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Churchill County Welcomes Historic Pony Express Re-Ride



Jillian Wolgast of Fallon carries the America 250 commemorative flag as the annual Pony Express Re-Ride arrives at historic Cold Springs Station about 7 p.m. Tuesday. Moments later, the Pony Express mochila continued west through Churchill County on its journey to California. Photo by Bob Clifford.

By Bob Clifford

The pounding of hooves echoed across the Nevada desert Tuesday evening as the annual Pony Express Re-Ride arrived at historic Cold Springs Station, where local riders, volunteers, and spectators gathered to welcome one of the American West's most enduring traditions back to Churchill County.

The relay reached Cold Springs Station at about 7 p.m. June 23 with Fallon resident Jillian Wolgast carrying an America 250 commemorative flag. Close behind, another rider carried the Pony Express mochila — the leather mail pouch that became the symbol of the nation's first fast mail service.

The stop at Cold Springs carried special significance. Established in 1860 along the Central Overland Route, Cold Springs Station was one of the original Pony Express stations and remains an important waypoint during the annual re-ride.

Each June, the National Pony Express Association organizes the relay across the original Pony Express route between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. The nearly 2,000-mile journey crosses eight states as hundreds of volunteer riders carry the mochila continuously, day and night, preserving one of the nation's best-known frontier traditions.

Churchill County remains an important part of that tradition.

Wolgast served as Ride Captain for the section between Cold Springs and Sand Springs, coordinating riders while also riding several relay segments herself. Numerous local riders joined the effort as the mochila continued west across Nevada.

Among them was Hillary Bates of Kingston, who rode Comet while carrying the mochila through Churchill County. The mochila is handed from horse to horse every few miles without

[Pony Express continued on page 2]

Babiarz Graduates From FBI National Academy



Fallon Police Chief Daniel Babiarz, right, receives his diploma from FBI Director Kash Patel during commencement ceremonies for the FBI National Academy's 298th Session on June 18 in Quantico, Virginia. Photo courtesy of the Fallon Police Department.

Staff Report

Fallon Police Chief Daniel Babiarz, who began his law enforcement career as a 14-year-old Police Explorer, has graduated from the 298th Session of the FBI National Academy, completing one of the profession's most respected executive leadership programs.

Babiarz was among 255 law enforcement professionals selected for the 10-week academy, which concluded June 18 at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Participants represented 46 states, the District of Columbia, 26 countries, military organizations, and federal agencies. Babiarz received his diploma from FBI Director Kash Patel during graduation ceremonies.

The achievement represents the latest milestone in a career spent entirely with the Fallon Police Department. After graduating from Churchill County High School in 2007, Babiarz joined the department as a police support assistant before attending the Nevada Peace Officers' Standards and Training Academy.

Following his graduation from the academy in 2009, Babiarz was sworn in as a patrol officer and steadily advanced through every major rank in the department. He served as a detective, patrol sergeant, detective sergeant, and captain over operations before being sworn in as Fallon police chief in July 2025.

Attendance at the FBI National Academy is by nomination and invitation, making graduation a distinction achieved by relatively few law enforcement officers during their careers.

The academy is internationally recognized for its graduate-level curriculum in leadership, communication, constitutional law, behavioral science, forensic science, fitness, and other areas of professional law enforcement. The program is conducted at the FBI Academy and accredited by the University of Virginia. Since its founding in 1935, more than 56,000 law enforcement officers from around the world have graduated from the academy.

In addition to graduating from the FBI National Academy, Babiarz has earned Nevada POST Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Supervisory, and Management certificates. He is also a certified Advanced EMT and holds an associate degree in criminal justice and a bachelor's degree in business administration management.

The Fallon Police Department said Babiarz's graduation represents an investment in the department's future leadership and the continued professional development of its officers. Officials said the advanced training and leadership experience he gained at the FBI National Academy will benefit both the agency and the Fallon community.

Cooper Takes Helm as ChurchillCSD Superintendent

By Kaitlyn Ritchie

Churchill County School District (ChurchillCSD) has officially welcomed Blake Cooper as its new superintendent, bringing a leadership approach that is uniquely personal, deeply rooted, and focused on the future. For Cooper, the role represents both a major professional milestone and the continuation of a century-long family legacy in the Fallon community.

For Superintendent Cooper, leading Churchill County schools is more than a new position. It is a return to a community his family has been tied to for more than a century.

His family's history in Fallon dates back to 1911, when his great-grandfather, Eliodoro Frazzini, moved to the area. He later operated Frazzini Furniture on Maine Street and served on the City Council, becoming part of the town's early civic and business community.

"My family profoundly shaped who I am as a person," Cooper said. "I take immense pride in being able to continue this tradition of serving



New Churchill County School District Superintendent Blake Cooper is pictured with his wife, Corinne, and their children. Photo courtesy of Churchill County School District.

our community, walking the same streets my great-grandfather did, and giving back to the place that gave us so much."

While attending the University of Nevada,

[ChurchillCSD continued on page 3]



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain's Log — 79865.7

By Rachel Dahl

When we first started printing our weekly paper, The Fallon Post, on November 6, 2020, we thought it would be fun to document our evolution in a weekly column.

As I sat to jot down some thoughts, last minute of course before sending to print, the only thing that came to mind was the beginning of Star Trek when I was a kid... "Captain's Log, Stardate 74268.2..."

That week I wrote about how we stumbled around learning design and layout, learned to run the printer, figured out how to get the papers mailed, and how much we appreciated all the support from the community as we worked to "Keep you Posted."

This week, as we officially add ownership of The Fernley Reporter to our plate, I'm once again, beyond grateful for the support we continue to receive to keep local news in print, both from the community and from this amazing team who all work so hard doing whatever it takes to pull this off.

For those of you new to Fallon Media Co., we added the Lovelock Review Miner, Humboldt Sun, Battle Mountain Bugle, and the Nevada Rancher to our group, splitting the old Great Basin Sun back into separate community papers, rather than one regional paper.

We are also in the process of combining our structure and bringing all these various publications, including the national, quarterly magazine RANGE magazine, under one parent organization – Range Media Company.

To be sure, we are doing everything we can to keep up with our online presence and evolve with all the modern ways of delivering news too. But we're sentimental ol' fools, and feel like the printed page, the paper in your hands over coffee in the morning, is still a luxury we may barely afford but cannot live without.

And so, we take the reins in Fernley – with a nod and a hug and a full-time spot creating the sports department with Tony Erquiaga, to our dear friend



Robert Perea, who started this paper, online in 2016 and managed to keep it alive all this time. In November 2024, we worked with Robert in a loose agreement to get his paper in print, and now we are evolving into ownership, taking on the editorial and management decisions and responsibilities.

Next week, we will fold all five papers under the Great Basin Sun banner, taking advantage of the postal permit that allows for legal notices and greater mailing efficiency. Each paper will be a local edition of the Sun, with part of the paper, Section B, as common statewide news included in each paper.

Don't worry, each community will still have its own local news, and we really want to hear from you when you see it, to let us know what you think.

We also want to make sure to thank our advertisers and subscribers – the ONLY way we can afford to do this is through their support, and so we hope you will support them with your business. Let them know when you stop at their place that you saw their ad in the paper. It really does help when they know their ad is working.

So, while we work out all the kinks of bringing on a new paper and we continue to track down all the news, we'll always be right here...

...Keeping you Posted. Or Reported. Or Minered. Or Bugled. Or Sunned. As the case may be.

— Rachel

[Data Center Discussions continued from page 1]

removing it from the saddle, just as it was during the original Pony Express.

Keeping the relay moving safely requires more than riders.

Volunteer amateur radio operators accompany the relay through remote stretches of Nevada where cellular service is unavailable. They provide communications between riders and support crews and stand ready to summon emergency assistance if needed.

Volunteers from Fallon and Silver Springs followed riders for approximately five hours after the relay departed Cold Springs Station, helping maintain communications and monitor rider safety through some of the state's most isolated country.

As daylight faded into darkness, riders continued across the high desert using headlamps while the mochila moved steadily west. The relay never stops, with fresh riders taking over every few miles until the mail reaches California.

This year's re-ride traveled west from Missouri to California. The National Pony Express Association alternates the direction each year, meaning the 2027 relay will travel eastbound.

For those gathered at Cold Springs Station, Tuesday's event was more than a historical reenactment. It was a reminder that Churchill

County remains part of a living tradition, one sustained each year by volunteers dedicated to preserving an important chapter of American history.

THE PONY EXPRESS AT A GLANCE

First Ride: April 3, 1860

Last Ride: October 1861, after completion of the transcontinental telegraph
Original Route: St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California

Distance: Approximately 1,966 miles

States Crossed: Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California

Mail Delivery Time: About 10 days coast to coast

The Mochila: The leather mail pouch is placed over the saddle and transferred from horse to horse without being removed, a tradition still followed during today's annual re-ride.

The Re-Ride: Organized each June by the National Pony Express Association, the event uses hundreds of volunteer riders who relay the mochila continuously across the historic route.

Churchill County Connection: Cold Springs Station was one of the original Pony Express stations established in 1860 and continues to serve as a stop during the annual re-ride.



PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Shep

Shep is a 3-year-old dog at the Fallon Animal Shelter looking for a patient family to help him continue building confidence. Rescued from a hoarding situation, Shep has spent the past three months learning that people can be kind. While shy at first, he enjoys walks with volunteers and continues making steady progress every day. Shep may do well with another dog after slow introductions, though his compatibility with cats is unknown. His ideal home is one that will let him adjust at his own pace and celebrate every small victory. Visit the Fallon Animal Shelter to meet Shep and discover the loyal companion waiting beneath his quiet personality.



Precious Needs a Forever Home

Precious is a 1-year-old tuxedo cat looking for a loving forever home. Sweet, gentle, and affectionate, she enjoys quiet time with her people and has a calm personality that makes her an ideal companion. Precious is also the devoted mother of her kitten, Domino. The pair shares a close bond, and the shelter hopes they can be adopted together if possible.



Precious is spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, and ready to meet her new family. To learn more about adopting Precious – and perhaps Domino, too – visit the shelter and see if this lovable feline is the perfect addition to your home.

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

Cantaloupe Festival Volunteer Opportunities



By Sydney Trainor

Visitors see the music, food, contests, and carnival rides at the Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair each year. What they don't always see are the hundreds of volunteers working behind the scenes to make it all happen.

With preparations underway for this year's festival, organizers are once again inviting community members to join the volunteer team. Approximately 157 volunteer positions are available, offering residents an opportunity to support one of Churchill County's signature events while enjoying a few perks along the way.

Volunteer opportunities include general festival assistance, vendor check-in and set up during the week before the festival, front gate sales and check-in, volunteer check-in, back gate security, and other support roles throughout the event.

Volunteers receive a locally designed volunteer T-shirt, a free one-day festival pass, and an invitation to the volunteer appreciation

dinner following the festival.

The festival also continues its paid nonprofit volunteer program, giving local nonprofit organizations an opportunity to raise funds while helping staff the event.

"This opportunity was started when the board saw a need to help other local nonprofits," Volunteer Committee member Tarin Jones said. "It's a win-win for them and us."

Participating organizations receive \$10 for every volunteer hour worked. Since the program began, organizers say the program has generated more than \$10,000 for local nonprofits.

Previous volunteers describe the experience as rewarding and enjoyable.

One volunteer said, "It's fun, and you get to see how this all comes together."

Community members interested in volunteering can scan the QR code for volunteer information and registration.



[ChurchillCSD continued from page 1]

Reno, Cooper met his wife, Corinne, whose parents were both lifelong, dedicated educators in Washoe County School District. That connection led to his first position in education at Veteran Elementary School, where her parents both taught and retired.

"That was the spark," Cooper said. "That was where my educational journey truly began."

What truly sets Cooper apart is his visible, long-standing presence in the lives of local youth outside school hours. Over the last 22 years, he has been a fixture on local sports fields and court sidelines, coaching youth soccer, baseball, basketball, and football across Reno, Yerington, and Fallon. Since returning home to Fallon in 2020, Cooper has been deeply involved in local youth sports, coaching league baseball, Hornets Baseball, and youth football, and serving on the Fallon Youth Basketball Board for the past five years.

"Those 22 years of coaching changed how I see education," Cooper said. "It taught me to look at students as whole individuals. Every child comes to us with different strengths, different needs, and different circumstances. Coaching teaches you how to meet them exactly where they are."

As he steps into his new role, Cooper said student achievement will remain the district's central focus, including efforts to improve test scores, attendance, and graduation rates. At the same time, he said schools cannot be defined by data alone.

"Our students and our district are not just numbers," Cooper said. "What makes our community and our schools truly great cannot always be measured. My perspective is shaped by being a parent, a neighbor, and an educator all at once."

Cooper said his approach is to preserve what makes Fallon unique while ensuring students are prepared for what comes next. That includes maintaining the district's close-knit community values, agricultural heritage, military support, and culture of inclusiveness, while ensuring students are prepared for how learning and technology continue to evolve.

He added that preparation for life after graduation remains a key responsibility of the district, not only in academic performance, but in helping students build skills, confidence, and adaptability that extend beyond the classroom.

In alignment with the district's core mission, Cooper views leadership as an ongoing educational journey. A self-described lifelong learner, he actively consumes current educational research, joins leadership committees, listens to experts, and pursues professional development.

"If we want our staff and students to be lifelong learners, I have to model that behavior every single day," Cooper said. "My early priority is to listen, collaborate, and dig into the data alongside our school board, staff, and community members to ensure we are constantly improving our star ratings and academic outcomes."

"It is an absolute honor to be the next superintendent of ChurchillCSD. I will lead through the multi-layered lens of being a community member, a parent, and an educator, and I take this responsibility incredibly seriously. I want to thank my family, especially my wife, Corinne, for their unwavering support. I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to my professional mentors and colleagues in Washoe and Lyon counties. This is a dream come true, and I wouldn't be here without your guidance. Thank you to Mr. Derild Parsons for his dedicated leadership and the positive foundation he has built here, and thank you to the school board for entrusting me with this opportunity. I look forward to building a highly productive, positive relationship with all of you, and I promise to always lead this district with integrity and ethics."

Davis Announces Candidacy for Churchill County Sheriff

By Amber Hardin

Michael Davis, a patrol sergeant with the Churchill County Sheriff's Office, has announced his candidacy for Churchill County Sheriff, saying he plans to focus on public safety, employee support, and community partnerships if elected.

If elected, Davis said his priorities include increasing patrol visibility in neighborhoods and rural areas, improving communication with crime victims, strengthening deputy training, and ensuring deputies have the support needed to respond effectively to high-risk situations. He also said recruiting and retaining qualified employees will be essential to the Sheriff's Office's future.

"A strong agency starts with strong people," Davis said. "I don't want deputies to start their careers here and leave. I want them to build their careers and their lives in Churchill County."

Davis has spent 18 years in law enforcement, including the past 14 years serving Churchill County in assignments ranging from detention and patrol to narcotics enforcement, gang investigations, training, and supervision.

"Churchill County has given so much to my family and me, and I am ready to dedicate my experience, leadership, and commitment to protecting the future of the community we proudly call home," Davis said.

Before entering law enforcement, Davis worked in construction before joining the Nevada Department of Corrections in 2009, where he earned his Category III Nevada Peace Officers' Standards and Training certification while serving at Lovelock Correctional Center. That same year, he and his family made Fallon their home.

He later joined the Churchill County Sheriff's Office as a detention deputy, serving as a field training officer and gang unit liaison before graduating from the Nevada Peace Officers' Standards and Training Academy in 2016 with a Category I certification and transferring to patrol. During his patrol assignment, Davis focused on proactive policing, including narcotics enforcement and driving under the influence investigations.

In 2019, Davis was selected as Deputy of the Year, an honor recognizing his service within the Sheriff's Office.

Since 2020, Davis has served as an active shooter response instructor, providing training for local, state, and federal law enforcement officers, as well as civilian organizations. He said he has also worked with the Churchill County School District to improve emergency preparedness for educators and schools.

Davis was selected to serve on the North Central Narcotics Task Force in 2021. He said the task force was recognized in 2022 as Nevada's highest-producing narcotics unit. He also helped strengthen training and response efforts within the Sheriff's Office Gang Unit.

Promoted to patrol sergeant in 2022, Davis said he has focused on leading alongside his deputies while maintaining accountability and supporting morale during ongoing staffing challenges. He also served as vice president and president of the Churchill County Sheriff's Deputies Association before resigning those positions to pursue the office of sheriff.

Davis said he also hopes to strengthen partnerships with local government, schools, community organizations, and other law enforcement agencies while maintaining an active presence within the Sheriff's Office.

"A sheriff should lead from the front, not just behind a desk," Davis said. "I will be present, engaged, and working alongside deputies and the community every day to ensure accountability, visibility, and leadership in action."

"I would be honored to earn your trust and support," Davis said.



Michael Davis, a patrol sergeant with the Churchill County Sheriff's Office, is seeking election as Churchill County Sheriff. Davis said his campaign will focus on public safety, employee support, and community partnerships. Photo courtesy of the Michael Davis campaign.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

12th Annual Communitywide Reunion Aug. 14-15, 2026 at Oats Park

*All graduating years, all classes, students, teachers, family, and friends are invited.
Don't miss the opportunity to reconnect with friends from the past.*

FRIDAY, AUG. 14

7 p.m.
• Free concert at the Fallon Theatre featuring Kat & Dave.

SATURDAY, AUG. 15

8-10 a.m.
• Free breakfast at the Oats Park Arts Center Lariat Patio.
• Free Show-n-Shine car show and antique tractor display.

Tour the Oats Park School and Arts Center.

- 10 a.m.-noon — Community Tours
- Old High School
 - Cottage Schools
 - Douglass House
 - Fallon Police Department
 - The Old Post Office
 - Fallon City Hall with Mayor Ken Tedford
 - Fallon/Churchill Fire Department

9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Historic Fallon Theatre tours.

10 a.m.-5 p.m.
• Tour the Churchill County Museum.

10 a.m.-6 p.m.
• Free swim at the City Pool and splash pad.

Noon-4 p.m.
• Frey Ranch Distillery tours.

- 4 p.m. — Community Gathering at Oats Park
- Bring your own chairs. Some classes will have tents set up.
 - The Class of 1966 will be honored.
 - Food, ice cream, beer, and wine will be available for purchase, or bring a picnic.
 - Enjoy a photo booth, face painting, balloon art, and other family-friendly activities while reconnecting with friends.

7:30 p.m.
• Free concert featuring Boot Juice.

PARKING
Additional parking is available at E.C. Best.

INFORMATION
For more information, email communityreunion@fallonnevada.gov or call 775-423-8816 or 775-426-8529.



Staff Report

Members of the Churchill County High School Class of 1971 will gather Aug. 14-15 to celebrate their 55th class reunion. The reunion will coincide with the annual All Alumni Reunion at Oats Park on Saturday, Aug. 15. Class members will kick off the celebration with a dinner and entertainment gathering Friday, Aug. 14, at the Old Post Office, 90 N. Maine St., Fallon. Organizers ask classmates to RSVP by Aug. 1. The cost is \$10 per person. Reservations may be made by contacting Vicki Paul at dvpaul@cccomm.net or by text at 774-427-8173. Checks should be made payable to Vicki Paul and mailed to 2077 Mount View Drive, Fallon, Nevada 89406.



MEETINGS

July 2 – 23, 2026

Board of County Commissioners
Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: July 2 at 8:15 a.m.

Churchill County School Board
690 S. Maine St.
Next Meeting:
July 21 at 5:30 p.m.

CC Communications
Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: July 2 at 11 a.m.

Central NV Health District
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting:
July 8 at 3:30 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees
Meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting:
July 23 at 3 p.m.



WATER LEVELS
Measurements Taken June 29 at 9 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	194,600 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	982 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	176 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	136 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	13.8 cfs

June 29, 2024	June 29, 2023	June 29, 2022
285,019 acre feet	293,015 acre feet	136,086 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.

Monday, July 6
Salisbury Steak
Mashed Potatoes & Beef Gravy
Roasted Corn
WW Bread
Tropical Fruit Cup

Tuesday, July 7
BBQ Pork Riblet
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans
WW Roll
Spiced Apple Sauce

Wednesday, July 8
Loaded Sweet Potato Fries
Pulled Pork
Cheese & Onion
Coleslaw
Peach Cobbler
Garlic Green Beans

Thursday, July 9
Chicken Parm.
California Veg. Blend
Orange Spinach Salad
Bread Stick
Fruit Cocktail

Friday, July 10
Split Pea Soup
Tuna Sandwich
Tomato & Cucumber Salad
Baked Potato Chips
Fruit Cocktail
FF Strawberry Yogurt

FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

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

Monday, July 6
Burritos
Rice & Salad

Thursday, July 9
Tahitian Chicken
Rice & Salad

Monday, July 13
Ham, Cheese & Broccoli Pasta
Salad & Bread

Thursday, July 16
White Chicken Chili
Cornbread & Dessert

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

COMMUNITY

Churchill County Museum Celebrates Growth

By Rachel Dahl

There was plenty of ice cream served during the Churchill County Museum’s annual meeting Saturday afternoon, but the biggest takeaway wasn’t dessert.

It was momentum. Museum members, volunteers, county leaders, and supporters gathered for the annual ice cream social and membership meeting on Saturday, June 27, where Museum Director Mel Glover reflected on four years of growth and outlined an ambitious vision for the future.

“I’ve loved it,” Glover told the crowd. “I ain’t leaving anytime soon. We’ve got bigger, better plans.”

The annual meeting highlighted just how much has changed since Glover took over leadership of the museum.

When he arrived four years ago, he said he was immediately struck by the professionalism and passion of the museum staff and volunteers.

“The people behind the scenes — the people we don’t think about all that much — it was amazing,” he said. “I’ve been able to stand on the shoulders of giants.”

Among those recognized were museum board members, including Karen Goings, Churchill County Commissioner Eric Blakey, and the museum’s newest board member, Steve Endacott, whom Glover thanked for providing unwavering support.

“If there’s anything I need, I’ve got it now,” he said. “The level of support I’ve got from the board is fantastic.”

The numbers presented in the Museum Strategic Plan report tell much of the story of the progress the museum has made in the past four years.

Museum visitation has increased every year under Glover’s leadership, with attendance continuing to climb again this year.

Membership has also grown following a recent membership campaign, while volunteer participation and community partnerships have expanded significantly.

The museum’s social media reach has nearly doubled over the past year through regular posts, short videos, and increased online engagement.

“Our social media outreach has darn near doubled in a year,” Glover said.

Another milestone has been the return of “In Focus,” the museum’s long-running local history publication.

After former registrar Donna Cossette encouraged him to revive the publication, Glover said he worked with longtime contributor Michon Mackedon to bring it back into production.

The newest edition debuted during the meeting and is available for free to museum members; it will also be on sale in the museum bookstore.

“We’re very, very proud we could get this back up and running,” he said.

One of the loudest rounds of applause during the social came when Glover recognized archivist Scott Gambino for his success securing grant funding.

When Scott joined the museum, Glover challenged him to bring in \$25,000 in grants during his first year.

So far this year, he has secured more than \$54,000.

The funding is already being used for improvements at the historic Woodliff Building and other museum projects.



Raeburn “Rae” Sottile, photo and exhibit curator at the Churchill County Museum, discusses the museum’s America 250 display during the museum’s annual membership meeting and ice cream social Saturday, June 27. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

“I think you’ve earned your salary,” Glover joked.

The museum staff also unveiled the new 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, which outlines goals ranging from improving collections and exhibits to expanding educational programming, increasing attendance, and strengthening community partnerships.

Future priorities include continued restoration work at the Woodliff Building, expanded traveling exhibits, additional grants, increased memberships, and improvements to museum facilities.

Glover also highlighted the museum’s popular Discovery Room for children, expanded lecture series, new educational programming, and partnerships with organizations, including NAS Fallon.

Visitors were encouraged to explore displays commemorating America’s upcoming 250th anniversary, including historical artifacts, military memorabilia, and conceptual artwork for the museum’s iconic exterior mosaic mural.

Throughout the event, Glover repeatedly emphasized that the museum’s success is the result of teamwork.

He thanked the museum staff, volunteers, board members, Churchill County Commissioners and the Churchill County Museum Association for helping transform the museum into one of the community’s most active cultural institutions.

“We couldn’t do any of this without my staff, without the board, without the county, and the way they help us,” he said.

The meeting concluded with members enjoying ice cream, winning raffle prizes, and viewing new displays while discussing future projects.

Ranch Compensation and Highway Realignment Dominate IEC Meeting

By Rachel Dahl

Questions over compensation for ranchers affected by the Fallon Range Training Complex expansion and plans to relocate State Route 361 dominated the latest meeting of the Intergovernmental Executive Committee.

The IEC was established under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 and brings together the Navy, federal and state agencies, six neighboring counties, and 17 tribes to share information and advise on the management of natural and cultural resources affected by the military land withdrawal.

Adrienne Snow, whose family operates the Lahontan grazing allotment, told committee members that the Navy’s compensation offer does not reflect the full economic loss caused by the withdrawal of grazing land for the B-16 range.

She said her family has been involved in the compensation process since 2016 and sold the cattle herd associated with the allotment this spring after paying to lease other grazing land and transport cattle to California last year.

The loss extends beyond annual forage, she said, because federal grazing permits are tied to a base ranch. The family developed its deeded ranch around access to the Lahontan allotment after obtaining the permit in the early 1980s.

Without the allotment, she said, the ranch property has less value, and the family has also lost cattle genetics developed over generations for Nevada’s difficult range conditions.

She cited the Taylor Grazing Act, the National Defense Authorization Act, and federal agricultural risk management programs as the basis for requiring broader compensation.

According to figures presented to the committee, the Navy’s recommended payment for 100 years of forage losses ranged from approximately \$280,000 to \$435,000. She said the final offer equates to about \$14,000 per year before taxes.

By comparison, she said the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s county-based forage valuation assigns a value of \$10.45 per acre to the Lahontan allotment. Applied to more than 78,000 acres, that would place the annual

forage value at more than \$815,000.

She also said the Navy’s offer did not account for legal and consulting costs, replacement feed, transportation, water improvements, changes in ranch value, or the cultural loss associated with ending a multigenerational ranching operation.

The family submitted a counteroffer in February 2025, but the Navy later responded that it was not persuaded that the original calculation was incorrect and issued a final offer in the same amount as its original proposal.

The Nevada Farm Bureau supported the ranchers’ position during public comment. Executive Vice President Doug Busselman said compensation should account for the seasonal role of an allotment, the value of forage and water rights, range improvements, and the effect on the long-term viability of the entire ranch.

The committee also received an update from the Nevada Department of Transportation on the planned realignment of State Route 361, which currently passes through land that will become part of the expanded B-17 range.

NDOT has completed the project’s environmental assessment and identified a corridor east of the existing highway. The new alignment would be about 13 miles long and approximately one mile shorter than the section it replaces.

Officials said the new highway would maintain the connection between Gabbs, Middlegate, and Fallon while avoiding the expanded military range. The Navy will fund the project through the Federal Highway Administration, and NDOT will design, build, and maintain the road to state highway standards.

The project would require approximately 630 acres of new right-of-way, all on Bureau of Land Management property. No private land would be affected.

Environmental studies examined wildlife, cultural resources, mining sites, water flows, air quality, and the potential presence of naturally occurring asbestos. Officials said the alignment avoids identified historic and mining resources and would not significantly affect golden eagles, raptors, or burrowing owls.

The design will include culverts to preserve natural drainage and provide passage for wildlife, horseback riders, and off-highway vehicles. Wildlife and livestock fencing is also planned along the new alignment.

Final design is expected to take approximately 18 months, followed by 18 months to two years of construction. Officials cautioned that delays in transferring federal funding could affect the schedule.

The BLM reported that four vacant grazing allotments, Belleville, Fault, McBride, and Little Huntoon, are undergoing environmental review and could be offered to eligible permittees this fall. Replacement forage is one option available to ranchers affected by the military expansion.

The public may comment on the preliminary environmental assessment for those allotments through July 22.

The Navy also reported progress on payments to mining claim holders affected by the range expansion. Twenty-eight claim holders with 181 claims were identified. Fifteen holders have accepted payment offers, including all affected holders in the Dixie Valley and B-16 areas and eight holders associated with B-17.

Thirteen B-17 claim holders, representing 104 claims, had not accepted the Navy’s offers at the time of the meeting. Navy representatives said they would continue contacting those holders and reviewing additional documentation submitted in support of higher payments.



Jackson, Adrienne, Benton, Rostin, and Justin Snow. The family shared the photo during the Intergovernmental Executive Committee meeting as part of a presentation documenting its decade-long effort to obtain compensation related to the Fallon Range Training Complex expansion. Photo from Intergovernmental Executive Committee presentation.

COMMUNITY

Patriotic Cakes Celebrate America 250 in Fallon



Vella Torvik's patriotic cake earned the Best Overall America 250 award during the Fallon Cake Picnic on June 20 at Oats Park. Photo courtesy of Abbi Agency.



Abby Ferguson's cake earned the Most Patriotic award during the Fallon Cake Picnic, part of Fallon's America 250 celebration. Photo courtesy of Abbi Agency.



Emma Birgy received the Best Red, White & Blue award for her cake decorated with stars, patriotic trim, and sparkling red, white, and blue accents. Photo courtesy of Abbi Agency.

By Sydney Trainor

Local bakers transformed cakes into colorful tributes to America and Fallon on June 20 as the community gathered at Oats Park for the Fallon Cake Picnic, a family-friendly event celebrating the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary.

The Cake Picnic invited residents to decorate cakes inspired by patriotic, historical, and Fallon-themed designs before sharing their creations with fellow attendees. The event was part of Fallon's America 250 initiative, a communitywide celebration leading up to the nation's semiquincentennial on July 4, 2026. Following the Cake Picnic, many attendees remained at Oats Park for the free Concert in the Park featuring Micky and the Motorcars.

Contest entries showcased a wide variety of artistic designs, from American flags, stars, fireworks, and red, white, and blue decorations to cakes highlighting local pride and American history. Several entries incorporated America 250 themes and the years 1776-2026, reflecting both national heritage and community spirit.

Vella Torvik earned the Best Overall America 250 award with a cake featuring cascading patriotic decorations topped by an America 250 display commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary.

Other award winners included Abby Ferguson, Most Patriotic; Kelsey Hurlburt, Best Historical Theme; Pip Valentin, Best Fallon Pride; and Emma Birgy, Best Red, White & Blue.

The Cake Picnic encouraged neighbors to

gather around one of America's favorite traditions — sharing homemade desserts. Participants could enter decorated cakes for judging or simply contribute a cake to the community dessert table, giving families an opportunity to celebrate together while honoring both the nation's history and Fallon's hometown pride.

The event was one of several America 250 activities hosted in Fallon as the community joins cities and towns across the country preparing to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America 250 events are intended to celebrate the nation's history while recognizing the people, places, and traditions that continue to shape communities today

Asparagus Once Found a Home in Fallon Fields

By Nancy Chapman

Each spring, Churchill County residents head out in search of wild asparagus growing along roadsides, irrigation ditches, and fence lines. While the hardy perennial seems almost out of place in the high desert today, its presence reflects the valley's agricultural past.

Historical records suggest that asparagus was among the vegetables grown by some local farmers during the first half of the 20th century, alongside other crops made possible by irrigation from the Newlands Project.

The completion of the Newlands Project transformed the Lahontan Valley from sagebrush desert into productive farmland, allowing local growers to diversify beyond forage crops and raise a wide variety of fruits and vegetables for home use and local markets. That irrigation system remains the foundation of Churchill County agriculture today.

By the 1920s, irrigated agriculture had become the foundation of Churchill County's economy. Alfalfa emerged as the county's principal crop, while farmers also raised cattle, sheep, and hogs and grew wheat, barley, potatoes, sugar beets, celery, cantaloupes, and a variety of other vegetables.

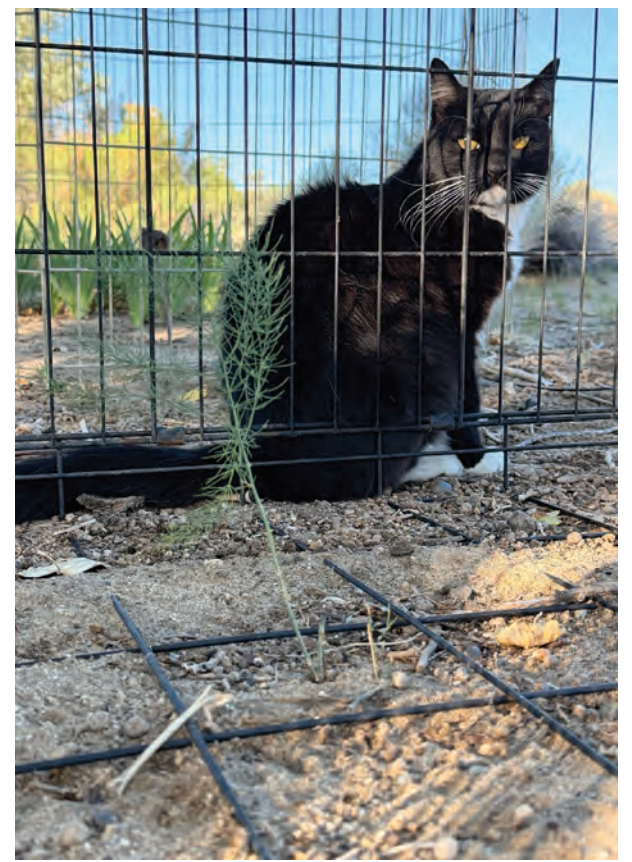
During World War II, agriculture became increasingly important as American farms were called upon to feed both civilians and military personnel. Victory Gardens were encouraged

across the country, and many rural communities expanded vegetable production to help meet wartime needs.

Although asparagus was never one of Churchill County's major commercial crops, it was well suited to home gardens and small farming operations because, once established, the perennial returned year after year with little need for replanting. Commercially canned asparagus was produced throughout the United States during the war, although it was not considered a standard military ration.

Unlike annual crops, asparagus is a perennial plant that can continue producing for many years after it is established. Well-maintained asparagus beds can remain productive for 15 to 20 years or more, with new spears emerging each spring from the same underground crowns. Because of that longevity, abandoned gardens and old homesteads likely contributed to the patches of wild asparagus that still appear throughout Churchill County, particularly near old irrigation systems and historic farm sites.

For many local residents, gathering wild asparagus has become a spring tradition. Those annual discoveries offer a living reminder of the valley's agricultural heritage, and of the generations of farm families whose work helped shape Churchill County into the community it is today. For some, finding wild asparagus each spring is also a connection to the irrigated farms and family gardens that once dotted the Lahontan Valley.



A lone volunteer asparagus plant grows on a Fallon property. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fallon Community Calendar

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

Dinner and Dessert Auction

Wolf Center
457 Esmeralda St.
July 2 at 5 p.m.

Party in the Park

America 250 Jubilee
Oats Park
July 4 from noon to 9 p.m.

Boots & Britches Play Day

Boots n' Britches Horse Club
Rafter 3C Event Complex
July 8 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Shine Support Group

Guest Speaker Tammy Mason
1676 W. Williams Ave.
July 9 at 6:30 p.m.

The Singing Mormons Concert

American Footworks
High School Auditorium off Sheckler Road
July 11 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Sips & Succulents Party

Stargazer Blossoms
Rush & Rhythm
July 12 at 2 p.m.

Women's Circle

Heart 2 Heart
1676 W. Williams Ave.
July 15 at 10 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Fastest Gun Alive World Championship

Cowboy Fast Draw Association
Churchill County Fairgrounds
July 15-19

Ventura Highway, A Tribute to the Band America

Skyrocket Productions
The Fallon Theatre
July 18 at 8 p.m.

Battle of the Badges

The Ladies Behind The Badge
Fallon Convention Center
July 21-22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Divine Feminine & Divine Masculine Energies

Sound Vibing Soul Sisters
1676 W. Williams Ave.
July 25 from 10 a.m. to noon

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.



BUSINESS

From Sri Lanka to Woody's: An Immigrant's American Dream

Story and photos by Christy Lattin

Every day, customers line up for burgers at Woody's Burger Shack, many unaware that the woman behind the grill once owned garment factories on the other side of the world. For Thakshila "Tasha" Weerakkody, the journey from Sri Lanka to Fallon wasn't planned—it was built one opportunity at a time.

Today, the naturalized American citizen owns one of Fallon's most beloved restaurants.

Her journey is a testament to how hard work, determination, and the support of a welcoming community can turn opportunity into success.

Long before she came to the United States, Tasha's entrepreneurial spirit was already taking shape. As the eldest daughter in a conservative Sri Lankan family, family responsibilities kept her from attending college despite earning excellent grades. Instead, her father, philosophical author Wijeratne Weerakkody, opened a small café for her when she was just 18 years old.

Called Little Lion, the café employed only two people, but Tasha was responsible for running the business.

"I was the boss," she said, "but we were a team."

That philosophy has never changed. Whether managing a restaurant or owning one, she believes a leader should work harder than anyone else on staff.

At 21, Tasha married and raised three children. Together with her first husband, she built a thriving clothing business that expanded to three factories and a large retail store. The company, which still employs nearly 1,500 people, produces garments for American retailers, including Kohl's.

Life took an unexpected turn following her divorce in 2013. While visiting relatives in the U.S., she stayed with her aunt in Reno in 2018 and accompanied her aunt to work at a mall shop. There she met Don May, who quietly persisted until she agreed to a date.

The relationship moved quickly, but before accepting Don's marriage proposal, Tasha had one important condition: she wanted to meet his children and receive their blessing. A family gathering convinced her she had found not only a husband but a family.

"It was the first American family I met," she said. "They're so good. I thought, 'I'm so blessed to have them in my life.'"

The couple married on July 29, 2018, and Tasha permanently moved to Nevada. After completing the immigration process, she became a naturalized U.S. citizen in January 2023.

For someone who has spent her life building businesses, sitting still wasn't an option. While Don worked out of town, Tasha looked for her next challenge. She first found work as a prep cook at The Wok restaurant, where she remains grateful to owner Chi Van for giving her the opportunity. After several months there, another door opened.



Thakshila "Tasha" May and her husband, Don May, stand outside Woody's Burger Shack. Tasha purchased the longtime Fallon restaurant in December 2024.

In November 2018, Tasha walked through the doors of Woody's Burger Shack as a prep cook. It was a remarkable reset for a woman who had previously overseen factories employing nearly 1,500 people, but she approached the job with the same determination that had defined her career. It didn't take long for owner William "Butch" Hamilton and his daughter Tiffany to recognize her work ethic and leadership.

By 2019, Tasha had become Woody's manager. Like restaurants everywhere, Woody's faced difficult days during the COVID-19 shutdowns. As business recovered, Tasha saw more than a restaurant getting back on its feet—she saw an opportunity to build something of her own.

She leased Woody's in 2021 and, in December 2024, purchased it outright.

Still, she refuses to let ownership define her.

"You have to have respect for the job, not the title," she said, noting that most customers think she's still just the cook. "Ownership is just a piece of paper."

Tasha is quick to credit the people who helped make her success possible, including her husband, Butch and Tiffany Hamilton, and Fallon Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lucy Carnahan. Carnahan encouraged her to become more comfortable speaking publicly and even

accompanied her to a city council meeting when she sought a liquor license.

"Butch trusted me, and Lucy guided me," she said.

Under Tasha's leadership, Woody's received the Fallon Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Business Innovations Award in 2025. But awards are only part of how she measures success.

For Tasha, success also means giving back to the community that embraced her. She has donated hundreds of meals to first responders, provided food for community events and purchased gifts for residents of Homestead Senior Living.

Giving back, she says, is part of the American dream she has embraced.

"This country is the best country with lots of opportunity and lots of freedom," she said. "But we need to be brave and work hard to get the opportunities."

Ever the entrepreneur, she already plans to open another business in Fallon before year's end.

Reflecting on her journey from Sri Lanka to small-town Nevada, Tasha remains humble.

"Our skin and hair may be different colors, but we all enter life the same," she said. "What you make of this life is up to you. Why are you wasting one minute?"

Today, customers are most likely to find Tasha exactly where she wants to be—in the kitchen, working alongside her employees rather than behind an office desk. From a tiny café in Sri Lanka to a hometown burger shack in Fallon, her story is one of perseverance, gratitude and the belief that opportunity belongs to those willing to work for it.

Fallon Ford Demonstrates the True Meaning of Work-Based Learning

Churchill County High School Work-Based Learning Program

By Sue Segura

The Churchill County High School Work-Based Learning Program is proud to recognize the outstanding partnership between Fallon Ford and the School to Careers initiative. Their commitment to mentoring students and investing in the future workforce is a shining example of the "grow your own" philosophy in action.

Jose Vicencip-Chavez, a recent graduate from the Class of 2026, began working at Fallon Ford during the summer following his freshman year of high school. What started as an opportunity to assist in the service department quickly developed into a meaningful career pathway. Through hard work, dedication, and the support of the Fallon Ford team, Vicencip-Chavez progressed from helping in the shop to interning directly with a mechanic and gaining hands-on industry experience.

Over the years, Vicencip-Chavez has developed valuable technical skills, workplace professionalism, and a strong understanding of the automotive industry. His growth

reflects the power of Work-Based Learning programs that connect classroom learning with real-world career opportunities.

Vicencip-Chavez plans to continue his career with Fallon Ford and recently received a Ford scholarship to further his education and training within the company. His success story demonstrates how local businesses can positively impact students by providing mentorship, guidance, and career opportunities right here in our community.

Special recognition goes to owner Chris Henning and Service Manager Jorge Perez for serving as exceptional mentors and role models. Their dedication to training, supporting, and encouraging young employees exemplifies the best of workforce development and community partnership.

Churchill County School District and the Work-Based Learning Program sincerely appreciate Fallon Ford for believing in students and helping prepare the next generation of skilled professionals. Partnerships like these strengthen our community and create lasting opportunities for local youth.



Jose Vicencip-Chavez. Photo courtesy of Churchill County High School.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Library Improvements, Summer Programs Highlight Trustees Meeting



Local authors met with readers during a recent author event at the Churchill County Library, one of the community programs highlighted during the June 25 meeting of the Library Board of Trustees. Photo courtesy of Churchill County Library

By Sydney Trainor

Grant-funded improvements, expanded summer programming, and continued technology upgrades highlighted the June 25 meeting of the Churchill County Library Board of Trustees as library staff updated board members on recent accomplishments and upcoming projects.

Library Director John Hong reported that the library has completed several improvements funded by a revitalization grant, including new slat-wall displays, mobile book displays, and book trucks designed to improve access to library materials. Hong also said interviews are underway to fill the vacant Adult Services librarian position.

Hong told trustees the library continues to expand community programming through its Summer Reading Program, story times, author talks, and STEAM activities. He also highlighted grant funding and partnerships that help support library services beyond county property tax revenues.

According to Hong, the library has received support through grants and sponsorships from Financial Horizons Credit Union, the Nevada State Library, Hoopla, and the Historic Book Club. He said the library continues to pursue additional community partnerships and outreach opportunities.

Technology improvements also continue at the library. Hong reported that the scan-to-email service has been restored, the legal kiosk printer has been replaced, and a public computer has been repaired.

He added that Nevada Legal Services recently hosted a tenant law presentation at the library, providing information about tenant rights while demonstrating how residents can use the library's legal kiosk to print legal documents at no charge.

During public comment, Tara Adams updated trustees on the vacant board position, reporting that one application was received before the filing deadline and that recruitment has closed.

Deputy District Attorney Cecilia Blue also addressed the board, explaining that she had reviewed the Churchill County Code regarding employee concerns. She said Chapter 3.48 outlines the county's complaint resolution process and that employees are expected to follow the established chain of command or bring concerns directly to the Human Resources Department.

As part of ongoing trustee education required under Nevada law, Hong reviewed a training module covering library budgeting, funding sources, grant opportunities, and fiscal management.

Board members also shared updates on recent library activities. Ryan Swirczek announced the Churchill Library Association's Books, Bites & Beverages fundraiser, scheduled for Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Sue Segura thanked library staff, volunteers, and sponsors for a successful Summer Reading Program kickoff, while Mattie Serna praised the weekly Chess Club and the progress participants have made.

The board's next regular meeting is scheduled for July 23.

Health District Expands Fallon Office to Improve Public Access

Staff Report

Churchill County residents will soon have expanded access to local public health services and emergency preparedness programs when the Central Nevada Health District celebrates the reopening of its renovated Fallon office on Wednesday, July 8.

The public grand reopening is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the district's office, 485 W. B St., where community members can tour the renovated facility and learn more about the district's services.

The Fallon office has served as the district's headquarters since operations began in 2023. For its first two years, the health district shared the building with Churchill County Social Services. After Social Services relocated to its downtown Fallon offices, the additional space became available for renovation.

According to Central Nevada Health District Administrator Shannon Ernst, the remodeled office will improve access for residents seeking health district services while creating dedicated space for Public Health Preparedness training and emergency response activities.

The renovation was funded through the State of Nevada's American Rescue Plan Act infrastructure program. Work on the project was completed by SB Builders LLC, Get 'Er Done Removal & Maintenance of Fallon, Fallon Glass, and Churchill County's Public Works, Planning and Building, and Facilities departments.

The Central Nevada Health District represents a significant change in how public health services are delivered across rural Nevada. Approved by the Nevada State Board of Health in late 2022, the district officially began operations July 1, 2023, becoming Nevada's third health district and the first created specifically to serve rural communities.

Today, the district serves Churchill, Eureka, Mineral, and Pershing counties, as well as the City of Fallon. Services include public health nursing, communicable disease investigation and prevention, immunizations, maternal and child health programs, environmental health, food safety inspections, family planning, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infection services, and public health preparedness.

Before the district was established, many of those services were provided directly by the state. The regional model gives participating counties greater local oversight while allowing programs to be tailored to the unique needs of rural communities.

District officials also announced that a redesigned website is expected to launch in the coming months, making it easier for residents to access health information, district services, permit information, and community resources online.

As demand for local public health services continues to grow, district officials say the expanded Fallon office will help ensure residents across the region have greater access to programs, training, and emergency preparedness resources close to home.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WEEK

District Attorney's Office

By Sydney Trainor

The Churchill County District Attorney's Office wears many hats beyond prosecuting criminal cases: serving as the county's chief legal counsel, overseeing civil litigation, advising elected officials and county departments, and administering child support services for local families. Those broad responsibilities were on display during the department's annual budget presentation to the Churchill County Commission.

District Attorney Arthur E. Mallory requested several budget increases for the coming fiscal year, including \$450 for books and periodicals to cover higher LexisNexis legal research subscription costs, \$7,900 for a security system compatible with the county's new phone system, \$2,500 for State Bar advertising to recruit attorneys, \$500 for increased telephone costs, and \$5,000 to replace a damaged conference table and chairs in the civil division.

Mallory told commissioners the office has consistently operated within its budget.

"Just since 1999, every single year we've been under budget," Mallory said.

The District Attorney's Office serves as Churchill County's chief legal office. In addition to prosecuting criminal cases on behalf of the state, the office represents Churchill County in civil matters, advises county departments and elected officials, prepares legal documents, assists with juvenile proceedings, and provides victim and witness services.

The office also oversees Churchill County's Child Support Division, which establishes paternity, obtains and enforces child support orders, modifies existing support orders, locates absent parents, and collects child support payments for families throughout the county.

During the budget discussion, it was suggested that attorney recruitment advertising might be better managed by the county's Human Resources Department so that recruiting expenses could be tracked in one place.

Interim County Manager Joe Sanford said the Human Resources recruitment budget had already been increased.

"We'd already increased the budget from \$2,500 to \$5,000, which is enough for basically two advertisement pieces," Sanford said.



...the office represents Churchill County in civil matters, advises county departments and elected officials, prepares legal documents, assists with juvenile proceedings, and provides victim and witness services.

"If we're going to increase the number of positions ... extra advertisements for it would just go up commensurately with that."

In closing, Mallory emphasized the workload carried by the office's criminal division.

"We do all of those things that the public defender's office doesn't have to do. And yet we have only two people, two attorneys working on the criminal side right now, in addition to Lane, who supervises them," Mallory said.

Mallory has served as Churchill County district attorney since 1999, after first being elected in 1998. The District Attorney's Office is located in the Churchill County Administration Complex at 155 N. Taylor St. in Fallon.

COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, June 23, with Judge William Maddox presiding.

By Teresa Moon

Reuben Job Conkle was not present for his scheduled arraignment. Conkle was released on his own recognizance June 12. By June 18, he was failing to appear for Court Services. A no-bail warrant was issued.

Ciera Elizabeth Coatney appeared for sentencing on Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor or a Controlled or Prohibited Substance With a Prior Felony Conviction for Driving Under the Influence, a Category B Felony, to which she pleaded guilty March 3. Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker, representing the state, remained silent pursuant to plea negotiations.

Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer began the defense argument. “No one on this side of the table here is going to suggest that this offense Ciera is here for is not important,” he said. Sommer said his client recognizes someone could have been harmed by her conduct and how devastating that trauma could have been. He told Judge Maddox, “What makes this case deserving of a sentence that is on the lowest end of the statutory range is not the offense itself. We recognize that seriousness because of the person who is seated next to me.”

Sommer said from the beginning of the case, Coatney has been cooperative and accepted responsibility. She has done everything she has been asked to do. The defendant has appeared for every hearing, complied with court orders, complied with Court Services, and maintained regular and responsible contact with his office. Sommer said all of this demonstrates that “she takes this matter seriously, and that she respects the authority of this court.” He said Coatney is “a homeowner, she’s a successful business owner in our community, and she’s a single mother who has worked hard to provide stability for her family.”

Sommer shared that a few years ago Coatney’s son was struck by a vehicle and run over. He survived; however, the incident marked the beginning of a significant struggle for Coatney. For years before that, she had maintained her sobriety. However, under that pressure, “my recovery is the one thing I neglected,” Sommer said. He added there have already been massive consequences for the defendant. “She’s embarrassed, she’s frightened ... she knows she’s going to prison today.”

Coatney told Judge Maddox, “I’m truly sorry to the community. I’m so thankful and happy nobody got hurt. I’m actually ready to not just get sober, but to recover.”

Judge Maddox sentenced Coatney to 24 to 60 months in prison, imposed a \$2,000 fine and all other statutory requirements. Fees and assessments were imposed. The defendant was remanded to the custody of the sheriff for imposition of the sentence.

Aaron Wendel Denshire appeared for a hearing regarding his removal from Drug Court.

Churchill County Alternate Public Defender Wright Noel explained to the court that his client appeared two weeks earlier on a probation violation. At that time, Judge Thomas Stockard reinstated Denshire on

probation with the condition that he enter and successfully complete the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court Program. Denshire entered Drug Court and completed an evaluation, which determined he did not require treatment, so he was returned to District Court. Noel said, “It is not a removal in the sense of non-compliance or non-completion, but the Drug Court feels that there is nothing they’re able to do for Mr. Denshire.”

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker argued, “Drug Court is for high-risk, high-needs. It’s for individuals that can’t stay sober without help.” She said the defendant absconded and did nothing while on probation for 1,020 days. Then he had the opportunity to enter Drug Court, where he was honest and said he had been sober for the previous 14 months. “He’s not a candidate for Drug Court. He is not high risk, high needs. So he was returned to this court.” Baker argued Denshire should not be rewarded for absconding and doing nothing while on probation. She said he came back before the court claiming he needed Drug Court although he had been sober for 14 months. The state asked that probation be revoked and that the court impose the underlying sentence of 12 to 36 months in prison on the underlying charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Judge Maddox revoked Denshire’s probation, ordered him to serve 30 days in jail, and dishonorably discharged him from probation. He was remanded to the custody of the sheriff for imposition of the sentence.

Teasha Marie Arrich-Rupley’s sentencing was continued to July 7.

Austin Taylor Dyer, in custody, admitted to two sentencing violations, one filed in May 2025 involving residence, controlled substances, weapons, conduct, laws, employment, financial obligations, and restitution, and a second filed in June 2026 involving weapons, conduct, and laws.

The underlying charges are Conspiracy to Commit Burglary, a Gross Misdemeanor, and Burglary of a Motor Vehicle, a Category E Felony. The underlying sentences are 364 days in jail and 12 to 36 months in prison.

Judge Maddox revoked Dyer’s probation, gave him credit for 679 days served, and ordered him to serve the remainder of his sentence.

Kevin Jay Chico, in custody, was not present for his scheduled competency hearing after declining the opportunity to attend the proceedings. His attorney noted this was not unusual for his client.

Because Drs. Patterson and Pierson each found Chico competent, Judge William Maddox remanded the case to Justice Court for further proceedings.

Maverick Woodward Richards, in custody, appeared for his scheduled competency hearing. Having been restored to competency, Richards’ case was remanded to Justice Court for further proceedings.

Carissa Lee Marshall, in custody, appeared for her competency hearing. Having been found incompetent, but capable of being restored to competency, Marshall was remanded to Lakes Crossing Center for continued treatment.

Wildlife, Shakespeare Highlight Busy July at Churchill County Library

Staff Report

Free educational programs ranging from Nevada wildlife and Shakespeare to job interview skills and children’s story times will fill the Churchill County Library’s July calendar as the library continues its Summer Reading Program and seasonal activities.

Among the month’s featured events is a presentation by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) at 2 p.m. July 21. Participants will learn about wildlife commonly found in Nevada’s high desert and how to safely live alongside native animals.

The library also welcomes the return of Young Shakes, the youth outreach program of the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, at 4 p.m. July 28. Young Shakes will present an adaptation of “Macbeth” designed to introduce younger audiences to one of William Shakespeare’s classic tragedies.

Two local authors also will visit the library during July. Michael Oka will discuss writing and publishing at 6 p.m. July 14, followed by Megan Ross at 6 p.m. July 28. A life skills workshop focused on interviewing for entry-level jobs will be offered at 4 p.m. July 2 for teens, young adults, and others entering the workforce.

Summer Reading Program participants have until July 31 to log their reading for a chance to earn prizes. Weekly offerings also continue throughout the month, including Baby Story Time, children’s story times, STEAM activities, Reading with Rover, Chess Club, Game Night, Bad Art, Elementary Book Club, and the “1,000 Books Before Kindergarten” literacy initiative.

Adults will find several opportunities to participate as well. Activities include the lunchtime book club, crafting workshops, a beginner gift-wrapping class, History by the Numbers, Spice Club, and constituent office hours hosted by a representative from U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen’s office.

Beyond its programs, the library continues to offer public computers, meeting rooms, online research databases, downloadable e-books, audiobooks, streaming movies, language-learning resources, and a fine-free borrowing policy. Library cards are available at no cost to qualifying Nevada residents and active-duty military personnel.

The library will be closed July 3 and 4 for the America 250 holiday observance and July 20 for staff professional development. Regular hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The Churchill County Library is located at 553 S. Maine St. Learn more at churchillcountylibrary.org or by calling 775-423-7581.

Free educational programs ranging from Nevada wildlife and Shakespeare to job interview skills and children’s story times will fill the Churchill County Library’s July calendar...

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875 W. Williams Ave.
775-423-2411

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera

Oasis Academy Students Explore Australia and New Zealand During Educational Adventure

Nine Oasis Academy students recently returned from the trip of a lifetime after spending 12 days exploring Australia and New Zealand as part of the school's student travel program.

The educational journey, coordinated by Oasis Academy middle school teacher Tami McNeill, provided students with the opportunity to experience new cultures, historical landmarks, and natural wonders while learning far beyond the walls of the classroom. This is the third trip McNeill has coordinated for the school.

The students began in New Zealand, where they immersed themselves in Māori culture. The group visited traditional Māori villages and participated in a hangi feast, a traditional Māori dinner cooked using heated rocks buried in the ground. Students also enjoyed a unique duck tour aboard a vehicle that operates as both a truck and a boat, traveling through geothermal areas while learning stories and legends of the ancient Māori people.

Additional highlights in New Zealand included hiking through Redwoods Whakarewarewa Forest and visiting the Agridome, where students learned about the country's agricultural industry and watched a live sheep show.

The group then traveled to Australia, beginning in Sydney. There, students toured the iconic Sydney Opera House, participated in a whale-watching excursion, and visited the Hyde Park Barracks Museum. The museum provided insight into Australia's early colonial history and the European prisoners who were transported there.

In Cairns, students experienced one of the world's greatest natural wonders when they snorkeled on the Great Barrier Reef alongside a marine biologist. The experience gave students a firsthand look at the reef's diverse ecosystem and marine life.

Students also traveled to Kuranda, where they learned about Aboriginal culture and traditions, including how to throw boomerangs. The trip also included opportunities to interact with some of Australia's most famous animals. Students fed kangaroos and posed for photos with koalas, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

"Travel provides students with opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of history, culture, and the natural world," said McNeill. "These experiences help students develop confidence, independence, and a broader perspective of the world around them."

The Australia and New Zealand tour is part of Oasis Academy's commitment to providing students with meaningful educational experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

Looking ahead, McNeill is already planning the next international educational experience. In 2028, students will have the opportunity to participate in a World War II and Western Front tour through England, France, and Germany. The trip will allow students to visit significant historical sites and gain a deeper understanding of the events that shaped modern history. Trips are open to all students in grades 7-12. Students younger than grade 7 may travel but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Families interested in learning more about Oasis Academy's student travel program are encouraged to contact Mrs. McNeill at tmcneill@oanv.org.



From left, Gabriel Keener, Connor Butcher, Shylo Morrow, Blake Brandenburg, Tamara McNeill, Sophia Kirkland, Daniella Ramirez-Vilchez, Shanna Schroeder, Ashley Brooks, Evelyn Brooks, Anthony Reynolds, and Cristian Keener pose in front of the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge during Oasis Academy's educational tour of Australia and New Zealand.

SPORTS

Fallon Rodeo Athletes Shine at National Junior High Finals Rodeo

By Nancy Chapman

Fallon rodeo athletes brought home a world championship and a top-four finish from the 2026 National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR), as Chloe Kent claimed the Girls Goat Tying title and Stella Lee placed fourth in Pole Bending at the national championship in Guthrie, Oklahoma.

More than 1,200 contestants representing 51 state and international teams competed for world titles, scholarships, saddles, buckles, and cash prizes during the weeklong event at the Lazy E Arena.

Kent capped an impressive week by winning the Girls Goat Tying average with a combined time of 22.25 seconds to earn the world championship. She placed second in the first go-round, won the second go-round, and finished sixth in the short round to secure the title.

Lee also enjoyed a strong national finals, finishing

fourth in the Pole Bending average with a combined time of 62.397 seconds. She improved throughout the week, placing 34th in the first round, 14th in the second round, and third in the short round.

Lee also turned in a fourth-place finish in the first round of Girls Breakaway Roping, placed 26th in the first round of Girls Goat Tying, and teamed with Frank Buchanan of Eureka to place 35th in the first round of Ribbon Roping.

The Fallon athletes competed against the nation's top junior rodeo contestants after qualifying through the Nevada Junior High Rodeo Association. The NJHFR featured competitors from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Australia.

Kent's world championship and Lee's top-four world finish highlighted another successful national appearance for Fallon-area rodeo athletes and continued the community's tradition of producing nationally competitive youth rodeo talent.

NJHFR BY THE NUMBERS

Location: Guthrie, Oklahoma

Venue: Lazy E Arena

Dates: June 21-27, 2026

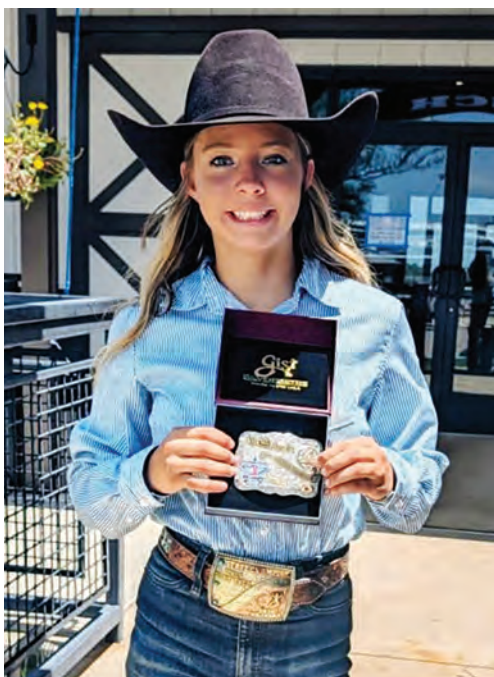
Contestants: More than 1,200 Teams represented: 51, including the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Australia

TOP FALLON FINISHES:

Chloe Kent: Girls Goat Tying world champion

Stella Lee: Fourth in the world, Pole Bending

Kent Claims World Goat Tying Title



Fallon rodeo athlete Chloe Kent displays the championship buckle she earned after winning the Girls Goat Tying title at the 2026 National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR) in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Photo by Janine's Photography.

By Nancy Chapman

Fallon's Chloe Kent captured the Girls Goat Tying world championship at the 2026 National Junior High Finals Rodeo (NJHFR) in Guthrie, Oklahoma, finishing with a winning aggregate time of 22.25 seconds.

Kent secured the title after placing second in the first go-round, winning the second go-round, and finishing sixth in the short round. Her consistent performances earned her the championship buckle and the No. 1 ranking in the world.

Kent's world title highlighted an outstanding week for Fallon competitors at the NJHFR, where local athletes earned a world championship and a top-four world finish against many of the nation's best junior rodeo contestants.



Kayla Norcutt, left, Felicia Hagen, second from left, and Kaylee Hammond, right, pose with the winner of the Grouchiest Wiener Dog contest during the De Golyer Bucking Horse and Bull Bash. The annual event featured Wiener dog and corgi races, along with other family activities, as part of the weekend festivities. Photo courtesy of the De Golyer Bucking Horse and Bull Bash.

SPORTS

Fallon Hornets Bounce Back at Casey Yocum Invitational



Bradley Howell pitches for the Fallon Hornets against EJ's Sports Titans.



Lelan White catches for pitcher Bradley Howell against Stars Baseball White.

Story and photos by Nancy Chapman

The Fallon Hornets 15U overcame an 0-2 start to win three consecutive games before their tournament run ended Sunday at the Casey Yocum Invitational Tournament at Golden Eagle Regional Park in Sparks.

Friday proved challenging for the Hornets, who dropped a 12-2 decision to the Reno Muckdogs before falling 14-3 to EJ's Sports Titans of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Hornets bounced back Saturday with a 4-1 victory over Stars Baseball White of Stockton, California, before defeating the Reno Kings Baseball Club 15U, 19-1.

Fallon carried that momentum into Sunday with an 8-5 victory over the Diablo Valley Oaks before its tournament run came to an end with a 7-5 loss to EJ's Sports Titans. The Hornets held an early lead before the Titans rallied in the fourth inning.

Fallon received contributions throughout the tournament from Bradley Howell, Jackson Mason, Lelan White, Raymond Gallio, Mason White, Timothy Kotsios, Mason Judd, and the rest of the Hornets.

Although the tournament ended Sunday, the Hornets' three-game winning streak after a difficult opening day provided momentum as the team continues its summer season.

Fallon Hornets Capture 9-Year-Old State Championship



The Fallon Hornets celebrate after winning the 2026 Nevada Babe Ruth 9-Year-Old State Championship on June 25 in Fallon. Photo by Teri Peck.

By Nancy Chapman

The Fallon Hornets 9U All-Stars powered through three decisive victories on June 25 to capture the 2026 Nevada Babe Ruth 9-Year-Old State Championship, outscoring their opponents 53-3 on their home field.

Coaches Alex Haffner, Darin Casey, Kyle Bachmann, and Jake Miller guided the Hornets through a dominant tournament run that began with an 11-1 victory over the Spanish Springs 9U All-Stars.

Fallon advanced to the second game and defeated the Silver State 9U All-Stars, 19-0, to earn a berth in the championship game.

The Hornets completed the sweep with a 23-2 victory over Spanish Springs to secure the state title.

Fallon controlled play throughout the tournament, combining timely hitting with strong defense to win each game by double-digit margins and finish the day as Nevada Babe Ruth 9-Year-Old state champions.



Dorian Casey, left, and Landon Haffner take a break between games during the 2026 Nevada Babe Ruth 9-Year-Old State Tournament in Fallon. Photo by Teri Peck.



Fallon Hornets coach Alex Haffner, left, poses with Landon Haffner before the 2026 Nevada Babe Ruth 9-Year-Old State Tournament in Fallon. Photo by Teri Peck.

Fallon Babe Ruth 16U Turns Attention to Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament



Mason White rounds third base on his way home during Fallon's opening-round victory over Sparks in the Nevada Babe Ruth 13-16 State Championship Tournament. Photo by Sheree Jensen.



Braylon Byrd delivers a pitch for the Fallon Babe Ruth 16U All Stars during tournament action. Photo by Sheree Jensen.



Lincoln Neumann tags out a South Tahoe runner attempting to advance to third base. Photo by Sheree Jensen.

By Nancy Chapman

The Fallon Babe Ruth 16U All Stars completed play in the Nevada Babe Ruth 13-16 State Championship Tournament after opening with a 24-7 victory over Sparks and dropping two games to South Tahoe, including a 14-13 loss Saturday. The team now turns its attention to the Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament, which will be held in Fallon July 19-25.

Fallon opened tournament play with a decisive victory over Sparks before facing South Tahoe twice. In the first matchup, Fallon scored in the opening inning before South Tahoe took control with six runs in the second inning and eight more in the third. Fallon held South Tahoe scoreless the rest of the game, but could not overcome the early deficit.

The teams met again Saturday in a much closer contest. Trailing by four runs in the fifth inning, Fallon rallied before falling 14-13.

Fallon received contributions throughout the tournament from Mason White, Raymond Gallio, Samuel Vinsonhaler, Tayven Martinez, Braylon Byrd, Lincoln Neumann, Lucas Yohey, Braxton McAfee, Carter Larson, and Mason Llamas.

South Tahoe claimed the Nevada Babe Ruth 13-16 State Championship Tournament and will represent Nevada at the Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament. Fallon will host the regional tournament July 19-25, with the All Stars competing on their home field against other regional qualifiers.

COLUMNS

*What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen***Vanilla Ice Cream Base**

By Kelli Kelly

I've been thinking a lot about perspective lately.

It started on a drive home from Reno while I was listening to Julie Mason's radio show. She and a reporter from "The Boston Herald" were talking about the unexpected joy Americans have found in watching World Cup visitors experience everyday American life for the first time.

There have been countless stories over the past few weeks. Scottish soccer fans turning Boston pubs into impromptu concerts. Visitors making pilgrimages to Buc-ee's and Costco. A New Zealander trying boiled peanuts for the first time. And yes, an unexpected fascination with ranch dressing.

I have to admit that one made me laugh. During my years at The Slanted Porch, we made ranch by the vat. We used to joke that some people didn't order ranch as a side for their French fries. They ordered French fries as a side for their ranch. I'm still not entirely convinced a few of them wouldn't have happily drunk it with a straw if we'd offered one.

As funny as those stories are, they really aren't about ranch dressing or big-box stores. They're about perspective. Americans are rediscovering parts of our own culture by watching someone else experience them for the first time.

As I listened, I realized I'd seen this pattern before. I see it every time I talk with farmers about agritourism.

One of the things I've found fascinating is how often farmers are surprised that people would actually pay to experience what they consider everyday life. Feeding chickens. Picking vegetables. Watching the sunrise over a field. Helping with chores.

It turns out the same thing is true of communities. The places we call home become so familiar that we stop noticing what makes them special. Visitors don't have that problem. They see the things we've learned to overlook.

By then, my thoughts had wandered all the way back to Fallon. I started wondering whether the things we take for granted here are the very things someone else would remember forever.

This Saturday, I'll be announcing the Fourth of July parade from the patio at the American Legion Hall. Veterans, antique tractors, youth organizations, horses, classic cars, service clubs, kids scrambling for candy, and maybe even a miniature cow will all make their way along the parade route. I'll be introducing many of them as they pass.

But I have a feeling I'll be hearing those introductions a little differently this year.

As our community continues celebrating America 250, I hope we do more than remember our history. I hope we use this year as an opportunity to pay attention. To rediscover a sense of wonder. To see Fallon, and perhaps even one another, with fresh eyes. I have a feeling we'll discover that what makes this place special hasn't changed at all. We simply needed to notice it again.

Kitchen Notes: This week I'm sharing my go-to vanilla ice cream base from Serious Eats. It's simple enough for a holiday weekend and endlessly adaptable. Enjoy it just as it is, stir in local honey, swirl in homemade jam from last summer's harvest, or fold in fresh fruit as it begins showing up from local farms.

**Ingredients:**

Adapted from Mike Falkowitz via Serious Eats

2 cups Heavy cream
1 cup Whole milk
6 Large eggs
3/4 cup Sugar
Vanilla extract to taste
Salt to taste

DIRECTIONS:

1. Separate 6 egg yolks into a bowl. Add the sugar and whisk until the mixture is a thick, smooth, and pudding-like pale yellow goo.
2. Whisk in the heavy cream and milk until fully combined.
3. Pour the mixture into a heavy-bottomed pot and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until it thickens into a custard. Do not boil! The mixture is ready when it coats the back of a spoon or reaches 170 degrees.
4. Remove from the heat and stir in vanilla and salt. Strain the custard to remove any cooked egg bits.
5. Chill in the fridge until cold, preferably overnight.
6. Churn in an ice cream maker according to the machine's directions.
7. Stir in any mix-ins and transfer to a freezer-safe container, then freeze until firm.



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

*Allison's Book Report:***"Our Perfect Storm" by Carley Fortune**

By Allison Diegel

Happy Independence Day weekend, Fallon. My family will be at home, hanging out in our pool that I finally got cleared up and ready for swimming, tie-dyeing T-shirts with the cousins, barbecuing, playing cornhole, and (my favorite thing) falling asleep in the hammock with my nose in a book.



"Our Perfect Storm" by Carley Fortune is a beautifully atmospheric, friends-to-lovers contemporary romance that follows the complicated relationship between Francesca "Frankie" Gardiner and George Saint James. Frankie and George have been absolute best friends since they were 8 years old. They are both incredibly passionate, impulsive, and strong-willed individuals, which means their dynamic has always been defined by a cycle of clashing intensely and then inevitably finding their way back to one another. However, as they grew into adulthood, unspoken tension and deeply buried secrets began to fracture their once-unshakable bond. The story kicks off on the absolute worst

weekend possible: Frankie's wedding. As the festivities begin, Frankie is an emotional wreck, completely unsure of where she and George stand, or if he will even show up to fulfill his role as her best man.

To her immense relief, George does walk through the door, and for one beautiful evening, Frankie feels like her life is exactly where it is supposed to be. That fragile perfection comes crashing down the very next morning when her fiancé abruptly calls off the wedding, leaving behind nothing but a brief note as an explanation. Devastated, humiliated, and utterly confused, Frankie retreats to her family home, ready to completely shut out the world. That is when George steps in with an incredibly bold, unexpected plan to heal her broken heart. He convinces Frankie that she shouldn't let her honeymoon go to waste and insists that she should go anyway—but with him instead of her ex.

Desperate for an escape and a chance to salvage their fading connection, Frankie agrees to the trip. The two set off for a week in Tofino, a stunning, misty coastal town in British Columbia where the rainforest meets the ocean. Sharing a romantic honeymoon suite forces them into undeniable proximity, pushing them to confront the massive shift in their dynamic. As they navigate the moody beaches, the trip becomes a pressure

cooker for 20 years of repressed romantic feelings and long-hidden secrets. The narrative beautifully tracks this one-week journey in paradise, building immense romantic tension as Frankie and George try to figure out if they can repair their lifelong friendship, or if finally addressing their true feelings will mean falling apart for good.

That's all until next week. I hope that you all are able to find a minute of downtime with a book amidst all of the fireworks and grilling this weekend. Don't forget to check out my Instagram @allison.the.reader to find your next great read.

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.

Prepared Meals

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

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

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

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

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

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

Food and Commodity Pantries

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COLUMNS

Postcards: Frontier Doc, Part 3

By Michon Mackedon

I have been writing about one of Fallon's first doctors—a man named George Gardner (1875–1970), who worked as a physician for the Newlands Project and lived in the area between 1904 and 1917.

The evidence and the tales he left behind about his Lahontan Valley years lead me to think about various descriptors, none of them adequate: spunky, ingenious, funny.

First to the spunky part. Gardner was born in Carson City where his father owned a lumber mill. He was often seen with his father by the railroad tracks (then, the V&T Railroad) helping to load lumber onto the cars. One day, when he was 11 years old, he lost his grip on a coupling and fell under the wheels of a cattle car. Both legs were crushed below the knees, necessitating a double amputation at the knees.

That didn't stop him, literally. He was fitted with two cork prostheses and sent to live with an aunt in Oakland, where he could attend an excellent academy with special accommodations for his handicap. He excelled as a student and was accepted into Stanford University's first class. While at Stanford he knew Herbert Hoover, who worked his way through Stanford managing a laundry service.

"George often mentioned with some pride that his shirts and underwear were washed and ironed by a future president of the United States" (Sage, Roderick, M.D. "A Spunky Kid: Dr. George Gardner." "Greasewood Tablettes." Dept. of Pathology, Great Basin History of Medicine Division, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Spring, 1998).

After graduating from Stanford, he attended Cooper Medical College in San Francisco.

The ingenuity? He was one of the first residents in Fallon to capitalize on the automobile revolution.

Gardner: "I had a stage line to Fairview and Rawhide. Two big Royal Tourist cars that I paid \$4,000 a piece for. I charged \$20 to go to Rawhide in the car, and I had a stipulation that if there was a breakdown they'd have to pay the \$20 just the same, and they could walk into Rawhide."

He employed chauffeurs to serve as the ersatz Uber drivers since his own injuries prevented him from safely driving.

"We went through Sand Springs, where they had an old team of horses or mules and they'd hook on. And there was one place there, going upwards. Oh! That sand was so deep. The horses would have a terrible

time and if we turned on the juice we'd scare the horse, so they'd pull... They didn't realize they were tied to the noise" (Gardner's quotes in this paragraph and the following ones are taken from Margaret Wheat, Interviewer. "Excerpts from the Interview of Dr. George M. Gardner." "In Focus," Volume 5).

Gardner also owned an x-ray machine. "I could look at bones; it was good. ...I put my hand in under there, under the x-ray, until I finally pitted every one of my fingernails... If it had been as strong as the x-rays that they have now, why, I'd have lost my whole hands."

The stories Gardner left behind are self-effacing and humorous. He once was shot at by a man named Fuller, who was doing ditch work on the Newlands Project. Fuller owed Gardner \$12. They went to the same Fallon saloon for a glass of beer, and Fuller, described by Gardner as "teed up pretty good," slapped a check on the bar for \$12.00 then hit Gardner in the face. Gardner hit him over the head with his cane.

"And, I broke the cane.... After I hit him he put his hand in his pocket and went down. I saw him doing something. He had a hold of something.... I thought, 'I wonder if it's a gun.'"

It was. Gardner fled out the door (on his cork legs) with a friend, a Fallon dentist, who shut the door behind them. The gun went off.

Fuller ran around the corner "to the lawyer's office" and said, "I killed Dr. Gardner. I want you to represent me."

The lawyer ran to the saloon, where a bullet rested in the door, and the Doc was back on his barstool.

"Want a glass of beer?" he asked the lawyer.

Fuller left town after a grand jury failed to bind him over. Gardner, after all, had provoked him with his cane. When Fuller returned to Fallon a year later, a grand jury reconvened to consider the matter.

"Turn him loose," said Gardner to the jury....

And, to Fuller's attorney he said, "You go back and tell him this world is pretty good-sized; he can have one half of it, and I'll take the other half."

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.

Fallon Theatre Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

One of the biggest weekends of the summer is finally here, and the Fallon Theatre is ready to celebrate in spectacular style. After a morning spent cheering and collecting candy at the annual Fourth of July parade downtown, the summer heat is going to be blazing in full force. Why not escape the blistering sun and wrap up your holiday evening in the cool comfort of our historic, fully air-conditioned auditorium? In honor of Independence Day and the ongoing nationwide America 250 celebrations, we are offering two fantastic films, one of which is generously sponsored by the City of Fallon.

But first, be sure to join us in front of the theatre during the parade on Saturday morning, starting at 9 a.m., as we grill up hamburgers and hot dogs under the marquee. The full concession stand will be open for drinks and all our regular goodies, but we'll also have hamburgers with a side of nacho chips and cheese for \$5, and hot dogs with a side of chips and cheese for \$3. Plus we'll have snow cones for \$1 and soda floats for \$5, both excellent ways to beat the heat.

At 6 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, grab the kids and step up to the plate for the ultimate summertime classic, "The Sandlot" (1993), sponsored by the City of Fallon. Set in the nostalgic summer of 1962, this beloved family favorite follows young Scotty Smalls as he moves to a new neighborhood and befriends a tight-knit group of boys who spend every waking hour playing baseball on the local vacant lot. Together, they embark on a series of legendary adventures. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour and 41 minutes.

Or, at 7 p.m. both nights, the pride of independence takes center stage with the sweeping, epic historical drama "The Patriot" (2000). Mel Gibson stars as Benjamin Martin, a peaceful



"The Patriot" (2000).

South Carolina farmer who wants nothing more than to live quietly with his family. However, when the Revolutionary War arrives at his front door, he is forced to take up arms to defend his family and the freedom of a brand-new nation. Taking a powerful look at the birth of American liberty, it's the perfect cinematic tribute for Independence Day weekend. Rated R, it runs 2 hours and 45 minutes.

And with summer having fully arrived, we're gearing up to celebrate in style with Ventura Highway — The Music of America taking to our stage on Saturday, July 18, at 8 p.m. for what promises to be a spectacular evening. This concert experience brings together the rich harmonies and beloved classics of the legendary band America, delivering a timeless sound that audiences love. It's the perfect way to indulge in the sunny season, and with tickets at just \$10, we can't wait to share these golden memories with all of you.

We've got lots of good stuff on the horizon as well, including hosting the kickoff concert and theatre tours for the 12th Annual Community Wide Reunion on Aug. 14 and 15, the Cantaloupe Canter 5K on Aug. 29, our 10th Annual Show-N-Shine on Sept. 26, and Lee Hardin returning for live stand-up comedy on Nov. 20. You can keep up with all the community fun either on Facebook or our website, fallontheatre.com.

And as always, we are incredibly 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 free movie-going experience. If you are interested in renting the theatre for a private event or seeing your name in lights on our marquee, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can call us at 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com for more details. We can't wait to see you this weekend.

Crossword

By Peanut

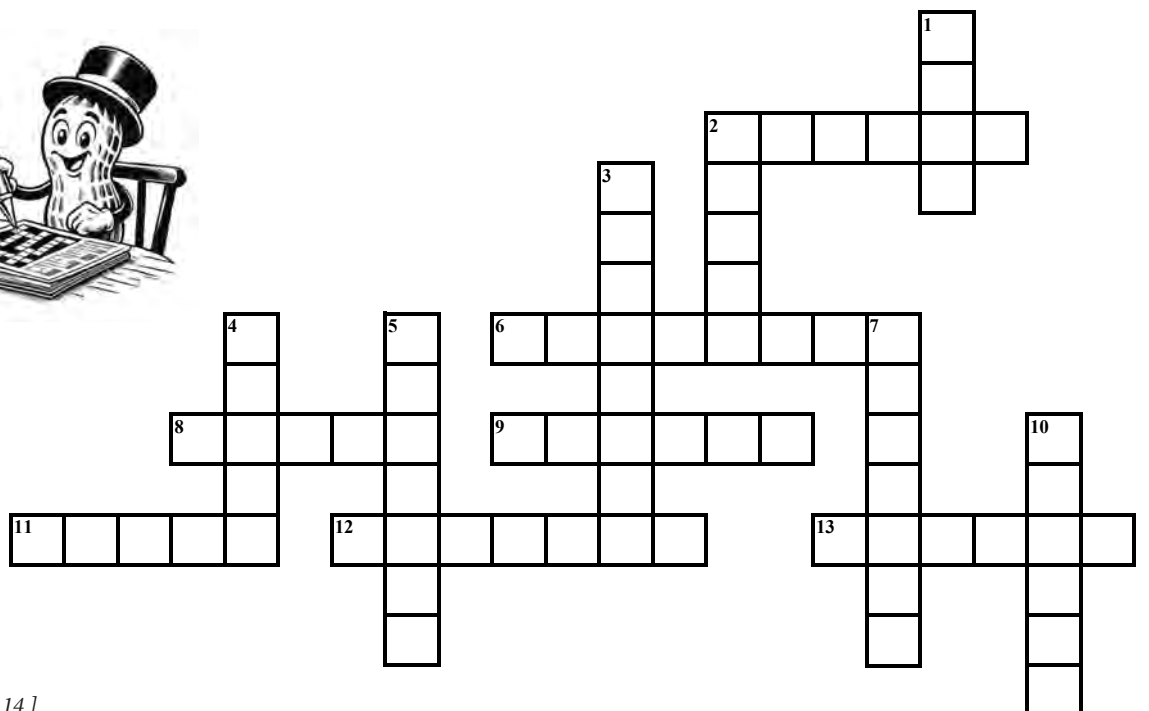


Across

- 2. Jack Ryan
- 6. Philip Marlowe
- 8. Sherlock Holmes
- 9. Jason Bourne
- 10. Tom Sawyer
- 12. Oliver Twist
- 13. Jaime Lannister

Down

- 1. Lestat
- 2. Jack Reacher
- 3. Jamie Fraser
- 4. Robert Langdon
- 5. James Bond
- 7. Percy Jackson
- 10. Hari Seldon



[Crossword answers found on page 14]

LEGAL NOTICES

**JOB NOTICE
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PERSHING COUNTY**

Pershing County is seeking a hardworking enthusiastic attorney to serve as the Deputy District Attorney. This position is under the general supervision and at the pleasure of the District Attorney, this is an unclassified position which assists the District Attorney in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of his or her office. The primary assignment of the Deputy District Attorney shall be the criminal prosecution and child support functions in the office. However, this position may require the person to prepare and try criminal and civil cases, furnish legal advice to the County departments, agencies, boards, and commissioners, and perform other duties as assigned. Starting salary is \$143,000 with PERS retirement benefits, medical, dental and vision insurance.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have a Juris Doctorate received from an American Bar Association-accredited law school.
1. Must have membership in good standing with the Nevada State Bar or eligibility for a limited practice certification.
 2. Ability to pass a background investigation.
 3. Must possess a valid State of Nevada Driver's License.
 4. Ability to work discreetly and confidentially with issues concerning personal information.
 5. Ability to maintain composure under difficult circumstances.
 6. Must possess and/or develop a positive working relationship with other County offices, employees, and the public.

Applications and a complete job description are available at the Pershing County District Attorney's Office, Pershing County Courthouse, 400 Main St., NV, between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or by calling 775-273-2613 for more information. Applications are also available on the County's website pershingcountynv.gov and click on the Employment Opportunities link. Position open until filled. Pershing County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Pershing County is a Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace.

Published in
The Fallon Post
June 12, 19, 26, and July 3, 2026
Ad #7498

**NOTICE OF OPEN
APPOINTIVE POSITION**

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking one public-spirited citizen of Churchill County who is willing to serve as a member on the Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, for a term that expires July 31, 2029. This committee serves as an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners and Nevada Wildlife Commission for the management of wildlife. Preference will be given for a person who has a commitment to community service to represent the general public and/or a person who represents the agricultural industry or hunters or trappers in Churchill County. This is a five member committee, with terms that are three years.

Applications may be obtained at the Churchill County Human Resources Department, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 155, Fallon, Nevada 89406 or by downloading at:
www.churchillcountynv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3083/Churchill-County-Board-Application?bidId=-.

Applications are to be submitted to the Churchill County Human Resources at 155 N. Taylor Street, Suite #155 no later than 3:00 PM on July 8, 2026.

Linda Rothery,
Clerk/Treasurer
Prepared by:
Tara Adams
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
The Fallon Post
June 19, 26 and July 3, 2026
Ad #7483

**CHURCHILL COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
690 S. MAINE ST.
FALLON, NV 89406
NOTICE OF REQUEST
FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Churchill County School District is requesting proposals for Legal Counsel.

Individuals/Firms wishing to respond to this RFP must obtain RFP documents from the District's website (www.churchillcsd.com). All responses to this RFP must meet all the qualifications listed in the RFP documents and must be submitted to the Superintendent's Office by 5 p.m. on July 15, 2026.

Published in
The Fallon Post
July 3, and 10, 2026
Ad #7570

**NOTICE OF MEETING
CANCELLATION OF THE
REGULARLY SCHEDULED
CHURCHILL COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS AND
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION MEETINGS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to NRS 244.085, the Churchill County Commissioners have cancelled their regularly scheduled meeting for July 15, 2026 at 8:15 AM.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to NRS 244.085, the Regional Transportation Commission have cancelled their regularly scheduled meeting for July 15, 2026 at 11:00 AM.

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer
Prepared by: Tara Adams,
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
The Fallon Post
June 26 and July 3, 2026
Ad #7560

Case No. 26-10DC-0389
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL
COURT OF THE STATE
OF NEVADA IN AND FOR
THE COUNTY OF
CHURCHILL, NEVADA**

**In the Matter of the Estate of
VIRGINIA ELIZABETH AUSTIN,
Deceased.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been duly appointed and qualified by the above-entitled Court on the 9th day of June, 2026, as the Personal Representative of the estate of Virginia Elizabeth Austin, Deceased.

All creditors having claims against the estate are required to file claims with the Clerk of the Court within sixty (60) days after the mailing or the first publication, as the case may be, of this notice.

DATED this 25th day of June, 2026.
Rusty D. Jardine, Esq.
Attorney for Paul R. Young,
Personal Representative
Nevada Bar No. 4296

Published in
The Fallon Post
July 3, 10, & 17, 2026
Ad #7571

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 13

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| ASIMOV | DICKENS |
| BROWN | DOYLE |
| CHANDLER | FLEMING |
| CHILD | GABALDON |
| CLANCY | LUDLUM |
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The Declaration at 250: The Document That Explained a Revolution

By Lori Kaiser

Two hundred fifty years ago, colonial leaders gathered in Philadelphia to explain a decision that had already changed history.

The American colonies were already at war with Great Britain when the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The document did not start the Revolution. Instead, it explained why the colonies believed they had no choice but to break away from British rule.

As Americans celebrate the nation's 250th year, the Declaration remains more than a founding document. It is a statement of principles, a list of grievances, and a reminder of both the promise and contradictions that have shaped the country ever since.

The road to independence began years before the Declaration was written. Colonists increasingly objected to taxes and trade restrictions imposed by Parliament. Tensions escalated after events such as the Boston Massacre in 1770 and the Boston Tea Party in 1773. By April 1775, fighting had broken out at Lexington and Concord, and the Revolutionary War was underway.

More than a year later, delegates meeting in Philadelphia concluded that reconciliation was no longer possible. Congress appointed a five-member

committee to draft a declaration explaining the colonies' decision. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston.

Jefferson, then 33 years old, wrote the first draft. Adams and Franklin revised the draft before Congress approved the final version.

The document follows a familiar structure. First, it explains the principles behind the decision. Then it lists the reasons for separation. Finally, it declares independence.

The opening paragraphs contain the words that have echoed through American history:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

Jefferson argued that people possess inherent rights and that governments derive their authority from the consent of the governed. When governments violate those rights, he wrote, the people have the authority to alter or abolish them.

The middle section lays out complaints against King George III. The conclusion declares that the colonies are "Free and Independent States."

The Declaration's most famous passage also reveals one of America's founding contradictions. Jefferson wrote that "all men are created equal" while enslaving hundreds of people during his lifetime.

That contradiction was present even during the

drafting process. Jefferson's original draft included a passage criticizing the slave trade. Congress removed the language before approving the final document, reflecting the political and economic divisions that already existed among the colonies.

The Declaration did not resolve those contradictions. In many ways, it exposed them.

Yet the document endured because its principles reached beyond the circumstances of 1776. Abolitionists, suffragists, civil rights leaders, immigrants, and reformers have all pointed to the Declaration's promise of equality and natural rights when arguing that the nation should live up to its founding ideals.

The grievances against King George belong to history. The larger questions raised by the Declaration do not.

What rights do people possess? What is the proper role of government? How should a nation respond when its actions fall short of its principles?

Those questions remain as relevant today as they were in Philadelphia 250 years ago.

The Declaration did not create a perfect nation, nor did its authors fully live up to the principles they proclaimed. What they created was an enduring idea: that rights belong to people, not governments. Americans have debated the meaning of that promise ever since. The debate—and the American experiment—continues.

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Friday, July 4, 2026



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10 a.m.
Theme: Celebrating America 250 & Our Military
The annual parade begins at Churchill County Middle School on Taylor Street and follows its traditional route through Fallon.

Parade Route

- North on Taylor Street
- East on A Street
- South on Ada Street
- East on Williams Avenue
- East on Maine Street
- Returns to Churchill County Middle School

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Noon-4 p.m. | Oats Park
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- Face painting
- 1,000 free hot dogs
- Free admission to the City of Fallon swimming pool
- Free splash pad
- Community booths
- Food vendors

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- Annabelle and the Desert Scrubs
- Carson Street Ragtime Band
- Jodi Power, stilt walker
- The Kindred North

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Fallon's Fourth of July celebration also marks America's 250th anniversary. Throughout the day, residents and visitors can celebrate the nation's history, honor the community's patriotic traditions, and recognize the service and sacrifice of America's military.

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- Bring sunscreen and plenty of water.
- Arrive early for the parade.
- Bring lawn chairs or blankets for the evening festivities.
- Stay after the music for the fireworks.

DID YOU KNOW?

America 250 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The 2026 celebration is known as the nation's semiquincentennial, commemorating 250 years of American history.

FEATURED INSIDE

- America 250: The Story Behind the Declaration of Independence
- Discover the events that led to July 4, 1776, the men who drafted the Declaration of Independence, and why its ideals continue to define the American experiment 250 years later.



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