

THE FALLON POST



KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

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\$2.00 | The Week of June 5, 2026

Fallon's First Chalk Festival Draws Artists, Crowds to Downtown

By Nancy Chapman

Sidewalks along Maine Street became temporary canvases as artists of all ages transformed downtown Fallon into a colorful outdoor gallery during the city's inaugural Chalk Festival on May 29-30.

Judges awarded top honors in several categories during the two-day event. Alyssa Cumpton won Best of Festival in the adult division, while Liam Wright earned Best of Festival honors in the youth division. Bretta Leach received the award for Most Creative in the adult division, and Ben Fecht won Most Creative in the youth division. Laura Berry was recognized for Best Theme Interpretation, and Elizabeth Thomas received the Most Fun award. The winners were selected from dozens of entries displayed throughout downtown Fallon.

The free event drew local residents, visiting artists, families, and spectators to watch artwork take shape throughout the weekend as part of Fallon's America 250 celebration. The festival's theme, "United Under the Fallon Sky," encouraged artists to reflect on creativity, connection, and the shared stories that bring residents together beneath Nevada's wide-open skies.

The event was inspired by Mayor Ken Tedford and brought to life through the efforts of Karen Nichols, president of Red-Carpet Events and Design. Held as part of the nationwide America 250 celebration, the festival invited artists and visitors alike to gather side by side under the Fallon sky while celebrating community and creativity.

Festival activities extended beyond chalk art and included food vendors, face painting, live music, poetry, literary activities, art instruction, and family-friendly attractions. The Fallon Churchill Volunteer Fire Department



Best of Festival winner Alyssa Cumpton's chalk artwork, "American Spirit," earned top honors in the adult division during Fallon's inaugural Chalk Festival. The piece features three horses set against patriotic colors beneath a luminous portrait. Photo courtesy of Callie Martinez-Gallio, City of Fallon, and Karen Morales with The Abbi Agency.



Most Fun winner Elizabeth Thomas' chalk artwork features a whimsical scene of ducklings floating among colorful flowers. Thomas received the Most Fun award during Fallon's inaugural Chalk Festival. Photo courtesy of Callie Martinez-Gallio, City of Fallon, and Karen Morales with The Abbi Agency.

also displayed a fire engine for visitors.

Festival organizers provided chalk for participants and offered classes for those interested in learning more about the art form. Community chalk zone gave residents opportunities to create their own works alongside featured artists.

The Chalk Festival was one of several America 250 events planned in Fallon leading up to the nation's 250th anniversary celebration. Organizers described the festival as an opportunity for residents and

visitors to gather, celebrate creativity, and experience downtown Fallon in a new way.

With artists covering sidewalks in colorful designs and spectators filling downtown throughout the weekend, organizers said the inaugural event established what they hope will become a new Fallon tradition.

[Chalk Festival continued on page 3]

Churchill Faith Education Fund Aims to Expand Access to Christian Schools

By Sydney Trainor

A newly formed scholarship organization hopes to make private Christian education more affordable for Churchill County families through a federal tax-credit program scheduled to begin in 2027.

The Churchill Faith Education Fund recently became a Scholarship Granting Organization, allowing it to raise money for scholarships for students attending private evangelical Christian schools in the county. According to Caleb Szymanski, a leader of the Churchill Faith Education Fund and pastor of Oasis Community Church, the organization's goal is to help families offset tuition costs while expanding educational opportunities.

The effort is tied to the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit, created through the "One Big Beautiful Bill." Beginning in 2027, taxpayers may donate up to \$1,700 annually to a qualified Scholarship Granting Organization and receive a dollar-for-dollar credit on their federal income taxes.

"The way to think about that is any taxpayer basically gives to the scholarship granting organization, and the government pays them back," Szymanski said.

Scholarships will be available to K-12 students attending eligible private evangelical Christian schools. Eligibility will be based primarily on household income. Families earning less than three times Churchill County's median household income — approximately \$237,489 annually, according to

Szymanski — would qualify for assistance.

Szymanski said the organization hopes to provide scholarships for at least 50 students in 2027. Reaching that goal would require approximately \$170,000 in donations.

Beyond scholarship assistance, the fund hopes to support enrollment growth at local Christian schools and potentially help expand educational programs in the future.

A public information meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. June 30 at Oasis Community Church, which is serving as the meeting location. Community members interested in learning more about the program, membership opportunities, donations, and scholarship eligibility are invited to attend.



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain's Log:
It's called Manifesting

By Rachel Dahl

It's high time we update the "How I Built a Rural Newspaper Empire" journal with a report on the joining in of the Winnemucca Publishing papers into the Fallon Media Co. papers.

We've had some men down – figuratively speaking not everyone made the transition and we're three shy on the staff up north but managed to pick up a new team member who is solid gold and fits right into the high-performance machine we're building. I've said over years, "if I had three of her, we'd be cooking with fire," whenever we find a really good one.

I don't know if this is something most people think about – I never gave it a moment's notice until I was personally employing people – responsible for paychecks and the money that covers them.

When you spend most of your professional life managing teams and working for various government agencies, from local economic development offices to U.S. Senate staff to a federal government agency like the Small Business Administration or the U.S. Department of Agriculture, you're peripherally aware of budgetary constraints. Mostly, though, it's sort of cursory from a loosely responsible viewpoint.

But when you're responsible for finding the money and keeping enough of it in the bank account to cover payroll every two weeks, that makes you look at productivity in a whole different light.

There are employees who roll up their sleeves and jump in, working just as hard and intently as

you do, and then there are the ones who take up space or stir up trouble, who generally cause consternation over whether or not they're pitching in to make money appear or if they're just in the bathroom lighting dollar bills on fire.

Speaking of bathrooms – we have two in the new office, one upstairs one down. They aren't much to write home about, but serviceable. It's the office, however, that we love! If you haven't heard, we got to go into the old firehouse on Bridge Street in Winnemucca. After four hundred and thirty-four years in the office on Grass Valley Road, we have shaken loose of the behemoth and, with the graciousness of the City of Winnemucca, which owns the building, moved into the old firehouse.

And we LOVE it. Ever since I was forced by my youngest daughter into watching, on repeat, The Princess Diaries, I've wanted to have a house in an old firehouse or an old church. Having an office is obviously the next best thing. Maybe even better.

We're still in the process of getting moved in, but as soon as we are I hope you all will stop by to see just how cool it is.

So, while we unpack and get phones and computers working, and rebuild our team with high-performing magicians capable of all sorts of miracles, we'll still be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

— Rachel

ORGANIZATION OF THE WEEK

Water and Wastewater Department

By Sydney Trainor

Churchill County's Water and Wastewater departments play a critical role in maintaining the infrastructure that delivers clean water and processes wastewater for county residents, while also planning for future facility improvements and equipment needs.

During February budget discussions, Public Works Planning and Building Director Randy Hines provided updates on ongoing water and wastewater projects, including construction of the golf course water treatment plant and long-term planning for repairs at the county's wastewater treatment facility.

The county's Water Department oversees the municipal water system, including treatment, distribution, infrastructure maintenance, and long-term planning for water facilities. The department also works with outside contractors and engineers to maintain operations and manage capital improvement projects.

Hines requested a \$25,000 increase to cover service fees, explaining that the original budget amount had been underestimated and would fall short without the adjustment. He also reported



that Phase 1 of the golf course water treatment plant project is about 70% complete and expected to be finished by August.

The Wastewater Department operates and maintains Churchill County's sewer treatment facilities and related infrastructure. Staff are responsible for processing wastewater, maintaining treatment equipment, and ensuring the system meets operational and regulatory requirements.

The wastewater budget remains largely unchanged for the upcoming fiscal year. The only adjustment is an increase in fuel costs for a county-owned crane truck that now uses a county gas card.

Hines said the department is also developing a strategic plan to repair and replace aging equipment at the wastewater treatment plant. He noted the 18-year-old facility has several components that need replacement and that staff are compiling a list of critical spare parts and infrastructure needs.

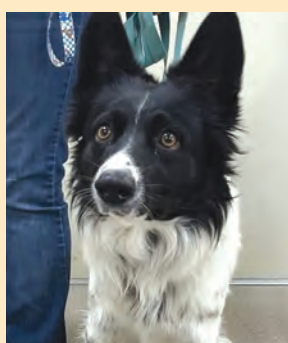
Existing infrastructure and equipment budgets totaling about \$160,000 for wastewater and \$112,000 for water could be used to support those long-term maintenance efforts.



PETS OF THE WEEK

Available for Adoption

At about 18 months old, Huckleberry is a young dog who approaches every day with enthusiasm. Shelter staff describe him as friendly and eager to meet new people. He enjoys attention and is known for handing out plenty of kisses to those he meets.



Huckleberry is crate-trained. He does well with children and would thrive in an active home that can keep up with his adventurous spirit.

When it comes to other dogs, Huckleberry prefers female canine companions and does not do well with male dogs. His compatibility with cats is unknown.

Those interested in adopting Huckleberry or learning more about him can contact the City of Fallon Animal Shelter.

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

Sable is Available for Adoption

Sable is an 8-year-old tabby cat looking for a forever home.

Shelter staff describe Sable as a cat who enjoys spending time with people and is always ready for a conversation.

Sable's gentle disposition makes her an excellent companion for anyone looking to add a quiet and loving pet to their household.

She is spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, and ready to begin the next chapter of her life with a family of her own.

Those interested in meeting Sable or learning more about adoption opportunities are encouraged to contact the shelter.

Questions? Call 775-217-4745

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



FEATURES

Fallon Cantaloupe Festival Presale Tickets Now Available



By Sydney Trainor and Shania Brown

The sights, sounds, and flavors of one of Churchill County's longest-running traditions will return to Fallon this summer as preparations ramp up for the 41st annual Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair.

The festival will be held Aug. 28-30 at the Rafter 3C Event Complex, and presale tickets went on sale June 1. Physical tickets for collectors are available at Financial Horizons Credit Union, with only 250 available. Carnival wristband presale tickets can also be purchased online at FallonCantaloupeFestival.com/tickets.

The festival celebrates the agricultural heritage of Churchill County and the famous Hearts of Gold cantaloupe, a variety developed in the Fallon area more than a century ago. Over the years, the event has grown into one of the region's largest community celebrations, drawing visitors from throughout Nevada and beyond.

New to the festival this year are military discounts and Senior Sunday. Military discounts will be available at the gate only — just show your ID. Senior Sunday will be held Aug. 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., offering \$5 admission for

visitors age 65 and older.

The three-day festival will feature a variety of activities and events, including country fair exhibits, carnival rides and games, a truck and tractor pull, a farmers market, agricultural exhibits, live entertainment, a cornhole tournament, a Kids Zone, animal exhibits, RC car events, the Lil Buckaroo Bounce Off, and the Cutest Cowboy and Cowgirl Contest. Other related activities include the Cantaloupe 5K and Fun Run, as well as a car show.

This year's festival is once again presented by CC Communications, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary as the event's presenting sponsor. Festival organizers praised CC Communications for its contributions, noting that, beyond monetary sponsorship, its assistance with internet services, marketing, and design, board member involvement, and hanging banners throughout the fairgrounds each year help make the Cantaloupe Festival what it is today.

Sponsorship and vendor applications remain open and are available at FallonCantaloupeFestival.com.

Additional festival highlights and announcements will be released throughout the summer.

The festival celebrates the agricultural heritage of Churchill County and the famous Hearts of Gold cantaloupe, a variety developed in the Fallon area more than a century ago.

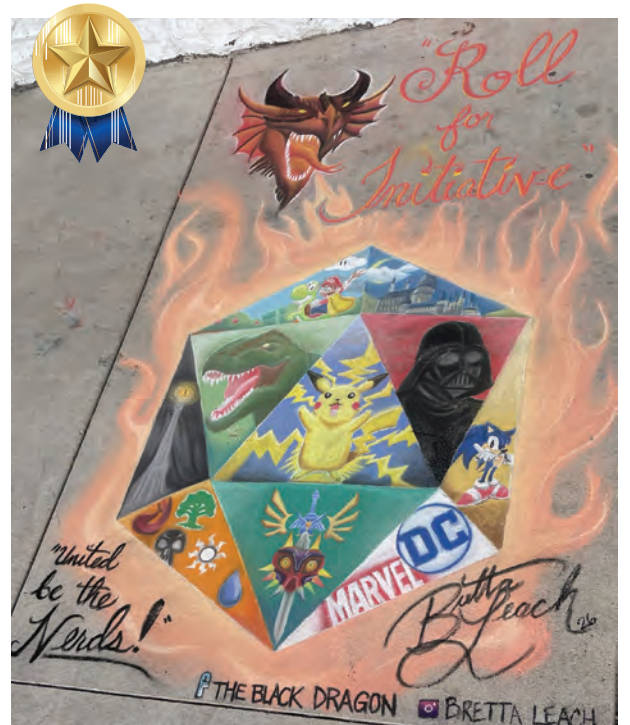
[Chalk Festival continued from page 1]



Laura Berry's chalk artwork earned the Best Theme Interpretation award during Fallon's inaugural Chalk Festival. The colorful desert landscape features wildlife and vibrant skies, reflecting the festival's theme, "United Under the Fallon Sky." Photo courtesy of Callie Martinez-Gallio, City of Fallon, and Karen Morales with The Abbi Agency.



Ben Fecht's chalk artwork earned the Most Creative award in the youth division during Fallon's inaugural Chalk Festival. The piece uses perspective and shadow to create the illusion of a mysterious hallway extending beneath the sidewalk. Photo courtesy of Callie Martinez-Gallio, City of Fallon, and Karen Morales with The Abbi Agency.



Bretta Leach's chalk artwork earned the Most Creative award in the adult division during Fallon's inaugural Chalk Festival. The piece combines popular characters and fantasy imagery around the theme of imagination and storytelling. Photo courtesy of Callie Martinez-Gallio, City of Fallon, and Karen Morales with The Abbi Agency.



Youth Best of Festival winner Liam Wright's chalk artwork depicts a pastoral scene beneath a bright Nevada sky. Wright received top honors in the youth division during Fallon's inaugural Chalk Festival. Photo courtesy of Callie Martinez-Gallio, City of Fallon, and Karen Morales with The Abbi Agency.



A whimsical chalk art entry featuring a capybara among water lilies was among the creations displayed during the inaugural Fallon Chalk Festival. Photo by Rachel Dahl.



A chalk art entry celebrates Fallon landmarks, traditions, and community spirit during the inaugural Fallon Chalk Festival. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

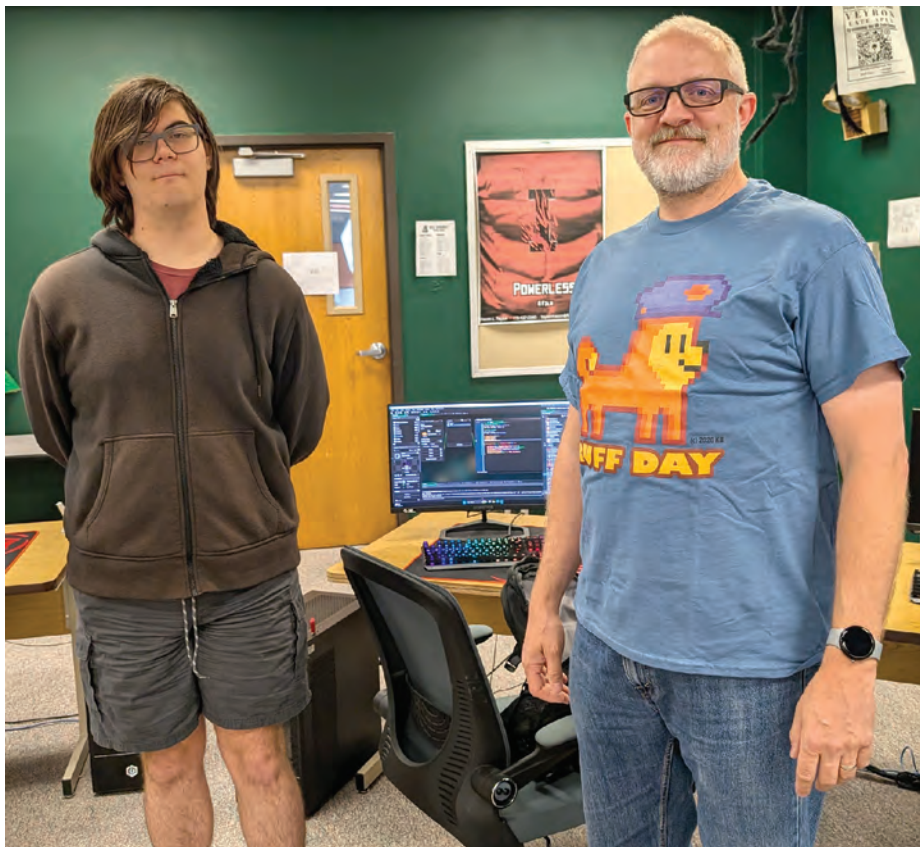
Ruff Day Earns Top Honors at CCHS Game Development Release Party

Staff Report

Churchill County High School students Keoni Burrow and Santiago Begazo earned Game of the Year honors for their video game, “Ruff Day,” following the school’s annual game development release party and judging competition.

Winners were announced May 26 after results from the May 15 public release party were compiled. During the event, students showcased original video games they created throughout the school year.

“Mr. Mittens Lost His Kittens,” created by Hannah Hanks, earned second place. “Catastrophic Quest for Cake,” developed by Aric McBride, finished third.



Churchill County High School student Keoni Burrow, left, stands with game development instructor Aaron Holt after Burrow and teammate Santiago Begazo earned Game of the Year honors for their video game, “Ruff Day.” Photo courtesy of Mason Blakemore.



Hannah Hanks, creator of “Mr. Mittens Lost His Kittens,” earned second place in Churchill County High School’s annual Game of the Year competition. Photo by Lori Kaiser.

The release party, held in the school’s game development lab, gave families, classmates, teachers, and community members an opportunity to test student-created games and provide feedback on gameplay, design, and presentation.

The event also served as the public judging portion of the program’s annual Game of the Year competition. Community members, teachers, younger students, and two independent game programmers evaluated projects and offered feedback to student developers. The industry perspective gave students an opportunity to receive professional input on their work.

This year’s winning game, “Ruff Day,” stood out for its

polished presentation and original music. Game development instructor Aaron Holt said the project demonstrated the combination of technical and creative skills students develop throughout the program.

Throughout the day, visitors explored student-created games, met development teams, and learned about the game development process. Each team created a display featuring promotional artwork, themed decorations, game cases, and playable demonstrations.

Other featured projects included “Midnight Mayhem,” developed by Dakota Bowman, Lila Mae Montero, Claire Lewis, Sheryl Garcia, and Jordan Mardis, as well as “The Trench,” “No Man’s Land,” and a virtual reality experience.

Holt said the release party is designed to mirror the experience of launching a commercial game. Students are responsible not only for

programming and design, but also for marketing, presentation, and gathering player feedback.

“Watching them take an idea from concept to a finished product is the most rewarding part,” Holt said.

Students learn collaboration, project management, problem-solving, and communication while creating games that are tested by real audiences. The process also exposes them to professional feedback and industry expectations while encouraging creativity and innovation.

Families often share that the program helps students gain confidence, develop new skills, and discover talents and interests they may not have realized they possessed.

Prize money awarded to graduating seniors comes from a recurring community donation. Underclassmen who receive awards reinvest their winnings into future projects and program development.

The announcement of the Game of the Year winners marked the culmination of a year of game development projects for Greenwave Games students.

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, June 8

Chili-Cheese Burger
WW Bun
Seasoned Fries
Garden Salad
Cali Veg Blend
Diced Pears

Tuesday, June 9

Rigatoni & Meatballs
Zucchini
Colorful Salad
WW Bread
Orange Mango Cup

Wednesday, June 10

Birthday Lunch BLT
WW Bread
LS Tomato Soup
Mixed Green Salad
Strawberry Short Cake

Thursday, June 11

Herb Baked Chicken
Mashed Sweet Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
WW Bread Spiced
Apple Sauce

Friday, June 12

Beer Battered Fish
Seasoned Brown Rice
Normandy Veg Blend
WW Roll
Cottage Cheese & Mixed Fruit

FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

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

Monday, June 8

Burgers
Potato Salad & Fruit

Thursday, June 11

Eggs
Muffins & Fruit

Monday, June 15

Pizza Night
Salad & Dessert

Thursday, June 18

Chili Chicken casserole
Salad & Dessert

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

OBITUARIES

MIKE DENT
April 30, 2026



Mike Dent, 68, was born in Fallon to Ethel and Tom Dent and passed away on April 30, 2026. Mike spent his life farming in the Fallon area and later laser-leveling fields for farmers throughout Northern California and surrounding towns in Nevada. He was known for his hard work, dedication, and willingness to help others.

Mike loved the outdoors and especially enjoyed fishing, hunting, and summer camping trips with his two boys. Some

of his happiest moments were spent with family, sharing stories around campfires, and enjoying the simple things in life.

He deeply loved his grandchildren and cherished every moment with them. Mike especially enjoyed showing his youngest grandchild, Cayson, his large collection of toy tractors and letting him play with the toy carryalls he proudly collected over the years.

Mike will be remembered for his hardworking spirit, love of family, and the many memories he created with those closest to him.

He is survived by his son, James (Ashley) Dent, of Elko; and his beloved grandchildren, Taylor Dent, Bryton Beckwith, and Cayson Dent, along with many loving family members and friends who will miss him dearly.

Services will be held June 5, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Smith's Funeral Home.

MARY ELNORA (VASQUEZ) BYRD
June 20, 1937 – May 7, 2026



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Mary Elnora (Vasquez) Byrd. Mary passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on May 7, 2026, at 4:44 p.m.

Mary was born June 20, 1937, to Angel and Elnora (Snooks) Vasquez in Fallon, Nevada.

Mary grew up in Fallon, beginning her education at Oats Park School and graduating from CCHS in 1955. Marrying Ollie Eugene Byrd Jr. on Oct. 3, 1956, together they had three daughters and one son.

Mary had many jobs throughout her dash, including being a nurse at Churchill County Hospital, managing rentals, and, most importantly, raising and caring for her family.

Teaching her children and grandchildren life skills, the joy of cooking, playing the piano and accordion, crocheting, knitting, cross-stitch, embroidery, in addition to many other hobbies, brought her great joy.

The number one meaning of Mary's dash was loving and serving Jesus Christ, her Savior.

Her dash contained doing what she enjoyed, which included being a greeter at the Nazarene Church, attending Bible studies, meeting with church members, preparing food for gatherings, and volunteering at the Out of Egypt Food Pantry Warehouse.

Mary will be remembered for her love for all, her hard work up until her last days, and the precious memories she created with everyone she encountered.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Angel (1953) and Elnora (1988); sister Veryl (1992); brother Melvin (2001); husband of 54 years, Eugene (2010); grandson Shawn Steuart (2015); and great-granddaughter Everly Burton (2019).

Mary is survived by her daughters, Teresea (Roger) Smith, Alethea (Jim) Steuart, and Telethea (George) Olson, and her son, Edwin (Mary) Byrd. She is also survived by her granddaughters, Juanita Smith, Sharyn (Larcel) Morton, Amy Steuart, Angela (Chris) Engblom, Rianna Byrd, Brittany (Mark) Burton, and Nicole McGraw (Shawn); great-grandchildren, Andrew (Emma) McConnell, Lizzie (Jonathon) Krueger, Hailey and Wyatt Seibold, and Kaleb and Amelia Burton; and great-great-grandchildren, Kanan McConnell and Callie Mae Krueger, with one more expected in June. She is further survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary was laid to rest with her husband, Gene, in a private burial at the Veterans Cemetery in Fernley, Nevada, on June 4, 2026.

A memorial is scheduled for June 20, 2026, at 11 a.m. at the Nazarene Church, 1520 Grimes St., Fallon, Nevada. Family and friends are invited to attend, celebrate, and share memories of Mary's life, with a reception to follow.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, friends consider a bouquet of balloons or a donation to the Out of Egypt Compassion Center Food Pantry at 1075 Taylor Place, P.O. Box 485, Fallon, Nevada 89407.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff at Banner Hospital, Sierra Basin Rehabilitation Center, Carson Tahoe Hospital, Renown, and Highland Manor for their support throughout her journey.

The family also extends heartfelt thanks to family and friends for the beautiful flowers, stuffed animals, books, cards, and prayers during this difficult time.

His light shone through Mary for all to see. Miss Mary is and will be dearly missed.

WALTER LEE WARDWELL
May 18, 2026



Walter Lee Wardwell died peacefully at his home on May 18, 2026. He created a legacy of excellence, succeeding at everything he attempted. He was

active in many extracurricular activities in high school and continued that drive throughout his life. He was an avid pilot, instructor, and mechanic, a cross-country runner, a devoted father figure to many, and an avid hunter.

He is survived by his wife, Rochelle Langston; his mother,

Ruth Wardwell; his sons, Scott Wardwell, Anthony Laca, Kris Siewert, Alex Martin and Martin Ehlers; his daughters, Catherine Murray, Jacqueline Laca, Whitney Wardwell and Keta Siewert; his sisters, Rosemary Rials, Barbara Wardwell and Jeane O'Doan; and his brother, Richard Wardwell.

JERRY ARTHUR FLETCHER
Dec. 28, 1939 – May 6, 2026

Jerry Arthur Fletcher went to be with the Lord, Wednesday, May 6, surrounded by his family. Born in San Jose, California, Dec. 28, 1939, to Carl and Lucille Fletcher, he grew up in Santa Clara County, graduating from James Lick High School in 1958. A talented athlete, he went on to play football for Cal Poly Institute as a tight end. He loved rodeo, traveling the West Coast, bull dogging, team roping, and calf roping.

He joined the California National Guard and after completing his training at the law enforcement academy, went to work for the Santa Clara Sheriff's Department as a deputy.

He would later settle in Fallon, Nevada, working on drill rigs in Dixie Valley and working on the Fallon Naval Air Station until his retirement in 2016.



He was preceded in death by his mother, Lucille, father, Carl, and his former wives Bernie, Donna, and Linda. He is survived by daughters Karin (Matthew) of South Carolina, Toni of California, and bonus daughters Stacey (Brennan), Terry (Curtis), and Lynne (Fred) of California, grandchildren, Chantell (Chris), Garrett, Dawson, Josiah of Virginia, Jason (Tanya), Brittany (Joe), Kaitlyn (Craig), Rachael (Dyllon), Kyle (Allison), Korey (Courtney), Kaleb (Meredith) of South Carolina, Tyler (Britt), and Greg of North Carolina and great-grandchildren Blake, Ethan, Andrew, Catie, Lucas, Greyson, Dawson, Auggie, Connor, Lillie, Elowyn, Ivy, Vivi, Weston, Ben of South Carolina and Charlotte, Claire, and Carly of North Carolina.

A celebration of life will be held at The Gardens, Fallon, Nevada, on Saturday, June 13, at 11 a.m. We will have a time of fellowship and food following the services.

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fallon Community Calendar
Movie Day
Coalition for Senior Citizens
The Fallon Theatre
Every third Friday at 1 p.m.

Songwriter's Night
Reno Musicians Collective
Rhythm Tap House
June 6 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Fallon PRCA Rodeo
Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association
Fairview Arena
June 16-17

Kids Crafts: "Digging into the Past"
Bea's Days of Summer
Churchill County Museum
June 20

CCHS Graduation
Churchill County High School
Edward Arciniega Athletic Complex at CCHS
June 5 at 7 p.m.

Boots and Britches
Boots and Britches Horse Club
Rafter 3C Event Complex
June 9 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Summer Art With Mrs. Sorenson
Oats Park Art School
Oats Park Art Center
June 16, 18, 19, ages 6-8 from 9 to 10 a.m.,
ages 9-12 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bingo Night
Fallon Animal Welfare Group
Pennington Center
June 26 at 6 p.m.

Queen of Hearts Barrel Race
Queen of Hearts
Rafter 3C Event Complex
June 12-14

Greenwave Youth Baseball Camp
Greenwave Dugout Club
Contact greenwavedugoutclub@gmail.com
to register.
June 19-20 from 8 a.m. to noon

Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social
Churchill County Museum
1050 S. Maine St.
June 27 from 1 to 3 p.m.



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

COMMUNITY

Senator Rosen Tours WNC Nursing Expansion Project in Fallon

Staff Report

U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen visited Western Nevada College’s Fallon campus Thursday to view progress on a nursing education expansion project aimed at increasing access to training for future nurses in rural Nevada.

The project is supported by \$2.3 million in federal funding secured by Rosen and will create a permanent home for WNC’s rural nursing cohort. The expansion will allow students to complete more of their nursing coursework in Fallon rather than traveling to Carson City.

The Rural Nursing Expansion and Renovation Project will include clinical training areas, simulation labs, study spaces, and testing rooms designed to support nursing students throughout their education.

“Nevada is facing a dire shortage of nurses, especially in rural communities, which limits access to care for Nevadans,” Rosen said during the visit. “One way to address this problem is by training more nurses in Nevada, and it was great to see the progress being made on Western Nevada College’s Fallon Rural Nursing Expansion so local students can get their education closer to home.”

Rosen said she will continue working in the Senate to address shortages among nurses and other medical professionals.

The Fallon project is part of a broader effort by Rosen to expand health care training opportunities across Nevada. In addition to funding for the Fallon expansion, she helped secure \$4.3 million for a nursing lab expansion at WNC’s Douglas campus.

Rosen has also introduced several bipartisan measures focused on strengthening Nevada’s health care workforce, including legislation to increase nursing faculty, expand pathways for licensed practical nurses to become registered nurses, increase medical residency opportunities in underserved areas, and help doctors and dentists defer student loan payments during residency and internship programs.

Western Nevada College officials said the Fallon expansion will help address barriers facing rural students by allowing them to complete required coursework closer to home while receiving hands-on training in modern facilities.



Representatives from Western Nevada College, local government, and the community join U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen during a visit to the college’s Fallon campus to view progress on the Rural Nursing Expansion and Renovation Project. From left are Pam Yost, Kelly Frost, Bob Erickson, Robyn Jordan, Mel Glover, Sen. Jacky Rosen, Mayor Ken Tedford, Jane Moon, and Jesse Segura.

The expansion will allow Fallon-area students to complete more of their nursing education locally while increasing training opportunities for future rural health care professionals.

Nevada Paint Horse Club Hosts Two-Day Show in Fallon



Julie Emmerson shows her horse, She’s My Legacy, in the halter class during the Nevada Paint Horse Club show May 31 at the Tammy Lee Memorial Arena in Fallon.

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman

The Nevada Paint Horse Club hosted a two-day horse show May 30-31 at the Tammy Lee Memorial Arena at the Rafter 3C Complex in Fallon.

Show managers Sharon Avery and Roy Bock kept the event moving throughout the weekend as competitors participated in a variety of classes.

Western performance classes were held Saturday, while halter and hunter jumper/English classes took place Sunday.

The Nevada Paint Horse Club regularly hosts shows in Fallon that bring together horse owners and riders from across the region to compete and showcase their horses.

The club’s next scheduled show in Fallon is set for July 11-12, 2026.

Top Gun Dragstrip Draws Racers From Across the West



Welcome signs greet visitors arriving for the National Hot Rod Association Pacific Division National Open and Junior Championship Series weekend at Top Gun Dragstrip. The annual event brought racers, crews, and spectators to Fallon from throughout the West. Photo by Christina Rodarte.

Staff Report

Racers from across the western United States converged on Fallon over the weekend as Top Gun Dragstrip hosted the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) Pacific Division National Open and Junior Championship Series races.

The three-day event, held May 29-31, brought sportsman racers, junior dragsters, motorcycle competitors, and bracket racers to Fallon for two Pacific Division National Open races and two Junior Championship Series events.

The competition was part of the NHRA’s 75th-anniversary season and drew participants seeking valuable divisional points and national recognition.

Activities began Thursday with racer arrivals and a community gathering in downtown Fallon, before racing action got underway on Friday with test-and-tune sessions and qualifying. Competition continued throughout the weekend at the local dragstrip.

Top Gun Dragstrip remains one of Northern Nevada’s premier motorsports venues and regularly hosts NHRA-sanctioned events from spring through fall. The National Open weekend is among the track’s largest annual events, attracting racers, crews, family members, and spectators to Churchill County.

In addition to the on-track competition, the event provided an economic boost for local businesses as racers and visitors filled hotels, restaurants, and shops throughout the weekend.

The National Open races were followed by regular Top Gun Dragstrip points competition, which continues throughout the summer racing season.

Top Gun Dragstrip remains one of Northern Nevada’s premier motorsports venues and regularly hosts NHRA-sanctioned events from spring through fall.



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SPORTS

Drake Overcomes Injuries to Earn Return Trip to National Finals Rodeo

Staff Report

After battling back from two serious injuries in less than two years, Fallon youth bull rider Beau Drake Jr. has earned another chance to compete on rodeo's biggest high school stage.

Drake, 16, qualified for the 2026 National High School Finals Rodeo after finishing as Nevada's reserve champion bull rider. He will represent the Washoe High School Rodeo Club and Nevada at the national competition July 19-25 in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Beau Drake Jr. prepares for competition during a bull-riding event. The Fallon teenager has qualified for the 2026 National High School Finals Rodeo after earning Nevada reserve champion bull rider honors. Photo courtesy of Jamie Drake.

The qualification marks Drake's second appearance at the National High School Finals Rodeo and caps a comeback that tested his determination both in and out of the arena.

In 2025, Drake suffered a broken femur during the Nevada State Finals Rodeo, forcing him to miss months of competition while recovering



Fallon bull rider Beau Drake Jr. competes during a rodeo event. Drake will represent Nevada and the Washoe High School Rodeo Club at the National High School Finals Rodeo July 19-25 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Photo courtesy of Jamie Drake.

and completing rehabilitation. Earlier this year, he suffered a broken ankle, creating another setback as he worked to return to competition.

Despite the injuries, Drake remained focused on returning to the sport. Through physical therapy, training, and practice, he worked his way back into competition and again earned a place among Nevada's top bull riders.

Drake previously won the 2024 Nevada Junior High Bull Riding Championship and has continued to build on that success at the high school level. He earned reserve champion bull rider honors in Nevada in both 2025 and 2026.

Family support has played a key role in his rodeo career. Drake credits his uncles, Billy and Levi Quillan, both professional rodeo athletes,

coaches, and mentors, with helping him develop his skills and pursue his goals. He also credits his mother, Jamie Drake, for supporting his travels and competitions across Nevada.

When he is not competing, Drake helps younger athletes develop their rodeo skills. He works with youth riders at his T-N Practice Pen in Fallon and assists with weekly Tuesday night bull-riding practices at Quillan's Practice Pen, where riders prepare for upcoming competitions.

At the National High School Finals Rodeo, Drake will compete against top riders from across the United States, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and other countries as he represents Fallon and Nevada on one of youth rodeo's largest stages.

Inaugural Esports Tournament Draws Competitors From Across Region

Staff Report

More than 50 gamers gathered at Churchill County High School on Saturday, May 24, for the school's inaugural esports tournament, competing in Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and Fortnite while helping launch what organizers hope will become an annual event.

Hosted by the Greenwave Games esports program, the tournament attracted competitors from Churchill County and beyond, including players from Reno. The event featured 15 Super Smash Bros. entrants and 12 Fortnite teams.

The school's game development lab was transformed into a competitive gaming venue with multiple tournament stations, spectator areas, and a live broadcast produced by student Cooper White.

Game development instructor Aaron Holt organized and officiated the tournament, which welcomed competitors ranging from elementary-age students to adults.

"We had a great turnout for our first tournament," Holt said. "Now that we know what works and what we need, we can make next year even bigger."

Tournament brackets were managed online, allowing players and spectators to follow results throughout the day. Championship matches drew the largest crowds as competitors battled for tournament titles.

"Esports teaches the same things as traditional athletics," Holt said. "Teamwork, leadership, accountability, and perseverance are all part of it."

A competitor from Reno captured the Super Smash Bros. championship after a closely contested final match. Churchill County High School student Brian Gardiner earned second place, while Mason Blakemore finished third.

In the Fortnite competition, a local team that included members of the Fernandez family claimed the championship.

Players also participated in Marvel Rivals and open-play activities throughout the day, while visitors gathered to watch competition, tour the gaming lab, and learn more about the school's esports and game development programs.



Members of Churchill County High School's Greenwave Games esports program gather for the Esports Awards Banquet following a pizza dinner and awards ceremony. Front row, from left, are Aaron Holt, Noah Johnson, Kody Schnorbus, Ayden Fernandez, Logan Fernandez, and Brandin Stowe. Back row, from left, are Cooper White, Devon Mancini, Eli Taylor, David Vicencio, Mason Blakemore, Brian Gardiner, Lee Oakley, Doug Callahan, Wylie Boartfield, and Keoni Burrow. Photo courtesy of Robin Burrow.

The event included a student-operated concession stand featuring video game-themed menu items, providing an additional fundraising opportunity for the program.

Holt said one of the most encouraging aspects of the tournament was the support shown by families.

Parents attended throughout the day, many expressing appreciation for a supervised environment where students could socialize, compete, and develop teamwork skills. Holt said the event highlighted the growing demand for activities that appeal to students interested in gaming, technology, and digital media.

"Esports teaches the same things as traditional athletics," Holt said. "Teamwork, leadership, accountability, and perseverance are all part of it."

Although Memorial Day weekend likely affected attendance, Holt said the turnout exceeded expectations for a first-year event. Organizers plan to expand the tournament next year and hope to attract additional competitors from across Northern Nevada.

The tournament is the latest addition to Churchill County High School's growing Greenwave Games program, which continues to provide students with opportunities in competitive gaming, game development, broadcasting, event management, and other technology-related fields.

The season concluded with the program's Esports Awards Banquet, where players and families gathered for a pizza dinner and awards ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of Greenwave Games competitors.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Trustees Approve School District Final Budget

By Rachel Dahl

The Churchill County School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the district's fiscal year 2026-27 final budget during a public hearing at its May 19 meeting, after a short discussion focused on food service costs, special program accounting, and how the district reports spending for English learner and at-risk student services.

Comptroller Amanda Hammond presented the final budget to trustees, explaining several changes made since the tentative budget was submitted.

According to the district's budget overview, the final budget includes estimated expenditures of \$61,462,850 across 16 governmental funds, plus \$469,400 in estimated expenditures in the district's proprietary workers' compensation fund. The budget also includes \$37,487,825 in State Education Fund revenues. The total budget amount is \$74,895,288.

Hammond told trustees one correction would be made before the final budget was submitted to the Nevada Department of Taxation. The Chartwells meal rate listed in the narrative section on page 63 of the budget showed the current rate of \$4.189 but should have reflected the new rate of \$4.3988 per lunch meal.

Superintendent Derild Parsons clarified that the correction was in the narrative information only and did not affect the budget numbers. The meal rate increase had already been included in the food service fund expenditure.

The district's contract renewal memo states the new Chartwells rate represents an increase of 20.98 cents per meal, based on inflation, product availability, and Consumer Price Index data from

March 2025 through March 2026. The memo also notes that two breakfasts are charged at the single meal rate of \$4.3988.

Hammond also reviewed changes to the district's accounting treatment for English learner and at-risk funds. She said she had consulted with Amber Reed at the state and determined the district would more accurately show spending on those programs by transferring money from the General Fund into the English Learners Fund and At-Risk Fund, rather than moving excess expenditures out of those funds and into the General Fund.

Under the previous approach, Hammond said, the state's required Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 387 report made it appear the district was spending only the amount it received for those services. In reality, she said, the salaries and benefits associated with English learner and at-risk services exceeded the money coming into those funding "buckets." The new approach keeps the program expenses in the appropriate funds and uses General Fund transfers to make the funds whole, similar to how the district handles special education costs.

Parsons said the distinction matters because the NRS 387 report is used after the budget cycle and helps inform state education budget recommendations. If the report understates what districts are actually spending, he said, that can affect future funding discussions.

Trustees also asked about why the district appeared to receive more English learner funding than at-risk funding. Parsons said the state changed how it identifies at-risk students, using multiple factors in Infinite Campus, including attendance and grades. He said Churchill County was one of the districts negatively affected by

that change, losing about \$260,000 in at-risk funding.

The final budget overview identifies several other changes from the tentative budget. Employee benefit expenditures were adjusted to reflect a finalized 7.7% health insurance increase, rather than the 10% increase originally estimated. General Fund contingency was reduced to about 1% of total expenditures, and the projected ending General Fund balance represents about 9.3% of fiscal year 2027 expenditures and 10.5% of prior year expenditures.

The budget also includes an approximately \$20,000 increase in the High School Construction Fund for possible warranty-related work tied to the Discovery Lane property. Additional increases include food service expenditures connected to the Chartwells renewal and cafeteria remodels at Lahontan Elementary School and Numa Elementary School, as well as added capital project costs for a districtwide telephone infrastructure upgrade.

Trustees briefly discussed the Community Eligibility Provision, or CEP, which would allow the district to provide meals at no charge to students. Hammond said the Nevada Department of Agriculture had advised the district not to move to CEP because the district's percentage was still not high enough and the cost would be too high. Trustees asked that the issue be returned in June, before the June 30 deadline, with information comparing the cost of CEP to the district's current food service costs and debt.

Before the vote, trustees thanked Hammond and district office staff for the budget work. Board President Gregg Malkovich said the board had been given "a balanced budget that we can trust," and the budget was approved unanimously.

Library Staffing, Programs Reviewed

By Sydney Trainor

Staffing changes, summer programming, and new library services were among the key topics discussed during the Churchill County Library Board of Trustees meeting May 28, as trustees also reviewed policy updates and plans to fill a vacant board seat.

During the library director's report, Library Director John Hong discussed several staffing and program updates. The children's services librarian resigned, and the former events services librarian was promoted into the role. Hong said the library is accepting applications for an adult services librarian position through June 7.

Hong reported attending the 2026 Nevada Library Association Conference in Henderson and a library leadership summit. He announced the library recently added access to Ancestry Library Edition, allowing patrons to use genealogy research databases while connected to library computers or the library's Wi-Fi network.

Hong highlighted the library's Summer Reading Program, which will kick off June 6 from 10 a.m. to noon and will feature magician Larry Wil-

son, a bounce house, cotton candy, crafts, and other family activities. The event is sponsored by Financial Horizons Credit Union and Credit Media. Library staff expect about 200 attendees at the kickoff and roughly 500 participants throughout the summer reading program.

The board also reviewed Module 5 of the Nevada State Library Trustee Training, which covers the importance of policies involving collection development, intellectual freedom, patron privacy and confidentiality, and materials selection. During the discussion, trustees identified potential new policies, including an unattended children policy and a public solicitation and advertising policy. No action was taken.

Human Resources Director Joe Sanford discussed the library director evaluation process with the board, explaining that the evaluation must be conducted during a public meeting. Trustees complete evaluation forms rating the director in several areas, including public relations, management, professional conduct, responsibility, and overall performance.

Sanford said Human Resources compiles the individual evaluations into a combined score and

summary of comments, which becomes part of the public record. Trustees also discussed the timeline for the annual evaluation, how the library's strategic plan may factor into the review process, and whether employee feedback could be considered in future evaluations.

Trustees reviewed the process for filling the vacant board seat. The position has been advertised, and applications are available through the county website and the Human Resources Department. Applications will be reviewed by Human Resources and the County Manager's Office before a recommendation is brought back to the board for consideration.

In other business, the board approved the April 2026 budget report and Library Gift Fund Report. Trustees also approved three full-day library closures on June 15, July 20, and Dec. 14 for professional development, training, and internal projects. Board members approved a request for two library employees to work 36-hour schedules during the summer reading session.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 25 at 3 p.m.

School Board:

Enrollment, Staffing, Student Highlights, and Year-End Principal Reports

By Leanna Lehman

Churchill County School District officials reported continued enrollment declines and staffing challenges during the May 19 meeting of the Board of School Trustees.

District enrollment dropped from 3,282 students during the 2023-24 school year to 3,048 students as of May 1, 2026.

Churchill County High School reported 983 students enrolled, while Churchill County Middle School reported 646 students. Total elementary enrollment districtwide stood at 1,419 students.

The enrollment report showed only slight month-to-month changes between April and May, with the district gaining three students overall during that period.

Human Resources Manager Cameron Sorensen reported that the district continues to face staffing shortages heading into the 2026-27 school year despite ongoing recruitment efforts.

Staff is currently recruiting qualified applicants for several licensed positions, including elementary school teachers, teachers on special assignment, speech-language pathologists, computer teachers, Spanish teachers, and agriculture Career and Technical Education instructors.

Sorensen said the HR department has attended job fairs, used paid advertising and social media recruitment, and offered hiring incentives of \$2,000 for licensed staff and \$3,000 for special education licensed staff. Despite those efforts, open positions continue to outnumber qualified applicants.

During the superintendent's update, Churchill County High School student representative Valeria Casillas Ibarra highlighted recent student activities and accomplishments. She reported that HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) recently competed at the state conference, with several students earning top-five finishes in their categories.

School principals also provided year-end reports outlining accomplishments and priorities for improvement.

Lahontan Elementary School Principal Kimi Melendy highlighted continued use of the Reset Room, restorative practices, and social-emotional learning strategies. She identified professional learning opportunities for teachers as an area for growth.

E.C. Best Elementary School Principal Brad Barton reported infrastructure improvements, enhanced family engagement, and continued academic growth efforts. He identified literacy advancement as a key focus and said the school plans to expand Science of Reading training and targeted interventions for struggling students.

Numa Elementary School Principal Shawn Purcell reported positive results from the school's Reset Room and efforts to strengthen curriculum understanding and academic outcomes. He said supporting students who are reading below grade level remains a priority.

Churchill County Middle School Principal Deana Porretta highlighted successful completion of spring SBAC and i-Ready assessments, along with campus improvements that include a new grass field and obstacle course.

Churchill County High School Principal Tim Spencer reported improvements in campus culture, citing reduced restroom vandalism, restorative practices, and stronger student accountability.

"We have seen a remarkable transformation in our daily environment, driven by consistency and presence," Spencer said in his report.

Looking ahead, Spencer said priorities include improving attendance, reducing chronic absenteeism from 19% to 16%, and strengthening reading and writing instruction.

Trustees took no action on the reports presented during the meeting. They did discuss grade-level schools and the article on that issue can be found in the May 29, 2026 edition of The Fallon Post, and online at thefallonpost.org/article/9420,school-board-revisits-grade-level-school-structure.

COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, May 26, with Judge James Russell presiding.

By Leanna Lehman

Jonathon Scott English appeared before Judge James Russell, sitting in for Judge Thomas Stockard, on a probation revocation after multiple violations related to substance use while participating in the Western Nevada Regional Specialty Court program.

Churchill County Deputy Public Defender (DPD) Hampton Young told the court that English's elderly mother is seriously ill and currently in a treatment facility in Southern California. Young said the request to leave drug court was motivated by English's desire to care for her. He explained that English previously went to Douglas County, where he completed a 90-day treatment program and served 42 days in custody.

Young stated English has incurred infractions while in Drug Court related to alcohol use, including one incident in which his blood alcohol content (BAC) was reportedly 0.437 – which Hampton challenged, noting that a BAC of 0.437 would render someone dead or comatose. He reported that English had been studying Alcoholics Anonymous materials while incarcerated and asked the court to continue probation. Young also argued the underlying case was a gross misdemeanor housebreaking matter in which English entered a residence during winter weather seeking shelter after previously living there with the former owner.

Senior Deputy District Attorney (SDDA) Chelsea Sanford opposed the request and asked the court to rescind diversion and impose a straight sentence of 364 days in jail.

"It's not against the law to drink yourself to death, this is what this defendant is doing," Sanford said, noting the original case involved the new owners of a home believing English was a deceased squatter after he hid behind a trash can inside the residence. Sanford noted English had repeatedly violated Drug Court through alcohol use and argued the program was specifically designed to help individuals in situations like his. She added that Drug Court could assist English in seeing his mother while still receiving treatment and supervision.



Judge Russell noted that if English chose to leave Drug Court, he would have to serve jail time. The court stated that specialty court staff believed residential treatment would benefit English, but he refused because he believed it would delay seeing his mother. Judge Russell told the defendant he had a choice between continuing the Drug Court program or serving jail time.

English told the court he did not want to return to the program.

Judge Russell rescinded diversion and sentenced English to 364 days in jail, straight time, with credit for 67 days served. Young requested additional credit for time served in Douglas County. Sanford stated the state would stipulate to the additional credit if the defense could provide documentation showing the custody time was related to this case.

Carissa Lee Marshall appeared for arraignment. Churchill County Alternate Public Defender Wright Noel and SDDA Chelsea Sanford jointly requested a one-week continuance, which was granted.

Angela Westerlund appeared for an arraignment, represented by Churchill County Senior Public Defender Jeffrey Weed. Weed told the court the matter is "a complicated case with a lot of charges" and noted it had only recently been

bound over to District Court from Justice Court. He requested additional time for the defense to review the case materials and noted there is a plea offer in place. Weed also requested provisional placement into Specialty Court and asked the court to grant Westerlund an OR release.

SDDA Sanford did not object to continuing the matter for one week, but opposed OR release. Sanford noted Westerlund had previously been granted an OR release from Justice Court and was allegedly involved in similar conduct at the same property involving the same victim just hours later after her release. Sanford also requested that, if released, Westerlund have no contact with her co-defendants, stating, "She's hanging around the wrong guys."

Weed argued there was no indication Westerlund had a drug problem and said she returned to the property to retrieve personal belongings. He added that Westerlund understands the consequences if she violates release conditions again.

The court continued the matter for one week and denied the request for OR release.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law. Criminal charges are allegations, and defendants are entitled to due process and a fair trial under the law.

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EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

By Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD



Students in Alexandria Manskie's Agricultural Food and Natural Resources class tour Mills Dairy in Fallon and learn about modern dairy production and robotic milking technology.



Harper Ritchie, left, and Alessandra Barros pose with their version of a bowling carnival game during Carnival Day at E.C. Best Elementary School.



Students in Brad Whitaker's first-grade English Language Learner class play Monopoly Junior while practicing math and language skills.

CCHS

Students in Alexandria Manskie's Agricultural Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) class had the opportunity to explore one of Churchill County's most innovative agricultural operations during a tour of Mills Dairy. The visit gave students a firsthand look at modern dairy production and the technology shaping the future of agriculture. Mills Dairy, the oldest dairy in Churchill County, is also the first dairy in Nevada to feature a robotic milking barn. The facility utilizes eight robotic milkers that assist with the milking process through advanced automation. During the tour, students saw the robotic systems in action, learned about dairy management practices, and gained insight into the role technology plays in today's agricultural industry.

"Many people don't realize that Nevada has 13 dairies, and 11 of them are located right here in Churchill County," Manskie said. "Having the opportunity to visit a local dairy and see cutting-edge technology in action helps students better understand the important role agriculture plays in our community and our state."

CCHS extends its appreciation to Mills Dairy for providing this valuable educational experience and helping students connect classroom learning with real-world agricultural careers.

CCMS

Families, staff, and community members gathered at Churchill County Middle School to enjoy the music department's final performance. Students from the CCMS choir and band programs showcased the skills they have developed throughout the year during an outdoor performance in the school's quad. The event highlighted months of practice, collaboration, and growth as students performed a variety of musical selections.

"This year's Spring Jam was another exceptional reminder that the students in our Middle School are truly amazing. Thank you, everyone, for all of your hard work," teacher Lucas Koenig said.

NUMA

Students in Bingta Francke's class recently celebrated the end of the school year with a festive Luau Party. Although the weather didn't fully cooperate, it didn't stop the fun. Students enjoyed themed treats served in coconut and pineapple cups, wore bright flower leis, and topped off their look with sunglasses for a perfect island-style celebration. The event was a joyful way to wrap up a year full of learning, growth, and connection in the classroom.

"It's been a great year with this group," Francke said. "I'm so proud of all they've accomplished and the progress they've made together."

E.C. BEST

Third-grade students in Monica Mayfield, Stacy Stults, Alyssa Tousignant, Laura Malkovich, Abigail Ritts, and Angela Heck's classes held a Carnival Day. Throughout the week, students worked in pairs to design and create their own carnival games. They developed the rules, built their games, and prepared everything needed for their game. On Friday, ECB turned into a carnival, with games set up both inside and outside classrooms. Students rotated through and played the different games their peers had created. It was a great way to celebrate a week of creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving in action.

LAHONTAN

Brad Whitaker's first-grade English Language Learner (ELL) students played Monopoly Junior to strengthen both academic and language skills. Students practiced essential math concepts, including rolling dice, counting money, and purchasing properties on the game board. The activity also provided meaningful opportunities for students to apply and develop English language skills in a natural, interactive setting. Throughout the game, students were introduced to and practiced vocabulary such as rent, property, bank, turn, railroad, pass, and monopoly. They also worked on using complete sentences like "it is your turn," while engaging in conversation with classmates during gameplay.



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EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera

Students from kindergarten through high school celebrated Field Day on the final day of school with support from FOA Friends of Oasis Academy.

For K-6 students, the annual event featured giant inflatable slides, a mechanical bull, a mechanical surfboard, a dunk tank, hamster wheels, big-wheel tricycles, cotton candy, snow cones, and more.

The Churchill County Fire Department helped students stay cool with a fire truck and sprinkler hose.

Seventh-grade students spent the morning swimming at the Churchill County indoor pool before joining the eighth-grade class for a barbecue lunch, inflatables, and snow cones.

High school students traveled to the historic Fallon Theatre, where they cheered on their favorite teachers during entertaining how-to activities and a peanut butter and jelly sandwich-making competition. Students also enjoyed popcorn and drinks while watching “Top Gun: Maverick” together.

Oasis Academy thanked FOA Friends of Oasis Academy and volunteers for helping make the event possible.

EIGHTH GRADERS RECOGNIZED AT PROMOTION CEREMONY

Oasis Academy celebrated its Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony on May 21 at 9 a.m. in the Rafter 3 C Arena, honoring middle school students as they completed an important chapter and prepared to begin high school.

Retiring teacher Kelly Nott served as the guest speaker and shared encouraging words with students as they move into the next stage of their education.

As students crossed the stage, their favorite Oasis Academy memories were shared with the audience.

Eighth-grade promotion students included: Addison Allegre, Marko Apolar, Baylee Aust, Marley Baglin, Audrey Blakemore, Tristan Bracken, Riley Davis, Gabriela de Leon, Greysen Dubois, Damon Edgmon, Vivian Foster, Jackson Frey, Juan Galeno Mendez, Cadence Garber, Ava German, Zachary Greenberg, Preston Gurr, Alison

Gutierrez Telles, Abel Hernandez, Kenton Horn, Payton Hyde, Janie Irving, Nathan Johnson, Kennedi King, Victor Ledesma Mata, Savannah Lewis, Adam Linares, Ryan Lincoln, Owen Massey, Zayden Maynez, Shandon McNamer, Maudie Menzel, Christopher Miller, Tyler Mitchell, Luke Moffitt, Dayana Moran Rodriguez, Shylo Morrow, Kelsey Nall, Jake Nichols, Allie Nuttall, Sadie Nuttall, Audrey O’Bryant, Alyssa Oyler, Drew Palanivelu, Addielyn Peel, Jacob Pilarski, Angela Pratt, Dakota Prinz, Daniella Ramirez-Vilchez, Christian Ritz, Odin Roose, Alana Santos, Sawyer Schank, Mackenzie Schoenmeier, Makenzie Schroeder, Jared Sherer, Katelyn Smith, Theodore Snooks, Nickolas Sorensen, Payton Sowersby, Khloe Spooner, Weston Starr, Mayu Steinbaugh, Warren Thompson, Connor Tolman, Vincenzo Torres May, Maya Ugalde, Raegan Warren, Lelan White, and Cole Wood.

STUDENTS REWARDED FOR HARD WORK DURING TESTING SEASON

Students in grades K-8 were recognized during end-of-year Testing Incentive Reward Assemblies celebrating their hard work and dedication during state and school assessments. The end of the school year can be stressful as students participate in Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), i-Ready testing, and, for eighth-graders, the College Equipped Readiness Tool (CERT).

Students earned raffle tickets throughout the testing season. The assemblies brought excitement and celebration as students had the chance to win a variety of prizes, including stickers, toys, and gift cards. This year’s grand prizes created even more excitement, with one student winning a bicycle and three students winning electric scooters.

“We want to thank Mrs. Sara Peixoto and Mrs. Kim Sorensen for their work in organizing the assemblies and prizes for the students,” said Shannon Garcia, K-6 Vice Principal. “End-of-year testing can be stressful, and we are proud of our students and staff for their hard work and dedication.”

Veritas Preparatory School

Classical and Christian

By David Ernst

On Thursday, May 21, the students, teachers, and families of Veritas Preparatory School gathered in the chapel to celebrate the graduation of four outstanding eighth-grade students and to wish them well as they begin the next chapter of their educational journey. The ceremony marked the conclusion of their middle school years and the exciting beginning of high school.

Headmaster Jill Rosario opened the ceremony by welcoming graduates, families, and friends and reflecting on the accomplishments of the Class of 2026. Assistant Headmaster David Ernst and seventh and eighth-grade teacher Brianna Behimer then shared remarks about each graduate, highlighting the unique gifts, character, and contributions they brought to the Veritas community.

A special part of the ceremony was the graduates’ own presentations. Each student delivered a personal speech, expressing gratitude to the parents, teachers, and classmates who had supported and encouraged them throughout their years at Veritas. They also shared a lighthearted “Top Ten” list, recalling favorite memories and experiences from their time at the school.

As a meaningful parting gift, each graduate received the Bible they had used during their years at Veritas, symbolizing the foundation of faith that has been central to their education. They were also presented with a special boxed set of “The Lord of the Rings,” a series that held particular significance during their middle school years and reflected the school’s appreciation for great literature, courage, and virtue.

The celebration concluded with the traditional Eighth-Grade Walk. Students, families, and staff lined the sidewalk outside the chapel, cheering and applauding as the graduates made their final walk as Veritas middle school students. The moment was both joyful and bittersweet — a fitting sendoff for a class that has left a lasting mark on the school community.

As the graduates move on to high school, the Veritas family celebrates their achievements and looks forward with confidence to all that lies ahead. Their years at Veritas have prepared them not only academically, but also in character and faith, providing a strong foundation for the opportunities and challenges to come.

Congratulations to the eighth-grade graduates — Anthony Meleen, Adam Mikulak, Andrea Quiles, and Autumn Thomas! May God bless you in your future endeavors!



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COLUMNS

What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen

By Kelli Kelly

A few days after the Fallon Chalk Festival, I'll finally make my way downtown to see the artwork. I missed the festival itself. I wasn't there for the artists at work, the music, the vendors, or the crowds. Instead, I'll experience the event the way many of us experience community life. A little later. While running an errand. Walking down Maine Street. Looking down and noticing something beautiful where it didn't exist before.

There's something fitting about that. Chalk art is temporary by design. Artists spend hours creating something beautiful with the full knowledge that it won't last. Eventually, the wind, the weather, a sprinkler, or simply the passage of time will erase it. The artwork exists for a season, and then it doesn't.

I've been thinking about temporary things a lot lately. For the past several weeks, I've been cataloging nearly six years of Fallon Post columns as part of an effort to organize and archive my work. What began as a practical project quickly became something else.

Reading one article from last month feels familiar. Reading six years of articles back-to-back feels almost like meeting a former version of yourself. There are stories I remember writing and stories I had forgotten entirely. There are moments that felt monumental at the time and moments that seemed insignificant that still resonate years later.

Perhaps the most interesting part is seeing patterns emerge. Food is everywhere, of course. Recipes, gardens, farmers, holidays, restaurants, family dinners, and seasonal traditions fill the pages. But reading the columns as a complete body of work has revealed something I hadn't fully appreciated while writing them.

The essays aren't really about food. Food is the vehicle. The destination has always been community, place, memory, and belonging.

Again and again, the columns return to the same questions. What makes a place feel like home? How do communities preserve what matters? What traditions are worth carrying forward? How do ordinary moments become



meaningful in retrospect? The answers have usually been explored through a meal, a recipe, a conversation, or a season. But the questions themselves run much deeper.

The archive has also revealed a few personal constants. I believe place matters. I believe communities are built through participation. I think meals remain one of the best ways to bring people together. And I was reminded that I apparently hold a long-standing belief that beans deserve better public relations.

Some discoveries were profound. Others were not. For example, I appear to have spent six years finding increasingly creative ways to advocate for beans. As a proud member of the Leguminati, I regret nothing.

This fall, I'll begin a doctoral program. As exciting as that next chapter feels, it has also

prompted me to think more intentionally about the chapter that came before it. Six years of weekly columns represents a meaningful portion of my life. Reading them together has been an opportunity to take stock, to notice recurring themes, and to better understand what I've been trying to say all along.

I don't know exactly what the future holds for this column. Time is finite, and new commitments inevitably reshape old routines. I hope to continue writing. I hope there are many more essays to come. But I also recognize that seasons change.

The process of revisiting these columns has reminded me that writing serves a purpose beyond publication. It creates a record. Not a perfect record or a complete one. Just enough of a record to remember who we were, what we cared about, and the place we called home.

Eventually, the chalk art downtown will disappear. That's part of its beauty. But for now, it remains. A temporary mark left by someone who wanted to contribute something to the community around them. That's how I feel about writing this column. Revisiting these weekly missives, I've realized they were never really about food. The subject was always Fallon. Not the buildings, streets, or city limits, but the people who create a sense of belonging here and, in doing so, make Fallon feel like home.

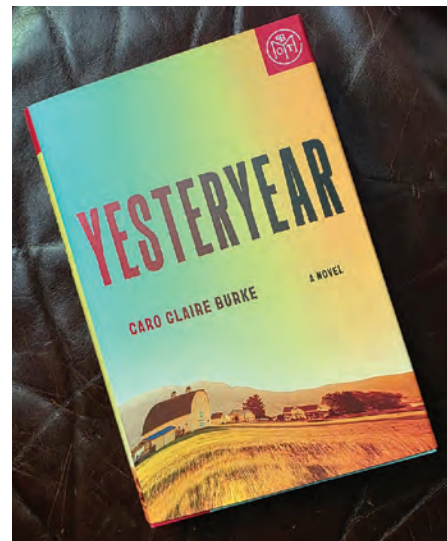
Though, in fairness, there were quite a lot of beans.



Kelli Kelly, Slinger of Produce. Slurper of Dumplings. Person of the Bean.

Allison's Book Report: "Yesteryear" by Caro Claire Burke

By Allison Diegel



This week's book is so timely and smart, it is guaranteed to suck you in and not let you go until the last page. I had been hearing so much about this one all over social media and TV, I just had to read it for myself. As it turns out, this one definitely lives up to the hype, and it is the perfect read to kick off the summer.

Caro Claire Burke's debut novel, "Yesteryear," is a wild, darkly funny psychological thriller and social satire that dives headfirst into the curated world of social media influencer culture. The story centers on Natalie Heller Mills, a massively successful Christian "tradwife" influencer. To her millions of online followers, Natalie is the picture of domestic perfection, selling a romanticized, pastoral lifestyle of raw milk, fresh farm eggs, and wholesome homesteading from her Idaho ranch. In reality, her idyllic life is an entirely staged performance financed by her internet fame, complete with hidden modern appliances, heavy pesticide use, and an army of hired nannies and ranch hands doing the actual heavy lifting.

The narrative is smartly split into two parallel timelines that keep you completely hooked. In the past-tense timeline, we see Natalie's backstory and her meteoric rise to internet stardom alongside her husband Caleb, who is the directionless son of a powerful conservative politician. This modern-day timeline tracks the gradual, messy unraveling of Natalie's immaculate image as toxic secrets begin to leak. From severe child and animal neglect to a massive public scandal involving a physical assault after Caleb has an affair with their social media producer, Natalie's carefully constructed empire comes crashing down.

The second, present-tense timeline kicks off with a bizarre twist: Natalie suddenly wakes up cold, filthy, and terrified in the year 1855. She finds herself trapped in a brutal, primitive version of her own ranch, surrounded by harsh conditions and children who insist they belong to her, even though she does not recognize them. Stripped of modern medicine, grocery stores, and the internet, she is forced to live out the grueling reality of the pioneer lifestyle she previously monetized as a cute aesthetic. As she struggles to survive the daily physical toll of 19th-century womanhood, Natalie desperately tries to figure out whether she has genuinely traveled through time, if she is trapped in a demented reality TV show, or if something even more sinister is at play. Ultimately, "Yesteryear" serves as a gripping, thought-provoking examination of faith, toxic internet fame, and the stark, often dangerous contrast between our online identities and lived reality.

I hope that you're as enthralled with this book as I was. Don't forget to check out my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more recommendations and book-related 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.

COLUMNS

Postcards: Dreaming of Sugar Plums

By Michon Mackedon

June brings us many reminders of D-Day, the turning point of World War II in Europe. Here in Fallon, small sacrifices were taking place daily.

A quick glance at the advertisements in the local newspapers throughout the duration of World War II tells us a lot about the everyday difficulties faced by those on the home front ... not to be compared with the horrors taking place in the theaters of war.

On Dec. 11, 1941, a mere four days following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, tires were rationed. The majority of rubber was produced in the Southeast Asian nations that had bowed to Japanese control. A few weeks later, on Jan. 1, 1942, automobile production was ceased in the United States. The inventory of one-half million automobiles left on car lots was assessed and apportioned to those deemed most important to the war effort, including doctors and clergymen. Gas was rationed in November. A national "Victory Speed Limit" was imposed across the nation to stretch the gasoline supplies and the lives of both the tires and the automobiles. Car, gas, and tire purveyors switched to being car, gas, and tire preservers. A large ad in the "Fallon Standard," placed by Shell Oil Company, cautioned readers that "100,000 Cars Junked Every Month. Wartime Stop and Go can send your car to the scrap heap." The solution: get regular Shelllubrication.

By June 1942, companies had also stopped making radios, television sets, phonographs,

refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, and sewing machines for civilians.

But even if your refrigerator still worked, there wasn't much available to put in it.

Sugar was the first commodity rationed, on May 5, 1942. (Sugar, like rubber, was imported largely from Japanese-controlled areas.) Sugar was soon followed on the ration list by coffee, shortening, meat, food oils, cheese, butter, margarine, canned foods, canned milk, jams, jellies, and more. Dog food could no longer be sold in cans because metals were so valuable. Anyone wishing to buy new toothpaste in a tube (then made from metal) had to turn in an empty one.

Bakeries, restaurants, and other commercial users received larger rations, but for the average housewife or home cook, the task of putting a meal on the table, let alone baking a pie or a cookie, became quite challenging.

The Fallon Meat Company rose to the occasion by advertising "Delightful Substitutes." The substitutes were not named except for "poultry." The Fallon Mercantile advertised seeds: "Flowers for Morale; Vegetables for Victory."

An ad for White House Coffee claimed it was using new, non-metallic packaging: "Tin saving

for Victory." Another local newspaper ad displayed a photo of a mother and her small son pouring hot grease from a pan into another container, with the banner line, "Here's 18 More Bullets for Jimmy to Use!" The ad explained that a pound of fat supplied enough glycerin to make eighteen 50-calibre machine gun shells. When someone turned in a container of used fat to the local butcher, she became a "citizen soldier" and earned extra ration points.

Everyone in town was periodically issued a ration book; the distribution of the books was left to a volunteer War Price and Rationing Board. Each week, both Fallon newspapers printed a Ration Calendar outlining what rationed goods one could buy, when they could buy them, and the type of coupons or stamp needed. Samples are: "Stamps No. 9 for three gallons of gasoline;" "Stamp No. 1 on Airplane sheet in book 3 good for one pair of shoes." Of course, money was still required to make the purchase.

It couldn't have been easy. With Christmas 1942 on the horizon, the Ration Calendar informed our citizens that "Stamp No. 29 in Book 4 will be used for 5 lbs. sugar beginning Nov. 1 and lasting through Jan. 15."

Please send your stories and ideas for stories to mackedon@phonewave.net.

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.

Everyone in town was periodically issued a ration book; the distribution of the books was left to a volunteer War Price and Rationing Board.

Fallon Theatre Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

Thank you to everyone who has been spending their evenings with us at the Fallon Theatre as we welcome the month of June. As the afternoon heat begins to settle over the valley, there is nothing quite like escaping into the cool, air-conditioned comfort of our historic auditorium with fresh popcorn and a classic film.

At 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, we invite audiences of all ages to enjoy "The Little Princess" (1939), starring Shirley Temple. Set in Victorian London, the beloved family classic follows a young girl who is left at boarding school while her father serves in the Second Boer War. When he is reported missing, she refuses to lose hope and embarks on a journey fueled by optimism, courage, and determination. The film is unrated and runs 1 hour, 33 minutes.

At 7 p.m. both nights, we shift gears with "The Graduate" (1967), one of the defining films of its era. Dustin Hoffman stars as Benjamin Braddock, a recent college graduate struggling to find direction after returning home. Featuring memorable performances and the iconic music of Simon & Garfunkel, the film remains a thoughtful look at youth, adulthood, and the expectations placed on both. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour, 46 minutes.

The Coalition for Senior Citizens returns June 19 for its popular Third Friday Matinee. This month's feature is "Pride & Prejudice" (2005) at 1 p.m. The screening is open to moviegoers of all ages, and guests 60 and older will receive a free small popcorn and small drink. It is a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, enjoy a classic story, and spend an afternoon at the movies.

We are also excited to partner once again with the De Golyer Bucking Horse and Bull Bash for a free screening of "City Slickers" (1991) at 6 p.m. June 25. Produced by Cody and Kristina de Golyer, the annual rodeo has become a favorite local tradition. Before rodeo weekend begins, community members are invited to enjoy a free evening at the theatre with Billy Crystal



"The Little Princess" (1939), starring Shirley Temple.

and friends as they trade city life for a western adventure. Any remaining rodeo tickets will be available for purchase in the theatre lobby before the movie. Cash only while supplies last.

Looking ahead, Ventura Highway: The Music of America comes to the Fallon Theatre on July 18 at 8 p.m. The concert celebrates the music of the band America and features many of the group's best-known hits. Tickets are \$10.

As always, we are proud to serve as a gathering place for films, live entertainment, and community events. For information about renting the theatre for a private event or placing a message on the marquee, call 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you soon.

WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken June 2 at 8 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	227,100 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	340 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	96.3 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	50 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	234 cfs

June 2, 2024	June 2, 2023	June 2, 2022
302,833 acre feet	171,461 acre feet	154,354 acre feet

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

MEETINGS

June 10 – July 8, 2026

<p>Board of County Commissioners Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month 155 N. Taylor Street Next Meeting: June 17 at 8:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Churchill County School Board 690 S. Maine St. Next Meeting: June 16 at 5:30 p.m.</p>
<p>CC Communications Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. 155 N. Taylor Street Next Meeting: July 2 at 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Central NV Health District 155 N. Taylor Street Next Meeting: June 10 at 1:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Library Board of Trustees Meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. 155 N. Taylor Street Next Meeting: June 25 at 3 p.m.</p>	

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF OPEN APPOINTIVE POSITION

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking a public-spirited citizen who is willing to serve as a member on the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board is a governing board that meets once a month. This person will serve on a five (5) member board and act as Library Trustee for the public library. This person will serve an unexpired term through October 31, 2026. For more details, interested persons may talk to the Library Director for additional information about the Library Board and what the position entails.

Interested persons may obtain an application at the Churchill County Human Resources Department, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 155, Fallon, Nevada 89406, or by downloading at: <https://www.churchillcountynv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3083/Churchill-County-Board-Application?bidId=>. All letters and applications are to be submitted to the above address no later than 3:00 PM on June 17, 2026.

Linda Rothery,
Clerk/Treasurer

Prepared by:
Tara Adams
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
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