

THE FALLON POST



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CCHS Seniors Start Dental Program

Staff Report

Churchill County High School, in partnership with its Work-Based Learning program, has rolled out a new opportunity for students interested in the dental field. This fall, three seniors at CCHS began Dental Assisting classes through a collaboration with Truckee Meadows Community College and the State of Nevada’s approved dental programs.

The initiative aims to provide hands-on, career-focused training for students while they are still in high school. The three seniors enrolled in the program aim to become dentists and are gaining early exposure to essential clinical skills and the academic rigor of the profession.



Janessa Bettencourt, Billy Peterson, and Lea Williams begin their dental assisting journey through a new partnership program with Truckee Meadows Community College. Photo courtesy of Dr. Sue Segura.

Students say the experience has been rewarding and directly relevant to their future ambitions. Through the program, they are learning foundational dental assisting techniques, workplace professionalism, patient care, and safety procedures. These skills are expected to give them a competitive edge as they pursue further education in the field.

“This is exactly what Work-Based Learning is designed to do: connect students with real-world training that aligns with their career goals,” program leaders at CCHS said. “We are proud to partner with Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and the State of Nevada to provide these valuable opportunities for our students.”

CCHS plans to continue expanding career-focused partnerships to offer students more pathways into high-skill, in-demand professions throughout Nevada.

Rotary Helps Send Oasis Seniors to Disneyland



From the left: AlexZandar Sheldon-Davis, Aidan Clark, Dr. Richardson, Laynee Diaz, Taylor Hyde, and Trevor Barrenceha. Photo courtesy of Fallon Rotary.

Staff Report

A donation of more than \$1,000 from the Rotary Club of Fallon is helping turn a long-held dream into reality for Oasis Academy seniors.

Rotary’s contribution to the Oasis Grad Night Committee will help fund a senior trip to Disneyland, giving graduating students a safe, memorable way to celebrate the end of their high school careers.

In addition to supporting travel costs,

Rotary will also sponsor the event’s commemorative T-shirts and sweatshirts, providing students with a lasting reminder of the experience.

Organizers said the donation reflects Rotary’s long-standing commitment to supporting local youth and investing in the community's future. While the destination may be a world-famous theme park, they noted the real magic comes from local service groups and students working together to make opportunities like this possible.

30-Year Water Outlook for Carson Basin

By Rachel Dahl

A long-term look at water in the Carson River Basin suggests the region is not “running out” of water, but it is facing a future shaped by changing runoff patterns, earlier snowmelt, and increasingly complex decisions about how surface water and groundwater are managed together.

That was the message delivered to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District board last week by Ed James, who presented findings from a 30-year regional drought and water-supply report prepared by the Carson Water Subconservancy District.

The report focuses on municipal water systems and watershed conditions in the upper Carson River Basin, examining historic river flows, groundwater pumping trends, projected growth, and how those factors interact over time. While the study does not prescribe policy or allocation changes, James described it as a reference tool meant to inform future planning and decision-making.

One of the most consistent findings across multiple datasets is that runoff timing is shifting.

Using long-term stream gauge records on both the East and West forks of the Carson River, the report shows that water is increasingly arriving earlier in the year, with higher winter and early spring flows and reduced late-season runoff.

“That’s not a projection that’s already happening,” James said, emphasizing that the analysis relies on historic data rather than climate modeling scenarios.

At the same time, river flows are becoming more volatile, with larger peaks during wet years and deeper lows during dry ones. While total annual water volume has not necessarily declined, the timing and usability of that water have changed.

“In some very wet years, there’s more water than the system can use or store,” James said. “It ends up moving through quickly or being lost because there’s nowhere to put it.”

The study examined nine major municipal water providers upstream of the Lahontan Reservoir and projected water demand over the next 30 years.

On paper, James said, those systems generally hold sufficient water rights to meet expected growth. However, he cautioned that having water rights does not always translate into adequate infrastructure capacity, particularly during peak-demand periods.

Some communities may need to add wells or upgrade systems to ensure water is available when needed, even if legal rights are in place. The report did not evaluate individual system constraints; instead, it focused on basin-wide conditions.

Importantly, municipal water use has not risen at the same pace as population growth in recent decades. Conservation measures, higher water costs, and changing landscaping habits have reduced per-capita demand in many communities.

“People simply use less water today than they did 20 years ago,” James said.

A major theme of the presentation was conjunctive management, the recognition that groundwater and surface water are hydrologi-

[30-Year Water Outlook on page 2]



IN THIS EDITION

From the Publisher	2	Court	9
Features	3	Education	10
Announcements	4	Sports	11
Obituaries	5	Columns	12
Community	6	Crossword	13
Business	7	Legal Notices	13
Local Government	8	Business Directory	14

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CC Communications

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Single copies may be purchased for \$2 at local merchants listed on page 16.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log

The Places We Go

By Rachel Dahl

We’re getting ready to send the paper to print – Volume 7, number 11. Instead of writing this in the quiet pre-dawn hours in my cozy little house, I was focused on writing a Business Narrative for another project I’m working on.

So now I’m in the noisy office on deadline with phones and walk-ins and the YouTube fireplace playing some classical brain music, trying to focus. It’s quite a change from our first print edition and the first Captain’s Log. Days like this, I get a little sentimental.

And weepy...I just went to the archive drawer and pulled out the first issues of the paper from November 2020, just to look at the old Captain’s Logs, and oh my, how far we’ve come. Our first edition of this paper was so, so, rookie. Remember when we printed it on white paper, and it was more like a newsletter. As much as we didn’t want it to be a newsletter, wow. It was.

But here we are. And what fun it’s been.

There’s a paragraph in C.L. #3 that says something about CPI – someone calling our paper a Continuous Process Improvement. Thank goodness it has been, because what we’re doing certainly has come closer and closer to being a real newspaper.

There is also a paragraph about the things that we have learned, and then I quoted one of my all-time favorite poems – from Dr. Suess...



“Out there things can happen, and frequently do,
To people as brainy and footsy as you.
And when things start to happen,
don’t worry, don’t stew,
Just go right along, you’ll start happening too!”

So much of that poem is all that we’ve been through and then some... so while we, “Get on our way!” we’ll always be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

— Rach

[30-Year Water Outlook continued from page 1]

cally connected and must be managed together. Nevada law historically treated the two separately, but legislation adopted in recent years gives the state engineer authority to consider how new groundwater pumping affects river flows. Under this framework, new wells, whether municipal or agricultural, may be required to mitigate impacts to surface water. That mitigation could take several forms, including dedicating surface water rights, releasing stored water at certain times of year, or supporting recharge strategies. “You can’t just pump water and assume it disappears,” James said. “If it affects the river, that impact has to be addressed.” The report found that current groundwater pumping in the Carson Basin has not yet reached the crisis level seen in other Nevada basins, such as Humboldt, where large-scale mitigation is already required. However, James said the Carson is not immune from future constraints if growth and pumping increase. The study also highlighted the role agriculture plays in the basin’s water system. Flood irrigation, often criticized as inefficient, contributes significantly to groundwater recharge, helping sustain aquifers that later support both wells and river flows. In contrast, more efficient

irrigation methods can sometimes reduce recharge, altering downstream conditions. “Efficiency isn’t always as simple as it sounds,” James said. “Sometimes being more efficient in one place changes impacts somewhere else.” That complexity underscores the difficulty of balancing agricultural use, municipal growth, environmental needs, and downstream rights, particularly in a system with limited upstream storage and heavy reliance on natural runoff. James emphasized that the report is not a forecast or warning of imminent shortages, but rather a framework for understanding tradeoffs. “The basin can support growth,” he said. “But growth choices matter. You can convert agricultural land to housing, but you don’t get to keep everything else the same.” He noted that agriculture provides not only food production but habitat, open space, and recharge benefits that are difficult to replace once lost. James closed by noting that the presentation was his final one to the TCID board as he prepares to retire, and thanked the district and its partners for years of collaboration on competing water interests. “Our job is to provide the best information we can,” he said. “What communities choose to do with that information is ultimately up to them.”



PETS OF THE WEEK

Seeking a Special Home for Ugly

The City of Fallon Animal Shelter is seeking a special home for Ugly, a resilient and endearing resident with a personality as memorable as her name.

Ugly, as shelter staff affectionately call her, is looking for a place where her name is a loving nickname rather than a label, her scars are seen as badges of honor, and she’s greeted by plenty of friends, two-legged or four. This remarkable animal expects that if you have hands, they should always be ready to offer a good scratch; her standards are clear, and she’s not shy about enforcing them.

Shelter staff are searching for someone who will celebrate Ugly’s quirks and offer the affectionate environment she deserves. “She’s the kind of friend who makes every day brighter, whether you walk on two legs or four,” said a staff member. With her gentle spirit and unmistakable charm, Ugly has a way of winning hearts wherever she goes. She’s ready to share her warmth, laughter, and unique outlook on life with the right family, bringing joy and companionship that’s truly one-of-a-kind.

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



Meet Koda



Meet Koda, a charming grey tuxedo boy looking for his forever home. This gentle feline is neutered, vaccinated, and ready to settle in with a calm, caring family who appreciates quiet companionship. Koda is known for his serene nature and affectionate personality, making him an ideal pet for anyone yearning for peaceful evenings and gentle cuddles. He thrives in tranquil environments and enjoys spending time with people who show patience and kindness.

If your household is filled with love and you’re looking to add a little warmth and a lot of purrs, Koda may be the perfect fit. Interested adopters are encouraged to contact the Fallon Animal Welfare Group for more information or to arrange a meeting with this wonderful companion. Don’t miss the chance to welcome Koda into your family and experience the joy of his gentle presence.

Questions? Call 775-217-4745

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

FEATURES

Nevada Awarded \$180 Million in First-Year Rural Health Grant

By Rachel Dahl

Nevada’s new health agency is preparing to roll out a major infusion of federal dollars aimed squarely at rural communities.

Gov. Joe Lombardo announced Dec. 29 that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded nearly \$180 million to the Nevada Health Authority (NVHA) for the first year of the federal Rural Health Transformation Program, a multi-year initiative intended to improve access, outcomes, infrastructure, workforce, and technology in rural health systems.

State leaders described the award as a chance to strengthen rural healthcare “where it actually happens” in small hospitals, clinics, EMS systems, and community-based services that often operate with thin staffing and long distances between patients and providers.

UNDER NVHA’S OUTLINE, THE FUNDING WILL SUPPORT FOUR BROAD TRACKS:

1. Rural Health Outcomes Accelerator Program

A push toward value-based and innovative care models that prevent and better manage chronic disease. NVHA says this may include collaborative care strategies, remote or hybrid care approaches, digital tools for patient health management, and virtual mentorship programs for providers.

2. Flex Fund for Rural Providers

A modernization lane for rural healthcare infrastructure—technology, equipment, supplies, mobile units, emergency services, and other urgent needs. NVHA has signaled it will encourage regional purchasing and shared services to stretch dollars further, and that funds must be used within Nevada healthcare facilities.

3. Workforce Recruitment and Rural Access Program

A direct response to the chronic shortage of rural healthcare workers. NVHA’s plan includes incentives for providers to live and serve in rural areas, tuition aid tied to rural service commitments, and a rural physician residency program.



4. Rural Health Innovation and Technology Grants

A technology-focused track intended to modernize health information systems, align with CMS digital health efforts, and strengthen cybersecurity—while also improving telehealth capacity in rural areas.

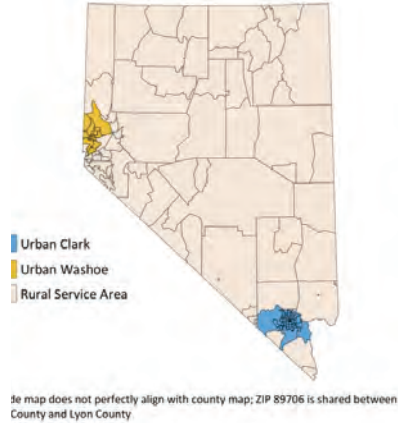
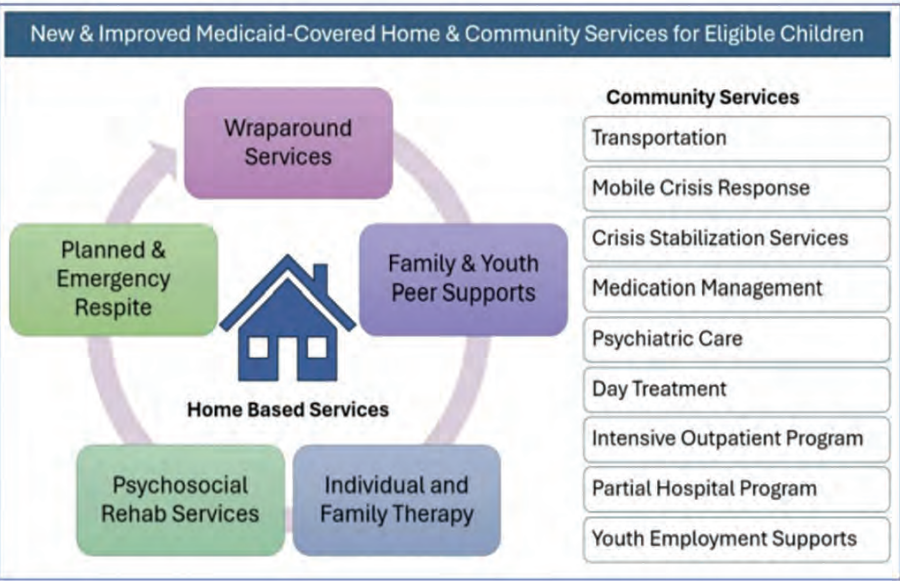
NVHA says it will announce opportunities to apply for Rural Health Transformation funding later in the spring and summer, using public workshops, its Rural Health Transformation website, its ListServ, and other channels. The program’s overall grant period runs through 2030, but states must reapply annually for additional funding.

To guide implementation, NVHA is forming a Rural Health Transformation Steering Committee, with members appointed by the NVHA director with approval from the governor. NVHA describes the committee as a statewide, community-driven governance group meant to monitor progress and recommend course corrections, so the plan stays aligned with federal goals and produces durable improvements.

The steering committee is expected to convene quarterly, with meetings open to the public and including a public comment period. NVHA’s flyer

lists a mix of state, tribal, provider, county, and consumer representation, including rural and frontier consumer seats and rural EMS representation. Applications for 2026 are due Jan. 19, 2026.

NVHA will host a virtual Winter Stakeholder Update Workshop on Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at 1 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. The agenda indicates NVHA leadership will cover legislative updates, major project updates, and the latest information on the Rural Health Transformation Program, with time for public comment.






3-Year Strategic Priorities & Objectives



A healthier Nevada

Health Improvement

- Healthier Pregnancies
- Behavioral Health Access
- Chronic Disease Prevention & Management
- Affordable & Accessible Healthcare Coverage
- Population Health Management Strategy



Sustainable State Programs

Program Viability

- Smarter Purchasing & Contracting
- Market Reform Options
- Cost Containment Initiatives
- Program Integrity (fraud)
- Administrative Efficiency
- Shared Resources



Reliable Healthcare

Workforce Capacity

- GME Advisory Committee Grants
- Rural Health Transformation Grant
- SHARP Act Grant
- Reduced Provider Admin. Burden
- Improved Reimbursement
- Centralized Credentialing Expansion



Healthcare Reimagined

Innovation & Value

- Network Alignment
- Modern Technology
- Value-Based Payment
- Health Insurance Literacy
- Data-Driven Decisions
- Community & Provider Engagement
- Quality & Safe Care



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WNC Art Show

By Sydney Trainor

Western Nevada College is currently hosting an art show featuring Jaime Sammons. The show is on display and open for visitation from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The artist reception was held on January 15, 2026, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., with refreshments provided. This event was open to the public, and WNC encouraged community members to attend.

Jaime Sammons enrolled in a watercolor class at WNC after moving to Fallon shortly after leaving the Navy. In this class, she found art, inspiration, and community. Sammons said, “Regardless of your degree goals, (I am a biology type), there is no better place to learn about art, there is no better place to immerse yourself in our community than WNC. The art room is a place to build your skills and well-being. It is also a place to make lifelong connections. I am still learning, grateful for the opportunity to hang paintings in a place that helped me develop the skills to make them.”



Young Chautauqua Program

By Sydney Trainor

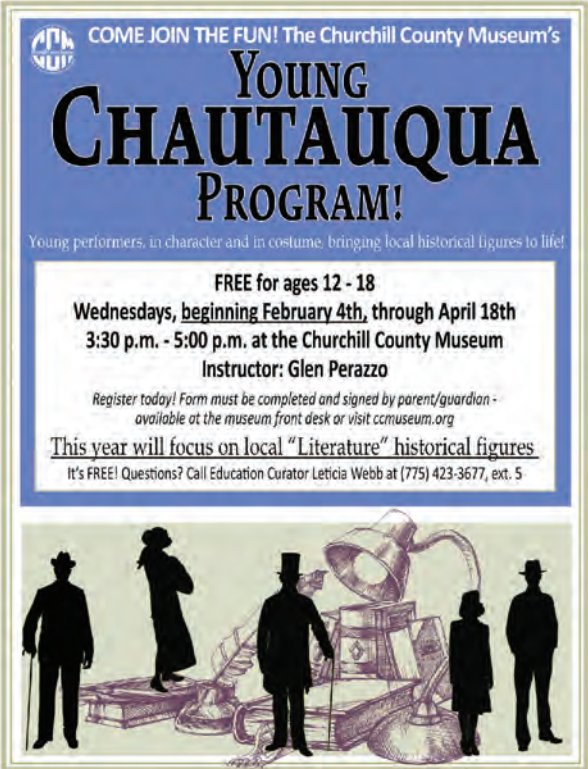
The Churchill County Museum is calling on students ages 12 to 18 to participate in the 2026 Young Chautauqua Program, a free after-school activity designed to help youth explore history through performance. The program, which runs from Feb. 4 through April 18, offers students the chance to bring historical figures to life by working in character and costume. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at the museum. No previous experience is required.

This year’s theme centers on literature, with participants focusing on local historical figures. Students will learn about community members from the past using a blend of history, reading, and performance. Instruction will be led by Glen Perazzo.

The Nevada Humanities Committee’s “Young Chautauqua Handbook” states that the program’s goal is to help students “understand the past and how the past continues to shape values, opinions, and policies.”

Registration is required. Interested students must complete a CMM Education Department Registration form and have it signed by a parent or guardian. Forms are available at the museum front desk or online through the museum’s website.

For more information, contact Education Curator Leticia Webb at leticia.webb@churchillcounty.gov.



County Permit Fee Scam Warning

Staff Report

Churchill County officials are alerting residents to a scam involving fraudulent requests for additional permit fees through the Public Works, Planning and Building Department.

According to the county, some applicants have received communications instructing them to pay extra money by wiring funds to a different address or by emailing for further payment instructions. Officials emphasize that these requests are not legitimate and should be reported to law enforcement.

The county reminds residents that all authorized payments are accepted only in person at the county office, 270 S. Maine St., Suite A, Fallon, or through the same online portal used for the application. The county will never request payment through alternate methods or by email.

Any official county email will end with “@churchillcountynv.gov.” Residents who receive suspicious messages or have questions are urged to contact Public Works, Planning and Building at 775-423-7627 during regular business hours.

MEETINGS

January 15 – February 5, 2026

Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

155 N Taylor Street
Next Meeting: Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

Central NV Health District

155 N Taylor Street
Next meeting: Jan. 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners

Meets the first Thursday and
third Wednesday of each month
155 N. Taylor St
Next Meeting: Jan. 21 at 1:15 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees

Meets the third Thursday
of each month at 3 p.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: Jan. 22 at 3 p.m.

CC Communications

Meets the first Thursday
of each month at 11 a.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: Feb. 5, at 11 a.m.

Churchill County School Board

690 S. Maine Street
Next Meeting: Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m.



WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken January 12, at 9 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	123,500 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	4.03 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	466 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	445 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	398 cfs

January 12, 2024	January 12, 2023	January 12, 2022
222,761 acre feet	69,857 acre feet	75,508 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, Jan. 19

– Center Closed
for Martin Luther King Jr.’s
Birthday –

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Biscuits & Gravy
Roasted Potatoes
Stewed Tomatoes
Fruit Danish
Fresh Apple

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Roasted Vegetables
Fruit Cocktail
WW Roll

Thursday, Jan. 22

Tuna Casserole
Fresh Salad
Mango Chunks
WW Roll

Friday, Jan. 23

Fried Rice w/Almonds
Chicken Egg Roll
Green Beans
Blueberry Crisp
Orange Spinach Salad

FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

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

Monday, Jan. 19

Lasagna
Salad, Bread & Dessert

Thursday, Jan. 22

Chicken Stir Fry
Rice & Dessert

Monday, Jan. 26

Shepherd's Pie
Bread & Dessert

Thursday, Jan. 29

Waffles
Ice Cream

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

OBITUARIES



ELBERT LYNN MILLS
April 20, 1935 – January 2, 2026

Born April 20, 1935, in Fallon, Nev., Elbert passed away Jan. 2, 2026, in Fallon.

Elbert graduated from Churchill County High School in 1953. Except for two years while he served as a radar and radio operator in the U.S. Army, he lived his entire life in Fallon. When he separated from the Army, he purchased a piece of desert land that he leveled and proved up, farming it for the next 47 years. In 1968, Elbert and his wife, Marilyn, built a dairy barn with corrals on their farm to expand their Jersey cow herd, establishing Sandblow Jerseys. In 1996, they sold the dairy and continued to farm. In 2004, they subdivided into a greenbelt development and retired to a 20-acre parcel on the corner of the original farm.

He was involved in 4-H as a youngster and attended National 4-H Congress in 1953 for a safety project. Later in life, he was involved with the Churchill County Farm Bureau and the American Jersey Cattle Club, and he served on the TCID Board. Even after retirement, he served on the Lahontan

Conservation District. He loved agriculture and advocated for it throughout his lifetime.

In 1960, he met the love of his life, Marilyn, in the University Singers class at the University of Nevada, Reno. Later that year, they married and, over the next six years, had four children. As much as he loved the farm and dairy, he loved his family more. He taught his children to work hard and appreciate nature. He took them camping, canoeing, picking gooseberries and chokecherries at the Dens, and spent many hours with them working around the farm and dairy.

After retiring from the dairy, he and Marilyn took many trips exploring Nevada with friends in their “Over the Hill Gang.” He loved family history, along with Fallon and Nevada history, and relished time at the Churchill County Museum.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marilyn; his four children, Gary (Kathy) Mills, Todd (Charlie) Mills, Renee (Chris) Brant and Julie (Dan) Wolf; grandchildren Chase Mills, Daphne Gurley, Allison Mills, Brianna Mills, Kyle Mills, Samantha Gerry, Sierra Gerry, Spencer Gerry, Seth Gerry, Ashley Humphries and Lena Wolf; 10 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at The Gardens at 1 p.m. Jan. 18, 2026. In lieu of flowers, Elbert would have loved donations to the Churchill County Museum to help record the community’s history.

NEAL AUGUST GRASTEIT
February 9, 1950 – December 30, 2025



Neal August Grasteit, age 75, of Hagerman, Idaho, passed away peacefully at his home at 11:07 p.m. on Dec. 30, 2025, surrounded by family and loved ones.

Neal was born Feb. 9, 1950, in Napa, California, to Frank Hyrum Grasteit and Cathryn Louise Grasteit. From an early age, he developed a strong

sense of responsibility, drive, and independence that defined his life.

Above all else, Neal was deeply devoted to his family. He took great pride in being a loving and dependable provider, working tirelessly to ensure his family was cared for and secure. He carried that responsibility with determination and purpose. Neal seemed to have the energy of ten people, rarely slowing down and always moving forward with focus and intensity.

An entrepreneur at heart, Neal was involved in many business ventures throughout his life. He valued education and lifelong learning, attending Boise State University and earning extensive technical certifications. Neal proudly served his country in the U.S. Coast Guard, an experience that shaped his lifelong sense of discipline and service.

On May 21, 1971, Neal married Camela Grasteit in Lakeport, California. Together they built a life centered on faith, perseverance, and family. Neal was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and his faith guided his life and decisions.

Neal enjoyed the outdoors and especially loved flying, hunting, camping, and fishing. He had a sincere desire to help others and was known as a motivated, driven man who believed deeply in meaningful work and personal responsibility.

Neal was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Cathryn Grasteit; his brother, Frank Bryan Grasteit; his sister, Karen Baker; his daughter, Cheri Koss; his granddaughter, Kamiah Musick; his grandson, Braden Campbell; his great-grandson, Felix Grasteit; and Wesley and Ida Worden.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Camela Grasteit; his 10 children, Thor (Kristin) Grasteit, Saul (Brittney) Grasteit, Rainya (Jon) Musick, Broe (BethAnne) Grasteit, Seth (Diana) Grasteit, Leith (Leigh) Grasteit, Tirza Hell-yar, Lottie Brazell, Quinn (Natalie) Grasteit, and Shem (Katie) Grasteit; his sister, Carol Green; 36 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., with a viewing beginning at 9:30 a.m., Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 620 N. State St., Hagerman, ID 83332.

Interment will follow at Snake River Canyon National Cemetery, 1585 E. Elm St., Buhl, ID 83316. Those attending are asked to depart the church building no later than 12:20 p.m. A luncheon will be held at the church following the graveside service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Memories and condolences may be shared with the family on Neal’s memorial webpage at www.farmerfuneralchapel.com.

SUSAN LYNN (ELLIS) HOMER
December 22, 1957 – January 5, 2026

Susan Lynn (Ellis) Homer passed away on January 5, 2026. Susie was born Dec. 22, 1957, in Ely, Nevada, and was welcomed by her parents, Bob and Helen Ellis. As a child, Susie enjoyed camping, hunting, and waterskiing with her parents and brother Joe. The family traveled throughout Nevada while following Bob on his construction jobs, experiences that Susie fondly remembered and often shared with her children and grandchildren.

Susie met the love of her life, Dan, in high school. They married on January 12, 1974, and later that year welcomed their daughter Amy. Susie graduated from Churchill County High School in 1975. That same year, she and the girls’ golf team won the state championship, an achievement she remained proud of throughout her life. The team was later inducted into the CCHS Hall of Fame, an honor Susie deeply valued. In 1977, Susie and Dan welcomed their son, Jason.

Susie began working at Churchill County Telephone Company shortly after and worked there for many years. It was during this time that she formed lifelong friendships before retiring.

Susie was preceded in death by her

husband, Dan O. Homer; her parents; her brother, Joe Ellis; her mother and father-in-law; and her best friend, Terri Calleas.



She is survived by her daughter, Amy Homer, and son Jason (Jessica) Homer; grandchildren Evan Lantto, Briana (Andrew) Gonzalez, Bransen Homer, Trenton (Lilly) Homer, Trevon (BreAnna) Ellis, Colin Homer, Jaxon Homer, and Aaliyah Ellis; great-grandchildren Presley, Maxton, Swayzee, and Banx Gonzalez and Xayvion Ellis. She is also survived by her sister and brother-in-law and numerous nieces and nephews.

Susie was funny, direct, and willing to show up for people in their time of need. Her love for her family was deep and enduring. She will forever be held in our hearts.

A celebration of life will be held Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at 3 p.m. at the Churchill County Fire Department. This will be a potluck. If you wish to bring your favorite dish, salad, or dessert, it would be greatly appreciated.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Susie’s name to The Solace Tree.



KATHLEEN (KATHY) MAY LANCASTER
November 28, 1955 – January 9, 2026

Kathleen M. Lancaster, age 70, of Fallon, Nev., passed away on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, at Carson Tahoe Hospital. She was born on Nov. 28, 1955, in Fallon, Nev., a daughter of Darrell Ernest and Hazel May Heath Charter.

She married the love of her life, Keith Lancaster, on May 20, 2001. She was a member of New Beginnings Community Church and will always be remembered for her infectious laugh. She spent many years in the heart of the

action, working in various casinos, forming lifelong friendships with colleagues and patrons. Lancaster retired from the American Legion in March 2025.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, Darrell Charter and Hazel Henderson, and brothers, Stephen and Mark Charter.

She is survived by her husband, Keith; daughters Brandy Mello and Mandy (Junior) Wempner; stepbrother, Walter Henderson, and stepsister Brenda Henderson; 19 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. She also leaves many other family members and friends who will sadly miss her.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 12 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at New Beginnings Community Church, 1191 E Stillwater Ave, Fallon, Nev. Immediately following, please join the family for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Artist reception for Joanna Taylor Churchill County Museum 1050 S Maine St. Jan. 16, 3 to 5 p.m.	Girls Basketball Cajun Boil Churchill County High School 1 Greenwave Cir. Jan. 23, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Book Sculpting for Beginners Western Nevada College 160 Campus Way Jan. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Fallon Chamber Awards Dinner Fallon Chamber of Commerce 100 Campus Way Feb. 6, 6 p.m.
Pups N' Popcorn City of Fallon Animal Shelter 1255 Airport Road Jan. 17, 12 p.m.	Burns Night Fallon Rotary Club 90 N Maine St. Jan. 23, Whisky tasting at 6 p.m., Dinner at 7 p.m.	Author talk with Megan Russ Churchill County Library 553 S Maine St. Jan. 27, 6 p.m.	Taylor Swift Eras Tour fundraiser, Class of 2026 Fallon Theatre 71 S Maine St. Feb. 7, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Ukulele for Beginners Western Nevada College 160 Campus Way Jan. 20 – Mar. 10, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.	Patrick Kikut Gallery Reception Churchill Arts Council 151 East Park Street Jan. 23, 5 p.m.	ASIST Training Office of Suicide Prevention 100 Campus Way Jan. 29 – 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	
Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Station 50 Sip & Swirl 2155 E. Williams Ave. Jan. 21, 11 a.m.	Nevada Farmers Forum UNR Joe Crowley Student Union Jan. 23, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 24 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Father-Daughter Dance Churchill County High School 1 Greenwave Cir. Jan. 31, 6 to 8 p.m.	
Conversational Spanish Western Nevada College Online Jan. 21 – May 13, 4 to 6:45 p.m.	Pottery Studio Western Nevada College 160 Campus Way Fridays, Jan. 23 – May 15, 12 to 4:00 p.m.		

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



COMMUNITY

“Water Masters” Spotlights Nevada’s Water Challenges

By Rachel Dahl

A new documentary exploring water use and innovation in Northern Nevada is drawing attention to the increasing strain on limited water resources as population growth and industrial development accelerate across the region.

During a recent meeting of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District board, Ben Shawcroft reported on “Water Masters,” a 30-minute film produced by the University of Nevada, Reno, which highlights water challenges in the Truckee River Watershed.

The documentary premiered in December at the University of Nevada, Reno, and was produced by Emmy-winning director Dan Druhora as part of a four-part series titled *Flowing Forward*. The series examines water research efforts at several major institutions across the western United States.

“Water Masters” traces the Truckee River system from its headwaters at Lake Tahoe to its terminus at Pyramid Lake, illustrating the complex relationship between upstream and downstream water users. The film explores how urban growth, industrial expansion, and environmental demands increasingly compete for the same finite resource.

“I think what I would like people to take from “Water Masters” is just how important water is, and how precious it is,” said Sage Hiibel, director of the Nevada Center for Water Resiliency.

Hiibel and other researchers featured in the film emphasize that water challenges in Nevada are not theoretical or distant. Instead, they are already shaping infrastructure planning, economic development, and policy decisions throughout the state.

The film highlights work underway at the Nevada Center for Water Resiliency, which was established in 2023 through a grant from the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.

NCWR researchers focus on developing and



Benjamin Shawcroft, general manager of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (left), and NCWR Director Sage Hiibel discuss water use in “Water Masters”, a new documentary by Emmy-winning director Dan Druhora. Photo Courtesy UNR College of Engineering.

testing new water treatment technologies, with particular attention to non-potable water reuse, reclaimed water that can be used for industrial processes, cooling, and other applications that do not require drinking-water quality.

Hiibel, an associate professor of chemical engineering, concentrates on water reuse in industrial settings, while other researchers study advanced treatment methods and the detection of emerging contaminants.

The goal, according to the researchers featured, is not to replace existing water systems but to reduce demand on potable supplies by finding practical ways to reuse water safely and efficiently.

Shawcroft told the TCID board that the documentary includes local footage and reflects issues familiar to water managers and irrigators in Churchill County and throughout the Lahontan Valley.

While “Water Masters” focuses on the Truckee River system, the themes it raises, limited storage, competing demands, and the need for coordinated management, mirror challenges faced in the Carson River Basin as well.

Board members noted that documentaries like “Water Masters” can help bridge the gap between technical discussions of water management and public understanding, particularly as communities grapple with growth and long-term sustainability.

“Water Masters” is the third installment in the *Flowing Forward* documentary series, which also features water research efforts at the University of Southern California, the University of Arizona, and the Army ERDC.

The film is available for public viewing online through Vimeo, at vimeo.com/1129685525?fl=pl&fe=cm.

WNC Students Showcase Scientific Research

By Sydney Trainor

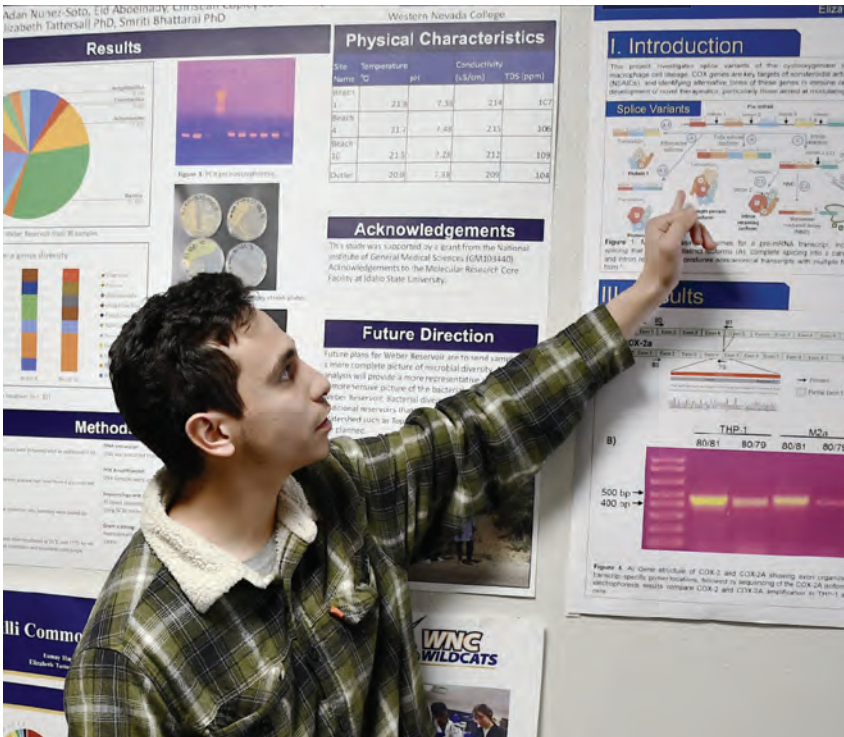
Students at Western Nevada College wrapped up the fall semester by presenting science projects covering topics from environmental microbiology to molecular biology. Through professional poster presentations, they displayed hands-on experience gained in field research, laboratory analysis, and scientific communication.

“Providing our students with research opportunities complements their education and brings concepts and methods into focus,” said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. “We are really fortunate to have so many faculty members who participate in these projects to make these educational experiences for students truly impactful.”

On the Fallon campus, students explored molecular biology through a project titled “Characterization of Cyclooxygenase-1 and Cyclooxygenase-2 mRNA Splice Variants in Human Macrophages.” Research students Eliza Darvo, Richard Gomez, Jilliana Morales, and Christina Robinson worked under the direction of chemistry and biology instructor Dr. Brian Prince, with support from Dr. Gary Evett, professor emeritus.

All lab work was conducted at Fallon, and students took a field trip to the University of Nevada, Reno, to deliver samples for sequencing. Dr. Prince said, “The benefits to students from this experience are incredible. Beyond strengthening their resumes, they learned fundamental molecular biology techniques and discovered how exciting and rewarding research can be.”

Richard Gomez agreed, sharing that the experience exceeded his expectations. Gomez, who completed his Associate of Science degree in Fall 2025



Western Nevada College student Richard Gomez participates in a molecular biology presentation as part of an INBRE research project. Photo by Western Nevada College.

also enabled students to integrate research directly into their coursework. They learned essential lab skills, how to maintain a lab notebook, how to prepare and present a poster, and — most importantly — what it’s like to do real research when you don’t know the answer in advance.”

WNC encourages interested students to join a 2026 research group. Applications for future student research opportunities will be available around March. Students who have taken or are currently enrolled in CHEM 121 or BIOL 190 are eligible. WNC expects to offer a three-week research program in early summer 2026.

For more information about research opportunities at WNC, Contact elizabeth.tattersall@wnc.edu or brian.prince@wnc.edu.

and plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in general chemistry at UNR, said, “Once I got into it, I realized how much I enjoyed doing science again. I learned I’m much more organized than I thought I was, especially when it comes to ensuring my methods are correct. I’d tell anyone who’s even a little interested in science to give it a try. You never know what you’ll discover about yourself.”

Meanwhile, on the Carson City campus, students tested water from the Bridgeport Reservoir for a microbial study. Participants included Nidal Abdelhady, Maddison Fuggles, Christina Sosa, Jose Salinas Aparicio, Aiden Jacklett, and Tierra Mackay. The project was led by Dr. Elizabeth, professor of biology and chemistry, with support from Dr. Christian Copley Salen and Dr. Smriti Bhattacharai.

Dr. Tattersall noted, “This year’s research required students to conduct their work during the academic semester due to a temporary pause in grant funding. While it posed challenges, it also enabled students to integrate research directly into their coursework. They learned essential lab skills, how to maintain a lab notebook, how to prepare and present a poster, and — most importantly — what it’s like to do real research when you don’t know the answer in advance.”

WNC encourages interested students to join a 2026 research group. Applications for future student research opportunities will be available around March. Students who have taken or are currently enrolled in CHEM 121 or BIOL 190 are eligible. WNC expects to offer a three-week research program in early summer 2026.

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Representing Public Employees of Nevada

By Nancy Chapman

The Retired Public Employees of Nevada (RPEN) continues to serve as a vital organization for both current and retired public employees, drawing members from a wide array of professions, including teachers, judges, C. C. Communications staff, Churchill County School District classified employees, and the Nevada Department of Transportation, as well as other city, county, and state employees. Since its inception, RPEN has played an important role in advocating for the rights and interests of those who have dedicated their careers to public service. The organization provides a sense of community for

its members, fostering connections and support among retirees from different backgrounds.

Executive Director Teri Laird represents RPEN at the Legislature and closely monitors bills affecting the benefits of both active and retired state employees. The organization consistently pushes for increased member engagement. Laird often communicates legislative updates and advocacy opportunities, ensuring members remain well-informed about changes that could affect their pensions and healthcare. Upon retirement, employees are invited to join RPEN for a nominal monthly fee of \$8. These funds are split between the local chapter in the retiree’s county of employment and the statewide representatives,

supporting both local activities and statewide advocacy efforts.

Mayris Turner, president of the Churchill Chapter, presides over monthly meetings where members vote on key issues affecting the chapter. These meetings provide a platform for retirees to voice concerns, share experiences, and contribute to organizational decision-making. Members from other chapters that have gone inactive due to low attendance are also welcome. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Fallon Youth Center, 324 Pennington Circle. All interested members are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions.

BUSINESS

Valentine’s Day with The Twisted Branch



By Nancy Chapman

With the holidays behind us, The Twisted Branch is gearing up to host a special Valentine’s Day dinner for couples seeking a slower, more comfortable celebration with their loved ones. The event is set for Saturday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., and reservations are required due to limited seating.

Megan Dolan, owner of The Twisted Branch, and her staff will serve a prime rib dinner accompanied by live music. The festivities will take place in partnership with Wild Horse Café, where Shelly Gallagher and her team will prepare the signature prime rib along with two additional entrees yet to be announced. Dinner will be held in the bar and event area, with the bar open for drinks only and limited seating available. Reservations for the dinner must be made directly through The Twisted Branch.

Live entertainment will feature solo artist Evan Martin, a frequent performer at both The Twisted Branch and Maine Street Café, who will provide music throughout the evening.

For those looking to surprise their special someone, The Twisted Branch Shop is offering custom Valentine’s Day gift baskets by pre-order. The shop’s team can assemble baskets tailored for a spouse, partner, or friend, featuring regional olive oils, balsamic vinegars, seasonings, coffee, and home décor or personal gifts. Local Frey Ranch Distillery bourbon or whiskey can be included, or baskets can be customized to feature a favorite wine. Patrons may also build their own baskets from the shop’s selection.

**Megan Dolan,
owner of
The Twisted Branch,
and her staff will
serve a prime rib
dinner accompanied
by live music.**

Scholarship Deadlines Approaching for Students




By Sydney Trainor

Students connected to CC Communications Partner Associations have two scholarship opportunities available for the 2026 fall semester, with deadlines quickly approaching.

The Nevada Telecommunications Association (NTA) Customer Member Scholarship is open to upcoming graduates who are dependents of customers of a Telco Member, including CC Communications. Listed on the NTA website as the “Customer Member Scholarship,” the deadline to apply is March 31, 2026. Recipients are selected by a committee based on academic achievement, curricular and extracurricular activities, financial need, and a written essay. To apply, visit nevtelassn.org/scholarships.

The second opportunity available is the NTCA Foundation Rural Service Scholarship. This scholarship is open to applicants who are either a customer or a customer's dependent of a Rural Broadband Association member, such as CC Communications. The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) awards one-time scholarships to students from rural communities for their first year in higher education. Each student recipient is sponsored by an NTCA member company, which may also contribute to the award. The application deadline is February 14, 2026. To apply, go to frs.org/programs/youth-programs/scholarships/.



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

County Commission Wrap-up

By Leanna Lehman

The Churchill County Board of Commissioners approved a full slate of zoning, funding, personnel, and contract items during its Jan. 6, 2026, meeting, while declining to overturn a Planning Commission decision involving a temporary use permit for a resident living in an RV while attempting to finance construction of a home.

The board voted to retain its current leadership structure for 2026. Under the approved motion, Miles Getto will continue as chair of the Board of County Commissioners, with Eric Blakey serving as vice chair. Matt Hyde was confirmed as chair of the CC Communications Board, with Blakey as vice chair. For the Highway Commission, Blakey will serve as chair and Hyde as vice chair. Hyde also agreed to serve on the Central Nevada Health District board.

Two zone change applications to I-3 Heavy Industrial were approved. The first involved a 640-acre parcel near Trinity Junction owned by Amborski Family LLC Trinity Series 2. Senior Planner Dean Patterson of the Public Works, Planning & Building Department said the location is intended for explosives storage and a distribution facility, with two acres allocated for the operation and the remainder serving as a safety buffer.

Commissioners also approved a zone change for more than 3,000 acres off Interstate 80 for a future solar project filed by SEUS Development LLC for 40 Mile Desert LLC. Patterson noted that while solar energy is already allowed in RR20 zoning, the change would streamline permitting. He cautioned that large I-3 areas can strain infrastructure, but said the Planning Commission recommended approval based on the specific project.

The board accepted the county’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, following a presentation by auditor Kelly Jones. Jones reported no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified and that all funds operated within approved budgets. Comptroller Sherry Weidman highlighted capital activity at CC Communications and noted the county received its 20th consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Commissioners approved several land use items, including two parcel maps on Boundary Road, creating six lots, and a parcel map on Rice Road, dividing a farmstead from farmland.

Funding of \$2,180 was approved for the Fallon Community Theatre following a reduced request. Board member Jessica Huckaby said the funds would support movie licensing. “It will just help the theater continue to offer these free services to the community,” she said.

The board also issued a notice of award to SB Builders LLC for \$322,322 for tenant improvements at the Churchill County Annex Building, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, and approved a three-year, \$100,800 contract with EagleView for aerial imagery flights.

The most extensive discussion centered on an appeal by Eric Madrigal, who sought an extension of a temporary-use permit that would allow him to live in an RV while building a home at 8893 Helens Way. The Planning Commission previously denied the extension after determining required progress milestones had not been met.

Public Works, Planning & Building Director Randy Hines explained that although the driveway requirement was met, financing was not secured within the first year, a condition of the permit.

“It’s making it a lot harder for you guys to restrict me and to kick me off my own property, to have to pay for another place while I’m trying to accommodate you and build my home,” Madrigal said. “I can’t pay two mortgages or two rents.”

Madrigal said he has struggled to secure financing. “I can’t get a loan any higher than \$200,000, and it’s kind of hard to build a home under that amount,” he said, adding that he has continued downsizing floor plans and needs more time.

He said his current approved amount would cover only a fraction of the house. “To custom build a home ... it’s half a million plus at least. And we’re a long way off from there.”

Commissioners expressed sympathy but emphasized adherence to the

county code. Blakey told Madrigal, “We can’t make decisions because you’re hoping something happens.”

No motion was made to approve, deny, or extend the permit, leaving the Planning Commission’s denial in effect.

The meeting concluded with routine reports, including a report from Churchill County Clerk-Treasurer Linda Rothery that candidate filing opened Jan. 5 and will remain open for two weeks. One filing has been received. Rothery also reported that 1,100 delinquent property tax notices were mailed Jan. 5.

Other items of note included authorization to hire Kenneth Henke as an IT professional at an advanced step placement due to recruitment challenges, continued vacancies in the District Attorney’s and Sheriff’s offices, preliminary discussion of a Public Works, Planning and Building fee schedule, and a request to review agenda posting timelines to allow commissioners more time to review agenda packet materials.

The board accepted the county’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, following a presentation by auditor Kelly Jones.



TCID Board Meeting Recap

By Rachel Dahl

The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Board of Directors met Jan. 6 for the regular meeting and discussed winter maintenance work and recent high-flow river conditions. The board also approved several administrative and financial items, including the purchase of a new server to support district operations and data management.

District staff reported that winter maintenance is underway across the system, including structure replacement work on L1 and the start of demolition on the AC7 structure, a project expected to continue for several months. Crews are also completing items on the district’s operations and maintenance list and conducting canal cleaning where conditions allow.

Staff noted that the district has taken delivery of a new piece of equipment, but it has not yet been put into service due to holiday scheduling. The board was also told that the district is still seeking a mechanic and has received limited applications to date.

Staff provided a detailed update on Truckee and Carson River conditions, including operational challenges during late-December storm events that caused rapid fluctuations in river flows.

During that period, staff said the Truckee River experienced significant changes in flow over short timeframes, requiring around-the-clock staffing and frequent manual adjustments at Derby Dam when remote operations were unavailable. Board members discussed stage restrictions, limits tied to canal safety and infrastructure, and the importance of remaining within those restrictions to protect public safety and the district from liability.

Current conditions discussed during the meeting indicated above-average snowpack in both the Truckee and Carson River basins as of early January, with staff noting that updated data from recent storms would refine seasonal outlooks. Lahontan Reservoir storage and inflows were also reviewed as part of the regular hydrology update, with the Carson River at Fort Churchill at 744 cfs, Lahontan Reservoir storage reported near 112,000 acre-feet, and inflows around 1,100 cfs. Snowpack indicators discussed during the meeting suggested both the Truckee and Carson basins were running at roughly 114% of median as of early January.

Staff said operations continue to focus on safely managing flows as conditions change through the winter and into the early irrigation planning season.

The board approved several action items, including the fiscal year 2025 audit report and the annual assessment book.

The board also approved the purchase of a new server for \$33,485, up from the original estimate of \$25,000. Staff explained that the server is necessary to support new technology initiatives, improve reliability of district data, and reduce staff time spent recreating lost information during irrigation operations. The purchase will also support future automation and system upgrades.

In addition to regular business, the board received a 30-year regional water report presentation from Ed James of the Carson Water Subconservancy District, outlining long-term water supply trends, groundwater and surface water interactions, and planning considerations for the upper Carson River watershed.

See front page for more information.





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COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, Jan. 6, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

By Teresa Moon

Cory Michael Cone, in custody, appeared for sentencing on the charge of Arson.

Cone was initially charged with Attempt to Commit Murder, a Category B felony punishable by 2 to 20 years in prison, and First Degree Arson, a Category B felony punishable by 2 to 15 years. According to the criminal complaint, on or about Oct. 3, 2024, Cone placed gasoline under the home of Robert J. Shivner and ignited it, causing a fire that engulfed the residence.

Churchill County Public Defender (CCPD) Jacob Sommer told the court that Cone understood his actions were dangerous and frightening, and that he deeply regretted his behavior. Sommer said Cone would not have acted as he did had he not been drinking and noted that Cone had been diagnosed with conditions that may have contributed to the incident.

Cone addressed the court, stating, “I regret my actions; that’s not me. That’s not something I would do if I was stable, not drinking ...”

Judge Stockard sentenced Cone to 48 – 120 months in prison and remanded him to the custody of the sheriff for imposition of the sentence.

Daren Jesse Graham appeared for sentencing on a Category C felony charge of Burglary of a Business, to which he pleaded guilty on Aug. 5.

Judge Stockard granted Graham probation on a suspended 24-60-month prison term, fined him \$2,000, and ordered \$570 in restitution. Graham was ordered to obtain a substance abuse evaluation.

Stockard also told Graham he must notify any prospective employer that he is a convicted felon and to disclose the nature of his offenses. Expressing concern over Graham’s criminal history, particularly burglaries, the judge warned Graham that probation was a significant opportunity and urged him to take advantage of it.

Angela Marie Garcia appeared for sentencing on Failure to Appear After Admission of Bail or Release Without Bail, a Category D felony, to which she pleaded guilty on Oct. 20.

“How part of our criminal justice system works is having people show up ... In this case, unfortunately, she did not come to court,” said Senior Deputy District Attorney, who asked for an appropriate sentence, with probation, “to give her an opportunity to correct this behavior.”

Judge Stockard granted probation on a suspended 14 – 45-month sentence. During the hearing, he noted that Garcia had completed inpatient treatment at New Frontier Treatment Center, transitioned to the Rural Nevada Treatment Center in Reno, and remained employed. Stockard encouraged Garcia to continue the positive steps she has taken.

Susan Lynch pleaded guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), a First or Second Offense, a Category E felony punishable by 1–4 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000. Judge Stockard ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI), set sentencing for March 10, and provisionally placed Lynch in the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court.

Kelly Danielle Walsh pleaded guilty to the gross misdemeanor of Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle, punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000.

SDDA Sanford told the court that Garcia was in possession of a vehicle she had rented in Las Vegas, which she returned several weeks late.

Judge Stockard granted Walsh probation on a suspended 180-day jail sentence and ordered no use of controlled substances.

Chelsea Lynn Daniels, in custody, admitted to a technical sentencing violation after violating a protective order on the Category D felony case of Detention, Concealment, or Removal of a Child from a Person Having Lawful Custody.

Initially, the case triggered an Amber Alert and multi-agency response on March 31, as Daniels unlawfully took her infant son from his court-ordered placement. During a prior hearing, Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker presented dash cam footage of a dangerous, high-speed chase and text messages suggesting Daniels planned to defy child protective orders. During her Aug. 27 sentencing, Judge Stockard granted probation on a suspended 19–48-month sentenced and ordered 30 days in jail.

In November, Judge Stockard revoked Daniels’ probation for 30 days for violating the active protective order against Justin Daniels. At the time, Baker reported that Daniels had contacted Justin Daniels 25 times within a few days.

Judge Stockard again temporarily suspended Daniels’ probation, ordered her to serve 90 days in jail and to enroll in an inpatient treatment program within 30 days of her release.

Cassandra Gail Davis, in custody, admitted to a non-technical sentencing violation after failing to complete court-ordered inpatient treatment. Her underlying convictions included two Category B felonies of Battery by a Probationer, Parolee, or Prisoner in Lawful Custody, each with an underlying sentence of two consecutive 28–72-month terms.

DDA Baker reminded the court that Davis had previously been before the court on violent conduct involving her mother, stemming from substance abuse. She asked the court to revoke probation and impose the underlying prison sentence.

Churchill County Alternate Public Defender (APD) Wright Noel acknowledged that Davis left treatment but said she quickly turned herself in and

sought to enter a different inpatient program. The defense asked the court to reinstate probation and allow Davis to enter treatment once a bed became available.

Judge Stockard revoked Davis’s probation and modified the 28-72-month sentences to run concurrently. She was remanded to the custody of the sheriff for imposition of the sentence.

Cody Oscar Meyrahn admitted to a non-technical sentencing violation for absconding on the underlying gross misdemeanor charge of Assault on an Officer.

APD Wright Noel said his client struggles with homelessness and relapsed into alcoholism. Noel asked the court to reinstate probation with the condition that Meyrahn remain in custody until he could enter a 30-day inpatient treatment program.

Meyrahn told the court, “I’m just really ready to get from behind the bottle.”

Judge Stockard revoked probation and imposed the underlying 364-day jail sentence. Meyrahn was remanded to custody for imposition of the sentence.

Sara Michelle Jones, in custody, admitted to a non-technical sentencing violation involving controlled substance use, financial obligations, and testing positive for fentanyl. The underlying charges stemmed from a 2021 case involving two Category D felonies of Forgery and Obtaining or Possessing a Credit Card Without Consent.

DDA Baker asked the court to revoke Jones’ probation, outlining a lengthy history of noncompliance. Baker noted that while the case was pending, Jones repeatedly tested positive for controlled substances, failed to appear for testing, left treatment programs without completion, and absconded from supervision for an extended period. Baker said Jones continued to violate probation conditions after being reinstated, failed to comply with Drug Court requirements, and argued that Jones had been given numerous opportunities without meaningful compliance.

APD Wright Noel acknowledged Jones’ violations but told the court that Jones experienced the longest period of sobriety in her life, actively participated in recovery programs, and sought to continue treatment. He asked the court to either allow Jones to serve the remainder of probation in custody or to modify the sentences.

Jones addressed the court, stating that hearing her past conduct described was “sickening,” and she was no longer that person. She described sustained sobriety, participation in recovery, reconnection with family, and efforts to build stability in her life.

Judge Stockard revoked Jones’ probation and imposed the underlying sentence. He modified her two 19–48-month sentences to run concurrently rather than consecutively. Jones was remanded to the custody of the sheriff for imposition of the sentence.

Teen Charged as Adult Granted Probation in Attempted Poisoning Case

By Teresa Moon and Leanna Lehman

Melvyn Sanders-Hahn appeared for sentencing in the Tenth Judicial District Court before Judge Thomas Stockard on Jan. 6 for willfully poisoning or adulterating food, water, or medicine. Barely 16 at the time of his arrest, he was charged and tried as an adult for attempting to poison his mother, Ashley Farmer.

The original criminal complaint alleges that on Oct. 22, 2024, Melvyn put pesticide in his mother’s coffee and served it to her, specifically charging him with attempted murder, a Category B felony punishable by 2-20 years in prison, with a potential sentencing enhancement of 1-20 years if a deadly weapon was used.

The complaint also charged him with willfully poisoning or adulterating food, water, or medicine, a Category B felony punishable by 1-15 years. Pursuant to plea negotiations, the attempted murder charge was dropped.

In a Sentencing Memorandum filed the morning of the hearing, Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer asked the court to consider probation. He explained that Melvyn was waiting for placement at Provo Canyon School, a juvenile specialized treatment facility, to receive mental health treatment, should the court consent.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills said during an Oct. 21 hearing, “This is a troubled young man. This is not a first blush of severe and deadly thoughts in this young man’s mind.” According to Mills, this was a premeditated act. He knew his mother had COVID and could not taste or smell, and he had poisoned the coffee. If it wasn’t for his anxiety - not remorse, anxiety- this would be a different case.

He pointed out that such a placement would require an interstate compact with Utah. Sommer indicated his client would remain in custody until a bed date was secured and the compact confirmed. “I believe this presents a very balanced approach between justice and treatment that I think in this case is uniquely important,” Sommer said.

Sommer argued at length for probation in the memorandum. He cited differences between juvenile and adult offenders, including “the limited capacity of juveniles compared to adults and typical characteristics of youth.” He noted juveniles often lack mature

judgment and impulse control, are more vulnerable to psychological and environmental pressures, and possess a heightened capacity for rehabilitation.

Sommer also referenced Melvyn’s mental health diagnoses, which included bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and childhood physical abuse until approximately age 11. He noted that under Nevada case law, mental illness is a substantial mitigating factor at sentencing, writing, “The circumstances of the case are proof of untreated psychiatric instability manifesting in dangerous conduct. A sentence that ignores this reality does not enhance public safety—it merely defers the risk.”

Sommer, who stated at the October hearing that the coffee Melvyn’s mother drank was tested and came back negative, and that experts said there was not enough poison, stated during sentencing that immediately after the attempted poisoning, Melvyn voluntarily walked to the Sheriff’s Office and disclosed his conduct. “His confession was motivated by a belief that he needed to help,” Sommer wrote. He added, “The fact that Melvyn’s unusual and commendable honesty led directly to charges and adult prosecution should not obscure its significance. Punishing a mentally ill juvenile’s candor with lengthy prison terms risks chilling the very behavior the justice system seeks to encourage.”

Sommer also stated that the victim, Melvyn’s mother, supported treatment over incarceration. He wrote, “Her position is informed not by natural inclinations of leniency, but by first-hand knowledge of Melvyn’s psychiatric struggles and what will actually reduce future risks.”

Sommer continued in the memorandum, “Continued incarceration without the prospect of intentional or meaningful treatment risks entrenching psychiatric harm rather than promoting rehabilitation.” During the hearing, he told Judge Stockard, “I just want to ensure that Melvyn gets the treatment that I believe he needs.”

During the hearing, CDDA Mills noted that while Melvyn did turn himself in, he did not call 911 or attempt to get his mother help before arriving at the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office.

Melvyn told Judge Stockard he would like to participate in the Provo Canyon program.

During victim impact testimony, Melvyn’s

mother, Ashley Farmer, said, “Abandonment. Homophobia. Bullying. Neglect. Loving. Caring. Helpful. These are just a few of the words that describe what Melvyn has been through,” and said she never thought her son attempted to murder her.

In discussing her son’s involvement with therapists, Farmer stated, “One therapist came to the conclusion that Melvyn has dissociative identity disorder (DID), aka multiple personality disorder. However, due to his age, the psychiatrist refused to acknowledge this diagnosis with definability.”

“Melvyn is a 17-year-old boy who is loving and caring,” Farmer said. “He is not defined solely by his struggles or his actions; he is a child who has struggled immensely with his mental health and still strives for resilience and brightening up a room.”

Early in her testimony, Farmer listed the numbers 442, 10,608, 636,480, 200, and 12. She later explained her son had been in custody for 442 days with no mental health provider involvement, therapy, or proper medication management. She said he had been away from his family for 10,608 hours, missing two years of holidays and other events. She continued, noting 636,480 minutes of missed opportunities to hug her son, tell him she loves him, hear his laughter, and “feel his out-of-this-world personality.”

Farmer said there are only 200 psychiatrists worldwide who could help with a possible DID diagnosis, and only 12 in the United States. She concluded her statement by saying, “This DA is determined to nail my son as a monster, when in fact he is not. He is a big huggable bear, who just needs compassion and understanding versus judgment, which he has had too much of in his short 17 years on this earth.”

Judge Stockard granted Melvyn probation on a suspended sentence of 48 to 120 months in prison, with conditions that he obtain and follow the recommendations of a substance abuse evaluation and successfully complete the Provo Canyon School treatment program. Stockard further ordered Melvyn to immediately return to custody if he leaves or is released from the program without completing it.

“Mr. Sanders-Hahn, I wish you the best going forward,” Stockard said.

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera, with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: TAYLOR HYDE



Oasis Academy senior, Taylor Hyde.

As she prepares to graduate, senior Taylor Hyde reflects on a journey that began for her at Oasis Academy all the way back in kindergarten. Her time has been shaped by meaningful relationships, leadership opportunities, and unforgettable moments.

One of her most cherished memories highlights the close-knit culture of Oasis Academy.

“One of my most favorite memories at Oasis was when my brother joined me in class for ‘anything but a backpack day.’ He was my backpack,” she said. “He had so much fun goofing around, and my mom let him skip his regular school day to come with me.”

Having spent her entire K–12 experience at Oasis, she credits the teachers for making a lasting impact.

“The teachers made every year unique, and I can still vividly remember each and every one of them,” Hyde said.

She also expressed gratitude to her family, saying she would like to thank her parents.

“I would also like to thank my parents for being there throughout school with unwavering support,” she added.

Hyde’s favorite class was Ancient World History with Mr. Springfield

“The class had a good dynamic, and everyone connected well,” she explained.

Throughout high school, she stayed actively involved in both academics and extracurricular activities.

In the classroom, Hyde has excelled. She is part of the National Honor Society and has been named to the Western Nevada College Dean’s List several semesters. She also finished second on the Trig Star exam in her sophomore year. She will graduate in May with both her high school diploma and an Associate of Arts from Western Nevada College. She then plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno, where she intends to major in business while remaining open to other areas of study.

Her extracurricular activities have included serving on the student council and serving as class secretary for three years before becoming a senior representative this year. She was also a dedicated athlete, playing volleyball all four years, earning her varsity letter as a freshman and All-State Academic Team as a sophomore.

As she looks ahead, she offers thoughtful advice to future Oasis students.

“Time really does fly. I didn’t believe it as a freshman,” she reflected. “Please live in the moment and cherish your experiences, good and bad, and make as many connections as you can.”

She also encouraged students to focus on growth and positivity.

“There is no point in wasting your time and energy in negativity towards others or yourself... take advantage of your circumstances, and build yourself from that every chance you get,” she closed.

FIRST GRADERS TAKE ON EQUATIONS

First-graders proved that big thinking could come in small packages. As part of the Singapore Math curriculum, students explored how knowing one equation can help solve another—building confidence and a strong foundation in mathematical reasoning.

The lesson centered on a simple but powerful idea: relationships between numbers. Students first learned that $10 - 7 = 3$. With that fact firmly in place, they were guided to discover a new equation: $12 - 7$. Rather than starting from scratch, students used what they already knew. 12 is made up of 10 and 2. If they take 7 from the 10, they easily know that’s 3, then they combine it with the 2 they still have, so $3 + 2$ makes 5.

To make their thinking visible, students used linking cubes, a popular math manipulative. By physically modeling the equations, they could see how breaking apart the 12 made it possible to use their already known fact, 10-7. Students worked together to remove and count pieces, explaining their thinking to classmates and teachers along the way.

The lesson reflects a key principle of the Singapore Math curriculum: emphasizing deep understanding, problem-solving, and connections between concepts. Instead of memorizing isolated facts, students learn to build on what they know.

“We have spent the last three or four years digging deep and working to understand the Singapore approach,” said Kim Sorensen, Math Specialist. “I am amazed at the conversations and reasoning that are being used in classrooms to discover math.”

Sorensen added how visual learning tools, like cubes, help students better understand and enjoy math.

“I love watching our teachers using manipulatives consistently, despite the challenge. For many kids, it’s the first time they can really see the math. When that happens, students are more apt to apply it - and they even find that they enjoy doing it,” she said.

STUDENTS DISCOVER SYMMETRY THROUGH ART

First-grade classrooms explored the concept of symmetry through a hands-on art project featuring winter mittens. Combining math, art, and imagination, students designed their own paper mittens, each one carefully created to show symmetrical patterns.

Symmetry, the idea that one half of an object mirrors the other, can be challenging. However, the mitten project was a perfect way to make this idea both visible and fun. By folding their mitten shapes in half and decorating both sides to match, students could clearly see how symmetry works.

As students added shapes, lines, and winter-themed designs, they learned that symmetry is an important tool artists use to create balance and beauty. The project also encouraged careful observation, planning, and attention to detail, as students checked that both sides of their mittens matched.

Beyond the art room, students discussed where they might see symmetry in everyday life, such as butterfly wings, faces, buildings, and even letters of the alphabet. These conversations helped students realize that symmetry plays an important role in how the world is designed and understood.



First-graders use art and math to create symmetrical winter mittens during a classroom project. L-R: Cayson Nolan, Giselle Gomez-Tellez, Efrain Carrasco.

Veritas Preparatory School: Classical and Christian Academic Rigor Prepares Students for Lifelong Learning

By Gretchen Felte with photos courtesy of Veritas.

At Veritas Preparatory School, academic rigor is more than a benchmark—it is a daily commitment to excellence, discipline, and thoughtful inquiry. Rooted in a classical, Christ-centered approach to education, Veritas challenges students to think deeply, communicate clearly, and pursue truth with diligence and integrity.

At the heart of education at Veritas is the Trivium, a three-stage model that aligns with the natural developmental phases of children:

- Grammar Stage (Elementary Years): During this stage, young students focus on memorization and foundational knowledge. They absorb facts in subjects such as language, history, mathematics, and science, much like building blocks for later understanding.
- Logic Stage (Middle School Years): As students mature, they begin to ask “why” and engage in analytical thinking. This stage emphasizes reasoning, argumentation, and relationships among ideas, particularly in subjects such as formal logic and critical analysis.
- Rhetoric Stage (High School Years): In the final stage, students learn to express themselves persuasively and articulately. They synthesize their knowledge and refine their ability to write, speak, and debate effectively.

Classrooms at Veritas are marked by high expectations and purposeful instruction. Students are regularly asked to read challenging texts, write thoughtfully, memorize poetry and Scripture, and engage in discussions



Madeleine LaValley and Grayling Thomas, 5th and 6th grade students, participate in a nativity project at Veritas Preparatory School.

that require careful reasoning. Assessments are designed to measure mastery, not just completion, encouraging students to take ownership of their learning.

Veritas’ curriculum is intentionally designed to stretch students intellectually at every grade level. From the earliest years, students are taught not only what to think, but how to think. Phonics-rich reading instruction, structured handwriting, and mastery-based mathematics lay a strong foundation in the lower grades, while logic, composition, and analytical reading take center stage as students’ progress.

Strong literacy is a cornerstone of academic rigor at Veritas. Students read classic literature and historical texts, analyze primary sources, and learn to write with clarity and precision. From narration in the early grades to formal essays in the upper grades, writing instruction is incremental and intentional.

Beyond academic rigor, the educational philosophy at Veritas is distinctively Christ-centered. Every subject is taught with the understanding that all truth is God’s truth, and students are encouraged to see the world through the lens of Scripture. This integration of faith and learning fosters not only intellectual development but also spiritual and moral formation.

In an age of fragmented education, Classical Christian Education offers a holistic and transformative approach, one that seeks not just to inform, but to form students into knowledgeable and virtuous men and women.

EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD.



From left, Vice Principals Reema Pulsifer and Rachel Knight, Principal Tim Spencer, and Dean of Students Tricia Strasdin show their support for Jeremy Sivers' class.



Rylee Hammond and Hannah Keyes play games to build workplace communication and conflict resolution skills.



Manuel Bettencourt, Easton Muckey, Kyle Roxo, and Caden Thomas showoff the Chinese lanterns they made during a lesson on New Year traditions.

DISTRICT

On Monday, January 5, educators across the Churchill County School District returned from winter break to participate in a full-day professional development session focused on innovation, collaboration, and student success. Staff engaged in sessions designed to strengthen classroom instruction and prepare students for real-world readiness. The day included a variety of workshops and training sessions, ranging from emotional literacy and problem-solving skills to reading, math, and standards-based grading. Specialized sessions for special education (SPED) teachers focused on IEP writing, while other staff explored project-based learning, cross-curricular projects, and employability skills. Counselors, Safe School Professionals (SSP), and RESET Room teachers participated in targeted planning sessions, including Character Strong, to help staff align their vision and mission with classroom practices. Teachers are ready to bring new strategies into their classrooms for the rest of the 2025-26 school year, continuing to make an impact on every student, every day.

CCHS

Principal Tim Spencer, Vice Principals Rachel Knight and Reema Pulsifer, and Dean of Students Tricia Strasdin ended the first week back by showing their support for Jeremy Sivers'

economics class, proudly wearing matching economics t-shirts. Sivers is working to grow a club that raises money for scholarships through his high school economics program, and the shirts were created to promote both the class and the club's mission. Students and staff alike are excited to see the club's impact on campus and in the community.

CCMS

Last week, students returned from Winter Break ready to learn and engage in meaningful classroom experiences. In Justin Chambers' health class, students explored the risks and dangers of alcohol use. Through class discussions and presentations, they examined topics such as addiction and its impact on health and decision-making, building awareness to support informed choices. Meanwhile, in Rebecca Hatch's Career and Technology Exploration class, students worked on workplace communication and conflict resolution skills by playing Silent Bell (passing a bell without making a noise), 100 Numbers (working together to circle numbers to 100), and Quick Draw (without talking, students worked together controlling a pen with strings to draw different shapes and pictures). With a strong start to the new year, CCMS looks forward to the continued learning and growth students will experience throughout the rest of the school year.

NUMA

It was only the first week back from winter break, and students in Lacey Kerr's class were diving right back into activities that build both skills and community. Kerr's class participated in a "Tribe Challenge," answering questions about the school's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) while strengthening teamwork and camaraderie. During ELA time, students enjoy "Popcorn Reading" with Savvas, making reading practice lively and engaging.

E.C. BEST

Students in Angie Heck's class explored traditions from around the world by comparing and contrasting the American New Year with the Chinese New Year. As part of the lesson, students created Chinese lanterns and reflected on the year ahead. Each student chose one word to describe their 2026, sharing hopes for a new year filled with love, hope, faith, creativity, curiosity, and adventure.

LAHONTAN

Students in Olivia Lefort's class explored the science of snow and what causes it to melt through an engaging, hands-on lesson. To wrap up the activity, students created a "melted snowman" and wrote about what made them melt, combining creativity with scientific thinking. The class had a great time learning while bringing science to life.

SPORTS

Greenwave Endures Tough Week, Notches Home Win

Staff Report

The Churchill County Greenwave varsity boys' basketball team faced a challenging stretch on the court the week of January 4, dropping three out of four games but extending their home win streak to five. The week began with a tough 62-44 loss on the road to the Fernley Vaqueros on Tuesday, Jan. 6, dropping Greenwave's record to 8-4. The struggles continued on Wednesday, Jan. 7, as Churchill County fell to Bishop Manogue of Reno, 69-19, further slipping to 8-5. Returning home on Friday, Jan. 9, the Greenwave bounced back in front of their fans, posting an impressive 63-45 win over the Lowry Buckaroos from Winnemucca. The victory marked Churchill County's fifth consecutive win at home and moved its record to 9-5. However, the Greenwave couldn't maintain momentum on Saturday, falling to the Reno Huskies on the road, 70-52. With the loss, Churchill County's record stands at 9-6 as of press time. The Greenwave looks to regroup and build on their home success as they prepare for upcoming contests.

Lady Greenwave Split Weekend Games

Staff Report

The Lady Greenwave varsity basketball team maintained its dominance at home with a commanding 50-16 win over the Lowry Buckaroos from Winnemucca on Friday, January 9. The victory marked the Lady Greenwave's 13th consecutive home win, a streak stretching back to last season. Amillya Bishop led the way for the Greenwave, shooting an efficient 56% from the field and finishing with 12 points. Karlie Simper added 6 points and had a game-high 7 steals, helping to fuel the team's defensive effort. However, Lady Greenwave's momentum stalled in their next outing, as they fell to the Reno Huskies on Saturday, January 10, in a close 45-39 contest. The loss dropped their overall record to 14-3 as the team looks to regroup for their next matchup.



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C O L U M N S

What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen

The Most Versatile of Spice Mixes: Five Spice Powder

By J Hodnett in for Kelli Kelly

There are many spices that can be used in both sweet and savory dishes, but Five Spice powder is truly a versatile mix for all dishes. The name comes from the five spices that usually make up the spice: star anise, cloves, cinnamon, Sichuan pepper, and fennel or cardamom. You can buy pre-made Five Spice, but it's really fun to make your own if you have a spice grinder. You can definitely use a coffee grinder; just make sure it hasn't been used to grind coffee.

I first had Five Spice Duck years ago and tried to recreate it during the holidays. I made up this recipe based on my memories, and it turned out really well. It seems like duck is harder to find than it used to be, but this would work with chicken. Just make sure to watch the roasting time, as the duck skin is much thicker than a chicken's.

Ingredients: Five Spice Duck

- 4 lb. Whole duck
- 1-inch Piece of ginger
- 5 Peppercorns
- 2 Scallions, sliced into 1-inch pieces
- 4 cloves Garlic, peeled and lightly crushed
- 1 Clementine or other small orange, halved
- 1 tbsp. Five Spice powder

Ingredients: Five Spice Powder

- 1 Cinnamon stick, broken into small pieces
- 4 Cardamom pods
- 1 tbsp. Peppercorns
- 1 tsp. Cloves
- 4 Star anise pods

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat oven to 300 degrees. Place the duck in a deep roasting pan (there will be a lot of fat to catch). If you don’t have a rack, use crumpled foil to keep the duck off the bottom of the pan. Pat dry and wash your hands. Grind Five Spice ingredients to a fine powder. Put peppercorns, ginger, and scallions in a spice bag and place, along with the ginger and half an orange, into the cavity of the duck. Rub duck all over with Five Spice powder. Wash hands. Roast duck for 3-4 hours, until tender.

Ingredients: Glazed Salmon

- 1-2 lbs. Wild-caught salmon fillet, skin-on
- 2 tbsp. Five Spice powder
- 1/4 cup Pure maple syrup
- 2 tbsp. Soy sauce
- 1 tbsp. Butter
- 1 tsp. Fresh ginger, grated
- 1 clove Garlic minced
- Scallions and sesame seeds (optional garnish)

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 375°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a small bowl, whisk together the Five Spice powder, maple syrup, soy sauce, butter, ginger, and garlic until fully combined. Salt and pepper to taste and divide in half. Place the salmon fillet skin-side down on the prepared baking sheet and pour half the glaze over the salmon. Wash hands. Bake the salmon for 12-15 minutes; remove and brush with the remaining glaze. For a caramelized finish, broil for an additional 2-3 minutes, watching closely to prevent burning. Let the salmon rest for 5 minutes before serving. Garnish with scallions and sesame seeds.

Ingredients: Five Spice Apple Pie

- 2 1/2 cups All-purpose flour
- 1 cup Unsalted cold butter, cubed
- 1/4 cup Ice water
- 6 cups Apples, peeled, cored, and thinly sliced
- 3/4 cup Granulated sugar
- 2 tbsp. Five-spice powder
- 1 tbsp. Lemon juice
- 1 egg Lightly beaten
- 1 tbsp. Sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour and butter. Use a pastry cutter or fork to blend until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Gradually add ice water, 1 tablespoon at a time, mixing until the dough just comes together. Divide the dough into two equal parts, flatten into discs, wrap in plastic, and



refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C). Toss the apple slices with the sugar, five-spice powder, and lemon juice until evenly coated. Roll out one disc of dough on a floured surface to fit a 9-inch pie dish. Transfer the dough to the dish, trimming any excess. Fill the pie crust with the apple mixture, mounding slightly in the center. Roll out the second disc of dough and place it over the apples. Trim, seal, and crimp the edges. Cut a few slits in the top to let steam escape. Brush the top crust with lightly beaten egg and sprinkle with sugar. Place the pie on a baking sheet and bake for 50 minutes, or until the crust is golden brown and the filling is bubbly. Let the pie cool slightly before slicing to allow the filling to set.

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

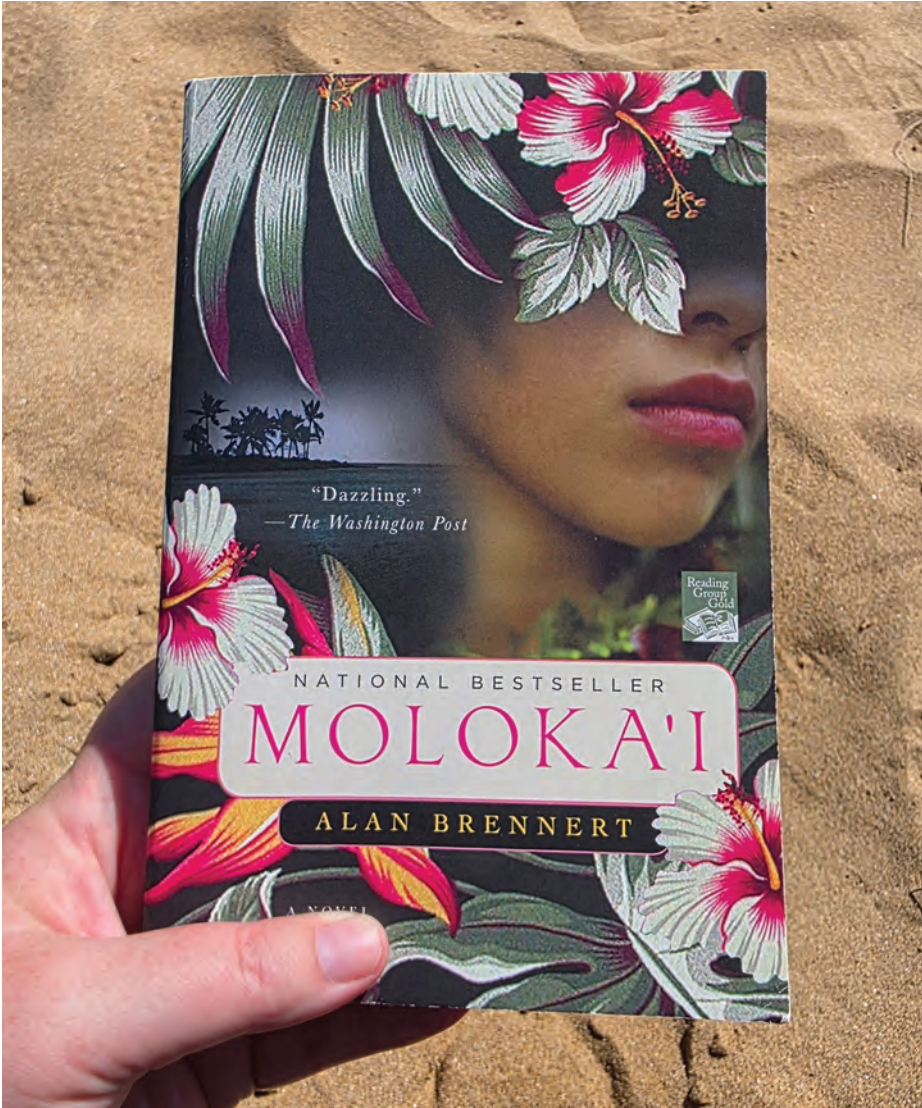


Allison’s Book Report

“Moloka’i” By Alan Brennert

By Allison Diegel

I am home from two glorious weeks on the beautiful island of Maui. I am not excited that winter finally arrived while I was gone. I will definitely miss the never-ending supply of sunshine and shaved ice, but I have a fantastic book about Hawaii to share with you all this week. “Moloka’i” by Alan Brennert takes you on a journey through heartbreak, resilience, and the beauty of human connection. It is a story that proves even in isolation, life can bloom in extraordinary ways. Moloka’i is a heartfelt historical novel that follows Rachel Kalama, a spirited seven-year-old growing up in Honolulu in the late 1800s. Her life is full of sunshine and dreams - until a small pink spot on her skin changes everything. Diagnosed with leprosy (now known as Hansen’s disease), Rachel is torn from her family and sent to the isolated leper colony on Moloka’i, a place shrouded in fear and stigma. What sounds like a tale of tragedy quickly becomes a story of resilience and unexpected beauty. On Moloka’i, Rachel finds a new kind of family among fellow patients and caregivers. Despite the harsh reality of exile, she experiences friendship, love, and even joy. Brennert vividly portrays the island, showing how its natural beauty contrasts with the pain of separation and loss. The novel does not shy away from heartbreak as Rachel faces unimaginable challenges, including the death of loved ones and the constant shadow of illness. Yet, her strength and optimism shine through. Over the decades, Rachel grows from a scared child into a wise, compassionate woman who embraces life fully, even when it does not go as planned. Brennert weaves in rich historical detail, from Hawaiian traditions to the medical practices of the time, making the story feel authentic and deeply moving. At its core, Moloka’i is about hope, endurance, and the power of community. It reminds us that even when life takes an unexpected turn, love and kindness can make all the difference. Rachel’s journey is both heartbreaking and uplifting, a testament to the human spirit’s ability to adapt and flourish. Moloka’i isn’t just a novel. It is a reminder that even in life’s hardest moments, love and resilience can light the way. I just know that this story will stay with you long after the last page! Don't forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more book talk and to let me know what you're reading this week!



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.

C O L U M N S

PostCards: Will be back in February

Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

This Friday, the Fallon Theatre spotlights the Coalition for Senior Citizens and their monthly matinee series, with a special showing of “Space Cowboys” at 1 p.m. Seniors are invited to enjoy complimentary popcorn and a drink. Starring Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, Donald Sutherland, and James Garner, “Space Cowboys” follows four retired Air Force pilots called back for a final mission. Rated PG-13, the film runs 2 hours, 10 minutes. It’s a relaxed, welcoming way for seniors to spend an afternoon and connect with others.

For all ages, evening movies start at 6 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, with “Minions” (2015). This animated adventure dives into the origins of everyone’s favorite yellow mischief-makers, searching for the perfect villain. Packed with slapstick fun, it’s ideal for families and “Despicable Me” fans. Rated PG, the film runs 1 hour, 31 minutes.

At 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, “Space Cowboys” returns for evening audiences. With its star-studded cast, this action-adventure offers plenty of thrills and heartfelt moments. Rated PG-13, it runs 2 hours, 10 minutes.

Later this month, Fallon Theatre welcomes The Kindred North, an acoustic duo founded in 2025 by Raena Blais and McKenzie Warren. On Friday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m., enjoy a night of folk, country, and rock in an intimate setting. Admission is \$12, a great opportunity to support local musicians and enjoy heartfelt harmonies and original music.

February brings the Galentine’s Show on Friday the 6th and Saturday the 7th at 7 p.m. The Domesticated Man Band delivers a one-hour performance filled with laughter and feel-good tunes, perfect for a girls’ night out or anyone wanting to celebrate friendship. Admission is free; come early, grab a glass of wine, and enjoy an evening of entertainment.

Also in February, the annual Valentine’s Day 5K fundraiser kicks off Saturday, Feb. 7 at 9 a.m. outside the theatre at 71 S. Maine St. Day-of



registration opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 8:50 a.m.; pre-register by Jan. 20 to guarantee a commemorative T-shirt. Registration is \$25 for individuals or \$40 per couple; day-of pricing increases to \$30 and \$50. Forms are available at Western Alliance Bank, Kent’s Supply Center or online. For details, contact Crystal at 775-304-9975 or Taylor at 775-316-0952. Support the theatre while celebrating the holiday and staying active.

A new live music night arrives Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. with Kat & Dave: The Acoustic Rock Experience. After seven years performing together, Kat and Dave bring polished musicianship and chemistry to the stage, drawing on their experience touring with a major Pink Floyd tribute band. Now an acoustic duo, they deliver classic rock favorites with powerful vocals and skilled guitar work. Admission is \$10 for this intimate, fully live show.

In March, Fallon Theatre hosts Heritage of the West on Saturday, March 7. This free event

celebrates the region’s roots with performances by musicians, poets, historians, and storytellers. Experience heritage music, cowboy poetry, dance, and oral histories. Interested participants can email huck_salt@yahoo.com or call 775-423-2055 or 775-217-4142.

On March 8, the 1st Annual Oasis Film Festival offers local filmmakers a chance to shine. The festival seeks PG-rated short films (up to 15 minutes) inspired by the America 250 theme. Each person may submit one entry with a \$20 fee; the deadline is March 2. Twelve finalists will be screened, followed by an awards ceremony. Film production and acting workshops will be available to participants.

The Fallon Theatre team continues to offer free movie screenings whenever possible, making it easy for the community to gather. The concession stand serves classic favorites, including popcorn and candy. To rent the theatre or feature a message on the marquee, call 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com.

Crossword

By Peanut

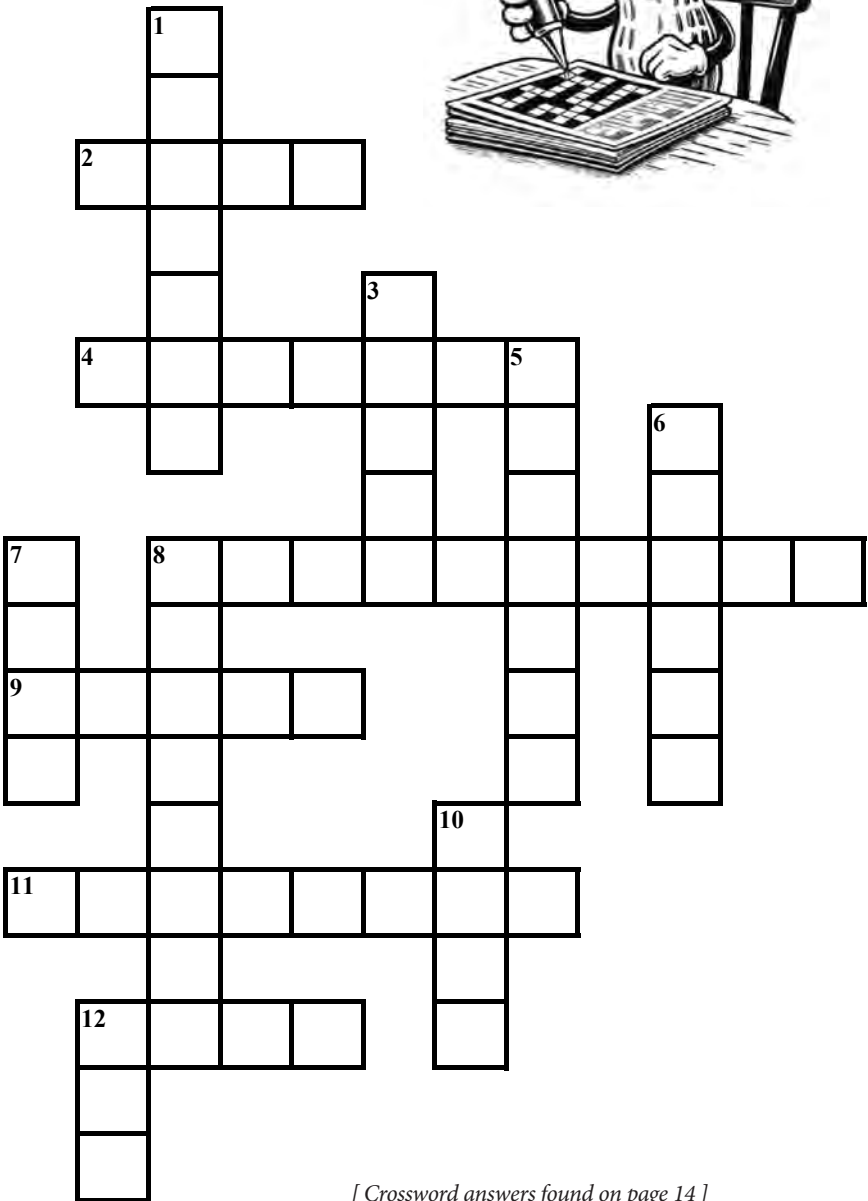
A D A M

Across

- 2. Black Mighty Morphin Ranger
- 4. Happy Gilmore
- 8. 18th-century Polish poet
- 9. 18th-century economist
- 11. All My Children character
- 12. Genesis figure

Down

- 1. Voiced by Broderick in The Bee
- 3. Dwayne Johnson role
- 5. Portrayed Adam Cartwright
- 6. Kylo Ren
- 7. TV's Batman
- 8. Beetlejuice ghost
- 10. George Eliot novel
- 12. Brit punk rock singer



[Crossword answers found on page 14]

CASE NO. 25-10DC-1239
Dept. No. 1
AMBER L. MELLO
58 Venturacci Lane
Fallon, Nevada 89406
775-225-8229

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

In the Matter of the Estate of
SCOTT ALLEN MELLO,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been duly appointed and qualified by the above-entitled court on the 6th day of January, 2026 as Administrator of the Estate of SCOTT ALLEN MELLO, deceased. ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to file the same with the proper vouchers attached, with the clerk of the court within SIXTY (60) days after the first publication of this Notice.

DATED: This January 6, 2026.

/s/ AMBER MELLO
Administrator for the Estate

Published in
The Fallon Post
January 9, 16, and 23, 2026
Ad #6417

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

- Granting the privilege of using or improving the airport or air navigation facility, or any portion or facility thereof, or space therein, for commercial purposes.
- Conferring the privilege of supplying goods, commodities, things, services or facilities at the airport or air navigation facility or other facilities.
- Making available services to be furnished by the City of Fallon or its agents or by other persons at the airport or air navigation facility or other facilities.

NOTICE IF FURTHER GIVEN that a regular meeting of the City Council will be held on January 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, 55 W. Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada, at which meeting any interested person may appear.

Published in
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Dec. 26, 2025 and Jan. 2, 9, and 16, 2026
Ad #6411

Your Name:
GARRETT ROBERT KALT
2238 Longhorn Drive
Fallon, NV 89406
775-699-0144
freibottkalt@gmail.com
Self-Represented Petitioner

**DISTRICT COURT
CHURCHILL COUNTY,
NEVADA**

**In the Matter of the Application of:
GARRETT ROBERT KALT
For Change of Name.**

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

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

Garrett Robert Kalt
(first) (middle) (last)

to (clearly print the name you want to be known by in the future):

Garrett Robert Freibott-Kalt
(first) (middle) (last)

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

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

DATED this (day) 8, January, 2026.

Submitted By:
/s/ GARRETT ROBERT KALT
/s/ GARRETT ROBERT KALT

Published in
The Fallon Post
January 16, 2026
Ad #6423

CASE NO. 25-10DC-1239
Dept. No. 1
AMBER L. MELLO
58 Venturacci Lane
Fallon, Nevada 89406

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

In the Matter of the Estate of
SCOTT ALLEN MELLO,
Deceased.

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT: AMBER MELLO, having filed with the clerk of this court their Petition for Probate of Estate, Issuance of Letters of Administration upon the estate of SCOTT ALLEN MELLO, the hearing of the same having been fixed by said court for the 6th day of January, 2026, at 9:00 o’clock a.m. of said day, or as soon thereafter as Petitioner may be heard, at the courtroom, 73 North Maine Street, within Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada, and all persons interested in the said estate are notified then and there to appear and show cause, if any they have, why the said petition should not be granted.

DATED:
This 23rd day of December, 2025
/s/ AMBER MELLO

Published in
The Fallon Post
January 2, 9 and 16, 2026
Ad #6414

Your Name:
AMETHYST JOELLE FREIBOTT
2238 Longhorn Drive
Fallon, NV 89406
775-699-0713
freibottkalt@gmail.com
Self-Represented Petitioner

**DISTRICT COURT
CHURCHILL COUNTY,
NEVADA**

**In the Matter of the Application of:
AMETHYST JOELLE FREIBOTT
For Change of Name.**

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR
CHANGE OF NAME**

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

Amethyst Joelle Freibott
(first) (middle) (last)

to (clearly print the name you want to be known by in the future):

Amethyst Joelle Freibott-Kalt
(first) (middle) (last)

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

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

DATED this (day) 8, January, 2026.

Submitted By:
/s/ AMETHYST JOELLE FREIBOTT
/s/ AMETHYST JOELLE FREIBOTT

Published in
The Fallon Post
January 16, 2026
Ad #6422



In Remembrance

For obituaries please call 775-423-4545
or email admin@thefallonpost.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

A child was born to Meranda Bufkin in December 2023 in Fallon, Nevada and is now two (2) years old. The identity and whereabouts of the child’s biological father are currently unknown.

If you believe you may be the father, or if you have any information that may assist in identifying or locating the father, please contact:

Sharlee Bufkin: 775-217-8394
Josh Bufkin: 209-968-2782

All information will be handled confidentially.

Published in
The Fallon Post
Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 2 and 13, 2026
Ad #6415


PUBLIC NOTICE

Commnet Wireless proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 98 feet on a 111-foot monopole communications tower at the approx. vicinity of 12300 Carr Lane, Fallon, Churchill County, NV 89406. Lat: [39-32-4.5882] Long: [-118-59-32.121]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Alec Nimkoff, a.nimkoff@trileaf.com, 66 South Logan Street, Denver, CO 80209. 203.856.1011.

Published in
The Fallon Post
January 16, 2026
Ad #6418

CROSSWORD ANSWERS
Crossword found on page 13

ADAM	MAITLAND
ANT	MICKIEWICZ
BEDE	PARK
BLACK	ROBERTS
CHANDLER	SANDLER
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A special thank you to our subscribers!

The logo of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District is a circular emblem. It features a stylized landscape with a blue sky, a white mountain peak, and a winding river or canal. The words "TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT" are written in a circular path around the top, and "FALLON NEVADA" is at the bottom.

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District Attorney

Pershing County proposes to select and hire an attorney to fill the position of the vacant unexpired term of the District Attorney to provide legal representation for Pershing County. The appointment may be as a permanent appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term ending December 31, 2026.

Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be admitted to practice law in the State of Nevada and be an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Nevada.
2. Must have attained the age of 21 years on the date he/she would take office.
3. Is a qualified elector of the State of Nevada.
4. Must not have been convicted of a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude, regardless of whether or not civil rights have been restored.

Submittal of Qualifications:

Must be submitted to Pershing County Clerk, 398 Main Street, P. O. Box 820, Lovelock, Nevada 89419 by 4:00 p.m. on or before Wednesday, January 28, 2026. The qualifications shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked clearly, "Response to RFQ for Pershing County District Attorney". Provide one copy.



Contact: Lacey Donaldson, Clerk-Treasurer for Pershing County
P.O. Box 820 Lovelock, Nevada 89419 | (775) 273-2208
ldonaldson@pershingcountynv.gov