

# THE FALLON POST



TheFallonPost.org | Vol. 7 No. 9 \$2.00 | The Week of January 2, 2026

## Local Program Aims to Save Lives of Vulnerable Individuals

By Rachel Dahl

*A dramatic Christmas rescue in Florida, where deputies saved a six-year-old autistic boy who had fallen into a pond, demonstrates why local law enforcement has taken action aimed at protecting vulnerable residents here at home.*

In that incident, a sheriff’s helicopter spotted the child chest-deep in the water using thermal imaging technology. Deputies rushed in, waded into the pond, and carried the boy safely to shore. The child was not injured, but the outcome could have been far different without quick identification and coordinated response.

Stories like that are exactly why the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office has launched a new Vulnerable Person Registration Program, designed to give first responders critical information when seconds matter most.

The program allows caregivers to voluntarily provide details about loved ones who may be at higher risk due to autism, dementia, cognitive disabilities, medical conditions, or other circumstances that could make them vulnerable if they wander, become disoriented, or need emergency assistance. Information collected can include physical descriptions, communication challenges, medical needs, and calming strategies, details that can significantly improve response during a search or emergency call.

The registration form is now available through the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office mobile app, which can be downloaded on both Google Play



and the Apple App Store. Any deputy will be happy to assist with the registration.

Deputy Mike Hardin, who helped develop and promote the program, said the Florida rescue underscores the importance of preparation.

“It’s stories like this that make me so proud to work for an agency that has taken steps to help special needs children and adults,” Hardin said. “When first responders already have information about a vulnerable person, it can make the difference between a close call and a tragedy.”

Hardin is encouraging caregivers and family members to take advantage of the program before an emergency occurs. While participation is voluntary, deputies say having information on file can greatly assist law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel during searches or welfare checks.

“If you have a loved one who is vulnerable and you are their caregiver, please contact me or any of our deputies,” Hardin said. “We want to help you complete the Vulnerable Person Registration Form so responders have information that could be vital to helping them.”

Residents seeking more information about the program or other sheriff’s office services can reach Hardin directly by email at mhardin@so.churchill.nv.us, through the sheriff’s office Facebook page, or by contacting the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office. He also said including a photo of the vulnerable person to assist with identification. The department will follow up once a year with caretakers to keep information up to date.

As the Florida rescue demonstrated, quick action saves lives, but preparation can make quick action possible.

## Cattlemen’s Update

### Nevada Ranchers With Latest Market and Production Insights

Staff Report

Nevada ranchers will have multiple opportunities this January to hear directly from university specialists, veterinarians, and agricultural economists during the annual Cattlemen’s Update hosted by the University of Nevada, Reno.

The Cattlemen’s Update is designed to provide practical, research-based information to help producers navigate ongoing challenges, including market volatility, rising production costs, drought, wildfire risk, and emerging animal health concerns. The event begins with a virtual session Jan. 12, followed by in-person meetings at four locations across Nevada Jan. 13–16.

The program is led by the University’s College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, along with its Extension and Experiment Station units. It is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nevada Gold Mines, and other local sponsors. Presenters include university researchers, local veterinarians, and representatives from the Nevada Department of Agriculture and USDA.

The free virtual session will be held Jan. 12



University of Nevada, Reno’s College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources will be hosting the annual Cattlemen’s Update for livestock producers, Jan. 12-16. Photo by Robert Moore.

from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will cover topics not included in the in-person meetings. Those topics include wildfire preparedness, emerging animal

diseases, updates to Nevada’s Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, and changes tied to the USDA’s recent reorganization. Registration and

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2026

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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CC Communications

The Fallon Post

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Address correction required





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Can be placed online, and by mail at 169 E. Center Street, or by phone: 775-423-4545. Single copies may be purchased for \$2 at local merchants listed on page 18.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log  
The Predator Update

By Rachel Dahl

It is the annual predator edition of the Captain’s Log, and I thought the coyotes had been bad this year, but the owls are back.

Directly above the front porch, outside my writing window, hooting away, talking to what sounds like a whole herd of Great Horned Owls scattered through the neighborhood, echoing back to each other in a cacophony of what only can be equated to what you would hear from a chorus of Christmas bells.

They are quite a marvel.

The offending bird was so loud last night that I started to think there were neighborhood kids outside my door pranking me. Alas, as I stood outside waiting for my eyes to adjust, the realization came that she was perched in the cottonwood tree above the peacocks. Which explained why, at nine o’clock at night, they had begun honking.

The peahens, to be more accurate, will not go in at night with the rest of the birds. They insist on roosting in the cottonwood tree above the bunny/chicken shed, waiting until everyone has gone in for the night before alighting in entertaining, incremental hops on the chicken tractor for a bit, then the shed for a bit, and then into their tree for a long winter’s nap.

A couple of nights ago, they were nowhere to be found, and I feared the worst. Until I noticed blobs in the trees above the goats. For some reason, they had switched trees, and I could not figure out why. And now, for the past two nights, they have been in the trees above the house.

I am afraid the owls are why.

A while ago, on some Black Friday Amazon sale that Denice knew about, she recommended getting yard cameras to catch whatever offender had done in my Porcelain du’ Eccles. Alas, a set of high-tech game cameras remains in the box next to the front door because technology intimidates me. I have not had a free Saturday to read instructions and assemble tools, and we are all relying solely on Clio, the Great Dane-turned-livestock-guard-dog, to keep the bad guys away.

So far, she is doing a remarkable job for someone meant to chase wild boar through German forests.

So, while I document raccoon tracks, watch quail eat seeds out of the chicken scratch, and plan where to place game cameras, I will still be right here...

...Keeping you Posted

— Rach

[ Cattlemen’s Update continued from page 1 ]

the full agendas are available online.

In-person sessions will take place in Fallon, Ely, Elko, and Winnemucca. Topics will include grazing management for soil and ecosystem health, biosecurity planning, genetic tools to improve herd performance, the potential reemergence of the New World screwworm, and an outlook on Nevada’s cattle market, including heifer retention decisions. A requested \$20 donation per ranch, per location, will support the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. Lunch or dinner will be provided at each in-person session, and on-site registration will be available.

Paul Meiman, Extension rangeland and wildlife state specialist and associate professor in the University’s Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Sciences, will serve as master of ceremonies. Other speakers include Luis Schütz, Extension livestock specialist Tracy Shane, State Veterinarian Peter Rolfe, and Washington State University livestock economist Shannon Neibergs. Local veterinarians will also address cattle health issues specific to Nevada.

This year’s keynote speaker is Tipton D. Hudson, a professor with Washington State University Extension and creator of the Stocksmart grazing app. Hudson is also host of the “Art of the Range” podcast, which focuses on rangeland management. His presentation is titled, “Place-based intelligence trumps artificial intelligence in ecologically driven grazing enterprises.”

New for 2026, two special in-person sessions will be offered prior to the main Cattlemen’s Update meetings. One session will focus on wild-fire preparedness, response, and post-fire recovery, including information on the Rancher Liaison Program. The session is organized by Extension’s Living With Fire Program in coordination with state fire personnel and agency partners and will include a 30-minute networking opportunity.

A second new offering is a free, 60-minute Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training for youth ages 8–21. The program emphasizes animal stewardship, food safety, and character development through hands-on instruction in livestock care.

**THE IN-PERSON SCHEDULE INCLUDES:**

Jan. 13, Fallon Convention Center, beginning at 3:30 p.m. with special sessions, followed by the main program at 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 14, Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely, following the same schedule.

Jan. 15, Great Basin College Theater in Elko, with special sessions at 10:30 a.m. and the main program at 12:30 p.m.

Jan. 16, Extension Humboldt County Office in Winnemucca, with special sessions at 9 a.m. and the main program at 11 a.m.

For more information, ranchers may contact Kaley Chapin at kaleys@unr.edu or 702-467-2668, or Staci Emm at emms@unr.edu or 775-312-0424. Additional contacts are listed for wildfire and youth program sessions.

**Correction:**

Last week, we credited the photo in “Santa Flies Over Local Schools” to reporter Sydney Trainor. Jesse Watkins Photography took the picture. Please accept our sincere apologies.



# In Remembrance

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



FEATURES

# Rostin Snow Takes Third in the World at 2025 Jr. NFR Bull Riding

By Leanna Lehman

Current and former home to a number of Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association National Finals Rodeo (NFR) qualifiers and world champions, our small Northern Nevada town has seen more than its fair share of professional and retired rodeo athletes.

It should be no surprise that Fallon is bringing up a new generation of cowboys and cowgirls. These incredibly talented cowboy kids have been taking lessons from those who came before but are also carving their own path forward in rodeo, despite the pressures of the digital age and a world less familiar with the traditions of the West.

One such young cowboy is Rostin Snow. At 13, Rostin has already competed in the YETI Junior National Finals Rodeo bull riding in Las Vegas three times, twice ranking in the top three, second place in 2024, and third place in Dec. 2025. Not bad for an up-and-coming youth bull rider from rural Nevada.

Son of Justin and Adrienne Snow, and grandson of Gary and Billie Jo Snow, Rostin does not just rodeo. He has helped on the Snow family cattle and sheep ranch since he was old enough to pull on his own boots. Even though he will continue helping on the ranch, he has set his long-range sights on the grown-up NFR, which is the world finals event for the top rodeo athletes in their events.

In Rostin’s current age bracket, competitors ride mini bulls, which are bred to be much smaller and less aggressive than bulls used in high school, college, amateur, and pro circuits. In the 2025 Nevada High School Rodeo Finals, Junior Division, Rostin ended the 2024-2025 season with second place in the bull riding. At the 2025 Great Basin Bull Sale ranch rough stock junior performance, Rostin gave the audience a winning ride, taking first place. At the last three New Year’s Eve Top Gun Invitational Xtreme Bull Riding, Rostin was part of the junior bull riding performance, hitting the arena alongside top-notch professional bull riders like T.J. Gray, Scott Wells, Wade Tuni, and Colten Fritzlan.



Junior World Finals Qualifier, Rostin Snow, courtesy of Josh Cado, 52 Photography Inc.

Dad, Justin Snow, says Rostin has been riding since he was six, beginning with mutton busting, the gateway event for would-be rough stock riders where little cowboys and cowgirls try their hand at riding a wild and woolly sheep. Rostin then went on to ride calves, steers, and now mini bulls.

On Saturday, Dec. 27, Snows held a regular practice session for Rostin and a few of his bull riding buddies, Beau Drake, a sophomore, Zachary Greenberg, 14, and Keston Moore, the youngest of the posse at age 10.

Justin, who believes practice is paramount, took a trip to purchase a few practice bulls. However, he ended up with 20 head, five of which Rostin now owns, with money earned from buying and selling his own cows. “If we don’t start doing this... we aren’t going to have any bull riders left,” said Justin. “Kids have nowhere to



Rostin makes an eight-second ride during Saturday practice, while Justin Snow bullfights in the arena. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

practice,” speaking of Nevada youth rough stock riders. Weather permitting, they practice 2-3 times a week.

Fortunately for Fallon, at least three practice pens are available so that young bull riders are not trying to compete without instruction and safety knowledge.

Danger is part of the sport, as every rough stock rider knows. Being unprepared or unpracticed can have devastating consequences. With dads and friends in the small arena to help bullfight, help is only a few steps away if a rider is in trouble. The more these young athletes practice, the safer and more confident they are when competing.

For the third year, Rostin attended the bull riding clinic hosted by Chad Denton of Busted Up Productions, producer of the Roughy New Year’s Top Gun Invitational Bull Riding at Rafter 3C. Justin and Rostin brought their mini bulls for practice on Monday, Dec. 29, after the fundamentals class on Sunday. Rostin, along with several others, learned valuable skills and tactics under the direction of professional bull riders and coaches, taking them beyond what they can learn in the practice pen at the ranch.

According to Justin, the 2024 Top Gun clinic was a huge success. “It was good. We have a ton of kids. We bucked them for like five and a half

hours one day.” In addition to this year’s clinic, Rostin and Beau had an opportunity to showcase their skills during Top Gun Bull Riding, a crowd-pleasing junior performance held before the final go-round.

Rostin is also trying his hand at bareback and saddle bronc riding. As well as ranking second place in bulls for the Nevada Junior High School Rodeo Association 2024-2025 season, he ranked second in the bareback riding. For now, however, his favorite is bulls.

When asked why he loved bull riding, he said, “I just like going to all the rodeos and having fun with all my friends. I just have fun getting to get on them. It’s fun covering them. That’s the best part.”

Fun aside, Rostin still takes his sport seriously. After all, going to the YETI Jr. NFR is no small feat, not to mention earning spots in the top three world standings two years running.

“The Jr. NFR bulls were a little harder this year,” said Rostin. “This year I got my first bull rode. I bucked off my second and rode my third, and still ended up third.” While he plans to go be a professional bull rider, he said he does intend to ride in the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) association. “I just want to go to the NFR.” And, if the last few years are any indication, Rostin is well on his way to making that a reality.

Qualifying for the Jr. NFR means traveling – usually over seven hours, explained Justin. Nevada is part of the Rocky Mountain Region, which also includes Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and Montana. However, some events are direct qualifiers, which means that placing at the event means a slot at the NFR. According to Justin, Rostin may switch divisions next year to Arizona and the southwestern states and gain more opportunities to compete.

As any bull or rough stock rider can tell you, there have been a few wrecks along the way. “This year I broke my collarbone at the rodeo at Winnemucca,” Rostin said, “And my toe two years ago at the Jr. NFR.” Despite these, Rostin feels like he is improving. “I’ve been able to ride better bulls and cover them more,” he says.

When he is not riding bulls or helping at the ranch, Rostin is learning to team rope and playing basketball at Oasis Academy.

Up next for Rostin, Beau, and Zach is a training clinic in Utah. Not only will they get more bull riding practice and instruction, but they will also earn a slot at the PBR Event in Reno, on Feb. 20-21, when these junior bull riders will hit the arena next to another roster of top professional bull riders in the world’s largest bull riding organization.



Rostin after a quick dismount in the practice pen. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

A row of five bottles of Hempz Body Moisturizer. From left to right: Vanilla Sugar Cookie (yellow), Sweet Berry Woods (green), Spiced Pumpkin Pie (orange), Caramel Candy Apple (red), and Pink Peppermint Meringue (pink). Each bottle has a different color and design.

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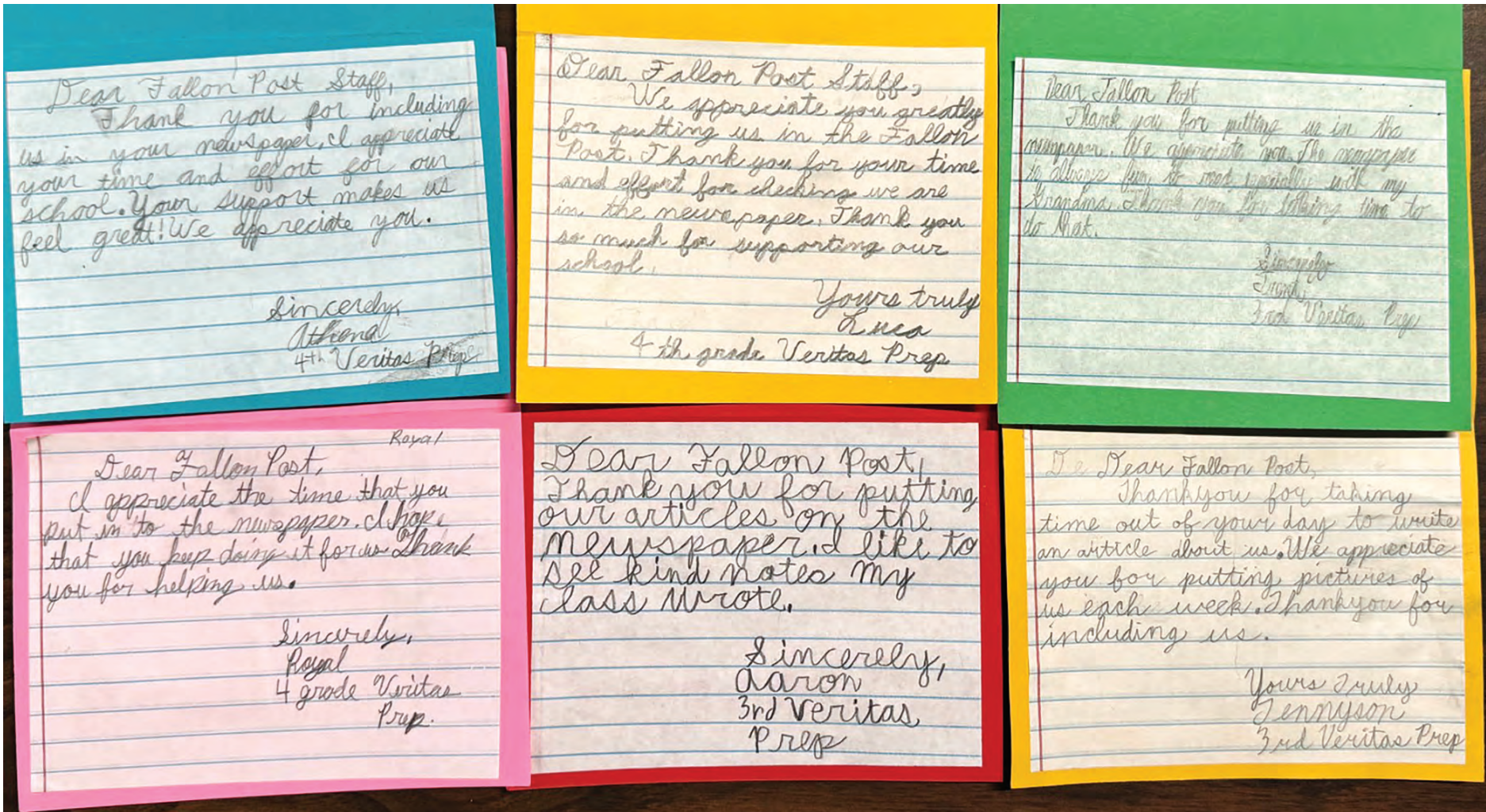


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Veritas Students  
Thank *The Post*  
for Coverage

Gretchen Felte's third- and fourth-grade students presented reporter Sydney Trainor with thank-you notes when she visited the school to cover a story. Students express gratitude to *The Post* for covering their activities each week.

Editorial note: We're grateful for you too!



MAJOR SAVINGS ALERT

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We Speak Navajo (Diné). Diné bizaad nihit bééhózin.

Top Gun Bull Riding  
Camp Kicks Off  
New Year's Event

Photo by Rachel Dahl.

Staff Report

Young riders kicked off the week at the Youth Roughy Top Gun Bull Riding Camp on Sunday, Dec. 28, diving headfirst into fundamentals, balance, chute work, safety, and technique — laying the groundwork for confident, capable riding.

By Monday, campers advanced to live animals, putting their training into action. The week built toward a packed finish that included an autograph signing with TJ Gray and Colten Fritzlan at Boot Barn, the Cowboy Calcutta and live auction at The Grid Restaurant, and the Roughy Top Gun Bull Riding grand finale on Dec. 31 at Rafters 3C Arena. From groundwork to grand finale, the heart, grit, and focus these kids brought to the arena showed just how strong the future of the sport truly is.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fallon Chamber of Commerce Opens Nominations for 2025 Business Awards, Invites Sponsors

Staff Report

The Fallon Chamber of Commerce is calling on the community to help recognize the businesses and leaders who helped shape Fallon’s business climate in 2025, as nominations open for its annual awards banquet on February 6, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Chamber members and the public are invited to nominate standout businesses and community leaders across multiple award categories. Nomination links are available on the FallonChamber.com website and on the Chamber’s Facebook page. Nominees must be current Fallon Chamber members in good standing to be eligible for an award, and last year’s category winners are not eligible for the same category

this year. The nomination process limits voting to one ballot per email address, with a maximum of three votes per IP address.

Once nominations close, the Chamber will announce the top three finalists in each category, followed by a second round of voting to determine this year’s winners. Updates on finalists and details about the awards ceremony will be announced in the coming weeks.

In addition to nominations, the Chamber is encouraging local businesses to consider sponsoring the awards event. Sponsorships offer companies visibility among Fallon’s business and civic leaders while directly supporting one of the Chamber’s premier annual gatherings. Lucy Carnahan, executive director, describes the banquet as both a celebration of local success and a net-

working opportunity that brings together entrepreneurs, employers, and community advocates.

“We want this to truly reflect the businesses and people who made a difference this year,” Carnahan said in the Chamber’s latest newsletter, encouraging participation from across the community.

Residents unsure whether a business is a current Chamber member can check the Chamber’s online member directory before submitting nominations. The nomination form is available now, and Chamber officials say early participation helps ensure a competitive and representative ballot.

More information about sponsorship opportunities and the upcoming awards ceremony will be released as planning continues.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Need a quiet, respectful roommate? Meet Max.

Max is a refined gentleman with the manners of a Victorian socialite. He has mastered “sit,” “stay,” and “wait,” and he walks on a leash as if strutting down a Parisian runway. He is FIERCELY house-trained and crate-trained and thoroughly convinced he is a tiny human trapped in a furry body. He does not want a furry brother, a feline roommate, or a backyard wrestling partner. He wants 100% of your attention, 100% of the couch, and 100% of the snacks. Max is looking for a home where he can be the sole heir to your fortune. If you are a human who prefers the company of a loyal, well-behaved dog over the chaos of a multi-pet household, Max is ready to be your ride-or-die.



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

Max is Looking for a Home

Max is truly the sweetest, most lovable 2-year-old grey tabby. He adores pets, loves to cuddle, and is happiest sitting on your lap, soaking up attention. Max is ready to start the New Year surrounded by love in his forever home—could it be yours?



Questions? Call 775-217-4745

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

COMMUNITY MEETINGS  
January 2 – 5, 2026

**Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife**  
155 N Taylor Street  
Next Meeting: Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

**Central NV Health District**  
155 N Taylor Street  
Next meeting: Jan. 15 at 1:30 p.m.

**Board of County Commissioners**  
Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month  
155 N. Taylor St  
Next Meeting: Jan. 6 at 8:15 a.m.

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

**CC Communications**  
Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.  
155 N. Taylor Street  
Next Meeting: Jan. 6 at 11 a.m.

**Churchill County School Board**  
690 S. Maine Street  
Next Meeting: Jan. 13 at 5:30 p.m.



WATER LEVELS  
Measurements Taken Dec. 27, 2025, at 9 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	82,500 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	2.26 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	332 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	320 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	1,060 cfs

*No data posted for Dec 2024		
Nov. 14, 2024	Nov. 14, 2023	Nov. 14, 2022
117,166 acre feet	208,286 acre feet	22,603 acre feet

Cfs - Cubic Feet per Second | Af - Acre Feet | TCID.org & Water Data.USGS.gov

SENIOR CENTER MENU

WILLIAM N. PENNINGTON LIFE CENTER 952 S. MAINE STREET, FALLON, NV | 775-423-7096  
Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lunch is \$6 for those under 60 and a suggested donation of \$3 for those 60 and older.

**Monday, Jan. 5**  
Chuckwagon Chili  
Honey Cornbread  
Colorful Salad  
Butterscotch Pudding

**Tuesday, Jan. 6**  
Herbed Baked Chicken  
Mashed Potatoes  
Veggie Medley  
WW Roll  
Spiced Apple Sauce

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**  
BBQ Pork Riblet  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Roasted Corn  
WW Roll  
Peach Cobbler

**Thursday, Jan. 8**  
Beef Enchilada  
Spanish Rice  
Refried Beans  
Salad  
Fruit Cocktail

**Friday, Jan. 9**  
Cajun Fish  
w/Pineapple Salsa  
Red Beans & Rice  
Cali Veggie Blend  
Garlic Bread  
Rice Pudding

FALLON DAILY BREAD

WOLF CENTER | 457 ESMERALDA AVE., FALLON NV | 775-423-4714  
Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 5**  
Wings

**Thursday, Jan. 8**  
BBQ Sandwiches  
Beans & Cole Slaw

**Monday, Jan. 12**  
Pot Pie  
Bread & Dessert

**Thursday, Jan. 15**  
Pizza  
Salad & Dessert

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



COMMUNITY

# BLM Updates County Commission

## FRTC, Grazing, Sage Grouse, Land Exchanges, and More

By Leanna Lehman

Bureau of Land Management Assistant Field Manager for the Stillwater Field Office Jim Mazza updated Churchill County Commissioners on several fronts on Dec. 17, including the planned Sand Canyon Road realignment, part of the Navy’s Federal Range Training Complex (FRTC) expansion southwest of Fallon. Technical baseline studies are currently being collected for future environmental review. Mazza noted the expansion extends onto permitted BLM grazing lands currently in use.

On grazing, Mazza said the bureau’s current major project is a prescribed grazing project at Eastgate Ranch. The project includes a three-year pilot plan to reduce the annual cheatgrass fire load. “It’s working really well right now,” he said. “It requires some pretty regular work on our field office folks to make sure that it’s being administered well. And the permittee is being very helpful, and there’s a lot of good projects coming out of that as well.”

Regarding the Churchill County Checkerboard Resolution Implementation Strategy Plan, which was shared with commissioners on Dec. 3, a memorandum of understanding is being drafted for Section 2908 related to Gabs Highway, State Route 361. “Right now, BLM is reviewing the baseline reports and the draft environmental assessment associated with that road realignment for the Great Basin Pipeline Relocation, which goes around the B-17 range,” Mazza said, noting a contractor is finishing baseline surveys.

Mazza also addressed Section 2907, which covers interagency agreements for land exchange responsibilities. An agreement between BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation has been sent to BLM’s headquarters office for approval. In October, BLM outlined Section 2907 land exchanges and public purpose conveyances in Churchill County, including a fire station, wastewater expansion, gravel pits and rock quarries, recreation, and the broader checkerboard resolution effort to consolidate mixed ownership patterns.

Other renewal priorities include vacant grazing allotments in Mineral County, for which the Bureau of Land Management sent an early engagement letter last month, as well as National Defense Authorization Act allotments.

Mazza said he was informed Nov. 23 that the bureau expects to issue a record of decision for the sage-grouse amendment. “There is quite a bit of sage-grouse habitat in Churchill County, and so after that record of decision is out there, there will be some periods to pay attention to if there’s any feedback that the county wanted to give on that plan.”

Planning is underway for spring wild horse and burro census flights. The bureau was asked to identify either one complex or one herd based on expected fiscal year 2026 funding and selected the Desatoya herd, which has the least amount or oldest available data. “It does have sage-grouse habitat and a wilderness area, which makes it a high priority for the district,” Mazza said.

Two mineral projects are underway in Churchill County. The Bell Mountain project is currently in final design and preconstruction. “That one sat for a very long time because the record of decision was issued in 2020, but just recently there has been movement on it,” Mazza said, adding the bureau is waiting for the next phase to proceed. The second project, the Cosmo exploration project in Dixie Valley, is a lithium project. The initial plan was sent back for correction due to deficiencies. “Right now, they’re operating under five acres, which is the notice level they can work under according to minerals regulations,” he said. If approved, the plan will require environmental review.

Mazza also reported on geotechnical boring activity, with 29 additional sites approved for the Greenlink North Project. Greenlink North is a high voltage transmission line project proposed by NV Energy to move renewable energy from northern and eastern Nevada to population centers. The project crosses multiple counties, including Churchill County, and involves extensive federal permitting and environmental review because it crosses public land.

Regarding other projects, Mazza said there are no updates on the right of way application for War Canyon, Star Canyon, and Cherry Creek. The interdisciplinary team is waiting on additional baseline data before moving forward.

# Car Show Fuels Christmas Giving for Local Families



Staff Report

*The 4th Annual Les Schwab/Fallon Post Car Show, held Sept. 14, brought more than polished chrome and classic engines to town; attendees and sponsors delivered holiday help to families who needed it most.*

Thanks to community support and event proceeds, organizers raised enough money to provide a Christmas dinner for nine local families, turning a late-summer car show into a meaningful act of seasonal generosity.

The annual event was made possible through a collaboration between Les Schwab Tire Centers and *The Fallon Post*, along with generous support from local businesses and organizations. Organizer Victoria Crystal extended thanks to Speedway Market, Fallon Cares, Fallon Ford Toyota, The Man Cave, Walmart, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe for use of its parking area, and Ty’s Let ‘Em Buck Rodeo Co.

Community members Katie Eden and the Fallon Les Schwab crew were also recognized for their hands-on support in making the event a success.

From left, Stuart Moyle, Sean Koeckes, Victoria Crystal, Walker Jensen, and Adam Gregory, representing just a few of the many people who helped turn a shared love of cars into a meaningful community effort. Photo courtesy of Lucy Carnahan.

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BUSINESS

Silver State Cheer & Dance Studio Builds Champions

By Rachel Dahl

In a town where youth sports often double as community glue, the team at the new Silver State Cheer & Dance Studio has carved out a reputation that goes well beyond trophies and podium finishes. Founded and led by owner and head coach Tori Ausano, Silver State Cheer & Dance Studio trains athletes from entry-level through advanced competitive teams, offering both half-year and full-year programs designed to meet families where they are. Registration for competitive cheer teams opens Jan. 1 and runs through Feb. 13, with practices beginning the week of Feb. 16. Athletes ages 5 to 18 are welcome.

Ausano is joined by a seasoned coaching team that includes Laquitta Pearson, Hailey Perez, Kirsten Ritchie, and Cara White, each bringing experience, structure, and a shared commitment to athlete development. Together, they emphasize precision, accountability, and growth — not just winning routines.

“At Silver State, champions aren’t just made on the mat,” Ausano said. “They’re built for life.” The coaching team has a proven record – bringing home the first-place award from the Pop Warner Pacific Northwest Championship.

Silver State offers competitive cheer programs structured around realistic, family-friendly pricing, with both half-year and full-year team options. Half-year teams compete from February through July, while full-year teams run from February 2026 through February 2027. Programs include multiple weekly practices, tumbling instruction, and competition opportunities, allowing athletes to progress at a pace that fits their skill level and goals.

Specialized cheer tumbling classes are also offered, supporting athletes as they master foundational skills or refine advanced technique. Discounts are available for multiple-child families and for Pop Warner-affiliated athletes, reinforcing the studio’s commitment to accessibility.

The result is a program that balances competitive ambition with long-term development, a deliberate choice in an era when youth sports can sometimes rush athletes too quickly.

At Silver State Cheer & Dance Studio, athletes are guided by a set of core values that shape both training and team culture. The program emphasizes sportsmanship, grounded in integrity and respect for teammates, coaches, opponents, and



Santa brought an important mat delivery to the new Silver State gym. Photo courtesy Silver State Cheer.

officials, while teamwork is built through clear communication and mutual support on and off the mat. Coaches focus on development, prioritizing long-term skill growth over short-term wins, and foster inclusivity by welcoming athletes of all backgrounds and abilities. A strong sense of community connects families, coaches, and athletes, while leadership is encouraged through responsibility and confidence. Above all, the studio ensures that fun remains central, creating a positive, motivating environment where athletes want to show up, work hard, and grow.

These principles shape daily practices as much as competition day performances, creating a positive, disciplined environment where athletes are challenged and supported.

For families, competitive cheer and dance often become a second home. Athletes form friendships that last beyond a season, while parents build relationships in the stands, at fundraisers, and on long competition weekends.

Silver State leans into that reality, intentionally fostering a supportive network around its athletes.

Coaches emphasize that lessons learned, resilience after a missed skill, teamwork under pressure, and accountability to the group are as valuable as any medal.

“Our aim is to create an experience that empowers kids to grow both on the mat and beyond,” Ausano said. “Every season should be meaningful, memorable, and fun.”

As the program continues to grow, Silver State Cheer & Dance Studio is also inviting local businesses to partner through sponsorships. Sponsorship support helps offset costs for equipment, uniforms, facility use, training resources, and competition travel, ensuring participation remains affordable for families.

For sponsors, the partnership offers more than logo placement. Benefits include visibility on uniforms, banners, and promotional materials; recognition through social media and events; and direct engagement with hundreds of local families. Perhaps most importantly, sponsors demonstrate a tangible commitment to youth development and healthy lifestyles in the Fallon community.

By investing in Silver State, sponsors help create opportunities that extend far beyond the gym and opportunities for lifelong skills.

As registration opens and a new season approaches, Silver State Cheer & Dance Studio is preparing to welcome athletes ready to work hard, dream big, and rise together, proving once again that in Fallon, championship spirit starts early.

For more information on programs, registration, or sponsorship opportunities, visit silverstatecheer.com. The gym is located at 4585 Beacon Way, in the neighborhood of Top Gun Skate Center.

Choosing an Alternative Christmas Tree



Image courtesy of The Village Nursery and Garden Center.

By Nancy Chapman

If you chose an alternative container Christmas tree this year, over the traditional pine or fir freshly cut trees. This new holiday tradition can be expanded by planting one of these gorgeous evergreens in a decorative container to display indoors or at the front entrance after the holidays.

It can be displayed as a holiday specimen year after year. Or combine with other perennials to create a holiday container that lasts. If you chose a plant that is cold-hardy enough for our winter temperatures. Then plant it in the spring, checking to make sure that the area you choose will accommodate the tree’s growth for years to come.

Evergreen shrubs, especially those with aromatic leaves and striking foliage, can be used in containers or planted in the garden for year-round enjoyment.

Sweet Bay is a compact, aromatic shrub or small tree that pulls double duty. Use the leaves to flavor soups and sauces. These miniature Christmas trees with their pyramidal form thrive in containers. Making it a great perennial choice, and when planted outdoors, it will grow up to 6' tall and wide.

The Thunderhead Japanese Black Pine is a shrubby, compact form with an irregular growth habit. They, too, are hardy enough for our colder climates and can be planted outdoors, growing up to 10 feet tall and 15 feet wide. The Mugo Pine, being compact, rounded, cold-hardy, and water-wise, is a great choice and will stay bright green all winter.

The Wichita Blue Juniper has a naturally narrow form, making it ideal for containers or tight spaces. The silvery-blue foliage looks bright year-round, making for a color that acts as its own tinsel for next year. When planted outdoors, it can grow up to 16 feet tall and 6 feet wide at maturity.

Whether you choose one of these trees or shrubs as a Christmas tree this year or would like to add one to your home. Stop by The Village Nursery and Garden Center on the Reno Highway. The helpful folks will be happy to help with planting information for outdoor gardens or choosing to keep them in containers for years to come.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# Nevada’s 2026 Election Calendar: *What Potential Candidates and Local Voters Need to Know*

By Rachel Dahl

As the calendar turns toward 2026, Nevada’s statewide and local election cycle is beginning to take real shape, and whether someone is thinking about running for office or simply planning to cast a ballot next year, there is a set of important dates and rules residents need to mark now.

The Nevada Secretary of State’s office has posted its 2026 election information, outlining filing periods, primary and general election dates, and other essential details that help ensure a smooth and fair election season for candidates and voters alike.

For those considering a run for public office, whether at the statewide, county, or municipal level, understanding the filing windows and requirements is critical.

The official period for non-judicial candidate filings runs from March 2 to March 13, 2026, during which time declaration of candidacy forms must be submitted to the appropriate election official by 5 p.m. on the final day. For judicial offices, the window opens earlier, from January 5 through January 16, 2026, and candidates must meet additional residency and registration requirements before filing.

- Who qualifies as a candidate and where they file depends on the office:**
- The Secretary of State, statewide executive offices, and federal offices (like U.S. Representative) use the Secretary of State’s office as the filing authority.
  - County and local offices — from sheriff to public administrator — are handled through county clerks or registrars of voters, with some differences in procedure depending on the district.

From governor and lieutenant governor to attorney general, state controller, treasurer, and seats in the Nevada Legislature, many offices will be decided in 2026, with most races featuring both primary and general elections. A few high-profile potential and declared campaigns have already surfaced in statewide races, though these announcements precede the official filing period.

Once candidates have filed their paperwork, the next major milestone for voters and campaigns is the primary election, scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Early voting for the primary will begin Saturday, May 23, 2026, and run through Friday, June 5, 2026. Voter registration and absentee ballot request deadlines will be tied to the primary timeline.

The primary serves to narrow the field of candidates for partisan offices, determining which nominee from each major party will advance to the general election in November. In Nevada, which includes the governor’s race, seats in the state Legislature, and U.S. House seats, among others.

That general election is set for Tuesday, November 3, 2026, the same date as midterms across the country — with early voting offered Saturday, October 17, 2026, and running through Friday, October 30, 2026.

For voters, the 2026 election cycle may still feel distant, but the nuts and bolts of participation, registration, ballot access, and planning begin well before Election Day.

Nevadans who are not yet registered should do so early rather than waiting, as many registration deadlines align with key election milestones. And those who prefer mail-in or absentee ballots should be sure to verify their voter registration information and understand deadlines for

requesting and returning ballots through their local election office.

Secretary of State officials are mailing out postcards to registered voters with key dates and a checklist designed to make participation easier. The postcard reminders underscore that early planning leaves less room for confusion or last-minute errors as the election year unfolds.

While statewide races are shaping up, local offices, from county commissioners to justice of the peace and school board positions, are also up for election, with some districts announcing specific ballot lineups early.

Partisan offices to be filed with the Churchill County Clerk include County Commissioner, District 2, for a four-year term, currently held by Myles Getto; County Assessor, Clerk/Treasurer; District Attorney, Public Administrator, and Recorder.

Non-partisan offices include District Court Judge, a six-year term, currently held by Tom Stockard; four members-at-large of the Churchill County School Board of Trustees, three members-at-large of the Mosquito, Vector & Noxious Weed Abatement Board; and a four-year term for Sheriff, currently held by Richard Hickox.

Offices to be filed with the City of Fallon Clerk are two non-partisan Council seats, Ward 1 and Ward 3, held currently by Kelly Frost and Paul Harmon, respectively. Frost will have reached her 12 years of service at the end of ’26 and will not run again due to term limits.

For more details on deadlines, specific offices on the ballot, and voter requirements, residents can visit the Nevada Secretary of State’s 2026 election information page or contact their local election office. Nevada Secretary of State

# Agency Updates from Fallon Range Training Complex Meeting

By Rachel Dahl

Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Intergovernmental Executive Committee met Dec. 9 in a hybrid session at the Fallon Convention Center, taking updates from Churchill County, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Navy on projects tied to the multi-year FRTC modernization effort.

Chris Spross, Churchill County manager, reported progress on the Lone Tree Road project, saying the county received two design engineer applications and selected Lumos Engineering. County staff said they have been working with the Navy and NDOT to incorporate agency comments into a draft scope of services, with a goal of approving the scope in mid-December and holding a kickoff meeting in early January. The county’s preliminary schedule anticipates 100% final design and a drainage report by the end of September, with staff indicating they will explore whether parts of the schedule can run concurrently.

A major portion of the meeting focused on BLM implementation updates under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), including changes affecting livestock permittees. Kat McCray, a BLM range management specialist, said decisions were sent Sept. 3, 2025, reducing authorized animal unit months (AUMs) in two grazing allotments based on a recreated desktop analysis of a prior allotment study, followed by on-the-ground verification.

McCray said the Lahontan Area grazing allotment was reduced from 1,151 AUMs to 637 AUMs, and the Horse Mountain allotment was reduced from 3,000 AUMs to 2,884 AUMs. She said monitoring has begun on both allotments toward land health assessments and fully processed permits, a process BLM expects to complete in fiscal year 2029 due to the need for multiple years of data. She added that B-17 monitoring for land health assessments is expected to begin in the spring of fiscal year 2026.

BLM’s cadastral survey update, provided by state chief cadastral surveyor Mike Strickland, included progress on multiple township and range survey efforts tied to the Bravo ranges and related conveyances and exchanges. Strickland said survey work is ongoing or complete in several areas, with additional surveys anticipated as projects advance, including work connected to public purpose conveyances and land exchanges involving Churchill County and the City of Fallon.

One of the more consequential land discussions centered on what BLM described as the “checkerboard resolution area,” a planned land exchange intended to consolidate mixed ownership patterns in Churchill County along the railroad corridor to provide for economic development opportunities. BLM staff said the effort will follow a similar “prepare the lands” approach used in other exchanges because many of the parcels involved are within Bureau of Reclamation jurisdiction. Officials said a plan and timeline were discussed in a Dec. 3 meeting among BLM, BOR, and Churchill County, and that a draft memorandum of understanding is being developed between the Department of the Interior and Churchill County. The next step, they said, is a working meeting to finalize edits and secure a completed MOU.



IEC NAS Fallon from the air. File photo.

The Navy provided an update on implementation activities, including land acquisition and infrastructure coordination across B-16, B-17, B-20, and Dixie Valley. Navy modernization program manager Matt Ryan said the private land acquisition count in Dixie Valley increased from 91 to 92 parcels since the previous IEC update. He also said B-16 fencing work is under contract and underway. At the same time, NEPA and design coordination continues on road projects including Sand Canyon Road and Lone Tree Road, with multiple agencies involved.

The meeting also included environmental updates on plans, agreements, studies, and ongoing surveys. Navy representatives said stakeholder review of draft planning documents, including a wildland fire management plan, is expected to continue into January, and that cultural resource inventory work is nearing completion in expanded areas of B-17 and B-20, with tribal survey phases anticipated to begin in spring 2026.

Public comment included questions and frustration from representatives of mining claims in the Bravo 17 area, who asked for more transparent communication and timely responses regarding reimbursement offers and the impact of annual claim maintenance deadlines. Meeting leaders and Navy representatives said they would elevate the questions to legal review and follow up directly.

A separate public comment noted confusion about access near Sand Canyon Road, with officials acknowledging that signage and fencing work can make the public uncertain about where travel is allowed. Committee members reiterated that the expanded portions of the range would not be closed until required NDAA steps are completed, and that construction activity does not necessarily indicate immediate closure.

The committee discussed scheduling the next IEC meeting for the first two weeks of March.

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COURT

# Fallon Man Faces 11 Counts Relating to Child Abuse and Sexual Assault

By Leanna Lehman

*Sebastian Nathaniel Landers, 32, was arrested on Nov. 21 on 11 counts alleging sexual assault of a child and offenses relating to sexual assault, abuse, neglect, and coercion.*

On November 23, the Churchill County District Attorney’s Office filed Criminal Complaints in New River Township Justice Court alleging the following:

**Count 1:** Sexual Assault on a Child Under the Age of 14, a Category A Felony punishable by 35 years to life in prison. If substantial bodily harm was incurred, the charge carries life in prison with no parole. The complaint states that between Aug. 12, 2024, and Nov. 17, 2025, Landers unlawfully committed acts that constitute sexual assault on a child who was eight years old at the time of the alleged offense.

**Counts 2-4:** These counts allege the same charge as above. Multiple identical counts generally signify varying incidents, locations, dates, or victims.

**Count 5:** Also, Sexual Assault on a Child Under the Age of 14. This count identifies a different alleged victim, who was seven years old at the time, and that the offense occurred at a different location.

**Count 6:** Lewdness with a Child Under the Age of 14, a Category A Felony punishable by life in prison with parole eligibility after 10 years, a fine of up to \$10,000, and Tier III sex offender registration for a first offense. The Criminal Complaint alleges that between Aug. 12, 2024, and Nov. 17, 2025, Landers did willfully commit lewd or lascivious acts upon an eight-year-old child that meet the requirements for the charge.

**Count 7-8:** Abuse, Neglect, or Endangerment of a Child, a Category B Felony punishable by 2-20 years in prison. According to the complaint, between Aug. 12, 2024, and Nov. 17, 2025, Landers did allegedly permit a seven-year-old child to suffer unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or placed that child in such a situation where the child could suffer pain or suffering as a result of abuse or neglect. Additionally, court documents indicate substantial bodily or mental harm was incurred.

In Nevada, child sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or lewdness also constitute child abuse or neglect, defined as “non-accidental harm” which threatens the child’s person or well-being. When referring to a single incident and victim, defendants can either be convicted of child abuse or sexual assault, but not both. When multiple counts are alleged, it is not uncommon for child abuse charges to accompany sexual assault charges.

**Count 9:** Indecent or Obscene Exposure in the Presence of a Child Under the Age of 18 or a Vulnerable Person, a Category D Felony Punishable by 1-4 years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000. During the same dates listed above, the charge alleges that Landers did expose himself to children who were approximately seven and eight years old at the time of the offense.



On Nov. 23, the District Attorney filed an additional Criminal Complaint charging Landers with: Count 1, Misdemeanor Distributing Obscenity to Minors, punishable by up to 364 days in jail. The complaint alleges that Landers knowingly showed pornography to a child, and Count 2, Misdemeanor Coercion, also punishable by up to 364 days in jail. The state alleges that Landers intimidated a victim to prevent the child from telling anyone about the sexual abuse.

At the time of his arraignment on Nov. 23, Landers indicated that he intended to retain counsel and waived his right to a preliminary hearing within 15 days. As Landers did not have counsel at the time, Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer appeared on his behalf.

Sommer requested that Justice Court Judge Benjamin Trotter release Landers on his own recognizance (OR). Assistant District Attorney, Pricilla Baker, opposed the release, stating that bail was appropriate in this case, which Judge Trotter set at \$475,890. Should Landers be released, Baker requested that he be subject to an ankle monitor.

A Jimenez hearing was conducted, at which time Judge Trotter determined Landers was eligible for an OR release and imposed the conditions that he have no contact with the victims or their mother; that he check in with Court Services Daily, provide random drug tests as instructed, and commit no other criminal offenses. Should Landers violate the terms of his release, he will be returned to custody with the \$475,890 bail attached.

On Dec. 11, Landers appeared for a status hearing at which time he told Judge Trotter he was intending to retain Joey Gilbert, Esq., of Reno, and had a consultation scheduled for later that day. The matter was continued to allow Landers time to retain counsel.

*All defendants are guaranteed Constitutional Due Process protections and are presumed innocent unless found guilty in a court of law. All charges against Landers are alleged, and all information in this article is based solely on publicly available court documents.*

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EDUCATION

# Students Reimagine the CCHS Front Entrance

By Sydney Trainor

*Students at Churchill County High School are taking the initiative on a new campus improvement project to transform the school’s front entrance into an interactive green space. It will be designed to reflect Greenwave pride, Fallon’s roots, and hands-on learning.*

The project, led by students in the school’s Plant Science program, will reimagine the front lawn into a welcoming landscape that enhances curb appeal and provides an engaging space for students, staff, and visitors. The effort is student-driven and closely tied to classroom instruction. It will be designed to highlight the spirit of the Fallon and Greenwave community.

“This space will clearly say, ‘This is CCHS,’” students involved in the project shared. “We want it to represent Fallon, Greenwave pride, and the work we do every day in our classrooms.”

According to Churchill County High School, the redesigned area will include interactive elements, thoughtfully planned landscaping, and Nevada-adapted plant species. The design is in-



Students get ready to start working on the new Green Space. Photo provided by Churchill County High School

tended to be both visually impactful and functional, while also serving as a real-world learning environment for students.

Along with enhancing the campus, this project also gives students practical experience in plant systems, landscape design, sustainability, and teamwork. These skills directly align with the Career and Technical Education coursework at CCHS.

Work on the project is scheduled to kickoff over Winter Break. Students will start with picking weeds and removing old grass to prepare the area for its new design. The project will continue throughout the spring semester as students move forward with planting and design elements.

## Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera, with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

### OASIS ACADEMY STUDENTS “LIGHT UP THE ROOM” WITH KINDNESS PROJECT



Lights line K-8 Hall. Photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

Oasis Academy students are brightening more than just the hallways this holiday season through a schoolwide initiative called the Light Up the Room Project. As part of the project, counselors cut out colorful paper Christmas lights and lined the halls with messages designed to inspire positivity, connection, and kindness.

During guidance lessons, school counselors invited students to reflect on the prompt, “You light up the room because...” Students first completed the phrase for themselves, encouraging self-reflection and confidence. They then passed their paper lights to classmates, who added words describing how that student “lights up the room.”

The results were heartwarming. Words such as honest, smart, funny, creative, and loyal filled the paper lights and hallways, offering students a visible reminder of the positive impact they have on one another. Seeing peers’ affirmations reinforced a sense of belonging and appreciation throughout the school.

The Light Up the Room Project is part of Oasis Academy’s ongoing commitment to fostering a supportive and respectful school culture. Especially during the holiday season, the project serves as a meaningful reminder that small acts of kindness—and kind words—can make a powerful difference.

By turning hallways into spaces filled with encouragement and light, Oasis Academy students are truly living out the spirit of the season and proving that kindness shines brightest when it is shared.

### STUDENTS GAIN REAL-WORLD MONEY SKILLS THROUGH BITE OF REALITY PROGRAM

Students recently participated in the Bite of Reality financial literacy program, in partnership with Financial Horizons Credit Union, which provided a hands-on opportunity to experience the realities of adult budgeting and money management.

During the immersive simulation, students were assigned a career, income, and family situation, instantly placing them in a realistic financial scenario. From there, they were tasked

with making everyday financial decisions, including choices about housing, food, transportation, childcare, and other essential expenses. As they progressed through the simulation, students quickly learned how balancing wants and needs affects their overall financial well-being.

To enhance realism, students encountered unexpected “life events” throughout the activity. Some events were positive—such as receiving a bonus or unexpected financial assistance—while others posed challenges, including medical bills or car repairs. These twists required students to adapt their budgets on the spot and think critically about financial priorities.

The Bite of Reality program provided students with a meaningful, engaging way to understand the importance of budgeting, planning, and responsible decision-making. By simulating real-life financial situations, the experience helped students build practical skills they can carry with them into adulthood.

The school extends its appreciation to Financial Horizons for partnering to deliver this impactful, educational program to students, helping prepare them for the financial responsibilities they will face in the future.



Jonathan Velasquez works with Juliana Acomb to select a food plan.



Angela Guthrie helps Addison Allegre and Kelsey Nall.

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SPORTS

# Greenwave Falls to Henderson Wolves

Staff Report with information from MaxPreps.com

The Churchill County Greenwave boys’ varsity basketball team saw its impressive start to the season slowed on Saturday, falling 63-55 to the Basic Wolves (Henderson, Nev.) in a neutral tournament matchup. The loss drops Churchill County to 6-2 on the year, marking only their second defeat of the campaign.

Despite a strong effort, the Greenwave couldn’t overcome a second-half surge by Basic, who managed to pull ahead in the final minutes. Churchill County kept the contest close with a balanced attack but ultimately struggled to contain the Wolves’ key scorers down the stretch.

The Greenwave remain optimistic as they aim to bounce back in their next outing and continue their pursuit of a standout season.

# CCHS Girls’ Varsity Basketball Update

## Lady Greenwave Split Tournament Games, Move to 10-1 Record

Staff Report with information from MaxPreps.com

The Churchill County Lady Greenwave girls’ varsity basketball team earned a decisive victory and suffered a setback in last Saturday’s tournament action, moving their season record to 10-1.

Lady Greenwave kicked off the day facing the Desert Hills Thunder (St. George, Utah) in a neutral-site tournament matchup. Despite a determined effort, the Lady Greenwave fell 61-47 against a tough Thunder squad.

Later in the day, Lady Greenwave bounced back with a commanding 51-20 win over the Legacy Longhorns (North Las Vegas, Nev.). The Lady Greenwave defense set the tone, holding Legacy to just 20 points, while the offense spread scoring across the roster.

The Lady Greenwave will look to build on their impressive 10-1 record as tournament play continues. Their performance showcases the team’s balance and determination as they prepare for their next challenge.

# Lady Greenwave JV Girls’ Surge

## Greenwave Rolls Past the Raiders, Wins a Close Contest Over the Miners in Weekend Action



JV girls win Dec. 26 kick-off tournament. Photo by Loni Johnston

Staff Report

The Churchill County High School JV Girls Basketball team delivered a commanding performance Friday, Dec. 26, overpowering Reed High School 55-9 in a non-league matchup. Lady Greenwave controlled the game from the opening tip, stifling the Raiders' offense and highlighting strong teamwork on both ends of the court.

On Saturday, Lady Greenwave continued its winning ways, narrowly defeating Bishop Manogue (Reno) 27-25 in a home non-conference contest. The team held off a late surge from the Miners to seal the victory and improve their season record to 4-1.

With back-to-back wins, the CCHS Girls’ JV team maintains momentum heading into the next stretch of the season, demonstrating resilience and depth on the JV roster as they look to build on their early success.

# Happy New Year!

## Fireworks Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 6 p.m.

At the Churchill County Fairgrounds. Brought to you by the City of Fallon.



C O L U M N S

# What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen

## Potato Rösti with Smoked Salmon

By Erik Jimenez in for Kelli Kelly

*I do not know about you, but I cannot eat any more prime rib after this Christmas season. Now that the holidays are over, we can move on from giant roasts of beef and ham toward something a little lighter as we work to undo the bad dietary choices we have made over the last 30 days.*

Even more importantly, now that the new year is finally upon us, it is time to throw away that air fryer that you may have relied on a little too much in 2025 and work toward trying harder in 2026.

Normally, I am not much of a brunch person, but this week’s recipe deserves to be on a week-end brunch menu. The potato rösti is Switzerland’s national dish, traditionally a potato pancake with a crispy exterior and a soft interior.

Many cultures have their take on the potato pancake, such as latkes, hash browns, and others, and all of these are fantastic. However, this recipe is so much more than just a potato pancake.

By delicately cooking the potato in clarified butter until it is perfectly crisp, we are making something special here. Then, we will combine all the flavors of a classic bagel with lox, capers, and red onions and place them on top of this crispy potato pancake with a soft, almost-mashed-potato interior to create a perfect brunch experience.

Before we get started, here are some notes. First off, you need to use a non-stick skillet for the recipe. Otherwise, the pancake will get stuck to the bottom of the pan, resulting in a disaster.

Secondly, I would strongly recommend using clarified butter (or ghee) to brown the potatoes in the pan. Clarified butter is pure butter fat that has had all of the milk solids removed. As a result, it has a much higher smoke point than regular butter, which will help us achieve the perfect golden-brown crust on this potato rösti.

I would also strongly recommend serving this recipe for a formal brunch. Your friends will be more than impressed by it.

- INGREDIENTS:**
- 2 Large Yukon gold potatoes
  - 1 tbsp. Clarified butter or ghee, melted
  - 1/2 tsp. Onion powder
  - 1/2 tsp. Garlic powder
  - 1/2 tsp. Cracked black pepper
  - 1/2 tsp. Paprika
  - 3/4 tsp. Kosher salt
  - 4 tbsp. Clarified butter or ghee
  - 3 oz. Smoked salmon
  - 1/2 Red onion, thinly sliced
  - 2 tbsp. Capers
  - 3 tbsp. Crème fraiche
  - 1 tbsp. Fresh dill

- DIRECTIONS:**
1. Peel the potatoes, then grate them using the large holes on a box grater.
  2. Place the grated potatoes in a clean kitchen towel and wring out as much water from the potatoes as possible. Transfer potatoes to a bowl.
  3. Combine potatoes with 1 tablespoon of melted clarified butter, onion powder, garlic powder, black pepper, paprika, and kosher salt. Mix together until combined.
  4. Heat a non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Melt 2 tablespoons of the remaining



clarified butter in the pan. Once fully melted and hot, add the potatoes in an even layer to the pan, pushing the sides inward to form a circle. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook until browned on one side. This will take about 12 minutes.

5. Place a large plate over the skillet and invert the potato out of the pan. Melt the remaining 2 tablespoons of clarified butter in the pan, then slide the potato pancake back into it. Cook on this side for an additional 12 minutes over medium-low heat, until browned.
6. Transfer finished potato pancake onto a plate. Top with smoked salmon, red onion, capers, and fresh dill. Finish with a dollop of crème fraiche.

*Erik Jimenez splits his time between the state-house 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.*

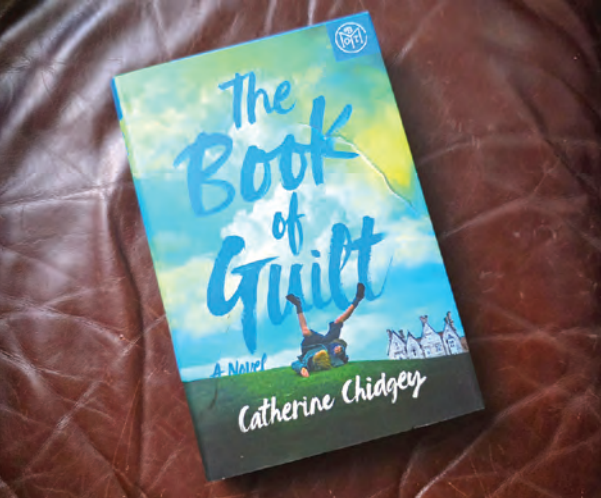
## Allison’s Book Report: “The Book of Guilt” By Catherine Chidgey

By Allison Diegel

Happy New Year, readers! We made it through the holidays, and here we are, ushering in 2026. This week’s Book Report pick is so heart-wrenching and fascinating, I know you will not be able to put *The Book of Guilt* by Catherine Chidgey down.

Set in an alternate-history 1979 England, *The Book of Guilt* takes us to a timeline in which WWII did not end with an Allied victory, but with a 1943 peace treaty following Hitler’s assassination. This “peace” led to a Britain heavily influenced by dark, eugenicist ideals. We follow Vincent, Lawrence, and William—thirteen-year-old identical triplets who are the last residents of the Captain Scott Home for Boys.

Their lives are governed by a rigid, eerie routine. They are cared for by three “Mothers” (Morning, Afternoon, and Night) who track every detail of their existence. Their lessons come from the Book of Knowledge, their subconscious is cataloged in the Book of Dreams – and, most importantly, their mistakes are etched into the Book of Guilt. The boys are told they have “the Bug,” a mysterious illness that requires constant medication and isolation for their own safety. They live for the promise of “Margate,” a legendary seaside



paradise where they will supposedly be sent once they are cured.

We also meet Nancy, a girl living a secret, secluded life in Exeter, and the Minister of Loneliness, a government official tasked with closing the Sycamore Scheme (the program the boys belong to). As these perspectives intertwine, the “protective” walls of the home start to feel more like a prison.

When the triplets finally get a glimpse of the outside world during a rare trip to a local village, they realize the public does not view them with

pity, but with fear and hostility. They begin to discover the horrifying truth: they are not being “cured” - they are biological products. Created from the DNA of criminals and the “unwanted,” they are essentially medical spare parts for a society that views them as sub-human.

Chidgey is famous for her “literary gut-punches,” and she delivers here. The book explores the terrifying “doublethink” required for a society to dehumanize its own children in the name of the greater good. It is a fast-paced, psychological thriller that feels like a spiritual successor to *Never Let Me Go*, but with a sharper, more political edge. By the time the boys realize that the “Book of Guilt” is actually a tool to make them complicit in their own exploitation, the tension is sky-high. It is a haunting look at what happens when we value some lives less than others.

I hope you find some time this week to ring in the New Year with a good book - and as always, do not forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more recommendations and book talk all year long!

*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.*

## Movies & More: Happy New Year, Fallon!

By Kelli Perez

Happy New Year, Fallon. We are ringing in 2026 with full hearts, big smiles, and a fantastic stretch of movie magic at the Fallon Theatre. Thank you for kicking off another year with us. We are excited to gather together after the holidays and jump right into weekends filled with laughter and big stories meant to be shared on the big screen.

At 6 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, we are starting something extra fun with *Despicable Me*, launching a six-week franchise marathon that will bring one film from the series to the theatre every weekend. It is the perfect way to settle back into relaxed family nights out, cheer on the Minions, and enjoy a little silly fun to start the year. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour and 35 minutes.

Then at 7 p.m., we are showing *Inside Out*, proudly sponsored by the Churchill Community Coalition. This Pixar favorite takes us inside the mind of a young girl as her emotions navigate big changes, blending humor and thoughtful storytelling in a way that resonates with kids and adults alike. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour and 35 minutes.

And while we are talking about the wonderful organizations that help make our programming possible, we would love to highlight the Coalition for Senior Citizens and their ongoing support of the Fallon Theatre. On the third Friday of every month at 1 p.m., they host a special matinee that is open to the public, with senior citizens receiving a free small popcorn and a free small drink. It is a relaxed, welcoming way to enjoy an afternoon at the movies and spend time together. The January matinee is *Space Cowboys* on Friday, Jan. 16, followed by *Spies Like Us* on Friday, Feb. 20.

We are also excited to welcome The Kindred North to the Fallon Theatre stage on Friday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. for a special evening of live music. Founded in 2025 right here in Fallon, acoustic duo Raena Blais and McKenzie

Warren blend folk, country, and a touch of rock into a sound that feels both fresh and comfortably familiar. With heartfelt harmonies, thoughtful arrangements, and a mix of well-loved songs alongside original music that reflects their unique style, they create a warm, inviting atmosphere that truly shines in an intimate theatre setting. Admission is \$12, and it is a perfect chance to enjoy talented local artists and a cozy night of live music.

In February, grab your friends or your favorite Valentine and make a night of it at our Galentine’s Show on Friday the 6th and Saturday the 7th at 7 p.m. These special one-hour performances feature the Domesticated Man Band, bringing plenty of fun, laughter, and feel-good entertainment that is perfect for a girls’ night out or anyone looking to celebrate some lighthearted good times with someone they love. Admission is free, so come early, settle in with a glass of wine, and enjoy the show.

Looking further ahead into next year, we are preparing for a very special celebration of our region’s roots. On Saturday, Mar. 7, 2026, the Fallon Theatre will host *Heritage of the West*, a free event honoring the songs, stories, and traditions that built the heart of our communities. We are inviting performers, historians, poets, and storytellers to share the sounds and stories of the past - heritage music, cowboy poetry, dance, and oral histories that keep our western spirit alive. If you’d like to take part in this meaningful tribute to the region’s history and culture, please reach out to huck\_salt@yahoo.com or call 775-423-2055 or 775-217-4142.

We are proud to continue offering free movie screenings whenever possible, making it easy for the whole community to gather and enjoy a night at the theatre. Our concession stand offers all the classic favorites, including popcorn and candy. If you would like to rent the theatre for a celebration or feature a message on the marquee, call 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com.



LEGAL NOTICES

Case No. 25DR16866

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF CROOK

SUMMONS  
(Domestic Relations Suit)

In the Matter of:  
JOSEPH SHERMAN and ADRINA  
SHERMAN,  
Petitioners,  
and  
JAZMINE JENNIFER SHERMAN  
AND  
JEREMIAH ANTHONY REYES,  
Respondents.

To: JEREMIAH ANTHONY REYES,  
Respondent

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF  
OREGON, YOU ARE HEREBY  
REQUIRED to appear within thirty  
(30) days from the date of the first  
publication of this summons. In the  
event of your failure to do so, Petitioner  
may apply to the court to grant the  
judgment and relief demanded in the  
Petition.

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT:  
READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY!

You may be liable for attorney fees in  
this case if requested in the Petition. A  
judgment for attorney fees may be en-  
tered against you as provided in ORS  
Chapter 109 should Petitioners in this  
case prevail. If you do not “appear” in  
this case, the other side will automati-  
cally prevail. To “appear” you must file  
with the court a legal paper called a  
“motion” or “answer.” The “motion” or  
“answer” must be received by the court  
clerk within 30 days along with the re-  
quired filing fee. The address for the  
court clerk is: Trial Court Office, 260  
NW 2nd St, Suite 300, Prineville, OR  
97754. The Clerk’s phone number is  
(541) 447-6541. The “motion” or “an-  
swer” must be in proper form and have  
proof of “service” (mailing or delivery)  
to Petitioner’s attorney, or if Petitioner  
does not have an attorney, proof of  
service to the Petitioner. If you have  
any questions, you should see an attor-  
ney immediately. If you need help in  
finding an attorney, you may call the  
Oregon State Bar’s Lawyer Referral  
Service at 503-684-3763 or toll-free in  
Oregon at 800-452-7636.

/s/ Lauren M Kauffman  
Lauren Kauffman, OSB #203293  
35 SE C Street, Suite D  
Madras, OR 97741  
541.475.1111  
Email: lkauffmanlaw@gmail.com  
Attorney for Petitioners

Published in  
The Fallon Post  
Dec. 12, 18, 25, 2025 and Jan. 8, 2026  
Ad #6398

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the  
Churchill County Board of Equaliza-  
tion will meet during the month of  
February 2026. The meetings will be  
held in the Churchill County Com-  
mission Chambers, Churchill County  
Administration Complex, 155 N.  
Taylor Street, Suite 145, Fallon,  
Nevada.

Persons wishing to appear and be  
heard at these meetings for the  
purpose of seeking adjustments on  
assessed valuation must obtain a  
Petition for such with the Churchill  
County Assessor at the Churchill  
County Administration Complex,  
155 N. Taylor Street, Suite 200, Fallon,  
Nevada and return the petition to the  
County Assessor on or before 5 p.m.  
on January 15, 2026. The County  
Board of Equalization shall conclude  
business on or before February 28, 2026.

Published in  
The Fallon Post  
Dec. 26, 2025, Jan. 2, and 9, 2026  
Ad #6397

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

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

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

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CASE NO. 25-10DC-1161  
Dept. No. 1  
Neidert Law Offices  
P.O. Box 1022  
Virginia City, NV 89440  
775-301-8200  
Attorney for Estate

The undersigned does hereby affirm  
that the within document does not  
contain the Social Security number of  
any person

DISTRICT COURT  
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA

In the Matter of the Estate of  
RICHARD J. MORETTO,  
Deceased.

NOTICE OF FILING PETITION

GINA MORETTO, having filed with  
the clerk of this court their Petition for  
Probate of Estate, Issuance of Letters  
Testamentary and for Administration  
upon the estate of RICHARD J.  
MORETTO, the hearing of the same  
having been fixed by said court for  
Tuesday, the 30th day of December,  
2025, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. of said day,  
or as soon thereafter as counsel may be  
heard, at the courtroom, 73 North  
Maine Street, within Fallon, Churchill  
County, Nevada, and all persons inter-  
ested in the said estate are notified  
then and there to appear and show  
cause, if any they have, why the said  
petition should not be granted.  
DATED: This 4th day of December,  
2025.

Published in  
The Fallon Post  
Dec. 19, 26, 2025 and Jan. 2, 2026  
Ad #6408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR  
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY  
HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Central Nevada Health District  
(CNHD) is soliciting proposals from  
qualified contractors to design, conduct,  
and deliver a comprehensive Commu-  
nity Health Needs Assessment  
(CHNA) for its service area, in com-  
pliance with the Public Health Accred-  
itation Board (PHAB) Standards and  
Measures (Version 1.5 and subsequent  
guidance).

The CHNA will serve as the founda-  
tion for CNHD’s Community Health  
Improvement Plan (CHIP), policy  
development, and strategic resource  
allocation. It will be developed using a  
collaborative and participatory  
approach, consistent with PHAB  
Standard 1.1, and will address the full  
CNHD jurisdiction.

The Scope of Work includes:

- 1. Phase 1: Project Planning & Partner-  
ship Engagement.
- 2. Phase 2: Data Collection & Analysis.
- 3. Phase 3: Collaborative Assessment  
Development.
- 4. Phase 4: Public Review & Feedback.
- 5. Phase 5: Final Report &  
Dissemination.

The Request for Proposals are due by  
5:00 PM on January 12, 2026 to the  
Central Nevada Health District,  
Shannon Ernst, Interim Administra-  
tor, shannon.ernst@churchillcoun-  
tynv.gov and to Shasta Garrison, Grant  
and Fiscal Specialist, shasta.garri-  
son@centralnevadahd.org. Late  
submissions will not be accepted.  
For further details, please visit the  
following link for the full RFP:  
[https://www.churchillcountynv.gov/  
bids.aspx](https://www.churchillcountynv.gov/bids.aspx).

Pamela Moore,  
Deputy Clerk to the Board  
Churchill County, Nevada

Published in  
The Fallon Post  
Dec. 19, 26, 2025 and Jan. 2, 2026  
Ad #6401



In Remembrance  
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or email  
admin@thefallonpost.org



Send us your sports  
stories and photos.  
admin@thefallonpost.org

CROSSWORD ANSWERS  
Crossword found on page 12

BAT	MARMOT
BEAR	POSSUM
BUMBLEBEE	SKUNK
FROG	SNAIL
GROUNDHOG	SNAKE
HEDGEHOG	SQUIRREL
LEMUR	TURTLE





COLUMNS

Postcards: Our Wooden Water Towers

By Michon Mackedon

Structures and streets have stories to tell. Sometimes we are lucky enough to reconstruct their histories, and sometimes the past remains shrouded in silence and mystery. So, when a reader asked me to write about the wooden water tower structures visible on Allen Road and St. Clair Road, I decided to find out as much as I could.

A Google search of “historic wooden water towers” pulled up over 250 photographs, but none of the images look like the towers found in our valley. Most of the photos feature wooden tanks that are round in shape. The closest image match is a water tower structure in Serbia! Our local water towers, I surmised, must be unique. So, I turned to Bunny Corkill, who recommended that I contact Masa Kito Fugitani, whom I wrote about a few months ago. Masa was a member of the Kito family, Japanese farmers who owned the property at 955 St. Clair (now, the Gomes ranch) between 1920 and 1958, where a wooden water tank still stands. Masa put me in touch with her brother Noboru, who wrote down his memories concerning the water tank.

“There was a doorway into the bottom of the tank house itself that housed the water pump, piping to the tank. A bucket held water to the pump could be primed before hitting the push button ON switch. On the wall was a metered 4-inch board with a sliding water depth indicator that was mounted on a rope to a float mounted inside the tank. When the tank was low, the sliding board was high.... This was the indicator that the water was low, and water had to be pumped into the tank.”

Both Nobie and Masa remembered the impor-

tance of checking the water level every day at noon. If water ran out of the overflow pipe, everyone scrambled to fill every available container in order to conserve the precious liquid.

Noboru (Nobie) used the evocative phrase, “It was more than a tank house for supplying water to our house and to our dairy milk cows.” It certainly was. The uses of the structure speak to the ingenuity, efficiency, and cleanliness of the Itos and the Kitos, who between them raised 14 children on the St. Clair Road farm. The tower served as a water provider, a laundry facility, a workroom, and a storage unit. I am sure that at times, it was also a place to play or to find solitude.

A building attached to the tower itself housed a milk separator, which they used to make cream that they then sold to the local creamery to make butter and cheese. “There was a large wash basin that was used to wash off the bunched vegetables, like carrots, beets, turnips, and radishes that were supplied to the I.H. Kent store, Safeway, and Kolhoss. There was an old Easy washing machine in the corner, and in the other corner was a wash tub that sat on top of a 55-gallon drum that was cut in half with an opening on the bottom where wood could be inserted to heat the water in the wash tub that sat on top of the drum. Hot water was needed to wash all the milking pails and separator disks, and do the family laundry, which was an all-day event.”

I do not know why our local water towers are apparently unique in design and structure. It is possible that a local builder offered his particular design, materials, and construction skills to settlers who were ready to build or replace a water tower. I do know that many similar structures in the valley have succumbed to time. I remember that once a wooden water tower, like



Gomes Water Tower.

the St. Clair tower, stood on Union Road, where my English teacher, Anne Berlin, resided. It added more charm to an already charming property, but it no longer stands, its story lost to time and times. Thank you, Nobie and Masa, for keeping your past alive.

Please send your own stories and ideas for stories to [mackedon@phonewave.net](mailto:mackedon@phonewave.net).

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.

Crossword


By Peanut

Across

- 1. Australian marsupial
- 4. Gastropod
- 6. Small spiny mammal
- 9. Furry pollinator
- 12. Carapaced reptile
- 13. Semi-aquatic amphibian

Down

- 2. Limbless reptile
- 3. Large bushy-tailed rodent
- 4. Small bushy-tailed rodent
- 5. Omnivorous furry mammal
- 7. Woodchuck
- 8. Bi-colored weasel
- 10. Flying mammal
- 11. Small Madagascan primate



**H I B E R N A T I N G**

**A**

**I**

**M**

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**L**

**S**

1 2 3

4

5 6 7

8 9 10

11 12 13

[ Crossword answers found on page 13 ]

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