

THE FALLON POST



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State Ratings Show Widely Different Results Across CCSD Schools

By Lori Kaiser and Leanna Lehman

Churchill County High School gained 11 points in Nevada’s latest school accountability ratings, while Churchill County Middle School lost 6 points and Numa Elementary fell 14.2 points.

At the district level, Churchill County School District received Level 3, the highest of the state’s three rating levels, for district support and Level 1, the lowest rating level, for school outcomes. Churchill was the only Nevada district or charter school sponsor with that combination.

The Nevada Department of Education recently released its 2025-26 accountability results, including star ratings for individual schools and Nevada’s first performance ratings for school districts.

Churchill County High School received three stars with an index score of 67.5. Churchill County Middle School and Numa Elementary each received one star, with index scores of 17 and 22.6, respectively.

What Do the Stars Mean? — A school’s star rating is not the percentage of students who passed state tests. Nevada combines several measures into an index score that determines a school’s rating of one to five stars. Elementary and middle school students take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessments, while high school juniors take the ACT, making direct comparisons between grade levels difficult.

Academic proficiency and student growth are important parts of elementary and middle school

ratings. High school ratings also include graduation and college and career readiness.

Among Churchill County students in grades 3-8, 28.6% met state standards in English language arts and 21% in math. Statewide, those rates were 45.2% and 36.2%, respectively.

Results varied by school. Churchill County High reported 48.9% proficiency in English language arts, above the statewide rate, but 16.5% in math. Numa reported 34.1% in English language arts and 25% in math, while the middle school reported 25.4% and 16%, respectively.

Churchill County Schools — The high school showed the strongest upward movement among the rated schools, reaching an index of 67.5 and three stars. The middle school returned to its 2023-24 index of 17, while Numa recorded the largest decline and finished with an index of 22.6.

E. C. Best Elementary School and Lahontan Elementary School did not receive star ratings. State data show index scores of 45.5 for E. C. Best and 82.5 for Lahontan. The reason they were not assigned star ratings has not yet been confirmed.

What Do the Improvement Designations Mean? — Two schools also carry federal improvement designations. Churchill County Middle School is designated for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), which calls for broader schoolwide improvement. Numa is designated for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, which identifies low performance among a

[State Ratings continued on page A2]

Churchill Hazen Industrial Park: Build It — And They Will Come

By Leanna Lehman

Or at least, that is the hope for Tolles Development Company. For decades, Churchill County has envisioned industrial development near Hazen. One stubborn problem has repeatedly stood in the way: infrastructure — particularly power.

Now, an unusual solution may solve that problem: Tolles is proposing to develop a power system capable of serving the planned industrial park and create a public general improvement district, or GID, to deliver essential services.

That proposal moved a step forward Sept. 16 when the Board of County Commissioners set an Oct. 15 public hearing on the district’s service plan and conducted the first reading of an ordinance initiating creation of the Churchill Hazen Industrial Park (CHIP) GID. The actions did not create the district; additional public hearings and county approvals are required.

Industrial users need reliable power before committing millions, or potentially billions, of dollars to a site. Utilities, however, generally need committed customers before making major investments in generation and transmission infrastructure. Cory Hunt, a principal with Tolles Development Company, explained, “It just always ends up being this self-fulfilling prophecy ... ‘we don’t have any power because we don’t have a customer because we don’t have any power.’”

Hunt said developers approached NV Energy about bringing additional power to the site but were told the infrastructure could not be available until 2032.

“So that’s where the general improvement district comes in,” Hunt said.

Hunt said the Hazen property has been identified for industrial development for roughly 25 years. The late Tim Tucker was involved in earlier efforts to develop the property, and Tolles later began working with Tucker’s estate and other partners to

[Churchill Hazen continued on page A8]

Volunteers Honor 9/11 Through Service at Wolf Center

By Mary Sorensen

Thirty volunteers marked the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks by cleaning and improving the Wolf Center, home of Fallon Daily Bread, during a community day of service Sept. 11.



Terra Koenig, left, painted rocks with her grandson Beck Brown during the Sept. 11 day of service at the Wolf Center. Photo courtesy of Mary Sorensen.

The volunteers gathered from 3 to 6 p.m. for the JustServe-sponsored project, held in coordination with the national 9/11 Day of Service. They cleared brush and debris from Russian sage, pulled weeds, repainted the Churchill County Coalition’s Karma Box, and deep-cleaned Fallon Daily Bread’s tables and chairs by power-washing them outside.

Children also painted rocks for the center’s rock garden. Tumbleweed Garbage Disposal donated the use of garbage cans and hauled away six cans of brush and debris.

Assemblyman Greg Koenig attended with his wife, Terra, and their grandchildren. Terra Koenig, the northwestern Nevada JustServe specialist, painted rocks with her grandson Beck Brown.

“Maddox, 2 1/2, was so focused on his blue rock with several coats of paint, making sure it was perfect,” Koenig said. “It’s never about rocks, it’s about creating community and shining light, even for littles.”

Nine-year-old Hattie Sorensen also

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Check out the issue of the Great Basin Sun Sports section, featuring coverage of prep sports from across northern Nevada!



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log: *Squirrel*

By Rachel Dahl

I have this one friend...
Actually, funny story. That reminds me of a very dear friend of mine who used to joke that she got so old and cranky that she only had two friends left – Leanna and me. And then she died, so Leanna and I will joke from time to time that we only have one friend left.
Sometimes I do feel that way, sort of like a loner. There are definite hermit tendencies the older I get. Lots of them, which leads me to time on the porch with Clio and the chickens instead of going to the Arts Council to join the Fallon Film Society, which really did sound fun, but then there was the sagebrush and the sunset calling, so home I went.
Anyway, back to this friend.
Well, now I can’t remember what the heck I was going to write about said friend. Neither is there any recollection of what in the world that whole train of thought even was. Nor of which friend I had in mind. A few days ago, this idea came to my head, so I hurried up and sat down and typed all that out and then got sidetracked writing stories and editing and figuring out layout for Lovelock and finessing Fernley... and, and, and.
We were all laughing around the office yesterday, comparing notes of how we all have so many balls in the air right now we often come back to some task several days later baffled by what we had been doing and left lying there undone. Some of us are claiming age, but others are assigning to us personality flaws.



Imagine. Being so organized and disciplined that you can look at another human, a coworker even, and cast aspersions.
So, while some of us spin these plates, and others tap their toes with impatience, we’ll all still be right here...
... Keeping you Posted.

—Rach

[State Ratings continued from page A1]

particular student group.
Graduation, Proficiency, and Attendance — The district reported an 85.9% graduation rate for 2025-26. Graduation and state test proficiency measure different things. Students may meet graduation requirements without scoring proficient on a state assessment.
The Nevada Report Card lists Churchill County’s chronic absenteeism rate at 31.9%, meaning nearly one-third of students were chronically absent during the school year.
School reports show different absenteeism rates depending on the state measure used. The At a Glance figures list chronic absenteeism at 39.5% for Churchill County High, 31.6% for the middle school, and 27.9% for Numa. The Nevada School Performance Framework reports lower rates for those schools. Because the two measures are calculated differently, they should not be treated as the same figure.
District Support High, School Outcomes Low — Churchill County received an overall Level 2 rating, the middle of three levels under Nevada’s new District Performance Framework. But the two parts of that rating were very different. Churchill received Level 3, the highest rating, for district support and Level 1, the lowest, for school outcomes.
Churchill was the only district or charter school sponsor in Nevada with that combination. District support looks at five areas: qualified

teachers, fair distribution of staff, instructional materials, college and career readiness opportunities, and financial stability. School outcomes look at how schools within the district performed.
Of Nevada’s 17 county school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority, 12 received an overall Level 2 rating, three received Level 1, and three received Level 3. The first-year ratings establish a baseline and carry no formal penalties.
What Comes Next — The results show where Churchill County schools improved, where they lost ground, and how students performed against state standards. The numbers alone do not explain why.
Churchill County School District Superintendent Blake Cooper said the district welcomes the new performance framework.
“As the Nevada Department of Education releases its updated 2026 performance framework, we welcome these measurements as a valuable roadmap for our schools.
“Academic scores tell only part of our story. In Churchill County, we are deeply committed to educating the whole child. Whether it’s leading the state in athletic achievement, building inclusive classroom communities, or expanding hands-on career training, our staff works tirelessly to build a strong foundation for every student.
“We look forward to another productive year focused on student learning and high-quality instruction for the students of Churchill County School District.”

[Volunteers continued from page A1]

participated with her sister, Juniper Sorensen.
“I loved painting rocks,” Hattie said. “Serving others makes me feel good.”
Mike Berney, chairman of the board of church trustees at Epworth United Methodist Church, thanked JustServe and the volunteers for their work at the Wolf Center.
“Their volunteer time was indeed appreciated!” Berney said.

The project was part of the national observance encouraging Americans to honor those killed and injured on Sept. 11, 2001, through service. Organizers said 50,000 volunteers in 50 cities packed 20 million meals during the 25th-anniversary effort.
JustServe is a free volunteer-matching platform that connects individuals, families, and groups with service opportunities posted by community organizations.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Domino is Available for Adoption

Domino is a 2 1/2-year-old Australian cattle dog and American pit bull terrier mix looking for a forever home through Churchill Animal Protection Society. This handsome black-and-white gentleman is house-trained, walks well on a leash, and enjoys spending time with his people. Whether taking a neighborhood stroll or relaxing on the couch, Domino is happiest being part of the family. Domino does well with older children and some dogs when introduced slowly. He needs a home without cats. With his puppy days behind him, Domino is ready for a family offering companionship and adventure.



Meet Chewy

Chewy is a big, handsome black-and-white longhaired cat ready to find a home. About 5 years old, he is neutered, vaccinated, and prepared to join a family. Chewy came through the Fallon Animal Welfare Group's barn cat program, which is why his ear is tipped. He loves being held, having conversations, and following his people like a shadow. Anyone searching for a loving, sociable companion may find that Chewy is the cat they have been waiting for.



Questions? Call 775-217-4745
Fallon Animal Welfare Group
is a 501(c)(3) charity supporting the welfare of cats in Churchill County, Nevada.

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

FEATURES

Greenwave Marching Band Plays at UNR

By Sydney Trainor

The Greenwave Marching Band traveled to the University of Nevada, Reno, on Sept. 12 for Band Day, joining high school musicians from across northern Nevada for a full college football game-day experience alongside the Wolf Pack Marching Band.

The annual event drew roughly 740 students, its highest turnout to date, according to Dr. Stephen Eubanks, UNR’s director of athletic bands.

At UNR, game day starts long before the actual game. According to Eubanks, rehearsal starts roughly six hours before kickoff. While high school students receive music to practice ahead of time, the bands have only one rehearsal to coordinate and practice playing together.

After rehearsal, students performed at tail-gates and during pregame activities before heading to the bleachers, where they played pep tunes

throughout the game.

For the main event, students joined the Wolf Pack Marching Band on the field for a halftime show, playing “Party in the U.S.A.” by Miley Cyrus, “DJ Got Us Fallin’ in Love” by Usher, and “I Just Might” by Bruno Mars.

Greenwave Marching Band drum major Aden David shared what he learned during the event. “You’ve got to be ready. You’ve got to be prepared,” he said.

UNR has hosted Band Day for more than a decade. Eubanks shared that in 2016, only three high schools participated, highlighting the growth of the event.

For university students, the event brings back memories. Many students currently in the Wolf Pack Marching Band participated in Band Day as high schoolers.

Sam Trujillo, a senior at UNR, said participating in Band Day in high school sparked his curiosity about college-level band.



Greenwave Marching Band drum major Aden David directed band practice at Churchill County High School in August. Photo by Lori Kaiser.



High school musicians joined the University of Nevada, Reno’s Wolf Pack Marching Band for Band Day on Sept. 12. Photo by Jeff Shoemaker.

“It’s confusing, but I think it made me, like, curious,” he said, “what is this like when it’s super organized?”

Trujillo shared advice for anyone interested in joining a college-level marching band.

“Don’t feel intimidated,” he said, “everyone else has started from the same point you are.”

Eubanks also shared some college advice for high school students.

“Once you know what you’re going to do, go look at the schools that can get you a job,” he said. “That’s the most important thing. If it’s UNR, great.”

For David, who has been in band for about five years, the experience connects with his own plans for the future. He hopes to study to become a band teacher in college.



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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: LEARN, ENGAGE, VOTE

Why Your Home Chooses Your Ballot

By Rachel Dahl

“If I own a business in a city and pay taxes there, shouldn’t I be allowed to vote there?”

In an ordinary city election, generally no.

A person may own property in several communities. But representative government requires each voter to belong to one electorate. Otherwise, power would follow wealth.

One house, one vote. Five houses, five votes. A corporation operating in 40 states would need a very large ballot.

That would be government by property, not citizens.

The principle is simple: Your interests may reach across many communities. Your vote belongs to the community where you live.

The Declaration of Independence says governments receive their just powers from “the consent of the governed.” That raises another question: Who are “the governed” for a particular government?

Americans are governed nationally. States govern their residents. Counties govern county residents. Cities govern people inside city boundaries. The smaller the government, the more important its boundary becomes.

The Constitution did not create a separate national set of voter qualifications. Instead, each state continued deciding who could vote for its own state legislature. Those same people were allowed to vote for members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

That meant Congress could not choose its own voters. The people already qualified to vote under their state’s laws would also decide who represented them in Congress.

James Madison explained this in “Federalist No. 52.” He described the definition of the right of suffrage as a “fundamental article of republican government.” The House was supposed to

depend upon the people, not Congress’s changing definition of the people.

“Federalist No. 10” explains why the country uses representation. A large republic contains many interests, Madison argued, making it harder for one faction to control everyone. Citizens choose representatives rather than voting on every government decision.

The Anti-Federalists worried that representatives in such a large country would become distant from ordinary people. In “Brutus No. 1,” Brutus warned that a national legislature might not understand the “local condition and wants” of different communities. The Federal Farmer argued that representation had to reflect “the situation of the people.”

The two sides disagreed about whether the Constitution could accomplish that. Both understood that representation connects actual people to actual places.

America did not begin with universal voting rights. State rules often restricted voting by property, taxpaying, race, sex, religion, age, and residence.

Over time, America separated voting from property ownership. Constitutional amendments prohibited voting discrimination based on race and sex, poll taxes in federal elections, and denial to citizens 18 or older based on age.

The developing principle became one qualified resident, one vote—not one parcel, one vote.

That is why owning a downtown building does not give its owner more political power than renting an apartment. A renter is not half a citizen. A landowner is not five citizens.

Supreme Court decisions reinforce this. *Dunn v. Blumstein* permits genuine residence requirements but rejected long waiting periods. *Kramer v. Union Free School District No. 15* struck down voting restrictions that excluded otherwise qualified residents from school district elections based

on property ownership or whether they had children attending local public schools. *Holt Civic Club v. Tuscaloosa* held that people outside a city do not gain its vote merely because its policies affect them.

Nevada law makes this concrete. Voters register where they actually reside. The law discusses a person’s fixed and permanent home. When someone’s family lives in one place while that person does business elsewhere, the family home is generally the residence.

As Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford often explains it, your domicile is where you lay your head at night.

If you live inside a city’s boundaries, your ballot includes that city’s offices and ballot questions. If you live outside those boundaries, you may vote in county, state, and federal elections—but not that city’s election. Owning a business or other property inside the city does not make you a city voter. You may still attend meetings, speak, petition officials, and persuade city voters. But your ballot is determined by where you live.

Your home places you in a precinct. That precinct places you inside city, county, school, legislative, and congressional districts. Those boundaries determine which representatives answer to you and which ballot belongs to you.

Americans have many ways to influence communities where they do not live. We may speak, write, petition, organize, contribute, and show up at public meetings. What we may not do is collect electorates the way we collect property.

A ballot is not a shareholder dividend or a receipt for taxes paid. It is the voice of a citizen within the political community that citizen calls home.

In a constitutional republic, boundaries tell us who gets to decide. Domicile tells us where each of us belongs.

One home. One community. One ballot. One vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Churchill County Social Services is located in the Frazzini Building at 270 S. Maine St., Suite B, in Fallon. Courtesy of Churchill County.

Social Services Connects Residents With Statewide Assistance Network

Staff Report

Churchill County residents facing financial hardship or another barrier to stability can contact the county’s Social Services Department for help identifying available programs and resources.

The department is part of the Nevada Community Action Association, a statewide network of 12 local organizations that work directly with individuals and families. Residents do not need to determine which program they need before calling. Social Services staff can help identify available services and connect them with appropriate resources.

Support may be available for employment, education, housing, transportation, food and nutrition, emergency needs, and other family and community services.

“Nevadans should know that they do not have to navigate difficult times alone,” Nevada Community Action Association Executive Director Matthew Saylor said. “Our 12 agencies are on the ground in communities across this state. They understand the challenges facing their neighbors, and they are ready to connect people with resources, opportunities and a path toward greater stability.”

The Community Action network was created to help communities address poverty and expand economic opportunities. In Nevada, the network is supported in part by the Community Services Block Grant, a federally funded program administered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Community Services.

Churchill County Social Services is located at 270 S. Maine St., Suite B, in Fallon. For assistance or more information, call 775-423-6695.

DVI Fundraiser to Support Local Survivors of Family Violence

Staff Report

Domestic Violence Intervention Inc. will hold its first “A Guiding Light Fundraiser to End Family Violence” on Saturday, Oct. 3, with proceeds supporting services for survivors in Fallon, Fernley, and surrounding communities.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Fallon Eagles Hall, 7977 Reno Highway. The evening will include a seated dinner, raffles, and a silent auction. Guests may choose tri-tip, chicken, or four-cheese lasagna.

DVI provides crisis intervention, emergency shelter and motel assistance, help with temporary protection order applications, court accompaniment, peer counseling, support groups, and a 24-hour crisis line. Board member April Chester said the organization assisted approximately 2,500 people in the Fallon and Fernley areas last year.

The nonprofit relies on grants and donations to continue that work. Money raised through dinner tickets, raffles, and the silent auction will help DVI provide services to local survivors of domestic and family violence.

Tickets are \$45 per person or \$240 for a table for six. Tickets may be purchased by scanning the QR code or by calling the DVI office at 775-423-1313. The office is located at 37 S. Maine St. in Fallon.

Those who need immediate help may call DVI’s confidential 24-hour crisis line at 775-427-1500.



MEETINGS

Sept. 25 – Oct. 20, 2026

Board of County Commissioners
Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month
155 N. Taylor St.
Next Meeting: Oct. 1 at 8:15 a.m.

Planning Commission
Meets twice monthly at 6 p.m.
155 N. Taylor St.
Next Meeting: Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.

Churchill County Communications
Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.
155 N. Taylor St.
Next Meeting: Oct. 1 at 11 a.m.

Churchill County School Board
Meets monthly at 5:30 p.m.
690 S. Maine St.
Next Meeting: Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

New Frontier Plans Recovery Fun Day

Staff Report

New Frontier will host Recovery Fun Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Oats Park.

The free, family-friendly community event will celebrate recovery while bringing together individuals, families, friends, and community members. New Frontier describes the event as a day devoted to recovery, connection, families, and community.

WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken Sept. 21 at 10 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	85,690 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	382 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	44.9 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	12.4 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	0.98 cfs

Sept. 21, 2024	Sept. 21, 2023	Sept. 21, 2022
153,647 acre feet	323,084 acre feet	24,025 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, Sept. 28 Fried Rice w/ Almonds Mini Chicken Egg Rolls Cran/Apple Dessert Orange Spinach Salad	Tuesday, Sept. 29 Beef Stroganoff Egg Noodles Steamed Broccoli Apple Sauce WW Bread Tapioca Pudding	Wednesday, Sept. 30 Meatloaf Day Garlic Mashers Brown Gravy Mixed Vegetables WW Roll Fresh Banana	Thursday, Oct. 1 Spaghetti & Meatballs Zucchini Colorful Salad 9 Grain Bread Orange-Mango Cup	Friday, Oct. 2 Chicken Fried Steak Country Gravy Whipped Potatoes WW Roll Green Beans Peaches
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FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

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

Monday, Sept. 28 Lasagna Salad & Bread	Thursday, Oct. 1 Breakfast for Dinner	Monday, Oct. 5 Chicken Wings Salad & Bread	Thursday, Oct. 8 New England Clam Chowder Salad & Bread	Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.
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OBITUARIES

JACQUELYN ROYCE HETTINGER
September 25, 1936 – September 15, 2026



Our beautiful mother, Jacquelyn Royce Hettinger, died September 15, 2026, after a long battle with dementia. We will miss her so very much but are grateful she will no longer be suffering. Jacquie was born September 25, 1936, in Fallon to Roy and Hazel Williams. She grew up at the Eastgate Ranch, where her father ran cattle for Pete Cushman. She learned many homemaking skills alongside her mother, and in 1952, at 16, her skills were rewarded with a trip to Chicago for 4-H for her canning project. During the years at Eastgate, Mom attended a one-room schoolhouse at Alpine, later attending CCHS, where she was a cheerleader and rodeo queen, graduating in 1954.

In the fall of that year, she married Robert (Bob) Hettinger. Then, on February 3, 1958, they were sealed for time and all eternity in the Salt Lake Temple. Bob and Jacquie spent their early years working construction for DRUM across Nevada, then settling in Elko and opening a small eatery and later the Round-Up Café. In July 1958, they were blessed with their first child, Royce Arlene, followed by Renee in January of 1961. Then, around 1963, they moved to Ely and opened the B and J Restaurant. In 1963, Travis Robert joined the family, followed by Denise in 1965. Chris R. and Andre Paul completed the family in 1970. After returning to Fallon in 1972, Mom continued her homemaking skills, as well as many side jobs to help supplement the family income. She worked for the Department of Agriculture, conducting surveys of ranches across Nevada. She sold Avon and worked in the offices of Fallon Gymnastics, Lynn Bishop Chiropractic, and Churchill County High School. The family took on an early-morning paper route, which we all took part in, and Mom and Dad continued for many years after we

had all left home. Jacquie was very active in the LDS Church, holding many callings. She was active in politics and many community organizations. Mom and Dad loved to travel, go to the movies, and attend sporting events. Jacquelyn is preceded in death by her husband, Bob; her parents, Roy and Hazel Williams; sister Anitta; and baby boy Michael. She is survived by her children, Royce Hettinger; Renee (Blake) Nitta of Hawaii; Travis Hettinger (Tina) of Fernley; Denise (Jeff) Flanery of Sparks; Chris (Page) of Arlington, Washington; and Andre (Rose) of Kent, Washington; 14 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. We will miss our ROCK and will forever strive to follow her example of compassion and service. Arrangements are under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Home. Saturday, September 26, at the LDS Church, 750 Richards Way, Fallon, Nevada: Viewing at 10 a.m., with a service to follow at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

CALEB ANDREW TOMKO
May 23, 1992 – September 15, 2026



Caleb Andrew Tomko, 34, of Fallon, died Tuesday, September 15, 2026, as a result of injuries sustained in a single-car collision. Caleb was born May 23, 1992, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Jeffrey and Kelli Tomko, and lived in Exeter, New Hampshire, until he was 12, when the family moved to Louisville, Colorado. He graduated from Louisville High School and attended both Front Range Community College and Metropolitan State University of Denver. He moved to Fallon, Nevada, in March 2020. Despite the demons he fought, Caleb had a good heart. Friends describe him as kind, hardworking, and always willing to lend a hand, even to a stranger. He had no children of his own, but he loved kids and spent time with friends’ children. He loved animals and easily befriended the pets of people he knew. While he held a variety of occupations, Caleb loved to cook and often threw together impromptu meals for family and friends. He held jobs in many kitchens, from diners to family restaurants, including fine-dining kitchens at country clubs and upscale hotels. Caleb is survived by his mother, Kelli Heitstuman-Tomko, of Fallon; his father, Jeffrey Tomko, and his brother, Jared Tomko, of Scottsdale, Arizona; his sister, Bette Tomko, of Broomfield, Colorado; his grandmother, Karen Heitstuman, of Fallon; his aunt, Karri Raymond, and her husband, Doug Raymond, of Fernley; his aunt, Kate Dobson, of Dallas, Texas; his grandfather, Andrew Tomko, and his uncle, Scott Tomko, of Thornton, Colorado; his aunt, Natasha Tomko, of Orlando, Florida; and various cousins in the United States and Spain. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Judith Tomko, and his grandfather, John Heitstuman. His friends will hold a memorial potluck for Caleb at Krab Kingz, 40 E. Center St., in Fallon on October 14, 2026, from 10 a.m. to noon. Instead of flowers, donations to his funerary fund so his family can take his ashes to New Hampshire, where he wished to be, would be appreciated. A jar will be available for those donations.

EMMA WORKMAN
September 17, 2026



Our beloved mom, Emma Workman, passed away peacefully at the age of 94 on September 17, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. Emma was the proud mother of seven children: Kathy (John) Cunningham, Linda (David) Widmer, Steve (Rose) Cheek, Gary (De Ann) Cheek, Jennie Gray, Jeanette Workman, and Joe Workman. She was also a grandmother to 11 grandchildren, a great-grandmother to 22 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandmother to two, with another great-great-grandchild on the way. Her family was her greatest joy, and she leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue through the many generations she cherished. A lifelong resident of Fallon, Emma dedicated 48 years of her life to caring for others as a nurse at the Fallon hospital. She specialized in caring for postpartum mothers and welcomed generations of Fallon-born babies into the world. Her gentle care, kindness, and compassion touched countless lives, and she was deeply loved and respected by the community she served. Emma was a devoted Christian and a charter member of the Church of the Nazarene for 81 years. She served as the church pianist for many years and volunteered at the church’s Bread Basket. Her faith was an important part of her life, and she shared that faith through her service, generosity, and kindness to others. Emma found joy in simple things: reading a good book, winning at Scrabble, tending her yard, canning vegetables, making Sunday morning pancakes for family, and always having a snack, a hug, or a dog treat

ready for those she loved. Her home was a place where family gathered, stories were shared, and everyone felt welcome. These simple moments—filled with good food, laughter, hugs, and unconditional love—created memories that will be treasured and passed down through generations. Emma was the steady presence who always showed up. She celebrated every accomplishment, big and small, and made it a priority to be present for the important moments in the lives of those she loved. Whether it was a sporting event, school activity, graduation, or family gathering, Emma’s support was constant and unwavering. Emma was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Ethel Browning; her two brothers, Frank and Jim Browning; her daughter, Jennie Gray; and two grandchildren, Kim Cain and Charlie Cheek. Emma will be remembered for her strong faith, generous heart, hardworking spirit, gentle kindness, and unconditional love for her family. She lived a life devoted to caring for others, and the many people she touched will carry her memory in their hearts. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, extended family, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her life was a blessing, her memory a treasure, and her love will live on through generations. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 10 a.m. at Church of the Nazarene, 1520 Grimes St., Fallon, Nevada. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Fallon Church of the Nazarene.

SANDRA MARY BREON HYATT
November 17, 1946 – September 14, 2026



Sandra Mary Breon Hyatt, age 79, was carried away by the Lord on September 14, 2026, after battling with COPD. Sandy made her entrance into the world in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, on November 17, 1946. She moved with her husband and three small children to Fallon, making Nevada their home. She worked many places in Fallon through her years of living in Nevada. Her most memorable places that she loved to work at included Pizza Barn and JCPenney. She also co-owned Fallon Service and Repair with her husband, Bruce Hyatt Sr. When not working, Sandy loved music, attending concerts, crafts, the holidays, holiday baking, throwing birthday parties for her children, coaching softball, running her son to baseball, wrestling, and football, hosting game/card nights with friends on the weekends, camping and traveling with her brothers-in-law and families. Her beautiful smile and laugh will be remembered by her family and friends. Sandy was preceded in death by her parents, as well as her ex-husband, Bruce Hyatt Sr. She is survived by her children, Suzanne Hyatt (Scott Harding), Linda (Jasen) Moffitt, Bruce Hyatt Jr.; grandchildren: Bryce Hyatt, Sage Moffitt (Hannah Dobbins), Sierra (Stephen) Sullivan, Helen (Sam) Brewster, Wilhelmina Albaugh, and Waldo Albaugh. Sandra was laid to rest through the process of cremation, her spirit now at peace. The family would like to extend gratitude to Smith Family Funeral Home, and their staff for their care, compassion, and professionalism. A formal service will not take place. There will be a private family gathering in honor of our mother at a later date at one of her most memorable camping places.

RAMON CELESTINO
OCEGUERA JR.
December 24, 1948 – September 13, 2026



Ramon Celestino Oceguela Jr., a proud Native American, dedicated medical professional, and United States military veteran, passed away peacefully at his home in Carson City, Nevada, on September 13, 2026, at the age of 77. Born in Schurz, Nevada, on December 24, 1948, to Margaret Hogan Stefanoni and Ramon Oceguela Sr., he grew up in a handful of rural, small Nevada towns and graduated from Gabbs High. In 1977, Mr. Oceguela earned an associate degree in science from Central Arizona College. Drafted during the Vietnam Conflict, Mr. Oceguela served with distinction as a corpsman in the U.S. Navy. After two combat tours of duty, driven by a profound call to service, he reenlisted and was stationed at Naval Air Station Fallon. Following his military service, he utilized his lifesaving emergency medical experience to transition into a career as a physician assistant for the Indian Health Service. Throughout his medical career, he provided clinical care to his own tribe, the Walker River Paiute Nation, as well as the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Nation, and he managed the infirmary at the historical Stewart Indian Boarding School until its closure in 1980. A monumental milestone in his life came in 2016, when Mr. Oceguela was selected as one of 43 participants in the first-ever all-Native American Honor Flight. Boarding Battle Born Nevada One at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, he traveled with fellow American Indian

veterans to Washington, D.C., over Veterans Day weekend. The camaraderie, shared history, and compassion he experienced while visiting the National Museum of the American Indian, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial were deeply transformative. The public celebrations of the Honor Flight — particularly the emotional, ceremonial return to Reno — helped heal the invisible wounds and unexpressed grief he carried from the traumas of war, specifically, the responsibilities and psychological burdens of a combat medical specialist. The overwhelming pride and excitement of his wife, mother, sisters, and niece during his Honor Flight homecoming provided the dignified, hero’s welcome that he and millions of Vietnam veterans had been denied decades prior. In his retirement, Mr. Oceguela found peace in life’s simpler pleasures. He enjoyed taking long drives through the Nevada landscape, tending to his garden, attending powwows, and caring for his feline friends, begrudgingly but meticulously. He was preceded in death by his devoted wife of 20 years, Theresa Darlene Oceguela, who passed away just seven months ago. He was also preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Julian Wayne Oceguela, and nephews Dean Edward Banks and Kevin Earl Banks. He leaves behind a large family, including seven sisters and numerous nieces and nephews. A private graveside service will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Walker River Paiute Tribe Cemetery in Schurz, Nevada

COMMUNITY

Troop 1776 Takes on the Truckee River

Staff Report

Fallon’s Troop 1776 Scouts recently put their water-safety training to the test during a whitewater rafting trip on the Truckee River, completing requirements for the Whitewater Merit Badge while building teamwork and river-navigation skills.

Before taking to the river, the Scouts learned to recognize hazards including rocks, strainers, hydraulics, low-head dams, strong currents, and cold water. They also reviewed how to prevent and treat hypothermia, dehydration, heat-related illness, and other common outdoor injuries and illnesses.

Melissa Fecht, chair of the Troop 1776 Parent Committee, led the training. Fecht, a member of the Fallon Police Department and a former U.S. Forest Service whitewater river ranger on the Colorado River, brought professional experience to the Scouts’ preparation.

The Scouts reviewed Scouting America’s Safety Afloat procedures and American Whitewater safety guidelines. They learned the proper use of personal flotation devices and helmets and practiced standard river communication signals.

Training also included learning to read moving water by identifying eddies, riffles, sweeps, standing waves, drops, and hydraulics. The Scouts practiced paddling, ferrying across currents, entering and exiting eddies, self-rescue, and throw-rope techniques while reinforcing the buddy system.

On the Truckee River, the Scouts used those skills while navigating moving water that required clear communication, teamwork, and sound decision-making. The experience also gave them an opportunity to learn



Ben Hallquist, John Schoenmeier, Dylan Clark, Braydon Washington, and Gavin Wolf. A rafting guide is pictured on the far left. Photo courtesy of Troop 1776.

more about a river that is an important natural resource in Northern Nevada.

Troop 1776 is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Fallon and welcomes young men ages 11 to 17 who are interested in Scouting, outdoor activities, leadership, and community service. For more information, call 360-510-7882 or visit the Wolf Center, 457 Esmeralda St. in Fallon, most Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

MUSEUM FALL LECTURE SERIES

Santina Reveals the Nevada Beyond the Highway

By Lori Kaiser

Dave Santina has spent more than two decades climbing Nevada peaks, crawling into caves, jumping from an airplane and, once, crashing a bicycle hard enough to become the subject of a young viewer’s drawing.

But when the longtime host of PBS Reno’s “Wild Nevada” talked about the layers of the state at the Churchill County Museum on Sept. 15, the places and adventures were only part of the story. The people he met along the way, he said, mattered most.

Santina, PBS Reno’s director of local content and host of the “Wild Nevadacast” podcast, was the second speaker in the museum’s fall lecture series, “The Layers of Nevada.” Using clips and photographs from the program, he took the audience through 25 years of back roads, small towns, remarkable scenery, and the occasional mishap.

The television series began in 2000 after producer Jack Kelly, who had moved from Illinois, started exploring his new home. His curiosity became a travel show designed to take viewers beyond Nevada’s highways and city limits.

The first episode began close to Fallon at Grimes Point. Since then, the program has produced 104 episodes, even with a 12-year break in production. Santina appeared as a host in roughly 80 to 85 of them.

From the beginning, the goal was not simply to show viewers beautiful places. Santina wanted the trips to feel possible. “Don’t watch us and sit on the couch,” he said. “Go and do it. Go and visit.”

That invitation took viewers to Cathedral Gorge, Little Finland in Gold Butte, Lamoille Canyon, and McLane Peak. Santina recalled committing the crew to the difficult McLane Peak climb, which they completed despite one member wearing slip-on boat shoes.

Santina’s photographs showed how dramatically Nevada can change from one end of the state to the other — desert formations, mountain lakes, caves, and high-country trails that hardly look as though they belong within the same borders.

“This is one state,” he said, still sounding surprised by its variety.

Some of the stories were closer to home. Santina described trips to Sand Mountain and a 2014 program in the Fallon area with wildlife photographer Larry Neel. Neel later returned as a guest on “Wild Nevadacast” to discuss his book, “Shadows in the Sagebrush,” and the patience behind his wildlife photographs.



Dave Santina, longtime host of PBS Reno’s “Wild Nevada,” discussed more than two decades of exploring the state during the Churchill County Museum’s “Layers of Nevada” lecture series Sept. 15. Photo by Lori Kaiser.

The program also introduced Santina to people who knew Nevada in ways no map could show. McLane led the crew to a nearly hidden cave he had not visited since the 1960s. In Eureka, the late Wally Cuchine guided viewers through restored buildings and showed why the small mining town remained very much alive.

Those guides turned places that had seemed like points on a map into communities with memory and character.

“I get to see a place that somebody loves through their eyes and understand why they love it,” Santina said.

The work also taught him when to step back. At Spirit Mountain in southern Nevada, he learned more about the site’s sacred importance and the responsibility to respect places that do not belong to a television crew simply because a camera can reach them. On trails, he heard the rule to leave no trace again and again.

Santina did not leave out the less graceful parts of making a travel show. He showed the audience footage of himself struggling on a climb, overturning a kayak, and crashing a bicycle. The mistakes, he said, belong in the story, especially when they can keep someone else from taking an unsafe risk.

“We need people to know that if you’re having a hard day, if you’re not feeling right, you need to be honest about it and stop,” he said.

Those moments also created one of his favorite memories. A father and daughter in Gardnerville sent Santina drawings of his bicycle crash. In the daughter’s version, Santina was covered in red, his co-host warned him to be more careful, and even the crew’s minivan appeared alarmed.

Santina still keeps the drawings in his desk.

Three years ago, with his daughter nearing the end of high school, Santina left the travel schedule behind. Through “Wild Nevadacast,” he found another way to talk with rural writers, historians, artists, filmmakers, and photographers whose stories do not always fit into a television segment.

“The most important part of this to me is the people,” he said. “It’s more important to me to be able to talk about this and to share it with people than to just go and experience it by myself.”

I left the museum thinking about the places Santina showed us and how many are close enough to visit. The lecture was another part of my own journey to learn about the place I have lived for so long — and a reminder that there is still plenty here to discover.

The museum’s “The Layers of Nevada” lecture series continues with historian Joe Curtis at 6 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Churchill County Museum, 1050 S. Maine St. Admission is free.

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Movie Day Coalition for Senior Citizens The Fallon Theatre The third Friday of each month at 1 p.m.	Fall Festival Lattin Farms 1955 McLean Road Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Fall Craft Fair Oasis Community Church 1520 S. Maine St. Oct. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Brews & Boos Bash Rush and Rhythm 1805 W. Williams Ave. Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.
Friday Night Spaghetti Feed American Legion Post 16 90 Ada St. Sept. 25 from 6 to 8 p.m.	Recovery Fun Day New Frontier Oats Park Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	A Guiding Light Fundraiser to End Family Violence Domestic Violence Intervention Inc. Fallon Eagles Hall Oct. 3 at 5:30 p.m.	Halloween Bingo Bash Rotary Club of Fallon Pennington Life Center Oct. 23: Doors open at 5 p.m.; bingo begins at 6 p.m.
Battle of the Badges Top Gun Dragstrip 15550 Schurz Highway Sept. 26 at noon	“The Layers of Nevada” Fall Lecture Series Churchill County Museum 1050 S. Maine St. Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.	No Hill Hundred Century Bike Ride Churchill County Parks and Recreation Rafter 3C Event Center, 227 Sheckler Road Oct. 3: Check-in from 6:30 to 8 a.m.	This Community Calendar is sponsored by Range 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.
10th Annual Show-N-Shine The Fallon Theatre Maine Street in downtown Fallon Sept. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Ales for Arts Churchill Arts Council Lariat Courtyard Oct. 2 from 5 to 9 p.m.	Judy Collins: “Sweet Judy Blue Eyes” Farewell Tour Churchill Arts Council Barkley Theatre Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.	
Adult Chautauqua Presentations: America 250 Churchill County Museum Historic Fallon Theatre Sept. 26 at 3 p.m.	Veritas Preparatory School Building Dedication Veritas Preparatory School 665 Sheckler Road Oct. 2 at 11:30 a.m.		



BUSINESS

Stockman’s Marks New Chapter With Grand Reopening

Story and photos by Nancy Chapman

Stockman’s Casino marked a new chapter in its long Fal-lon history Sept. 18 as current and former owners joined community members for a grand reopening celebrating renovations and the addition of Boomer’s Sportsbook.

The Fallon Chamber of Commerce hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the casino. David Ross, co-owner of Stockman’s Casino, welcomed former owners Ken Bendickson and Jim Peters to the celebration.

Ross, Michael Gaughan III, and Joe Asher became the casino’s owners in April 2025 and began updating the casino and restaurant. Although the project encountered unforeseen hurdles, the team continued with the renovations.

The work included new flooring, gaming machines, and improvements throughout the casino and restau-rant. General Manager Lou Capone also noted the addi-tion of air conditioning to cool the casino floor.

Boomer’s Sportsbook partnered with Stockman’s about five months ago. Shawn Odell, executive comptrol-ler for Boomer’s, said the Fallon sportsbook is the Ne-vada-based company’s 16th location. Its locations extend from Elko, where the company opened its first sports-book, to Amargosa Valley.

Odell said customers can download the Boomer’s Sports-book app or visit the casino to activate an account. The sportsbook matches a customer’s first deposit up to \$250.



David Ross, co-owner of Stockman’s Casino; former owner Ken Bendickson; Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford; former owner Jim Peters; and Lou Capone, general manager of Stockman’s Casino and Restaurant, gathered for the casino’s grand reopening Sept. 18.



Shawn Odell, executive comptroller for Boomer’s Sportsbook, stood beside the sportsbook kiosk at Stockman’s Casino and Restaurant.

Sheriff Candidates Address Staffing, Technology at Chamber Luncheon

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman

Churchill County sheriff candidates Lee Orozco and Michael Davis outlined their experience and priorities before about 110 people during the Fallon Chamber of Commerce luncheon Sept. 17 at Flyin’ Tiz Aviation at Fallon Municipal Airport.

Fallon Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lucy Carnahan hosted the luncheon. After drawing cards to determine the speaking order, Orozco addressed the audience first, followed by Davis. Both candidates focused on staffing, training, technology, employee retention, and the demands expected from continued growth in Churchill County.

Orozco, who was appointed by the Churchill County Commissioners following the death of Sheriff Richard Hickox, described his 30 years with the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office. He said the office is down three positions, with two applicants undergoing background checks. Testing for additional applicants is scheduled for Oct. 3.

Orozco said the department lost six positions several years ago, but the Com-missioners recently approved three positions — two deputies and a sergeant — as part of a renewed emphasis on public safety. He said the department had received 12 applications from people without prior law enforcement experience.

Recruitment problems are not unique to Churchill County, Orozco said, noting that law enforcement agencies throughout Nevada and the West have struggled to attract applicants. He said the county is looking for people who want to build careers, raise families, and remain in Churchill County.

Orozco also discussed the planned implementation of RapidSOS and Live911. The technology can improve caller location information, support two-way language translation, allow text-to-911 and video communication, and send dispatch information directly to patrol officers.

Davis, a sergeant with the Sheriff’s Office, described the path that brought him to Fallon and law enforcement. He attended college in Redding, California, and moved with his wife to Gardnerville in 1997. He later man-aged large-scale housing projects before the family moved to Fallon in 2009.

Davis worked at Lovelock Correctional Center for four years before join-ing the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office in 2013. His duties have included gang identification and validation, investigations, detention, and patrol. He completed Nevada Peace Officer Standards and Training requirements before moving to patrol in 2017.

Davis was named Deputy of the Year in 2019 and served as vice presi-dent and president of the Churchill County Sheriff’s Deputies Association, where he participated in negotiations involving wages and benefits. He later joined the Nevada North Central Narcotic Task Force and returned to the Sheriff’s Office as a sergeant in 2022.

Davis compared staffing levels with county growth. He said the Sheriff’s Office had 40 sworn officers and 20 reserve deputies in 1992, compared with 38 sworn officers and three reserve deputies today, while the county population has grown. He also cited a decline in the number of citations issued since 2012.

Speeding is the most common complaint reported to the Sheriff’s Office, Davis said. He also discussed coordinated service of search warrants, mental

health programs for homeless and other vulnerable residents, and the possible return of an Explorer program for young people interested in law enforcement.

“I want to support competitive pay, build a culture of professionalism, and keep experienced deputies serving in Churchill County,” Davis said. “I am asking for your vote because the Sheriff’s Office needs experienced, present, accountable, and committed people who will serve this community.”

During a question-and-answer session, audience members asked about license plate readers, staffing, equipment, grants, mental health, and the effect of future development on public safety.

Davis said license plate readers can help find missing people, runaways, and criminal suspects, but he called for strict policies governing who may access the data and for what purpose. He said protecting residents’ consti-tutional rights would be one of his responsibilities as sheriff.

Orozco said the license plate reader system already has a policy and is audited each Monday to show who accessed information, the related case number, and the reason for the search. He said the office is considering lim-iting access further to address public concerns and that Motorola does not sell the Sheriff’s Office data.

The candidates also discussed whether the department should add a motorcycle or another patrol vehicle. Davis said a motorcycle costs about \$30,000, compared with about \$90,000 for a pickup, and could help with traffic enforcement and morale. Orozco noted that a motorcycle would generally be useful only from May through October.

Asked about a tactical team, Orozco said the issue extends beyond purchas-ing equipment. He said the team would require about 40 hours of training each month, taking deputies away from their regular duties. Without sufficient training, he said, a tactical team could become a liability rather than an asset.

Both candidates also discussed grants. Davis said many grants are lim-ited to specific purposes and often provide \$3,000 to \$5,000, although one \$80,000 grant paid for equipment and in-house training. Orozco said the department has used separate grants for equipment and active-assailant response training and will continue seeking grants to cover needs not funded through the county budget.

Orozco said the department has seven patrol deputies and remains three positions short. Two applicants are nearing the end of the hiring process, he said, and additional candidates will be tested Oct. 3.

Davis said the department is authorized for 11 or 12 deputies but currently has seven available for patrol. If elected, he said, he plans to send three or four recruits to peace officer training while he and members of his administration help staff the jail until the recruits can begin patrol work.

Both candidates said expected residential growth would increase de-mands on law enforcement and other community services. Orozco said the county would need to continue seeking additional positions as development moves forward.

The candidates also addressed employee well-being. Davis said staffing shortages make it difficult to provide time off for vacations, illness, and per-sonal needs. Orozco said deputies are working 12-hour shifts and that he is trying to maintain morale while the department recruits additional personnel.

The luncheon concluded at about 1:15 p.m.

CANDIDATES NIGHT

Churchill County Sheriff
CCSD School Board

CO-SPONSORED BY THE FALLON POST, LAHONTAN VALLEY NEWS AND LAHONTAN VALLEY BROADCASTING

TUESDAY, OCT. 6TH

BEGINNING AT 5:30 P.M.

on KVLV-AM 980, KKTU-FM 99.5 and STREAMING ON NETWORK1SPORTS.COM

or attend in person at the Fallon Convention Center

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RURAL COMMUNITIES

AGRICULTURAL
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

★

Friday, September 25th

Norm & Sue Frey | Rambling River Ranches | 3975 Reno Hwy, Fallon

AGRICULTURAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

6-7 P.M. | \$1,500 per person

Checks payable to Flippo for Nevada

DINNER

7 P.M. | \$125

RSVP TO: JOSH SKAGGS 515-512-0858, joshuawskaggs4@gmail.com

David Flippo is retired from US Air Force. Use of military rank, job titles and photographs in uniform does not imply endorsement by the Department of War.

Paid for by David Flippo for Nevada.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Combines Parcels, Accounts for Unpaid Utility Debt

By Sydney Trainor

The Fallon City Council approved the merger of two West Center Street parcels, abandoned an unused utility easement, and authorized an accounting adjustment for \$35,580.18 in unpaid utility debt during its Sept. 15 meeting.

The reversion-to-acreage map combines Vicki Jones’ parcels at 620 and 660 W. Center St. into a single property. The parcels are zoned R-2, which allows multifamily housing subject to City requirements, including parking and density standards. Staff said any future development on the combined property must meet applicable City of Fallon standards.

Council members also authorized the abandonment of a 10-foot public utility easement on the parcels. City staff, Southwest Gas, CC Communications, and Charter Communications reviewed the easement and determined it was unused and no longer necessary. Staff said removing the easement will allow the combined parcels to be developed as one property.

Resolution 26-09-01 allows the City to account for \$35,580.18 in utility-related debt it may be unable to collect. The accounts have been outstanding since before July 1, 2024, belong to former City of Fallon customers, and have been sent to a collection agency.

The City records the money as an “allowance for doubtful accounts.” The amount represents about 0.1% of the enterprise fund’s operating revenue for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2025. Staff said the adjustment does not erase the debt or prevent the City from continuing its collection efforts.

Fallon Police Chief Daniel Babiarz also presented the department’s August activity report. The department received 786 calls for service, including three domestic battery calls, five stolen vehicle reports, and 10 theft reports.

Babiarz reported 31 arrests during August, including five for felonies or gross misdemeanors, 16 for misdemeanors, three for driving under the influence, one juvenile arrest, four civil protective custodies, and two for domestic violence.

Officers conducted 130 traffic stops, issuing 107 warnings and 23 citations. They also responded to 19 traffic collisions, including 10 on public property and nine on private property.

Volunteers in Police Service contributed 96 hours during August and completed 30 Helping Hands visits.

The next Fallon City Council meeting is scheduled for Sept. 29.

[Churchill Hazen continued from page A1] move the project forward.

Hunt pointed to Castelion as an example of an industrial opportunity Churchill County lost. He said efforts were made to bring the defense technology company’s larger manufacturing operation to the area, but it ultimately went to New Mexico, where the project is expected to generate more than \$650 million in economic output over 10 years.

Hunt said approximately 2,300 acres south of U.S. 50A are intended for industrial development, including areas for water and wastewater infrastructure. The roughly 54,000-acre proposed GID extends north of the highway primarily to encompass areas needed for power generation and delivery.

Developers are looking for advanced manufacturing, rail-oriented development, and other industrial users that fit Churchill County, Hunt said. “We’ve been looking for companies that are a good fit for the Fallon community,” he said. “Good-paying jobs that are stable, that you can build a career around and build a family around.”

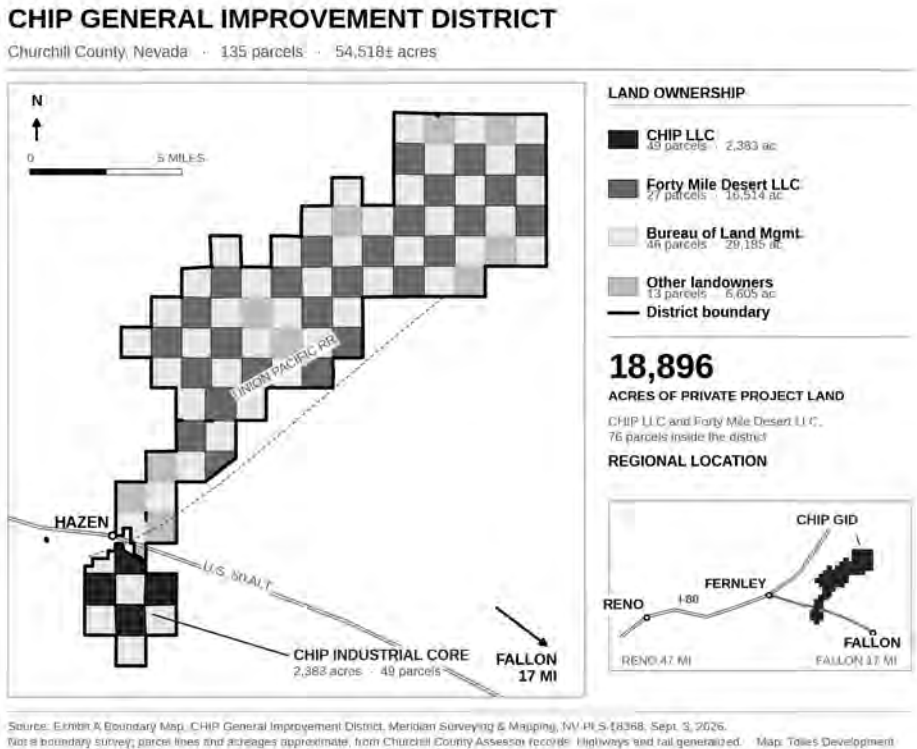
The project envisions a combination of natural gas generation, solar power, battery storage, and, eventually, geothermal energy. Hunt said those resources could operate as a behind-the-meter system serving the industrial park without relying on the existing electrical grid.

“Combining all those resources together we can build a completely islanded power facility that generates all of its own power,” Hunt said. Under the proposed structure, generating facilities would remain privately owned. Power would be sold to the GID, which would then provide electricity to customers within the district.

Because the proposed system would operate independently, Hunt said it would not place the cost of CHIP’s electrical infrastructure on existing utility customers. “It’s not touching the grid, so there’s no impact on ratepayers,” Hunt said. “No one’s rates are going to go up.”

Water is another consideration. Hunt said CHIP controls the water it expects to need and is not seeking additional water rights. The property has existing wells and monitoring wells, and recent pump testing has been conducted to understand sustainable groundwater production more fully. Water use would remain subject to regulation by the Nevada State Engineer, Hunt said.

The proposed service plan also prohibits large-scale evaporative cooling,



with closed-loop and dry-cooling systems contemplated instead.

The GID would have authority to provide electric power, water, sanitary sewer, streets, and storm drainage and flood control. Hunt said the intent is to build shared infrastructure rather than require each industrial user to develop its own wells, wastewater system, roads, and other essential services.

Amid public concerns about industrial development, Hunt said he is available to visit with residents after county meetings to provide information and answer questions.

“I think we can hear the real concerns from the community and hopefully alleviate some of those,” Hunt said. “And if we don’t have a good answer, or haven’t thought about it, maybe we can address it up front so that we can make sure that it is a good thing ultimately.”

Rivian Zone Change, America 250 Display Approved by County

By Leanna Lehman

The Churchill County Commission approved a zone change for Rivian, authorized up to \$90,000 for an America 250 display, and addressed lower-than-expected geothermal revenues during its Sept. 16 meeting.

Board Chair Myles Getto was not in attendance. Vice Chair Eric Blakey presided over the meeting, with Commissioner Matt Hyde also present.

Commissioners approved a request from Rivian to change the zoning on 218.57 acres along U.S. Highway 95 north of Fallon from RR-20, Rural Resource, to I-3, Heavy Industrial. The property is approximately 7 miles south of the Trinity Junction interchange.

Rivian has proposed destructive battery testing at the site, but the zone change does not authorize that use. The company would still have to obtain a special use permit.

Churchill County Public Works, Planning & Building Department Senior Planner Dan Cahalane said the property is within an area designated for industrial use in the county’s master plan and staff believes the change is compatible with surrounding land uses.

“This area is undeveloped,” Cahalane said, noting that nearby uses

include mineral extraction and processing approximately two miles north and the U.S. Navy bombing range approximately 11 miles east.

During public comment, Michelle Anderson questioned whether enough information was available to make the required findings for the zone change when questions regarding infrastructure, traffic, water, safety, and the type of battery testing may not be answered until the special use permit process.

Chief Deputy Civil District Attorney Wade Carner explained that Rivian’s application was for a zone change, not approval of a specific use. He said commissioners could consider information from the applicant, staff, and the public in determining whether the required findings had been met.

The zone change was approved 2-0.

In other business, the commission approved up to \$90,000 to construct a display commemorating America’s 250th anniversary. Seven laser-etched stainless steel plates featuring the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Civil Rights Amendments were donated by Foundation Forward Inc. of Burke County, North Carolina.

The estimated \$90,000 cost is for construction of the display area, cases, and pedestal mounts near the flagpoles in front of the Churchill County Administrative Building.

“I do understand that this does have a substantial cost of \$90,000,” County Manager Joe Sanford said, explaining that money is available in the county’s building reserve.

Geothermal revenue was another item on the agenda, coming in \$740,162.31 below budget for fiscal year 2026, or 12.72%.

Sanford said conversations with Ormat indicated the decline is largely related to older power purchase agreements. While power production remains substantially similar, he said, the company receives less money for each kilowatt-hour produced.

“We would expect to see revenue continue to decline unless power purchase can be supported by higher rates,” Sanford said.

Consolidated tax revenue went the other direction, finishing \$751,898.22 above budget. “We had the \$751,000 above budget, which is about 5% above budget,” County Comptroller Sherry Wideman said. Commissioners approved the recommended allocation, including \$100,000 for Social Services, which had a negative fund balance.

The commission also took the first procedural steps toward consideration of a proposed Churchill-Hazen Industrial Park General Improvement District.

A general improvement district, or GID, is a defined area created to provide specific public services or infrastructure, such as roads, water, sewer, or power, without creating a new city. The services and powers vary depending on the district.

CHIP LLC is proposing the district to provide infrastructure and municipal services for a large-scale industrial development in the Hazen area.

Commissioners did not approve creation of the district Sept. 16. They set an Oct. 15 public hearing on the proposal and referred the service plan to the Churchill County Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

“Today we’re not taking action on any of these items, approving anything,” Sanford said. “Instead, we’re setting the public hearing.”

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COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, Sept. 15, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

By Teresa Moon

Clayton Shelby Reynolds appeared for Court Services violations. Court Services Director Brenda Ingram told the Court Reynolds missed one drug test and later tested positive for amphetamines and methamphetamine.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker said Reynolds had not been participating in Drug Court as required and, with the additional violations, the State believed he should be remanded until sentencing.

Senior Deputy Public Defender Jeffery Weed said his client had been participating and completed an evaluation but misunderstood his obligations with Drug Court.

“Testing means testing, drug court means drug court; you don’t miss ... these orders have to mean something,” Judge Stockard told Reynolds.

“I know,” Reynolds replied.

“Apparently you don’t,” Stockard said and ordered Reynolds to be tested that day; he tested negative. Stockard imposed two days in jail and ordered Reynolds to continue Court Services supervision and set sentencing for Oct. 13.

April Ann Gilliland pleaded guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Category E felony punishable by 1-4 years in prison.

Judge Stockard set sentencing for Oct. 27 and provisionally placed Gilliland in the Western Nevada Regional Specialty Court. She will remain under Court Services supervision with daily check-ins and random testing.

Susan Lynch admitted to a nontechnical sentencing violation for being released from Drug Court without completing the program. Judge Stockard noted the release was due to medical reasons.

Stockard modified Lynch’s probation to remove the Drug Court requirement.

Kevin Jay Chico, in custody, elected not to appear for a status hearing. Chico has declined to appear for several scheduled hearings and, at his arraignment the previous week, refused to engage in the proceedings or enter pleas. Judge Stockard entered not guilty pleas on his behalf and set trial for Oct. 7-9.

Following a lengthy discussion of the history of the case, Stockard vacated the Oct. 7-9 trial date and set a new trial for Oct. 28-29.

Based on concerns raised by the Court, the

State, and the Defense, Stockard ordered a new competency evaluation.

Dean Patrick McGee, in custody, pleaded not guilty to Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor or a Controlled or Prohibited Substance with a Prior Conviction for Driving Under the Influence, a Category B felony punishable by 2-15 years in prison and a fine of \$2,000-\$5,000. The offense requires a mandatory prison sentence.

Judge Stockard set trial for Oct. 7-9.

Sky Blu Slater, in custody, was arraigned on a charge of Intimidating a Public Officer without threat or force. He pleaded guilty to the gross misdemeanor, which carries a potential penalty of 364 days in jail and/or a fine of not more than \$2,000.

Sentencing was set for Oct. 27; Slater was provisionally admitted into the Western Nevada Regional Specialty Court and was placed under Court Services supervision.

Fox Russell Kruse, in custody, pleaded no contest to Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or an Illegal or Prohibited Substance Causing Death, with a Prior Conviction for Driving Under the Influence, a Category B felony punishable by 5-25 years in prison and a fine of \$2,000-\$5,000. The offense requires a mandatory prison sentence.

The State said it would be prepared to prove that Kruse drove while under the influence and caused the death of another person.

Judge Stockard ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation and set sentencing for Nov. 17.

Jeremy Lee Morton, in custody, admitted to a nontechnical sentencing violation for failing to enter and complete the Western Nevada Regional Specialty/Drug Court program, among other violations.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker asked the court to revoke Morton’s probation, saying he repeatedly violated the conditions of probation. Baker said Morton had seven positive and eight missed drug tests and was ultimately discharged from Drug Court. According to Baker, there was lack of engagement, a lack of accountability, and lack of progression.

Public Defender Jacob Sommer said his client “of course regrets the behavior that put him in the chair next to me today.” Sommer said Morton recognizes it is “his responsibility, and his alone, to fill the obligations that probation imposes.” He added that Morton believed he could be a good probationer if the court granted him the

privilege of reinstatement.

Morton apologized and told the court he had reinstated his fire suppression license and would be able to find employment.

Judge Stockard revoked Morton’s probation and imposed the underlying sentence of 19-48 months in prison for Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine). Morton was remanded to the custody of the sheriff’s office.

Rocky Wells, in custody, denied a nontechnical sentencing violation relating to directives, conduct, and laws. Judge Stockard set an evidentiary hearing for Oct. 5 at 1:30 p.m.

LaTanya Karimu Stiner, who was arrested in May on a charge of Embezzlement of \$25,000 to less than \$100,000, appeared with her attorney, Charles Woodman. Judge Stockard noted that both Woodman and Stiner had filed motions regarding Woodman’s withdrawal as counsel and said Stiner’s history with counsel “is interesting, to say the least.”

Stockard explained that Jeffery Weed previously represented Stiner before a conflict was declared. Stiner then retained Joey Gilbert, who later returned her fee and withdrew. Woodman was subsequently appointed to represent her.

Stockard asked Stiner what she wanted the court to do.

“I would like a public defender who will actually give me the discovery,” Stiner replied.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford told the court the state had provided the Defense with all discovery. Woodman said he had disclosed to Stiner all the information the Defense had received. He further explained that Stiner believes she can give her attorney orders and expects them to be carried out “Now, if not yesterday.”

Stockard granted Woodman’s request to withdraw. A new public defender will be assigned, and the case was continued to Sept. 29.

Chad Austin Jenkins was not present for his scheduled hearings.

Attorney Charles Woodman said Jenkins had been released to enter treatment but walked away from the program and has not been heard from since.

Judge Stockard issued a no-bail warrant.

Reuben Job Conkle’s sentencing was continued to Sept. 22.

Louis Samuel Afraidofhawk’s sentencing was continued to Sept. 22.

Coalition Looks to Increase Involvement with Life Center Seniors

By Leanna Lehman

The Coalition for Senior Citizens is looking at ways to become more involved with seniors at the William N. Pennington Life Center, including spending more time talking with seniors, expanding activities, and potentially serving as an intermediary with Churchill County Social Services for those who have concerns.

During the coalition’s Sept. 14 meeting, board members discussed the organization’s role at the Life Center and ways it might increase interaction with the seniors who use it.

Coalition chair Karla Kent explained that when Churchill County took over operation of the Life Center, it shifted some of its focus toward helping seniors outside the center. Now, she said, it may be time to reconsider that approach.

“Maybe our approach as the coalition should be to get more involved in the seniors,” Kent said, suggesting more activities and interaction and possibly serving as a liaison.

The discussion followed public comment from Rita Palmer, who raised several concerns about conditions at the Life Center, including changes in activities and programming, the treatment of seniors, and whether their needs are receiving enough attention.

Palmer encouraged coalition members to spend time at the center and, more importantly, listen to the people who use it.

“A lot of people, they don’t want promises ... They just want you to talk to them,” Palmer said. “They have nobody to talk to.”

Board members had already begun discussing ways to do just that. Kent and board member Becky Schelling talked about attending lunch at the Life Center, visiting with seniors, and asking what kinds of activities they would like to see.

The coalition is also continuing its monthly movie program at the Fallon Theatre. Members discussed improving promotion of the program and continuing to provide transportation from the Life Center for seniors who need it.

A special meeting is scheduled for Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. to finalize plans for a holiday event for the week of Dec. 7, considering bingo, bunco, raffles, food, and other activities.

Palmer recalled activities that once drew seniors together, including raffles, birthday celebrations, and craft fairs.

“It wasn’t even about the money,” Palmer said of the raffles. “It was just the fun that we had because the fun has gone out of that place. There’s no more fun.”

Turns out, there appears to be at least one reliable way to draw a crowd — ice cream. Despite concerns, a recent banana split event paired with live music was one of the best-attended events in recent months. “They are a sucker for root beer floats, though,” Lindsay Larson said of the seniors. “They really are. That’s their heart.”

Because Palmer raised the concerns during public comment at the end of the meeting, the coalition board could not take action on them. The concerns will be placed on the agenda for the board’s next meeting.

As the discussion closed regarding increasing the coalition’s presence and encouraging more community involvement with seniors, Schelling offered a simple reminder. “What people don’t understand is everybody’s going to be a senior one day.”



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EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

By Kaitlin Ritchie. Photo(s) courtesy of CCSD.



Aimee Bell's students showing off the dot art they created on International Dot Day.



Colleen Tutty's class showing off their Constitution flip books.



Students practice their soccer skills in Ashley Rhoades' PE class.

CCHS
CCHS honored local first responders during the Sept. 11 homecoming football game, recognizing those who serve the community on the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Before the national anthem, first responders were welcomed onto the field and recognized in front of students, families, and community members. They and their families were also invited to watch the game from a special seating area in the end zone. CCHS Athletic Director Brian Mello organized the recognition and worked to make the evening a meaningful way for the school to show its appreciation for local first responders. The night brought students, families, first responders, and community members together under the Friday night lights as the Greenwave went on to earn a win over Sparks.

CCMS
Another exciting week of learning is happening throughout CCMS, with students practicing, exploring, creating, and building new skills. Lucas Koenig's band students are putting in the practice, building their skills, and fine-tuning their instruments. Every rehearsal gives students an opportunity to improve and work together as they turn individual notes into music. Kristina Langguth's students are strengthening their reading comprehension and fluency skills, build-

ing confidence and becoming stronger readers with every page. In Erika Davenport's math class, students are exploring nets and surface area and discovering how 2D shapes can come together to form 3D figures. They are putting their math skills to work while making connections between math and the world around them. From making music to strengthening literacy skills to exploring 3D shapes, CCMS students are learning, practicing, collaborating, and putting their skills into action.

NUMA
Last week, students in Colleen Tutty's class learned about Constitution Day. On Sept. 17, 1787, delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution, establishing the framework for the nation's government. As they learned about the significance of the Constitution and why it continues to be recognized more than two centuries later, students created their own flip books filled with facts from the lesson. The activity gave students a way to organize what they learned and create something they can use to remember important facts about the Constitution and its place in U.S. history.

E. C. BEST
Aimee Bell's students celebrated International

Dot Day, inspired by Peter H. Reynolds' book "The Dot" and its message to have the courage to start and see where it takes you. The class talked about ways to take that first step when something feels scary or uncertain before creating their own unique dot art. Students also enjoyed plenty of dot-themed snacks provided by their families. Bell encouraged her students with her favorite Mrs. Frizzle quote, "Take chances, make mistakes, and get messy." The day was a reminder that even the smallest first step can lead to something great, and these students are ready to make their mark.

LAHONTAN
Students have been on the move in Ashley Rhoades' PE class while developing gross motor skills through physical activity. They have been learning the fundamentals of soccer, including how to dribble, pass, and shoot the ball, while practicing their skills both indoors and outdoors. "My goal as a PE teacher is to always create a fun, active, engaging, and inclusive learning environment where students feel respected and valued," Rhoades said. As students learn and practice new skills, they are staying active, building confidence, and learning how to participate and play together.

Greenwave

VIP Experience

Offers End Zone

Seating

Staff Report

Churchill County High School is offering Greenwave supporters reserved VIP seating for two upcoming home football games. The Greenwave VIP Experience will be available for the Hall of Fame Game on Friday, Oct. 9, and Senior Night on Friday, Oct. 16. Seating is limited to 250 people per game in the southwest end zone. Tickets cost \$25 per person, per game, and include admission and VIP seating. Proceeds support CCHS athletic teams. Supporters can reserve seats by contacting Nevena Kaiser at 775-423-2181, ext. 4103, or kaisern@churchillcsd.com. Payment must be made in person at the CCHS office. Food and drinks are not permitted in the VIP seating area.



Churchill County High School Principal Tim Spencer, University of Nevada, Reno recruiter Stephani Price, and CCHS science teacher Steve Johnson participated in the university's preadmission program Sept. 9 at CCHS. Photo courtesy of CCHS.

More Than 90 CCHS Seniors

Preadmitted to UNR

Staff Report

More than 90 members of the Churchill County High School Class of 2027 have been preadmitted to the University of Nevada, Reno, through a partnership designed to help students prepare for college. More than 70 seniors participated in a preadmission meeting Sept. 9 in the CCHS library, where university representatives provided information about college opportunities, the admissions process, and resources available to incoming students. Through the preadmission program, UNR representatives visit CCHS to meet with

students, answer questions, and help them explore academic programs and career pathways. The program gives students an early opportunity to plan for college and consider their options after graduation. Students also have the opportunity to participate in Nevada Bound, an on-campus experience that allows prospective students to visit UNR, explore academic programs, and experience college life firsthand. The ongoing partnership between CCHS and UNR provides students with opportunities to connect their high school education with college and career goals.

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EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

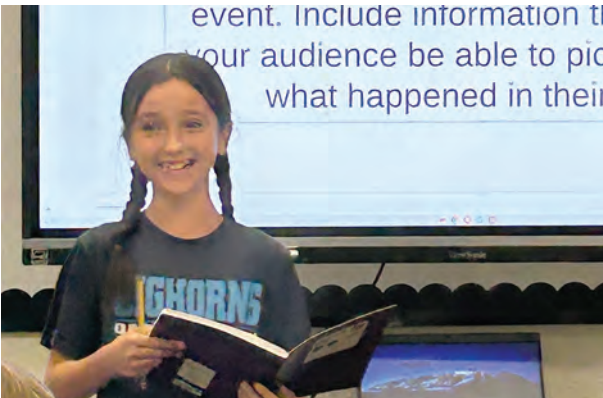
By Angela Viera, photo(s) courtesy of Oasis Academy.



Seventh graders Kayden Coday, Anson Hyde, and Sophya Calhoun displayed a Native American diorama project.



Oasis Academy Senior Danielle Fenton.



Fourth grader Chasey Doud read aloud during a classroom writing exercise.

SEVENTH GRADERS BRING NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES TO LIFE THROUGH DIORAMAS

Seventh-grade students recently brought history to life through a creative hands-on project exploring the diverse cultures and traditions of Native American tribes from across the United States.

As part of their studies, students selected a Native American tribe to research and then created detailed dioramas representing what life was like for that particular group. Each project provided a glimpse into the environment where the tribe lived and the ways its people adapted to and interacted with their surroundings.

Students included important details and created representations of things such as the types of shelters their chosen tribes built, how they hunted and gathered or otherwise obtained food, and the methods of transportation they used. Dioramas also featured unique cultural traditions, objects, and other interesting facts that helped tell the story of each tribe.

The projects demonstrated the diversity of Native American cultures. From the landscapes they called home to the resources they relied on and the traditions they developed, each tribe had its own distinct way of life.

Through research and by creating their projects, seventh graders were able to look beyond the pages of a textbook and develop a deeper understanding of the many Native American communities that have shaped the history and culture of the United States.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: DANIELLE FENTON

Danielle Fenton started her time at Oasis Academy in eighth grade. Over the years, she has grown as a student, athlete, FFA member, and friend while making memories and building relationships that she will carry with her long after graduation.

“I started at Oasis when I was in 8th grade, so I have spent a lot of important years here,” she said. “My time at Oasis has been great, and I am grateful for all the memories, experiences, and people who have been part of it.”

During her time at Oasis, she has been involved in a variety of activities. She has played volleyball since her freshman year, competing on JV her freshman and sophomore years before moving to varsity in her junior and senior years. She earned her varsity letter last year.

She has also been an active member of FFA since her freshman year, competing at the state convention in Floriculture during both her sophomore and junior years. She participated in Student Council as a freshman.

Fenton has also excelled academically, being named to the Western Nevada College dean’s list in both fall 2025 and spring 2026.

One of her favorite Oasis memories came from supporting her classmates at school sporting events.

“One of my favorite memories would be cheering in the student section at Pack the Stands basketball games,” she said.

Academically, math stood out as her favorite subject.

“My favorite class was math because it just came easy for me, and I just enjoyed math,” she said.

She credits counselor Andy Lenon as an important mentor during her time at Oasis.

“I would like to thank Mr. Lenon for always being supportive and encouraging throughout my time at Oasis,” she said. “He has helped me grow as a student and has always been someone I am comfortable going to when I need help.”

As she looks toward the next chapter, she encourages younger students to make the most of their time at Oasis.

“Enjoy your time at Oasis and take advantage of the opportunities you are given,” she advised. “Don’t be afraid to try new things, get involved, and ask for help when you need it. Most importantly, don’t stress too much about the future because everything will work out.”

Following high school graduation, she plans to remain at Western Nevada College to complete her Associate of Science degree before potentially transferring to another college for nursing school.

FOURTH GRADERS BRING THEIR WRITING TO LIFE

Fourth-grade students at Oasis Academy are strengthening their writing skills by learning how to take an ordinary event and turn it into a vivid story their readers can picture.

As part of their writing practice, students were challenged to include more than just the facts. Their prompt encouraged them to describe their feelings and thoughts about meeting someone for the first time. They needed to include details that would help their audience imagine exactly what happened.

Students practiced using descriptive details to make their writing more engaging and meaningful. Rather than simply telling readers what happened, they worked on showing what the experience looked, felt, and sounded like from their perspective.

This activity gave students an opportunity to think like authors, considering what details would help their readers feel as though they were right there experiencing the event with them. By combining personal thoughts and feelings with strong descriptive details, fourth graders are learning how thoughtful writing can bring a story to life.

Veritas Preparatory School

Classical and Christian

“God’s Amazing Design”: Kindergarten Students Explore the Animal Kingdom

By David Ernst, photo(s) courtesy of Veritas Preparatory School.



Ms. Kelsey’s kindergarten shares their “God’s Amazing Design” presentations.

Kindergarten students at Veritas Preparatory School recently became researchers, artists, builders, and presenters through a special project titled “God’s Amazing Design.” The project challenged students to take a closer look at the animal kingdom and consider how the unique features of each creature reflect God’s purposeful design.

Students began by researching real animals and learning about their distinctive characteristics. After completing their research, students put their creativity to work. They made sketches of their animals and then created models that incorporated the features they had studied. The hands-on portion of the project gave students an opportunity to transform what they had learned into something they could see, build, and explain.

The project concluded with student presentations before their classmates and parents. Each kindergartner had the opportunity to share information about his or her animal, explain its important features, and describe why those characteristics are useful. For young students, presenting their work also provided valuable practice in organizing their thoughts, speaking clearly, and confidently sharing what they had learned with an audience.

“God’s Amazing Design” is an example of how learning at Veritas can bring together multiple areas of study. Science and observation were combined with research, art, hands-on construction, and public speaking, all within a biblical understanding of creation.

For the kindergarten students, the project offered an important lesson: the world around them is filled with things worth studying carefully. From the smallest creature to the most unusual animal feature, creation provides countless opportunities to wonder, investigate, and learn more about the wisdom and creativity of its Designer.

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COLUMNS

Things I Didn't Know

The Teacher in Me Didn't Leave

Story and photo by Lori Kaiser

I didn't know how much I missed teaching until I walked back into Churchill County Middle School on Constitution Day. I had spent 35 years teaching — 20 in elementary school and 15 at the middle school — but I didn't realize how deeply those rhythms were still part of me until I stepped through the doors again.

I was there Thursday, Sept. 17, to help distribute pocket Constitutions to every eighth-grade student. The Constitutions were provided by the Churchill County Democratic Central Committee, a decades-long tradition in the community. They were beautiful little books, crisp and sturdy, the kind you want to thumb through even if you already know the words by heart. I was glad each student would have one to keep. But as soon as I entered the school, something unexpected happened.

I wanted to teach.

Those years teaching U.S. history were full. Full of studying, planning, collaborating, and telling stories with eighth-grade students who were just beginning to understand how the past shapes the present. I loved taking the people and events in their textbooks and making them real. I loved showing how one decision led to another, how disagreements shaped the country and how choices made hundreds of years ago still echo in our lives today.

The Constitution was always at the center of those lessons. It was the thread that connected everything else.

It is difficult for me to hold a copy of the Constitution without thinking about what it represents. The framework created by the founders was built to endure, but it was also built to change. They understood that the country would grow, that its people would evolve, and that the document would need a way to grow with them.

The amendments have always mattered deeply to me. They are not simply pages printed at the back of a little book. They define and protect my rights as a citizen of the United States and, more fundamentally, as a human being. They are promises — imperfect at times, hard-won and continually interpreted — but promises all the same.

Standing in the middle school again, holding those pocket Constitutions, I felt something I didn't expect: the familiar rhythm of a school day settling over me. The hum of students moving between classes. The quick greetings from teachers. The bulletin boards filled with projects and reminders. It all felt like stepping into a room I had left only moments before, even though



Eighth graders begin filling the Churchill County Middle School library on Constitution Day as students gather for the presentation and to pick up their pocket Constitutions.

I had been gone a little over a year.

And as I handed out those little books, I found myself doing what teachers do. I asked students what they already knew. I pointed out the preamble. I reminded them that the Constitution is not just a historical document but a living one. I watched their faces — curious, distracted, thoughtful, amused — the way I had watched thousands of faces before.

It felt natural. It felt right. It felt like home.

Teaching was never just a job for me. It was a way of seeing the world, a way of connecting with people, a way of believing that knowledge matters and that young people deserve adults who care enough to guide them. I didn't know how much of that was still inside me until I walked back into the middle school on Constitution Day.

I left the classroom, but the classroom didn't leave me.

And maybe that is the real discovery — not about the Constitution itself, but about the part of myself that came alive every time I taught it. The part that still stands ready, pocket Constitution in hand, eager to help someone understand why this document, and the history behind it, still matters.

That is something I didn't know.

Allison's Book Report:

“Honolulu”

by Alan Brennert

By Allison Diegel

This week, I have a beautiful piece of historical fiction from one of my favorite authors, Alan Brennert. I love how well he weaves a story, and you may remember some of his other books from previous Book Reports. Like those other books, this one will definitely have you turning those pages as fast as you can until you get to the end.

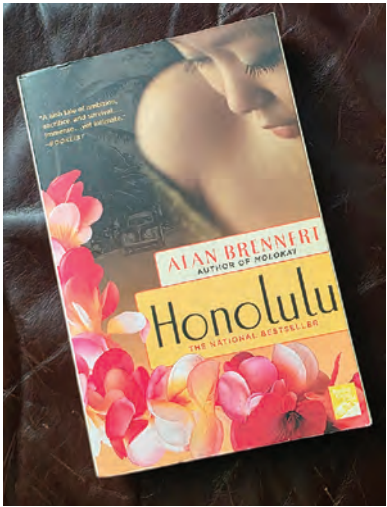
Set in early 20th-century Hawaii, “Honolulu” by Alan Brennert tells the captivating story of Jin, a brave young Korean woman who takes the name Regine as she seeks to escape a life of severe poverty and strict patriarchal expectations in her home village. Drawn across the vast Pacific Ocean by the promise of personal freedom, true independence, and a fresh start with a prospective husband, she arrives in Hawaii as a hopeful picture bride. However, she quickly discovers that the reality awaiting her on the islands is vastly different from the polished photographs and glowing, optimistic letters she was shown back home. Her new husband proves to be cruel and abusive, forcing Regine to dig deep into her inner strength, intelligence, and resilience just to survive in an unfamiliar and overwhelming land.

Determined to forge her own independent path, Regine gradually learns to adapt to her new surroundings, finding comfort and unexpected joy in the vibrant, multicultural mosaic of Honolulu. As she navigates the harsh, backbreaking labor conditions of early sugarcane plantation life and eventually transitions into the energetic, bustling heart of Chinatown, she gradually builds a new life through her talents as a skilled seamstress. Along the way, she forms deep, meaningful bonds with a diverse group of fellow immigrant women—including Japanese, Portuguese, Hawaiian, and Korean wives—who share her daily struggles, personal losses, and long-held dreams. Through these rich, supportive friendships, Regine learns how to navigate the difficult realities of ethnic prejudice, economic hardship, and rapid social change while steadily working toward her ultimate goal of financial autonomy.

Alan Brennert weaves a vivid, deeply atmospheric tapestry of old Hawaii, masterfully capturing the colorful sights, sounds, smells, and complex social dynamics of an era marked by dramatic transformation. Rather than focusing solely on hardship and struggle, the narrative warmly celebrates the extraordinary power of female solidarity, cross-cultural exchange, and the enduring strength of the human spirit. Regine's inspiring journey is one of profound self-discovery as she slowly evolves from an obedient, frightened girl into a confident, self-reliant woman who fiercely shapes her own destiny. Warm, immersive, and rich with authentic historical detail, “Honolulu” offers a deeply moving look at the immigrant experience through the eyes of a resilient heroine searching for a place to truly call home.

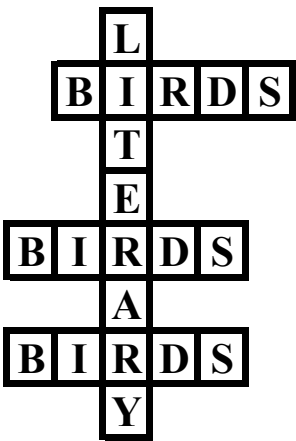
I hope you enjoy this week's book and don't forget to check out my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more book recommendations.

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



Crossword

By Peanut

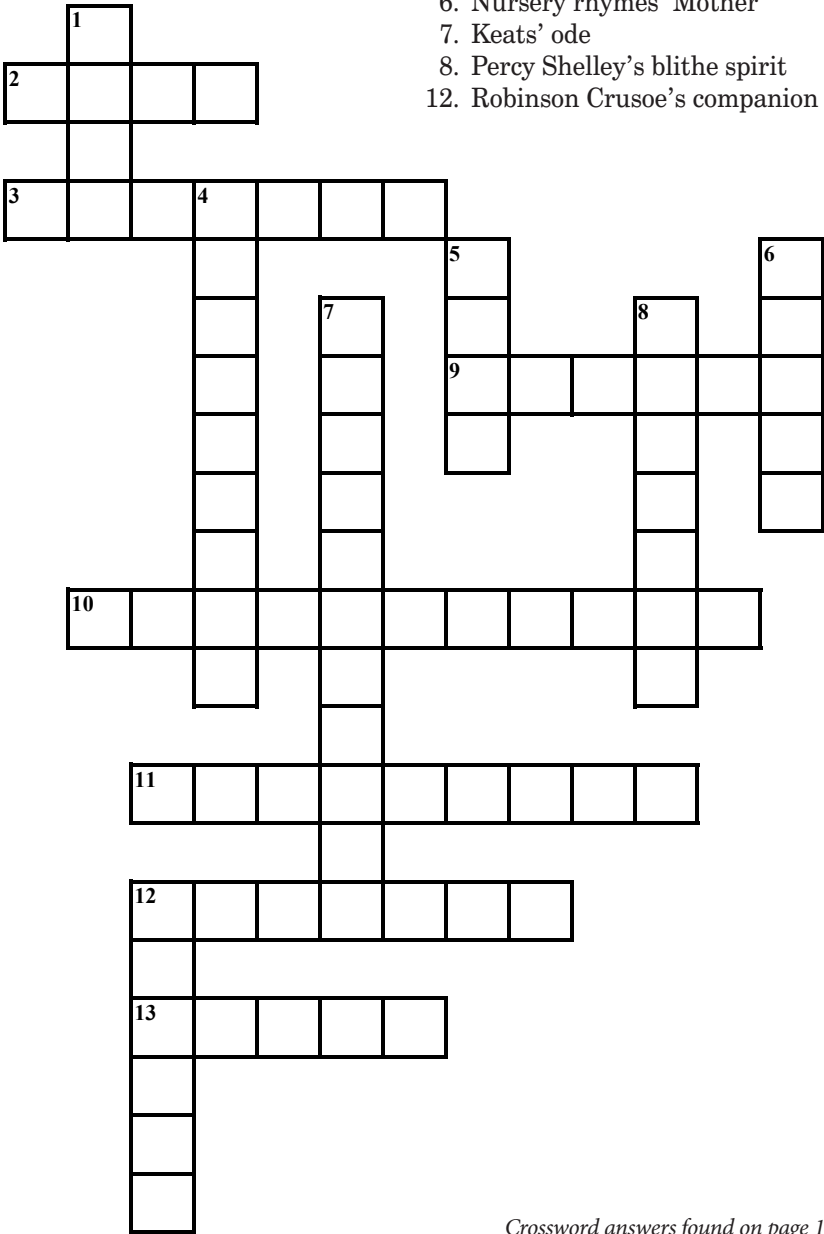


Across

- 2. Noah's messengers
- 3. Jonathan Livingston
- 9. Ken Kesey's Nest
- 10. Harper Lee's novel
- 11. Coleridge's Rime
- 12. Dumbledore's Fawkes
- 13. Poe's story

Down

- 1. McMurtry's Lonesome
- 4. Donna Tartt's novel
- 5. Beatrix Potter's Jeremiah
- 6. Nursery rhymes' Mother
- 7. Keats' ode
- 8. Percy Shelley's blithe spirit
- 12. Robinson Crusoe's companion



Crossword answers found on page 14

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held in the Churchill County Administrative Complex, 155 North Taylor Street, County Commission Chambers, Fallon, Nevada, at approximately 8:15 AM on Thursday, October 15, 2026, on the following:

Cory Hunt with CHIP LLC submitted a Petition and Service Plan for Churchill Hazen Industrial Park General Improvement Plan, proposing to provide infrastructure and municipal services in support of large-scale industrial development in the Hazen area of Churchill County, Nevada. The petition and service plan review may proceed concurrently, but the final creation of the GID cannot occur until the statutory service plan requirements have been satisfied, which includes review by the Planning Commission. The proposed General Improvement District (“GID”) would be formed pursuant to NRS Chapter 318. The formation process may proceed concurrently with review and approval of the required service plan under NRS Chapter 308. Generally, the process begins with the filing of a landowner petition requesting formation of the GID and the proposed service plan. Following review for statutory sufficiency, the Board of County Commissioners considers an initiating ordinance establishing the proposed district and setting the required public hearing. Notice is then provided to affected property owners, and the service plan proceeds through the required review and approval process. Following completion of the notice and hearing requirements and approval of the service plan, the Board considers the creation of the GID and, if the statutory requirements are satisfied, adopts a final ordinance organizing the district. The final ordinance incorporates the approved service plan and establishes the GID as provided by NRS Chapter 318.

If you cannot attend the meeting, written comments may be submitted to the Clerk/Treasurer’s Office, 155 N Taylor St, Suite 110, Fallon, NV 89406, before 4:00 p.m. on October 14, 2026. A copy of the proposed Service Plan is on file and available for public inspection at the Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer’s Office. A scanned copy of the ordinance will be posted on October 9, 2026 with the Agenda Packet on the county’s website at <https://www.churchillcountynv.gov/1081/Agendas-Minutes>.

Dated: September 10, 2026.

Published in
The Fallon Post
Sept. 25, Oct. 2, and 9, 2026
Ad #7759

**PUBLIC NOTICE
OF REDEMPTION OF CERTAIN
FALLON NUGGET CHIPS:**

Pursuant to Regulation 12.070(2)(c) of the Nevada State Gaming Commission, as of August 15, 2026, the following chips are discontinued at the Fallon Nugget: \$25 – Green with blue and white markings, \$5 – Red with green and yellow markings. The casino chips described above will be redeemable at the Fallon Nugget main cage, located at 70 S. Maine St. Fallon, NV 89406, twenty four (24) hours a day through December 15, 2026 which is one hundred and twenty (120) days after August 15, 2026.

Published in
The Fallon Post
Aug. 21 through Dec. 11, 2026
Ad #7692

**DISTRICT COURT
CHURCHILL COUNTY NEVADA**
CASE NO. 10DC-26-0856, DEPT: 1
MELISSA DYER
3235 Pflum Lane Fallon, NV 89406
775-217-5134 mldyer52@outlook.com
Petitioner

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:
KATHLEEN SUSAN RODEGEB,
DECEASED.**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been duly appointed and qualified by the above-entitled court on the 8th day of September, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of KATHLEEN SUSAN RODEGEB, 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 and serve a copy upon the undersigned.

DATED: This September 8, 2026.
/s/ Melissa Dyer, Petitioner

Published in
The Fallon Post
Sept. 18, 25 and Oct. 2, 2026
Ad #7747

**NOTICE OF CHANGE
OF DATE OF REGULARLY
SCHEDULED COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to NRS 244.085, the Churchill County Commissioners have changed the DATE of their second meeting in October, scheduled for October 21, 2026. The meeting will occur on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 8:15 AM, at the Churchill County Administrative Complex, 155 N. Taylor St, Commission Chambers, Fallon, NV.

Dated: August 28, 2026.
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer
Prepared by: Tara Adams,
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
The Fallon Post
Sept. 25, and Oct. 2, 2026
Ad #7734

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Crossword found on page 12

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held in the Churchill County Administrative Complex, 155 North Taylor Street, County Commission Chambers, Fallon, Nevada, at approximately 8:15 AM on Thursday, October 15, 2026, on the proposed Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE INITIATING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCHILL HAZEN INDUSTRIAL PARK GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT; PRESCRIBING THE BASIC POWERS OF THE PROPOSED DISTRICT; DESCRIBING THE PROPOSED BOUNDARIES; PROVIDING FOR A HEARING ON THE CREATION OF THE DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO

If you cannot attend the meeting, written comments may be submitted to the Clerk/Treasurer’s Office, 155 N Taylor St, Suite 110, Fallon, NV 89406, before 4:00 p.m. on October 14, 2026. A copy of the ordinance is on file and available for public inspection at the Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer’s Office. A scanned copy of the ordinance will be posted on October 9, 2026, with the Agenda Packet on the county’s website at <https://www.churchillcountynv.gov/1081/Agendas-Minutes>.

Dated: September 11, 2026.
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer
Prepared by: Tara Adams,
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
The Fallon Post
Sept. 25, 2026
Ad #7751

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