of house arrest, and installation of an ignition interlock device for 185 days.

Bousquet pleaded guilty to both counts. Due to a blood alcohol level .185, statute requires a substance abuse evaluation, which Judge Stockard ordered, also provisionally placing her into the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court program. He set sentencing for Dec. 2, 2025, and told Bousquet her compliance with Drug Court would influence whether she would be granted probation at sentencing.

Tammy Jo Lopez pleaded guilty to one count of Abuse, Neglect, or Endangerment of a Child Not Causing Substantial Bodily or Mental Harm, a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail.

According to the factual basis, on June 28, Lopez drove intoxicated with her 9-year-old son in the front passenger seat. The child, recognizing something was wrong, FaceTimed his father, who observed Lopez’s erratic behavior and contacted law enforcement. Officers located Lopez and the child in a running vehicle at a gas station. The state noted this was the second alcohol-related incident involving Lopez and her son, the first being a DUI nearly seven years ago.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford stated that Lopez had enrolled in outpatient treatment through New Frontier but emphasized the seriousness of the case,

asking the court to sentence her to four days in jail, followed by probation with strict no-alcohol and no-cannabis conditions.

“A nine-year-old knew more than this mother,” Sanford said. “She can either send her and her child in a positive direction, or she can go down and drag her child with her. It’s up to her.”

Judge Stockard sentenced Lopez to 364 days in Churchill County Jail, suspended, and placed her on probation. “Don’t mistake the benefit you got today for anything other than an opportunity,” Stockard said. “If there are any violations, I’m going to take them very seriously.”

Tharon Theodore Webb Jr. pleaded guilty to Felony DUI, a Category B Felony punishable by two to 15 years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000. Judge Stockard granted his application for the DUI Diversion Program and suspended proceedings, placing him on probation for up to 60 months.

Webb had been wearing an alcohol-monitoring ankle bracelet since August 2024. His attorney, CCPD Jacob Sommer, asked the court to consider crediting that time as house arrest. Judge Stockard declined to do so, noting the device monitored alcohol use but not location, and deferred any decision to the Drug Court’s discretion.

Webb, provisionally accepted into the Western Nevada DUI Diversion Court, was ordered to complete the program, undergo a substance abuse evaluation, and follow all recommendations.

Joseph Robert Keller pleaded guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), First or Second Offense, a Category E Felony punishable by one to four years and a fine up to \$5,000. Sentencing was continued to allow time for his attorney to file a diversion application and submit a substance abuse evaluation.

Keller is provisionally participating in the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court. Judge Stockard continued sentencing to Nov. 4, 2025, and ordered the diversion application to be filed by Oct. 28.

Kaza Gail Kaylor appeared in custody for arraignment on two felony charges: Principal to the Crime of Grand Larceny of Personal Goods or Property Valued at \$5,000 or More, but Less Than \$25,000, a Category C Felony punishable by 1-5 years in prison, and Obtaining or Possessing a Credit or Debit Card Without Consent, a Category D Felony punishable by 1-4 years in prison.

Although a plea deal had been discussed, Kaylor pleaded not guilty to both counts and waived her right to a speedy trial. Judge Stockard set a three-day jury trial to begin Jan. 28, 2026.



Shelley Leanne Sonafrank appeared for sentencing on the charge of Attempt to Commit Burglary of a Business, a Category D Felony, to which she had previously pleaded guilty. The court acknowledged Sonafrank’s long history of substance abuse and her expressed desire to seek outpatient treatment and employment.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills requested \$59 in restitution, noting the offense involved a stolen slot machine ticket. Sonafrank’s attorney, Charles Woodman, argued for probation with strict treatment conditions instead of prison, citing her ongoing addiction issues and age.

Judge Stockard denied probation and sentenced Sonafrank to 12 to 48 months in Nevada State Prison, with credit granted for 100 days of time served. He ordered restitution of \$59.

Mekyel Kenneth Tybo appeared in custody for a probation violation hearing. The Division of Parole and Probation filed two reports alleging violations — an original report on Sept. 12, 2025, and a supplemental report on Oct. 2, 2025, following his return to custody.

Charles Woodman, defense counsel for Tybo, explained the matter involved three active cases: one current probation case, one new case in Justice Court, and another previously handled by attorney Maurya Desmarais, for which a motion to revoke probation had been filed. Woodman assumed representation in that matter to streamline coordination.

Judge Stockard granted a continuance to Nov. 4 to allow global resolution of all three cases.

Dylan Kiowa Joseph admitted to a non-technical probation violation for failing to complete the Western Regional Drug Court program. Judge Stockard revoked his probation and imposed the underlying sentence. Joseph received credit for 139 days served.

September 2025 Divorces

Bargar, Joy & Bargar, Sean	Divorce	09/17/25	Leitzke, Darren v. Leitzke, Sharon	Divorce	09/08/25
Batas, Cristina Gomez & Trigo, Julio De La Torre	Divorce	09/30/25	McKenzie, Patrick K & Sanchez, Vella J	Divorce	09/05/25
Bergreen, Joy v. Steiger, Howard	Divorce	09/18/25	Meeks, Genevieve A. & Meeks, Jimmy D.	Divorce	09/26/25
Brown, Kathy Marie & Brown, Tony Ontia	Divorce	09/02/25	Miranda, Carina F. & Miranda, Richard D.	Divorce	09/22/25
Buckhalter, Sarah & Buckhalter, Semaj	Divorce	09/05/25	Nelson, Kelley M. & Moody, Brandon J.	Divorce	09/12/25
Chatha, Prabhjot Singh & Kaur, Harpreet	Divorce	09/02/25	Norwood, Ronnie & Norwood, Phyllis	Divorce	09/22/25
Chornomorets, Danylo & Arsanova, Elza	Divorce	09/29/25	Orozco, Miguel Rodriguez & Haroon, Moshina	Divorce	09/10/25
Fitzgibbon, Kimberly v. Fitzgibbon, John	Divorce	09/22/25	Orr, Haylee Corinne & Vann, Russell Raymond	Divorce	09/17/25
Hayes, Jasmine v. Aranda, John	Divorce	09/26/25	Regev, Hen & Lorza, Juan Sebastian Jimenez	Divorce	09/12/25
Jacobsen, Brett Samuel & Jacobsen, Julie Ann	Divorce	09/02/25	Richardson, Justine & Richardson, Clifton	Divorce	09/05/25
Kontny, Crystal Lee v. Carter, Paul Lawrence	Divorce	09/15/25	Turner, Ronald L. & Turner, Kimberlee N.	Divorce	09/12/25

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ASE CERTIFIED f

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: GRACE LACA

As graduation approaches for the Class of 2026, Oasis Academy senior Grace Laca is looking ahead to a future rooted in agriculture, leadership, and community. After she graduates in May, she plans to attend either the University of Idaho or Montana State University to pursue a degree in animal science and agricultural business. “I’d eventually like to farm or ranch,” she shared. “So I am going to learn all I can to help me succeed.”

Laca will graduate with both her high school diploma and an Associate of Science degree from Western Nevada College. A Bighorn since first grade, she reflected fondly on her years at Oasis.

“I’ve made many great friends and had great teachers along the way,” she said.

Her favorite memories come from her involvement in both athletics and FFA. “Through FFA, I have competed in Nationals in Indianapolis twice, attended leadership camps at Lake Tahoe, competed at the state level, and met people from all over Nevada,” she explained.

“As for athletics, playing volleyball, basketball, and softball has allowed me to compete at the regional and state levels. I’ve also gotten the opportunity to play with both of my younger sisters,” she said.

Her passion for agriculture was encouraged by science and ag teacher Ms. Jackie Bogdanowicz. “I’d like to thank Ms. B. for all of the opportunities she has given me by pushing me to compete and run for office,” Laca said. “My time in FFA has been a huge part of my high school career and I am grateful for all that I have learned.”

Laca has been a dedicated student leader, serving in Student Council every year, holding multiple FFA leadership roles, and being a member of the National Honor Society. Her positions include class vice president freshman through junior years, senior class treasurer,



Grace Laca. Photo by Kayce Mulder Photography.

FFA Western Zone treasurer, FFA treasurer, FFA president, and currently the chapter’s first-ever student advisor. As a three-sport athlete, she has played varsity since early in her high school career and has been named to the NIAA Academic All-State Team in every sport. She earned multiple NIAA 2A Honorable Mentions in volleyball, basketball, and softball, as well as Second Team selections in basketball and softball her junior year. “Going back to middle school, I’d like to thank Lisa Swan for giving me my first chance to play a varsity sport when she put me on the high school lacrosse team as an eighth grader,” she said. She also thanked volleyball coaches Ali Montgomery and Jalana Bell, softball coaches Brandon Bird, Rachel Payne, Carey Gantt, Kevin Montgomery, Ali Montgomery, and especially John Short, along with basketball coach Amanda Larsen. “I wouldn’t be the person I am today without all of these coaches,” she said. When asked what advice she would share with younger students, her message was simple: “Get involved and give your all. Whether it’s sports, academics, or school activities, make the most of your high school years.”

BOOK FAIR BRINGS BIG SMILES TO OASIS STUDENTS

Oasis Academy’s annual Book Fair was another success this fall, bringing excitement and new stories to students from kindergarten through eighth grade. Families spent just under \$17,000 this year, allowing the school to retain 50% of the proceeds as Scholastic Dollars. “Through our families’ Share the Fair donations and existing Scholastic Dollars fund, we spent \$5,200 filling teachers’ wish lists and providing a book for every kindergarten through eighth grade student,” said Book Fair Chair Katherine Rule.



Steve Skoda, Heather Skoda, Felecia McKnight, Megan Urbanek, Kara Warren, Kara Tippet, Katherine Rule.

The event featured crafts, read-alouds, and Family Night, which drew a great turnout of students, parents, and community members. Oasis Academy expressed thanks to Rule, Friends of Oasis Academy, and all the volunteers who helped make the fair a success.

CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD.



District - Chartwells staff member Catrina Freeman serving students lunch at CCHS. Freeman was recently nominated for School Lunch Hero of our Pacific Region for Chartwells.



LES - Families pack the library during the fall book fair and literacy night.



CCHS - Leianna Weaver and Tiago Santos from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival performing “These Foolish Things.”

District - Last week, Churchill County School District joined schools nationwide in celebrating National School Lunch Week, highlighting the vital role nutritious meals play in student health and learning. The event emphasized that access to breakfast and lunch helps students stay focused, energized, and ready to learn. Superintendent Derild Parsons thanked Chartwells and its staff “for providing our students with healthy, delicious meals every day” and ensuring every child “has the fuel they need to stay focused, energized, and ready to learn.”

CCHS - Students enjoyed a live performance of “These Foolish Things” by Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors Leianna Weaver and Tiago Santos. The first-through-third-period shows, followed by a fifth-period workshop for theatre students, gave many their first opportunity to see live theatre. “The actors enjoyed performing for and working with our students today,” said Theatre Director Ashley Adams, who thanked staff for helping make the event possible.

CCMS - Jennifer Olsen’s math students turned geometry into art as Jennifer Olsen’s classes explored transformations—translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations—through creative design projects. Students reimaged furniture, transformed their initials, and manipulated figures on coordinate planes, turning math concepts into hands-on creations. Olsen said the lesson encouraged students to view math as a tool for innovation and design.

Numa - Fifth graders in Kristina Lee’s class combined geography and imagination by creating their own islands. Students mapped landforms, labeled surrounding oceans and continents, and produced persuasive “commercials” to showcase their islands’ resources and appeal. The project helped students connect creativity with real-world geography while developing presentation and communication skills.

E.C. Best - Students learned about communication styles during classroom visits from counselor Janell Suess. Lessons focused on the difference between passive, aggressive, and assertive communication, with students practicing role-playing activities to see how tone and word choice affect others. “Being an effective communicator is an important life skill,” Suess said, “and these lessons helped students see how their words and actions impact others.”

Lahontan - LES held its Fall Book Fair and Family Literacy Night on October 15 with the theme Wild About Reading. Students and their families participated in a variety of literacy activities in the cafeteria and got to browse and purchase books in the library. The combined event offered an opportunity for students and families to engage with reading together, strengthen literacy skills, and discover new books. By pairing interactive activities with the book fair, the school created an event where learning, creativity, and a love of reading came together in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

EDUCATION

Veritas Preparatory School – Classical and Christian

**Veritas Celebrates Grandparents' Day with Music,
Memories, and Classroom Connections**

By Assistant Headmaster David Ernst, with photos courtesy of Veritas

Last Friday, the Veritas Preparatory School community came together for a heartfelt celebration of faith, family, and learning during the annual Grandparents' Day program. Due to growth in student enrollment, this year's event was held at Parkside Bible Fellowship to accommodate the increasing number of students and their families. The day honored the special role grandparents play in the lives of Veritas students and offered a joyful glimpse into the school's Christ-centered education.

The morning began with grandparents and parents attending class with their students. Families got a firsthand look at daily lessons, and in many cases, the adults were invited to join in the activities as well. For many, seeing their student's education in action was the highlight of the day.



Mrs. Behimer's 7th/8th Grade class reenacting "The Four

"It was such a special time," said one grandparent. "I enjoyed hearing all the chants and songs. The way the younger classes break down the parts of a sentence on the board was particularly impressive."

Following class time, families made their way to Parkside for the class presentations. Each class offered a short demonstration of what they have been learning. Mrs. Buller's second grade class presented a reenactment of the Trojan War, while Ms. Behimer's



Mrs. Behimer's 7th/8th Grade class, Autumn Thomas, Kian Green, Adam Mikulak, and "Name Undisclosed" reenacting "The Four Yorkshire Men" for Veritas' Grandparent's Day.

seventh- and eighth-graders performed The Four Yorkshire Men sketch from Monty Python. The first- and second-grade students also performed traditional melodies on recorders.

Grandparents' Day has long been a treasured tradition at Veritas, reflecting the school's mission to nurture both academic excellence and godly character. The event celebrates the bond between generations and reminds the community of the shared values that unite them.

"As educators, we know our students are shaped by the love and faithfulness of their families," said Headmaster Jill Rosario. "Grandparents' Day allows us to honor that influence

and thank them for the part they play in our students' lives."

Filled with music, laughter, and warm fellowship, this year's Grandparents' Day was a beautiful reminder that at Veritas, learning is a family affair—and faith and love are at the heart of it all.

"As educators, we know our students are shaped by the love and faithfulness of their families," stated Headmaster Jill Rosario. "Grandparents' Day allows us to honor that influence and thank them for the part they play in our students' lives."

With music, laughter, and warm fellowship, this year's Grandparents' Day was a beautiful reminder that at Veritas, learning is a family affair — and faith and love are at the heart of it all.

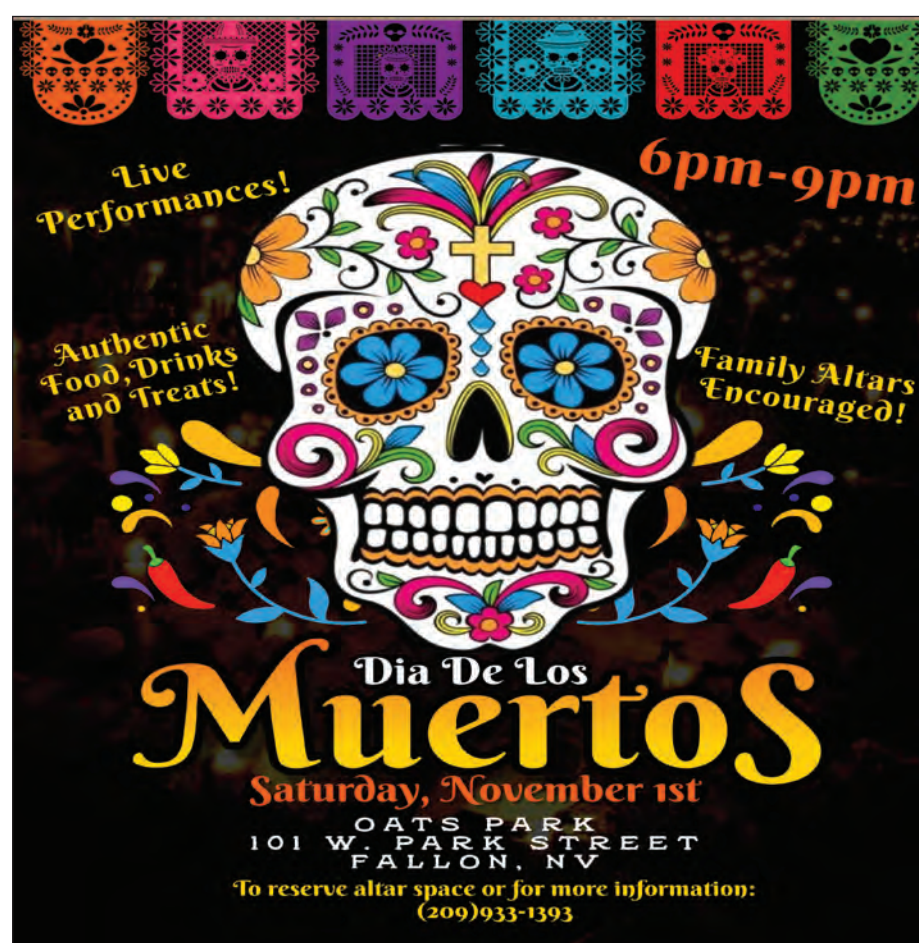
CCHS Seniors Explore Career Pathways at TMCC



Story and photos by Dr. Sue Segura

Churchill County High School seniors visited Truckee Meadows Community College to explore possible post-graduation career pathways. Students toured the Edison Way and Dandini Boulevard campuses, getting a firsthand look at programs including automotive/diesel, welding, HVAC, architecture, IT, and manufacturing.

The visiting students are enrolled in the Nevada Promise program, which can cover up to three years of community college tuition. The tour proved especially inspiring when they met two CCHS graduates now thriving in TMCC's HVAC program—a great motivator for students considering a career in the trades.



SPORTS

Greenwave Volleyball Sweeps Pink Out Night



Photos and story by John Baker

It was a night of heart and hustle Friday as the Churchill County Greenwave volleyball teams hosted their annual Pink Out Fundraiser to benefit the Churchill Community Hospital Foundation and took on the Lowry Buckaroos in front of a spirited home crowd.

The freshman team set the tone early, cruising to victory in straight sets, 25-12 and 25-17.

In junior varsity play, the Greenwave and Buckaroos battled through three hard-fought sets. Churchill edged out the opener

25-23 before Lowry answered back 25-22. The deciding set went to the Greenwave, who sealed the win 15-9 to take the match two sets to one.

Before the varsity match, the Lady Wave paused for a moment that put the night’s cause into focus—presenting a \$5,512 check to the Northern Nevada Children’s Cancer Foundation, representing funds raised during their earlier Pink Out event on Sept. 18.

Once play began, the Greenwave showed the same determination on the court that they did in fundraising, dominating Lowry in straight sets, 25-16, 25-17, and 25-9.

From start to finish, the evening was a perfect blend of competitive spirit and community giving, another example of how Churchill County athletes continue to make a difference both on and off the court.

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Fallon Rodeo Team
Notches Big Finishes
in Elko

By Ainsley Macpherson, Fallon Rodeo Team

The Fallon Rodeo Team turned in another strong week-end on the state circuit, stacking up wins and top placings across junior high and high school events in Elko.

Junior high standout Stella Lee earned All Around Cowgirl honors on the strength of three top-four finishes, while teammates brought home first-place ribbons in ribbon roping, team roping, and goat tying.

- HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:**
- Ainsley Macpherson — 2nd, JH Barrel Racing
 - Wyatt Greenwood — 4th, JH Breakaway Roping; 1st, JH Ribbon Roping
 - Rostin Snow — qualified ride, JH Bull Riding
 - Zachary Greenberg — 6th, JH Bull Riding
 - Stella Lee — 3rd, JH Team Roping; 3rd, JH Breakaway Roping; 4th, JH Barrel Racing; All Around Cowgirl
 - Megan Allison — 1st, HS Goat Tying
 - Brooke Allison — 2nd, HS Goat Tying; 6th, HS Breakaway
 - Clayton Hiibel — 7th, HS Team Roping; 7th, HS Tie-Down
 - Wyatt Peek — 3rd, HS Tie-Down Roping
 - Stix Lee — 1st, HS Team Roping

From fast runs in the barrels to gritty efforts in rough stock, Fallon’s riders kept the pressure on all weekend and continued to build valuable season points heading into the next stop on the schedule.

The latest state standings reflect just how strong the team’s season has been so far:

- Junior High Division**
- Stella Lee – 1st in State, All Around Cowgirl
 - Ainsley Macpherson – 1st in State, Barrel Racing

- High School Division**
- Megan Allison – 1st in State, Goat Tying
 - Stix Lee – 1st in State, Team Roping
 - Wyatt Peek – 1st in State, Tie-Down Roping

With consistent performances across all levels, the Fallon Rodeo Team continues to represent Churchill County with skill, determination, and hometown pride.

SPORTS

CCHS Varsity Football Faces Fierce Opposition in Dramatic Upset Against Elko

By Kasey Robb

The CCHS Greenwave varsity football team put up a tough fight against the Elko High School Indians on Friday, Oct. 17, but ultimately fell just short in a 31–28 loss. The hard-fought matchup marked Fallon’s first defeat of the season, ending an impressive eight-game winning streak.

Despite the setback, the Greenwave remains ranked No. 1 in Nevada 3A football with an 8–1 record and hold the No. 5 spot statewide.

Elko came out strong, scoring two long-yard touchdowns in the first quarter to take an early lead. From there, the game turned into a back-and-forth battle of grit and determination. Warrior Field was electric as both teams’ defenses dug in and the score stayed tight until the final minutes.

Fallon showed the same tenacity and energy that has defined their season but

couldn’t quite close the gap from that early deficit.

The Greenwave now turns their focus to the final game of the regular season, a home matchup against the Lowry Buckaroos on Friday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. Fans are encouraged to pack the stands and show their support as the team heads into the postseason with eyes still firmly on the championship.

Bighorns Battle to Five Sets in Home Thriller



Photo and story by John Baker

The Oasis Academy Bighorns put on a show for their home crowd Saturday, pushing the visiting West Wendover Wolverines to the limit before falling in five sets.

The junior varsity contest was close throughout, with the Wolverines edging out the Bighorns 25-21 and 25-19 to take the match in straight sets.

In the varsity matchup, West Wendover came out strong, winning the first two sets 25-13 and 25-17. But the Bighorns refused to back down. Behind steady defense and sharp serving, Oasis stormed back to win the next two sets 25-21 and 25-12, forcing a decisive fifth.

With momentum on their side, the Bighorns jumped out to a 10-7 lead in the final frame, but West Wendover mounted a late rally to claim the set 15-11 and the match 3-2.

Though the scoreboard didn’t go their way, the Bighorns’ comeback and teamwork had fans on their feet.

Adding to the day’s success, Oasis Academy seniors raised \$600 for the Churchill Community Hospital Foundation, showing the same heart off the court that they do in competition.



Oasis Volleyball Dahlila Creer.



Oasis Volleyball Taylor Hyde.

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COLUMNS

What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen

By Kelli Kelly

Greetings Food Fans -

I am taking a moment away from worrying about the government shutdown, increased farm bankruptcies, and the potential for food access emergencies, to think about softer, warmer times. Specifically, the joy of standing in my kitchen with a cup of coffee and my favorite wooden spoon gently stirring a simmering pot of soup on the back of my stove. Last week, we dove into the world of Blue Zones and how adding more legumes to our diets can boost our longevity and overall well-being. This week, I’m following up with my unabashed LOVE for one of my all-time favorites: the humble lentil.

Lentils have a story almost as rich as their earthy flavor. These little lens-shaped pulses are among the oldest domesticated crops in the world. Originating in the Fertile Crescent (modern-day Turkey, Syria, and Iraq) over 8,000 years ago, lentils show up in ancient Greek, Roman, and Egyptian kitchens and have fed everyone from commoners to kings across millennia. Their deep past gives them a place not just in history books but in our modern kitchens too.

In my “Soup of the Day” era, lentil soup was my signature staple. There’s something about lentils that just feels right in a soup: hearty, nutritious, forgiving, and deeply comforting. Here are some of the reasons why I hold lentils in such high esteem:

- Quick to Cook - Unlike many dried beans, lentils don’t need soaking and cook in a brisk 20-30 minutes even at our high altitude.
- Nutrition Powerhouses - They’re packed with protein, fiber, iron, and folate, aligning perfectly with what we discussed last week about the Blue Zones’ legume-rich diets.
- Economical & Versatile - Lentils stretch a grocery budget and can easily be made into soups, salads, stews, or veggie burgers.
- Comfort Food with a Backbone - Their earthy flavor is cozy, grounding, and satisfying without being overly heavy.

Here’s another thing worth noting: lentils are also one of the most common, and most overlooked, items in food pantries. They’re inexpensive, shelf-stable, and incredibly nourishing, yet many folks simply do not know what to do with them. Once you realize how quick and adaptable they are, that humble bag of lentils suddenly becomes a ticket to dozens of easy, wholesome meals. Sounds like the perfect intersection for Kelli’s Kitchen! Here is a recipe for a surprising soup that will nourish your body and your soul:

Mulligatawny Soup with Lentils and Coconut Milk Ingredients

1/4 cup	Butter
1	Yellow onion, chopped
1	Carrot, peeled and diced
1	Red jalapeno, seeded and diced
3	Garlic cloves, minced
2 tsp.	Peeled and minced ginger root
2	Small firm apples, peeled, cored and diced
1 14.5 oz.	Can diced tomatoes
1 tbsp.	Curry powder
1 tsp.	Ground cumin
1/2 tsp.	Paprika
1/2 tsp.	Ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp.	Ground turmeric
1/4 tsp.	Ground cardamom
1/4 tsp.	Freshly ground black pepper
1/2 tsp.	Dried thyme
1/2 cup	Lentils - uncooked
3 cup	Chicken or vegetable broth
1	Can unsweetened coconut milk
	Salt and black pepper to taste
	Roasted cashews for garnish
	Chopped cilantro and/or green onions for garnish



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

DIRECTIONS:

1. Melt the butter in a large pot or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the onion, carrot, and jalapeno, then sauté for 4 to 5 minutes or until the onions have softened.
2. Add the garlic, ginger, apples, and diced tomatoes to the pot. Sauté for another 3 minutes or so, then add in all of the spices and stir to combine.
3. Add in the lentils and broth and bring to boil stirring regularly. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered for about 30 minutes.
4. Puree about 75% of the ingredients using either an immersion blender or with a blender or food processor (be careful).
5. Return the soup to the pot if needed, then stir in the coconut milk. Adjust seasoning to taste. Garnish with cashews and green onions if using, and serve with pita, naan, or other bread for dipping.

Allison’s Book Report: “The House in the Orchard” by Elizabeth Brooks

By Allison Diegel

Fall is in full swing in the valley — leaves are falling, there’s a brisk snap in the air, and the days are getting short. It’s the best time of year to tuck yourself into bed a little early and lose yourself in a book!

If you love a spooky, atmospheric gothic mystery that spans generations, “The House in the Orchard” by Elizabeth Brooks is definitely one to put on your list. This book uses a clever dual-timeline structure, with the bulk of the story revealed through a long-lost diary, making it an engaging and immersive read.

The story opens in 1945, right at the end of World War II. Our present-day protagonist is Peggy, a war widow who has just inherited Orchard House from her late husband’s Aunt Maude. Looking for a fresh start for herself and her young son, Peggy is initially grateful, but the rambling English estate is immediately unsettling. It has a heavy, secretive atmosphere, complete with locked cellars and strange, persistent scents. Desperate to understand the mysteries of her new home and the life of the woman who owned it, Peggy

stumbles across Maude’s teenage diary tucked away in an old desk.

The diary transports the reader back to 1876, where we meet Maude Gower, the central figure in the mystery. Maude, recently orphaned at 13, is forced to leave her beloved London and her older brother, Frank, to live with a stranger named Miss Greenaway at Orchard House. All of Maude’s surviving relatives warn her to distrust this enigmatic new guardian, often calling her “The Feline.” However, Maude can’t help but be drawn to Miss Greenaway, who offers the young girl the kindness and intellectual freedom she never had in her restrictive childhood home. Maude quickly grows to love her new life and the tranquility of the house in the orchard.

This delicate balance is shattered when Maude’s protective but manipulative brother,



Frank, comes for a visit. The tension mounts as Maude, still naïve and trying to make sense of the adult world swirling around her, struggles to figure out who she can truly trust — the charming guardian who encourages her spirit, or the only remaining family she has. The secrets revealed in the diary show how Maude’s choice ultimately leads to a shocking tragedy, the repercussions of which echo across the decades and still haunt the house Peggy inherited in 1945. It’s a compelling exploration of truth, innocence, and what happens when loyalty turns deadly.

I hope you enjoy whatever you’re reading this week — don’t forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more recommendations and maybe even to tell me what you think I should read next!

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

OCTOBER
IRTHDAYS

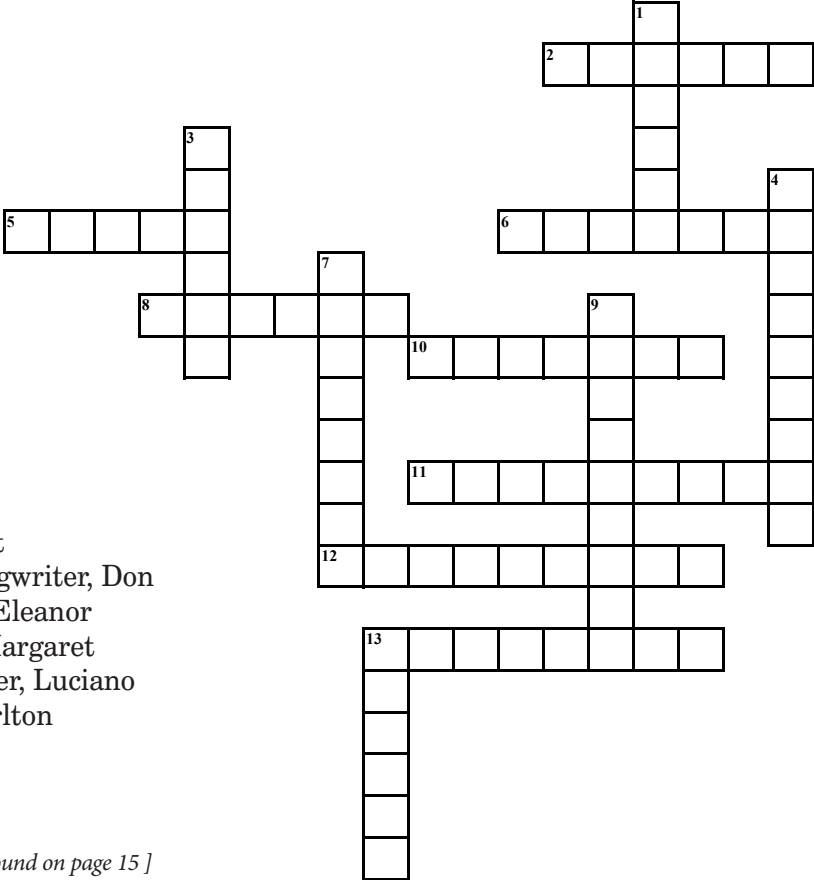


- Across**

 - 2. Actress, Sigourney
 - 5. Chemist, engineer, Alfred
 - 6. Artist, Pablo
 - 8. Leader, Mahatma
 - 10. Actor, George
 - 11. Explorer, anthropologist, Thor
 - 12. Painter, sculptor, Frederic
 - 13. Pianist, Vladimir
- Down**

 - 1. Actor, Scott
 - 3. Singer, songwriter, Don
 - 4. First lady, Eleanor
 - 7. Brit PM, Margaret
 - 9. Opera singer, Luciano
 - 13. Actor, Charlton

[Crossword answers found on page 15]



COLUMNS

Postcards: Fallon's Atomic Past

By Michon Mackedon

At midmorning on October 26, 1963 (sixty-two years ago), Fallon, Nevada, earned a permanent place in American nuclear history. At precisely 10 a.m., a 12-kiloton nuclear bomb was exploded 1200 feet beneath Sand Springs Range in a test named "Project Shoal." Thus, official documents list "Fallon, Nevada" as the location one of only eight "off-site" atomic tests completed in the United States. "Off-site" implies an area not located on the former Nevada Test Site (NTS), 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas where a total of 928 nuclear tests took place, both in the atmosphere and underground.

Why was the Fallon region chosen as an atomic test site? The answer is complicated but derives, in part, from the fact that in 1954, an area close to the "Shoal" site had been the epicenter of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake. Underground atomic tests produce seismic signals, as do earthquakes. The Atomic Energy Commission planned to develop methods to distinguish a seismic signal created by an underground nuclear explosion from a seismic signal created by a naturally occurring earthquake. They hoped to be able to detect any secret illegal Soviet testing by examining the seismic signal.

And, if Soviet Union officials claimed that the signals were from an earthquake, not a test, the AEC could effectively counter the claim. Conversely (I suspect), if the two signals proved impossible to distinguish, one from the other, the AEC might be able to claim that any signals produced by secret testing on their part were...from an earthquake.

Another factor in the choice of location for conducting "Project Shoal" was that the same region, earlier, in 1950, had been thoroughly examined by the military as a potential national atomic test site. In a study undertaken by the U.S. Army Special Weapons division called "Project Nutmeg," an area in west-central Nevada, "about 50 miles wide and extending from Fallon to Eureka along Highway 50" was one of 5 sites nominated. As history shows, the Las Vegas-Tonopah Gunnery Range, to be renamed NTS, was eventually chosen.

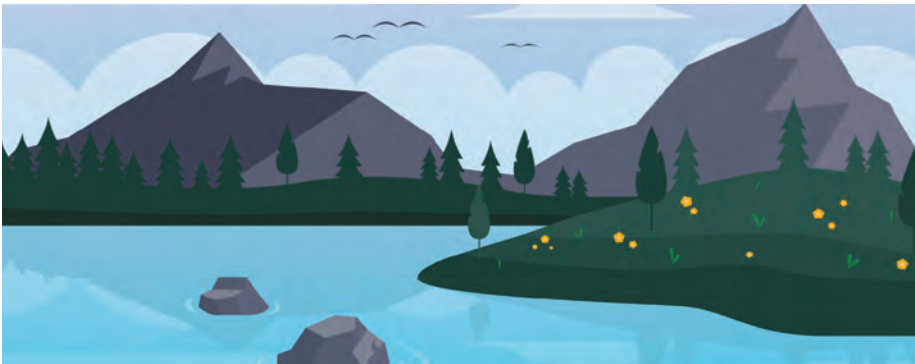
A 12-kiloton bomb, like the one detonated near Fallon, is not a large nuclear bomb (a kiloton equals the explosive power of 1,000 tons of TNT). By comparison, the largest underground test undertaken by the United States was located at an "off-site" location in Amchitka, Alaska and yielded nearly 5 megatons (a megaton equals the explosive power of 1,000,000 tons of TNT). The radiation release from the "Shoal" explosion it-

self was minimal, but nevertheless some radiation was released in drilling performed later at the site in efforts to gather more data. The more pressing issue is that radioactive particles remain trapped beneath the surface, some of them very long-lived. Plutonium, for example, has a half-life of 25,000 years. Wells are constantly monitored and drilling near the site is forbidden, but we cannot accurately predict future water table levels and migration patterns of radioactive particles. Nor can we guarantee that future humans will not drill into the bomb cavity, releasing dangerous radiation. Yet, a visitor to the site today can find little evidence of its extraordinary role in atomic history.

Next week, I'll tell the story of how the citizens of Churchill County reacted to "Project Shoal." A spoiler alert: grandstands were erected at the site to provide firsthand viewing of the event by Atomic Energy Commission officials and our city and county officials.

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.



WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken October 21, 2025, at 1:0 p.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	62,910 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	244 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	258 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	231 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	96.3 cfs

October 21, 2024	October 21, 2023	October 21, 2022
128,002 acre feet	212,888 acre feet	10,701 acre feet

Cfs - Cubic Feet per Second | Af - Acre Feet | TCID.org & Water Data.USGS.gov

MEETINGS

October 27-31, 2025

Churchill County School District

4th Wednesday of the Month

at 5:30 p.m.

CCSD Admin Bldg.

690 S. Maine St.

Next meetings:

Nov. 12, Dec. 10

Fallon City Council

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month

at 9 a.m.

City Hall, 55 W. Williams Ave.

Next meetings: Nov. 4

Convention and Tourism

Authority Meeting

City Hall, 55 W. Williams Ave.

Next meeting Oct. 28 at 3 p.m.

TCID

Next Meetings: Nov. 4 at 9 a.m.

2666 Harrigan Road

County Meetings

155 N. Taylor St.

Commission Chambers

County Commission

Meets 1st Thursday

and 3rd Wednesday of the Month

Next meeting:

Nov.10 at 8:15 a.m.

CC Communications

Nov. 10, at 11 a.m.

Planning Commission

Nov. 12, at 6 p.m.

Central Nevada Health District,

Nov. 13, at 1:30 p.m.

Library Board, Nov. 20, at 3 p.m.



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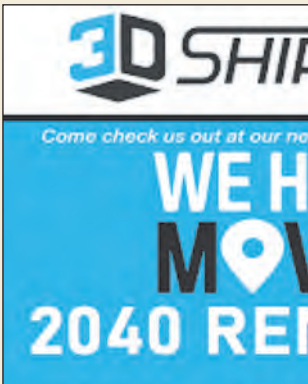


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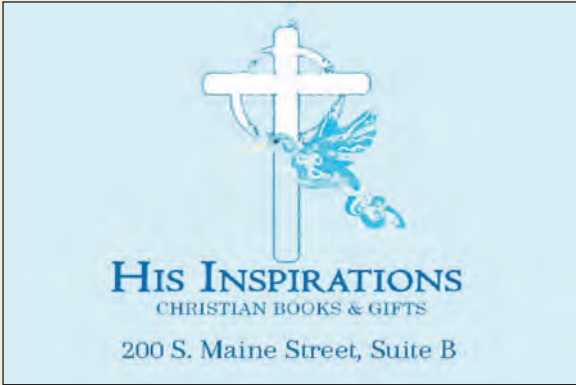


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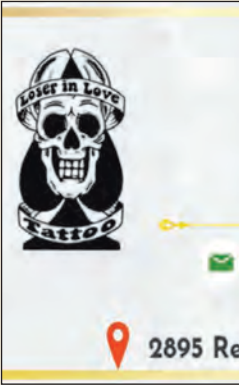
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF DATE OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNTY COMMISSION, HIGHWAY COMMISSION, & CC COMMUNICATIONS' BOARD MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to NRS 244.085, the Churchill County Commissioners, Highway Commission, and CC Communications have changed the DATE of their first meeting scheduled in November 2025. The meetings will occur on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 8:15 AM, 10:30 AM, and 11:00 AM respectively at the Churchill County Administrative Complex, 155 N. Taylor Street, Commission Chambers, Fallon, NV.

Pamela D. Moore
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 24, and 31, 2025
Ad #6379

DATE OF SALE: NOV. 2, 2025
TIME OF SALE: 8:00 AM
LOCATION OF SALE:
3455 C J DR, FALLON, NV 89406

Notice is hereby given that a lien sale will be conducted by the undersigned lienholders pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes §§ 108.550–108.660. The following described horses, currently in the possession of the lienholders, will be sold at public auction to satisfy unpaid charges for board, feed, and care: Total amount owed to lien sale holders: \$14,265.00

Horses Subject to Lien:
Breed: Quarter Horse
Sex: Mare
Age: 26
Color/Markings: Chestnut, 2 hind leg white socks, white star
Breed: Quarter Horse
Sex: Gelding
Age: 7
Color/Markings: Dun, 1 hind leg white sock, white star

Lienholders:
LeAnn Mounce & Lisa Piccolotti
3455 C J Drive, Fallon, NV 89406
Phone: 775-217-3913 / 775-232-0527
Email: leann.mounce@outlook.com / hrseangel@msn.com

For questions regarding livestock sales under lien, you may also contact: Nevada Department of Agriculture
4780 Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801
Phone: 775-738-8076

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 17, and 24, 2025
Ad #6375

NOTICE OF APPOINTIVE POSITION VACANCY

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking a public-spirited citizen who is willing to serve as a member on the Churchill County Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners and will meet twice monthly. This person will serve on a seven (7) member board responsible for decisions with Planning Department matters associated within Churchill County. This member will serve a four year term. Computer knowledge and experience is essential. Familiarity with Churchill County and a broad understanding of Churchill County's governance, Master Plan, and land use planning policies is preferred. For more details, interested people may talk to the Public Works Director for additional information about the Planning Commission and what the position entails. Interested people may obtain an application at the Human Resources Department, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 177, Fallon, Nevada 89406. All letters and applications are to be submitted to the above address not later than 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 17, 24, and 31, 2025
Ad #6378

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned are the beneficiaries under a deed upon death executed by Donald & Joyce Wren signed on the 2nd day of April, 2007 and recorded on the 26th day of June, 2007, and that said grantors died on the 17th day of December, 2024 and the 1st day January, 2019, respectively and that said grantors had a date of birth of the 26th day of July, 1934 and the 2nd of September, 1940, respectively. A creditor having claim against the grantors or their estate must file a claim with the undersigned, Virginia M. Pritchett, formerly known as Virginia M. Wren at the address given below within 90 days after the first publication of this notice.

Signed: /s/ Virginia M. Pritchett
Formerly known as:
/s/ Virginia M. Wren

Dated this 14th day of October, 2025

Beneficiaries: Virginia M. Pritchett (formerly known as Virginia M. Wren)
2413 Cabrillo Ave. Unit B,
Torrance, CA 90501

Scott M. Brown, PO Box 2507 Grass Valley, CA 95945

Erin C. Brumage (formerly known as Erin C. Brown), PO Box 20037, Sun Valley NV 89433

Christopher Wren, 5711 Aspen Falls Circle, Las Vegas NV 89149

Jared Wren (Jerad), 10134 Neville Court, Las Vegas NV 89183

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 17, 24, and 31, 2025
Ad #6380

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 12

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GANDHI

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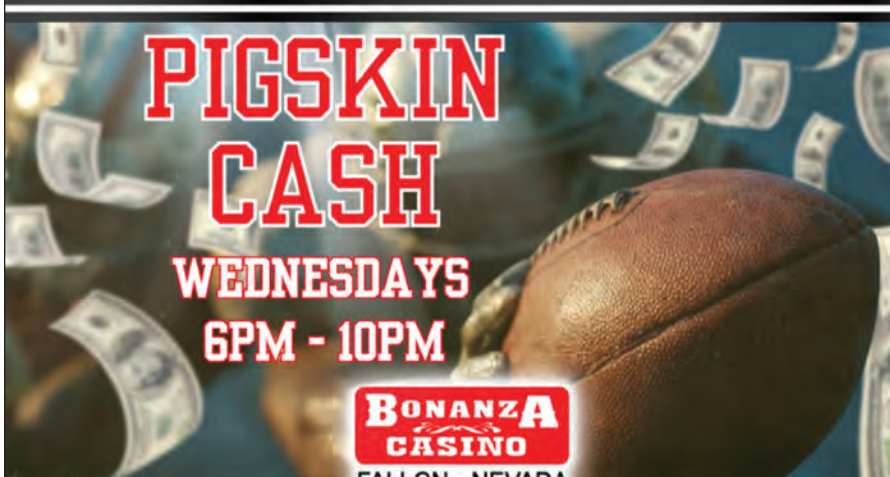
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