

# THE FALLON POST



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TheFallonPost.org | Vol. 6 No. 27 \$2.00 | The Week of May 9, 2025

## Battle Born Broncs 2025

### World-Class Cowboys, World Class Rides

By Leanna Lehman

From cowboy Calcutta to rough and rowdy tiebreakers, the fourth annual Battle Born Broncs rodeo lit up the Rafter 3C Arena in Fallon on Saturday, April 20. With top riders facing off against some of the best bucking stock in the world, the night was packed with action, grit, and good old-fashioned Western entertainment.

This year, Battle Born Broncs moved from June to April to coincide with the Fallon High School Rodeo. The combined weekend allowed for an expanded PRCA Rodeo Camp on Friday and a full-throttle pro rodeo event on Saturday night.

The festivities began with a Friday night welcome party featuring live music from Cash Prophets of Shingle Springs, California, sponsored by Sizemore Construction. Old-school country tunes filled the arena as cowboys and cowgirls of all ages danced the night away after touring the first-class Western Marketplace trade show. Vendors offered everything from handmade jewelry and leatherwork to boots, apparel, and rustic yard art.

Saturday night kicked off with a packed VIP dinner for contestants and generous sponsors like the City of Fallon, A&K Earthmovers, Les Schwab and many more. A Cowboy Calcutta followed, in which spectators bid on cowboys competing in the event. The highest bidder “buys” a rider or team; if they win or place, the bidder earns a share of the prize money. Proceeds often support a local cause or add to the purse.

When I came time to load the chutes, 30 bareback riders and 30 saddle bronc riders geared up to test to their mettle in one of the world’s most dangerous sports. Fans cheered as they watched a fierce showdown between elite riders and legendary broncs. One fan-favorite—Mustard of Sankey Pro Rodeo—made his fourth



Brody Cress on Dirty Banana of King Rodeo Company. Photo by Haley Rae Photography.

return to Fallon, helping Nick Pelke land second place in the bareback competition with a score of 86.5.

In the Bareback Riding, Rocker Steiner claimed the top spot with 89 points on Sozo from Sankey Pro Rodeo & Phenom Genetics, earning \$7,924. Nick Pelke followed in second with 86.5 points on Mustard, also from Sankey, for \$6,075. Cooper Cooke placed third with 86 points and took home \$4,490, while Kade Berry scored 85 for fourth place and \$2,906. Rounding out the top five, Jess Pope earned 84.5 points for \$1,849. Additional placings included Sage Allen,

[ Battle Born Broncs continued on page 2 ]

## Get Ready for the Fallon / Churchill VFD Street Dance May 16

By Nancy Chapman

*The month of May brings many things to mind—students getting ready to graduate from high school or college, and a new season of summer events just around the corner. For the Fallon Churchill Volunteer Fire Department, it also marks the return of their annual Friday Night Street Dance, set for May 16, 2025, from 5 to 9 p.m. in front of the firehouse on Carson Street.*

The event is always a hit with kids and families. It’s not uncommon for an occasional line dance to break out in the street. The evening includes raffle prizes, cornhole for the younger adults, fire safety education, and fire truck rides for the kids.



According to Fire Chief Jared Dooley, the FCVFD handles a wide range of emergency calls, including structure fires, wildland fires, and vehicle extractions. They also respond to non-fire-related incidents such as gas leaks, hazardous materials spills, water rescues, and recoveries—all while assisting other agencies when needed.

“We do all of this with one department,

four stations, 44 volunteers, and 25 pieces of rolling apparatus—trucks, engines, and more—to cover the 5,000 square miles of Churchill County,” Dooley said in an earlier interview.

In addition to emergency response, the department maintains 575 fire hydrants testing and servicing 25,300 feet of fire hose, plus enough large-diameter hose to stretch from Walmart to Big R.

In 2024, the FCVFD held a Push-In Ceremony during the street dance to celebrate the purchase of two new engines. As in years past, Chief Dooley continues to thank Mayor Ken Tedford, the Churchill County Commissioners and Chair Myles Getto, the City Council, and County Manager Jim Barbee for their support of the fire department advisory board. Their efforts help ensure the department runs smoothly and that essential

[ Street Dance continued on page 2 ]



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log

Loincloths and Plates

By Rachel Dahl

Again, we start with nothing to say.  
But now we’re watching Lee Marvin sing.  
“I was born under a wandering  
wandering star...”

It started with Denice referencing Mariah.  
You know, because it’s been windy.  
“You could write about Mariah,” she said.  
“You know that movie,” and she broke into song.

“Mariah, Mariah, they call the wind  
Mariah. Way out west, they got a name for  
rain and wind and fire. The wind is Tess, the  
fire’s Joe, and they call the wind Mariah...”

And then we tried to remember why we  
even knew that song. “Paint Your Wagon” – it  
turns out it’s from “Paint Your Wagon.”  
But that wasn’t what she really meant.

We had to go back and forth with clues,  
Google, and YouTube, which got us to  
Lee Marvin singing about the wandering star. Which, of course, we had to watch and admire  
and go down memory lane. Back in our youth, we had crushes on these Hollywood giants,  
the legendary “tough guys.”

This brought us to Yule Brynner, who has always been my favorite. And now we’re arguing  
about whose favorite he actually is because Denice says he’s HER favorite.


And now we’re looking up Yul Brenner in the loincloth. Also, laughing super hard and  
calling dibs on the hot guys in heaven.

I have to defer – sadly. Although I cannot imagine someone liking Yul more than me,  
I was not aware of the movie “The Kings of the Sun.” Also, she has a plate with his face on it.  
A plate. Pretty sure she wins.

The trouble with us is we just never have any fun around this place.

So while we continue on YouTube playing show tunes through the office, we’ll always be  
right here...

...Keeping you Posted.



[ Battle Born Broncs continued from page 1 ]

83.5 points, \$1,321; Weston Timberman, 83 points, \$1,057; and Cole Franks, 82 points, \$792.

In the Saddle Bronc Riding, Sage Newman and Darcy Radel tied for first with 88.5 points each—Newman on Burch Rodeo’s Lunatic Nation and Radel on The Black Tie from Sankey Pro Rodeo & Phenom Genetics—earning \$7,025 apiece. Lefty Holman secured third with 86.5 points for \$4,506. Ben Andersen and Brody Cress tied for fourth at 86 points, each receiving \$2,386. In sixth place, Damian Brennan and Q Taylor both scored 84.5 points and were awarded \$1,193. Zachary Dallas rounded out the top eight with 84 points and \$795.

Notably, Brody Cress represented Wyoming and took home \$2,386 with his 86-point ride. Rocker Steiner’s win marked him as the first two-time champion of the Battle Born Broncs. Radel and Newman, tied for first, settled the winner of the bronze trophy with a friendly leg-wrestling match—Radel came out on top. Newman, who previously won the bronze in Fallon in 2024,



Born Broncs creator and producer, Darcie Spero. Photo by Casey St. Blanc.

was a good sport about leaving the bronze behind this time.

Battle Born Broncs delivered not just a thrilling show, but a celebration of rodeo tradition and rising talent. With big wins, new legends, and a packed house of cheering fans, Fallon once again proved it’s a place where champions ride.

[ Street Dance continued from page 1 ]

equipment is approved to keep both city and county residents safe. “Firefighting can be dangerous work,” Dooley said. “Sometimes the difference between life and death is the available equipment.”

He also extended his appreciation to the volunteer firefighters of Fallon and Churchill County for their tireless commitment to the community. “Their commitment never ceases to amaze me,” he said. “They spend thousands of hours every year training and responding to fires, helping to make Fallon a better place to live.”

Chief Dooley concluded by encouraging everyone to come out and enjoy a great evening. The street dance, he said, is a chance for the community to connect with the department and see where and how these dedicated firefighters train—and where they’ll be coming from in a moment of need.



FEATURES

# Battle Born Broncs PRCA Rodeo Clinic

## Giving Youth a Leg Up in the Arena and Beyond

By Leanna Lehman

*Did you miss out on the rip-roaring, bronc busting fun at Rafter 3C Arena a few weeks ago? If you did, fear not—we’re here to catch you up on one of the weekend’s most impactful events: the PRCA Rodeo Camp.*

This year, Battle Born Broncs producer and creator Darcie Spero, along with county officials and Rafter 3C Operations Deputy Jesse Segura, moved the event from June to April. The change brought two great rodeo events together—Battle Born Broncs and the Fallon High School Rodeo.

While it may have seemed like a lot of bulls, broncs, and barrel racers in one weekend, the move was strategic. As Spero shared, one of her greatest passions is the Battle Born Broncs PRCA Camp—a rodeo training clinic designed to help the next generation of rodeo stars. Friday’s rodeo school gave area youth a rare opportunity to learn from some of the best bronc riders, bull riders, and ropers in the business and opened the arena to high school and junior high rodeo competitors from across the state.



Youth bull rider practicing under Cody Custer. Photos by Leanna Lehman and Elizabeth Casey.

Before hitting the arena, students were treated to something new: Coffee with the Coaches. Thanks to Spero, Segura, and Fallon’s rodeo community, five college rodeo coaches attended to talk with clinic participants. Coaches from Cal Poly, Fresno State, UNLV, the College of Southern Idaho, and Feather River College spoke with students about collegiate rodeo and academic programs at their schools.

In addition to college coaches, Cody Custer, one of the sport’s most renowned instructors, delivered expert advice and a good measure of cowboy wisdom. A professional bull rider for 14 years, Custer was the 1992 PRCA World Champion and was inducted into the ProRodeo Hall of Fame in 2017. His clinics are known across the country for drawing top young bull riders and many NFR qualifying bull riders have attended his schools.

Youth rough stock riders learned safety fundamentals, technical skills, and the importance of health and fitness. Among the professionals sharing their knowledge were six-time world champion bareback rider Kaycee Feild, and 14-time NFR qualifier and five-time world champion steer wrestler Luke Branquinho, who also hosts the popular podcast “The Luke Branquinho Show.”

Mitch Pollock, a professional saddle bronc rider and NFR qualifier from Winnemucca, worked with young riders, while bareback rider and rodeo coach Logan Corbett provided instruction in both riding and fitness alongside with bareback rider Logan Corbett, a pro rodeo cowboy, university rodeo coach, and the founder of Champion Living Fitness.

Each year, youth practiced on mechanical bucking machines – until now. For the first time, clinic students got the chance to put their knowledge to the test on live practice horses, working side by side with world champions and top-ranked riders who are likely headed to the 2025 National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Previously, the clinic focused primarily on saddle bronc and bareback riding, but this year it expanded significantly. Custer led



Young roper practices on roping dummy.



Mitch Pollack works with youth bronc riders.

bull riding instruction, and for the first time, students were offered training in timed events like roping. Professional team roper Garret Archuleta worked with youth of all ages on their roping technique.

Spero even offered a queen clinic to guide aspiring rodeo queens through the skills needed to advance in competition and represent their communities. Along with grace and poise, rodeo queens must excel in horsemanship, public speaking, and promoting America’s Western heritage.

Following the clinic, students gathered in the grandstands for a talk about social media. Bella Pruitt and Oasis Academy Middle School Counselor Gabby Medraso led a well-received discussion on personal branding, professionalism, and the importance of kindness and ethics online. They shared how students’ behavior on social platforms can influence both academic and professional opportunities, whether in rodeo or beyond.

As the arena quieted and dust settled, one thing was clear—the future of rodeo in Nevada is in good hands. Thanks to the vision Spero and many others, the dedication of top-tier coaches, and the courage of young riders willing to get in the saddle and learn, this year’s PRCA Rodeo Camp proved that the spirit of the West is alive and well.

# WELLNESS

## 2025

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fallon Theatre Movies & More May 9–10

By Kelli Perez

Hello, friends and supporters. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Annual Sustaining Membership Meeting last week. We’re grateful for your continued dedication to the Fallon Theatre and we are looking forward to everything the year ahead has in store!

This Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., we’re screening “Surf’s Up” (2007), a fun and fast-paced animated mockumentary that follows Cody, a rockhopper penguin, as he competes in a high-stakes surfing competition. With humor, heart, and plenty of splash, this family-friendly film is rated PG and runs 1 hour and 25 minutes.

On Friday night at 7 p.m. and again on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., the Performing Arts of Churchill County returns to the historic Fallon Theatre stage with “Pump



Boys and Dinettes.” This lively musical is set in a gas station-diner combo and features a cast of energetic characters, catchy tunes, and a toe-tapping good time. Tickets are \$15

and available at [paccnv.org](http://paccnv.org).

Coming up on Friday, May 17 at 7 p.m., don’t miss River Rogue, a high-energy cover band featuring musicians from Schurz, Fallon, and Carson City. Blending the best of country, rock, and blues, their dynamic sound and crowd-pleasing setlist promise a fun and memorable night. Best of all, it’s free to attend.

Looking further ahead, mark your calendars for our fundraising Show ‘N’ Shine on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This fun and free community car show is open to the public. Interested participants can find the signup link on our website.

As always, both our auditorium and marquee are available for rentals! Reach out to us at 775-423-6210 or email [thefallontheatre@gmail.com](mailto:thefallontheatre@gmail.com) to plan your next special event.

WNC Fallon Students Graduate May 19

Courtesy of WNC Public Relations

*Western Nevada College commencement ceremonies are less than a month away. The Class of 2025 will be honored in May with separate ceremonies in Carson City and Fallon.*

The Carson City commencement is set for 10 a.m. Monday, May 19, at the Marv Teixeira Pavilion in Mills Park, with a second ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 21, at the Barkley Theatre in the Oats Park Arts Center in Fallon.

WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe will be on stage to personally congratulate each graduate. “As an educator, commencement is always my favorite time of year. It’s a celebration of hard work, perseverance, and the deep pride our students and their families feel in reaching this milestone,” said Dr. Dalpe.

WNC Foundation Board Trustee Lupe Ramirez—a WNC graduate and the creator of the Latino Cohort and Latino Leadership Academy—will deliver the commencement address at both ceremonies. After a 32-year career in higher education, Ramirez now serves as president of the Carson City School District Board of Trustees.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Nine Puppies Ready to Adopt

As of Full House Monday, May 5, we were housing 27 dogs and puppies, including several strays—let’s work together to help reunite them with their families and find loving homes for those available for adoption. If your pet is missing, please remember to check the shelter as soon as possible.

We have nine puppies ready for adoption: four males and five females, all full of energy and in need of a forever home.

Stop by the City of Fallon Animal Shelter to meet our adoptable pets, check for your missing animal, or learn more about how you can help. Let’s find homes—and bring some lost ones back where they belong. Visit us on Facebook, but remember questions aren’t answered online. Call for more information.



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

Rusty is Available to Adopt

While nearly all of our dogs are currently enjoying time in foster homes, one special pup is still waiting—meet Rusty, our spotlight pet of the week. Rusty is a 4-year-old Red Australian Cattle Dog who was returned to the shelter after his owner passed away. He’s smart, high-energy, and full of personality. True to his breed, he can be a little barksy and nippy, but he thrives on playtime, especially tug-of-war and herding his soccer ball.

We’ve recently taken in a large number of puppies and anticipate kitten arrivals soon. Donations of puppy and kitten food, cleaning supplies, and monetary support are greatly appreciated. For ways to help or adopt Rusty, visit [capsnevada.org](http://capsnevada.org).

View our Chewy wish list or learn more about volunteering, events, and Bark in the Park!



Churchill Animal Protection Society  
5894 Pasture Rd, Fallon  
775-423-7500 | [capsnevada.org](http://capsnevada.org)  
[caps@cccomm.net](mailto:caps@cccomm.net)

Say Hello to Chloe

Say hello to Chloe, a beautiful 6-month-old grey tuxedo kitty who is spayed, vaccinated, and patiently waiting for the right person to come along.

Chloe is a gentle, quiet soul who needs a little time to feel safe in a new environment. But once she settles in, her affectionate personality begins to shine. Earning her trust may take some patience—but the bond you’ll build will be deep and rewarding.

She loves lounging in cozy spots, watching the world from a safe perch, and—most importantly—snacking on Churu treats, her favorite way to make new friends!

If you’re looking to provide a calm, loving home to a shy but sweet companion, Chloe might be your perfect match.



Fallon Animal Welfare Group is a 501(c)(3) charity supporting the welfare of cats in Churchill County, Nevada. Questions? Call 775-217-4745 or, for barn cats, call Pat at 775-217-7248.

CCSD Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration Now Open

**Pre-K at Northside Early Learning Center**  
Applications are open for the 3- and 4-year-old programs at Northside Early Learning Center. Children must be age 3 or 4 on or before Aug. 1, 2025, and not age-eligible for kindergarten (per AB65).

**How to Apply:**  
Scan the QR code or visit [churchillcsd.com](http://churchillcsd.com), call 775-423-3463, or stop by Northside ELC at 340 Venturacci Lane. Eligibility based on income; students above the threshold may be placed on a waitlist.

**Kindergarten Registration**  
Children must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1, 2025 (per AB65). Students currently enrolled in Northside’s Pre-K program will automatically enroll in kindergarten.

**How to Register (Online Only)**  
Visit [churchillcsd.com](http://churchillcsd.com) and click “Register for Kindergarten” on the homepage. Or you can go to Families & Students > General Information > Kindergarten Registration for 25–26. Select “25–26” as the registration year in Infinite Campus

**Required Documents**

- Birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Parent/guardian photo ID
- Proof of address

**Kindergarten Info Night and Tour**  
May 1 | Lahontan Elementary School

- Registration and tour from 5:30–7 p.m.
- Info sessions at 5:45 and 6:30 p.m.
- Free meal by Chartwells from 5:45–6:45 p.m. in the cafeteria

QUESTIONS?

Pre-K: 775-423-3463  
Kindergarten: 775-423-5184  
or [registration@churchillcsd.com](mailto:registration@churchillcsd.com)

Pre-K scan to register

Kindergarten scan to register



Churchill Animal Protection Society

# BARK IN THE PARK

## 5K AND FUN RUN

**PRE-REGISTRATION \$30**  
**DAY OF REGISTRATION \$50**



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**JUNE 6, 2025**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCHS Grad Dr. Deana Porretta Hired as New CCMS Principal

Courtesy of CCSD



The Churchill County School District has announced the appointment of Dr. Deana Porretta as the new principal of Churchill County Middle School. Her hiring was approved by the School Board of Trustees during a special meeting on April 30.

A Fallon native and Churchill County High School graduate, Porretta served seven years in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Sergeant Promotable. She and her

husband, Jay, have been married for 24 years and raised two daughters, both graduates of Churchill County High School.

As a military spouse, Porretta supported families at various duty stations, earning Volunteer of the Year honors at both Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

She holds a Bachelor of Science from Austin Peay State University, a master’s in education from Kaplan University, and a doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University. Her teaching career has spanned Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and South Korea. From 2015 to 2018, she taught at Midway Middle School in Georgia, where she was named Teacher of the Year.

Since returning to Fallon in 2018, Porretta has served CCMS as

a math and PE teacher, track coach, and most recently, vice principal. During her tenure, the MTSS Team earned the Diamond Award from the Nevada Association for Positive Behavior Support. She has also contributed to district initiatives including the Learner Centered Framework, KnowledgeWorks, Modern Teacher, Savvas and i-Ready.

“Dr. Porretta brings a blend of professional expertise and dedication to the Fallon community,” said Superintendent Derild Parsons. “Her leadership and deep understanding of education and the values of our district make her the right person to lead CCMS.”

Porretta said she looks forward to working with families, teachers and students “to build an even brighter future for our school and community.”

For the full story, visit [www.thefallonpost.org](http://www.thefallonpost.org).

YOU CAN HELP  
PLEASE TAKE THIS SURVEY



The Coalition is a part of an Office of Traffic Safety Grant that intends to capture knowledge and attitudes about impaired driving.

By impaired driving, we mean a person operating a vehicle, is under the influence of any legal or illegal drugs or has illegal or legal drug levels in their body. This survey is confidential and anonymous. The results of this survey will help the State of Nevada and the Substance Misuse Prevention Coalitions throughout Nevada to create more meaningful and appropriate education campaigns in their efforts to make Nevada's highways and interstates safer.



Funded by the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety

WESTERN NEVADA  
COLLEGE  
STUDENT ART SHOW  
RECEPTION

DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 15  
LOCATION: 160 CAMPUS WAY  
(BUILDING W/ BLUE COLUMNS)

TIME: 5:00-6:30PM

SELECTED ART PIECES FOR SALE  
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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.

<b>Monday, May 12</b> Hamburger WW Bun Tomato Lettuce Onions Mixed Veggies BBQ Baked Beans Cantaloupe Chunks	<b>Tuesday, May 13</b> Cajun Baked Fish w/Orange Red Beans and Rice Capri Veggies Cornbread Coleslaw Lattice Apple Pie	<b>Wednesday, May 14</b> Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Peach Slices Dilled Green Beans WW Roll	<b>Thursday, May 15</b> Fried Rice with Almonds Mini Chicken Egg Roll CranApple Dessert Orange Spinach Salad	<b>Friday, May 16</b> Pepperoni French Bread Pizza Mixed Green Salad Italian Dressing Green Beans Warm Peaches
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FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m.

<b>Monday, May 12</b> Salisbury Steak Rice and Salad	<b>Thursday, May 15</b> Mac and Cheese Vegetable and Bread	<b>Monday, May 19</b> Meatloaf, Potatoes & Gravy Veggies	<b>Thursday, May 22</b> French Bread Pizza Salad, Fruit
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Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.



COMMUNITY



New Frontier groundbreaking for their multi-million dollar expansion to increase capacity to serve rural Nevada.

New Frontier Outlines Rural Mental Health Gaps to Health District Board

Story and photo by Rachel Dahl

At the April 23 meeting of the Central Nevada Health District Board, Kasey Chu of New Frontier Treatment Center in Fallon delivered a presentation outlining the ongoing mental and behavioral health challenges facing rural Nevada residents, particularly in Churchill, Pershing, Mineral, and Eureka counties.

Chu, who works closely with rural clients and providers, emphasized the limited access to both inpatient and outpatient services for substance use disorders, mental health support, and wraparound care. She explained that while urban areas often have multiple

options for care, rural communities are frequently left with long wait times, transportation barriers, and a shortage of specialized providers.

“We’re seeing an increase in need, but not enough boots on the ground to respond,” Chu told the board.

Her presentation included data illustrating the geographic gaps in care and underscored the importance of community partnerships, early intervention, and integrated approaches to public and behavioral health.

Chu also highlighted New Frontier’s efforts to expand rural outreach but noted that more collaboration is needed at the county and regional levels to align

resources and streamline referrals.

Interim Administrator Shannon Ernst expressed appreciation for the presentation, noting that improved mental health outcomes in rural areas will require coordinated efforts between the health district, treatment centers, schools, and local governments.

The presentation sparked interest among board members, who expressed interest in continuing the conversation on how the Central Nevada Health District can support mental and behavioral health access through both program development and funding strategies.

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875 W. Williams Ave.  
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56 Miles of Tribute  
CCSO Honors Nevada Officers  
Lost in the Line of Duty



Story and photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff’s Office

On April 28, the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office took part in the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Run. Each year, a baton carrying the names of law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during the previous year is carried from Las Vegas to Carson City. This journey is not made by vehicle, but by runners. The baton is passed by hand across many miles of Nevada highway.

These runners are not professional athletes—they are fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, aunts, and uncles from law enforcement agencies across the state, paying tribute to the fallen.

This year, members of the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office, along with the Fallon Police Department, Churchill County Juvenile Probation, and the North Central Narcotic Task Force, once again participated. Their assigned section of the run stretched along Highway 95 South, from Redlich Summit to Hawthorne—a 56-mile segment—where the Mineral County Sheriff’s Office took over and continued the baton’s journey.



## GOVERNMENT

# Ernst Appointed Interim Administrator of Central Nevada Health District

*By Rachel Dahl*

*At the April 23 meeting of the Central Nevada Health District Board, members unanimously ratified the appointment of Shannon Ernst as interim administrator, effective March 28, 2025. Ernst, who also serves as Churchill County's Social Services Director, steps into the leadership role following the retirement of Darin Winkelman, who had been the district administrator since September of 2023.*

“We appreciate Shannon stepping up to mind the gap for us,” said CNHD board member and County Manager Jim Barbee made a motion to confirm the appointment. “It means a lot.”

The board also approved a motion to support Senate Bill 43, which clarifies how the state determines when local health districts are ready to manage drinking water and solid waste systems. The bill would help ensure that districts demonstrate capacity before assuming oversight responsibilities and provide for continued state oversight after the transition.

### IN OTHER ACTIONS:

- The board voted to remain neutral on SB 295, which deals with sidewalk food vendors, noting the bill primarily impacts jurisdictions with populations over 100,000.
- The board supports SB 423, which would create a new public health funding account in the state general fund, with nearly \$5 million annually distributed to health districts.
- Members also voted to remain neutral on AB 40 (related to solid waste management) and AB 102 (related to EMS oversight in larger counties).
- After extended discussion, the board supported AB 352, which updates Nevada's cottage food laws and transfers oversight to the Department of Agriculture. The board also supported BDR 51-1121, a related bill that moves regulation of cottage foods, cosmetics, and farm-to-fork events from the state health division to the agriculture department.

- New Frontier delivered a separate presentation during the meeting and can be read in a stand-alone story on page three or online at [www.thefallonpost.org](http://www.thefallonpost.org)

## FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Ernst provided a detailed update on the district's current operations, including a review of budget standings, grant performance, and organizational needs. Grant specialist Shasta Garrison reported on funding losses due to the federal DOJ clawback and efforts to reallocate spending to prevent further impacts to the general fund.

**THE BOARD APPROVED:**

- Acceptance of \$36,572 from AB 7 to support improvements to the district's electronic medical records system.
- Ratification of a letter of support for Mount Grant General Hospital's HVAC infrastructure request to the congressional community project fund.
- A financial and operational packet detailing grant status, vacancies, and organizational structure, ahead of a planned budget workshop on May 29 at 10:30 a.m.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIONS INCLUDED:**

- Ratification of a malpractice policy cancellation for Dr. Tedd McDonald, determined to be a duplicate of the coverage provided under the district's existing policy.
- Ratification of a letter of support for the rural residency program in partnership with Banner Churchill Community Hospital and the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Shannon Ernst noted that improving internal processes, increasing transparency, and building relationships with local governments are her top priorities. “We’re moving fast,” she said, “but we want to be thoughtful. We want each county and community to know they’re being heard.”

The board's next major milestone will be the May 29 budget workshop, where members will evaluate service delivery, staffing, and strategic direction for the district.

# County Commission Update

***BLM Wild Horse Gather, Public Lands,  
Human Services, and Legislation***

*By Rachel Dahl*

During the May 1 County Commission meeting, Joe Sanford, Deputy Civil District Attorney, reported on the comments submitted to the BLM by the county regarding the upcoming Wild Horse Gather in the Lahontan Herd Management Area. According to Sanford, the BLM estimates approximately 518 horses are currently on that HMA, well above the Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 7 to 10 horses. The BLM is still accepting public comments on the plan through May 12.

County Manager Jim Barbee delivered a brief history of the Nevada Lands Council effort regarding the Nevada Counties' Land Transfer Proposal to pursue federal land transfers under a revived "Common Sense Lands Act." Although Churchill County supports Elko's autonomy in advocating for its own needs, Barbee expressed concern that formally aligning with the statewide proposal might hinder Churchill's own federally approved lands bill, which is currently awaiting implementation.

Jeremy Drew of Resource Concepts, Inc. provided a quarterly update on public lands and natural resource issues. He noted slow progress on federal land surveys, especially around the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) expansion. He also flagged administrative delays at the BLM due to staff shortages and incoming federal leadership changes. Drew confirmed that Churchill County is in better shape than many Nevada counties regarding wild horse AML compliance.

Commissioners approved the abandonment of a 30-foot road easement from 1993 on Eugene Way following a request from adjacent landowners. Applicants cited a setback that interfered with planned structures. The request and had no objections.

A proposed split of a 20-acre parcel on Testolin Road into two 10-acre parcels raised access concerns. A neighboring landowner stated that the bridge providing access to the southern lot is on her property, and she does not intend to grant an easement. The commission approved the map with a condition requiring the applicant to either secure access rights or construct a new bridge that meets safety standards.

Arthur Malloey, District Attorney, presented a four-year renewal of its agreement with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services for child support services. According to Malloey, the program brought in \$1.8 million in collections last fiscal year and \$1.3 million this year. Reimbursement through federal and state funds covers a significant portion of staff costs. The commission unanimously approved the agreement.

Social Services Director Shannon Ernst approved funding agreements that support Meals on Wheels and cover Churchill County's share of Medicaid long-term care costs, aligns with statewide updates, and corrects a prior error in funding limits.

Sanford provided a legislative update, saying this session has been divisive and stands to cause some potential impacts to the county. Bills that the county supports include rural hospital funding, land access, and public health district grants. Of concern to commissioners is AB 388, a paid family leave bill that could cost the county over \$800,000 annually. Sanford noted that the bill expands eligibility beyond existing federal requirements and offers no funding mechanism for counties.




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CHURCHILL COUNTY COURTS

Tenth Judicial District Court

Tuesday, April 29, Judge Thomas Stockard presiding

By Teresa Moon

Jordan Lee Coleman, in custody on a Washoe County case, appeared for sentencing on the Category C felony of Attempt to Commit Residential Burglary, to which he pleaded guilty in February.

Senior Deputy District Attorney (SDDA) Chelsea Sanford requested 18–61 months in prison to run consecutive to Coleman’s Washoe County sentence. She said the defendant crashed a truck in Churchill County, fled into the desert, and entered a home where no one was present. The homeowner later found Coleman wearing his clothes and using his cellphone. The victim pursued Coleman, who dropped the phone and escaped. Sanford acknowledged Coleman was in a desperate situation but said his actions could not be excused.

Defense Attorney Jenny Hubach, who defended Coleman previously, argued for 12–36 months to run concurrent to the Washoe case, citing a prior successful completion of drug court and Salvation Army treatment in 2017. She said an accident derailed his recovery. Coleman read from a letter, apologized, and asked for a chance to become productive again, stating he wanted a life free from addiction: “I don’t want to live a life of shame and guilt, constantly looking over my shoulder; but rather a life of happy joy free from my addiction.”

Judge Stockard sentenced Coleman to 12–52 months in prison, to run consecutive to his Washoe County sentence.

Robert Henry Lisenbee, in custody, appeared for arraignment and sentencing on two charges: Failure to Stop on the Signal of a Peace Officer, a Category D felony; and Failure to Appear After Admission to Bail or Release Without Bail, also a Category D felony.

Lisenbee had pleaded guilty to the first charge in May 2024, then failed to appear for sentencing in July. DA Sanford said Lisenbee led officers on a 10-minute chase after a motorist reported a headlight-less motorcycle. He later failed to appear after being released to seek treatment. She asked for consecutive sentences due to the separate nature of the offenses and noted Lisenbee’s prior convictions for similar conduct.

Defense Attorney Steve Evenson acknowledged his client’s long criminal history, beginning at age 18, and attributed all of fenses to methamphetamine addiction. He asked for probation or the minimum sentence,

noting Lisenbee was honest, had redeemable qualities, and lacked the tools to change.

Lisenbee said he had checked into treatment and relapsed after an accident. He told the court, “Another prison sentence is not going to hurt me... I could use some help, a hand up instead of being shoved back down.”

Judge Stockard sentenced Lisenbee to 14–48 months on the Failure to Stop charge, and 12–32 months concurrent on the Failure to Appear charge. He was given credit for 182 days for time served and was remanded to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff.

Donald James Knight appeared for sentencing on the Category B felony of Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor or Controlled Substance, a third or subsequent offense, to which he pleaded no contest in January.

DA Priscilla Baker said the State did not oppose Knight being placed into the DUI Diversion Program. Defense Attorney Steve Evenson said Knight was an ideal candidate, noting no criminal history beyond DUIs and minor misdemeanors.

Judge Stockard granted Knight probation for 36 months and ordered him to enter and complete the DUI Diversion Program. He reminded Knight the charge carried a mandatory 1–6 years in prison unless diversion was granted. Fees and assessments were imposed.

Nathaniel Arnold Slaamot appeared for sentencing on the Category B felony of Reckless Driving Causing Death or Substantial Bodily Harm, to which he pleaded guilty under Alford in January. An Alford plea permits a defendant to accept the penalties associated with a charge without admitting guilt. He also appeared for disposition on two non-technical sentencing violations related to previous cases: Damage to Prison Property (a gross misdemeanor) and Possession of a Controlled Substance (a felony).

Chief Deputy District Attorney (CDDA) Lane Mills said per the plea agreement, Slaamot would be admitted to the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court (WNRDC) program. He told the court this outcome was supported by the victim’s family, who hoped Slaamot could rebuild his life. Mills commended the defendant for embracing the opportunity and not “weaseling through” the program.

Defense Attorney Steve Evenson agreed, stating Slaamot exceeded expectations.

Slaamot told the court he is sober and has renewed family connections.

Judge Stockard told the defendant, “This is a result we don’t see very often given the seriousness of this charge and with this type of history ... I think you have to take a bow ... you obviously did some harm to someone who believes that you have an opportunity.” Stockard reinstated Slaamot’s probation on both violations, granted probation on a suspended 28–72 month sentence to run consecutive to his prior cases, and ordered him to complete Specialty Court within WNRDC.

Timothy Michael Riddle appeared for sentencing on the Category D felony of Larceny of Personal Goods or Property valued at \$1,200–\$5,000, to which he pleaded guilty in October.

The court noted that Riddle paid restitution in full. Both the State and Defense requested a suspended sentence of 19–48 months. Churchill County Alternate Public Defender (APD) Wright Noel said Riddle is in phase four of the Carson City Drug Court program and has made significant life changes.

Judge Stockard imposed probation on the recommended suspended sentence of 19–48 months, to run consecutive to a 2nd Judicial District Court case. Riddle must also follow recommendations from his recent substance abuse evaluation.

Scott Lee Stacey, in custody, admitted to a technical sentencing violation for failing to comply with probation terms, including use of intoxicants and failure to make monthly payments.

CDDA Mills requested 30 days in jail as a sanction. APD Noel did not oppose and said Stacey is aware of the need to redirect his behavior. Judge Stockard temporarily revoked Stacey’s probation for 30 days and gave credit for time served.

Cory James Beckett, in custody, admitted to a non-technical sentencing violation for failing to complete drug court.

CDDA Mills requested revocation of probation due to Beckett’s extensive criminal history. APD Noel did not oppose revocation but asked for a modified sentence of 16–48 months.

Judge Stockard revoked Beckett’s probation, imposed the modified sentence, and remanded him to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff for imposition of sentence.

Jessop Reece Morrison’s sentencing was continued to June 3.

Sampson Sentenced to Prison on Arson Charge After Violating Probation

By Teresa Moon

Tenth Judicial District Court convened Wednesday, April 23, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

Carl Wayne Sampson, in custody, appeared for an evidentiary hearing regarding a non-technical probation violation. Sampson faced allegations of failure to report to the Division of Parole and Probation, failure to report his residence and employment, failure to pay fines, and substance abuse. His underlying offense is Fourth Degree Arson, a Category D Felony, carrying an underlying sentence of 12–48 months in the Nevada State Prison.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills called two witnesses. The first was Reno-Sparks Police Officer Presto, who testified he assisted in Sampson’s arrest. While searching the defendant, Presto found a baggie containing a white powdery substance, which tested presumptively positive for .2 grams of methamphetamine. Presto stated he weighed the substance in the bag in which it was found but did not know the weight of the bag itself. The substance was not sent for further testing beyond the presumptive field test.

Churchill County Alternate Public Defender (APD) Wright Noel cross-examined Presto, pointing out the lack of weight verification and the absence of laboratory confirmation. Presto also acknowledged he took a photo of the substance but did not bring it to court.

Mills next called Sampson’s probation officer, Officer Grosjean. Under questioning, Grosjean stated that Sampson initially claimed he was living with the Yomba Tribe but later learned Sampson had

relocated to Reno without updating his address. Grosjean testified that Sampson failed to pay any monthly supervision fees and did not submit substance abuse or mental health evaluations as required. However, Grosjean confirmed Sampson was never formally considered an absconder.

During closing arguments, Noel argued that the evidence presented did not rise to the level required for a non-technical violation. “What we’re looking at here, Judge, is an unfounded allegation,” Noel said. “We have no pictures, and the substance was weighed while still in the bag and not sent out for laboratory testing.” He conceded there was proof of a technical violation but maintained that the burden for a non-technical violation had not been met.

Mills countered, stating, “All you need is a weighable, testable amount for a conviction,” and argued that the State had met its burden of proof.

Judge Stockard found that Sampson had violated the terms of his probation in a non-technical manner.

The hearing then proceeded to sentencing. Mills told the court, “What we have in this case is a defendant who hasn’t done anything. He hasn’t even done the basic minimum. He has just ignored the privilege of probation,” and requested probation be revoked.

Noel acknowledged Sampson’s shortcomings, stating, “I understand Mr. Sampson’s conduct here is less than satisfactory,” but asked for probation to be reinstated.

Judge Stockard revoked Sampson’s probation and imposed the underlying sentence of 12–48 months, granting credit for 327 days of time served. Sampson was remanded to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff for imposition of the sentence.



GARDENING

Tree Crimes and How to Avoid Them

By Nancy Chapman with Marco DiGiacinto of M.D. Tree Surgery

Trees represent great public and private value in a community. They are an appreciating asset and, at the same time, a risk component in managing both residential and commercial landscapes. Trees serve as symbols, icons, pillars, ceilings and centerpieces of neighborhoods and towns.

A tree can be an important part of your family—like a pet, though perhaps not quite like a child. Trees line our streets, fill our landscapes and provide critical shade in summer, cooling the air we breathe. They can act as umbrellas in a storm and as natural air conditioners during the hottest months.

The aesthetic value of trees is priceless. Imagine a world without them—no green canopy to admire, no homes for birds and wildlife, no peaceful rustling in the breeze. Trees also clean our air by trapping pollutants in their bark and leaves. Through photosynthesis, they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. During transpiration, they release water vapor, helping to regulate air temperature and humidity. Trees are an integral part of our existence and should be treated as such. So please—stop topping your trees. They are too important to be damaged by outdated or harmful pruning practices. If your tree needs attention, call me to discuss the right alternatives to keep your trees safe, healthy and beautiful.

For more information, contact Marco DiGiacinto, M.D. Tree Surgery Certified Arborist. Office, 775-867-2944, or for emergencies, 775-217-9009.



Large elm. Safe, beautiful, healthy and no topping. Photo by Marco DiGiacinto, M.D. Tree Surgery.

EDUCATION

Logos Christian Academy  
Faith in all we do at Logos Christian Academy

Story and photo courtesy of Logos

At Logos, we provide a challenging academic environment that equips students to exalt and follow Christ in every aspect of their lives. We encourage students to understand God’s perfect design in all the subjects we teach and to learn about the world around them through both academic study and Christian principles.

Every student at Logos studies the Bible just as they do grammar or math. It is a graded subject with an established curriculum. However, integrating faith across all subjects is even more significant. For example, when reading a story about frogs, a teacher might show students a blue poison dart frog. The students often respond with expressions of wonder, asking, “Why is that frog blue while other frogs are green?” This provides an opportunity for the teacher to explain, “God made that frog blue because it is very poisonous. Its bright blue color serves as a warning to others to give it space to avoid getting hurt.”



Logos students during reading time.

During a calendar discussion this week, a student asked, “What’s Cinco de Mayo?” A simple answer might be that it means May 5, but that wouldn’t fully address the question. The teacher explained that Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexico’s 1862 victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla. This was significant because the Mexican army was much smaller and weaker than the French army, yet they still won. This prompted the class to recall a story in the Bible where the smaller and weaker overcame the larger and stronger, leading to eager responses of “David and Goliath! David and Goliath!” Faith integration doesn’t always relate directly to school subjects. When students come to teachers with their personal problems, educators listen and offer advice. At Logos, teachers not only listen and advise, but they also say, “Let’s pray about that together.” We desire for our students to look to God in all aspects of their lives, and this is evident in our classrooms. We believe that God’s character is revealed not only in His Word but also in every facet of His creation. Therefore, we teach that all knowledge is interconnected and can help us understand God Himself. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

Veritas Preparatory School – Classical and Christian  
7th and 8th Graders Suffer Stickiness to Support Subsequent Sojourn

By Assistant Headmaster David Ernst with photo courtesy of Veritas



Pie in the Face bake sale option for those wanting a little extra fun.

It was a sweet success—literally and figuratively—when the seventh- and eighth-grade classes at Veritas Preparatory School hosted a bake sale and “pie in the face” fundraiser last week to raise money for an upcoming field trip to an escape room in Sparks.

The event, held after school on Tuesday, April 29, buzzed with energy as students, families, and staff came together to support the cause. Tables overflowed with homemade cookies, cupcakes, and other treats—



Veritas students host bake sale.

all lovingly prepared by students and their families. By the end of the day, not a single sprinkle was left behind. But the biggest draw? Watching beloved teachers and brave students take a whipped cream pie to the face—all in the name of team-building and problem-solving. “I was surprised at how much fun it was getting pied in the face,” said eighth-grader Nate Nuckolls. “I might start doing it to myself.” Baked goods were offered on a donation basis, while students paid \$5 for the opportunity to toss a pie at a teacher or classmate who had volunteered in advance.

“We wanted to do something fun and memorable,” said seventh-grader Andrea Quiles. “The escape room is all about working together and thinking outside the box, and this fundraiser really brought us together.” In total, the classes raised over \$500—enough to cover lunch, transportation, and admission for their visit to Key & Code Escape Rooms in Sparks. Students will attempt two separate rooms and compete to see whether the seventh or eighth graders can escape the fastest. “The seventh graders have no chance,” claimed eighth-grade puzzle-solving powerhouse John Dunkin. “I solve puzzles in my sleep and then eat puzzles for breakfast. Sometimes when I’m in a hurry before school, I skip my breakfast puzzles and then eat twice as many puzzles at lunch.” The seventh graders aren’t prepared to go down without a fight. “What John doesn’t know is that I’ve been giving him fake puzzle breakfast cereal for weeks,” said seventh-grader Lula Lewellen. “It’s actually just Lucky Charms, but he thinks it’s puzzles, so we’ve got the advantage.” In preparation for the challenge, students have been completing puzzles during class. Activities have included logic puzzles, Sudoku, Morse code, Caesar ciphers, and more. Which class will emerge victorious—and which will suffer the agony of defeat? Only time will tell.



EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD.



ECB's James West, Kinsley Rowland, and Principal Brad Barton.



LES students with military parents Ezekiel Hurtado, Raelynn Wadsager, and Emerson Lyngle (front row) with their classmates.



Numa student Shia Downs dressed as Sarah Winnemucca.

**CCHS students** in Steve Johnson’s Chem 122 class recently toured the University of Nevada, Reno, guided by 2020 CCHS graduate Jade Beland. Now a graduate student in material science, Beland welcomed students into the lab where she conducts nuclear waste research. She explained her work and showed how a Churchill County education can open doors to advanced scientific opportunities. “CCHS students are very amazing, and can go on to do incredible things,” Johnson said. Beland’s message: hard work and passion can make a real impact on the world.

**CCMS students** with active duty or reserve military parents were celebrated with a mini field day to close out the Month of the Military Child. The event, held April 25, gave honorees a chance to invite two friends for an afternoon of games and fun. It was a way to build community and recognize the sacrifices of military families. Students shared laughs, teamwork, and appreciation in an event designed just for them. CCHS NJROTC Cadets helped with activities. “We appreciate you all,” said Vice Principal Deana Porretta, thanking the Purple Star Committee and cadets for supporting military-connected students.

**Numa fifth-grade students** became living exhibits during the annual Numaseum, showcasing historical figures they researched and portrayed. Students spent weeks preparing speeches, costumes, and display boards to represent figures ranging from astronauts to civil rights leaders. The school buzzed with excitement as families

and staff explored each presentation. Student Shia Downs dressed as Sarah Winnemucca, complete with a headpiece made by local artist Jerri Fry-Cornu. “It was fun researching and learning stuff I never knew,” Downs said. “I was nervous but proud to show everyone my board and give my speech.” The event remains a yearly favorite.

**E.C. Best students** in Aimee Bell’s class recently completed their end-of-year MAPS testing. After working hard to show their academic growth, students celebrated with a creative activity for Principals’ Day. They designed custom shoes for Principal Brad Barton, adding special details to each pair. “We are so grateful for all of the hard work he does for us,” Bell said. Students explained their designs, with standout features like diamond-studded laces “because he is worth diamonds” and gold flakes on the toes “because he is golden.” It was a fun and thoughtful way to show their appreciation.

**Lahontan students** in Victoria Potter’s class at wrapped up the Month of the Military Child by learning what it means to grow up in a military family. They read books, shared stories, and listened to classmates with military connections describe their experiences. Students then created a purple handprint dandelion craft, using words they chose to describe military children. Among them were brave, heroic, strong, special, and courageous. Through this activity, students gained a deeper understanding of resilience and sacrifice. It was a meaningful way to close out the month and honor the strength found in their peers’ experiences.

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.



**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: CORY TODD**  
As graduation approaches, Oasis Academy senior Cory Todd is preparing to turn the page and begin an exciting new chapter. In just a few short weeks, Todd will receive both his high school diploma and Associate of Arts degree from Western Nevada College. Todd began attending Oasis in second grade and holds fond memories of his time there. “I thought it was scary being at a new school at first, but I quickly made friends, and it overall created a memorable experience,” he said. Among his favorite memories were those friendships. “One of my favorite memories from Oasis is off-campus lunch and hanging out with friends,” Todd added. Throughout his time at Oasis, certain teachers left a lasting impact. He specifically thanked Mr. Eric Grimes. “A teacher I’d like to thank is Mr. Grimes,” he said. “I always enjoyed his classes and found them the most interesting and engaging.” His favorite class was Ancient World History. “My favorite class was probably Ancient World History because it was fun to learn

about different countries and their cultures,” Todd said. After graduation, Todd plans to move to Reno and begin working, eager to embrace the opportunities ahead. He offered this advice for future students: “Don’t mess around and get your work done. It makes it easier for you in the future,” he said.

**OASIS SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL EARN TOP ACADEMIC SPOTS**  
This week, the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association named the Spring Season State Academic Champions, with Oasis Academy’s baseball and softball teams both taking top honors. According to the NIAA, “The team grade point average is determined by taking the individual unweighted GPAs of varsity team members from last semester and then computing an overall average.” “We are incredibly proud of both our baseball and softball teams for earning Academic State Champion awards,” said Rochelle Tisdale, high school principal. “This achievement reflects not only their dedication and excellence on the field, but also their commitment to academic success and personal growth. Their hard work sets a powerful example for our entire school community, showing that it is possible to excel both as athletes and as scholars.” Both teams are closing out the regular season and will advance to the regional tournament beginning May 9.

**ART IN ACTION – JACKSON POLLOCK**  
Oasis Academy fifth graders recently turned the playground into a lively art studio as they learned about Jackson Pollock, the American painter known for his unique “action painting” style. After researching Pollock’s life and how he used movement and unconventional tools in his work, students brought items from home—like spoons, whisks, and spatulas—to try his techniques themselves. Rather than using brushes and easels, students placed canvases on the ground and used their tools to drip, fling, and pour paint, just like Pollock.

“We learned that Jackson Pollock was very extravagant with his art,” said fifth grader Grace Miller. “He was known for his improvisational and abstract approach. It was also interesting that he hid different things in his pieces. Some people couldn’t see them, but if you really focus, you can see them.”



Art in Action: Bri Ugalde, Grace Miller, Myla Hagan, Tason Oyler, Delayza Alaniz, Hayes Allegre, Wyatt Craig, and Mason Stanek.

Oasis Academy fifth graders recently turned the playground into a lively art studio as they learned about Jackson Pollock, the American painter known for his unique “action painting” style. After researching Pollock’s life and how he used movement and unconventional tools in his work, students brought items from home—like spoons, whisks, and spatulas—to try his techniques themselves. Rather than using brushes and easels, students placed canvases on the ground and used their tools to drip, fling, and pour paint, just like Pollock.



# SPORTS ROUND UP

## Fallon Riders Saddle Up for Statewide Mounted Unit Certification

Story and Photos by Nancy Chapman

*The Carson City Sheriff's Office Mounted Unit, along with Sheriff Ken Furlong, has completed its 22nd annual certification process. Conducted by Joe and Cathy Bruno of Fallon, more than 30 talented riders took part in four days of training at Fuji Park in Carson City.*



Riders waiting for instruction on their next maneuver to practice for Thursday night's Mounted Units Yearly Certification

Several Fallon residents are members of the organization, including Mike Creager, Gary and Kathy Mills, and The Fallon Post's own Nancy Chapman.

The certification applies to both horse and rider, who must function as a team moving forward. Each rider received a certificate upon successfully completing the four-day training.

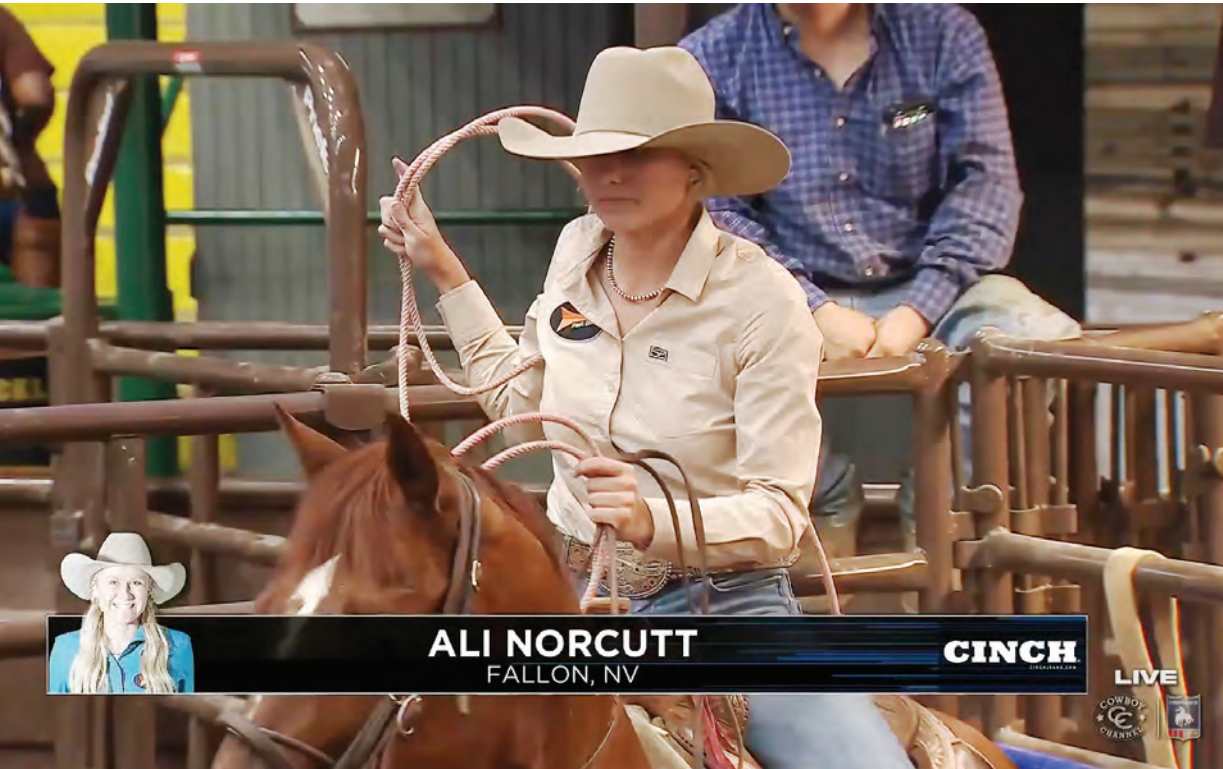
Mounted units are used by many departments to aid in search and rescue efforts, participate in ceremonies honoring fallen officers—both police and firefighters—and appear in parades. Agencies from across Nevada participated in the certification, including representatives from Elko, Pershing, and Churchill counties, as well as the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and Reno Police Department.

Horse and rider teams trained together to handle a variety of challenges, including loud noises from gunshots, firecrackers and smoke bombs, as well as navigating complex obstacles. They also trained alongside the Raven helicopter, which landed in the Fuji Park arena. The Reno Police Department's K-9 unit participated as well, helping expose horses and riders to rapid movements and additional noise.



Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong and Elko County Sheriff Aitor Narvaiza practicing for the Thursday night's Mounted Units Yearly Certification.

## Ali Norcutt Named Cowboy Channel Rookie of the Week



Ali Norcutt at the Resistol Rookie Roundup. Photo courtesy of the Cowboy Channel.

*Staff Report*

While professional rodeo's newest faces are stepping onto rodeo's biggest stages, they added the Fort Worth Stockyards Coliseum Resistol Rookie Roundup to their stops. Breakaway roper Ali Norcutt made sure to take advantage of the opportunity, not knowing she would be recognized as the ProRodeo Rookie Athlete of the Week by Teton Ridge/Cowboy Channel.

During the April 25 evening performance, Norcutt snuck into the Top 8 after a 4.3-second run. to be the No. 7 cowgirl moving on.

On Championship Saturday, Norcutt put together a 3.8-second run in the Semi-Finals to secure her shot at the title. In true cowgirl fashion, Norcutt made sure she saved her best run for last. In the Shootout Round, Norcutt would blaze a 1.8 winning run.

With \$7,024 in earnings before the Resistol Rookie Roundup, Norcutt is climbing in the Rookie Race to unofficially be inside the Top 3 with this win.

## Bighorns Ball Teams Celebrate Dual Success

Staff Report

Oasis Academy is celebrating success both in the classroom and on the field this spring. The Bighorns boys' baseball and girls' softball teams have each been named the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) 2A Spring Academic State Champions, a distinction that honors student-athletes for maintaining high academic standards throughout the season.

Adding to the celebration, freshman standout Shayana McNamer has been recognized as one of the top-performing freshmen in Nevada softball. McNamer leads all freshmen statewide with 53 RBIs and has tallied 42 hits, 31 runs, eight doubles, nine triples, and three home runs in just 19 games—batting an impressive .700. Congratulations to the Bighorns for their achievements both on the diamond and in the classroom.



Shayana McNamer. Photo courtesy of Oasis Academy.

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COLUMNS

What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen

By Erik Jimenez, in for Kelli Kelly

We’ll keep the intro short this week, folks. This recipe is involved—very involved, in fact. But if you can pull off this decadent appetizer, you’ll make all your friends jealous during your next dinner party.

This week, we’re making what’s essentially an Asian-inspired crab cake tower. We’ll take sushi-grade tuna and mix it with creamy sriracha, mayo and scallions. Then we’ll fry up cakes of sushi rice and garnish them with avocado, microgreens, crispy wonton strips and tobiko (tiny fish eggs) for a nice crunch.

By creating alternating textures of creamy and crispy, we’ll use bold, fresh flavors to build a star appetizer dish.

Spicy Ahi Tuna Towers with Crispy Rice Cakes

Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 2 cup

Uncooked sushi rice
- 2/3 cup

Unseasoned rice vinegar, plus 1-2 tablespoons reserved
- 2 tbsp.

Granulated sugar
- 1 lb.

Raw sushi grade tuna, finely chopped or ground
- 1/2 cup

green onions, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp.

Sriracha
- 1/2 cup

Japanese mayonnaise (Kewpie)
- 1 tbsp.

Honey
- 1 tbsp.

Soy sauce
- 1/2 tsp.

Kosher salt
- 5-6

Uncooked wonton wrappers, cut into small strips
- 2-3 cups

High smoke point oil (vegetable, grapeseed, etc.)
- 3/4 cup

Cornstarch
- 2

Avocados
- Kosher salt, to taste
- 1

Persian cucumber, sliced thinly on a mandoline
- 1 tbsp.

Toasted sesame seeds
- 1/2 cup

Microgreens or daikon radish greens, cleaned up with some of the stems removed
- 2 tbsp.

Tobiko (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Rinse the rice thoroughly until the water runs clear and drain. Add the appropriate amount of water and cook in a rice cooker.
2. Whisk the granulated sugar into the 2/3 cup of rice vinegar. When the rice is cooked, turn it out into a clean bowl, and fold in the rice vinegar and sugar mixture.
3. Line a sheet pan or baking dish with parchment paper and spread the rice out, flattening it with another piece of parchment paper

- on top and a heavy object. We want to get a nice compact layer of rice here, so we can cut out squares or circles to fry later. Set rice in the refrigerator to chill for a few hours.
- Make the spicy tuna mixture:
4. Make sure your tuna is super finely minced/ground, so we can get the right creamy texture at the end. If you are using ahi tuna steaks, you can put the tuna in the freezer for 30 minutes, so it will slice easier with a sharp knife.
5. Place the tuna and green onions in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, combine sriracha, mayonnaise, honey, soy sauce, 1/2 tsp of salt, and the reserved rice vinegar. Gradually, fold in the mayonnaise mixture until you get a super creamy texture. You may use all of the mayonnaise mixture, or you may not, just use your instincts.
6. Once mixed, cover the bowl in plastic wrap and place in the fridge while your rice continues to chill.
7. Once the rice has thoroughly chilled and has set to form a solid brick, prepare your remaining toppings.
8. In a bowl, mash the avocado until it is slightly creamy with some chunks still remaining. Season to taste with salt and add a small amount lime juice to prevent browning.
9. Heat the oil in a Dutch oven or saucepan with high sides. When the oil reaches 375°F-400°F fry the wonton strips in batches, making sure they don’t stick together. They will only take a few seconds, so remove them as soon as they start to turn brown. Drain onto paper towels and season with kosher salt while they are still hot.If your oil has a large amount of wonton crumbs in it, use a skimmer to remove them. We will continue to use this hot oil to fry the rice cakes.
10. Take the rice out of the fridge. Lightly grease a biscuit cutter and cut the rice into circles. You should be able to get 6 circles of rice.
11. Reheat the oil to 375°F. Lightly dredge the rice circles in cornstarch and fry for about 5 minutes until crispy. Since we are not using flour, they will not develop a dark brown color. Drain onto to a rack or paper towels.
12. Take the tuna out of the fridge, add a little bit of lime juice, and taste for seasonings.
13. Assemble the towers by taking a fried rice circle, spreading with avocado, topping with sliced cucumbers, then the tuna, sprinkling with sesame seeds, topping with the microgreens, fried wontons, and tobiko. Garnish with additional sriracha and mayonnaise as desired.

Erik Jimenez splits his time between the statehouse and the stove—he’s Nevada’s Chief Policy Deputy by day and an inventive chef by night. He brings flavor to everything he does—from state finance to five-star culinary delights.

Allison’s Book Report

“Fahrenheit-182” by Mark Hoppus and Dan Ozzi

Once upon a time, back in the late 1990s I was a 16-year-old newly licensed driver. My bright blue Chevy Cavalier was a symbol of freedom and fun, and driving around Fallon listening to music became my favorite pastime. Blink-182’s “Dude Ranch” album became the soundtrack of my teenage life—and as I grew older, so did all of the subsequent Blink-182 albums. I feel a little bit like Mark, Tom, Travis and I all grew up together—and if you feel the same, you’re going to love this week’s pick.

“Fahrenheit-182” offers a refreshingly candid and humorous look into the life of Mark Hoppus, the iconic bassist and vocalist of the pop-punk powerhouse Blink-182. The memoir takes readers on a journey through Hoppus’s formative years as a latchkey kid in the 1980s, deeply immersed in the worlds of punk rock, skateboarding and MTV. He recounts navigating the complexities of his parents’ divorce and constant moves around the country, each relocation serving as an opportunity to experiment with different identities—from “dork” to “goth” to “skate punk”—in a quest to find his place.

Hoppus details the serendipitous meeting with Tom DeLonge—a connection that would ultimately lead to the formation of Blink-182. He provides an inside look at the band’s beginnings and the unexpected ascent to global stardom during the TRL era. He reflects on sold-out stadiums, chart-topping hits and the anthems that defined a generation.

Hoppus bravely delves into his lifelong battle with anxiety, offering a raw and honest portrayal of its impact on his personal and professional life, adding a layer of depth to the often-perceived carefree image of a pop-punk star. “Fahrenheit-182” also chronicles Hoppus’s public and ultimately triumphant fight against cancer. He shares the emotional and physical toll of the diagnosis and treatment, offering an inspiring testament to resilience and the power of support from family, friends and fans.

Threaded throughout the memoir is

Hoppus’s distinctive voice—witty, self-deprecating and genuinely engaging. He doesn’t shy away from the ups and downs of band dynamics, offering insights into the complexities of long-term creative partnerships. Ultimately, “Fahrenheit-182” is more than just a memoir for Blink-182 enthusiasts. It’s a funny, smart and deeply human story about navigating life’s challenges, embracing one’s true self and finding connection through music. It resonates with anyone who has ever felt like an outsider, struggled with their inner demons or dared to keep going even when the odds seemed stacked against them.

This week, I hope you grab a copy of this honest and juicy memoir and take a trip down pop-punk memory lane. Don’t forget to visit me on Instagram @allison.the.reader for more recommendations and bookish fun!

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.

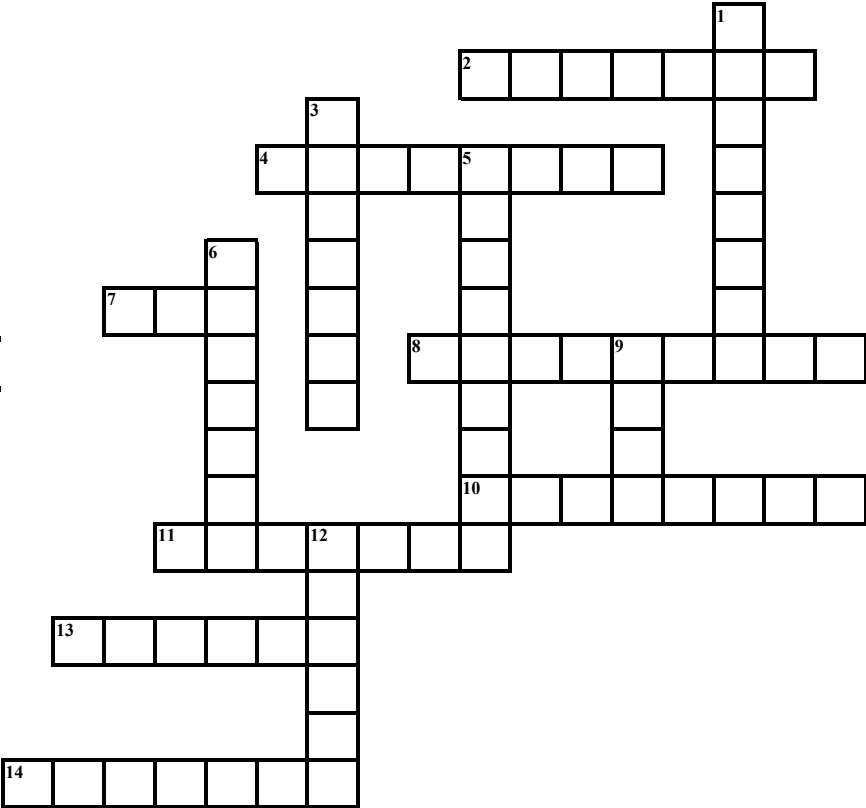
Crossword

By Peanut



Happy  
Mother's  
Day

B  
I  
R  
T  
H  
D  
A  
Y  
S



Across

2. Starred in White Christmas
4. Rules UK from 1837-1901
7. Creator and star of 30Rock
8. Portrayed Elizabeth I twice
10. Clinton’s SOS
11. Portrayed Holly Golightly
13. Urban Cowboy’s Sissy
14. Michael and Jermaine’s sister

Down

1. Sings Love will Keep us Together
3. Portrayed Laura Ingalls Wilder
5. Jane Parker to Tarzan
6. Sang Stand by Your Man
9. Sings Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves
12. Portrayed Murphy Brown

[ Crossword answers found on page 13 ]



LEGAL NOTICES

CITY OF FALLON  
RATTLESNAKE HILL WATER TANK DEMO AND SITE  
PREPARATION PROJECT PWP NO. CH-2025-077  
FALLON, NV  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed Bids for the construction of the Rattlesnake Hill Water Tank Demo and Site Preparation Project will be received by the City of Fallon, the Owner, at their administrative office located at 55 W. Williams Ave., Fallon, Nevada 89406 until 3:00 p.m., local time, on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud.

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

The Work generally includes, but is not limited to: demolition, partial backfill, and capping of two partially buried concrete water storage tanks including removal of approximately 2,200 cy of concrete, rebar, wire mesh, roof decks, column walls, foundation, piping and appurtenances; demolition of approximately 1068± LF of chain-link fencing; demolition and removal of approximately 43 LF of 14-inch diameter transite water line; Abandonment in place of 14-inch diameter transite waterline; construction of temporary and permanent access roads; installation of 112± LF of chain-link fencing; the construction of a finished tank pad for a future tank steel storage tank; and miscellaneous site improvements.

The Work will be substantially completed on or before AUGUST 30, 2025, and completed and ready for final payment in accordance with the Contract Documents on or before SEPTEMBER 10, 2025.

The engineer’s opinion of probable cost estimate for the Project is approximately \$1.5 Million dollars.

Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a lump sum and unit price basis as indicated in the Bid Form.

Electronic copies of the Bidding Documents may be examined and obtained online by visiting the digital plan room located at [www.lumosinc.com/planroom](http://www.lumosinc.com/planroom). Electronic copies of the Bidding Documents will become available at 10:00 AM local time on Friday, April 18, 2025.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 3:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at the project location located at 2012 Airport Road, Fallon, Nevada 89406. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is MANDATORY.

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

This proposal to the Owner is irrevocable for a period of 90 days after the date of the bid opening. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Owner reserves the right to waive informalities, non-conformities, and irregularities. Omission or improper completion of any or all the required bidding documents may be considered as a reason for rejection of the Bid.

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

The Contractor will be required to comply with the labor and wage requirements in accordance with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon, Nevada Prevailing Wages (NRS 338) and Related Acts.

The Owner is an equal opportunity provider and employer and the Environmental Protection Act (EPA)’s Disadvantages Business Enterprise (DBE) Program applies to the Project. The Owner has a DBE Goal of 4.03% in compliance with 49 CRF Part 26 Program. The goal is not a contractual obligation, however DBE participation is encouraged. The Contractor is directed to provide their Intent for DBE Participation prior to the award of the contract.

Bidders are to base their bids on the Project funding being provided in whole or in part by the EPA. Build America, Buy America (BABA) and American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements apply to the Project.

Owner: City of Fallon  
By: Brian Byrd  
Title: Public Works Director  
Date: April 18, 2025

Published in  
The Fallon Post  
April 25, May 2, 9 and 16, 2025  
Ad #6314

PostCards

Mr. Flood’s Dream

By Michon Mackedon

If you have ever visited the Fallon Theater, you have stepped inside Mr. Flood’s dream.

So...just who was Mr. Flood and what was his dream? John Walton Flood was born in 1873 in Mississippi, grew up in the Midwest, and, as a young man, honed his natural gymnastic abilities to become a performer in circuses and vaudeville venues. Known as “jumping jack,” he had gained a national reputation for his tumbling act before he was commissioned to perform in Fallon at Clark’s pavilion (East Center Street) in 1910. He must have glimpsed hope and promise in our small town, because he stayed here. He purchased the “old” Rex theater on Carson Street (behind the current city hall), but his dream was to build his own theater. And, he did.

The “new” Rex Theater—today’s Fallon Theater—was designed for Mr. Flood by Reno architect Frederick Delongchamps and completed in 1920. It was certainly the talk of the town, with 1,150 seats (three times the number of seats in the contemporary Oats Park Barkley Theater), steam heat and a modern electrical system. The Fallon Eagle called it the best theatrical building in the state, gushing that “The new building runs up to a great height and makes the Flood block a very substantial city improvement.” The excitement in the town was palpable, and the opening of the Rex Theater, on December 28, 1920, was a cultural phenomenon. The entire population of Fallon was at the time less than 2,000, yet every one of the 1,150 seats sold out for the opening of the theater which featured a live performance of “Humoresque,” a play. Nevada’s Lieutenant Governor, Maurice Sullivan, was in attendance, as was the U.S. Senator from Nevada, Tasker L. Oddie. The Southern Pacific railroad ran a special train to Fallon for the event. There were speeches, refreshments, music, and more speeches.

What would our locals have watched 100 years ago on the silver screen in Mr. Flood’s Rex Theater? The 1920’s marked the Golden Age of Silent Films, so the screen was, of course, silent. But the theater would not have been silent. We have seen that Mr. Flood’s dream was a grand one, and he fittingly purchased a Steinway piano and a \$20,000 pipe organ in order that hired musicians could play the expected musical accompaniment to the silent films. The musicians often worked from scores sent to the theaters along with the film, but they also provided their own flourishes, evoking the galloping of the horse, the moment of first love, or the distress of the heroine as she is accosted by the lecherous villain. And, although the common perception is that silent films were black and white, many were not, as directors were experimenting with hand tinting and a primitive form of technicolor.

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

WATER LEVELS		
Measurements Taken May 6, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.		
Lahontan Reservoir	201,700 af	
Carson River Below Lahontan	465 cfs	
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	77.8 cfs	
Truckee Canal at Hazen	29.5 cfs	
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	844 cfs	

May 6, 2024	May 6, 2023	May 6, 2022
289,026 acre feet	87,849 acre feet	149,614 acre feet

Cfs - Cubic Feet per Second | Af - Acre Feet | [TCID.org](http://TCID.org) & [Water.Data.USGS.gov](http://Water.Data.USGS.gov)

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 12

ALBRIGHT  
BERGEN  
BLANCHETT  
CHER

CLOONEY  
FEY  
GILBERT  
HEPBURN

JACKSON  
OSULLIVAN  
TENNILLE  
VICTORIA

WINGER  
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LEGAL NOTICES

TAXPAYER’S NOTICE

This notice is not a bill for taxes due. The notice is intended to provide information concerning the adoption of budgets and tax rates for the various taxing entities within Churchill County for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2025. Public hearings will be held to receive opinions from members of the public on the proposed tentative budgets and tax rates before any action is taken by the entities. Copies of the budgets are on file with the various entities for public inspection.

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

DATE / TIME / CONTACT	PLACE	PROPOSED RATE
May 21, 2025 @ 1:15 PM Churchill County Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer	Churchill County Admin. Bldg. Commission Chambers 155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, Nevada 89406 775-423-6028	1.2829
May 21, 2025 @ 6:30 PM Carson Water Subconservancy District Ed James, District Manager	Lyon County Utilities Conference Room 34 Lakes Blvd., Suite 103, Dayton, Nevada 89403 775-887-7450	0.0300
May 22, 2025 @ 5:30 PM Churchill County Mosquito, Vector, & Noxious Weed Abatement District JD MacKay, District Manager	Churchill County Admin. Bldg. 155 No. Taylor St. #102, Fallon, Nevada 89406 775-423-2828	0.0800
May 27, 2025 @ 9:00 AM City of Fallon Michael O’Neill, City Clerk	Fallon City Hall Council Chambers 55 W. Williams Ave., Fallon, Nevada 89406 775-423-5104	0.7971
May 28, 2025 @ 5:30 PM Churchill County School District Derild Parsons, Superintendent	District Offices 690 So. Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada 89406 775-423-5184	1.3000
Total Combined Tax Rate	City of Fallon	3.6600
Total Combined Tax Rate	Churchill County	2.8629

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

For more tax rate and assessment information see website: [www.churchillcountynv.gov](http://www.churchillcountynv.gov)  
County Assessor Denise Felton 775-423-6584 County Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery 775-423-6028  
155 No. Taylor St., Suite 200 155 No. Taylor St., Suite 110

Published in *The Fallon Post* May 9, 2025 Ad #6318

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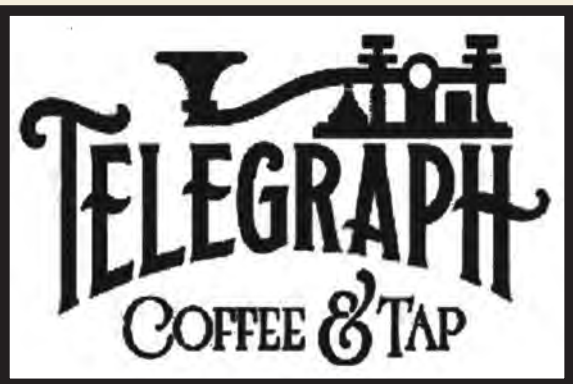
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