

# THE FALLON POST



KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

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## Fallon Girls Redeem Heartbreak, Capture 3A State Basketball Crown

By Robert Perea

One by one, Fallon players made the slow climb up a ladder, stretched to reach the net, and clipped away their piece of the moment to commemorate their 65-51 win over Virgin Valley in the 3A state championship game in Fernley last Saturday.

Each strand was a resounding answer to the tears they wiped away in a hallway behind the bleachers at Clark High School in Las Vegas after their State semifinal loss to Mater East last February. That night, coach Kevin Wickware told them that the loss was a beginning, not an end, and that it would serve as a foundation for what they built next.

“I think it completely fueled it,” junior Kortnie Simper said. “As a high school athlete, the goal was to win a state championship, and after losing last year, I definitely feel it fueled my teammates and me to get back.”

Fallon showed that same focus the night before. In Friday’s semifinal, the Greenwave rolled past Boulder City 56-17, with Kortnie Simper scoring 15 points and Karlie Simper adding 13 to send them back to the stage they’d spent a year chasing.

From there, the Greenwave had to earn it against a Virgin Valley team with its own



Back Row, L-R: Precious Christy, Mya Sorensen, Karlie Simper, Kortnie Simper, Kylee Simper, Lauren Goings, Hayden Dooley, Dylan Faught, Lea Williams, and Janessa Bettencourt. Front Row, L-R: Colbie Keller, Jada Anastasio, Miranda Reeder, Zayrah Miranda, Kalaya Downs, Amillya Bishop, and Kadence Wiessmer. Photo by John Baker.

[ Girls Basketball continued on page 12 ]

## WNC to Give Fallon’s Nursing Students a Space of Their Own

Story and photos by Leanna Lehman

Western Nevada College (WNC) launched construction on a renovation project to convert the Piñon Building on its Fallon campus into a dedicated Nursing and Allied Health training facility, with a kick-off event last week.

Kyle Dalpe, president of Western Nevada College, said the nursing cohort has spent the past five and a half years in what was meant to be a temporary academic skills lab. “They were put there as a temporary accommodation, and it’s been five and a half years, they’ve made it work. I appreciate the faculty and the students.”

The Piñon Building was previously leased to Oasis Academy. When the lease ended, the college converted it into a permanent home for nursing and Allied Health programs.

To fund the renovation, WNC secured a \$2.3 million directed federal appropriation through the Health Resources and Services Administration, or HRSA. The funding originated in the final year of the Biden administration and must be expended by Sept. 30, so the majority of the renovation will be complete by that time.

Dalpe credited Nevada’s federal delegation, including U.S. Sens. Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto and U.S. Rep. Mark Amodei, for supporting the appropriation. He also added that funding from the last two legislative sessions will support program development and staffing as the

[ WNC continued on page 5 ]

## Candidate Filing Period Opens March 2

By Rachel Dahl

The 2026 election season begins in earnest next week as candidate filing for nonjudicial offices opens Monday, March 2, and runs through Friday, March 13.

In Churchill County, voters will see a full slate of county offices on the ballot. Positions up for election include County Commission, District 2; assessor; clerk/treasurer; district attorney; public administrator; recorder; and sheriff.

Four nonpartisan seats will also be open on the Churchill County School Board. Current trustees include Joe McFadden, Julie Guerrero-Goetsch, Amber Casey Getto, and Celestia Blakey.

Republican Myles Getto is the lone county commissioner up for re-election this cycle.

Current county officeholders include Denise Mondhink-Felton, assessor; Linda Rothery, clerk/treasurer; Art Mallory, district attorney; Robert Getto, public administrator; Tasha Hessey, recorder; and Sheriff Richard Hickox, who is completing his second four-year term.

The Mosquito, Vector & Noxious Weed Abatement Board will have one seat on the ballot, currently held by Richard Grondin.

At the state level, all constitutional offices will be up for election, including governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of

[ Candidate Filing continued on page 2 ]



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain's Log

By Rachel Dahl

Here we go again... sitting to write the column when we should be sending the paper instead of writing in the early morning quiet when I can actually focus and formulate a coherent thought. Which makes me start humming that song, and Dolly Parton jumps into my brain, singing that song.

I had to actually look it up, "Here you go again, looking better than a body has a right to..."

We used to do this a lot when we first started the paper on layout days, a song for every situation. We had a really extensive list we would write on the whiteboard every time someone broke into song, and then we would add it to our Fallon Post Spotify list. It's the only thing that makes musicals make sense. I remember in seventh grade, when Mr. Sorensen would make us watch musicals, and the groans of despair as soon as the actors broke their lines and burst into song.

We actually all probably loved it, but the cool factor and peer pressure prevented public enjoyment of "Bless Yore Beautiful Hide."

When you're watching a movie with thirty other 13-year-olds, it seems rather strange for all conversation to stop mid-scene and the cast break into song. But then there's our office, and it doesn't seem strange at all.

We have a lot of fun at the newspaper. There's gotten to be quite a few of us since we expanded and then added RANGE, and all the personalities and quirks have created a cool little family. I'm grateful we all get along, and most days someone will have me in stitches or pull off some miracle, and my heart just bursts with pride and affection.

Building a media empire is one thing, but building a family inside these walls (our walls



Kasey, Amber, Sadie, the whole team loves mail day at Fallon Media Co.

include our remote team members, too; we have big walls) is one of the coolest things that's ever happened to me.

We are a lucky crew, and we count you all, our loyal readers, as part of the magic too.

So, while I try to get this water off my keyboard, we'll all still be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

Rach

[ Candidate Filing continued from page 1 ]

state, controller, and treasurer, along with five seats on the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. Gov. Joe Lombardo has announced he will seek a second term.

Churchill County's representatives in the Nevada Legislature — Assemblyman Greg Koenig (District 38) and State Sen. Robin Titus (District 17) — have both announced their intention to run this cycle.

In Nevada's Second Congressional District, Rep. Mark Amodei recently announced he will not seek re-election after 15 years in office, creating an open seat at the federal level.

Within the City of Fallon, two City Council wards will be on the ballot. Ward 1 Councilwoman

Kelly Frost is term-limited and cannot run again. Paul Harmon currently represents Ward 3. Ryan Swirczek has announced his candidacy for the Fallon City Council to represent Ward 1.

On the judicial side, Tenth Judicial District Court Judge Thomas Stockard will not face an opponent this year after the filing period closed earlier this month. Stockard has served on the bench since 2012 and previously ran unopposed in 2020 and 2024.

Statewide, voters will weigh in on roughly one-third of Nevada's District Court judges this cycle, with the remaining seats uncontested.

Early voting is scheduled to begin May 23.



PETS OF THE WEEK

Available for Adoption

Meet Lillie, a 6-year-old pitbull who's affectionate, active, and loves being with people of all ages. She's housetrained, gets along with cats, and can meet other dogs with proper introductions. Lillie enjoys walks, cuddle time, tug-of-war, and thrives on structure. She pulls moderately on the leash but is manageable and eager to please.

Lillie is equally comfortable in a busy household or a quieter setting, making her a versatile addition to any family. Her gentle nature and playful energy shine through, whether she's lounging by your side or chasing her favorite toy. If you want a loyal, fun, and loving companion, Lillie is ready to join your family. Come meet Lillie (D-6069) today!



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

Meet Koda and Chloe

Meet Koda and Chloe, two beautiful grey-and-white cats seeking a loving home together. Koda is outgoing and affectionate, known for rubbing against legs for attention and enjoying playtime. Chloe is more reserved and may be shy at first, but she becomes a loyal companion once she settles in.

The pair must be adopted into a household that already has another cat. Prospective adopters who can provide a loving environment for both are encouraged to inquire.



Questions? Call 775-217-4745

Fallon Animal Welfare Group is a 501(c)(3) charity supporting the welfare of cats in Churchill County, Nevada.

## FEATURES

# Bulls Sale Week Brings Buyers, Cowboys, and Concert to Fallon

Story and photos by Leanna Lehman

The Great Basin Bull Sale returned to Fallon over Valentine's Day weekend, bringing ranchers, buyers, and spectators together for one of the region's busiest winter events.

According to Rafter 3C Operations Deputy, Jesse Segura, more than 275 bulls were entered for this year's sale, with 204 making it through the sift and sold in the ring, a sizeable increase over last year's 170. With 150 registered buyers, the sale generated approximately \$1,566,500. The average bull price hit an astounding \$7,679, and Charolais bulls topped out at \$8,125 each.

Beyond the sale itself, the multi-day event filled the Rafter 3C complex with activity, including a ranch rodeo and bronc riding, Joe Nichols concert, VIP dinner, stock dog trials, western market, bull sale mixer, and the "Sophia Strong" benefit.

Held each year around Valentine's Day, Bull Sale week has become a seasonal gathering for the region's cattle industry. In addition to Nevada ranchers, the event drew buyers and sellers from Northern California, Southern Oregon, Idaho, and Utah.

The modern sale is conducted by video. Ranchers study each bull's performance records before bidding, looking for genetics that will strengthen their herds for years to come, then bid on the bulls most suited to their herd's needs.

This year's event again brought strong traffic to Fallon. Hotels, restaurants, and local businesses saw a noticeable boost as visitors filled the community for the weekend. Segura reported 3,200 attendees over three days and an overall economic impact of about \$600,000.

The three-day event kicked off with a western market that included local favorites like My Gypsy Soul and Battle Born Boots. On Thursday night, Joe Nichols performed fan favorites to an enthusiastic crowd after a VIP dinner catered by Troy's Double Shot Bar.

Friday's ranch rodeo, which was organized by Richard Allegre and family, drew teams from across the region. Events like the team branding honor the long-standing tradition of ranch crews gathering to help brand livestock.



A few consigned bulls for the sale waiting to be purchased.

The ranch bronc riding competition put several seasoned cowboys to the test. Unlike professional saddle bronc riding, which uses specialized equipment, ranch bronc riders compete using everyday working saddles with stirrups and saddle horns, the same style of saddle used on a ranch. According to Segura, the event is a qualifier for the Western States Ranch Rodeo Finals, which draws cowboys from the western region. This year's winner was Tegen Nevaraz.

## RANCH RODEO RESULTS - WOMEN'S TEAMS

1st place - Faith Hill Construction: Sandy Kiel, Payton Feyder, Tess Johnson, Mattie Ward; 2nd place - Rancho Deluxe: Brynn Lehman, Lindy Norcutt, Natalie Maher, Riata Andeth; 3rd place - Lambert Cattle Co: Noel Lambert, Sadie Miller, Kale Knittle, Marissa Julian.

## MEN'S TEAMS

1st place - Salt and the Peppers: Dave Thacker, Denton Williams, Noah Williams, Jace Harry; 2nd place - Wildhorse Cattle Co: Tyson Torvik, Sterling Lambert, Jessie Nuttall, Zalin Arritola; 3rd place - Hone Ranch: Justin Geney, Nick Nalder, Austin Carrasco, Gene Harry Jr.



1st place in the Family Teams events: The Rope Slings, Cody Bayles, Ben Bayles, Jake McKay, Quirt McKay, with Ranch Rodeo organizer, Richard Allegre. Photo courtesy of Amanda Allegre.



The Allegre Ranch crew during the family branding competition.

## FAMILY BRANDING

1st place - The Rope Slings: Cody Bayles, Ben Bayles, Jake McKay, Quirt McKay; 2nd place - Paradise Team: Jake McKay, Cody Bayles, Colton McKay, Sam Bayles; 3rd place - Hot Springs: Colton Vega, Quirt McKay, Nick Wade, Ben Bayles.

In the stock dog trials, Mike Collins and his dog Nell claimed first place at the event, followed by Dalton Wright with Mina in second, and Bill Schwoerer with Cash in third.

The "#Sophia Strong" benefit was held Saturday at noon to help Sophia Behimer and her family with medical expenses as she battles osteosarcoma. As part of the fundraiser, Tyson and Emily Torvik donated a calf for auction. In total, the benefit raised \$27,000.

## Social Services Details Programs, Funding Pressures in County Budget Hearing

By Leanna Lehman

The Churchill County Board of County Commissioners convened Feb. 19–20 to begin a series of public budget hearings as the county starts its annual review of department budgets and funding for public services. Hearings are held for both the tentative budget, typically in February, and the final budget, usually in May. As part of the process, department heads walk commissioners and the public through what their offices do, how funds are used, and what financial considerations lie ahead.

The first presenter in the 2026–2027 budget hearings was Churchill County Social Services Director Shannon Ernst. Ernst acknowledged at the outset that the department's budget structure can be difficult to follow. "We're really not asking for anything, so you can take a deep breath," she added.

"As you know, Social Services budget is quite complicated, based on the different revenue sources," Ernst said, noting how they pass between different budget line items. "You're looking at three different tax revenues and then the grants."

While the accounting may be layered, Ernst explained, the department's purpose is clear: providing a safety net for some of Churchill County's most vulnerable residents through a mix of dedicated tax revenue and grant funding.

That includes limited rent and utility assistance to help residents stay housed, support for local mental health efforts, administration of

indigent services required under state law, and support for jail medical costs. A significant portion of that responsibility involves meeting the county's required Medicaid match when Medicaid services are involved, which Ernst said has now reached its statutory cap.

Under Nevada law, counties are required to contribute up to eight cents of every \$100 of assessed property valuation toward the state's Medicaid program. For years, Churchill County did not reach that maximum threshold. However, as Medicaid enrollment and overall program costs have increased statewide, the county's required contribution has climbed to the full eight-cent cap.

Housing remains a central focus. Ernst said the New Pass House, a day center for transition housing that is currently under renovation, is expected to open in July. The project is designed to expand local housing support and services. However, recent restructuring of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development programs has created uncertainty. "We submitted three applications to them to support the New Pass House and Day Center," Ernst said. "Due to federal take-back... those projects no longer qualify."

The department is now preparing five applications to the Nevada Housing Division to secure funding. Ernst noted that opioid settlement dollars and marijuana tax revenue are also used to help offset some housing-related costs.

Social Services also administers court-ordered guardianship cases under Nevada law and has

seen an uptick in qualifying investigations.

"I'll be honest, we have received an additional four investigation orders that were qualified in the last three weeks," Ernst said.

In addition, the county is required to contribute to Child Protective Services investigations, a mandated expense that increases annually.

Throughout the presentation, Ernst stressed that the department does not rely on the county's general fund. "We do not touch the general fund," she said. "We have to make work what we have."

Recent state reimbursement related to Medicaid reform totaled approximately \$280,000, which must be applied to Medicaid match obligations but frees up an equivalent amount within the indigent services budget.

Commissioners asked about reductions in certain service categories, and Ernst said decisions were made to align spending with projected tax revenue and rising salary costs. "We have to re-adjust," she said. "Our office knows we don't get general funds. We have to go off our projections of what the tax revenues are going to bring in."

The Social Services presentation outlined the bulk of the department's responsibilities, which all operate largely through dedicated revenue streams and grants. Ernst went on to present for the Pennington Life Center, CART, and Central Nevada Health District, which will be covered in future stories. Other departments also presented, with budget hearings continuing into Friday, Feb. 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OBITUARIES

**LINDA VI ANDERSON (JACKSON)**  
*April 3, 1946 – February 14, 2026*

Linda Vi Anderson, born April 3, 1946, Fresno, California, to Archie and Hazel Jackson, passed away peacefully on February 14, 2026.

In 1964, Linda moved to Hazen, Nevada, where she helped her parents run the family ranch while raising her three children. Her strong work ethic and her deep love for family were evident from a young age and remained central throughout her life.

Linda later met and married the love of her life, Randy. Together, they built a beautiful life and raised four children: Thomas Gilmore, Corena Gilmore, Dennis Gilmore, and Robert Anderson. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother whose greatest joy was her family.

Linda was a devoted member of the community; she proudly served in the Utah Search and Rescue, always ready to help those in need. She was also actively involved in Boy Scouts, supporting youth development and



outdoor education with enthusiasm and dedication.

A successful businesswoman, Linda built and operated thriving businesses through hard work, determination, and integrity. She had a remarkable passion for training retrievers for hunting and field trials and served as the secretary of the local Retriever Club.

Linda had a deep love of the outdoors and enjoyed camping, fishing, and riding in her side-by-side. She was also an avid scuba diver who loved spending time in the ocean.

Linda is survived by her loving husband, Randy; her brother Neil Jackson; her three sons and one daughter; 13 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. She leaves behind a legacy of strength, love, and unwavering devotion to those she cherished.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 7 at 2 p.m. at the Twisted Branch in Fallon, Nevada.

Linda's memory will forever live on in every campfire, every family gathering, and in all our hearts.

Churchill County Museum



By Sydney Trainor

Churchill County Museum's Spring Lecture Series will feature four guest speakers sharing their personal and professional journeys in "The Art of Storytelling." The series is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesdays, from Mar. 24 through Apr. 14, and is free and open to the public.

Shannon Hooper opens the series on Mar. 24 with "Becoming a Kwésédu Basket Maker." On Mar. 31, singer-songwriter Steven Blais presents "The Art of Storytelling Through Music," exploring the ways songwriting conveys experiences.

Christina Schlosser will headline the Apr. 7 lecture with "Life in a Cabaret: Backstage Pass," offering behind-the-scenes insight into live performance. The series concludes Apr. 14 with Brian Crane, award-winning cartoonist and creator of the comic strip "Pickles."

All events are at the Churchill County Museum.

Carnahan Named Among Top Hospital CEOs

By Sydney Trainor

On Feb. 19, Banner Health announced that Rob Carnahan, who serves as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Banner Churchill Community Hospital, was included on Becker's Hospital Review's 2025 list of "Critical Access Hospital CEOs to Know." This recognition highlights the exceptional leadership and contributions Carnahan has made to the hospital and the surrounding community.

According to Becker's Hospital Review, "The CEOs recognized on this list are steadfast in their commitment to clinical excellence, patient safety, and financial sustainability . . . They bring essential services close to home, attract top physicians, and collaborate with larger health systems to enhance care capabilities."

Carnahan has 27 years of nursing experience and 23 years in healthcare leadership, and has served as CEO of the Banner Churchill Community Hospital for the past eight years. During his time, he has overseen several major initiatives aimed at strengthening healthcare access for Western Nevada's estimated 45,000 residents.

His accomplishments include opening a second emergency medical services station, recruiting additional primary care physicians, expanding patient services, and improving the hospital's financial stability. Carnahan has also significantly reduced employee turnover at the hospital.

Under Carnahan's guidance, Banner Churchill Community Hospital has achieved remarkable success and garnered multiple accolades within the Banner Health network. Among these honors, the hospital received the prestigious "Best of the Best" award, reflecting its commitment to excellence in patient care and operational standards.

Additionally, Banner Churchill has been recognized externally for its quality and service. The hospital earned an "A" rating from Healthgrades, a testament to its high clinical standards and patient safety. Patient satisfaction has also been notably high, with the facility receiving four-star ratings for its services.

Further highlighting its positive workplace environment, Banner Churchill was recently ranked as the number one "Great Place to Work" among all 32 hospitals within the Banner Health system. These distinctions underscore the hospital's dedication to both its patients and staff, and illustrate the impact of Carnahan's leadership in creating an environment of excellence and care.

Friend of Law Enforcement:  
 Hanna Jardine Perazzo

By Kayla Norcutt

The City of Fallon Animal Shelter would like to recognize and sincerely thank Hanna Jardine Perazzo for her five years of dedicated volunteer service. Hanna is our longest-standing volunteer, consistently and wholeheartedly showing up for the animals in our care.

Hanna's love for animals is evident in everything she does. While many volunteers help when they are able, Hanna has made herself available "on call" for the moments we need help the most. Whether it's a hoarding case, a litter of puppies that urgently need care, or dogs arriving in rough condition needing baths and extra attention, Hanna never hesitates. She shows up without complaint and works tirelessly to help prepare animals for their new beginnings.

In one particularly memorable case, a litter of puppies was dumped at Liberty Pond. Hanna came in, sat on the floor with each puppy, and patiently removed hundreds of ticks by hand. Her

compassion and willingness to do the hard, messy work make a lasting impact on the lives of these animals.

Hanna is also known for taking on tasks many shy away from — including bathing cats, cleaning kennels, washing dogs, mopping floors, and whatever else needs to be done. And if there's nothing pressing, she can often be found sitting quietly with one of our most frightened residents, offering comfort and human connection to animals who might otherwise go without it.

Her kindness, reliability, and countless volunteer hours have made a meaningful difference at our shelter. We are beyond grateful for Hanna Jardine Perazzo and the heart she brings to the City of Fallon Animal Shelter.

If you are inspired by Hanna's example and would like to make a difference in the lives of animals in our community, we are always accepting volunteers. Visit our Facebook page or stop by the Shelter to pick up an application. We would love to have you join our team.



Hanna Jardine Perazzo and her husband, Daniel.

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, March 2

Chicken Pasta  
 Herbed Vegetables  
 Spinach Salad  
 Spiced Applesauce

Tuesday, March 3

LS Beef Frankfurter  
 WW Bun  
 Grilled Onions  
 French Fries  
 3-Bean Salad  
 Brownie

Wednesday, March 4

Chef Salad  
 Navy Bean Soup  
 Mandarin Orange  
 Oatmeal Muffin

Thursday, March 5

French Bread Pizza  
 Seafood Chowder  
 Green Beans  
 Warm Apple Slices  
 Orange Sherbet

Friday, March 6

Macaroni & Cheese  
 Steamed Broccoli  
 Spinach & Mandarin Salad  
 WW Roll  
 Mixed Berry Parfait

FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m. All meals are subject to change. All are welcome.

Monday, March 2

Taco Night

Thursday, March 5

Hamburgers  
 Fries & Dessert

Monday, March 9

Pizza Night  
 Salad & Dessert

Thursday, March 10

Turkey & Gravy  
 Potatoes & Veggies

Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.

COMMUNITY

# Shannon Ernst Accepts CNHD Administrator Position

By Rachel Dahl

Shannon Ernst, director of Churchill County Social Services, has accepted the position of administrator for the Central Nevada Health District (CNHD), pending ratification by the CNHD Board of Health.

Ernst notified Social Services staff this week that she has accepted the promotional appointment and will begin transitioning from her current role as director of Churchill County Social Services on March 20. In a memo to staff, Ernst stated she is not leaving Churchill County but moving into the district-level leadership role.

The CNHD administrator serves as the executive head of the multi-county health district and is responsible for day-to-day operations, implementation of Board of Health policy, enforcement of public health laws, grant oversight, budgeting, and staff supervision.

Member counties include Churchill, Pershing, Mineral, and Eureka.

According to the official class specification for the position, the minimum qualifications include a master's degree in public health, health care administration, public administration, business administration, or a related field, along with five years of management experience in an administrative position in a public health district, program, or agency — or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience.

During the Jan. 15 meeting of the CNHD, the board voted to restructure the administrator position after previous hiring efforts were unsuccessful.

The board removed the previously proposed "administrator/doctor" combined role and instead adopted a revised organizational structure.

At that same meeting, the board approved increasing the administrator pay scale from Grade 77 to Grade 85 in an effort to improve recruitment. The board also authorized an expedited hiring process allowing the chair to oversee advertising, screening, and interviews, and to negotiate with a candidate up to Step 10 before returning the selection to the full board for ratification.

The administrator position carries an annual salary range of approximately \$127,000 to \$170,000 under the adopted Grade 85 scale. The Grade 77 range was \$104,228 - \$140,233.

Ernst has worked in Churchill County Social Services since 2003 and has been involved in regional coordination efforts during the formation of the rural health district. The Board of Health is expected to formally ratify the appointment at an upcoming meeting.

The CNHD Board of Health's next scheduled meeting is March 4 at 3 p.m.

[ WNC continued from page 1 ]



WNC staff, students, construction crews, and community supporters join in the renovation kick-off event on Feb. 18.

state works to address its rural health care worker shortage.

Chief Advancement Officer for WNC and Nursing and Allied Health department instructor Niki Gladys thanked the William N. Pennington Foundation for a generous \$1 million donation toward the renovation, and the A.P.L. Ford Foundation, which also contributed to the project.

Currently, the Fallon campus nursing program has a limit of eight seats. The college hopes to gradually expand that number to 24 students. "We have capacity, but we haven't built up for the capacity," Dalpe explained.

Dalpe said Fallon is well-positioned to attract students not only from the Churchill County community but also from Mineral and Douglas Counties. Reducing travel barriers is especially important in rural communities. While the initial focus will be on nursing, the renovation may also support phlebotomy, certified nursing assistant, and potentially emergency medical services training.

"Online learning is not for everybody. And some disciplines are more suited to that," Dalpe said. "You can't teach somebody how to put in an IV virtually only so many times before you actually need to stick a needle."

The move will also allow the current academic skills center and library space, which has housed the nursing cohort, to return to broader campus use. When possible, Dalpe said that space will be renovated to better serve tutoring and library needs.

Dalpe said demand for nurses remains strong statewide, citing retirements and burnout following the COVID-19 pandemic. "We're never not going to need nurses," he said. "We need them now more than ever."

During the kickoff event on Feb. 18, Gladys and Dalpe thanked faculty, staff, students, and local partners, including Churchill County and the City of Fallon, for their letters of support during the grant process.

City Councilwoman Kelly Frost is happy that nursing students will soon gain their dedicated learning space. "I'm excited that they can expand the opportunities to young people in our community and have larger cohorts because we definitely need health care professionals in the rurals, so it's a very important project for our community," Frost said.

"It's another important asset to our community as we grow and move into the future," County Commissioner Eric Blakey said. "It's going to give other people who didn't have the opportunity, or can't afford to travel, to come to school ready to get a new career started. And, hopefully, we retain them right here in the community."

The project is an investment not only in health care education, but in the rural communities the campus serves, said Dalpe. "We're investing in WNC, but more importantly, we're investing in the community here."



WNC Fallon President Kyle Dalpe celebrates by aiding construction crews in wall demolition.

## FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**[T]HERE Gallery Exhibit by Patrick Kikut**  
Churchill Arts Council  
151 E. Park St.  
Jan. 23 - Apr. 5, Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**First Friday Night Fish Fry**  
American Legion Post 16  
90 N. Ada St.  
Mar. 4, from 6 to 8 p.m.

**USA Youth State Wrestling**  
Rafter 3C Event Complex  
325 Sheckler Rd.  
Mar. 7-8

**Donkey Basketball**  
CCHS Gym  
1 Greenwave Cir.  
Mar. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

**CCHS Grad Night Blingo Fundraiser**  
William N. Pennington Life Center  
952 S. Maine St.  
Feb. 27 at 5 p.m.

**Public Meeting to Discuss Updates on Greenlink North**  
Center for Biological Diversity  
The Lucky Spur Saloon, Kingston, Nev.  
Mar. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

**Numa Elementary School Blood Drive**  
Bloodmobile at Numa  
601 Discovery Dr.  
Mar. 11, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

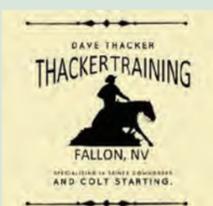
**The Art of Storytelling Spring Lecture Series**  
Churchill County Museum  
1050 S. Maine St.  
Mar. 24, March 31, April 7, and April 14 at 6 p.m.

**SWA Wrestling Tournament**  
Rafter 3C Event Complex  
227 Sheckler Rd.  
Feb. 28 - Mar. 1

**Heritage of the West**  
Fallon Theatre  
71 S. Maine St.  
Mar. 7 at 3 p.m.

**Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner**  
Knights of Columbus  
St. Patrick's Hall, 850 W. 4th St.  
Mar. 14, 6 p.m.

**Honoring National Vietnam War Day Event**  
Fallon City Hall Courtyard  
55 W. Williams Ave.  
Mar. 29 at 1 p.m.



Thank you to Dave and Meg Thacker at Thacker Training for sponsoring this week's calendar. Call Dave at 775-217-2209.

Contact Sadie at 775-423-4545 to sponsor the weekly calendar.

**Car Show**  
Soroptimist International of Fallon  
100 Campus Way  
Apr. 11, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

COMMUNITY

# D50 Custom Design Backs Youth Fundraisers



CCFFA Advisor Alex Manski, Allie Fiat, Hanna Montalvo, Ava Bunyard, Co-owner D50 Custom Design Rusty Diaz.



Rusty Diaz, Co-owner D50 Custom Design, Brody Reynolds, Rena Reynolds, Churchill County High School swim coach, Kage Oylar.

Story and photos by Nancy Chapman

D50 Custom Design gave several youth groups a unique opportunity to raise money for their activities at their Christmas tree lot last season. The Churchill County High School Greenwave Swim Team and the Churchill County Future Farmers of America (CCFFA) were awarded their proceeds check by Rusty Diaz, co-owner of D50 Custom Design. The Oasis Academy's first-ever Safe and Sober Grad Nite fundraiser money was awarded on an earlier date.

The swim team received a check for \$663, which will be used for swim jackets, state dinners held in Las Vegas, and travel expenses. This year, the swim team has fourteen members.

The team must compete in regulation pools with eight lanes, but the Churchill County pool has six. This requires the team to travel to other areas for swim meets.

The CCFFA received a \$1,276 check. Their funds will support travel to the National FFA Convention, scheduled for Oct. 2026 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Students and their parents volunteered at the Christmas tree lot, assisting customers, selling trees, and helping load purchases. In return, they received a percentage of sales and tips during their scheduled shifts. Both the CCFFA and the swim team expressed sincere gratitude to Dan and Rusty Diaz, owners of the D50 Custom Designs Christmas Tree Lot, for their generosity to the students.

# Logos Got Talent 2026

Story and photos by Leanna Lehman

Only Logos Christian Academy students took the stage on Feb. 18 for their annual "Logos Got Talent Show." Emceed by volunteer Chancy Parsons and student Jace Slentz, the show brought hearty giggles and standing ovations alike.



Ellie Casey singing "Oceans."

Students covered a range of songs, including an outstanding rap performance by Emma Slentz. Each student brought something unique to the stage, including a lovely performance by seven-year-old Reagan Rose. Also in the lineup were Ellie Casey, who sang "Oceans," while Aliana Christian, Ackley Goings, and Abigail Van Wickler did a beautiful rendition of "An Easter Hallelujah." Evva Brown, Brinlee Garcia, and Penny Lyle offered up fancy footwork while dancing to "The Armor of God."

No talent show is complete without comedy. Kinslyn Jimenez and Jake Kaster were spot on with an array of "dad jokes." Speaking of comedy, four Logos teachers rounded out the evening by performing the classic "Napoleon Dynamite" dance, much to the delight of the crowd.

With laughs, cheers, and a night well spent, some Logos students are already planning their performance for next year.



Teachers and student performers in Logos Got Talent.

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# Hearts of Gold Quilters Fundraiser for Children



Vickie Lowery of the Hearts of Gold Quilters displays "Nap Time," the group's raffle quilt. Photo courtesy of Samantha Horning.

By Nancy Chapman

The Hearts of Gold Quilters, a local hobby group dedicated to preserving the tradition of quilting, is raising funds this year to benefit the Northside Early Learning Center's pre-kindergarten children. The group's annual raffle quilt, which will be featured at the upcoming Cantaloupe Festival from August 28-30, 2026, is themed in honor of America's 250th birthday.

Proceeds from this year's fundraiser will help provide napping quilts for the young students at Northside. Tickets for the raffle will first be available at the Home and Garden Show at the Fallon Convention Center, scheduled for April 11-12, 2026.

Founded in 1998, the Hearts of Gold Quilters has grown to around 30 members and meets every Monday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Oasis Community Church. The group welcomes new members of all skill levels, noting that even those without a sewing machine can join. "If you have always wanted to quilt and want to get started, this is a great opportunity," said member Samantha Horning.

The quilters not only create an annual raffle quilt to help purchase supplies, but also donate handmade quilts to children facing devastating illnesses, hospitalized youth, and families who have lost their homes to fire.

"Our focus is on preserving and encouraging the skill of quilting," Horning said. The group encourages anyone interested in sewing or quilting to join their weekly sessions, emphasizing their commitment to community service and the joy of crafting together.

BUSINESS

# Fallon Chamber Luncheon Unites Local Businesses

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman



Lucy Carnahan, Executive Director, Fallon Chamber of Commerce, and Valerie Johnston, Treasurer, Fallon Chamber of Commerce.

The Fallon Chamber of Commerce luncheon, held on Feb. 19, 2026, brought together local business leaders and community members for an afternoon of networking and collaboration. Sponsored by the Fallon Youth Center and catered by The 3C's Catering, the event took place at Pennington Circle, providing a welcoming atmosphere for attendees to connect and share ideas.

Lucy Carnahan, Executive Director of the Fallon Chamber of Commerce, and Valerie Johnston, Treasurer, greeted guests and emphasized the importance of supporting local businesses and fostering strong community ties. Their presence underscored the Chamber's commitment to engaging members and promoting economic growth in Fallon.

The luncheon featured a diverse group of business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders eager to build relationships and explore partnership opportunities. Conversations ranged from upcoming Chamber initiatives to ways the Youth Center supports young people in the area.

By sponsoring the event, the Fallon Youth Center highlighted its ongoing involvement in community development. The Chamber's choice of The 3C's Catering showcased its support for local vendors, reinforcing the value of collaboration among Fallon's businesses.

As the luncheon concluded, attendees expressed appreciation for the Chamber's role in connecting the business community and facilitating meaningful dialogue. The event served as a reminder of the positive impact that local organizations can have when they work together toward shared goals.

# A Cut Above Comes to Fallon on April 25



Nancy Chapman. Photo by Rockin' Horse Photography.

A Cut Above is part of a broader lineup of upcoming equestrian events hosted by the NQHA. The schedule includes Wild N' Woolly, a Versatility Ranch Horse Show in Gardnerville on April 11 and 12, followed by a cutting clinic with Kirk Ferris on April 24 and an NQHA - Reining and Ranch Horse Association show on June 13 and 14.

The NQHA extends its sincere appreciation to Patti Lund for helping make A Cut Above a success. We also thank Laural Wachtel, Debbie Weisheim, and Amanda and Jeremiah Daeseleer for bringing these additional shows together, along with our generous sponsors, including STABLE Pro, who made the events possible. And of course, a special thank you to our clinicians, Dave Thacker and Kirk Ferris, for providing phenomenal learning experiences for Northern Nevada.

With a strong focus on competition, education, and community, A Cut Above promises to be an exciting addition to Northern Nevada's equestrian calendar and a memorable day for horse enthusiasts throughout the region.

By James Dexter

Fallon is set to welcome a new equestrian event this spring as the Nevada Quarter Horse Association (NQHA) partners with the Western Nevada Cutting Horse Association (WNCHA) to bring A Cut Above to Northern Nevada. The inaugural cutting competition will take place on April 25 at the Fifty Horse Ranch, located just outside of Fallon.

Designed to welcome riders of all experience levels, A Cut Above will feature a full slate of cutting classes ranging from beginner to advanced. Organizers say the event is intended to be both competitive and approachable, offering seasoned competitors a quality show experience while giving newcomers a chance to step into the cutting pen in a supportive environment.

Admission to A Cut Above is free, inviting guests to witness the excitement of the competition up close. Beyond the main event, visitors can enjoy a variety of refreshments from local vendors. Start your morning with a cup of coffee from Retro Brew Coffee, and throughout the day, satisfy your appetite with a meal from Otis' Grill Food Trailer. For those interested in beverages, the Revel and Roam Beverage Truck will be on hand, offering a range of beer and cocktails. These offerings hope to foster a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, ensuring that both participants and guests enjoy the event.



James Dexter Riding Nikki. Photo courtesy of James Dexter.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## Churchill County Commissioners Meeting

By Sydney Trainor

On Feb. 18, the Churchill County Board of Commissioners held a brief meeting to ratify a transportation grant and approve board reappointments. Commissioners also recognized local student-athletes for recent regional and state accomplishments.

The Board considered ratifying a grant between the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division and Churchill County Social Services. This grant was awarded to CART to provide transportation services to Reno for residents aged 60 or older, and is retroactive to October 2025.

The grant total is \$40,382.28, with \$27,800 for personnel, \$5,400 for travel, \$3,400 for operating costs, \$850 for other costs, and \$3,000 for indirect costs. The grant also requires a \$6,057 match and is funded through the Independent Living Grant. Commissioners approved the grant unanimously.

Under new business, commissioners discussed reappointing Hillary Paige Hiskett to the Churchill County Cemetery Board. The four-year term is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2026, and runs until Dec. 31, 2029. According to

County Manager Chris Spross, “Hillary has done a great job with the cemetery board, and we’d love to have her back.” The motion to reappoint Hiskett was approved unanimously.

Board members also considered reappointing Dawn Whitten to the Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) Board as Churchill County representative. The term runs from Mar. 6, 2026, to Mar. 31, 2028. Commissioners highlighted Whitten’s background, including her certifications in food safety, HR, and leadership, as well as her more than 30 years in food service. The motion passed unanimously.

Under staff reports, commissioners congratulated the CCHS girls’ basketball team for being regional champs and advancing to the state tournament. Commissioners also recognized Carson Melendy as the second student in school history to ever become a four-time state wrestling champion.

Staff members also reported approximately \$242,900 in January interest income. In addition, Pam Moore announced her upcoming retirement, noting that her final day will be March 11, with her official retirement date set for April 2.

## Community Weighs In on Superintendent Search

By Leanna Lehman

As the Churchill County School District moves forward in selecting a new superintendent, community members have outlined clear priorities for the district’s future leadership.

As part of the search process, Keith Lewis and Dr. David Jensen of ModernEducatеHR presented results of the community survey during the last board of trustees meeting on Feb. 17. ModernEducatеHR has been contracted to assist in the search to fill the position that will be open when current Superintendent Derild Parsons retires June 30. The firm works with schools and districts by addressing workforce challenges, streamlining recruitment, and improving staff retention.

Dr. Jensen explained that the survey asked stakeholders about their priorities and what they would like to see from the superintendent during the superintendent’s first two to three years. “The four highest priorities were around staff development, improvement, and retention, academic achievement, financial stability, and school safety and student well-being.”

According to Jensen, 260 respondents participated in the survey conducted Jan. 14–31. Respondents included parents, district employees, students, community members, and business or civic partners.

Parents and guardians made up the largest group of respondents at 46 percent, followed by district employees at 33 percent. Community members accounted for 8 percent, business and civic partners 5 percent, students aged 14 and

older 4 percent, and 4 percent selected “other.” Respondents were allowed to choose more than one category.

**Superintendent Qualities:** “Integrity and ethical leadership were the top qualities identified,” Jensen said. “The community is signaling that honesty and ethics are non-negotiable.” More than 95% of respondents rated integrity as highly important for a superintendent. Transparency and accountability received high rankings, with strong communication skills, trust-building, and commitment to student achievement also listed as key qualities for a superintendent.

**Critical Experience Areas:** Survey respondents valued experience as a teacher or administrator the most. Student safety, crisis management, financial planning, and budgeting were also cited as important. “Stakeholders want someone familiar with classrooms and schools, who can manage budgets and safety, especially in a rural context,” Jensen said.

**Leadership Approach Priorities:** According to Jensen, the community wants difficult decisions made transparently, shared decision-making, and clear direction. “They want someone who can navigate political, fiscal, and community pressures, relying on data-informed decisions,” Jensen said.

**Desired Characteristics:** Professional experience requirements included recent classroom teaching—ideally within the past 10 years—and building-level administrative roles, such as principal or assistant principal. Respondents emphasized financial management, specialized

education knowledge, crisis management, and instructional leadership.

**Critical Concerns:** The survey identified critical concerns: staff retention, student safety and behavior—particularly at the middle school level—budget deficits, and academic performance below state standards in English language arts and math.

**Three-Year Expectations:** Additionally, respondents said that success after three years should be measured by improved staff retention, academic growth, and financial stability, with no more crisis cuts. Other indicators include reduced bullying, better behavior management, increased community trust, a clear district vision, and staff empowerment.

**Advice to School Board:** The board was urged to prioritize longevity and select a candidate committed to staying. Many encouraged looking beyond résumés to focus on character and leadership style. While some supported local candidates, respondents also advised openness to outside perspectives and avoiding politics in decision-making.

Survey findings will guide the board’s superintendent search, ensuring alignment with district priorities and community expectations.

The district has received 13 applications, according to Lewis. ModernEducatеHR said all screening interviews will be completed by Feb. 24. The board will interview the top five or six candidates at a public meeting on March 26. Second interviews will follow, and trustees will make a hiring decision if they find an ideal candidate to replace retiring superintendent Derild Parsons.

## County Advances Work on Second Water Treatment Plant

By Leanna Lehman

Churchill County officials are moving forward with long-term water infrastructure improvements centered around a second water treatment plant at the Fallon Golf Course.

The project, which has been in planning for several years, is designed to expand the county’s overall water capacity while also providing a critical backup system for existing water users. Once completed, the new facility will operate alongside the Sand Creek water treatment plant, allowing the county to meet increasing demand and maintain uninterrupted service during maintenance or emergencies.

County commissioners have already approved multiple components of Phase I of the project, which focuses on preparing the site and establishing a water supply for the new plant. The first phase included the demolition and removal of the unused wastewater sewer treatment plant located just south of the golf course. That work was awarded to Simerson Construction of Carson City after the company submitted the lowest responsible bid among nine proposals, at a cost of \$692,500.

Another major Phase I component involves drilling two new water wells to supply the future plant. The contract was awarded to Parsons Drilling for \$1,034,405. Each well is approximately 400 feet deep, with 14-inch casing for community water use.

Commissioners also approved the construction of transmission mains connecting the new wells to the plant site. A&K Earthmovers, based in Fallon, was selected as the lowest responsible bidder among four submissions, with a contract total of \$2,459,095.

In addition to early construction-related approvals, commissioners authorized an amendment to the county’s design services contract with Shaw Engineering for Phase II of the project. The \$925,000 amendment covers design work for the water treatment plant itself and related infrastructure.

Phase I, which included the plant design and much of the early construction, was funded through a \$6 million Nevada Water Conservation and Infrastructure Initiative grant, supported primarily by federal allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act.



Well drilling for the new water treatment plant at the Fallon Golf Course. Photo courtesy of Churchill County.

The Phase I work, which began in March of last year, has resulted in visible progress at the golf course site, with contracts awarded for the work in December 2024. Churchill County Manager Chris Spross reported during the June 11, 2025, county commission meeting that demolition of the abandoned sewer facility had been completed, the area leveled and fully prepared for construction, and one well had been completed. According to Churchill County Public Works Director Randy Hines, Phase I construction should be complete by the end of May 2026.

Phase II includes design work, which has been done, and construction of the water treatment plant and an associated water storage tank. At the August 27, 2025, Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Association (CEDA) breakfast, Spross noted that more funds would need to be secured to complete the rest of the project. This week, Hines said that Phase II costs are expected to come in at around \$7 million. According to Hines, the county is currently working to secure those funds and plans to seek bids for the Phase II work in September and October. Construction is slated to begin in 2027, with project completion expected within 12-18 months.

Once Phase II is finished, the new plant is expected to nearly double Churchill County’s capacity to serve homes and businesses outside of city limits. The dual-system approach will also provide redundancy, allowing one treatment facility to remain operational while the other undergoes maintenance, without disrupting water service to residents.

The county has said the project is consistent with long-range planning efforts, including the Water and Wastewater Utilities Master Plan approved in January 2019. The new plant is intended not only to support existing water users but also to extend municipal water service to areas currently without access, while creating additional capacity to support future residential and commercial development.

Churchill County has accumulated water rights at both the golf course and Wild Goose Ranch over the past three decades, positioning the county to support expanded treatment and delivery without acquiring new water sources.

COURT

Justice Court

New River Township Justice Court convened Thursday, Feb. 19, in Fallon with Judge Benjamin Trotter presiding.

By Leanna Lehman

Hannah Ward pleaded guilty to DUI second offense, a misdemeanor, and driving with a license canceled, revoked, or suspended, a misdemeanor. The court accepted the pleas and set sentencing for April 16, 2027, at 8:30 a.m., so the defendant can obtain a substance abuse evaluation.

Cameo Baltazar pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for failing to give immediate notice of a property-damage accident to police. The court dismissed count two, ordered \$230 restitution to be paid to the court for CC Communications for damaging an equipment box while driving, and imposed a \$500 fine plus \$140 assessment, for a total of \$640. The court ordered restitution to be paid in full within 30 days, then set a payment plan of \$50 per month toward the fine, due by the 20th of each month.

Michael Wiseman appeared for a restitution hearing. The court continued the matter to March 5, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., for the defendant to provide addi-

tional medical documentation as to why he is behind on restitution payments from a 2022 traffic case involving an accident that resulted in injuries.

Andrew White appeared via Zoom on a bench warrant stemming from a failure to appear for trial on a first-offense DUI. The court set the matter for April 16, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., for the defendant to submit a completed DUI admonishment and obtain a substance abuse evaluation.

Terry Lee Derringer was arraigned on four misdemeanor counts and entered a not guilty plea. Charges include failure to stop on the signal of a peace officer, driving while license canceled, revoked, or suspended, no proof of insurance, and displaying or possessing fictitious, canceled, revoked, suspended, or altered registration, license plate, or title. The court appointed the Churchill County Public Defender's Office and set a status hearing for Feb. 26, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Michelle Barajas did not appear for sentencing and a first offense DUI. The court issued a bench warrant for failure to appear, Nevada only, cash only, in addition to a previously active warrant.

William Lysak appeared regarding unpaid fines totaling \$1,640 for cases from 2017, 2019, and 2021. Judge Trotter ordered the fines served with 13 days in custody and ordered the cases closed upon completion, with a release date of March 2, 2026, at noon.

Anthony Ortega appeared via Zoom from jail with his attorney for status in two cases, one from 2024 alleging a charge of Allow Child Abuse or Neglect (Endangerment), first offense, and a new charge of resisting arrest.

In the current case, Ortega pleaded guilty to resisting, delaying, or obstructing a public officer, a misdemeanor. Judge Stockard sentenced him to five days in jail and credited him with time served, making him eligible for release at 5 p.m. Feb. 19, 2026.

The court set the older case for Feb. 26 at 8:30 a.m. for further proceedings, and ordered an updated bail order removing the additional bail amount tied to the newer misdemeanor, leaving bail in place on the older case.

Teasha Arik Rupley appeared in custody with Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer on charges of Battery on a Peace Officer, two counts of Use or Possess Drug Paraphernalia, two counts of Allow Child Abuse or Neglect (Endangerment), and Resisting a Public Officer. The court continued all cases to March 12, 2026, at 10 a.m.

Courtney Clark pleaded guilty to driving with a suspended license and no proof of insurance, both misdemeanors, and to petty larceny as amended, a misdemeanor, and to failure to appear, a misdemeanor. The court accepted the pleas and set sentencing for March 10, 2026, at 11 a.m., to allow for victim notification and to align with district court scheduling. The court also addressed two older traffic cases from 2022 and 2023, and credited seven days for time served toward the fines, closing those cases. The court ordered the defendant released on her justice court matters and ordered her released from justice court supervision by Court Services.



New River Township Justice Court building. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, February 17, with Judge William Maddox presiding.



By Teresa Moon

Debra Marie Davis appeared for sentencing on the Gross Misdemeanor of Attempted Embezzlement of a value of more than \$1,200 but less than \$5,000, punishable by up to 364 days in jail.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford told Judge Maddox that the state received a memo from Western Nevada Regional Drug Court stating that Davis has not been compliant. Additionally, Davis tested positive for methamphetamine prior to appearing in court. Sanford asked that the defendant be remanded into custody, as the terms of her pre-trial release prohibit the use of any controlled substances.

Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer asked that his client be released on her own recognizance with Court Services supervision. Sommer requested the court to give Davis another chance, stating, "... one more opportunity is not unjustified; it's perhaps unreasonable, but it's not unjustified." He said Davis has unique challenges, and he believes she would not abuse this opportunity if the judge were to grant it. Sommer acknowledged, "I know that it's a thin argument, and it's thin ice."

Judge Maddox remanded Davis into custody, noting she had been given several chances and not taken advantage of any of them. Maddox continued the matter to Feb. 24.

Michael Timothy failed to appear for his sentencing hearing. Presiding Judge William Maddox, sitting in for Judge Thomas Stockard, issued a no-bail bench warrant.

Cecil Mark Riggs Jr.'s Sentencing Violation/Sentencing Hearing was continued to February 24.



CHURCHILL COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE

CALL TO CONVENTION Saturday, March 21, 2026

Rafter 3C Events Complex in Fallon

Notice is hereby given that the county convention of the Churchill County Republican Party for Churchill County will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Rafter 3C Events Complex in Fallon. You must be a registered Republican to attend.

Precinct meetings will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a lunch break. The county convention will take place in the afternoon, with activities expected to wrap up by about 4 p.m.

All Republicans are encouraged to attend and participate in the precinct meetings and convention. For more information, contact local party organizers. Please RSVP to the Churchill County Republican Central Committee (CCRCC) at ccrepublicancc@gmail.com. Please, we need to know how many patriots to expect.

To verify your election precinct, party affiliation and voting status please visit: www.nvsos.gov/votersearch.

This communication was paid for by the Churchill County Republican Central Committee, P.O. PMB 364 2040 Reno Highway, Fallon NV, 89406-2772. Leslie Beach, Chair 775-426-8152 | ccrepublicancc@gmail.com | churchillrepublicans.com



## EDUCATION

## CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD.



Students in Amy Word's advisory class take part in a speed-friending activity as part of the Character Strong curriculum.



Monica Mayfield's third-grade class displays their mini posters highlighting heroes from their Savaas curriculum unit, including police officers, firefighters, animals, and kind humans who make the world safer for everyone.



Students in Stacey Manning's class celebrate the 100th Day of School by showing off their handmade crowns.

**CCHS**

Members of the CCHS Hope Squad met with CCMS Hope Squad members to plan a Districtwide Hope Week, set for March 30-April 3. During their meeting, students collaborated on dress-up days that would appeal to both older and younger students, discussed outreach activities, and brainstormed ways to spread positivity throughout the schools and the community. The Hope Squad is a student-led organization dedicated to promoting mental wellness, fostering kindness, and creating a supportive school environment. Its mission is to provide hope, encouragement, and resources so that every student feels valued, connected, and empowered to make positive choices. "Our goal is to make every student feel seen, supported, and inspired," CCHS Hope Squad President Evan Innes said. "Working with the CCMS Hope Squad was so important because it allowed us to include them in our ideas, learn from them, and make Districtwide Hope Week something the entire school community can enjoy."

**CCMS**

Last week, students in Amy Word's advisory class explored the Character Strong curriculum, focusing on developing friendships. Classmates brainstormed ways to start conversations with someone new and practiced their skills in a "speed friending" activity, rotating through

partners and asking questions. The students enjoyed discovering new ways to connect and make meaningful friendships. Building on those themes of connection and understanding, students in Lilia Marquez-Doak's English language arts class deepened their learning during Black History Month by researching influential Black historical figures. Through a creative one-pager project, they combined important facts, powerful quotes, and visual elements to showcase each individual's impact, highlighting the value of empathy, respect, and learning from others' contributions.

**NUMA**

Glenda Lee's fourth-grade class conducted a science experiment on collisions to test how the speed of a moving object affects what happens during a collision, specifically the speeds of both objects after they collide. Students made predictions, conducted trials, and changed one variable between experiments to observe the results and learn from their observations. Through this inquiry-based activity, students strengthened their understanding of motion, cause and effect, and the scientific process.

**E.C. BEST**

Monica Mayfield's third-grade class is wrapping up their Savaas Unit on Heroes. Students learned that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

For their final project, they created mini posters featuring nonfiction text features about a hero they read about in their small groups. These heroes included police officers, firefighters, dolphins, dogs, rats, and kind humans who, every day, show their courage to make the world a safe place for everyone.

**LAHONTAN**

Students in Stacey Manning's class explored February holidays and Black History Month. They studied the Underground Railroad, wrote sweet Valentine's notes to their parents, and chose someone they believed would make a good president, explaining why. The class also celebrated the 100th Day of School by counting 100 items they brought in, imagining what they might look like and do at 100 years old, enjoying a special 100th Day snack, and crafting their own 100th Day crowns. "It was a busy, but fun time in my classroom," Manning said.

**NORTHSIDE**

Dr. Cary Jaques and the Fallon Family Dental Care staff visited Octavia Merritts' class to teach students how to take care of their teeth. They shared tips on brushing and flossing, and explained how dentists help keep teeth healthy. The students enjoyed learning ways to keep their smiles bright during Children's Dental Month in February.

## Veritas Preparatory School

*Classical and Christian*

## Building Independent Readers: The Importance of an Early Start

By Gretchen Felte with photo courtesy of Veritas.

In today's educational landscape, reading instruction often sparks debate. Should children rely primarily on context clues and pictures to guess unfamiliar words? Or should they be equipped with the tools to decode words independently through phonics?

At Veritas Preparatory School, the answer is clear: strong readers are built on a strong foundation of phonics, paired with a deep understanding of grammar that prepares them to become confident writers.

Reading for context clues encourages students to use surrounding words, pictures, and general meaning to guess the meanings of unfamiliar words. While context can support comprehension, it cannot replace the skill of decoding. Without phonics, students may rely on memorization or guessing, which can limit fluency and long-term confidence.

Phonics, on the other hand, teaches children how letters and letter combinations represent sounds. By learning to blend, segment, and decode words systematically, students gain the ability to read new and unfamiliar words without assistance.

"Phonics gives children the keys to unlock language," said Headmaster Jill Rosario. "When students understand how words are built, they don't have to guess. They can read with confidence and independence."

Research consistently supports systematic phonics instruction as the most reliable way to develop strong early readers. When students master sound-symbol relationships, they become equipped to tackle increasingly complex texts.

At Veritas, this foundation begins early. The four-year-old program (K4) introduces phonemic awareness through songs, letter formation, and sound recognition. Students learn to identify beginning sounds, practice letter formation, and build listening skills that prepare them for formal reading instruction.

By Kindergarten, students move into structured phonics lessons that emphasize blending sounds, practicing short vowel words, and building fluency through repetition and practice. Rather than relying on pictures to predict words, Veritas kindergarteners are taught to decode with confidence.

The goal is clear: to create independent readers who can approach unfamiliar words without hesitation.



Ms. Kelsey leads a small group reading session with her kindergarten students at Veritas Preparatory School, where early phonics instruction is emphasized to build independent readers.

Kindergarten students at Veritas learn quickly to read increasingly complex books fluently – not because they have memorized the stories, but because they understand how written language works.

Reading well is only part of the equation. At Veritas, early elementary education emphasizes grammar as a means of developing strong writers.

In the classical model, the early years – the "grammar stage" – focus on building foundational knowledge. Students learn parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation rules, and proper handwriting. They practice grammar chants in class while analyzing sentences and identifying parts of speech. These elements may seem basic, but they are the building blocks of clear and thoughtful communication.

When students understand how language functions, they are better equipped to write with clarity and purpose.

The combination of systematic phonics and intentional grammar instruction produces more than capable readers – it shapes confident communicators. Students who can decode independently and understand language structure are better prepared for advanced literature, persuasive writing, and analytical thinking in later grades.

At Veritas, literacy is not treated as a trend-driven experiment. It is approached with time-tested methods grounded in both research and the classical tradition.

By beginning with phonics in the earliest years and reinforcing grammar throughout elementary school, Veritas continues to lay a foundation that supports both intellectual growth and lifelong learning.

This year, Veritas is introducing a "Foundations" and "Foundations Plus" program to its four-year-old program. The different programs provide parents with flexibility in planning their child's schedule, offering options between a full-day and a morning-only program.

Open enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year begins Monday, March 2. Applications are available by contacting the school at 775-217-0069 or through the Veritas website at veritasfallon.org.

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera, with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: ETHAN MITCHELL



Oasis Academy Senior, Ethan Mitchell.

Graduating Oasis Academy senior Ethan Mitchell is already looking ahead to a future defined by discipline, service, and ambition. After earning both his high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree, he is preparing to take his next big step: joining the United States Army.

“My plans after graduation are to join the Army and go into special forces,” he said. Graduating with an AA degree from Western Nevada College alongside his diploma is an accomplishment he takes pride in. Balancing college-level coursework with high school responsibilities required focus and perseverance — qualities that will serve him well in the military.

Looking back on his time at Oasis Academy, he remembers it fondly.

“My time since the beginning at Oasis has been pretty chill. I’ve learned lots, and Oasis has helped me set up my future big time,” he shared.

One of his favorite memories comes from the classroom, specifically a hands-on history experience.

“My favorite memory was recreating the battle between the Greeks and Persians in Mr. David Springfield’s history class, sophomore year,” Mitchell said.

History has consistently been his favorite subject.

“My favorite class has always been history. I love learning about the past and how this great country was built,” he explained.

Throughout his high school years, one staff member made a particularly strong impact.

“My man Mr. Andy Lenon has been a huge inspiration for me throughout my high school years, and especially this last year here, he’s pushed me to where I need to be and has been a great mentor,” he said.

As he prepares to leave Oasis Academy and begin military service, he offers simple but powerful advice to those who will follow in his footsteps: “My advice for future students is to aim high and work hard.”

OASIS ACADEMY HOSTS 2ND ANNUAL MATH NIGHT FOR K-6 FAMILIES

Feb. 10 was Oasis Academy’s second annual Math Night. K-6 students and their families gathered in the school cafeteria for a fun, interactive, and educational Math Night.

The event welcomed families into the school for an evening focused on building math confidence and strengthening skills in creative, hands-on ways. Parents and students rotated through interactive stations where they learned practical math strategies and discovered fun games they can easily play at home. From practicing fact fluency to exploring problem-solving techniques, families walked away with new tools to support their students’ success in math.

Math Night would not have been possible without the leadership and dedication of Math Interventionist Kim Sorensen and all Oasis Math and Special Education Teachers. Their love of teaching, planning, and organization helped bring the event to life. Their time and energy created engaging learning activities, and their commitment to student learning truly made the night a success.

“School events like Math Night showcase the power of partnership between school and home,” said Shannon Garcia, K-6 Vice Principal. “Oasis Academy loves welcoming families into the building and values every opportunity to work together in supporting student achievement. We hope families walked away from Math Night

feeling empowered and equipped with useful tools and strategies to continue supporting math learning at home.”

AG WEEK AT OASIS

By Sadie Whitaker

During the week of Feb. 17-19, Oasis Academy celebrated National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Week a little early. Starting on Tuesday, February 17, middle and high school students dressed in their best FFA colors, blue and gold.



Oasis Academy student Avery Laca reads to classmates during a classroom activity.

Students were also encouraged to dress in Official FFA dress, black slacks, white collared shirts, and the traditional corduroy navy jacket.

One of the activities on Tuesday and Wednesday was reading *The Bug Girl* by Sophia Spencer to some of the elementary classes. Oasis FFA would like to thank the Farm Bureau for helping purchase this year’s book to help spread the joys of agriculture to future generations.

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, students dressed in patriotic colors, red, white, and blue. The day also included the annual anything but a car to school day. Students drove ATVs, bikes, and assorted “vehicles” to school.

To close out the week on Thursday, students dressed in their best farmer and rancher gear. Unfortunately, due to the weather, the traditional school-wide Ag Day was postponed.



Kim Sorensen, left, and Rebecca Farley present during Math Night at Oasis Academy.

Weekly Highlights at Logos Christian Academy

By Brenna Goings with photos courtesy of Logos.

Logos Students Have Talent!

Thursday evening, Feb. 19, 2026, was overflowing with Logos talent, God’s love, popcorn, and an incredible venue at The Fallon Theatre. It was truly a night to remember!

Ellie Casey blessed us with beautiful singing and shared a powerful message alongside her mom, setting the tone for an inspiring evening. Evva Brown, Brinlee Garcia, and Penny Lyle captivated the audience with amazing dance moves as they presented *The Armor of God* through movement and expression.

Aliana Christian, Ackley Goings, and Abigail Van Wickler opened our hearts—and may have even brought a few tears—with their touching performance of *An Easter Hallelujah*. Their



Evva Brown, Brinlee Garcia, and Penny Lyle perform a dance interpreting “The Armor of God” during the Logos talent night at The Fallon Theatre.



Emma Slentz performing NF’s “Clouds.”



Eliana Christian, Ackley Goings, and Abigail Van Wickler perform “An Easter Hallelujah” during the Logos talent night at The Fallon Theatre.

voices filled the theater with emotion and praise.

Bringing laughter to the room, Kinslyn Jimenez and Jake Kaster entertained the crowd with hilarious dad jokes and unforgettable outfits. Emma Slentz impressed us all by showcasing her vocal and rapping talents with NF’s “Clouds.” Reagan Rose reminded everyone that courage has no age limit as she bravely took the

stage and sang her heart out.

We closed the evening with the ever-popular surprise performance from our amazing Logos teachers—always a crowd favorite!

The night ended with hearts full of God’s love, gratitude for the gifts He gives each of us, and joy that carried us home. What a beautiful celebration of the talents within our Logos family!

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SPORTS

[ Girls Basketball continued from page 1 ]



Back Row, L-R: Karlie Simper, Kortnie Simper, Kalaya Downs, Dylan Faught, Lauren Goings, Jada Anastasio, Kylee Simper, Miranda Reeder, Hayden Dooley, Kadence Wiessmer, Mya Sorensen, Precious Christy, Lea Williams, and Janessa Bettencourt. Front Row, L-R: Kolbie Keller, Amillya Bishop, Zayrah Miranda. Photo by John Baker.



Kortnie Simper in action. Photo by John Baker.

unfinished business after losing the state championship game last season. The Bulldogs had beaten Fernley 76-65 in the semifinals on Friday afternoon and revolved around one of the state's toughest matchups in sophomore point guard Hannah Waite, who entered averaging 25 points per game.

"We knew how good a player Hannah was, and we knew she was going to get some points," Wickware said. "We just wanted to continue as best we could, and play defense as a team."

Early foul trouble threatened to pull the game out of their hands, but they leaned on the depth

that got them to this point. Their bench delivered the surge that broke the game open in the third quarter, stringing together a 9-0 run that pushed a 4-point lead to 13 and put them fully in control.

Fallon had three players with three fouls and another with four at halftime, but freshman Zayrah Miranda stepped into the moment. She scored seven of the points in that 9-0 run and had 13 of her team-leading 20 points in the third quarter, when Fallon took a 54-35 lead after being up 30-29 at the half.

"My hat goes off to our bench. They came in and filled in and played amazingly," Wickware

said. "Zayrah came out of nowhere tonight, and we knew she was capable of that, and she stepped up big time for us tonight."

The Bulldogs made a push in the fourth quarter to get within 58-47, but baskets by Karlie Simper and Amillya Bishop, who added 17 points, ended any chances for a comeback.

"They really dedicated themselves to working hard all season long, becoming a team again, and then just kept rolling the way that we did this season," Wickware said. "It was great."

## SWA Regional Championships Set for Fallon

Staff Report

The Sierra Wrestling Association Regional Championships will take place Feb. 28-March 1 at the Rafter 3C Arena in Fallon, bringing together top youth and high school wrestlers from across the region. The two-day event will feature competitions in folkstyle, freestyle, and Greco-Roman wrestling.

Action begins Saturday, Feb. 28, with folkstyle matches starting at 9:30 a.m. for the morning session, followed by an afternoon slate beginning at 2 p.m. The morning session features divisions including 6U coed, 8U, 8U girls, 10U, and 10U girls. In the afternoon, wrestlers in 12U, 12U girls, middle school, middle school girls, high school grades 9-12, and high school girls grades 9-12 will take the mat.

On Sunday, March 1, freestyle wrestling kicks off at 9 a.m., with

Greco-Roman matches immediately following. Organizers will present awards to the top three finishers in the folkstyle categories, recognizing first-, second-, and third-place athletes.

The SWA Regional Championships are a key event on the youth wrestling calendar, offering young athletes the opportunity to compete at a high level and earn recognition in their respective age groups. The Rafter 3C Arena is expected to draw wrestlers, coaches, and families from throughout the region, making it a highlight of the winter wrestling season.

Both the Fallon Youth Wrestling Club and the Fallon Outlaws will be participating in the tournament, with each club featuring outstanding wrestlers who have earned numerous medals in competitions leading up to this event. Their strong performances throughout the season are expected to make them contenders in several divisions as they compete against the region's best.

### Save the Date To Help Us Continue To Grow



CCHS 3rd Annual Plant Systems & Lahontan Conservation District Greenhouse Sale  
Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Churchill County High School

#### Prepared Meals

**William Pennington Life Center**  
Monday through Friday (hot lunch),  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
952 S. Maine St.  
Free over 60

**Wolf Center (Fallon Daily Bread)**  
Mondays and Thursdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m.  
457 Esmeralda St.

**Oasis Community Church**  
Tuesdays (breakfast), 7 to 8:30 a.m.  
1520 S. Maine St.

**Fallon NAZ**  
Wednesdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m.  
1520 Grimes St.

**Back Porch next to Wolf Center**  
Wednesdays and Saturdays (sack lunches)  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
280 E. Stillwater Ave.

**Christian Life Center**  
Thursdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m.  
1435 Kaiser St.

#### Food and Commodity Pantries

**Epworth Community Food Pantry**  
Mondays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
457 Esmeralda St.

**New Frontier Food Pantry**  
Mondays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
1490 Grimes St.  
Available 24 hours by phone, 775-442-1686

**Out of Egypt Food Pantry**  
Thursdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m.  
1075 Taylor Place

**Commodities, New Frontier Food Pantry**  
Second Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
1490 Grimes St.

**FBNN Mobile Harvest Produce**  
Second Thursdays, 9 to 10:30 a.m.  
William Pennington Life Center, 952 S. Maine St.

**Commodities, William Pennington Life Center**  
Fourth Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
952 S. Maine St.

**Fallon Cares (formerly Karma Box)**  
Food and hygiene products - two per visit  
Front porch of Chamber of Commerce,  
290 W. Williams Ave.  
Lobby of Churchill County Sheriff's Office,  
180 W. A St.  
West entrance (outside), Wolf Center,  
457 Esmeralda St.  
Donations appreciated

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SPORTS

# Oasis Bighorns Make History at State Tournament Despite Loss to Lincoln County



Grace Laca, Emma Lewis, Kaylee Craig, and Dahlila Creer on defense. Photo by David Owings.

By Angela Viera

History was made last Friday as the Oasis Academy girls' basketball team competed in the NIAA 2A State Tournament at Wooster High School in Reno, Nevada. It marked the first time in school history that Oasis Academy qualified for the state tournament — a milestone achievement for the growing program.

The Oasis Academy Bighorns earned their state berth after finishing runner-up in the regional tournament, capping off a breakthrough season filled with determination and steady improvement. The team finished the regular season with a 13-11 record.

Facing a tough Lincoln County squad, Oasis battled throughout the contest but ultimately fell 62-34.

Oasis was led offensively by Emma Lewis with 8 points, Kiera McCoy with 7, and Kaylee Craig with 6. The trio helped keep the Bighorns competitive, showing poise against a seasoned Lincoln County defense.

Leadership has been a cornerstone of the team's success this season. Seniors Grace Laca and Dahlila Creer guided the Bighorns both on and off the court, setting the tone with their work ethic, resilience, and commitment to building a strong team culture.

The Bighorns' historic state appearance signals a promising future. For a program that had never before reached the state tournament, simply stepping onto the court in Reno was a victory in itself — and a moment the players, coaches, and school community will not soon forget.

## Take Me Out To The Ball Game!

### CCHS GIRLS' SOFTBALL SPRING 2026 SCHEDULE (AS OF FEB. 23, 2026)

|                |           |                  |      |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|------|
| Sat., Feb. 28  | 11 a.m.   | South Tahoe      | Home |
| Tues., Mar. 3  | 3 p.m.    | Truckee          | Home |
| Fri., Mar. 6-7 | TBD       | Tournament       | Away |
| Fri., Mar. 13  | 3 p.m.    | Debbie Smith CTE | Away |
| Sat., Mar. 14  | noon      | Wooster          | Away |
| Fri., Mar. 20  | 3 p.m.    | Sparks           | Away |
| Fri., Mar. 27  | 3 p.m.    | Spring Creek     | Away |
| Sat., Mar. 28  | 11 a.m.   | Spring Creek     | Away |
| Tues., Mar. 31 | 3 p.m.    | Dayton           | Away |
| Wed., Apr. 1   | 11 a.m.   | Dayton           | Away |
| Fri., Apr. 3   | TBD       | Reed             | Away |
| Sat., Apr. 4   | TBD       | Reed             | Away |
| Mon., Apr. 6   | 3:30 p.m. | Reed             | Away |
| Thur., Apr. 9  | 3 p.m.    | Elko             | Home |
| Fri., Apr. 10  | 10 a.m.   | Elko             | Home |
| Fri., Apr. 17  | 3 p.m.    | Lowry            | Home |
| Sat., Apr. 18  | 11 a.m.   | Lowry            | Home |
| Tues., Apr. 21 | 3 p.m.    | Fernley          | Away |
| Wed., Apr. 22  | 3 p.m.    | Fernley          | Away |

### CCHS BOYS' BASEBALL SPRING 2026 SCHEDULE (AS OF FEB. 23, 2026)

|               |         |                     |      |
|---------------|---------|---------------------|------|
| Fri., Mar. 6  | 3 p.m.  | South Tahoe         | Home |
| Sat., Mar. 7  | 11 a.m. | South Tahoe         | Home |
| Fri., Mar. 13 | 3 p.m.  | Lowry               | Home |
| Sat., Mar. 14 | 11 a.m. | Lowry               | Home |
| Fri., Mar. 20 | 3 p.m.  | Fernley             | Away |
| Sat., Mar. 21 | 11 a.m. | Fernley             | Away |
| Fri., Mar. 27 | 3 p.m.  | Spring Creek        | Away |
| Sat., Mar. 28 | 11 a.m. | Spring Creek        | Away |
| Fri., Apr. 3  | 3 p.m.  | Dayton              | Home |
| Sat., Apr. 4  | 11 a.m. | Dayton              | Home |
| Fri., Apr. 10 | 3 p.m.  | Elko                | Home |
| Sat., Apr. 11 | 11 a.m. | Elko                | Home |
| Fri., Apr. 17 | 3 p.m.  | Truckee             | Away |
| Sat., Apr. 18 | 11 a.m. | Truckee             | Away |
| Fri., Apr. 24 | 3 p.m.  | Wooster             | Away |
| Sat., Apr. 25 | 11 a.m. | Wooster High School | Away |

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448 South Maine Street, Fallon

COLUMNS

# What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen

## The Spice Mix with a History: Curry powder

By J Hodnett

All spices have their share of history, but maybe none as much as curry powder. One of the first things you learn when trying Indian cooking is that curry powder – one of the most widely and historically available spice mixes – isn't really a specific spice mix.

In 2016, monks discovered a more than 200-year-old recipe calling for curry powder in a donation of books to their abbey, and that wasn't even the oldest curry recipe found in Britain. It's no surprise that a recipe was found in an 18th-century British cookbook since curry powder was first mixed and sold to the British by Indian traders. During the British Raj, when the British colonized and ruled India, both Indian and British cooks adapted traditional Indian recipes to the British palate, making them less spicy. At the same time, the British were spreading their new loves – curry and curry powder – all over the world, including to Japan, where curry was adapted and changed again.

What we think of as curry powder can be similar to garam masala, which roughly translates as “warming spices” in Hindustani. The heat or warmth doesn't necessarily correlate to spiciness, though. Instead, “warm” refers to the Ayurvedic food classification and the important role metabolism plays in the Ayurvedic health system. Even garam masala can vary from region to region, but it usually includes spices like cardamom, cinnamon, cumin, cloves, Indian bay leaves, fennel, coriander, mace, red chili, and peppercorns – spices classified as “warm” in Ayurveda. In the north of India, garam masala is more likely to be a dry mix, but in the south, it might also be a paste mixed with oil, water, or coconut milk.

We usually think of curry as being a spicy dish, but curry powder can vary widely in spice level. For instance, the curry powder mix we have for the library Spice Club in March includes no red chilies, so it is warming, but not spicy. If you grab a sample and know you like a spicy dish, you can add chili flakes, chili powder, or dried red chilies. If you are buying curry powder online or at the

grocery store, check the label to see whether red chilies or chili powder are included, and you'll get an idea of how spicy the mix will be. Additionally, if you are cooking a dish and realize it is too spicy, adding cream or coconut milk will tone down the spice.

### Curry Powder Ingredients

*There is no definitive recipe for curry powder, and some will be spicier than others depending on the inclusion of chilies. You can adjust the amount of chili in this recipe to suit your taste.*

- 2 tbsp. Whole coriander seeds
- 1 tbsp. Whole cumin seed
- 2 tsp. Peppercorns
- 1 1/2 tsp. Whole mustard seeds
- 1 tsp. Fenugreek seeds
- 5 Whole cloves
- 3 Dried hot red chilies, crumbled
- 1 1/2 tsp. Ground turmeric

### DIRECTIONS

1. Heat small, heavy skillet over medium-low heat. Add everything except turmeric.
2. Stir until spices smell toasted and aromatic, about 5 minutes. A few of the spices will darken a shade.
3. Add turmeric; stir 10 seconds.
4. Turn out onto clean plate to cool.
5. Transfer spices to coffee or spice grinder, in batches if necessary; grind finely.
6. Use immediately or store in an air-tight container in a cool, dry place for up to 2 months.

### Sri Lankan Beef Curry Ingredients

#### Marinade

- 1 tsp. Ginger powder
- 1 tsp. Garlic powder
- 2 tsp. Soy sauce
- 2 tbsp. Curry powder
- 2 tsp. Lime juice
- 1 tbsp. Plain yogurt, Chili flakes and salt to taste

#### Roast

- 1 lb. Boneless beef sirloin or bottom round



- 1/2 cup Oil
- 2 Tomatoes (1 chopped, 1 sliced)
- 1 Cinnamon stick
- 5 Cardamom pods
- 2 Cloves
- 1 tsp Powdered coriander
- 1 Onion (sliced)
- 1/2 tsp. Curry leaves (optional)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Cut the meat into small pieces and set aside. Wash hands.
2. Mix marinade ingredients. Add meat. Mix thoroughly and set aside.
3. In a pan, heat oil and add chopped tomatoes.
4. Gently crush the cinnamon quill, cardamom, and cloves and add to the pan. Heat until fragrant and add meat.
5. Cook on medium heat for 5-10 minutes. Add in the coriander and a cup of water.
6. Reduce heat and cook for another 30 minutes or until meat is tender, stirring occasionally.
7. Add sliced onions, sliced tomatoes, and curry leaves if using.
8. Serve with rice.

*J is the Children's Services Librarian at the Churchill County Library. Currently, J is undergoing chemotherapy and modeling an increasingly wide variety of hats.*

## Allison's Book Report: "Hamnet" By Maggie O'Farrell

By Allison Diegel

About 10 years ago, my husband and I started watching all the Oscar-nominated films before we tuned in to the awards show. Over the years, our kids have gotten older, and they now join us in the tradition, which has grown to be something we all love doing together.

This year, one of the noms for Best Picture (amongst several other honors) is a beautiful film based on a beautiful book by Maggie O'Farrell – if you haven't read “Hamnet,” there's no better time than now to lose yourself in a story about Shakespeare... well, sort of. “Hamnet” isn't really about the Bard at all. In fact, the book never even mentions his name. Instead, this gorgeous, heartbreaking book pulls the focus away from the London spotlight and shines it on the muddy, vibrant streets of Stratford-upon-Avon.

At its heart, “Hamnet” is a reimagining of the life of Agnes (historically known as Anne) Hathaway. Forget the “shrewish older wife” trope you might have learned in English class. O'Farrell's Agnes is a healer, a force of nature, and a woman who sees the world through a lens of folk magic and intuition. She's the anchor of the family while her “restless” husband is off in London chasing a career in the theater.

The story centers on the summer of 1596,



when the bubonic plague—a silent, terrifying guest—creeps into their home. When their eleven-year-old son, Hamnet, falls ill, the world tilts. I'll be honest: you're going to need a box of tissues. The way O'Farrell describes grief isn't just poetic; it's visceral. She captures that specific, hollow ache of a mother trying to outrun fate. It's a masterclass in how a single death can ripple through a family, changing the DNA of their relationships forever.

But it's not all gloom. The prose is absolutely lush. O'Farrell has this incredible knack for making the 1500s feel immediate. You can practically smell the dried herbs hanging from the rafters and feel the coarse wool of their clothes. She also weaves in a fascinating “biography” of the plague flea itself, tracing its journey across the globe to the Shakespeare doorstep in a way that feels like a high-stakes thriller.

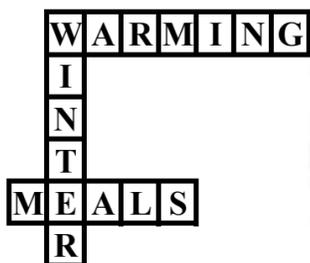
Ultimately, “Hamnet” is a story about how we transform unbearable pain into art. It suggests that the world's most famous play wasn't just a creative whim, but a father's way of keeping his son's soul alive. It's a breathtaking, immersive read that will stay with you long after you close the cover.

Grab a copy of this Hamnet week, and when you're done, watch the film, which is equally captivating and has my vote for an award-winning Oscar run! And as always, don't forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more book talk.

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

## Crossword

By Peanut



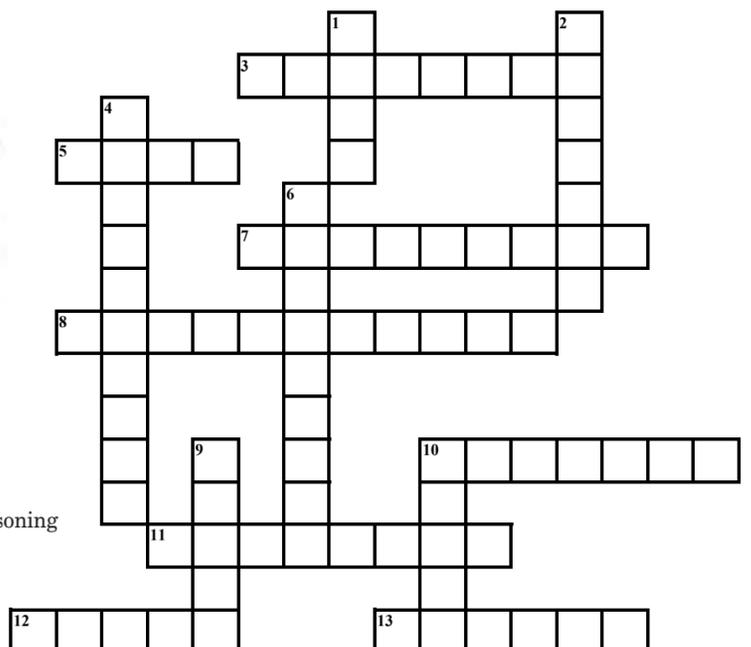
### Across

3. Shellfish, tomato, fish
5. Beef, potato, onion
7. Chicken, paprika, garlic, sour cream
8. Vinegar-marinated beef
10. Clams, cream, veg
11. Chicken, veg, bacon, cognac
12. Andouille sausage, okra, veg
13. Tomatoes, veg, heavy cream

### Down

1. Stock, chicken, noodles
2. Beef, paprika, veg
4. Beef, sour cream, noodles
6. Chicken, sausage, veg, creole seasoning
9. Pork, vinegar, soy sauce, garlic
10. Meat, beans, tomato, spice

[ Crossword answers found on page 16 ]



## COLUMNS

## PostCards: Graduation 1926

By Michon Mackedon

I have been writing about the Churchill County High School (CCHS) senior class of 1926, one hundred years ago. As late winter melted into the Spring of 1926, the thoughts of the CCHS seniors turned, then as now, to graduation, with all the attendant mixture of exhilaration and fear. They would leave behind a full trophy case memorializing their state championships in women's basketball and debate.

The graduation ceremony was held on a Monday evening in June. Mrs. L.E. Cline, member of the Churchill County School Board, presented diplomas to 36 graduates. The "Churchill County Eagle" commended the setting by referring to it as the "great auditorium" of the high school (now the Old High School and administration building, constructed in 1918). The paper further praised the building: "That Churchill County's fine high school building is one of the best possessions of the community was again clearly demonstrated last Monday evening when a great throng assembled to see 36 students receive the honors of graduation."

Scholarship awards totaled \$650 (equivalent to almost \$12,000 today). As the "Eagle" described the event, "The first grant was that given by the local American Legion post. Edgar Maupin [my uncle, who died when I was a child] in fitting words explained that during the past four years the Legion had been giving scholarships." Claude Winder, who had scored 100 percent on his studies, was awarded \$50 [close to \$1000 today].

The next scholarship was awarded by I.H. Kent. There is a cultural history lesson to be found in Kent's remarks as he presented the scholarship. He reported that after he and his wife had returned home from the previous year's high school graduation exercises, he suggested to her that it would be a nice idea for a \$50 scholarship to

be presented by them to some worthy boy, "and right there he got into trouble, for Mrs. Kent immediately contended that they should also help some worthy girl who might not otherwise be able to get a university education. Therefore, they decided to give two scholarships of \$50 each." The awards were presented to Alan Bible and Maud Dunbar.

The largest scholarship was awarded by the Fallon Rotary Club, consisting of a whopping \$500 (over \$9000 today), half to go to a worthy boy and half to a worthy girl! The times they were a-changin'. The lucky winners were Claude Winder and Rachel Bafford.

I have always found it intriguing to view Fallon as both original and unique, on the one hand, and representative of national trends, on the other. The Roaring Twenties are known for advancing women's rights and their participation in what was previously a "man's world." In sports, in public speaking, in academic ambitions, Fallon's women leaped ahead in 1926.

The commencement address was delivered by Hon. Samuel Platt, a prominent Reno attorney who, according to the "Eagle," spoke at length about the benefits of education and said that he "would add to the old rule of New England, the three R's, a fourth R, making it 'Readin,' Ritin,' Rithmatic, and Religion.'"

His audience, seated in the great auditorium, was witnessing part of a broader national debate concerning the role of religion in public schools. Today, as in 1926, that debate goes on, but let's take credit for the fact that we are still free to engage in it.

Please send your stories and ideas for stories to [mackedon@phonewave.net](mailto: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.*

## Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

The Fallon Theatre is gearing up for a busy spring, with a series of events that bring the community together through movies, music, and local storytelling. Organizers say the venue, known for its historic charm and commitment to cultural engagement, will host a variety of programs in the coming weeks, including free movie screenings, live performances, and the debut of a new film festival.



The weekend kicks off with family-friendly movie nights. On Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., audiences can catch "Ratatouille" (2007), an animated feature about a Parisian rat with culinary aspirations. The film, rated G and running one hour and 51 minutes, is expected to draw young viewers and families. Later, at 7 p.m. both days, the theater will screen "National Treasure" (2004), an action-adventure film starring treasure hunter Benjamin Gates as he searches for secrets tied to America's founding. The PG-rated movie, sponsored by Tedford Tire, runs two hours and 11 minutes.

Behind the scenes, the Fallon Theatre is undergoing notable upgrades. The installation of new laser projectors is complete, promising brighter visuals, sharper detail, and enhanced color for moviegoers. Seating improvements are underway as volunteers clean and replace chairs throughout the week. Theatre officials say these changes are intended to create a more comfortable and welcoming space for patrons.

In addition to movie nights, the venue will welcome the United States Air Force Band of

the Golden West on Tuesday, March 3, at 7 p.m. Travis Brass, a six-member ensemble, will perform a selection of original brass works, orchestral favorites, video game arrangements, and patriotic classics. The concert will last about one hour, and attendees will have the chance to meet the musicians afterward. The band, recognized for its versatility and musical excellence, frequently performs at community events and educational outreach programs.

On Saturday, March 7, the Fallon Theatre will host "Heritage of the West," a free event celebrating the region's songs, stories, and traditions. Organizers are inviting performers, historians, poets, and storytellers to share music, cowboy poetry, dance, and oral histories. The celebration concludes with a free concert at 7 p.m. featuring The Lincoln Highway Band.

The following day, the theater introduces the Inaugural Oasis Film Festival, themed "An Oasis for Storytellers." Filmmakers of all ages are invited to submit PG-rated short films, no longer than 15 minutes, inspired by the "America 250" theme. Submissions are due by March 2, and all entries will be screened on Sunday, March 8, followed by an awards ceremony at 5 p.m. Workshops on film production and acting will also be available.

Looking ahead, the Toiyabe Chamber Music Society returns on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. for the Loneliest Road Chamber Music Project, featuring the Berkeley String Quartet from Berkeley, California. The program includes Schubert's "Death and the Maiden," a new work by Daniel Darnesin Flanagan, and a Beethoven Quartet, accompanied by projected images. Admission is by donation, and children are welcome.

The Fallon Theatre continues to offer free movie screenings when possible, and its concession stand provides classic treats like popcorn and candy. Officials encourage those interested in renting the venue for celebrations or featuring messages on the marquee to call 775-423-6210 or email [thefallontheatre@gmail.com](mailto:thefallontheatre@gmail.com).



Story by Emi Allyn

My name is Emi Allyn, and I'm a senior in Mrs. Sammons plant systems class at Churchill County High School. Recently, I had the opportunity to design a landscape project that I hope will make a lasting impact on our school.

My goal was to create a space that is welcoming, functional, and meaningful for everyone. One of the main features of my design is concrete walkways to ensure the area is accessible to people with disabilities, because I believe everyone should be able to enjoy it. I also included raised plant boxes that culinary classes could use to grow perennial herbs and vegetables for cooking. This would give students a hands-on learning experience that connects directly to their classes.

In my layout, I placed a table toward the back of the space to provide a full view of the garden, making the landscape the centerpiece. I also plan to include lights in our school colors above the trees along the back wall. This feature, designed by one of my classmates, would add both school spirit and a welcoming atmosphere.

I believe this space would become important for the entire school community. Students could use it as a place to relax, gather with friends, or take pictures for events. It would help make our school feel more inviting and less bland. For plant systems students, it would provide a working space beyond the greenhouses. Growing and maintaining the plants ourselves would give us real-world experience and a stronger sense of ownership in the project.

Some additional details in my design include lining the walkways with native plants and incorporating a metal Gurkha created by the welding class. If funding and water systems allow, I would also love to include a miniature model of the main street fountain as a unique focal point.

The area would be maintained primarily by plant systems classes using low-maintenance, drought-tolerant native plants. Another option would be starting a horticulture club to increase student involvement. We could also invite community members who need volunteer hours or are working toward their master gardener certification to help care for the space.

This project is especially meaningful to me because I plan to pursue landscape design as a career. Designing something that could positively impact our school while helping prepare me for my future has been an incredible experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my vision and hope it becomes a lasting addition to our campus.



Photo courtesy of Emi Allyn.

**Recently, I had the opportunity to design a landscape project that I hope will make a lasting impact on our school.**

LEGAL NOTICES

**CITY OF FALLON'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT FOR FIXED-BASE OPERATION SERVICES AT THE FALLON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 496.090, that the City of Fallon intends to enter into a contract or other arrangement with FLYINTIZ AVIATION, LLC for the provision of Fixed-Base Operator services at the Fallon Municipal Airport ("airport"), which may include, but not limited to the following:

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- Conferring the privilege of supplying goods, commodities, things, services or facilities at the airport or air navigation facility or other facilities.
- Making available services to be furnished by the City of Fallon or its agents or by other persons at the airport or air navigation facility or other facilities.

NOTICE IF FURTHER GIVEN that a regular meeting of the City Council will be held on March 3, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, 55 W. Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada, at which meeting any interested person may appear.

Published in  
The Fallon Post  
February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026  
Ad #6430

**NOTICE OF CHANGE OF TIME OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNTY COMMISSION MEETINGS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to NRS 244.085, the Churchill County Commissioners have changed the TIME of their second meeting, which occurs on the third Wednesday of every month, from 1:15 p.m. to 8:15 a.m., effective with the meeting on March 18, 2026.

Pamela D. Moore  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in  
The Fallon Post  
Feb. 27, Mar. 6, and 13, 2026  
Ad #6433

**IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE**

The Fourth (4th) Installment of the 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR taxes will be due and payable on or before March 2, 2026. If not paid on or before March 12, 2026, delinquent charges will be applied in accordance with NRS 361.483. Failure to receive a tax bill does not excuse the taxpayer from the timely payment of taxes in accordance with NRS 361.480. If you have recently refinanced, purchased, paid off your mortgage, moved, or not yet received your property tax bill, please contact the Clerk/Treasurer's office or visit our website at: [www.churchillcountynv.gov](http://www.churchillcountynv.gov) for current tax information and/or online payment options.

Linda Rothery  
Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer  
775-423-6028  
Office / Mailing Address:  
155 N. Taylor St., Suite 110  
Fallon, NV 89406

Published in  
The Fallon Post  
February 27, 2026  
Ad #6437

MEETINGS

February 26 – March 19, 2026

**Board of County Commissioners**  
Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month  
155 N. Taylor Street  
Next Meeting: March 5 at 8:15 a.m.

**Central NV Health District**  
155 N Taylor Street  
Next meeting: March 19 at 1:30 p.m.

**CC Communications**  
Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.  
155 N. Taylor Street  
Next Meeting: March 5 at 11 a.m.

**Library Board of Trustees**  
Meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m.  
155 N. Taylor Street  
Next Meeting: March 26 at 3 p.m.

**Churchill County School Board**  
690 S. Maine Street  
Next Meeting: March 17 at 5:30 p.m.



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 14

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| ADOBO    | GUMBO       |
| BISQUE   | JAMBALAYA   |
| CHILI    | PAPRIKASH   |
| CHOWDER  | SAUERBRATEN |
| CIOPPINO | SOUP        |
| COQUAVIN | STEW        |
| GOULASH  | STROGANOFF  |



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WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken February 23, at 8:30 a.m.

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Lahontan Reservoir            | 180,800 af |
| Carson River Below Lahontan   | 2.47 cfs   |
| Truckee Canal at Wadsworth    | 490 cfs    |
| Truckee Canal at Hazen        | 488 cfs    |
| Carson River at Ft. Churchill | 334 cfs    |

|                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| February 23, 2024 | February 23, 2023 | February 23, 2022 |
| 247,090 acre feet | 125,563 acre feet | 102,113 acre feet |

Cfs - Cubic Feet per Second | Af - Acre Feet | [TCID.org](http://TCID.org) & [WaterData.USGS.gov](http://WaterData.USGS.gov)



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