

THE FALLON POST



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KYLE PETTY CHARITY RIDE ROARS THROUGH FALLON

Story and photos by Steve Evenson

Fallon became the first major stop on the Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America on Friday, May 1, as more than 150 riders, two NASCAR Hall of Famers, and other NASCAR celebrities pulled into Fox Peak for lunch and fan meet-and-greets.

This year's ride also coincides with the 250th anniversary of American Independence and the 100th anniversary of U.S. Highway 50.

Motorsports is all about numbers — car numbers, laps, positions, and engineering — and this year's Charity Ride brought plenty of memorable ones to Fallon.

The stop marked the beginning of a milestone year for the ride, now celebrating its 30th anniversary. The event is a yearly fundraiser for Victory Junction Gang Camp, a year-round camp created to "give kids living with complex medical and physical needs opportunities to participate in activities, free from barriers they may face in their daily lives." The Petty family founded the camp after the 2001 death of Adam Petty, Kyle's son and Richard's grandson, who passed in a practice crash at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in May 2000. Since opening in 2004, Victory Junction has hosted more than 150,000 children.

The Charity Ride began in 1995, a year after Kyle rode his motorcycle from North Carolina to a Phoenix NASCAR race. That 1994 trip started with Kyle and three friends and ended with more than 30 riders. Seeing the potential to raise money for charity, Kyle turned the cross-country ride into an annual event that originally raised money for children's hospitals. The ride has now raised more than \$23 million overall. The 2020 edition was canceled due to COVID, making this year's ride the official 30th running.



Richard Petty, NASCAR's winningest driver and a NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee, steps away from his motorcycle after arriving at Fox Peak Station during the Kyle Petty Charity Ride stop in Fallon.

[Kyle Petty continued on page 2]

Earthquake Swarm Hits Fallon

Staff Report

A swarm of earthquakes rattled western Nevada early Friday, including a magnitude 5.2 centered southeast of Silver Springs, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The shaking was felt across Fallon, Fernley, Yerington, and the Reno-Carson corridor as the region continues to experience heightened seismic activity following a magnitude 5.7 earthquake two weeks ago.

USGS data shows the 5.2 struck at a depth of about 7 miles shortly after 1 a.m., with multiple aftershocks ranging from magnitude 2.0 to 4.1 recorded in the hours that followed. The epicenter lies within the Walker Lane, a major tectonic corridor that runs along the eastern Sierra Nevada and across western Nevada, a region responsible for many of the earthquakes felt in Churchill and Lyon counties.

Friday's activity is part of an ongoing sequence that began with the April 5.7,

which was widely felt across northern Nevada and generated hundreds of aftershocks. Seismologists say the latest quakes are consistent with a typical aftershock pattern in the Walker Lane, where faults often rupture in clusters rather than single, isolated events.

According to USGS, this sequence is behaving as scientists expect after a magnitude 5 earthquake in the Walker Lane. Aftershocks in this region commonly continue for weeks or even months, and additional magnitude 4 or magnitude 5 earthquakes are possible as the crust continues to adjust.

The Walker Lane accommodates roughly 20 to 25 percent of the motion between the Pacific and North American plates, making western Nevada one of the most seismically active regions in the Interior West. Unlike the San Andreas Fault, which is a single, well-defined boundary, the Walker Lane is a broad, branching

[Earthquake Swarm continued on page 3]

1940s Gala for the Arts

Story and photos by Sydney Trainor

Community members gathered at the Oats Park Art Center on May 2 for the Churchill Arts Council's "Swing into Victory" gala, a 1940s-themed fundraiser celebrating the organization's 40th season.

Guests arrived in vintage dresses, military-inspired outfits, and other 1940s attire for an evening centered around music, dancing, local food, and support for the arts.



Byron Sorenson plays piano during the Churchill Arts Council's 1940s themed "Swing into Victory" gala at the Oats Park Art Center.

The evening began with swing dance lessons taught by Jake Morrow. Throughout the night, live piano music by Byron Sorenson filled Valerie's Place upstairs, while the Retro Radio Dolls performed on the Lariat Stage downstairs.

Appetizers catered by 3C's Catering, desserts from Courtyard Café, specialty cocktails, and a late-night donuts and coffee sendoff gave the event a nostalgic atmosphere. The USO-inspired finale paid tribute to the United Service Organizations, which became known during World War II for boosting morale among military personnel through entertainment and refreshments.

A silent auction featured donations from many businesses and supporters, while a live auction later in the night also contributed to the fundraiser. Funds raised during the gala will help support Churchill Arts Council programs, building maintenance, and other expenses connected to running the Oats Park Art Center.



The Retro Radio Dolls perform on the Lariat Stage during the Churchill Arts Council's "Swing into Victory" gala.



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain's Log: Common Language

By Rachel Dahl

I watch too much news. Read, watch, ingest. My current-events intake is way too high.

And I'm beginning to notice some patterns — unsettling observations about how we communicate and how we make a shared life together in our communities and in our country.

Something is happening here. That old song just came to mind, and I'm transported back to the good old music of the 1970s, where they sang about a revolution. We are not alright.

For what it's worth... I don't think things went the way our parents thought they would when they didn't like the society they were inheriting. And I don't think we like the one we're inheriting.

But what I'm seeing is we've come so far away from a common way of looking at the world that it's difficult to even communicate anymore. We don't even know our common history — the reason the structure exists the way it does and how to preserve it.

Things have gotten so bad that there is an active, strong bent to not preserve it. To scrap the whole experiment and start over.

I'm worried about that as we approach our 250th anniversary.

Battle lines are being drawn, to continue with our musical theme. People are angry and they want change, but they don't know enough to realize they're mad about the wrong things — and the change they want is for a system they know nothing about.

Take, for instance, just one small example in the primary election coming up in June.

The number of complaints and wailing is shocking. People are mad that they can't vote in the primary election. They say they are disenfranchised and it isn't fair.

They don't know that state law governs elections and our two-party system, and that the primary election in Nevada is specifically for the parties to choose who they want to send to the general election to represent the party. You can only choose who the Republicans run in the general election if you are a Republican. You can only choose who the Democrats run if the Democrats have candidates running and you are a Democrat. Part of the problem is there are very few Democrats running in local or state races.

That's a different failure — but not one of the system. That is a failure of the party to recruit candidates. Democrats can't vote for their candidate if there are no candidates.

I'm working on a much clearer explanation of this phenomenon for our Election Guide, which is scheduled to come out next week, and it is simply one example of how we're in trouble.

When people are critical of the structure but don't understand how it works in the first place, that's a tough place to be.

So while we keep educating ourselves and making sure we understand the structure, we'll always be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

— Rachel

[Kyle Petty continued from page 1]

Kyle Petty said he was glad to see the crowd in Fallon and spoke warmly about U.S. 50 in Nevada. "I just love this ride, the towns on the way, and this highway," he said at Fox Peak. "I've been here a few times over some other rides, and each time it has been spectacular." He noted the loss of the famous shoe tree and the beginnings of a new one forming, adding with a laugh that he forgot to bring shoes to contribute. "I don't think my cowboy boots will work."

With Fallon enjoying chamber of commerce weather, Petty was asked about the forecast for the rest of the trip. "Doesn't matter to us, we will ride on no matter what it is. We have a schedule to keep." The first day of the ride was ending in Ely, a town Petty said he loves for its scenery and character.

That appreciation for rural Nevada was echoed by other riders. Kenny Wallace, retired NASCAR driver, television commentator, and active dirt track racer, had never been to Northern Nevada outside of Reno. He and his wife, Kim, were struck by Lake Tahoe's beauty and the number of casinos, saying they want to return soon. When Wallace learned that Rattlesnake Raceway was just a short distance from Fox Peak, he immediately wished he had time to visit. Now in his fourth year on the ride, Wallace said, "You know, I used to think it was about the motorcycle ride. And I realized the Charity Ride is all about other people: the campers and the fans along the way who come see us and support the camp."

Richard Petty, NASCAR's Cup Series winningest

driver with 200 victories and a NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee, was also glad to stop in Fallon. The 88-year-old traveled from Sonoma, California, and signed hundreds of autographs in the midafternoon sun — a Petty family tradition. After crossing the Sierra Nevada, he said he was looking forward to the long, straight stretches of the Great Basin. "It is a really beautiful drive, but I am looking forward to some long, straight highway." He recalled previous visits to Fallon and said, "To see all this support for Adam and the camp again is great. We really appreciate it."

Other NASCAR luminaries on the ride included NASCAR Cup Series champion and Hall of Famer Matt Kenseth, racers Ken Schrader and David Ragan, and announcer Rick Allen. All spent time signing autographs, talking with fans, and grabbing lunch before the group continued toward Ely.

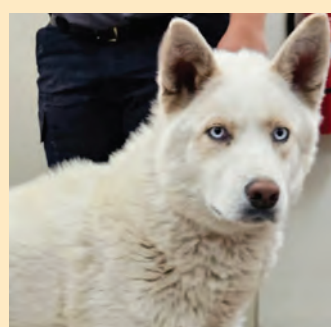
The Charity Ride fuel stop is a choreographed event. The fueling team of a dozen or so arrives ahead of the other cyclists, clears the pumps of non-ride vehicles, and then the main group files into the station. Riders fuel up without dismounting, then move to a staging area where they park, dismount, eat, and socialize before a warning siren signals five minutes to departure.

As the riders left the Fallon Fox Peak lot, former Rattlesnake Raceway flagman R.D. Goetz waved a green flag to send them on their way — a fitting end to a beautiful day in Fallon that won't soon be forgotten by those in attendance.

To support Victory Junction Gang Camp, go to www.kylepettycharityride.com or www.victoryjunction.org.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Rocky is Looking for an Active Home



Rocky is a 2-year-old Husky who thrives as an outdoor dog and enjoys having space to explore. He is energetic, alert, and happiest when he can spend time outside taking in his surroundings.

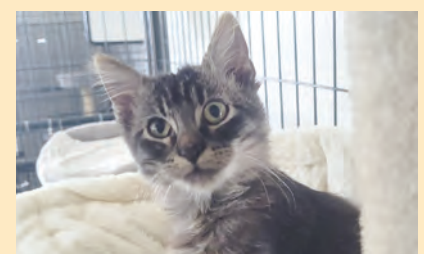
Rocky is friendly with people of all ages and seeks attention from anyone willing to give him a pat. He also does well with other dogs and is eager to make new playmates.

Like many Huskies, Rocky has a strong prey drive and should not be placed in a home with cats or small animals.

He enjoys walks, outdoor adventures, and any activity that helps him burn off energy. Squeaky toys are his favorite and will quickly get his attention.

Rocky is looking for an active home that matches his energy level and provides plenty of time outdoors.

Tabby Looking for a Loving Home



Ace is a 4-month-old, medium-haired tabby looking for a loving home. He is fixed, vaccinated, microchipped, and ready for adoption.

Ace is a playful, curious kitten who enjoys exploring his surroundings and chasing toys, but he is just as happy to curl up for attention when the excitement settles. He has a gentle temperament and would make a friendly, affectionate addition to the right family.

Questions? Call 775-217-4745

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

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

FEATURES

Nevada Faces Unprecedented Power Demand as Growth Accelerates

By Amber Hardin

As northern Nevada positions itself for continued economic growth, one question loomed over discussions at this year’s Western Nevada Development District summit: Can the state generate enough energy to support it?

From mining operations to manufacturing and rapidly expanding data center development, demand for power is rising — and quickly.

Energy leaders at the summit described the scale of that demand as unprecedented.

In fact, officials noted that the new power demand requested across Nevada far surpasses the capacity the system has taken more than a century to build.

“Our entire system in Northern Nevada is right around 2.5 gigawatts. So, 2500 megawatts,” said Jeff Brigger, a representative with NV Energy. “It took us 125, 130 years to get there. We [currently] have 22,000 megawatts; [that’s] 22 gigawatts of requested loads in our [Northern Nevada] service territory. This is massive in scale, and it takes time to build.”

Much of that demand is driven by large-scale industrial and technology projects, including data centers that require vast amounts of electricity.

Unlike traditional industrial users, data centers often require highly reliable power systems with multiple transmission lines and backup capabilities, adding complexity to infrastructure planning.

Meeting those needs, speakers said, will take time — and significant investment.

Beyond electricity, natural gas infrastructure also plays a role in supporting large projects.

Daniel Pace, the Key Accounts and Energy Solutions Supervisor for Southwest Gas, described the challenge of not only generating power, but delivering it — requiring coordination across pipelines, transmission systems, and local distribution networks.

“It’s important to understand how you go from your normal industrial customer to a customer that needs 500 megawatts, or a gigawatt, gigawatt and a half of power,” Pace said. “You can think of it like a straw. There’s only so much that can move through it at a time.”

To address these challenges, utilities and state agencies are working with developers to plan long-term solutions, including new transmission lines, expanded capacity, and, in some cases, on-site power generation.

Pace also emphasized that growth must be balanced with reliability for existing customers.

“We want system reliability, but not at the sacrifice of our existing customers.”

Looking further ahead, some discussions turned to emerging energy technologies — particularly nuclear and fusion energy. While these options are often discussed as long-term solutions, experts cautioned that they are not yet ready to meet current demand.

“Fission is the current nuclear industry that we have right now,” said Fred Dilger, executive director of the Nevada Agency for Nuclear Projects. “It requires enormous lead time, capital investment, and creates a great deal of waste. Nevada doesn’t want any part of any of that.”

Dilger noted, however, that a different kind of nuclear energy, fusion, offers fewer drawbacks and is advancing rapidly; fortuitously, Nevada has a notable amount of an element needed for its use.

“One key element that you need to make fusion work is lithium. If you are a state that has a lot of lithium or a functioning lithium mine, you’re very, very well poised to be a part of that.”

To get ahead of this encroaching nuclear technology, Dilger stated he has communicated its potential to the governor, and they’re putting together the regulations necessary to make fusion machines work in Nevada.

That reality leaves Nevada in a familiar position — balancing opportunity with limitation.

The state continues to attract interest from companies looking to build and expand, drawn by available land, business-friendly policies, and access to key infrastructure.

But as summit participants noted, sustaining that growth will depend on careful planning, strong partnerships, and a clear understanding of what resources are available — and how quickly they can be expanded.

For many in attendance, the path forward is not about slowing growth but managing it.

Glen Martel, the city manager for Carson City and moderator of the energy panel, echoed this sentiment and shared, “We want to do things right, but we know we’re going to hit some obstacles. We’re going to press through; we’re going to make sure that Nevada and our communities within Nevada are better in the future than they are today.”

[Earthquake Swarm continued on page 3]

network of faults that shift, slip, and interact with one another. This structure produces frequent earthquake swarms, migrating sequences, and long aftershock chains, the kind of activity Fallon residents have been feeling for the past two weeks.

Western Nevada has experienced similar multifault sequences in the past, including a series of major earthquakes in 1954 that produced several magnitude 6 and magnitude 7 events near Fallon, Fairview Peak, and Dixie Valley. Those quakes ruptured multiple faults in rapid succession, a pattern scientists say is characteristic of the Walker Lane, the same tectonic zone driving the current swarm.

Geologists say the region’s faults tend to release strain in bursts, which is why residents may feel several moderate earthquakes over a short period rather than one large event. The 5.7 and 5.2 are part of that same stress release process.

Residents in Fallon reported rolling wave shaking and several sharp jolts overnight. No significant damage has been reported, but emergency officials are monitoring the swarm as aftershocks continue.

USGS says additional earthquakes are likely in the coming days as the sequence evolves.

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT

Aftershocks will continue. USGS says aftershocks following a magnitude 5 event in the Walker Lane can last weeks to months, with shaking that may come and go in clusters.

More moderate quakes are possible. It is normal for sequences in this region to produce additional magnitude 4 or magnitude 5 earthquakes as stress redistributes along nearby faults.

Shaking may migrate. Faults in the Walker Lane often interact, meaning activity can shift slightly north or south over time — even if the mainshock was centered near Silver Springs.

Most aftershocks will be small. The majority will fall in the M1–M3 range, though residents may feel the stronger ones, especially in Fallon, Fernley, and Silver Springs.

No signs of a larger imminent quake. USGS emphasizes that aftershocks are expected and do not indicate that a larger earthquake is building.

WHAT FALLON RESIDENTS CAN DO

Drop, Cover, and Hold On. If shaking starts, get low, protect your head and neck, and stay where you are until the shaking stops.

Secure heavy items. Bookshelves, TVs, mirrors, and tall furniture should be anchored. Many injuries in moderate quakes come from falling objects.

Know your safe spots: under a sturdy table, next to an interior wall, away from windows and heavy items.

Check your home after a strong shaking. Look for cracks, fallen items, and gas or water leaks. If you smell gas, leave immediately and contact your utility provider.

Prepare a basic kit. Include water, medications, flashlights, batteries, and copies of important documents. Even small quakes can disrupt utilities.

Report what you feel. USGS’s “Did You Feel It?” tool helps scientists map shaking intensity and improve future hazard assessments.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WEEK

County Manager’s Office

By Sydney Trainor

The Churchill County Manager’s Office handles the county’s daily operations, including managing budgets, overseeing staff, coordinating grants, and supporting other county departments.

During the county budget discussions, Chris MacKenzie said that salary costs for department heads are decreasing because of the transition from the previous county manager to his position. However, other salary costs are increasing due to staffing changes. He also noted that employee benefit costs could still change depending on the results of the county’s compensation study.

MacKenzie also reviewed some proposed budget changes for office



expenses. Fuel costs were reduced by \$2,000 because county vehicle use has been much lower than expected. Miscellaneous expenses were slightly increased to match current spending. Funding for copier maintenance was lowered. The office plans to replace an older printer and scanner that has been having problems.

Training funds were reduced from \$2,500 to \$1,500 because many training sessions are available through Pool/Pact at little or no cost. The office also added \$2,000 for a new printer and reduced furniture funding from \$3,000 to \$2,000, while continuing plans to convert former office space into conference rooms. Overall, MacKenzie said

the office’s services and supplies budget is expected to decrease by about \$2,800.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Book Signing Event



Brynn Turner, illustrator of the children's book "The Journey," will join author George Albert Morrow for a May 16 book signing at Great Basin Trading Company. Photo courtesy of Karen Turner.

By Nancy Chapman

Great Basin Trading Company, 31 South Maine Street, is pleased to announce a special book signing event featuring George Albert Morrow, the author of "The Journey," and Brynn Turner, the illustrator of the same book. The event will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Attendees may purchase copies of "The Journey" at the event for signing or bring their own copies.

"The Journey" originated as a children's story written by George Albert Morrow, who spent many years sharing it with his family during their travels to help pass the time. Brynn Turner brought the story's characters to life through her artwork, ultimately capturing the essence of the main character, a marmot. Keller's Cottage Kitchen, a Fallon-based baker known for her sourdough goods, will also host a pop-up at the signing with a selection of freshly baked items available for purchase.



Researchers Seek Residents for Geothermal Focus Groups

Staff Report

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory researchers are recruiting Churchill County residents to take part in a 2.5-hour focus group on geothermal energy. Participants will receive a \$100 Visa gift card, and dinner will be provided.

The sessions will gather public input on geothermal energy and ways to improve the siting and development process. Feedback will help inform recommendations for future geothermal development. No prior knowledge is required.

Focus groups will be held May 11 and May 12 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Churchill County Administrative Complex. Participants must be 18 or older, and advance registration is required. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

To register, visit surveymonkey.com/r/6Z25NT. For more information, call 509-375-6462 or email stakeholder.research@pnnl.gov.

"A Broadway Revue" Musical Coming Soon

By Sydney Trainor

Performing Arts of Churchill County will bring a lineup of familiar Broadway favorites to the stage beginning Saturday, May 9, with its upcoming production, "A Broadway Revue."

The show brings together a collection of well-known musical numbers performed by local artists. Selections include songs from "Chicago," "My Fair Lady," "Les Misérables," "Annie," and "Oklahoma!" and

more, showcasing a range of styles and eras from the Broadway stage.

Performances will start in Yerington at the Jeanne Dini Center on Saturday, May 9 at 6 p.m. The show will then move to Fallon for two days of performances at the Barkley Theater inside the Oats Park Art Center, scheduled for Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are available online at paccnv.org/tickets.html. Any remaining seats will be sold at the door.



Stonebarger Wins State Lions Club Speaking Title



Corie Candee, a longtime Fallon resident and Lions Club member, stands with Riggin Stonebarger, winner of the state Lions Club speaking title after the contest. Photo by Jason Stonebarger.

Staff Report

The Yerington Lions Club hosted the 2026 District 46 Lions Club State Speaking Contest, bringing together members and community attendees from across Nevada. The competition, which began in January and progressed through several elimination rounds, featured student speakers addressing pressing global issues.

This year's theme, "Global Warming vs. Climate Change; provide your thoughts," challenged finalists to define the terms and explain their real-world impacts. Competitors focused on how environmental shifts affect agriculture, with emphasis on Nevada's farmers and ranchers, water systems, ecosystem health, wildlife sustainability, and carbon dioxide emissions. Speakers advanced through each round by earning first place finishes, ultimately

reaching the state level in Yerington.

Churchill County High School senior Riggin Stonebarger earned the top honor after advancing through the semifinal round held Feb. 28 in Winnemucca and the final competition in Yerington. Stonebarger earned \$1,250 in the semifinal round and additional winnings from the state championship, bringing total earnings to \$6,250.

Stonebarger, a Churchill County High School Jumpstart student and intern at "The Fallon Post," also reports on local government stories, including district court and city council meetings, while assisting with candidate advertising sales. He plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno on scholarship, major in political science, and later pursue law school on the East Coast with an interest in corporate litigation or crisis management.

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Movie Day

Coalition for Senior Citizens
The Fallon Theatre
Every third Friday at 1 p.m.

Shine

Support Circle
1676 W. Williams Ave.
May 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Bark in the Park 5K

Churchill Animal Protection Society
Churchill County Fairgrounds
May 16 at 7:30 a.m.

Oasis Academy Graduation

Oasis Academy
Rafter 3C Arena
May 20

Market Fundraiser

Greenwave Garden
Churchill County High School Greenhouses
May 9 from 9 a.m. to noon

A Broadway Revue

Performing Arts of Churchill County
Oats Park Art Center
May 15 at 7 p.m. and May 16 at 1 and 7 p.m.

Armed Forces Day Poker Run

American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion
American Legion Hall
May 16 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Plant Bingo

Churchill County Parks and Recreation
255 E. Stillwater Ave.
May 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Mother's Day Sip and Shop

Rush Coffee Co. and Rhythm Taphouse
1805 W. Williams Ave.
May 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Student Art Show Reception

Western Nevada College
160 Campus Way
May 14 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

WNC Graduation

Western Nevada College
Rafter 3C Arena
May 20 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Beginner Gift Wrapping

Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
May 28 at 3 p.m.

Bad Art: Recycled Bookmarks

Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
May 11 at 2:30 p.m.

Inaugural Spring Clinic

Reining & Ranch Horse Association
Fifty Horse Ranch
May 16 at 8 a.m.

The Power of Transforming Triggers into Teachers

Heart 2 Heart Women's Circle
1676 W. Williams Ave.
May 20 at 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Fallon Chalk Festival

City of Fallon
Maine St.
May 29 at 12 p.m. to May 30 at 10 p.m.

Author Talk: Kurt Winans

Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
May 12 at 6 p.m.

Pitch Hit & Run Skills Competition

Fallon Elks Lodge
Oats Park
May 16 at 9 a.m.



This Community Calendar is sponsored by Fallon Media Co. - An Oasis in the Rural Nevada News Desert. If you would like to sponsor the Community Calendar, please contact The Fallon Post at 775-423-4545.

COMMUNITY

Community Gathers to Honor a Life of Service, Faith, and Leadership

By Amber Hardin

On May 2, at the Rafter 3C Arena, the Churchill County community came together to honor the life and legacy of Sheriff Richard Hickox, whose passing earlier this month marked the end of a 28-year career in law enforcement and the loss of a deeply respected leader, mentor, and friend.

Family, community members, fellow officers, and state leaders filled the service in overwhelming numbers, a powerful reflection of the impact Hickox had both in uniform and beyond it.

Sheriff Lee Orozco, Churchill County's previous undersheriff and newly appointed after Hickox's passing, spoke at the podium.

"Today we gather to honor a man who was more than a sheriff," Orozco said. "He was a partner, a leader, a mentor, and above all, a friend."

Hickox's law enforcement career began in 1998, when he joined the Churchill County Sheriff's Office as a detention deputy. Over the next nearly three decades, he rose through the ranks, serving as a patrol deputy, investigator, sergeant, and captain, and was ultimately elected sheriff in 2019.

Those who worked alongside him described a man committed not just to doing the job, but to doing it right. Orozco added, "He didn't just want to do the job, he wanted to do it the right way," recalling Hickox's steady demeanor, integrity, and authenticity.

Throughout his career, Hickox took on numerous roles beyond his core duties, including serving as a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) officer, defensive tactics instructor, and crisis intervention trainer. He also served as president of the Nevada Sheriffs and Chiefs Association, helping foster collaboration and professionalism across agencies.

While his professional accomplishments were significant, speakers emphasized that Hickox's connection to the community was just as meaningful.

From youth programs and nonprofit organizations to local events, he was a constant presence in Churchill County.

"You would find him at a football game, a wrestling match, a baseball game, Cantaloupe Festival, Christmas tree lighting, really any community event—Richard was there," longtime friend Shawn Mitchell shared during the eulogy.

That presence, many noted, was not for recognition, but because he genuinely cared.

Governor Joe Lombardo, who Orozco introduced as "a close friend of Sheriff Hickox," spoke at the service and described Hickox as representing "the very best of Nevada law enforcement," adding that his commitment to the community went far beyond the badge.

"This work is not just a job, it is often a calling," Lombardo said. "Richard lived that calling every day."

At the heart of Hickox's life was his family—his wife, Barbara "Barb" Hickox, their daughters Sierra and Shelby, and his grandchildren.



Governor Joe Lombardo kneels beside Barb Hickox, placing a hand on her shoulder as he presents her with a U.S. flag during Sheriff Richard Hickox's memorial service, while Nevada Department of Public Safety Director George Togliatti stands by to present a second flag. Image via event livestream courtesy of Oasis Community Church, Fallon, Nevada.

Speakers shared stories that painted a picture of a man who balanced the demands of law enforcement with a deep dedication to those he loved. Whether attending games, teaching life lessons, or spending time outdoors, Hickox was described as fully present with his family.

Governor Lombardo addressed Hickox's daughters: "Sierra and Shelby, your dad was clearly so proud of you. And in talking with your family, I was struck by how much he gave you, not just in words but in time."

Orozco shared similar insights for his family: "He loved his daughters. He was proud of his family, and even prouder as a grandfather."

Mitchell echoed that sentiment, recalling simple but meaningful moments—family fishing trips, shared traditions, and the quiet consistency of a man who never complained when sharing his time.

Hickox's faith was also a recurring theme throughout the service, described not as something he spoke about lightly, but something he lived daily.

Even in his battle with cancer, those closest to him said he remained steadfast.

"He fought a good fight ..." Mitchell said, recollecting a talk he was fortunate to have with Hickox before his passing. "He made clear over and over that he was right with the Lord."

That strength left a lasting impression on those who witnessed his final days and the way he faced them—with clarity, peace, and purpose.

The service concluded with a traditional law enforcement final call, marking the end of Hickox's watch.

"After 28 years of dedicated and tireless service ... he has answered his last call," the dispatcher announced. "His watch on this earth has ended, but his legacy will continue in every life he touched and in every deputy who puts on the badge."

Orozco added that he intends to have Hickox's badge number, 177, retire with him and never be reissued—a tribute to his service and the mark he left on the department.

For many in attendance, the sheer size of the crowd spoke volumes. One deputy noted that at least 12 law enforcement agencies had officers present, along with a large number of community attendees.

"This is a testament to me of how much he loved this community," Mitchell said, "and how much this community loves him."

As Churchill County moves forward, Richard Hickox—not only the sheriff of Churchill County, but the husband, the father, the grandfather, the uncle, the son, the brother, the sharer of faith, and the friend—will be missed.

However, while there will be grieving for this great man, his family, friends, and the community will carry on in the light of gratitude for what he left us: a legacy of service, humility, faith, and dedication that will remain firmly in place behind him.

MEETINGS

May 19 – July 8, 2026

Board of County Commissioners
Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: May 20 at 8:15 a.m.

CC Communications
Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: June 4 at 11 a.m.

Churchill County School Board
690 S. Maine St.
Next Meeting: May 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Central NV Health District
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: July 8 at 3 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees
Meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: May 28 at 3 p.m.



WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken May 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	231,000 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	491cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	150 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	134 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	321 cfs

May 4, 2024	May 4, 2023	May 4, 2022
288,166 acre feet	84,042 acre feet	149,440 acre feet

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

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.

<p>Monday, May 11 Salisbury Steak Garlic Whipped Potatoes Mushroom Gravy Green Beans WW Roll Apple</p>	<p>Tuesday, May 12 Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole Beet Salad Bran Muffin Melon Salad w/Mint</p>	<p>Wednesday, May 13 Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Zucchini Green Salad Garlic Bread Orange-Mango Cup</p>	<p>Thursday, May 14 Chicken Fried Steak Country Gravy Seasoned Potato Wedges Garbanzo Bean Salad WW Roll Vanilla Pudding</p>	<p>Friday, May 15 Beer Battered Fish Mac-N-Cheese Garden Blend Vegetables Fruited Jell-O Fresh Orange</p>
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FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

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

<p>Monday, May 11 Ham French Toast & Fruit</p>	<p>Thursday, May 14 Sub Sandwiches Chips & Fruit</p>	<p>Monday, May 18 Smothered Pork Chops Smashed Sweet Potatoes & Veggies</p>	<p>Thursday, May 21 Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwiches Veggies & Dessert</p>	<p>Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.</p>
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COMMUNITY

Tribe Opens New Sagebrush LIHTC Housing Project

Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribal Chairwoman Cathy Williams-Tuni cuts the ribbon to officially open the Sagebrush LIHTC Housing Project on Friday, May 1, 2026, at Tule Street and Paiute Drive. Williams-Tuni was joined by tribal council members, project partners, and community representatives during the ceremony, which marked the completion of the first phase of the 22-unit affordable housing development. The event included a walk-through of finished units and a community lunch hosted at the Administration Chambers.
Photo courtesy of Christina Rodarte.



Nevada Superintendent Highlights Literacy, Math Concerns After Statewide Listening Tour

By Sydney Trainor

Nevada State Superintendent Dr. Victor Wakefield says persistent concerns about literacy, math performance, and uneven instructional quality remain top priorities for the state after completing a statewide listening tour spanning eight school districts, serving 400 to 280,000 students.

Wakefield met with educators, students, administrators, and school board members during the tour and said the conversations revealed both ongoing challenges and “bright spots” where strong leadership and effective interventions are improving student outcomes. He emphasized that the Nevada Department of Education will continue focusing on five strategic priorities: Strong Foundations, Empowering Pathways, Equipped Educators and Leaders, Informed and Connected Families, and Aligned Systems.

“Every day, students in our state should be building knowledge of the world, engaging with grade-level content and instruction, solving complex problems, and making progress toward their postsecondary goals,” Wakefield said. “Every action we take as a state will be relentlessly focused on making this vision true for our students.”

As part of the department’s leadership updates, Dr. Torrey Palmer began her role as Deputy Superintendent for Academics and Student Achievement on March 30. Palmer, a former Washoe County School District teacher, co-founded the nationally recognized Core Task Project focused on literacy standards and previously worked with The New Teacher Project (TNTP) on curriculum and instructional strategy efforts nationwide. Most recently, she served as assistant principal at Mater Academy of Northern Nevada. Palmer earned her doctorate from the University of Nevada, Reno, and previously competed in the 2000 Summer Olympics and World Rowing Championships.

In recognition of the Month of the Military Child, the department named 36 schools as 2026 Nevada Purple Star Schools, honoring campuses that demonstrate strong support for military-connected students and families. “Purple Star Schools set the standard for ensuring these students experience consistency, strong relationships, and access to high-quality learning no matter where they are stationed,” Wakefield said.

Governor Joe Lombardo and Wakefield also visited Arturo Cambeiro Elementary School to celebrate Nevada Reading Week, reading to classrooms and highlighting the importance of early literacy. “When it comes to educating the next generation of Nevadans, we cannot overlook the importance of reading,” Lombardo said. “Nevada Reading Week gives us the opportunity to inspire our students and celebrate the educators dedicated to nurturing a lifelong love of reading.”

The department also announced up to \$247,860 in funding to support a joint school-improvement pilot between the Clark County School District and the Clark County Education Association, made possible by Senate Bill 460. Launching in the 2026–27 school year at Desert Pines and Western high schools, along with their feeder schools, the pilot will focus on pre-K, early literacy, middle school math, and college and career readiness. The initiative aims to boost student success through added learning time, tutoring, and teacher support, and could expand to additional schools across the state.

May the 4th Be With You

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman

The Churchill County Library turned into a mini galaxy far, far away on Monday, May 4, as more than 70 patrons stopped in to build pool noodle lightsabers for the Library’s Star Wars celebration. Library Director John Hong and his staff organized the interactive event to mark the fan-favorite day, inspired by the phrase “May the Force be with you.”

Hong and Ashlee Brown, Technical Services Librarian, said the lightsaber-making session drew a steady stream of families, teens, and adults eager to craft their own foam creations. The celebration continued throughout the day with themed activities that blended playfulness and creativity.

Patrons could take part in lightsaber duels using pool noodles and balloons, tackle Sudoku puzzles of varying difficulty, build an R2-D2 craft, and pose in front of a green screen that placed them inside Star Wars-themed scenes. Costumes were encouraged, and many participants arrived ready to channel their inner Jedi, Sith, or droid.

The informal May the 4th celebration has become a lighthearted tradition for Star Wars fans of all ages, and this year’s turnout showed that the Force remains strong at the Churchill County Library.



Library Director John Hong playfully duels with a young patron dressed in a brown Jedi robe during the Churchill County Library’s May the 4th Be With You celebration.

Ryan Swirczek

for CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1

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- Support for seniors, youth, military, and veterans
- A healthy environment for small businesses
- Smart, attainable growth
- Safety and infrastructure that work
- Protecting Fallon’s small-town character



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BUSINESS

Fresh Finish Clean Celebrates Chamber Membership



Fresh Finish Clean owners Cody and Shannon Whitaker celebrate their new Fallon Chamber of Commerce membership with manager Jamie Inlow, family, friends, community members, and Chamber ambassadors during last week's ribbon cutting. Photo courtesy of Christina Rodarte.

By Nancy Chapman

Cody and Shannon Whitaker, owners of Fresh Finish Clean, celebrated their new Fallon Chamber of Commerce membership with a ribbon cutting last week, marking another milestone for the three-year-old cleaning business.

The Whitakers, who recently navigated a partnership change and a business name change, continue to offer the same dedicated service to customers' cleaning needs.

Along with their manager, Jamie Inlow, the Fresh Finish Clean team provides residential cleaning, rental clean-outs, construction-site cleanups, and more. They hold contracts at NAS Fallon, and they serve residential clients, realtors, and commercial businesses throughout the community. Community-oriented and service-driven, Shannon and Cody say they are committed to helping with Fallon's cleaning needs.

DMV Tips and Tricks

By Sydney Trainor

In 2025, the Fallon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office transitioned to appointment only for all in-person services. Additionally, residents must use the local Fallon office and may no longer use DMV offices in other counties. These changes have caused significant frustration in the community, as some rules are unclear and navigating online can be difficult. Because of this confusion, here are some tips and tricks to help make your DMV experience smoother.

All in-person services are by appointment only, except for license plate drop-off, past-due debt payments, and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) inspections. To make an appointment, first select which type of appointment you need, and make sure you have all the required documents. Then a calendar will pop up. If the calendar is gray and says, "All appointments for the time period you selected are fully booked," check the next day again.

Appointments can only be made 24 hours in advance. To make sure you have a spot secured, log on and schedule your appointment before 9 a.m.

After making an appointment, you will receive either a confirmation email or text. You must confirm the appointment within 15 minutes after making it, or it will be canceled. Confirmation emails will come from waitwell.us, not a DMV email, and will likely end up in junk mail. Make sure to check the spam folder if you cannot find the confirmation. If you don't receive a confirmation email or text, let the DMV know.

Knowledge/written testing closes at 4 p.m., and any appointments made for this service after 4 p.m. will be canceled. Make sure to book a time earlier in the day.

For vehicle renewal, you will need to bring the old registration or renewal card and the mileage. Then, use the kiosk in the DMV to complete the renewal; it should walk you through the process. If you have a veteran's exemption, you can also use it at the kiosk. You may also renew online.

Other online services include applying for a new driver's license, ID card, instruction permit, or driver authorization; address changes; duplicate license, permit, ID, or driver authorization card; driver's license or ID card renewal; driver history printouts; drive test scheduling; vehicle registration renewals; online vehicle registration (eligible vehicles only); insurance updates; plate surrender; and movement permits.

Additionally, paperwork completed by a doctor must explicitly state that it was completed by a doctor. Also, the wording "indefinitely" on paperwork will not work; it must say "permanent" instead.

DMV QUICK TIPS

No appointment needed:

- License plate drop-off
- Past-due debt payments
- VIN inspections

Booking basics:

- Appointments open 24 hours ahead
- Log in before 9 a.m. for best availability
- Gray calendar = fully booked; check again next day

Confirming your spot:

- Confirm within 15 minutes
- Email comes from waitwell.us
- Check spam; notify DMV if nothing arrives

Testing cutoff:

- Written/knowledge testing closes 4 p.m.
- Appointments after 4 p.m. are canceled

Vehicle renewal:

- Bring old registration/renewal card
- Bring mileage
- Use DMV kiosk (veteran's exemption accepted)
- Online renewal available

Online services:

- License/ID/permit applications
- Address changes
- Duplicate license/ID/permit
- License/ID renewals
- Driver history printouts
- Drive test scheduling
- Registration renewals
- Online registration (eligible vehicles only)
- Insurance updates
- Plate surrender
- Movement permits

Paperwork reminders:

- Doctor completed forms must state they were filled out by a doctor
- "Indefinitely" not accepted — Must say "permanent."

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Local Non-Profits Invited to Apply

The Churchill County Mosquito, Vector and Noxious Weed Abatement District is pleased to offer one (1) surplus 10 ft. L x 4 ft. W conference table for donation to a local non-profit organization. This table is a brand-new, unassembled "The Hon Company" boat-shaped conference table, still in the original packaging. Non-profits interested in receiving the table should submit a short letter describing their need and intended use. The table is expected to remain in service with the organization and not be acquired with the intention to resell. Proof of non-profit status required.

For pictures or to see a similar or identical table, please call our office at 775-423-2828.

To be considered as the recipient of the table, please submit letters and proof of status **NO LATER THAN Friday, May 22, 2026** to:

Churchill County Mosquito, Vector, and Noxious Weed Abatement District
P.O. Box 2468
Fallon, NV 89407-2468

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City Council Signs Airport Contract, Updates Fajitas Gourmet License

By Riggin Stonebarger

At its Tuesday, May 5 meeting, the Fallon City Council approved a manager change for Fajitas Gourmet's liquor license and signed a five-year professional services agreement with J-U-B Engineers, Inc. for miscellaneous engineering and planning work at the Fallon Municipal Airport.

Council members first reviewed an application by Valeria Carreto Zapata for a drinking

establishment (on-premise) liquor license and a retail establishment (off-premise) liquor license manager change for Fajitas Gourmet, located at 1125 S. Maine St. The liquor license itself had been approved at the previous meeting, and Tuesday's item involved only the change of manager. With no questions from the council, Councilwoman Karla Kent made the motion, seconded by Councilman Paul Harmon, and the item passed without discussion.

The council then considered the professional services agreement with J-U-B Engineers. Members asked about the length of the contract, noting that the motion did not specify whether it was for one year or five years. City Attorney Trent deBraga clarified that the agreement falls under a five-year-plan and therefore did not require the duration to be included in the motion. The item was approved.

The meeting opened and closed with public comment and included staff reports before adjourning.

School Board Recap From April Meeting

Staff Report

The Churchill County School Board approved a contract for incoming superintendent Blake Cooper and adopted a tentative budget for the next fiscal year during its April 21 meeting, setting the district on track to enter 2027 with a balanced budget.

Trustees opened the meeting with standard procedures — call to order, roll call, verification of agenda posting, and the Pledge of Allegiance — before approving the agenda and moving into public comment, as required under Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

The board recognized Churchill County High School's state archery champions and heard a presentation marking the Month of the Military Child, highlighting the district's connection to Naval Air Station Fallon.

Trustees then received written and verbal updates from district leadership, including enrollment data, human resources activity, and reports from school principals. Superintendent Derild Parsons also provided a general update on district operations.

Business Services, led by Comptroller Amanda Hammond, presented required quarterly reports, including budget-to-actual figures, workers' compensation, student funds, board budget status, and travel expenditures.

The board reviewed upcoming events, including graduation ceremonies and academic award nights scheduled for May and early June.

Trustees approved the consent agenda in a single vote, covering personnel actions, vouchers, payroll, prior meeting minutes, and budget

transfers. They also approved updated bylaws for the district's Title VI Parent Advisory Committee.

Following a closed session for negotiations, trustees unanimously approved Cooper's contract. The agreement includes a two-year term beginning July 1, 2026, with the board set to consider a one- or two-year extension before July 2027. The contract ties the superintendent's annual step increase to those provided to bargaining units, meaning he would not receive a step increase in years when employees do not.

Cooper addressed the board after the vote, emphasizing his ties to the community and his commitment to leading the district with integrity.

Trustees also approved employment contracts for a human resource analyst and the director of student services.

In other business, the board accepted a proposal for employee insurance coverage for the 2026-27 fiscal year. The plan includes a 7.7% increase in health insurance premiums, along with smaller increases for dental and vision coverage.

One of the most significant items of the evening was the adoption of the district's tentative budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. District leaders said the budget is built on conservative assumptions and avoids reliance on one-time federal funds that have expired.

Hammond noted that the budget accounts for declining enrollment and other shifting factors while maintaining priority programs. Trustees repeatedly described the document as "solid" and based on realistic projections.

The district has taken steps in recent years to control costs, including managing staffing levels

and prioritizing essential services. Even so, trustees raised concerns about long-term sustainability. One board member warned that fiscal year 2028 could be "tight" if spending discipline slips.

Much of the pressure comes from state funding formulas. Administrators pointed to reductions in funding for at-risk students due to changes in qualification criteria, as well as ongoing challenges in funding special education services. In one example, the district previously received significantly more funding for at-risk students before changes in state calculations reduced that support by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Special education funding also remains a concern, as state formulas only fully fund services up to a certain percentage of students, leaving districts to absorb additional costs.

Despite these challenges, trustees noted that Churchill County is among the few districts in Nevada entering the next fiscal year with a balanced budget. The tentative budget was approved unanimously.

The board also conducted a first reading of several policies, including those related to budget development, personnel complaints, attendance, and student enrollment. Some policies are being recommended for deletion or renumbering as part of ongoing cleanup and alignment with current regulations.

Trustees discussed forming a facilities-naming committee and identified topics for a board subcommittee focused on assessment and accountability to pursue in the future.

The meeting concluded with additional public comment and a second closed session related to labor negotiations.

Senior Coalition Discusses Fair Feedback, Approves Reimbursement

By Sydney Trainor

On Monday, May 4, the Coalition for Senior Citizens reviewed feedback from its recent aging adult resource fair and discussed upcoming senior activities, outreach efforts, and ongoing programs during its monthly meeting.

Board members reflected on the March 26 resource fair, describing it as successful and noting strong participation and community interest. They discussed possible improvements for future fairs, including adjusting the schedule to better coordinate with the senior center's lunch service, increasing outreach, and starting planning earlier. Members also considered whether the fair should be held annually or multiple times per year.

Additional discussion focused on feedback from attendees, vendors, and board members. Suggestions included adding more medically related services, hearing providers, and possibly dental participation. Members also talked about improving advertising through flyers, radio promotion, mailing lists, and social media outreach. Some participants felt there were too many sweet snacks and suggested offering more savory options. The board also discussed sending thank-you notes to participating organizations and vendors and exploring custom coalition cards for future events.

Board members reviewed the coalition's afternoon movie program for seniors and discussed ways to improve advertising and attendance. Ideas included placing flyers at local businesses, the library, and retirement communities, and promoting screenings through Facebook and email lists. Members said turnout often depends on the movie selection and noted that seniors enjoy the free soda, popcorn, and social atmosphere.

The board also approved reimbursing \$176.34 for vending machine supplies. Members discussed changing the reimbursement process so requests would not need to be presented to the full board each meeting, and suggested adding a future agenda item to formally authorize the change.

The coalition also talked about ideas for future senior activities and holiday events, including handing out carnations for Mother's Day and organizing another root beer float event. Members discussed planning a future event around the Fourth of July and transportation needs, including possible van use for senior activities.

During old business, members received an update on the "Pay It Forward" program and noted that the coalition was not selected this year. They agreed to keep the program on future agendas and continue pursuing the opportunity.

Suggestions included adding more medically related services, hearing providers, and possibly dental participation.



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COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, April 28, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

By Teresa Moon

Jacob Robert Strock did not appear for his scheduled Status Hearing. Judge Stockard issued a \$74,000 warrant.

Nicole Marie Griffin pleaded no contest to gross misdemeanor Battery on an Officer, Provider of Health Care, School Employee, Taxicab Driver, Transit Operator, or Sports Official, punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000.

Defense Attorney Charles Woodman said his client has obtained her behavioral health evaluation, which he will provide to the court by next week. Woodman said he would be asking Griffin to be placed in the Western Nevada Regional Specialty Court program. Stockard set sentencing for May 19.

David Steven Haskin appeared for a Status Hearing. Brenda Ingram with Court Services told the court Haskin failed to appear for testing twice in April, once stating he was going to the doctor and once to the hospital. Two days later, he provided hospital paperwork showing there was sufficient time for him to appear for testing. He was then asked to test, but eventually walked out, stating he was not feeling well and was going to the hospital. He later reported he had checked himself into the Mallory substance abuse treatment center in Carson City, and staff confirmed he appeared to be there for detox. A week later, he tested positive and admitted to drinking alcohol.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker said Haskin has continually violated the conditions of his release in Justice Court and now in District Court. She said he needs to test, has failed to satisfactorily comply, and has only appeared twice at diversion court before failing to return.

Defense Attorney Charles Woodman told the court that his client has been an alcoholic for a long time and expressed support for Haskin checking himself in for detox. Woodman stated the defense had no concerns regarding Haskin testing that day and acknowledged concerns about the direction of the case. The defense requested one more week out of custody to demonstrate he could remain sober. Woodman said Haskin has Stage IV cancer and has a treatment scheduled for Thursday.

Judge Stockard ordered a drug test, which showed positive for substances Haskin is prescribed. He was remanded to custody and will be released for his appointment on Thursday, after which he is to return to custody.

Ryan Ty Fischer, in custody, pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Burglary of a Business, a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000.

Churchill County Deputy Public Defender (DPD) Kenneth Tedford told the court his client will admit to two violations: a first violation for several drugs, including methamphetamine (Fischer denied use at the last hearing), and a second violation for alcohol.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker told the court that Fischer entered Walmart with a co-defendant, took a 55-inch television, and exited through the automotive center. Law enforcement later went to Fischer's residence, where the television was recovered. She stated this is not acceptable behavior and that theft harms the community by impacting pricing. The State asked for 30 days in jail or 60 days of house arrest, with an underlying sentence of 364 days in jail; that a substance abuse evaluation be completed; and that a condition of probation be that Fischer remain clean and sober for one year.

Tedford joined in requesting probation for Fischer, specifically 60 days of house arrest in lieu of 30 days in jail. He said his client is in a position of change and has spent several weeks in jail reflecting on how he wants to move forward.

Fischer apologized for his actions and told the court, "I am accountable for my actions, and I would just like to show the court that I can remain sober."

Fischer was found guilty of direct contempt for appearing in court under the influence and denying it. He was sentenced to 13 days in jail and received credit for 13 days served.

Judge Stockard granted Fischer probation on a suspended sentence of 364 days in jail, with the condition that he serve 30 days in jail. Stockard told Fischer that he had a history of being dishonest, stating, "My inclination was 180 days." He added that Fischer has used legitimate medical conditions to cover his use of illegal drugs and ordered that his probation officer be made aware of his history of dishonesty.

Brianne Katrine Hansen, in custody, pleaded guilty to the Category C felony of Offer, Attempt, or Commission of an Unauthorized Act Relating to a Controlled or Prohibited Substance, punishable by 1–5 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000.

The factual basis for the charge indicated that Hansen sold 7.4 grams of methamphetamine.

Regarding bail, DDA Priscilla Baker noted the defendant tested positive for methamphetamine and initially denied use, stating she would take responsibility. At that point, Hansen conferred with her attorney and admitted she had used methamphetamine. Baker said Hansen was previously released on her own recognizance, returned to custody after testing positive, was again released on her own recognizance, and then violated again. The state asked that bail be set at \$30,000.

DPD Kenneth Tedford III told the court his client is now a felon and agreed that her track record is not strong. Tedford noted Hansen has struggled with addiction for 20 years. The defense requested release with stricter Court Services supervision.

Judge Stockard set bail at \$10,000, ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigative report, and set sentencing for July 7.

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EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

By Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD

CCHS



Students in Alex Manskie's class place eggs in incubators for a real time science project.

Students and staff were invited into an engaging, real-time science experience in Alex Manskie's classroom, where 60 chicken eggs were incubated. Throughout the week, visitors had the opportunity to observe embryo development inside the eggs, including visible movement and the formation of the cardiovascular system.

"I love this activity because it is a great opportunity for me to provide students and staff with a rare look at life science in action, turning my classroom into an evolving window into early development," Manskie said.

CCMS

The Drama Llamas have spent the year building musical theater skills through hard work, creativity, and collaboration. Their recent showcase, Curtain Call Café, highlighted months of preparation with a full cast musical number, along with monologues, duets, solos, and small-group performances that demonstrated their growing stage presence and confidence.

"It is my honor to work with them, to teach them how to memorize lines and develop a stage

presence. I am so proud of their hard work, and enjoy getting to be on stage with them as well," teacher Amanda Peterson said.

NUMA

Numa Elementary recently hosted a Scripps-sanctioned Spelling Bee where the top spellers from fourth grade: William Caraway, Gemma Mountcastle, and Scarlett MacDougall; and fifth grade: Maddex Albury, Rori Renfro, and Anakin Ross, competed to determine who would represent their school at the Scripps State Spelling Bee in Las Vegas.

Albury and Caraway went on to represent the school at the state level, competing against some of Nevada's best. Both students rose to the challenge and performed exceptionally well. Numa is proud of all students who participated for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to academic excellence.

E.C. BEST



Ryder Ferguson and Victoria Miranda work on a U.S. geography activity in Christine Mori's classroom after SBAC testing.

Third grade students have been working hard over the past two weeks, completing the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) testing, beginning with math and followed by reading. After testing, students continued their learning through meaningful activities that built background knowledge and extended their

understanding in new ways.

One example includes students Ryder Ferguson and Victoria Miranda expanding their knowledge of U.S. geography in Christine Mori's classroom by completing a puzzle. With testing now complete, students should be proud of the focus, effort, and perseverance they demonstrated throughout the process. They stayed engaged, worked hard, and gave their best each day, showing true commitment to their learning.

LAHONTAN



Winona Gonzalez, Emma Dudley, Sterling Souza, and Rhyatt Dukes Kummer stand with a LEGO peacock sculpture in Sean Kenney's Brick Masters Studio exhibit at the Discovery Museum in Reno.

All kindergarten classes recently visited the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum in Reno for a hands-on day of learning and exploration. Students experienced a variety of interactive exhibits, including Awesome Art Factory, Amazing Animals, Patel Exploration Gallery, Spark! Lab Smithsonian, and Cloud Climber, each offering opportunities to explore science, art, engineering, and creative problem-solving.

They also got to see the special traveling exhibit Brick Masters Studio, an immersive experience featuring LEGO sculptures by artist Sean Kenney that blends creativity and science.

"The students had a wonderful time. We are so grateful to everyone who signed up for Box Tops for Education, which allowed this to happen. I'd also like to thank all of my parent chaperones for helping us make the most out of our day," teacher Shannon Windriver said.

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EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera, with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: JAY FREDERICK



Oasis Academy senior Jay Frederick.

Graduating senior Jay Frederick and his dog, Rex, have been an integral part of the Oasis Academy community ever since he started at the school in his freshman year.

Transferring to Oasis Academy brought some initial uncertainty.

“When I got to Oasis, I thought it would be hard, but it turned out not to be too bad,” he said.

During his time at Oasis, he stayed active both in and out of the classroom. He was a dedicated member of the cross-country team, participating all four years, and also explored his creative side through a variety of art classes.

“I took a lot of art classes. I enjoyed them—my favorite was Water-Color 1 with Mrs. Jill Oglesbee,” he said.

Frederick’s favorite academic subject was science.

“My favorite class was biology because I got to see and learn about all animals,” he said.

That love for animals will lead him into his career after graduation. After earning his diploma in May, he would like to enter the workforce and pursue a career doing what he loves as a horse trainer.

Some of his most memorable experiences came from hands-on and collaborative activities. One standout memory was a unique student-led project.

“My favorite memory is making dino nuggets for high school lunches to sell. We all had #nuglife T-shirts with a dino nugget on it,” he recalled.

Throughout his high school career, he found support and encouragement from several teachers and mentors who made a lasting impact on him.

“I would like to thank Ms. Jackie Bogdanowicz, Mr. David Springfield, and Mrs. Oglesbee,” he said. “Mr. Springfield is a great history teacher, and we had a lot of fun history projects. Ms. Bogdanowicz taught biology really well, and I enjoyed participating in Ag Day. Mrs. Oglesbee is a great art teacher—she has a lot of creative

ideas, and I loved her watercolor class.”

He also gave special recognition to additional staff members who helped guide him along the way.

“I’d also like to especially thank Ms. Christine Barnhouse and Mrs. Jennifer Blakemore, who were there whenever I needed them. They helped when I had questions and made me do the work,” he shared.

As he prepares to graduate, this Oasis Academy senior leaves behind a legacy of perseverance, participation, and appreciation for the people and experiences that shaped his high school years.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: TRENTON ALDRICH

As graduation approaches, one Oasis Academy senior is looking ahead to a hands-on future built on the skills he developed during his time in school.

“After graduation, I plan to go to Phoenix, Arizona, and attend Universal Technical Institute (UTI) to get a degree in motorcycle mechanics,” he said.

In addition to earning his high school diploma, Aldrich will also graduate with an Associate of Applied Science degree in welding through Western Nevada College. Welding has been an important part of his school career and was his favorite class.

“I would say my favorite class would be welding because it helped me develop new skills I could use,” he explained.

Aldrich began at Oasis Academy as a sophomore in high school, and his start wasn’t easy.

“I would go to my classes, and I would usually sit by myself when I first got to Oasis because I didn’t have any friends,” he shared.

Over time, however, that changed.

“After meeting people, we would hang out in the parking lot between classes, and sometimes we would work on one of our trucks because there was always something wrong with one of them,” Aldrich said.

Some of those moments turned into lasting memories.

“One of my favorite memories was between classes. Talon and I cut off his exhaust on his truck in the middle of the school parking lot,” he recalled.

A key part of his success came from the support of Mr. Andy Lenon, who helped keep him on track.

“I would like to thank Mr. Lenon for helping me and making sure I was on the right track for passing my classes so I could graduate,” he said.

Aldrich leaves future students with straightforward advice.

“Do your schoolwork on time,” he said.

HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS MEMBERS

On Thursday, April 29, members of the National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) proudly welcomed their newest inductees. Thirty-eight students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grades were inducted into NJHS, and eight high school students were inducted into NHS.

The event highlighted the organization’s four pillars—scholarship, leadership, service, and character—which each member is expected to uphold. Students and staff celebrated the inductees’ achievements and commitment to making a positive impact both in school and the community.

During the National Honor Society ceremony, students heard from Churchill County CASA Program Manager Shana Plount about the meaning of selfless service and the importance of looking out for and helping one another. As a testament to that service, this last year Oasis NHS students volunteered a total of 554 hours—an average of 29 hours per member.

“I am extremely grateful to our teachers, such as Mrs. Julie Stockard and Mrs. Racquel Feest, who recognize the value of honor society programs and make time to mentor our next generation of leaders,” said Dane Nott, K-12 School Leader.

“These programs promote academic excellence, leadership, service, and character development among our students. Additionally, these programs encourage students to give back to their communities while building skills that prepare them for college and future careers. Supporting the NHS also fosters a positive school culture by recognizing and motivating high achieving students,” Nott added.

Inductees for National Junior Honor Society included: Hayes Allegre, Avery Baker, Logan Butcher, Kayden Coday, Elijah Davis, Ben Frey, Wesley Griffin, Hailey Hibel, Gemma Lambson, Zachary Lemieux, Bailey Lewis, Alexandra Manzo, Maylee McKnight, Madison Mello, Grace Miller, Kathryn Preston, Lauren Rule, Juniper Sorensen, Harmonie Brooks, Connor Butcher, Madelyn Byrd, Lilianna Freeman, Antonio Garcia, Zander Merritt, Victoria Molatore, Elijah Morgan, Alaina Oyler, Allison Whitaker, Gabriela de Leon, Cadence Garber, Preston Gurr, Jake Nichols, Sadie Nuttall, Alyssa Oyler, Odin Roose, Alana Santos, Mackenzie Schoenmeier, Connor Tolman.

Inductees for the National Honor Society included: Bailey Beebe, Amberlyn Casey, Keagan Coday, Stevie Hiskett, Asher Irving, Mason Jardine, Wyatt Ricks, and Crew Schank.

Veritas Preparatory School

Classical and Christian

Students Step Back in Time for Medieval Feast

By David Ernst

Last Thursday, students in Mrs. Felte’s third- and fourth grade class at Veritas Preparatory School traded their desks for a royal court as they celebrated the culmination of their yearlong study of the Middle Ages with an immersive Medieval Feast.

Each student was assigned a medieval role — king, queen, jester, cupbearer, or another member of the court — and dressed to match their character. One student even played a knight plotting a conspiracy to overthrow the king. Flowing gowns, tunics, crowns, and cloaks filled the room, creating an atmosphere that brought the era to life.

As they assumed their roles, students practiced proper etiquette, addressed one another according to rank, and experienced the structure and traditions of a medieval court.

“The students truly acted their parts,” Felte said. “The king issued decrees. The queen interviewed her ladies to help unravel the conspiracy. Everyone performed very well.”

The highlight of the day was the Medieval Feast, where students



Queen Dixie with Minstrels Emery & Lilly.

gathered to enjoy a shared meal inspired by the time period. Seated according to their roles, the king and queen presided over the table while members of the court followed the customs and traditions they had studied.

Following the feast, students moved outdoors for medieval games of skill, including jousting, sword fighting, and catapult building. Using safe, student friendly equipment, participants tested their balance, coordination, and bravery in friendly competition.

The Medieval Feast reflects Veritas’ commitment to hands on, experiential learning. By combining academic study with creative activities, students gain a deeper understanding of historical periods and the people who lived in them.

Students ended the day with full stomachs, happy memories, and a deeper appreciation for history — proof that at Veritas, learning is not only meaningful but unforgettable.

Weekly Highlights at Logos Christian Academy

Logos Christian Academy Eighth Grader Austin Mills’ Reflection

By Brenna Goings with photos courtesy of Logos.

What are you most proud of from your time at Logos Christian Academy? I’m proud to graduate eighth grade and make it through the year!

What Bible verse or spiritual lesson has impacted you the most? Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

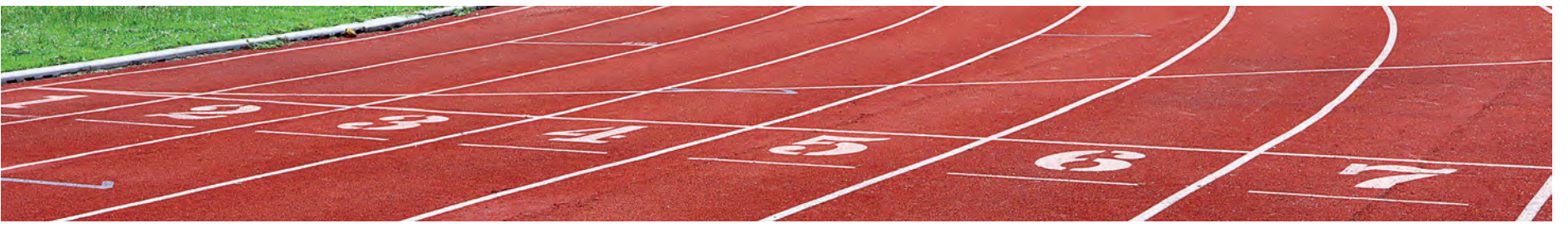
What are you most excited about as you begin this next chapter? To meet new people in high school and to make new memories.

Is there anything you would like to say to those who helped you through your journey? Thanks to my parents for making me do my classwork when I didn’t want to.



SPORTS

Greenwave Advances to 3A Regionals After Strong Trials Showing



Staff Report

On Saturday, May 2, the Churchill County High School varsity track and field team advanced seven athletes in nine individual events at the Northern 3A Trials at Carson High School, earning their spots for next weekend's regional championships.

Senior Bransyn Wright led the Greenwave boys, moving on in both the high jump and long jump after finishing among the top marks in prelims. Junior Nathaniel Bianchi also qualified in two events, advancing in the 300-meter hurdles and long jump, with one of his best hurdle races of the season. Junior Tejae Edie cleared 11 feet to earn his place in the pole vault field. Dequan Wallace also qualified for regionals in the high jump.

For the Greenwave girls, freshman Aubrey Strickland continued her breakout year by advancing in the 1,600 meters, while junior Tommie Fitzer qualified in the 300 meter hurdles.

The Greenwave throwers delivered one of the program's strongest combined showings of the meet. Sophomore Kinsley Viera advanced in both the shot put and discus, and senior Katelyn Glinka matched the feat with qualifying marks in both events.

In addition to individual qualifiers, the Greenwave will field three relay teams at regionals:

- Boys 4x100 relay: Bransyn Wright, Nathaniel Bianchi, Dequan Wallace, Wyatt Dixon
- Boys 4x200 relay: Wright, Bianchi, Dixon, Braydon Coldwell
- Girls 4x800 relay: Tommie Fitzer, Aubrey Strickland, Keily Ugalde, Casandra Hooper

Hooper also qualified individually in the 3,200 meters.

REGIONAL QUALIFIERS — THE GREENWAVE

Individual Events

- Bransyn Wright — High jump, long jump
- Nathaniel Bianchi — 300 meter hurdles, long jump

- Tejae Edie — Pole vault
- Aubrey Strickland — 1,600 meters
- Tommie Fitzer — 300 meter hurdles
- Kinsley Viera — Shot put, discus
- Katelyn Glinka — Shot put, discus
- Casandra Hooper — 3,200 meters
- Dequan Wallace — High jump

Relays

- Boys 4x100: Wright, Bianchi, Wallace, Dixon
- Boys 4x200: Wright, Bianchi, Dixon, Coldwell
- Girls 4x800: Fitzer, Strickland, Ugalde, Hooper

LOOKING AHEAD

The Northern 3A Regional Championships will be held next weekend, where the Greenwave will compete for berths to the state meet. The top four finishers in each event will advance to the NIAA Class 3A State Championships, scheduled for May 15-16 at Hug High School.

With multiple multi-event qualifiers, strong field event depth, and three relay teams in the mix, the Greenwave enter regionals with opportunities to score across several disciplines.

BOYS TO WATCH

Bransyn Wright (High jump, long jump): Wright, who has signed with Eastern Washington University to compete in track and field, enters regionals as one of the Northern region's most consistent jumpers. His long jump mark from trials puts him in contention for a top four finish, and the high jump field remains wide open.

Nathaniel Bianchi (300 hurdles, long jump): Bianchi's late season surge in the 300 hurdles gives him a strong chance to advance to state if he can match or improve on his trials performance. His versatility in the long jump adds another scoring opportunity.

Tejae Edie (Pole vault): Edie cleared 11 feet at trials and has been steady all spring. A clean series early could move him into state qualifying position.

Dequan Wallace (High jump): Wallace adds depth to the Greenwave's jumping corps and enters regionals with momentum after qualifying at trials.

GIRLS TO WATCH

Aubrey Strickland (1,600): The freshman has shown strong pacing and consistency throughout the season. A fast early pack could help her drop time and push for a state berth.

Tommie Fitzer (300 hurdles): Fitzer's qualifying mark places her in the middle of the field, but the 300 hurdles is historically volatile. A clean race with strong curve execution could move her into the top four.

Kinsley Viera (Shot put, discus): Viera's steady improvement in both events gives the Greenwave a reliable presence in the ring. She enters regionals with competitive marks in a deep throwing field.

Katelyn Glinka (Shot put, discus): Glinka's discus personal best at trials positions her well for a potential finals push. Her experience adds stability to the Greenwave's field event lineup.

Casandra Hooper (3,200): Hooper's endurance and late race strength make her a contender for a top four finish in the 3,200 meters.

TEAM OUTLOOK

The Greenwave's strength lies in their field events, hurdles, and relays, with multiple athletes capable of advancing to state if they hit their best marks. While the team isn't projected to challenge for a regional title, they bring enough qualifiers to make an impact on the scoreboard and build momentum heading into the final stretch of the postseason.



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SPORTS

Night of Fights Packs Rafter 3C Arena as Local Students Step Into the Ring



James Lofthouse pauses after delivering the only knockout of the night during the annual Night of Fights. Photo by Lori Kaiser.



Green team coach Darren Lewis and judge Sean Lacow before the start of the annual Night of Fights at the Rafter 3C Arena. Photo by Lori Kaiser

Staff Report

A high-energy crowd filled the Rafter 3C Arena on Friday, May 1, as local high school students stepped into the ring for the annual Night of Fights, hosted by the Greenwave Takedown Club. The event, one of the wrestling program's largest fundraisers, drew strong community support for Greenwave Wrestling.

Doors opened at 5 p.m., followed by a VIP catered dinner provided by Fallon Catering at 6 p.m. The first bell rang at 7 p.m., and the arena stayed energized throughout the night as families, classmates, and community members cheered on the student athletes. Banner Churchill Community Emergency Medical Services (EMS) remained on standby throughout the event.

The Green team was coached by Dan Shaw, Lonnie Slapinski, and Darren Lewis. The Black

team was led by Trevor deBraga, Jeff Prinz, and Tim Grady. Announcer Jared Dooley introduced each matchup throughout the night.

Ring officials Bert Serano and John Stritenberger oversaw the action inside the ropes, while Judges Michael Abe, Kobe Abe, Sean Lacow, and Pas Vargas scored each matchup. Ted Guazzini served as the Calcutta auctioneer, adding another layer of excitement as supporters bid on fighters before the bouts began. Round sponsors included Lumos & Associates, Just In Time Heating & Air Conditioning LLC, and The Venue: Troy's Double Shot Event Bar and Catering.

This year's event featured 24 bouts across preliminary, main card, and main event matchups. The top contests included the Boys Main Event between Barry Mitchell (Green) and Ashton McCourtney (Black), the Girls Main Event between Alexa Enriquez (Green) and

Tommie Fitzer (Black), and the Boys Semi-Main featuring Mason Tso (Green) against Kacin Rogne (Black). McCourtney and Fitzer won their bouts by decision, while Rogne earned his victory by split decision.

Across the remaining card, nearly every bout ended in a decision, with only one additional split decision recorded. The lone knockout of the night came from James Lofthouse, who delivered the evening's only stoppage victory.

The full slate showcased a wide range of local student athletes competing across multiple weight classes, each demonstrating preparation and training. The crowd responded throughout the night, rallying behind both teams as the event progressed.

Funds raised from the Night of Fights will support Greenwave Wrestling, helping cover travel, equipment, and training expenses for local athletes.

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COLUMNS

What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen: May is the Month to Try a New Chili Powder

By J Hodnett in for Kelli Kelly

OK, confession time: Nothing makes me happier than a recipe that uses up a bunch of stuff just sitting in the fridge. Because I’m just cooking for myself most of the time, my fridge is constantly haunted by half lemons, quarter cans of beans, tomato remnants, and the ends of onions.

A cheesy, nacho-y skillet not only provides the perfect way to use up all these items, but it also means testing new chili powders and flakes. This month, it was the Churchill County Library’s spice of the month: Low and Slow Chili Powder. If you’d like to try it too, just stop by the library during the month of May to pick up a sample.

Time for confession number two: I have about 10 different chili powders, and I love trying them in different dishes. Some are very spicy, but some are mild and sweet and just as good. I feel silly admitting it, but just smelling the different powders and flakes makes me happy. For much of my life, I thought I didn’t like chile peppers because I don’t like jalapeños, but there are so many more chiles out there to try. And if you don’t like the green (unripened) version, try the ripe version or dried version, each likely with a different name.

Last confession: I don’t like celery or cooked carrots, and use peppers to replace both in recipes, poblanos for celery and red or orange bell peppers for carrots. I always have peppers in the fridge, and that’s what makes this nacho skillet one of my favorite recipes. And the substitutions and combinations are endless. Have half a tomato? Throw it in. A couple of mushrooms that need somewhere to go? Check. Leftover rice? Yes, please. Put the rest of that lonely block of cheese through a grater and call it good.

Nacho Skillet Ingredients:

I love Herdez Salsa Ranchera, but you can use any enchilada or other sauce you like. You might need to increase or decrease the amount depending on how thick you want the dish to be.

- 1-2 tbsp. Olive oil
- 1/2 Medium white onion, chopped
- 1 Poblano pepper, fine dice
- 2 Bell peppers, fine dice
- 2 tsp. Chili powder
- 1 tsp. Smoked paprika
- 1 tsp. Oregano
- 4 cloves Garlic, minced
- 3/4 cup Salsa ranchera (or enchilada sauce)
- 8 oz. Low-sodium black beans
- 1/2 cup Corn kernels
- 1-2 cups Shredded Mexican blend cheese
- 1/2 Lemon
- Avocado
- Chips

DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven broiler, and make sure the oven rack is close to the element. Wash hands.

Heat oven safe skillet on stovetop and add 1 tablespoon of oil. When oil is hot, add onion and peppers. Continue cooking until the onion is soft and translucent. Add more oil if the pan starts to dry and/or burn veggies.

Add chili powder, paprika, oregano, and garlic, and stir for a minute, not letting the garlic brown. Stir in salsa ranchera, black beans, and rice. Squeeze juice from half a lemon over the mixture. Add more salsa ranchera if the mixture is too dry. Let simmer until thickened.



Turn off heat and sprinkle cheese over the top. Move the skillet to the oven and watch closely for the amount of browning you want on the cheese. Remove from the oven and let sit for a few minutes before digging in.

Top with avocado, tortilla strips, fresh onion, or whatever other toppings you like.

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.

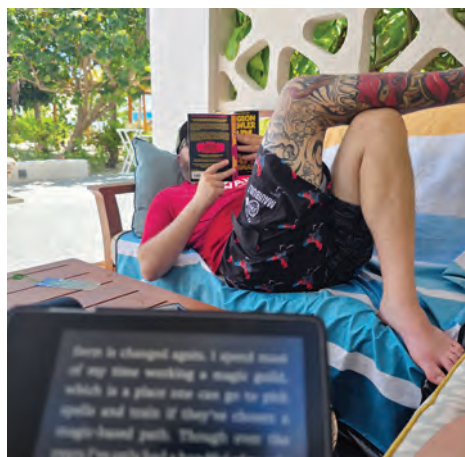
Allison’s Book Report: “Dungeon Crawler Carl” by Matt Dinniman

By Allison Diegel

Last week, my husband and I were getting ready to go away for a few days of lying on the beach, soaking up the sun, and doing absolutely nothing. We intended to relax, so I knew I needed something good to read. My husband has recently discovered the insanity that is the “Dungeon Crawler Carl” series by Matt Dinniman, and he managed to talk me into joining him in the dungeons.

“Dungeon Crawler Carl” perfectly captures an “everything is fine while the world literally ends” energy. The story kicks off in the most absurd way possible: Carl, a guy who’s just trying to navigate a messy breakup, steps outside into the freezing Seattle night wearing nothing but a leather jacket and heart patterned boxers because he’s chasing after his ex-girlfriend’s prize-winning cat, Princess Donut. Suddenly, every man-made structure on Earth collapses, instantly killing billions. It turns out Earth has been harvested by a massive intergalactic corporation to serve as the set for a twisted, livestreamed reality TV show. To survive, Carl and Donut have to enter the World Dungeon, a lethal subterranean obstacle course where the only rule is to keep the audience entertained, or die trying.

The tone is a wild mix of laugh-out-loud slapstick, genuine soul crushing horror, and sharp satire. Carl quickly realizes he’s a “crawler” in a game designed by a foot fetishist AI that seems to have a creepy obsession with his bare feet. Along the way, Donut gets an intelligence upgrade and becomes a self-absorbed, social-media-obsessed magic user who treats the apocalypse



like a very inconvenient press tour. The chemistry between a grumpy, barefoot guy and a talking cat who demands high end tiaras is the heart of the book.

While they navigate floors filled with deranged goblins and nightmare fuel bosses, Dinniman weaves in a biting critique of corporate greed and reality TV culture. You’ll come for the hilarious inventory descriptions and the over the top violence, but you’ll stay because Carl’s slow descent into “I am going to break this entire system” rage is incredibly cathartic. It’s gritty, vulgar, and surprisingly emotional. By the time Carl is blowing up an entire floor while Princess Donut complains about her fan club rankings, you’ll be completely hooked. It’s essentially a high stakes RPG where the dungeon master is a psychopath, and the loot drops are the only thing keeping you from a very messy public execution. Just remember: don’t gaslight the cat.

This week, I encourage you to step out of your box and read something you wouldn’t normally choose, like I did — you might just fall in love with Princess Donut and her bodyguard, Carl, and find yourself knee deep in an eight-book series like I have. 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.

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COLUMNS

Postcards: Earthquake Stories

By Michon Mackedon

Last week I wrote about the dates and sizes of Fallon’s 1954 earthquakes. Since then, I have dug up a few firsthand memories of the quakes, preserved in Oral Histories held in the Churchill County Museum and Archives.

During the 1950s, Margaret Estlow was employed at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, now NAS (Naval Air Station) as a fiscal accountant. Later, in the 1960s, she became Welfare Director for Churchill County. When the July 6, 1954 quake struck, she was living in Fallon: “It was in the middle of the night...And it was a-rolling; it was like the ground did this (up and down waving motion with hand). ...I came to work at NAAS on the morning after the earthquake, and NAAS was a mess because those sailors didn’t know anything about earthquakes and a lot of the lockers had fallen over and there were sailors with broken legs and what have you. [Twelve sailors stationed at NAAS were injured in the quake.] And I went to work and had to have a physical before I went to work. And the doctor was a young physician who had been at sea. And he had to give me a physical examination, so the secretary to the captain had to sit in on it...because he couldn’t examine me without a woman being there. So he starts into giving me this examination and I got tickled because I could see he was so embarrassed and I said, ‘You hate this worse than I do, don’t you?’ And he said, ‘I haven’t seen a woman for two years. I’ve been at sea. You look healthy. I’ll pass you.’ ...So, I went to work the day after the earthquake.”

Cousie Nelson, music teacher in the local schools for many years, was at her home at 727 Williams Avenue (now Just Country Friends) when the July 6 quake struck: “I had my nephew visiting there at the time. And he was only five years old so I rushed in and picked him up out of the bed and stood in a doorway... my son had to fend for himself. However, we had no structural damage in our home. I did have to go over and hold on to the guppy aquarium because the water was sloshing out of it, and the standing lamp was waving around, and some ceramic figures on the fireplace fell off and broke.

...I found out that the fire walls on some of the buildings were gone. I can tell you better what had to be replaced. The second story of the Elks Club had to be replaced. The second story of the Overland Hotel had to be torn down to the first story. ...the Fraternal Hall front building had to be replaced, and the back end of the Fraternal Hall fell off twice and you can see to this day where it was replaced.

We took a ride out in the country, and there was a crack right down the middle of the Stillwater Road going down toward Stillwater. ... The Bank Club had to be torn down on Maine Street, and the Corner Bar had to be torn down.... Most of the chimneys in town that did not have a flue lining had to be replaced.”

Ruth Walker worked for many years in the office of the Churchill County Sheriff: “The San Francisco paper called the sheriff’s office to see how bad it [the earthquake] was, and I answered. They said, ‘Did you feel it?’ And I says, ‘Yes. I couldn’t tell whether I was afloat or afoot. The mortar from between the rocks and this building is clattering down behind the safe.’ I could hear the rocks and there was a couple of places where you could see daylight between the rocks.... One bunch of juveniles—we had four or five boys in there, and they were going to escape. They were picking the mortar out from between the rocks and then they were flushing it down the toilet.”

William “Bill” Boman was a well-known local banker: “We had all those shelves filled with canned fruit. Peaches, pears, apricots, and it [the pantry] has a concrete floor. Even the roof was concrete, and those shelves were emptied.... The canned food just kept [hitting the floor], the glass, everything was broken. It took us a good day shoveling up the glass. It was a very pungent odor in there. Canned fruits a total loss.

Let’s hope the end of the current swarm of quakes is in sight.

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

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



The Power of Healthy Soil

By Colbie Kelle

My name is Colbie Kelle. I am a freshman in Plant Systems II, and our current studies find us underground. We are studying soil, especially the healthy kind. Healthy soil is very important to my family and me. Our family business, Dandelion Express flower shop, relies on healthy soils all around to produce the flowers and houseplants we design.

Having healthy soil in and out of the shop has made many people happy in our town. We send flowers and plants for so many occasions like birthdays, funerals, I’m sorrys, weddings, and so much more.

Healthy soil is essentially the opposite of dirt. Botanists don’t like the term “dirt” when talking about soil because soil is alive. By some estimates, if you grabbed a handful of healthy soil, you would have more living organisms in your hand than you could find in the entire world. Healthy soil is packed with living organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, and small animals like worms, ants, millipedes, and beetles. It is also normally moist and spongy. Dirt, I would say, is normally dry, crumbly, and has little life.

Healthy soil is ideally 45% mineral parts, 25% air, and 25% water. The remaining 5% is microorganisms, roots, and humus. Humus is very good for making healthy soil. It is a dark organic component of soil formed by the partial decomposition of plant and animal matter, such as leaves, twigs, and aged manure.

You may be wondering, why aged manure? If you add fresh manure as fertilizer or organic matter, it could burn plants due to the high nitrogen content in unaged manure. So instead, if you are going to use manure, I recommend it sit and age for three to five years. Actively turning it, adding leaves, twigs, and grass clippings, and lightly adding some water can speed up the process by quite a bit.

Your goal soil is loam. Loam is made up of 40% sand, 40% silt, and 20% clay. Fallon has a lot of sand. This can make it challenging to grow some plants in our area. Our weather can also make it tough to grow some plants.

Another important factor to consider is pH. Some plants need a type of healthy soil with more acid in it, or maybe less. For example, hydrangeas (a type of flower) tend to prefer more acidic soil, while spinach needs less acidic soil. Changing your soil pH can be difficult. One solution is nurturing your soil. Healthy soil acts as a living, breathing ecosystem that filters water, cycles nutrients, and supports plant growth.

Don’t forget to protect your investment; don’t forget to mulch. To keep the soil moist and the temperature regulated, you should use a mulching technique, which involves applying 2 to 3 inches of wood chips, leaves, or straw. Mulch also helps keep your soil in place and prevents it from blowing away in the wind or washing away with erosion.

Did you know many common antibiotics, like streptomycin and tetracycline, are actually sourced from soil organisms? Healthy soil is the foundation of life, providing essential nutrients, sequestering carbon, and fostering biodiversity for a sustainable future.



A soil sample settles into layers during a Plant Systems II lab activity.

Fallon Theatre Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

Happy Mother’s Day weekend. We are celebrating the incredible moms and maternal figures in our community at the Fallon Theatre with a lineup centered on connection and the journey of family. It is the perfect time to gather the influential women in your life, head to the theater, and enjoy two films that highlight the power of these bonds.

At 6 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, we invite you to experience the animated adventure “The Wild Robot” (2024). The film follows Roz, a shipwrecked robot who must adapt to an uninhabited island and bond with local wildlife, eventually becoming the adoptive parent of an orphaned gosling. It is a story of survival and discovery. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour, 42 minutes.

At 7 p.m. both nights, we shift to nostalgic comedy with “Freaky Friday” (2003). Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan star as a mother and daughter who switch bodies after a magical fortune cookie forces them to live each other’s lives. As they navigate each other’s routines, they must reconcile their differences before the change becomes permanent. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour, 37 minutes.

Looking ahead, we are anticipating the re-

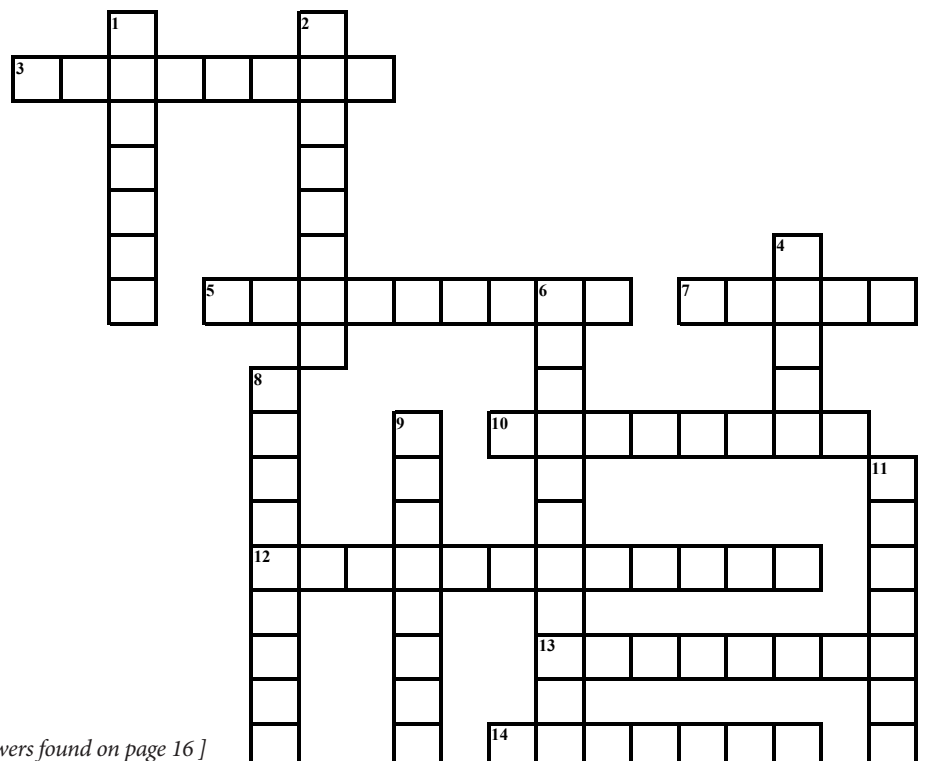
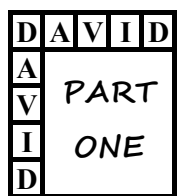
turn of the Toiyabe Chamber Music Society on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. for its Loneliest Road Chamber Music Project. The Berkeley String Quartet will perform a program featuring Schubert’s “Death and the Maiden” and works by Beethoven, accompanied by projected images. Admission is by donation, and families are encouraged to attend for an evening of live music.

As summer approaches, we are preparing to welcome Ventura Highway: The Music of America on Saturday, July 18 at 8 p.m. This concert brings the harmonies and classics of the band America to our stage, offering a timeless sound that continues to resonate with audiences. Tickets are \$10, making it an accessible way to enjoy a night of live music as we head into the sunny season.

We remain proud to serve as your community hub for film and live performances. Be sure to visit our concession stand for fresh popcorn and your favorite treats to complete your moviegoing experience. If you are interested in renting the theater for a private event or would like to see your name in lights on our marquee, please reach out. You can call 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com for more information. We look forward to seeing you this weekend.

Crossword

By Peanut



Across

- 3. 19th century US admiral
- 5. Israeli prime minister
- 7. TV host/journalist
- 10. Chet Huntley’s partner
- 12. British naturalist
- 13. American suspense novelist
- 14. English footballer

Down

- 1. American jazz pianist
- 2. Fox Mulder
- 4. Ziggy Stardust
- 6. Fitch’s partner
- 8. Kung Fu’s Grasshopper
- 9. Angel, Agent Seely Booth
- 11. Partridge Family son

[Crossword answers found on page 16]

LEGAL NOTICES

FP0006

City of Fallon
Laura Mills Park Upgrade
PWP No. CH-2026-332
CDBG Grant No. 26/PF/02

Fallon, NV

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed Bids for the construction of the **Laura Mills Park Upgrade** will be received by **Lumos and Associates**, the **Engineer**, at the City of Fallon Administration Offices located at **55 West Williams Ave, Fallon, Nevada 89406** until **2:00 PM**, local time, on **Tuesday, May 26, 2026**, at which time the Bids received will be **publicly** opened and read aloud.

The Work consists of performing or providing all labor, services, and documentation necessary to produce such construction and furnishing, installing, and incorporating all materials and equipment into such construction, all as required by the Contract Documents.

The Work generally includes but is not limited to: various concrete improvements, such as, replacement of existing or install new sidewalk, post curb, utility adjustments to finish grade, signage replacement, installation of new pavilion structure, and installation of playground equipment.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Owner: City of Fallon
 55 W. Williams Ave.
 Fallon, Nevada 89406

Issuing Office: Lumos & Associates, Inc.
 178 South Maine Street
 Fallon, Nevada 89406

The Contract Documents may be examined and obtained on **Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 10:00 AM** at the following location:

ENGINEER: www.lumosinc.com/planroom - **Plan Room (Hosted by Quest CDN)**

A non-refundable deposit of **\$25.00** will be charged to log into the plan room to obtain each set of Plans and Contract Documents.

A pre-bid conference will be held at **2:00 p.m.** local time on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**, at **Fallon City Hall, 55 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada 89406**. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is highly encouraged but is not mandatory.

This is a Federal-aid contract and the requirements for such shall apply. On a Federal-aid contract, any Contractor otherwise qualified by the State of Nevada to perform such work is not required to be licensed nor to submit application for license in advance of submitting a bid or having such bid considered. This does not constitute a waiver of the State's right under its license laws to require a Contractor, determined to be a successful bidder, to be licensed to do business in the State of Nevada with a Class A prior to award of the contract.

Bid security shall be furnished in accordance with Section 00200, Instructions to Bidders. Each Bid must be submitted on the prescribed form (separate Bid package) and accompanied by a certified check or Bid Bond in accordance with Section 00200. Successful Bidders will be required to furnish both a Payment Bond and Performance Bond in the full amount of the contact price.

The **Owner** will not award the Contract to a Bidder who, at the time of submitting a Bid, was not properly licensed under the provisions of Chapter 624 of NRS or if the Contract would exceed the limit of the Bidder's license. Bidders shall submit proof of qualifications to perform the Work as described in the Instructions to Bidders.

This project is funded with federal Community Development Block Grant Funds and is subject to federal labor standards which includes Davis Bacon wage rates, BABA requirements, and Section 3 requirements. Section 3 Business Concerns as well as minority and women owned businesses are encouraged to apply.

Owner: City of Fallon
 By: **Brian Byrd**
 Title: **Public Works Director**
 Date: **May 5, 2026**

Published in the Fallon Post
 May 8, 15 and 22, 2026
 (Churchill)

Legal No FP0007

Madison Orozco
 Self-Represented Petitioner

DISTRICT COURT
CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA

In the matter of the application of:
 Madison M. Orozco

For the Correction of Birth Certificate an Issuance of New Birth Certificate.

CASE NO. 26-10DC-0459
 DEPT. 1

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was filed in the above-entitled Court requesting that the Court legally change applicant's name from

Madison Mckeinze Orozco
 to:
 Madison Mckenzie Orozco


The applicant submitted a statement signed under penalty of perjury that the applicant is not changing his or her name for a fraudulent purpose.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person objecting to the changing of applicant's name shall file written objection with the above-entitled Court within 10 days after the publication of this Notice.

Dated April 21st, 2026.

Submitted By: /s/ Madison Orozco

Published in the Fallon Post
 May 8, 2026
 (Churchill)



CHURCHILL COUNTY MOSQUITO, VECTOR, AND NOXIOUS WEED ABATEMENT DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

PLACE OF MEETING:
 Churchill County Administration Complex
 155 North Taylor, Fallon, Nevada,
 Room 102

DATE:
 Thursday, May 21, 2026

TIME:
 5:30 P.M.

TYPE OF MEETING:
 Formal Budget Review and Approval
 TYP

A tentative budget has been prepared in such detail and on appropriate forms as Prescribed by the State of Nevada Department of Taxation. Copies of the tentative budget are on file and available for public inspection at the District facility at: 7400 Reno Hwy., Fallon, NV 89406.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE PROPERTY SALE
 Churchill County Treasurer
 Will be conducting an online sale of delinquent tax properties to be held on **Thursday, May 14 thru Friday, May 15, 2026**
 Bidding will begin at 8:00 AM on May 14th and conclude at 12:00 PM on May 15th
 The auction website is www.Bid4Assets.com/Churchill
 See website for registration and bidding instructions

PARCEL #	ASSESSED OWNERS	ACREAGE	LOCATION	LAND USE	MIN BID
001-671-06	MEEKER, OLEN JR	0.161	198 W PARK ST	200	REDEEMED
004-351-37	NICHOLS W & J, FROSDICK T & P	17.041	SECTION 6 TOWNSHIP 23 RANGE 36	800	\$ 275.21
005-251-06	REMPEL, HUGO H ET AL	20.662	SECTION 13 TOWNSHIP 24 RANGE 35	800	\$ 1,128.19
005-251-08	REMPEL, HUGO H ET AL	20.662	SECTION 24 TOWNSHIP 24 RANGE 35	800	\$ 1,128.19
005-571-03	REMPEL, HUGO H ET AL	20.406	SECTION 35 TOWNSHIP 25 RANGE 36	800	\$ 1,157.16
005-571-04	REMPEL, HUGO H ET AL	20.406	SECTION 35 TOWNSHIP 25 RANGE 36	800	\$ 361.64
006-122-39	HOUSE OF SHALOM	20.750	15000 DUN MOVIN WAY	100	\$ 1,479.31
006-122-64	HOUSE OF SHALOM	19.900	SECTION 11 TOWNSHIP 18 RANGE 26	285	\$ 1,360.34
007-091-28	WAGONER, MARILYN O ET AL	160.000	SECTION 33 TOWNSHIP 19 RANGE 27	100	\$ 4,235.58
007-551-26	SWIFT, INGRID C ET AL	29.970	1435 N HARMON RD	282	\$ 4,216.16
008-752-15	GRAY, KEVIN	1.000	1177 ARROWHEAD LN	230	\$ 2,684.17

For more information regarding this tax sale please visit the website at www.Bid4Assets.com/Churchill

If you have any questions regarding this information or the tax sale, please contact us email: taxes@churchillcountynv.gov or phone: (775) 423-6028

TAXPAYER'S NOTICE

This notice is not a bill for taxes due. The notice is intended to provide information concerning the adoption of budgets and tax rates for the various taxing entities within Churchill County for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026. Public hearings will be held to receive opinions from members of the public on the proposed tentative budgets and tax rates before any action is taken by the entities. Copies of the budgets are on file with the various entities for public inspection.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF DATES, TIMES, AND PLACES WHEN THESE HEARINGS WILL BE HELD:

DATE/TIME/CONTACT	PLACE	PROPOSED RATE
May 20, 2026 @ 8:15 AM Churchill County Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer	Churchill County Admin. Bldg. Commission Chambers 155 N. Taylor St. Fallon, NV 89406 (775) 423-6028	1.2829
May 20, 2026 @ 6:30 PM Carson Water Subconservancy District Reed Cozens, General Manager	CWSD Conference Room 777 E. Williams Suite 209 Carson City, NV 89701 (775) 887-7450	0.0300
May 21, 2026 @ 5:30 PM Churchill County Mosquito, Vector, & Noxious Weed Abatement District JD MacKay, District Manager	Churchill County Admin. Bldg. 155 No. Taylor St. #102 Fallon, Nevada 89406 (775) 423-2828	0.0800
May 28, 2026 @ 9:00 AM City of Fallon Michael O'Neill, City Clerk/Treasurer	Fallon City Hall Council Chambers 55 W. Williams Ave. Fallon, Nevada 89406 (775) 423-5104	0.7971
May 19, 2026 @ 5:30 PM Churchill County School District Derild Parsons, Superintendent	District Offices 890 So. Maine Street Fallon, Nevada 89406 (775) 423-5184	1.3000
Total Combined Tax Rate	City of Fallon	3.6600
Total Combined Tax Rate	Churchill County	2.8629

The State of Nevada Constitution limits the property tax rate at 5.00 per \$100 of assessed value. The current statutory tax rate is 3.66 per \$100 assessed value as determined by NRS 361.225. Assessed value is 35% of the total appraised value conducted by the Assessor. Appraised value equals full cash value for land and buildings at replacement cost, less depreciation. Taxes are calculated by multiplying the assessed value by the tax rate for your district. NRS 361.4722 and NRS 361.4723 provide property tax caps and abatements. The tax rates will be used to calculate your liability; however, your tax bill will reflect all applicable abatements.

For more tax rate and assessment information see website: www.churchillcountynv.gov

County Assessor Denise Felton (775) 423-6584
 155 No. Taylor St., Suite 200
 Fallon, NV 89406

County Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery (775) 423-6028
 155 No. Taylor St., Suite 110
 Fallon, NV 89406

CROSSWORD ANSWERS
 Crossword found on page 15

ABERCROMBIE	BRINKLEY
ATTENBOROUGH	BRUBECK
BALDACCI	CARRADINE
BECKHAM	CASSIDY
BENGURIAN	DUCHOVNY
BOREANAZ	FARRAGUT
BOWIE	FROST




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A special thank You to our subscribers!

Researchers from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory are seeking participants for a 2.5-hour focus group. You will receive a \$100 Visa gift card, and food will be served. The discussion will focus on opinions of geothermal energy and how the siting and development process could be improved. The results will inform the recommendations for regulations and processes for the development of geothermal energy. No prior knowledge is required. This study is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The focus groups will be held May 11 and 12 at the Churchill County Administrative Complex from 5:30-8 p.m. You must register in advance and be 18 years old to participate.

Scan the QR code to apply.
Email stakeholder.research@PNNL.gov or call 509-375-6462 for more information.

THE FALLON POST

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FRI GATE OPENS...8AM-8PM / TNT...10AM - 7PM
SAT GATE OPENS...7AM / ET #1 STARTS...8:30AM

MAY 28-31 POINTS #2 / #3
THU PARKING NOON...8PM
FRI GATE OPENS...7AM
WEEKEND PARTICIPANT ONLY T-N-T 10AM...6PM
SAT GATE OPENS...7AM / ET #2 STARTS...8:30AM
SUN GATE OPENS...7AM / ET #3...STARTS 8AM

JUN 19-21 POINTS #4 / #5
FRI GATE OPENS...8AM-8PM / TNT...10AM - 7PM
SAT GATE OPENS...7AM / ET #4 STARTS...8:30AM
SUN GATE OPENS...7AM / ET #5 STARTS...8:30AM

JUL 10-12 POINTS #6 / #7
FRI GATE OPENS...4PM / ET #6 STARTS...8PM
SAT GATE OPENS...4PM / ET #7 STARTS...8PM

SEP 11-13 POINTS #8 / #9
FRI GATE OPENS...8AM-8PM / TNT...10AM - 7PM
SAT GATE OPENS...7AM / ET #8 STARTS...8:30AM
FALLON 660 / PACIFIC TRIPLE CROWN #4
SUN GATE OPENS...7AM / ET #9 STARTS...8:30AM
PACIFIC TRIPLE CROWN #5

SEP 25-27 POINTS #10
FRI GATE OPENS NOON
T-N-T...2PM - 7PM / GAMBLER...4PM
SAT GATE OPENS...7AM / ET #10 STARTS...8:30AM
KING OF THE TRACK RACE...3PM
SUN GATE OPENS...7AM
150 GAMBLERS STARTS...8:30AM

NOR CAL NOSTALGIA
MAY 15-16
FRI GATE OPENS...8AM-8PM
QUALIFYING SESSIONS...1PM - 4PM - 6PM
SAT GATE OPENS...7AM / ELIMINATIONS...10AM

NHRA NHRA D7 NATIONAL OPEN
THU PARKING NOON...8PM
FRI GATE OPENS...7AM
WEEKEND PARTICIPANT T-N-T...10AM - 6PM
SAT GATE OPENS...7AM / LANES OPEN...8AM
SUN GATE OPENS...7AM / LANES OPEN...8AM

NHRA JDRL SERIES EVENT
MAY 28-31 RACE #11 / #12
THU PARKING NOON...8PM
FRI GATE OPENS...7AM
WEEKEND PARTICIPANT T-N-T...10AM - 6PM
SAT GATE OPENS...7AM / LANES OPEN...8AM
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2025 Payouts
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Jr Dragster \$50 W+ \$25 RU+ Sponsor Trophy

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Motorcycle ET class: under 5 pays Win & RU only. Payouts under 6 will be pro-rated
Payouts are formulated from RD 1
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Special prices may apply for specific events

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