

Rail Aware Nevada Promotes Crossing Safety

By Sydney Trainor

Rail Aware Nevada is bringing attention to railroad crossing safety in Northern Nevada, particularly for mining and heavy-truck operations.

With mining throughout the region and trucks hauling material around the clock, large vehicles regularly encounter railroad crossings along their routes. Fully loaded mining trucks differ from passenger vehicles and require more time and distance to stop, accelerate and maneuver.

Rail Aware is a nonprofit, grant-funded organization working to increase awareness of railroad crossing risks and promote safe crossing practices for truck drivers and train crews.

For drivers, railroad crossings present several risks. Visibility can be limited by blind corners or other obstructions, making it difficult for drivers to see an approaching train. Train speeds can also be difficult to judge from a distance.

According to Rail Aware board member Lynn Sandell, a train traveling about 50 mph can take up to a mile to stop, a distance she compared to roughly 14 football fields. Unlike a vehicle, a train cannot steer around an obstacle, leaving train crews with limited options when a person or vehicle is on the tracks.

While train crews can be physically injured in collisions, Sandell said the psychological effects are often more common when crews are unable to stop in time.

“More so than the physical harm, it is the psychological harm,” she



Photo Courtesy Nevada Department of Transportation

said. “You see someone on the tracks. They’re not moving. You can’t do anything about it.”

The Federal Railroad Administration recommends several safety tips for drivers to prevent incidents. Motorists should be prepared to stop at railroad crossings, slow down, look both ways, listen for approaching trains, understand warning devices and make sure there is enough room on the other side of the tracks before crossing. Drivers should never attempt to race a train or stop on the tracks.

For mining and heavy-truck drivers, Rail Aware emphasizes making sure the entire vehicle can clear the tracks before entering a crossing. Their size, weight and length can require additional time and space to move completely through a crossing.

According to Rail Aware, drivers

should ask themselves one question before crossing: “Can I completely clear the tracks?”

If the answer is not 100% certain, the truck should not enter the crossing.

Additionally, blue-and-white Emergency Notification System signs are on both sides of railroad crossings. According to the Federal Railroad Administration, each ENS sign includes the railroad’s emergency contact number and a crossing identification number, which allows the railroad to identify the exact location of an emergency or unsafe condition.

Sandell explained that every railroad crossing across the country has ENS signs, with unique identification numbers specific to that crossing.

If a vehicle becomes disabled or stuck on the tracks, the first priority

is to leave the vehicle immediately and get clear of the tracks. Once out of the vehicle and a safe distance from the tracks, the Federal Railroad Administration recommends calling the railroad using the number posted on the ENS sign. Drivers should give the railroad the crossing identification number and explain the emergency.

Sandell explained that calling the railroad emergency number before 911 can get the information to the train crew more quickly.

“The reason you call the emergency number for the railroad first is that you have almost instantaneous connection to the railroad to the train crews who can then act immediately,” she said.

Once the railroad receives the report, dispatch can contact the approaching train so the train crew can be aware of the incident and respond accordingly.

“Taking a few extra seconds to stop, look, listen, think, and make sure the tracks can be completely cleared may be the most important decision a driver makes all day,” Rail Aware stated.

Rail Aware was started about 15 years ago by Rich Gent, who brought experience in rail and public safety from his military career. The organization trains volunteers to serve as additional eyes and ears around railroad infrastructure, identifying and reporting potential safety hazards, emergencies and suspicious activity while providing railroad safety education and training to the public and other organizations.

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FORGE Nevada Expands Apprenticeship Opportunities

By Sydney Trainor

On Aug. 19, Nevada’s Department of Business and Industry announced a \$1.54 million federal grant to expand registered apprenticeship opportunities and develop new career pathways in several high-demand industries.

The Nevada Office of the Labor Commissioner received \$1,536,681.76 from the U.S. Department of Labor through the State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant. The funding will support the launch and implementation of FORGE Nevada, which stands for Future Opportunities through Registered Apprenticeships, Growth and Education.

FORGE Nevada was created to expand apprenticeship opportunities beyond traditional occupations and industries while helping employers develop skilled workers to meet current and future workforce needs. The initiative will be carried out through the Nevada State Apprenticeship Council in collaboration with Nevadaworks, Northern Nevada’s workforce development board.

“Registered apprenticeships provide Nevadans with a proven pathway to a rewarding career while allowing employers to develop the skilled workforce they need,” said State Apprenticeship Director Toni Giddens. “FORGE Nevada takes that model a step further by bringing together state government, workforce development partners and industry to create apprenticeship opportunities in fields where Nevada’s economy is growing. This innovative approach will help more Nevadans earn while they learn and build careers in high-demand industries.”

The initiative will focus on

apprenticeships for nontraditional jobs in Nevada’s high-demand industries. These include advanced manufacturing, domestic mineral production, education, hospitality and information technology.

FORGE Nevada aims to increase the total number of registered apprentices in the state by 225 and support a total of 300 pre-apprentices and apprentices. The initiative also plans to develop three pre-apprenticeship programs and three new Registered Apprenticeship Programs. These programs will be designed to provide accessible pathways for Nevadans to gain industry-recognized skills and credentials while gaining work experience.

FORGE Nevada will also use a different sponsorship model for its apprenticeship programs. Registered Apprenticeship Programs are traditionally sponsored directly by employers. Under FORGE Nevada, an intermediary entity will instead serve as the apprenticeship sponsor, allowing organizations and industries to establish programs without requiring each participating employer to take on that role.

According to project partners, the intermediary-sponsored approach will be the first program of its kind in Nevada. This model is intended to help expand registered apprenticeships into industries and occupations that historically have had limited participation in apprenticeship programs.

The new model is also intended to make participation easier for employers that may not have the administrative capacity or resources to independently sponsor an apprenticeship program.

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Hawk Fire Updates



Photo Taken North of Somersett- Photo Courtesy Paul Petersen.

By Sydney Trainor

On Aug. 22, the Hawk fire began just north of Reno. The fire started off Hawk Meadow Trail, approximately one mile north of Cold Creek Trail in the Somersett area. It has been identified as human-caused, with investigations still underway.

Due to the fire, Gov. Joe Lombardo declared a state of emergency in

Washoe County. “This is an active and rapidly evolving situation, and I urge everyone in the affected areas to remain vigilant and follow the direction of local officials,” he said. “The state is fully engaged, and we are working alongside local authorities and first responders to deploy every available resource to protect lives, safeguard communities, and keep Nevadans out of harm’s way.”

As of Aug. 25, the fire had burned over 15,000 acres and was at 27% containment, with 816 personnel assigned to the fire. Over the weekend roughly 90,000 Washoe County residents were affected due to evacuations. On Sunday Aug. 23, officials said that 42,000 residents were evacuated under “Go Now” orders, and roughly 45,000 more were in the evacuation warning zone.

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COMMENTARY

Nevada’s Latest Endangered Species: Local Pharmacies

By Alice Heiman

Our area is losing its locally owned and operated pharmacies. Over the past decade, Northern Nevada has experienced a significant number of pharmacy closures that are sadly consistent with national trends. Many independent and even national chain pharmacies have been impacted, with hundreds of closures across the U.S. since 2014.

Rural areas in particular have been hit the hardest, with many losing their last remaining pharmacies due to financial challenges and competition. Nationwide, more than 16% of independently owned pharmacies in rural areas closed between 2003 and 2021, and this trend is visible in rural Nevada.

I understand that there is only one compounding pharmacy left in all of Northern Nevada: the Sierra Compounding Pharmacy in South Reno. It attracts clients from all around Northern Nevada and is one of the only places patients can go to obtain medications that corporate pharmacies don’t carry.

I have been a client of Sierra Family Pharmacies for well over a decade, and I watched them close three retail pharmacies in 2017 and 2018, leaving the South Reno store as their last pharmacy. I was just there earlier this month, getting some medications I can’t get anywhere else, and of course my insurance won’t cover those medications.

Why are our local pharmacies

closing? Well, one main reason is the reimbursement challenges from Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs). PBMs, which act as intermediaries between insurers, pharmacies, and drug manufacturers, often dictate the reimbursement rates for medications. Many independent pharmacies report that these rates are too low, sometimes even below the cost of the drug itself, leading to unsustainable profit margins.

PBMs force local pharmacies into “take it or leave it” contracts, often forcing them to sell medications for below cost. Even if a pharmacy can survive these anticompetitive practices, they must dedicate more time to dealing with PBM issues than with serving their patients.

Smaller pharmacies also face significant regulatory hurdles, including compliance with health insurance regulations, safety standards, and other federal guidelines. These requirements can be difficult to manage without the resources of larger corporations.

These factors, combined with ongoing changes in health care policy and economic pressures, are contributing to the closure of many independently owned pharmacies, particularly in rural areas.

But it’s not just pharmacies that are being hurt by PBMs. So are patients.

PBMs work with insurance companies to decide what medicines patients can get and how much people pay out of pocket. While PBMs “negotiate” for lower prices, they are not passing those cost savings on

to their customers.

Just three PBMs control 80% of the market. They rely on opaque business practices that experts warn can lead to higher costs for patients. For example, they collect exorbitant fees tied to the price of medicines, which means they can benefit more from preferring higher-priced medicines, even though that may mean higher costs for patients.

A recent analysis found the share of PBM profits from these fees paid by pharmacies, employers, and other entities increased 300% over the last decade.

To rein in these powerful middlemen, Democratic and Republican senators have introduced the Delinking Revenue from Unfair Gouging Act (S. 1542).

The bipartisan bill would end incentives that experts have noted may drive PBMs to prefer higher-priced medicines when cheaper versions are available. Instead, PBMs would be required to charge flat fees based on the services they provide, making the system more competitive, transparent, and affordable.

I urge our Nevada delegation to help ensure that Nevadans, especially rural Nevadans, have pharmacies in their communities. I urge them to pass legislation when they return to Congress after the summer break to protect our local pharmacies. Nevada patients will benefit from lower drug costs if they take action.

Alice Heiman owns a sales consulting business in Reno and is a health care advocate.

Military Briefings



Photo Courtesy Shawn Eisenhauer

VALife Insurance

Staff Report

VALife provides guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance coverage for Veterans age 80 or under who have a VA disability rating of 0% to 100%. Benefits include up to \$40,000 in coverage available in \$10,000 increments; no health questions to enroll; no deadline to apply for Veterans age 80 or under; and locked in premium rates that do not increase.

To apply or learn more, visit www.va.gov/life-insurance.

Veteran Career Employment Team

Staff Report

The new webpage provides details about the employment services our team can deliver; any individuals who wish to receive services need to complete the short online interest form to get started.

The Veteran Career Employment Team is now live at: https://detr.nv.gov/Page/Veteran_Employment_Services.

There is also a shared mailbox at veteranemployment@detr.nv.gov that we will be monitoring, and we will be happy to respond to any general questions that candidates might have.

Additionally, they will provide business services for businesses and employers who would like to hire veterans, and they are always welcome to contact us.

Post-9/11 M2VA Program

Staff Report

The Post-9/11 M2VA program is designed to meet the needs of post 9/11 veterans, including National Guard and Reserve service members. The Post-9/11 M2VA team will assist veterans, their families, and caregivers in navigating the VA healthcare system, while supporting veterans to achieve their goals.

The Post-9/11 M2VA program offers a complete and team-based approach to meet the needs of Post-9/11 veterans. The program also works closely with other VA departments and community partners in Northern Nevada.

For more information, contact (775) 786-7220, ext. 2771.

“Not My Cup of Tea” Amodei isn’t endorsing his Republican successor, and has a few things to say about how candidates should face the people they want to represent.

By Rachel Dahl

Congressman Mark Amodei has never been particularly tortured about saying what he thinks. With only months remaining in his tenure representing Nevada’s sprawling 2nd Congressional District, he doesn’t appear inclined to start now.

Asked on Nevada Newsmakers whether he was ready to endorse Republican congressional nominee David Flippo, Amodei’s answer required exactly one word.

“No.”

Then, perhaps realizing host Sam Shad might require elaboration, Amodei added: “Not my cup of tea.”

And things pretty much went downhill from there for Flippo.

Amodei, who announced earlier this year that he would not seek another term in Congress, took issue with Flippo’s decision to jump from the 4th Congressional District race into CD2 shortly after Amodei announced his retirement.

“You pull out of CD4 72 hours after I say I’m not coming back,” Amodei said. “Oh, there’s a Republican seat. I’m going to go run for it.”

He was equally unimpressed with the primary campaign Flippo ran against former state Sen. Heidi Gansert, although Amodei acknowledged the final authority belongs to Republican voters.

“The voters are never wrong,” he said.

But respecting their decision, Amodei made clear, does not require him to endorse it.

“I wish him all the best,” Amodei said. “No way. No thank you.”

Asked whether he had spoken with Flippo since the primary, Amodei was even more Amodei.

“No. What’s there to talk about?”

Then he caught himself.

“As you can tell from this, I’m trying

to be nice because you’re recording.”

Gov. Joe Lombardo has endorsed Flippo, something Amodei attributed partly to the governor’s position as the Republican standard-bearer heading into November.

“Republican unity is a good thing,” Amodei said.

But he added: “I don’t speak for anybody but myself when it comes to this election. And speaking for myself, no thanks.”

Amodei has not said whom he will support instead.

Democrat Teresa Benitez-Thompson is running against Flippo, along with an independent candidate, Lynn Chapman, and Amodei said he would make up his mind closer to early voting.

“I am not endorsing Mr. Flippo,” he reiterated.

The conversation became even more interesting when Shad described his efforts to get Flippo on Nevada Newsmakers.

According to Shad, campaign consultant Rory McShane told him Flippo was too busy to appear but offered to go on the program himself. Shad said campaign chairman Woodrow Johnston later told him Flippo would not be available “until he was Congressman David Flippo.”

Shad pointed out the obvious.

“He has to win the election first.”

Shad said Johnston also offered to appear in Flippo’s place. He declined both offers.

Shad also said the campaign indicated it was not looking at debates. Benitez-Thompson, by contrast, told Shad she would debate “anytime, any day, anywhere” and has agreed to appear on Nevada Newsmakers.

Amodei said he had not known about Flippo’s apparent reluctance to debate or sit for interviews.

But he clearly had an opinion about it.

Amodei recalled that during his own

campaigns, he did not refuse debates, including some hosted by Shad, and said interaction with people who may disagree with you comes with the territory.

“That’s the essence of asking for the responsibility of representing people,” Amodei said.

Then came perhaps the most important line of the interview:

“The job isn’t going to allow you to only serve under circumstances which you control.”

Amodei said he has found himself holding impromptu town halls with people who did not particularly like him, sometimes in parking lots outside Elks lodges or his congressional offices.

That, he suggested, is part of the job.

“You’re going to do public service, but you’re not — that’s an interesting style,” he said of avoiding those encounters.

And of campaign surrogates offering to speak instead of the candidate?

“Wow,” Amodei said. “That’s close to the people.”

The rest of the interview was classic Amodei: part policy seminar, part Nevada history lesson, and part running commentary from a politician who no longer has another election to worry about.

On the Colorado River, Amodei warned that states that continually fail to reach solutions eventually invite Washington to make decisions for them.

“When you demonstrate that you are incapable of solving the problem, guess what?” he said. “Twenty-five hundred miles away, there we go.”

And on data centers, increasingly contentious across Nevada, Amodei was considerably more measured than much of the current debate.

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EVENTS

Nevada’s Got It All: Cantaloupes, Cowboys, Racing, & Burning Man

By Doris Rodriguez

Howdy, folks!

If you’re fixing to get out of the house and kick up a little dust this weekend, rural Nevada’s got a full plate of good times waiting. From sweet melons and carnival lights to horse races, medieval festivities, and a mining-town hoe-down, there’s something for just about everyone out there.

Kick things off in Fallon with the Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair running Aug. 28-30 at the Rafter 3C Event Complex. The gates swing open on Friday at 1 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m. Sunday also open at 9 a.m., wrapping up around 5 p.m. This longtime agricultural celebration centers on Fallon’s famous Hearts of Gold cantaloupes and delivers the real deal country-fair experience: carnival rides, live music, a car show, 4-H and FFA critters, truck and tractor pulls,

and enough melon treats to make your belt buckle strain.

For all the bucking fun, head over to eastern Nevada, where the 105th Elko County Fair is in full swing from Aug. 28 through Sept. 7 at the Elko County Fairgrounds. The weekend kickoff brings horse racing, livestock shows, home arts exhibits, and all the usual fairground magic, with racing post times typically starting in the early afternoon. Aug. 29 is Veterans Day at the fair, meaning free admission for all veterans, complete with a color guard and national anthem right there on the racetrack.

Just down the road in Lamoille, the Robin Hood Renaissance Faire takes over Lamoille Grove on Aug. 29-30, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Presented by the Rotary Club of Elko, this family-friendly journey through medieval times features knights, merchants, minstrels, food, and games! Costumes

are encouraged but not required, so if you’ve been itching to wear a cape or a crown, now’s your chance. Proceeds help local youth programs, meaning you can have a good time and do a little good at the same time.

Further south, the Tonopah Historic Mining Park hosts its Summer Soiree on Saturday, Aug. 29. Free walking tours run all day starting in the morning, with food trucks rolling in from 6 to 8 p.m., live music by local favorites Lie For Fun, and a cash bar from Tonopah Liquor Co. It’s a relaxed evening under the big desert sky celebrating the area’s mining roots.

Closer to Winnemucca? The Regional Raceway fires up Saturday night with dirt track action, including the Mike Scott Memorial Race. Gates and racing usually get rolling around 7 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce is throwing its second annual dinner that same Saturday evening at the historic

Humboldt Museum. This year has a live murder-mystery experience mixed in, complete with cocktail hour starting at 5 p.m. Guests will be eating, drinking, and trying to figure out whodunit all at the same time, so keep your eyes peeled for clues between bites and don’t let the dessert distract you from the plot.

Finally, for the cosmic wanderers, Burning Man’s gates swing open Sunday, Aug. 30, calling kindred spirits to the Black Rock Desert. Here, you won’t find spectators; only creators, dancers, artists, and seekers, all gathering to raise a city of light, music, art, and radical self-expression

Most of these events go on rain or shine, but schedules can shift quicker than a horse at the sound of the gate. Check the individual event pages for the latest ticket info and any last-second changes before you hit the road.

By Sydney Trainor

Distance runner Kutoven “Ku” Stevens hosted the 2026 Remembrance Run Aug. 14-16 in collaboration with Remaining Native, bringing participants on a 50-mile journey from the Yerington Paiute Tribe Reservation to the Stewart Indian School Museum.

The Remembrance Run was described by organizers as a prayerful journey rather than a competition, welcoming people of all backgrounds to participate. The run was completed over two days, with overnight camping and storytelling at Sunrise Pass.

The first day began with a prayer at the Yerington Paiute Tribe before runners traveled southeast toward Mason Pass Road. From there, they headed west for approximately 15 miles before turning north onto

Remembrance Run 2026



Motivational signs along the route. Photo Courtesy Our Town Reno

Artesia Road and then west onto Sunrise Pass Road. Participants traveled another five miles to the Remembrance Run camp, where they stayed overnight.

The second day began with a prayer before participants continued west over Sunrise Pass, traveled south toward Stewart, and crossed the river.

The group then regrouped across from LifeChurch before walking the final stretch to the cemetery at the Stewart Indian School Museum in Carson City.

Stevens and his family created the Remembrance Run in 2021 after news broke in Kamloops, Canada, of 215 unmarked graves containing the remains of Indigenous children. The run was created to bring the community together and retrace the journey Stevens’ great-grandfather took when escaping from the Stewart Indian School.

This year, the run returned as a community event, hosted by the Stevens family in partnership with

Remaining Native.

Remaining Native is a documentary told from the perspective of Stevens as a 17-year-old Native American runner pursuing his goal of becoming a collegiate athlete while learning how his great-grandfather’s escape from an Indian boarding school connects his family’s past, present and future.

This year’s Remembrance Run also included “Art in Motion,” in which eight artists were invited to create works reflecting the message of the run.

During the two-day journey, participating artists visited rest stops along the route to give demonstrations of their creative processes. Their work was then exhibited at the Stewart Indian School Museum and Cultural Center during the closing ceremony and offered through a silent auction. According to organizers, proceeds from the auction supported the impact campaign for the Remaining Native documentary.

To learn more about Remaining Native, visit remainingnativedocumentary.com/r26.

“Adopt a Cow” Program Returns to Nevada Classrooms



Photo Courtesy Nevada Dairy Farmers

By Sydney Trainor

Students in Nevada will have the opportunity to get a close-up look at dairy farming through Discover Dairy’s “Adopt a Cow” program during the 2026-27 school year. Early enrollment for the program is available through Sept. 1.

Adopt a Cow is a free, yearlong educational program that pairs participating classrooms with a calf from a working dairy farm, allowing students to follow the animal’s growth throughout the school year. According to Nevada Dairy Farmers, the program has reached more than 1 million students worldwide and is taught in classrooms across all 50 states.

In Nevada, participating classrooms are paired with a calf from Cottonwood Dairy Farm, run by Fallon resident Tim Sorensen. During the last school year, 444 classrooms in Nevada registered for the program, reaching 18,110 students.

Throughout the year, teachers and students will receive photos,

video updates and activity sheets featuring their calf. The program is designed to teach students about dairy farming, agriculture and where their food comes from through hands-on activities, as well as a free curriculum provided by Discover Dairy. Several of these lessons also align with Common Core standards in math, reading and science.

“The Adopt a Cow program is one of the most meaningful ways we connect Nevada classrooms to the real story of dairy farming,” said Libby Lovig, RDN, LD, general manager of Nevada Dairy Farmers. “For many students, this is their first chance to see where their milk actually comes from. When kids can follow their own calf’s growth through photos, videos and live farmer chats, they receive a hands-on connection to agriculture that they simply can’t get from a textbook.”

The program is available to schools in both rural and urban communities and can be taught through in-person or virtual instruction.

Teachers who enroll will receive an introductory update in the fall with information about the calf assigned to their classroom. Additional updates will be provided every two months throughout the school year, along with suggestions for incorporating portions of the Discover Dairy curriculum into lesson plans.

Teachers can enroll through the Discover Dairy “Adopt a Cow” program website or contact the Dairy Excellence Foundation at 717-346-0849 for more information.

For more information, visit discoverdairy.com/adopt-a-cow/.

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LEGISLATIVE

Nevada Communities Weigh Data Center Development



Photo Courtesy DRI- Data Centers In Nevada
By Sydney Trainor

Data centers have quickly become a hot topic of conversation and controversy throughout the state. According to data center maps, Nevada currently houses 72 data center facilities, 52 of which are operational, while seven are under construction and 13 are planned.

Counties across Nevada are deciding how to handle new data center facilities while residents voice concerns. Many discussions center around implementing regulations, code changes, moratoriums and bans.

Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo backs data center development, stating, “I support data centers because they bring jobs, investment, and economic growth to Nevada.”

He said, “At the same time, we have to put the right parameters in place to ensure they don’t raise costs on Nevada residents or businesses. As governor, I’m focused on growing our economy responsibly while protecting rates for families.”

Storey County also supports data center development and actively welcomes tech campuses. Storey County is home to the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, or TRIC, which hosts several data centers in different stages of development. Major data center campuses are currently operating within the county, including Novva, Fleet, Switch, Vantage, Google and

Continued from Page 1- Rail Aware Nevada.

Since its beginning, Rail Aware has grown to about 80 members, primarily in Washoe County, with members also in Storey and Lyon counties. According to Sandell, Rail Aware is currently the only organization of its kind in the United States, though the group hopes to expand its reach by helping organizations in other communities establish their own teams.

Rail Aware also partners with local agencies, businesses and community organizations to provide railroad safety education and expand its reach.

Continued from Page 1- FORGE.

“FORGE Nevada gives us the opportunity to build on apprenticeship infrastructure that is already producing results,” said Milt Stewart, CEO of Nevadaworks. “Nevadaworks will help employers develop and administer apprenticeship programs, connect people to those opportunities, and provide the navigation and support that help apprentices succeed. The goal is to make apprenticeship easier for employers to use and more

more.

Other counties have held discussions and public meetings on data center facilities before making decisions. Churchill County hosted a public workshop on June 17 to gather community input and hear from speakers. Commissioners discussed balancing private property rights with protections for residents, agriculture, water, wildlife and the county’s rural character.

Storey County Commissioner Clay Mitchel explained potential benefits to bringing in data centers, highlighting that Storey County’s two longest-operating data centers each generate approximately \$3 million to \$5 million in annual property taxes after state abatements. He also noted that large facilities may bring in 500 to 800 construction workers, while campuses developed in phases could provide five to 10 years of construction work.

GOED Director Tom Burns presented some economic impacts, including approximately two years of construction work and 50 to 80 permanent jobs at a typical data center. He said many permanent positions pay more than \$100,000 annually. Burns also said data centers can provide stable property tax revenue and diversify rural economies that rely heavily on agriculture and mining.

Meanwhile, Pershing County is also having discussions surrounding data centers. Commissioners discussed a new hyperscale data center proposed by Dunlieh Infrastructure Group, while County Manager Kristin Gonzalez urged commissioners to consider a six-month moratorium to allow for research and information gathering.

Members of the public raised concerns about groundwater, electrical demand, tax incentives and the potential industrialization of rural

Sandell said the organization offers free training to groups, including law enforcement agencies, fire departments, churches and more.

“If a company or a sheriff’s department or any organization like that would like free training, we are more than happy to offer that free training,” Sandell said.

Larger organizations interested in forming a team can also receive assistance from Rail Aware to get the program started.

To learn more or for partnership opportunities, visit nvrailaware.org.

accessible to Nevadans.”

The Office of the Labor Commissioner and its apprenticeship partners will collaborate with employers, workforce development organizations, educational institutions and industry stakeholders to identify areas where new pre-apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship Programs can be developed.

More information about Nevada’s registered apprenticeship system and current apprenticeship opportunities is available at labor.nv.gov/Wages/Nevada_State_Apprenticeship_Council.

land. Commissioners stressed that no construction or operating permits have been approved and that the proposal remains in its early stages.

There will be a community meeting about data centers for residents on Sept. 9 at 4:30 p.m. at the community center in Lovelock. Community members must RSVP to save a spot. Email lovelockcommunityactiongroup@gmail.com to RSVP.

Other counties and cities have taken action against allowing data centers in their areas.

On June 1, 2026, the city of Reno approved a moratorium pausing approval of future data center projects until August 2027. After listening to more than five hours of public comment, council members voted 6-1 to approve the moratorium, with Councilmember Kathleen Taylor opposing. The moratorium is intended to give the city time to review regulations and restrictions before approving new projects.

Humboldt County also passed a temporary moratorium concerning data centers. On July 6, county commissioners adopted a temporary moratorium on data center applications in Humboldt County through July 13, 2027, while officials update land-use regulations addressing water, power, infrastructure and other impacts. However, the moratorium does not apply within Winnemucca city limits, as Winnemucca is an incorporated city with its own land-use authority.

Additionally, Nye County became the first county in the state to pass an

outright ban on data centers. On Aug. 18, 2026, the Nye County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to ban the construction and operation of data centers in Nevada’s Hydrographic Basin 162. The ban came after a temporary moratorium was put into place in June.

In May, the Nye County Water District Governing Board unanimously approved an emergency order requesting a moratorium on data centers in the Pahrump Valley. The order applies to Nevada Hydrographic Basin 162, where groundwater resources are critically over appropriated. Under the order, using groundwater for data center projects is considered an impermissible use within the Pahrump Regional Planning District.

“Data centers can work in certain parts of the country, I just don’t see why when you have our water problem, why Basin 162 would be a place to do it,” said board member Michael Lach.

Other commissioners considered the tax benefits these facilities could bring.

“I want to remind you that you only have 2% of the taxable land in Nye County, everything else is federally owned,” Commissioner Debra Strickland said. “Somewhere we got to make money, guys. So, let’s put data centers somewhere, come up with a place that’ll work.”

Commission Chair Ron Boskovich agreed, stating, “I know that our president wants more of these, and I know that our governor wants more of these.”

Continued from Page 2 - Amodei.

Nevada does not have unlimited water or power, he said, which makes local planning and zoning critical. He said proposals involving small modular nuclear reactors or other on-site generation could help data centers avoid placing additional burdens on the electric grid.

Water must likewise be addressed.

But Amodei rejected the idea that data centers themselves are inherently harmful.

“Good stuff to have,” he said, “but you’ve got to do it responsibly.”

Shad agreed.

“Data centers aren’t inherently

bad,” he said. “It’s just like any other development. You’ve got to do it responsibly.”

At press time, the Flippo campaign was actively seeking a time to appear on Newsmakers with Shad, and had done interviews with FOX news and the Nevada Independent.

See the complete interview with Rep. Amodei at NevadaNewsmakers.com



Continued from Page 1- Hawk Fire.

As of Aug 24, All Washoe County school activities remained cancelled. Truckee Meadows Community College also cancelled all operations, including in person and remote. Although the “Go Now” zones have reached the edge of the University of Nevada, Reno, the University continues to stay open.

There are limited resources available for evacuees. Evacuation shelter is available at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Hall 4 4590 S. Virginia Street. To access the evacuation center, use Kietzke Lane and enter through Door 20F on the Kietzke side. Note that pets cannot be

accepted at this site.

Small animals may be taken to Washoe County Regional Animal Services at 2825 Longley Lane. Large animals can be evacuated to the Ironwood Event Center 5600 Whiskey Springs Road Reno, NV 89510.

Some hotels and casinos are offering discounted rates for evacuees as well. Call ahead of time to check availability and prices, as many are fully booked.

For current road closures and evacuation zones, go to <https://perimetermap.com/data/142-162943-polygon/>

For power outage updates, visit <https://www.nvenergy.com/outages-and.../view-current-outages/>

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