

THE FALLON POST



KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

GREAT BASIN SUN – LOCAL, FALLON EDITION | Vol. 7 No. 49 \$2.00 | The Week of October 9, 2026

CCHS Graduate Set to Take Navy Command

By Lori Kaiser

Churchill County High School 2003 graduate Cmdr. Nicholas “Fester” O’Neill will take command of Navy Talent Acquisition Group Great Lakes on Oct. 15, the latest milestone in an 18-year Navy career that has taken him around the world.

O’Neill lived in Fallon for only two years, but the relationships he formed here proved lasting. He met his future wife, Ashley Smith, at CCHS. They stayed together through high school and college and have built a life together during his nearly two decades in the Navy.

O’Neill arrived in Fallon at 16, moving here with his family the summer before his junior year at CCHS. His father served 24 years in the Navy and retired from Naval Air Station Fallon. O’Neill said his father’s service was an inspiration.

Naval service runs through generations of O’Neill’s family. His great-grandfather, grandfather, father, and uncle all served in the Navy. His mother, an educator who has taught in schools throughout northern Nevada, encouraged him to consider the U.S. Naval Academy, although O’Neill said neither of his parents pushed him toward military service.



Cmdr. Nicholas “Fester” O’Neill reunites with his wife, Ashley, and their four children after returning from a P-8A deployment to Isa, Bahrain, in 2022. Courtesy of Ashley O’Neill.

In Fallon, he found something different from the places he had lived growing up in a military family: a small community where people knew one another and relationships lasted.

He played soccer at CCHS, worked at Sonic Drive-In and as a lifeguard at the Churchill County pool, and played in a band that performed at Jive and Java.

O’Neill met Ashley in AP U.S. history during their junior year at CCHS. They began dating that September and stayed together through high school and college at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Their first date was a midnight staff movie at the Fallon Theatre, where Ashley worked. O’Neill joked that he “unofficially” worked there, too, spending time at the theater and providing some free labor between movies.

After CCHS, O’Neill attended UNR, earning a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice while considering what he wanted to do next. The Navy eventually became an option.

Ashley’s father, retired Navy Cmdr. John Smith, helped O’Neill explore that possibility. Smith, a Navy helicopter pilot who served three

[Navy Command continued on page A2]



Sheriff’s Office Promotes Two Deputies to Sergeants

Story and photo by Leanna Lehman

Two Churchill County Sheriff’s Office deputies earned new stripes during a promotion ceremony on Sept. 30.

Brian Miller was promoted to patrol sergeant, while John Cannon was promoted to detention sergeant during a ceremony attended by fellow deputies, family, and friends.

Before getting down to business, Orozco recognized Miller for another recent accomplishment. Miller represented the Sheriff’s Office in the Battle of the Badges drag race at Top Gun Drag Strip, losing his first heat before winning the next two and taking home the honors for the department.

Sheriff Lee Orozco told Miller and Cannon that their promotions come with something more important than a new title — responsibility for the people they now lead.

As first-line supervisors, they will be among the greatest influences on the culture of the department, Orozco said. “Deputies watch not only what their supervisors say, but what they do.”

“Culture is not created simply by what is written in policy or stored on a computer,” said Orozco. “Supervisors create it every day through what they encourage, what they correct, what they tolerate, and most importantly, the examples they set.”

Orozco also acknowledged one of the more difficult parts of moving into supervision: leading people who were previously peers. “Yesterday, you were one of the guys. Today, you are the supervisor,” he said.

That change, he said, means making decisions deputies may not like, correcting poor performance, and, at times, disciplining someone who had previously been a co-worker or friend.

“Good supervision is not about being popular,” Orozco said. “It’s about being fair, consistent, professional, and willing to

[Sheriff’s Office continued on page A5]

Seniors Run Away With Powderpuff Win



Churchill County High School senior Emerie Wallace carries the ball during the annual Powderpuff Flag Football Game. The seniors shut out the juniors 35-0 to open Spirit Week, building a commanding lead and keeping the juniors out of the end zone despite the juniors controlling the ball for much of the second half. Photo by John Baker.



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The Great Basin Sun, Fallon edition,
Copyright © 2026, is published
weekly on Friday, by RANGE Media
Company, 31 S. Maine, Fallon, NV
89406. Business, accounting, and
circulation office is at 31 S. Maine
Street, Fallon, NV 89406. Editorial
office is at 169 E. Center Street, Fallon,
NV 89406. Call 775-423-4545 to
subscribe. Periodical postage is paid
at Fallon, NV, and additional mailing
offices (if applicable).

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SUBSCRIPTIONS OR ADDRESS CHANGE
Can be placed online, and by mail at
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or by phone: 775-423-4545.
Single copies may be purchased for \$2
at local merchants listed on page 16.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log: *Another to the Fold*

By Rachel Dahl

It is National Newspaper Week. Naturally, the way we have chosen to celebrate at RANGE Media Company is by adding another newspaper.

This week marks our first week producing the Eureka County Star, the baby of our dear friend Trina, who started her newspaper in Eureka about the same time we started ours in Fallon.

And now she is tired and wants to retire. I cannot even imagine why.

When Trina asked if we would consider taking over the Star, though, it really was an honor. She has spent years building something important for her community, and she wanted to know it would continue. We don't take that lightly.

So, here we are. Welcome to the family, Eureka County Star.

Which brings me to one of those sayings I absolutely hate because it is trite and annoying and, unfortunately, true: I wish there were more hours in the day.

I really do. It’s not just a saying. There is just so much fun stuff to do.

There are stories I want to chase. People I want to interview. Columns I want to write. Newspapers I want to build. Pages I want to fuss over. Ideas I want to try. There are books and magazines and videos and newsletters and a bookstore and about 147 other things running around in my head at any given moment.

And now there is Eureka.

The problem is, there remain only 24 hours in a day, no matter how strongly I object.

We are finally getting more help around here, which we desperately need. Really desperately. I’ve absolutely run everyone around me into the ground.

But a funny thing happens when you finally get the help you have been begging for—people start taking things away from you.

This is, of course, the entire point.

You hire good people so they can take responsibility for things. You build systems. You divide the work. You let people become really good at their piece of it. And theoretically, the person who has been running around like her hair is on fire gets to stop doing everything herself.

Except nobody tells you that some of the things they take away are the fun things.

I don't want to give up the fun things. I like

making newspapers.

I like taking a pile of stories and pictures and advertisements and figuring out how they all fit together. I like finding a story nobody else noticed. I like calling somebody and hearing them say, “You know, nobody has ever asked me that before.”

I like watching a newspaper come together on Tuesday when, at 10 in the morning, it appears absolutely impossible that it will be on its way to the printer by 2.

And then somehow it is.

Mostly.

There is something wonderfully satisfying about making a newspaper. At the beginning of the week, there is nothing. Then people go to meetings and ball games and schools and ranches and courthouses. They ask questions. They take pictures. They listen. They write things down.

And by Tuesday afternoon, there it all is, a record of a community's week.

So I'm learning that growing this company is going to require me to give some of that work away. If we're going to keep building strong local newspapers across Nevada, I can't personally do every part of every one of them.

I know this.

I don't necessarily have to like it.

But there is something even better than getting to make all those newspapers myself: getting to watch really good people make them.

And getting to see communities support them, the part for which I am most grateful.

Every subscription, every advertisement, every public notice, every photograph somebody sends us, every phone call with a story tip, every person who walks into the office because they think we ought to know something — all of it makes this possible.

You allow us to keep doing this, and because you do, we're able to show up in another community this week.

So, during National Newspaper Week, while everybody else is celebrating newspapers, we're going to do what we apparently do best.

Make another one. And while we scramble through one more Tuesday trying to get a growing pile of Nevada newspapers headed to Vegas by 2 p.m., we'll always be right here...

... Keeping you Posted.

—*Rach*

Letter to the Editor

After reading Leanna Lehman’s article about license plate readers in Churchill County, I came away feeling reassured.

Before reading the article, I was generally concerned about Flock cameras, especially in Fallon. The explanation of the rationale for the county’s license plate reader, the concerns surrounding the technology, and the official responses helped me better understand how it is being used locally.

As I follow events in Washington, D.C., I often

feel concerned about how government is functioning nationally and internationally.

By contrast, this article left me reassured about how our local government is approaching this issue.

The situation had not changed because I read the article. What changed was my understanding of it. Good local reporting gave me the information I needed to feel better informed, and I value that.

Thank you.

Tanya

[Navy Command continued from page A1]

tours in Vietnam and was later stationed at Naval Air Station Fallon as a range officer, introduced O’Neill to retired Navy officers who later wrote recommendations for his commission. Smith also took him to the Tailhook Association’s annual naval aviation symposium shortly before O’Neill left for Officer Candidate School in 2008.

O’Neill was commissioned in Newport, Rhode Island, in December 2008 and became a naval flight officer in the P-3C Orion in 2010.

His assignments over the years took him from Jacksonville, Florida, to California and Japan. He flew the P-3C and P-8A, served aboard the USS Ronald Reagan, and held leadership positions with patrol and reconnaissance commands. He has accumulated more than 1,500 flight hours.

When asked what experience most prepared him for command, O’Neill did not point to one aircraft, deployment, or assignment. He said he took something from each experience.

His first operational tour with Patrol Squadron 5 in Jacksonville taught him what hard work looked like. Later assignments gave him perspective and helped him better understand how decisions are made throughout the Navy.

Aboard the Ronald Reagan, where he was a division officer responsible for about 180 sailors, O’Neill began to understand more fully the effect a leader could have on the people under his command. Although the assignment was not always easy, he said he found it rewarding to see the positive effect he could have on his sailors.

Other assignments reinforced the importance of teaching younger officers, understanding different perspectives and building relationships, lessons that now shape how O’Neill wants to lead.

For more than a year, he has served as executive officer of Navy Talent Acquisition Group Great Lakes, an experience he described as extended on-the-job training before assuming command.

The group oversees Navy recruiting across portions of four states, with 32 recruiting stations and two officer recruiting stations. Two additional officer recruiting stations are being opened.

When he assumes command, O’Neill said his

goal will be to push decision-making closer to the people doing the work, empowering them to think, react, and adapt.

Being selected is humbling, he said, and represents the Navy’s confidence in him after years of preparation.

He is equally clear that reaching command was never an individual accomplishment.

Ashley, he said, has been “the one constant through all of this.”

“We’ve made every decision together,” O’Neill said.

During deployments and long hours away, Ashley managed their home and family while he focused on the job he had trained to do.

“She doesn’t wear the uniform or have the rank,” he said, “but she’s sacrificed as much as I have, if not more.”

Their four children have made sacrifices as well. Their oldest daughter, now a high school senior, has attended nine schools in 12 years, repeatedly saying goodbye to friends and becoming the new student somewhere else.

O’Neill knows that experience. He lived it himself growing up in a military family.

O’Neill said taking command also validates the sacrifices his family has made.

After 18 years of assignments, deployments, and moves, his thoughts still return to the Nevada town where he spent only two years.

“It’s crazy how important those two years were,” O’Neill said.

The relationships formed then remain. When he and Ashley return to Fallon, they make a point of seeing people who were part of their lives here. At one point in his career, O’Neill even listed Fallon as his first choice for his next assignment. The Navy sent him back to Japan instead.

He would still like another chance.

“That’s what Fallon is,” O’Neill said. “It’s a small community. People know you and remember you.”

“You can be gone for 20 years and go all over the world and come back, and it still feels like home.”

FEATURES



Fall Arrives in Fallon

Oktoberfest, Scarecrows, and Farm Traditions Usher in the Season



Families build scarecrows during Churchill County Parks and Recreation’s Scarecrow Factory at the Oats Park Arts Center on Friday, Oct. 2. Children and adults stuffed clothing with straw to create their own fall characters. Photo by Lori Kaiser.



A family poses with its partially completed scarecrow during the Scarecrow Factory at the Oats Park Arts Center on Friday, Oct. 2. Photo by Lori Kaiser.

Staff Report

Fall celebrations were underway around Fallon as October began, bringing families, students, and neighbors together for everything from Oktoberfest activities to scarecrow building.

Western Nevada College students celebrated Oktoberfest at the Fallon campus. Churchill County Parks and Recreation opened its Scarecrow Factory at the Oats Park Arts Center, and Lattin Farms began its annual Fall Festival.

Western Nevada College’s Fallon campus got into the spirit of Oktoberfest on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at Virgil Getto Hall.

The Associated Students of Western Nevada brought the fall tradition to fellow students with soft pretzels and root beer floats. Students also

made lantern jars and posed for pictures with an Oktoberfest photo backdrop.

Families welcomed October with an evening of scarecrow building Friday, Oct. 2, at the Oats Park Arts Center.

Children and their families stuffed clothing with straw and created their own scarecrows during Churchill County Parks and Recreation’s Scarecrow Factory. Nearby, adults gathered for Ales for Arts and listened to live music.

Warm sunshine and a festive crowd added to the evening as families worked together on their creations.

The Scarecrow Factory continues Oct. 10 and 17 at Lattin Farms.

Lattin Farms is continuing its annual Fall Festival, bringing families to the farm for

seasonal activities, food, and time together.

Ryan and Lisa returned to Lattin Farms, where Lisa grew up, after her parents retired. They are continuing a family legacy that began in 1918 while helping people reconnect with where their food comes from.

Festival admission is \$18, with a \$3 discount for tickets purchased online in advance. Children 2 and younger are free. Admission includes the corn maze, hayrides, and the new bounce pad and zip line.

Pumpkins, food, and drinks are available for an additional cost. Craft booths offer jewelry, face painting, 3D-printed gifts, and other items.

New this year from the Lattin Farms kitchen is an apple cider slushie.



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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: LEARN, ENGAGE, VOTE

The Fourth Estate

By Rachel Dahl

It’s National Newspaper Week, and I would like to report that we are celebrating with a fully staffed newsroom and everyone going home on time.

Instead, we have newspapers to get out.

Here we are, using all the volunteer help we can get, asking too much of our paid staff, and making it work with white knuckles and elbow grease. We keep going because our communities want local news and they support it.

That support has never been more important, especially this year, as our country marks 250 years of independence.

Long before Americans could argue in the comments section, they argued in newspapers. Printers put ideas into circulation that helped people question British rule and consider governing themselves. Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense” was a pamphlet, and newspapers helped carry the debate it stirred. Apparently, Americans have never needed much encouragement to have an opinion.

Later, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay made their case for the Constitution in the essays we know as the “Federalist Papers.” Those arguments reached readers through New York newspapers.

I went looking to see whether they had anything to say about news itself.

It was Federalist No. 84, where Hamilton considered how people living far from the seat of government could know what their representatives were doing. Newspapers, he wrote, would be “expeditious messengers of intelligence” reaching even the most remote Americans.

Around here, we call that getting the paper

out. If the people are supposed to govern themselves, they need some way to find out what is being done in their name.

The name Fourth Estate comes from Britain, where the Lords Spiritual, Lords Temporal, and Commons were the traditional three estates represented in Parliament. The press became known as a fourth force because reporters could tell the public what powerful people were doing and hold them accountable.

Here in America, the idea fits pretty well. We have three branches of government, and the press keeps an eye on all of them. It has no seat at the cabinet table and no vote in Congress. It can, however, ask what happened to the money.

That question seldom improves the mood in the room, and throughout history, newspapers have given Americans information powerful people would sometimes rather keep to themselves.

Frederick Douglass founded The North Star to fight slavery and argue for equal rights. Nellie Bly, reporting for the New York World, went inside a women’s asylum and exposed the conditions there.

In 1892, after Ida B. Wells challenged lynching in the Memphis Free Speech, her newspaper office was destroyed, and her life was threatened. She kept investigating and writing. Her work reminds us that telling the truth can demand much more than putting up with an unpleasant phone call.

Decades later, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein at The Washington Post kept digging into Watergate, helping expose wrongdoing that reached into the Nixon administration.

Those are famous names attached to famous stories. But much of this country’s reporting happens in small newsrooms, where someone reads a budget packet, sits through a meeting, or asks a

question nobody particularly wants to answer.

That work needs doing here, too, and it doesn’t always earn us a warm welcome.

Someone once asked why they should support us: “Why would we support a paper that’s critical of us?”

My answer is pretty simple. If you don’t want stories about you doing stupid things, don’t do stupid things.

Of course, we have responsibilities, too. Check the facts. Give people a chance to explain. Correct mistakes.

But supporting a newspaper cannot mean buying its silence. You should be able to disagree with us and still want someone asking questions.

There are national efforts underway to save local news, with foundations, nonprofits, and big money. Press Forward launched with a goal of mobilizing half a billion dollars over five years. I hope those efforts succeed.

I also hope they remember the people already in the trenches.

Our volunteers give their time because they care. Our paid staff carries more work than it should. Our readers and advertisers help pay the bills. Together, they make another week possible.

And there is plenty of work. A community deserves to know how its money is spent and what its officials decide. It also deserves a record of its children, its businesses, its losses, and its accomplishments. Those stories belong to all of us.

For 250 years, Americans have needed information to make decisions about their country. We still need it to make decisions about our hometown.

This National Newspaper Week, we thank everyone helping us keep the lights on. We intend to keep shining them where they’re needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rush Coffee Company Celebrates Book Month



Ashley Frey of Frey Ranch reads “Tractors Found on the Farm” during the Oct. 4 Book Month event at Rush Coffee Company.

Story and photos by Nancy Chapman

In support of childhood literacy in Churchill County, Rush Coffee Company is celebrating Book Month throughout October with community readings and a reading incentive for children.

Jenny Young of Backroads Vintage Market opened the community readings at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 4, sharing “Tacky and the Haunted Igloo,” written by Helen Lester and illustrated by Lynn Munsinger, with children and families gathered for the event. At 3 p.m., Ashley Frey of Frey Ranch continued the afternoon’s readings with “Tractors Found on the Farm” by Word-play Groundhog.

Rush Coffee Company owner Crystal Bowman said, “Come and enjoy children’s books being read on our stage by community members every Sunday in October at 11:30 a.m. and at 3 p.m.”

Community members are scheduled to continue the readings each Sunday through Oct. 25. Ila Friedenthal and Kelli Kelly are scheduled for Oct. 11; Allison Diegel, Janet Renfroe, and Katie Moore-Maloney on Oct. 18; and Hindi Marciniak, Brad Dolan, Whitney Goligowski, and Anita Pepper on Oct. 25.

Throughout October, children who read at Rush Coffee Company can receive a free small chocolate milk, juice, or milk alternative while they read. Rush has also partnered with Spread the Word Nevada to stock its community bookshelf with free books children can read and take home.

No Hill Hundred Draws 190 Riders to Fallon

Story and photos by Nancy Chapman

The No Hill Hundred Century Bike Ride drew 190 riders to Fallon on Oct. 3 for 30-, 60-, and 100-mile routes through Churchill County.

The ride, part of the America 250 celebration, began and ended at the Rafter 3C Event Center. Churchill County Parks and Recreation and the Rotary Club of Fallon hosted the event.

Parks and Recreation Supervisor Lana Chenoweth, LaKrisha Ernst and Junior Simons welcomed riders during check-in and greeted them again as they returned at the end of the ride. Participants received refreshments and raffle prizes included with their entry packages.

Fallon Search and Rescue members were stationed along the routes to assist riders at check-points.

Among the participants were Ed, Bill and Ross Stunsrud, a father, son and uncle from Seattle, San Diego and Reno, respectively. The three had been planning to participate in the event for two years and rode with back numbers 1, 2 and 3.

Celebrating their ancestry, the trio wore matching cycling jerseys featuring the Norwegian flag.



Ed Stunsrud, Ross Stunsrud, and Bill Stunsrud, from left, take part in the No Hill Hundred Century Bike Ride on Oct. 3. The father, son, and uncle traveled from Seattle, San Diego, and Reno, respectively, and wore cycling jerseys featuring the Norwegian flag in celebration of their ancestry.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Vander is Available for Adoption

Vander is a 1-year, 4-month-old male husky looking for a new home. He is neutered and does well with children and other dogs, making him a possible match for a family with kids or canine companions. Vander is not good with cats, so he needs a cat-free home. His black, brown, and white coat and distinctive blue eyes make him easy to spot. Vander is waiting for the right family to give him a place to call home.



Meet Echo

Echo is a beautiful, solid-black kitty who has really started coming out of her shell. She can be a bit timid at first but warms up quickly with some good head scratches. Echo enjoys high perches and warm, sunny spots for naps. She is looking for a calm home where she can enjoy plenty of quiet moments, relaxation, and affection.



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

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

September Marriage Licenses

Sept. 4	Timothy Jorge Faria, 42, and Amber Rose Whooley, 32, both of Fallon.
Sept. 4	Mayra Jackeline Martinez Solis, 26, and Reynaldo Moises Morales Altamirano, 20, both of Fallon.
Sept. 8	Victor Albert Baltazar II, 29, and Dagny Paige Singer, 33, both of Fallon.
Sept. 9	Kevin Wayne Bowles, 64, and Sarena Rae Whisenhunt, 36, both of Fallon.
Sept. 10	Elizabeth Marie Thompson, 38, and Cory Brett Chambers, 28, both of Fallon.
Sept. 10	Kane Xavier Washington, 23, and Savanna Lyn Regli, 22, both of Fallon.
Sept. 11	Bryce William Trailer, 35, and Heather Nichole Marty, 37, both of Fallon.
Sept. 11	Elijah Henry Desantiago, 22, and Liliana Anjana Santio, 21, both of Fallon.
Sept. 11	Sammantha Louise Jones, 27, and Kalaeb Victoriano Roy Orong, 30, both of Fallon.
Sept. 14	Kaimani-Lei Breana Lawelena Feliciano, 25, and Juan Alberto Gonzalez, 29, both of Fallon.
Sept. 16	Stephani Palacios, 26, and Michael Elias Tsampas, 33, both of Fallon.
Sept. 16	Hayley Elizabeth Annmaire Burt, 20, and John Dela Cruz Sinclair, 37, both of Fallon.
Sept. 18	Wendy Mae Ernst, 50, and Bryan Whitney Dodd, 45, both of Fallon.
Sept. 18	Craig Oakley Butcher II, 43, and Yvonne Aguasin Rapista Curtis, 44, both of Fallon.
Sept. 23	Tom Gilbert Woodward Rainey, 37, of Fallon, and Marisa Rae Julian, 35, of Reno.
Sept. 25	Arleth Patricia Peru Apolinar, 21, and Abraham Toribio Rodriguez Martinez, 24, both of Fallon.
Sept. 28	Nathan Gregory Frits, 29, and Vanessa Giselle Peru Apolinar, 26, both of Fallon.

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, Oct. 12 Beef Stir Fry Steamed Brown Rice Beet Salad Mandarin Oranges	Tuesday, Oct. 13 Glazed Ham Wild Rice w/Dried Cranberry Mixed Vegetables Orange & Spinach Salad Seasonal Fruit	Wednesday, Oct. 14 Salisbury Steak Red Skin Mashers Caramelized Onion & Gravy 4 Way Vegetables WW Bread Peach Bread Pudding	Thursday, Oct. 15 Lemon Baked Chicken Capri Veg. Blend Baked Potato WW Pasta Salad Fresh Grapes	Friday, Oct. 16 Tuna Fish Casserole WW Pasta Colorful Salad Fresh Orange WW Roll
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FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

Monday, Oct. 12 BBQ Baked Chicken Rice & Veggies	Thursday, Oct. 15 Mac & Cheese Broccoli & Fruit Crisp	Monday, Oct. 19 Meatloaf Veggies & Dessert	Thursday, Oct. 22 Baked Potato Bar Salad & Fruit	Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.
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OBITUARIES

LORI L. CUNNINGTON
September 20, 1961 - September 28, 2026



Services for Lori L. Cunningham, 65, will be held Saturday, October 10, at 3 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 125 W. Tolas Place, Fallon, Nevada, with Bishop Mike Davis of the Lone Tree Ward officiating.

Lori passed September 28, 2026, at her Fallon home. Born September 20, 1961, in Owyhee, Nevada, and adopted by Dale C. and Fern M. Lyons, she was the fourth of eight children. She was an

enrolled member of the Owyhee Shoshone-Paiute Tribe. She attended elementary school in Grandview, Idaho, through 1972, and her family moved to Boise, where she attended Meridian Elementary, Middle, and High School. She was active in the Meridian Choral choirs in high school. She had a smile and a happiness that touched others. She loved her grandchildren and family. She met and married Arthur Cunningham in 1984. They had three boys: Jared Andrew, Jordan Adam, and Aaron Dale Cunningham. She and the boys came to Fallon in 1990, and she was active in church activities with the Fallon 1st and Lone Tree Wards. She enjoyed working on her family genealogy and completing temple work for them. Lori was preceded in death by her grandparents; her parents, Dale and Fern Lyons; and her brother, Harvey Lyons.

Survivors include her sons, Jared Cunningham (Monica Bueno; grandchildren Mason Bueno, Matthew Robert, and Madison Ann Cunningham), Jordan Cunningham (Rita Vannoy; grandchildren Miademi Eileen and Liam Tristan Taft Vannoy), and Aaron Cunningham; her longtime friend, Richard Gilchrist; her siblings, Chad (Randy) Lyons, Tami (Jerry) McKnight, Shane (Delores, “Dee”) Lyons, Martin Lyons, Lisa Rennie, and Dawn (Jefferson) Riggs; and a host of nieces, nephews, and dear friends. A graveside service will be held October 12 at 11 a.m. at Churchill County Cemetery, 500 Rio Vista Road, Fallon, Nevada. Arrangements are under the direction of Smith Family Funeral Home. Floral donations can be sent to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 125 W. Tolas Place, Fallon, Nevada 89406.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Nancy Chapman

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, an annual campaign focused on breast cancer awareness, screening, and early detection. The observance began in 1985 as a weeklong campaign co-led by the American Cancer Society to educate women about breast cancer screening and routine mammograms. It later grew into the monthlong national observance recognized today. The American Cancer Society estimates that 321,910 women in the United States will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in 2026, and about 42,140 women will die from the disease. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among U.S. women other than skin cancers. About 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer during their lifetime. Individual risk varies based on several factors. Although breast cancer occurs primarily in women, men can develop the disease. The American Cancer Society estimates about 2,670 men will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in 2026, and about 530 will die from it. Most breast cancers are not hereditary, but harmful changes in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes can increase the risk of breast, ovarian, and certain other cancers. A person’s family history can provide important information about cancer risk. The CDC recommends discussing a family history of breast or ovarian cancer with a health care provider, who can determine whether genetic counseling or testing may be appropriate.



[Sheriff’s Office continued from page A1]



Traci Miller, newly promoted Sgt. Brian Miller, Sheriff Lee Orozco, Sgt. John Cannon, and his wife, Chelsea Cannon. During the ceremony, the deputies’ wives pinned on the stars marking their new rank as sergeants. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

address problems when necessary.” Orozco told Miller that patrol deputies routinely make important decisions in seconds, often with incomplete information and under difficult circumstances. Cannon, he said, will supervise deputies in a detention center operating around the clock, where staff deal with everything from safety and security to medical and mental health issues. Despite the differences between patrol and detention, Orozco said the expectations for leadership are the same. He encouraged both men to mentor the deputies working for them, saying a supervisor’s legacy can be measured in the people they help develop. “Today, you are being trusted with something far more important than a new title or a set of stripes,” Orozco said. “You’re being trusted with people.”

MEETINGS

Oct. 12–20, 2026

Coalition for Senior Citizens
155 N. Taylor St.
Oct. 12 at 3 p.m.

Planning Commission
Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.
155 N. Taylor St.
Next meeting:
Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.

Board of County Commissioners
Meets the first Thurs. and third Wed.
155 N. Taylor St.
Next meeting:
Oct. 15 at 8:15 a.m.

Fallon City Council
Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays
City Hall
Next meeting is Oct. 20 at 9 a.m.

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

Churchill County Library Board of Trustees
155 N. Taylor St.
Meets monthly
Next meeting Oct. 22 at 3 p.m.

WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken Oct. 5 at 8:30 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	72,460 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	340 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	44.9 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	8.61 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	0.72 cfs

Oct. 5, 2025	Oct. 5, 2024	Oct. 5, 2023
67,787 acre feet	220,295 acre feet	16,952 acre feet

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

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Movie Day
Coalition for Senior Citizens
The Fallon Theatre
71 S. Maine St.
The third Friday of each month at 1 p.m.

Judy Collins: “Sweet Judy Blue Eyes” Farewell Tour
Oats Park Arts Council
Barkley Theatre
151 E. Park St.
Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

5K Color Run
Churchill Community Coalition
Oats Park
Oct. 17 at 8:30 a.m.

Big Game Banquet
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Fallon Golf Course
Oct. 17 at 5 p.m.

Brews & Boos Bash
Rush and Rhythm
1805 W. Williams Ave.
Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

Bad Art
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Oct. 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Churchill Animal Protection Society
Fallon Convention Center
Oct. 22 at 5 p.m.

Halloween Bingo Bash
Rotary Club of Fallon
Pennington Life Center
Oct. 23: Doors open at 5 p.m.; bingo begins at 6 p.m.

Frankentoys
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Oct. 24 at 3:30 p.m.

Author Talk with Tammy Grace
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.

Halloween Bash
Pennington Life Center
952 S. Maine St.
Oct. 29 at 11 a.m.

Tricks, Treats, and Tales
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Oct. 29 at 3 p.m.

Halloween Extravaganza
Fallon Tribal Development Group
Fox Peak Cinema
Oct. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Maine Street Spooktacular
Maine Street
Oct. 31 from 3 to 6 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY

Jim Regan Memorial Tournament Supports Scholarships



Ross McKinnel, Zak Kinkade, Pakela Malama-Gomes, and Eli Jones, from left, won the 2026 Jim Regan Memorial Golf Tournament at the Fallon Golf Course on Sept. 19. The annual tournament raises scholarship money for children of Churchill County employees. Courtesy of Churchill County.

Staff Report

Fifteen teams totaling 60 golfers took to the Fallon Golf Course on Sept. 19 for the annual Jim Regan Memorial Golf Tournament, continuing a more than 20-year tradition of raising scholarship money for children of Churchill County employees.

Ross McKinnel, Zak Kinkade, Pakela Malama-Gomes, and Eli Jones took first place after two rounds on the nine-hole course. Alan Kalt, Andrew Palmer, Matt Hanifan, and Ed Smirnas finished second, while Darby Rowe, Trent Vass, Mike Lipinsky, and Justin Chambers placed third.

Bailey Coombs and Chelle Dalager won the longest-drive competition, while Lonne Sheldon and Trent Vass earned closest-to-the-pin honors.

The tournament honors Jim Regan, a former Churchill County Commissioner who was active in the community and died while in office in April 2000. Former county Comptroller Alan Kalt conceived the tournament, which is now organized by Alexa Robinson in the County Manager’s Office.

More than \$80,000 has been raised through the tournament over the past two decades for post-high school scholarships. This year’s scholarships were awarded to Jilliana Morales, Natalia Martinez de la Cruz, Samantha Maffi, Zack Adams, and Mackenzie Mills.

MUSEUM FALL LECTURE SERIES

Curtis Puts Comstock Legends to the Test

Story and photo by Lori Kaiser

Virginia City historian Joe Curtis came to the Churchill County Museum prepared to bust a few bubbles.

Closing out the museum’s four-week “Layers of Nevada” Fall Lecture Series, Curtis used historic photographs, maps, and a lifetime of research to examine some of the stories that have become nearly as famous as Virginia City itself.

Curtis has been collecting and researching photographs and historical information about Virginia City and the Comstock since he was a boy. The museum’s education curator introduced him as the final speaker in the series, noting that his collection includes original documents, newspapers, and photographs.

Curtis also brought a personal connection to Fallon. He told the audience he spent part of third grade at Oats Park School, while his mother and her siblings grew up in Fallon. His mother’s maiden name was Buckner.

“It’s always been kind of special to me,” Curtis said of Fallon.

From there, Curtis turned his attention to Virginia City and a history that, in his telling, is often considerably different from the version tourists encounter.

Using historic photographs, he showed the audience the densely developed communities of Virginia City and Gold Hill, their mines, businesses, hotels, schools, churches, railroads, and mills. The photographs also illustrated how much of the historic landscape has disappeared through fires, snow damage, deterioration, and demolition.

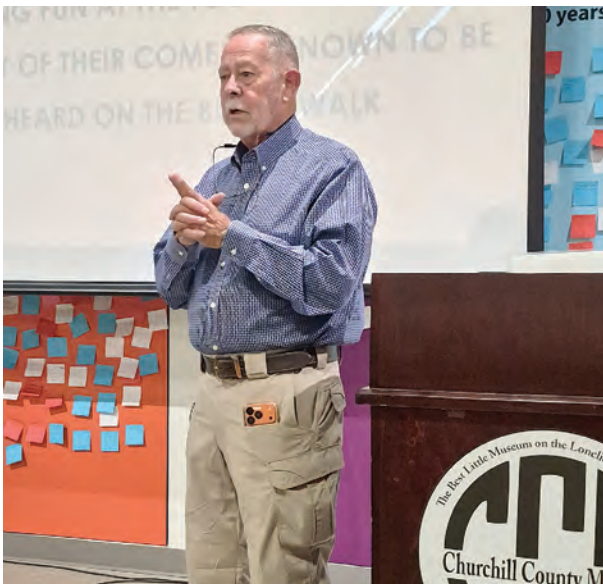
Curtis challenged a commonly repeated claim that as many as 50,000 people once lived in Virginia City. He told the audience the peak population was closer to 22,000 to 23,000 when Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City are considered together.

He also took aim at the image of Virginia City as a cowboy town.

“Cowboys were not in Virginia City,” Curtis said, explaining that the community was fundamentally a mining town and that cowboys generally came in from surrounding valleys.

Ghost stories received similar treatment.

Curtis told the audience that some of Virginia



Joe Curtis shares historic photographs and stories of Virginia City during the final installment of the Churchill County Museum’s fall lecture series, “Layers of Nevada.” Curtis used the presentation to challenge some of Virginia City’s enduring legends and distinguish documented history from folklore.

City’s enduring supernatural tales were deliberately created as tourism increased following the 1959 debut of the television series “Bonanza.” He said several local women, including his mother, devised ghost stories intended to help attract visitors to town.

According to Curtis, some of those tales created for tourists decades ago continue to be repeated as history.

Curtis demonstrated just how easily a good story can begin to sound like fact with a tale about oysters in Virginia City.

He explained that oysters shipped from San Francisco were popular on the Comstock, but some supposedly arrived too salty or were difficult to open. Curtis said miners gathered the unwanted oysters and took them deep into the mines, where they placed them in pools of fresh water for months. There, according to the story, the oysters continued to grow while losing their salty flavor before being brought back to the surface and sold to restaurants.

For a moment, this reporter nearly bought it, wondering how oysters that were essentially

dead could possibly begin growing again.

Then Curtis asked the audience whether they believed him.

“I hope not,” he said.

The entire story was a hoax.

Curtis said such storytelling was hardly new to Nevada. Newspapers and residents were producing hoaxes and tall tales during the 19th century, sometimes simply to see how many people they could convince.

He pointed to the Sazerac Lying Club in Austin, where participants competed to invent believable stories. Curtis said that tradition is now being revived with Virginia City Lodge No. 2 of the Sazerac Lying Club.

Curtis said the group plans a lying competition March 27, 2027, in Virginia City. He joked that he has been told he cannot compete and will instead serve as a judge. He also told the audience that Rep. Mark Amodei is expected to be the guest speaker.

The evening eventually moved from lecture to conversation, with audience members asking Curtis about mining, historic buildings, stamp mills, and the origins of some of Virginia City’s best-known stories.

One question concerned the tale that Virginia City received its name after James Finney, known as “Old Virginny,” broke a bottle of whiskey and christened the place. Curtis said the story has been repeated for generations but lacks the documentation necessary to establish that it happened exactly as the legend describes.

“There’s no hardcore provenance to prove that that’s exactly what happened,” Curtis said.

Curtis ended his visit with something specifically for Fallon.

He brought a copy of an 1863 Nevada map from his collection to give to the museum. Curtis said he had looked through his collection for something connected to Fallon and selected the map because it included Churchill County.

The gift provided an appropriate ending not only to Curtis’ presentation but to a four-week lecture series built around uncovering different layers of Nevada history.

After an evening of separating stories from history, Curtis left his Fallon audience with plenty of both.

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COMMUNITY

Antojitos Las Tapatias Celebrates Ribbon Cutting

Story and photos by Nancy Chapman

Antojitos Las Tapatias celebrated its opening with a Fallon Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting Oct. 3 at the family-owned Mexican snack shop at 960 Auction Road, Suite E. Fallon Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lucy Carnahan hosted the ribbon cutting. The shop offers Mexican snacks and treats, including ice cream, drinks, fruit cups, and corn served on the cob or in a cup. Customers can order at the counter, and catering services are also available. Maria Casillas Ibarra operates the family business with her family members. The family is excited to share its heritage with customers.

Antojitos Las Tapatias owners and family members join Fallon Chamber of Commerce members for a ribbon cutting Oct. 3 at the family-owned Mexican snack shop on Auction Road.



Country artist January Baker and her band perform during Ales for Arts on Friday, Oct. 2, at the Lariat Courtyard in Fallon. Photo by Shania Brown.

Ales for Arts Brings Music, Craft Brews to Lariat Courtyard

Staff Report

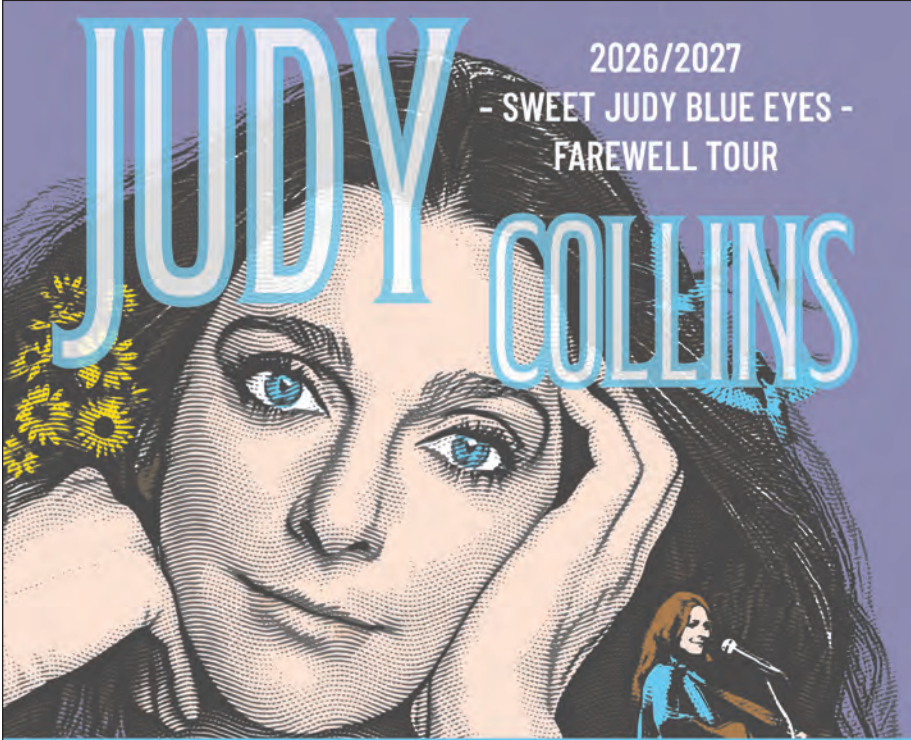
The Churchill Arts Council brought live music and craft beer tasting to the Lariat Courtyard on Friday, Oct. 2, during Ales for Arts. The evening event ran from 5 to 9 p.m. at 151 E. Park St., where guests could purchase tasting cards, sample local craft brews, and cast votes for their favorites. Country artist January Baker performed on the Lariat Stage, providing live music as visitors gathered in the courtyard. The Otis food truck was also on site, serving burgers and fries. Ales for Arts is a Churchill Arts Council event that helps support the council’s arts programming.



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JUDY COLLINS

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

TCID Sets Final Water Order Date

By Leanna Lehman

The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District is preparing to close out the 2026 irrigation season with a full water supply, healthy projected carryover in Lahontan Reservoir, and several winter maintenance projects getting underway.

During its Oct. 6 meeting, the TCID Board of Directors approved Nov. 6 as the final day for water orders in both the Truckee and Carson divisions. Water deliveries will continue until outstanding orders are completed, with the season expected to end before Nov. 15, depending on demand.

TCID Water Master Kelly Herwick reported Lahontan Reservoir storage at 71,952 acre-feet, above the October end-of-month target of 67,000 acre-feet. TCID continues to anticipate more than 50,000 acre-feet of carryover going into the next water year.

Herwick said no Truckee Canal diversions to Lahontan are currently allowed because of storage targets. However, diversions could resume in November or December depending on conditions and direction from the federal Watermaster.

TCID General Manager Ben Shawcroft also reported progress following a recent meeting with the federal Watermaster regarding a proposed model for handling requests for credit water. District staff continue to review the proposal and are preparing comments for the Watermaster. “A lot of progress has been made on that,” Shawcroft said.

Work is also moving forward on the Lahontan Dam tower project. Crews are expected to begin after water deliveries shut down, with work continuing through the winter. The work will be completed in sections, three gates at a time, allowing water to be released if conditions require it.

A U.S. Bureau of Reclamation representative said the agency is looking forward to seeing the project move ahead and be completed before the 2027 irrigation season.

Construction and Maintenance Manager Cody Biggs said crews are already shifting toward winter operations as water users finish for the year. Work includes structure replacements, equipment maintenance, yard cleanup, and vegetation removal along the river corridor.



Lahontan Dam. File photo.

The board also approved the purchase of a heavier-duty mower attachment for the district’s skid steer for \$16,868. Biggs said the existing mower, approximately five years old, needs about \$5,200 in repairs and has experienced repeated problems under TCID’s workload.

During public comment, longtime district water user Roger Joannette approached the board regarding discrepancies he found in water-use entries associated with his property. Joannette said his records did not match several entries in the district’s system and that he had been working with staff to resolve them.

District staff explained that errors had been identified and adjustments made to Joannette’s account. After the discussion clarified what had been charged and credited, Joannette thanked the board and staff.

Despite bringing the issue before the board, Joannette began and ended his comments by praising the district. “We have a tendency to complain about everything. We never compliment you gentlemen on the things you do right,” he said. “You guys are doing a ... good job.”

Commissioners Approve Sand Creek Subdivision Phase I

By Leanna Lehman

Churchill County Commissioners approved the first phase of the Sand Creek No. 2 subdivision Oct. 1, allowing development to move forward on 25 residential lots south of Casey Road.

The final subdivision map, submitted by Casey Road LLC, is the first phase of a tentative map approved by Commissioners in November 2025. The property is in an R-1 residential zoning district.

Commissioners also approved abandoning an existing 50-foot road easement on the property. The easement will be replaced with dedicated roadways included in the new subdivision map.

SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING

Commissioners approved a \$111,386 Community Services Block Grant for Churchill County Social Services to help provide services to at-risk individuals and families. Those services include food, workforce, utility, and rent assistance, as well as resources for unhoused residents.

Most of the grant, \$103,070, will go toward personnel. The remaining funding includes \$65 for operating expenses and \$8,251 for indirect costs. Funding comes from the U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services through the Community Services Block Grant program.

HEALTH DISTRICT AGREEMENT

Commissioners renewed an agreement with the Central Nevada Health District for administrative and support services provided by Churchill County. The health district will pay the county \$98,621 for fiscal year 2026-27 and

Sand Creek Subdivision II, Phase I vicinity map. Map details courtesy of Casey Road LLC and Churchill County.

\$101,087 for 2027-28.

Under the agreement, Churchill County provides fiscal, legal, human resources, and clerk-treasurer services. The payments are based on 25% of the annual salaries, excluding benefits, for four county positions that provide those services.

COUNTY UPDATES

During his management report, County Manager Joe Sanford said the county had received an application for an industrial general improvement district and staff was reviewing it. He said the matter would return to Commissioners at their next meeting.

Sanford also reported that the county submitted its Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act request for statements of qualifications for review. Once approved, the county plans to seek bids for engineering services for its projects, potentially within the next month.

The next Commission meeting has been moved from Oct. 21 to Oct. 15 because of early voting. Early voting begins Oct. 17 and continues through Oct. 30.

CCSD Reports Declining Enrollment

By Leanna Lehman

Churchill County School District began the school year with 46 fewer students than it ended with in June, with most of the decline occurring at the elementary level.

Superintendent Blake Cooper discussed the enrollment numbers during the Sept. 15 Churchill County School District Board of Trustees meeting, where trustees also addressed student literacy intervention, early-retirement incentives, a proposed phone system, and negotiated employee agreements.

The district reported enrollment of 2,950 students on Sept. 1, compared with 2,996 on June 5. Elementary enrollment fell by a net 49 students, while secondary enrollment increased by three.

Lahontan Elementary School saw the largest change, dropping from 441 students in June to 393 in September, a decrease of 48. Numa Elementary declined by 15 students, while E.C. Best Elementary gained six and Northside Early Learning Center gained eight. Churchill County Middle School gained seven students, while the high school declined by four.

Cooper cautioned trustees that comparing end-of-year enrollment with the beginning of a new school year does not provide an exact measure of enrollment loss.

“This student enrollment data is a little bit confusing too because you can see from the dates that we’re pulling from September, but also we’re pulling from the end of school year last year,” Cooper said.

What was different this year, he said, was that students who typically return to the district during the summer did not come back at the usual rate.

“So, we typically gain back those students over

summer for student enrollment, and we did not this school year,” Cooper said. “And that’s the big difference we see in that 46 number change there.”

Cooper said enrollment had remained relatively stable since Sept. 1, describing the movement as “we lose two, we gain two, we lose two.”

The Sept. 1 report also shows a relatively small incoming kindergarten class of 162 students, compared with 231 first-graders, 208 second-graders, 212 third-graders, 212 fourth-graders, and 226 fifth-graders.

Cooper told trustees in August that enrollment was expected to be down approximately 35 students and that other Nevada superintendents he had spoken with were seeing declines in the same age group.

Enrollment has also declined in the district’s annual count-day figures. The district reported 3,282 students in 2023-24, 3,221 in 2024-25, and 3,098 in 2025-26. The district’s official 2026-27 statewide enrollment count is not yet available; Nevada’s annual enrollment data are reported in early October. For funding purposes, districts report average daily enrollment quarterly.

The numbers matter beyond classroom size. Under Nevada’s Pupil-Centered Funding Plan, enrollment is a factor in determining how much state funding a school district receives. The board did not discuss the potential funding effects of declining enrollment during the meeting.

Trustees also heard concerns during public comment about spelling work being given to some seventh-grade students. Amber Sanchez questioned the difficulty of words on spelling lists she had seen.

Churchill County Middle School Principal Deana Porretta later explained that the work is part of literacy intervention for students performing below grade level, rather than the spelling curriculum for all seventh-graders.

Porretta said students receiving intervention may be two to four grade levels behind in reading and writing, and instruction is tailored to their individual skill levels. As students master skills, they move into progressively more difficult work.

The board also voted unanimously not to offer early-retirement incentives to classified, licensed, or other eligible employees for the 2026-27 school year.

Trustees spent more than 30 minutes considering proposals to replace the district’s phone system. A motion to begin negotiations with Oasis Online, with an initial proposed cap of \$172,930, was ultimately withdrawn as trustees sought clearer comparisons between proposals. No vendor was selected.

The board later unanimously ratified negotiated agreements with district administrators, educators, and classified employees following a closed session.

CHURCHILL COUNTY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Sept. 1, 2026, compared with June 5, 2026

2,950

students

Sept. 1, 2026

2,996

students

June 5, 2026

NET CHANGE:

-46

STUDENTS

SCHOOL	JUNE 5, 2026	SEPT. 1, 2026	CHANGE
Lahontan Elementary	441	393	-48
Numa Elementary	453	438	-15
E.C. Best Elementary	414	420	+6
Northside Early Learning Center	80	88	+8
Churchill County Middle School	633	640	+7
Churchill County High School	975	971	-4

Elementary schools:

-49

students

Secondary schools:

+3

students

The figures compare end-of-year enrollment on June 5 with enrollment on Sept. 1 and do not represent Nevada's official annual enrollment count.

COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, Sept. 29, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

By Teresa Moon

Dean Patrick McGee failed to appear for a status hearing after Court Services reported he tested positive for alcohol and fled the building when told he would be taken into custody. According to Court Services, it was McGee’s fourth violation. Judge Stockard issued a \$40,000 bench warrant. McGee pleaded not guilty Sept. 15 to Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor or a Controlled or Prohibited Substance with a Prior Conviction for Driving Under the Influence, a Category B felony punishable by 2–15 years in prison and a fine of \$2,000–\$5,000. The offense carries a mandatory prison sentence. Stockard set trial for Oct. 7–9.

Later in the court session, McGee appeared in custody with his attorney, Charles Woodman, appearing via Zoom. Woodman said McGee disputed the positive test, claiming he recently underwent surgery and was still swabbing the surgical site with alcohol.

Court Services representative Wendy Bullock said the test detects alcohol for up to 80 hours and the result was a solid positive. Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills said McGee violated the court’s order by testing positive and fleeing, noting he “lasted less than a weekend” before violating.

McGee maintained he had not consumed alcohol. When Stockard asked why he left Court Services, McGee replied, “I panicked because she said I tested positive. I have not been drinking. I have not.”

Stockard found McGee violated the conditions of his release, revoked his release on his own recognizance, and remanded him to jail. Savannah Kay Sarabia pleaded guilty to the Category E Felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance (cocaine), punishable by 1–4 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Judge Stockard provisionally placed Sarabia in the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court program, ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation, and set sentencing for Dec. 1.

Clayton Shelby Reynolds appeared for a status hearing after Court Services reported two violations for testing positive for methamphetamine. Senior Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker asked that Reynolds be remanded into custody. Senior Deputy Public Defender Jeffrey Weed said Reynolds has continued to show up for testing even when he knew he would test positive. Judge Stockard commented on Reynolds’s “lack of ownership of his actions.”

“We are seeing the very real struggles out in open court, in front of everyone here, of an addict,” Weed said. He said Reynolds was taking small steps and had a meeting scheduled later that day in Silver Springs. The defense asked that Reynolds remain out of custody.

Baker said Reynolds had been given chance after chance and repeatedly failed to follow the court’s orders. Reynolds said it had been four days since he

used methamphetamine. Stockard noted Reynolds tested positive the previous day, revoked his release on his own recognizance, and remanded him to jail until his sentencing on Oct. 13. Aubrie Elizabeth Steelmon appeared for a status hearing after Court Services reported two positive tests, four failures to appear for testing, and two negative tests. Steelmon pleaded guilty Sept. 8 to Burglary of a Building, a Category D felony, and misdemeanor Harassment, punishable by up to 180 days in jail. Senior Deputy District Attorney Sanford noted, “Court Services is a court order; it’s not a suggestion.”

Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer acknowledged that his client has several issues, but that does not excuse her failure to follow court orders. He said she needs Specialty Court to “ensure that she can have structure, and counseling, and stability” so that she can get her life in order. He added that Steelmon has three appointments a week with her counselor and has secured employment.

“I’m empathetic to a point; I’m also frustrated,” Stockard said. He told Steelmon he expects her to appear for testing, provisionally placed her in Specialty Court and set sentencing for Nov. 10.

Barry Gene Eslick, in custody, pleaded guilty to the wobbler charge of Attempt to Commit Grand Larceny of Personal Goods or Property with a Value of \$2,500 to \$5,000. A wobbler may be sentenced as either a gross misdemeanor, punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000, or as a Category D felony, punishable by 1–4 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000. Stockard ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation and set sentencing for Dec. 1.

Justin Alvin Matheus appeared for sentencing on two counts of Category C Felony Battery that Constitutes Domestic Violence by Strangulation, to which Matheus pleaded guilty on March 24.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Sanford asked the court for a 12–60 month prison sentence. “I understand the defendant is not a person who can be defined by one night,” she said. Sanford noted the state was focusing on two incidents, stating, “What happened should not be permitted. Should not be tolerated.”

Sanford explained that the first incident followed a Valentine’s dinner and an argument. “He straddles her, and put his hands around her throat; ... she could not breathe, she could not scream.” Four days later, Sanford said, a second incident occurred. “He strangled her again, causing her to lose her breath, and to fear for her life.”

Sanford read from the victim’s statement: “Feeling normal things day to day is so much harder now. Every day I think about how the person I love, who was supposed to love me, could do this to me.” She also read the final line: “It hurts all the time though too think about what I had to got through and that I’m lucky to be here and to have lived another day.”

“The State agrees with her; she’s lucky to be here,” Sanford said. Alternate Public Defender Wright Noel said Matheus has taken responsibility, completed the Salvation Army treatment program, has a limited criminal history, and a long history with alcohol. He asked for the minimum sentence on each count, to run concurrently.

Matheus told the court, “I do know what I did is wrong. I have been suffering from alcoholism for a long time ... I’m clean now seven months ... I’m not a violent person, I’m just an alcoholic.” Stockard sentenced Matheus to 12–60 months in Nevada State Prison on each count, to run concurrently. “I hope you continue on the path you’ve been on,” Stockard told him. He remanded Matheus to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff for imposition of the sentence.

Christopher Anakin Marcellino, in custody, admitted to a Technical Sentencing Violation. It is his third technical violation, in addition to one nontechnical violation. Due to a legal question, Stockard continued the hearing to Oct. 6.

Patricia Pearl Coursey, in custody, appeared for sentencing in two separate cases. The first originated in 2022 after Coursey failed to appear for her scheduled arraignment on June 14, 2022. She was extradited from California to Fallon in 2026.

On July 28, Coursey pleaded guilty to two Category E Felony counts of Possession of a Controlled Substance, one involving methamphetamine and the other heroin. In the second case, she pleaded guilty to the Category D Felony of Failure to Appear After Admission of Bail or Release Without Bail.

SDDA Baker said Coursey was driving from Winnemucca to California with her minor child when law enforcement stopped her. Coursey told the officer she had used methamphetamine to stay awake for the drive. A canine alerted during the stop, and officers found 4.1 grams of methamphetamine and 0.6 grams of heroin.

“She has a [criminal] history of not adhering to the conditions of probation; she is not a good candidate for probation.”

Alternate Public Defender Noel asked the court to grant Coursey probation with an interstate compact to California, where she has support and employment waiting for her. He said she had gone four years without new violations, had completed every course available while in custody, and recognizes she has a substance abuse problem.

Coursey told Stockard, “I did very good on my probation” and “I’m willing to change my life if you give me a chance.”

Stockard sentenced Coursey to 14–48 months in prison on each of the three counts, to run concurrently. He ordered her to pay \$3,360.63 in extradition costs and remanded her to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff for imposition of the sentence.

Georgina Lynn Brown’s status hearing was continued one week to Oct. 6. LaTanya Karimu, aka Tanya Ruth Stiner, had her arraignment continued to Oct. 20.

Richards Murder Case Awaits Preliminary Hearing

By Leanna Lehman

Robert Matthew Richards, accused of killing 25-year-old Sara Filiatraut in March 2024, was scheduled to appear in New River Township Justice Court before Judge Benjamin Trotter on Oct. 1. After conferring with his attorney, Charles Woodman, the matter was continued while the parties determine a date for a preliminary hearing.

Richards is charged with Open Murder. The case is now proceeding in Churchill County after Third Judicial District Court Judge Leon Aberasturi dismissed the case previously filed in Lyon County, finding the state had not established that the killing occurred there.

Filiatraut was reported missing by her father in Michigan on April 15, 2024. Investigators determined she had been in Fernley following her March 21 release from the Lyon County jail and that she met Richards the following day. Surveillance video showed a woman resembling Filiatraut getting into a truck resembling Richards’ near a Fernley McDonald’s on March 22.

Location data showed Richards’ truck later traveled to a casino and returned to his residence, where it remained until the following morning. On March 23, the truck traveled into a remote area in Churchill County. Investigators with the Lyon and Churchill County sheriff’s offices



Robert Richards. Photo courtesy of the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office.

searched that area on May 23, 2024, and found Filiatraut’s body in a desert pit about 30 miles east of Fallon. Investigators documented vehicle tracks and drag marks at the scene, and phone location records placed Richards within five meters of where the body was found.

The Churchill County complaint alleges Richards killed Filiatraut by strangulation, blunt force trauma, or both. The jurisdictional dispute centered on where the killing occurred. Lyon County prosecutors argued circumstantial evidence established that Filiatraut was at Richards’ residence before his truck traveled to Churchill County, where her body was later found. The defense argued there was no forensic evidence establishing where or when Filiatraut died.

Aberasturi agreed that the state had not presented sufficient evidence establishing that an act of murder occurred in Lyon County. His Aug. 3 dismissal cleared the way for the case to proceed in Churchill County, where prosecutors had filed a new Open Murder complaint July 23.

Richards was arraigned in Fallon on Aug. 6. A subsequent status hearing was continued to Oct. 1. A preliminary hearing is set for March 10, 2027; however, the case is expected to be bound over to the Tenth Judicial District Court beforehand. In Nevada, felonies cannot be sentenced in Justice Courts.

September 2026 Divorces

- Sept. 2 Washington, Devonte Montrez v. Smith, Amber Shamar – Decree of Annulment – Default
- Sept. 2 Tunstall-Bateman, Tiandrea Tiara & Bateman, Donald Earnest – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 4 Howard, Michelle Anne & Howard Jr., Kenneth Dewayne – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 4 Horigan, Keelyn Signe v. Allison, Blake James – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 9 Schmidt-McCormack, Elsa Anne Helena & McCormack, Michael Scott – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 9 Rider, Della Capri & Rider, Michael Charles – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 14 Scott, Bonginkosi Isabel v. Scott, Malcolm Spencer – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 15 Kuipou Fozue, Erica Shante v. Kuipou Fozue, Adrien – Decree of Divorce – Default
- Sept. 16 Velasquez, Selena v. Alejandro, Joseph – Decree of Annulment – Default
- Sept. 18 Ramsey, Rebecca & Cote, Jamie – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 22 Smith, Rae Ann Frances & Smith, Richard Rolland – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 28 Mendez, Jiezell Denina & Olea-Cuevas, Abraham Luis – Decree of Divorce

- Sept. 28 Ryan, Jordan Hall & Loucks, Lewis Charles – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 28 Liebig, Lisa Marie & Liebig, Timothy Michael – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 29 Klaich, Laura Adrienne & Klaich, Robert Lonnie – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 29 Roy, Raul King & Bayani, Violeta – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 29 Brooks, Keith Eugene & Brooks, Cynthia Adell – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 29 Hatler, Hillary Ane & Hatler, Kenneth Alfred – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 29 Grellman, Jeri Eleanor & Grellman, Christopher Morley – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 29 Whitfield, Francis Eric & Whitfield, Amanda Marie – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 29 Johnson, Robbie & Jackson, Dasmond – Decree of Annulment
- Sept. 29 Hansen, Trek & Hansen, Melissa – Decree of Divorce
- Sept. 29 Terry, Verolyn P. v. Terry, Steven J. – Decree of Divorce

EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

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



Churchill County Middle School career and technical education students put their skills to the test during mock job interviews, gaining experience for future career opportunities. Courtesy of Randi Orong's Film and Photo Students.



Second-grade students in Christina Fruzza's class practice recognizing and reading digraphs during a classroom activity.



Heather Sorensen and her first-grade students show off the slime they made while exploring how different ingredients react when mixed together.

DISTRICT

While students had the day off last Friday, Churchill County School District staff spent the day learning, collaborating, and strengthening practices through professional development. Professional development looked different at each school based on the needs of students and staff. Teams worked on topics including the Science of Reading, i-Ready, math routines and reasoning, professional learning communities, data-driven instruction, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, universal screeners, executive functioning, parent engagement, student learning goals, and department planning.

Staff also had dedicated time to analyze student data, explore instructional strategies and resources, and collaborate and plan together. “Just as we ask our students to continue learning and growing, it is important that we create those same opportunities for our staff,” Superintendent Blake Cooper said. “When our staff has time to learn from one another, share ideas, and grow together, that work carries back into our classrooms and helps us continue finding ways to best serve our students. That is an important part of what it means to be One Team.”

CCHS

For information on Churchill County High School seniors exploring college and career pathways, see “Class of 2027: Exploring Career Pathways” on Page A12.

CCMS

Students at Churchill County Middle School are building skills that extend beyond the classroom. Career and technical education students put their professional communication skills to the test through mock job interviews, practicing how to answer interview questions and building confidence for future career opportunities.

In Art 3, students are taking greater ownership of their learning by developing original projects, writing professional-style proposals, managing

their time, and bringing their ideas from concept to completion. CCMS also celebrated students who achieved perfect attendance this month with a surprise doughnut reward, recognizing their commitment to showing up and being ready to learn each day.

Across CCMS, students continue to learn, grow, and take greater ownership of their success both in and beyond the classroom.

NUMA

Students are working on their throwing accuracy during physical education with Kevin Wickware through a variety of games and activities, including dodgeball. As they practice aiming and making accurate throws, students are also learning and reinforcing physical education standard operating procedures, helping them understand expectations, routines, and how to work successfully together during their time in the gym.

E.C. BEST

Christina Fruzza’s second-grade students are continuing to build their foundational reading skills. Last week, students practiced reading digraphs, when two letters come together to make one sound, such as “ch” in “chair.” Recognizing and reading digraphs helps students become more fluent readers. As their reading fluency grows, students are better able to focus on understanding what they read.

LAHONTAN

Heather Sorensen’s first-grade students have been busy learning through hands-on experiences. Students explored science by making slime and observing how different ingredients reacted when mixed together. They also wrapped up their apple unit by making homemade applesauce. From experimenting with mixtures to turning apples into a tasty treat, students had the opportunity to connect what they are learning in the classroom to actual experiences.

Cooper Visits Schools as Part of Classroom Tour

Staff Report

Superintendent Blake Cooper visited every school in Churchill County School District on Sept. 21, stepping into classrooms from pre-K through high school as part of his goal to visit every classroom in the district during his first year as superintendent.

Board Trustee Amber Getto, Assistant Superintendent Mike Walker, Human Resources Director Cameron Sorensen, Human Resources Analysts Janel Federico-Buchan and Savannah Peel, and Public Information Officer Kaitlin Ritchie accompanied Cooper throughout the day. They spoke with students and staff and observed classroom activities across the district.

The visits ranged from interactive play and fine-motor activities with the district’s youngest students to research, data analysis, classroom discussions, and hands-on projects in the upper grades. At Churchill County High School, students were working on projects that included designing countries in history, woodshop projects, Greenwave Games work, and data collection and analysis.

“One of the most valuable parts of visiting every school in one day was seeing the progression of learning across ChurchillCSD,” Cooper said. “I could see the foundations being built with our youngest learners and then see how those skills continue to grow as students move through elementary school, middle school, and eventually high school.”

Cooper said the visits also gave district leaders an opportunity to see the relationships and classroom environments that support student learning.



Superintendent Blake Cooper talks with fifth-grade students about their lesson during districtwide school visits.

“What stood out to me just as much as the learning itself were the relationships behind it,” Cooper said. “I saw teachers who truly know their students and classrooms where clear expectations and routines create an environment where students can learn, participate, and take on new challenges.”

Cooper plans to visit every classroom in ChurchillCSD by the end of the 2026-27 school year. He also plans to invite different members



Board Trustee Amber Getto joins pre-K students in interactive play with Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head during a classroom visit.

of the Board of Trustees and District Office staff to join him during future visits.

“I want to see what is happening in our classrooms, understand what is working well across our schools and where we have opportunities to grow,” Cooper said. “The more time I spend in our schools and with the people doing this work every day, the better we can understand how to support our students and continue moving ChurchillCSD forward.”

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EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

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



Roseley Torvik, Ember Baker, Carry Thibaut, Saiylor DuBois, and Axle Reeves participate in Oasis Academy's PJammin' for Cancer event.



Harper Turley, Michael McNamara, Charles Gilliland, and Brooklyn DuBois work together to design and build a structure during Oasis Academy's hurricane and flood engineering challenge.



Magdalena Biar of the Churchill County Library speaks with Oasis Academy fifth- and sixth-grade students about books, programs, and other library resources.

PJAMMIN' FOR CANCER SUPPORTS ONE OF THE BIGHORN HERD
Oasis Academy K-8 students traded their khaki and navy school uniforms for pajamas on Thursday, Sept. 24, as part of the school's annual PJammin' for Cancer event in recognition of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.
For a \$1 donation, students were invited to wear their favorite pajamas to school while helping support a meaningful cause. This year, all proceeds will be donated directly to an Oasis Academy high school family whose student is currently facing cancer.
According to the State of Nevada, approximately 45 children and young adults in northern Nevada are diagnosed with cancer each year.
The Bighorn Community came together in a big way, raising just over \$1,000 to help support the family.
"Our Bighorn Community has always been about coming together and supporting one another, especially when a member of our community is going through a difficult time," said Shannon Garcia, Grades 5-8 Vice Principal. "Seeing our students, families, and staff come together to support one of our own is a wonderful reminder of the compassion and kindness that make Oasis Academy such a special place."
THIRD GRADERS ENGINEER FOR HURRICANES AND FLOODS
Third-grade students at Oasis Academy recently put their science and engineering skills to the test as they tackled a hands-on challenge: designing and building structures strong enough to

withstand both a hurricane and a flood.
Working with limited materials — including straws, cardstock, tape, and popsicle sticks — students were challenged to think like engineers as they planned, constructed, and tested their structures.
The activity gave students an opportunity to apply what they have been learning in science while also practicing problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork.
As part of the lesson, students also explored why homes and other structures in areas prone to hurricanes are designed and built differently than those in other parts of the country. They learned how engineers and builders consider factors such as strong winds, heavy rain, flooding, and the potential for storm damage when designing buildings. Understanding these real-world examples helped students see how science and engineering can be used to protect people and property.
Students then put their engineering skills to work. Using only their provided materials, they designed structures that needed to withstand simulated hurricane-force winds and flooding. They had to consider how different materials could be combined to create a structure that was both strong and stable.
Once their designs were complete, the testing began. Students observed what happened when their structures were exposed to the challenges of severe weather and evaluated which design features helped their buildings stay standing.
The activity also highlighted an important part of the engineering process: failure can lead to improvement. Students had the opportunity to

identify weaknesses in their designs, discuss what they could change, and consider how they might build a stronger structure in the future.
The challenge was more than just building with straws and popsicle sticks. It gave students a chance to connect their classroom learning to the real world while developing critical-thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills.
CHURCHILL COUNTY LIBRARY BRINGS READING AND RESOURCES TO 5TH AND 6TH GRADES
Fifth- and sixth-grade students had a special visit from the Churchill County Library on Tuesday morning, Sept. 29, as they learned more about the many resources and activities available to them at the library.
During the visit, a representative from the library read a section from one of the library's new books, giving students a chance to hear about a new title they may want to check out for themselves.
Students also learned that the library offers much more than books. The library hosts Chess Club every Wednesday and STEAM activities on Fridays, providing students with opportunities to learn, create, and have fun. Other resources include computers that students can use, as well as special opportunities to read with service dogs.
The presentation also reminded students where the Churchill County Library is located and encouraged them to visit with their families. Students learned about getting their own library card and how they can use it to check out books, movies, and other materials.

Veritas Preparatory School

Classical and Christian

Veritas Celebrates New Building With Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

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

By David Ernst

Veritas Preparatory School marked an important milestone in its continued growth Friday, Oct. 2, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new classroom building.
Students, teachers, families, friends, donors, and members of the community gathered to celebrate the completion of the project and recognize the many people who helped make it possible.
The celebration began with the entire school assembling in front of the new building for a large group photograph. The new facility provides much-needed classroom space for Veritas' upper-grade students and is now home to Ms. Pustovrh's fifth- and sixth-grade class and Ms. Behimer's seventh- and eighth-grade class.
For students who have already begun using the new classrooms, the ceremony provided an opportunity to recognize that the building represents much more than additional space. It is a reflection of the growth of the Veritas community and the generosity of the many individuals and businesses who invested their time, resources, and talents in the project.
A special moment in the ceremony came with the presentation of a dedication plaque commemorating the completion of the building. Headmaster David Ernst read the plaque aloud, recognizing the donors and benefactors whose generosity helped bring the project from an idea to reality.
Special recognition was given to Trevor and

Amanda Hammond of Hammond Homes & Construction, whose contributions and assistance were instrumental in the completion of the new building.
Ernst and Headmaster Jill Rosario addressed those gathered, expressing the school's gratitude to the many people who contributed to the project. From financial gifts and donated materials to construction expertise, volunteer labor, and countless hours of planning and preparation, the new building was truly a community effort.
Following the dedication, Ernst and Rosario were joined by Mayor Ken Tedford for the official ribbon cutting. With students and supporters gathered around, the ribbon was cut, formally commemorating the opening of the new facility and the beginning of a new chapter for Veritas Preparatory School.
The morning concluded on a celebratory note with cake for students and guests, giving families, faculty, and community members an opportunity to visit together and enjoy the occasion.
The new building is both a practical addition to the Veritas campus and a visible reminder of how much can be accomplished when families, businesses, and community members work together



Assistant Headmaster David Ernst, City of Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford, and Headmaster Jill Rosario celebrate the ribbon cutting and dedication of the new building at Veritas Preparatory School. Photo by Jamie Ernst.

toward a shared goal. Most importantly, the classrooms will serve generations of students as places where they can learn, ask questions, develop friendships, grow in wisdom, and deepen their faith.
Veritas Preparatory School extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the project, to Lucy at the Fallon Chamber of Commerce, who hosted the ribbon cutting, and to all who joined the school for the ceremony. As students fill these new classrooms each day, the building will stand as a lasting testament to the generosity and commitment of the community that helped make it possible.

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C O L U M N S

PostCards: Fire!

By Michon Mackedon

I’ve noted before that it’s hard to describe the enthusiasm present in Fallon during the first decade of the 20th Century. “Boosters,” including the local newspapers, sang songs of praise to the progressiveness of the town, calling for incorporation and what would come with it: sewer, water, and electricity. Even the flood of 1907 could not dampen the spirits for long. The businesses mopped up the mud, united to repair the damage to the courthouse, ordered new goods, and moved enthusiastically forward, with a community spirit that ushered in Fallon’s incorporation in 1908. Then came a much more devastating disaster, this time in the form of fire.

The Churchill County Standard of May 19, 1910, ran the headline “Fallon Has Disastrous Fire: West Side of Maine Street From Williams Store to Douglass Building Reduced to Ashes.” The Williams Store was housed in a stone structure where the Nugget parking lot is now located. The Douglass Building, also constructed of stone, was located in the block south of the present Nugget building. A cigarette that was dropped through the boardwalk in front of the People’s Café, in the Williams building, reportedly started the fire.

According to the Standard, “The fire was discovered a few minutes before ten Saturday evening (May 14) by W.T. Scates, shortly after night-watchman Knox had made his rounds, and so rapid was the progress of the conflagration that it had traversed the more than three hundred feet intervening between the Williams and Douglass buildings, licking up buildings like so much tinder...leaving a bed of embers that were guarded for the next thirty six hours by many watchful eyes. ...” Destroyed were the post office, Black and Ferguson’s Stationery Store, the Palace Saloon and Cafe, Roy Reed’s Barber Shop, the Cedar Brook Saloon and Café, the Northern Saloon, the Goldfield Club Saloon, the Pioneer Barber Shop, Collin’s Hardware Store, a tailor shop, and Tom Woodliff’s Merchandise Store.

That the progress of the fire had been stopped at all seemed like a miracle. “Time and again the flames would sweep halfway across Maine Street; then again, the slight breeze would veer for an instant and threaten the buildings on Carson Street.” The Standard described at length the heroism of Postmistress Callie Ferguson who, with help from other “heroes,” scooped up the mail from the post office and carried it to safety.

Beyond the descriptions of flame, embers, and ashes lay another story

that seems emblematic of early Fallon: instant recovery and movement forward. Businesses which had vanished, literally overnight, sprang back up within a few days in new locations.

“The Northern is doing business at the old Oberon stand in the Wightman building, while one door south Tom Woodliff will again be dealing out dry goods and clothing in a day or two, or as soon as he can get his insurance adjusted and his stock moved. The Palace is even now catering to thirsty throats in the People’s store building.”

Everywhere, lemons were turned into lemonade. The Standard opined that “the type of structure destroyed was poor and the elimination of fire traps alone on Maine street has made it possible for the council to establish a fire limit, prescribing the type of future business building for the town, thus insuring a more substantial and beautiful little city.

...In the future, nothing of a combustible nature can enter the construction of any structure within the limits defined by the council. Another service rendered by the fire was the elimination of the unsanitary outhouses and filthy vaults...

Where the wooden buildings once stood, will rise out of the ashes, concrete, brick and stone structures, and the individual’s misfortune will in the end work to the community’s good fortune.”

As one example, A.R. Jeffrey, occupying a storefront on Maine, apparently had supplied water to the fledgling city (before a municipal water system had been installed). The paper reported that “the embers were still hot when A.R. Jeffrey began the work of clearing away the debris that marked the place where the water plant stood. Working Sunday and Monday, a connection was made joining the Jeffrey water mains with the Williams water supply, thus ensuring the business district an adequate supply. ...he proposes to erect a fine cement building.”

Hence, fireproof edifices of stone, brick and cement quickly replaced the wooden storefronts of frontier Fallon.

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.

Fallon Theatre Movies & More

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our “A Bug’s Life” 4D Experience last weekend. You helped us kick off October with incredible energy, and your support of our Façade Restoration Fund means the world to our historic theater family. We have pulled together an awesome lineup of Halloween favorites, cult classics, and family-friendly frights all month long, so grab a big tub of fresh-buttered popcorn and join us to celebrate the spookiest month of the year at the movies.

At 6 p.m. this Friday and Saturday, bring the family along for Henry Selick’s stop-motion dark fantasy masterpiece, “Coraline” (2009). While exploring her family’s new home, young Coraline discovers a secret door leading to an alternate world that mirrors her own, but better. However, when her eerie “Other Mother” attempts to keep her there forever, Coraline must rely on her bravery and resourcefulness to save her real family. Visually stunning and delightfully uncanny, it remains a Halloween classic for brave kids and adults alike. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Or, at 7 p.m. both nights, step back into the 1990s for Wes Craven’s iconic slasher revival, “Scream” (1996). When a masked killer known as Ghostface begins terrorizing the quiet town of Woodsboro, high school student Sidney Prescott and her friends find themselves targeted according to the strict “rules” of horror movies. Packed with dark, ironic humor, it completely revolutionized the horror genre and remains one of the most thrilling theater experiences around. Rated R, it runs 1 hour and 51 minutes.

Join us next week on Friday, Oct. 16, at 1 p.m. for our monthly Third Friday Matinee featuring Mel Brooks’ hilarious comedy classic “Young Frankenstein” (1974). Gene Wilder stars as Dr. Frederick Frankenstein (“Fronkensteen”), who inherits his infamous grandfather’s estate and ends up creating a monster of his own with unforgettable results. Proudly sponsored by The Coalition for Senior Citizens, all moviegoers age 60 and older receive a free small popcorn and small soda at the concession stand. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour and 46 minutes.

One of our favorite Fallon traditions is back, and this year it’s bigger, spookier, and better than ever. The Maine Street Spooktacular returns Saturday, Oct. 31, and with Halloween landing on a Saturday, we’re adding an extra hour of celebration from 3 to 6 p.m. Free to attend, this ultimate autumn block party features trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treating, bounce houses, pumpkin painting, a haunted house, tasty local food, and beats by DJ Todd Moretto. Plus, we’re thrilled to welcome a very special guest. Jacques Magician will be wandering the street, visiting with trick-or-treaters, and performing mind-bending magic tricks all afternoon. If you or your organization would like to set up and pass out candy to our local ghosts and ghouls, contact Huck Salt at 775-423-2055 or huck_salt@yahoo.com to reserve a spot.

In November, gear up for a night of pure laughter Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. as clean, family-friendly stand-up comedy returns to the Fallon Theatre. We are thrilled to welcome

Nashville-based comedian Lee Hardin (DryBar Comedy, The Mike Huckabee Show) back to our stage for an evening of warm, relatable humor the whole family can enjoy. Tickets are \$20, but you can snag an early bird discount of \$5 off until Oct. 31, or grab a double date discount to get four tickets for the price of two. Grab your seats early and join us for a great night out right here in your favorite historic theater.

Want to support your favorite historic theater while scoring delicious perks every time you visit? Since most of our movies are free to attend, becoming a Sustaining Member is the ultimate win-win. You can sign up with convenient recurring monthly payments or join for a full year to get one month free, unlocking comped concession treats every single time you come to a movie or event. Choose the Individual Membership (\$20/month or \$220/year) for a medium soda and medium popcorn per visit (an \$11 value), the Couple’s Membership (\$25/month or \$275/year) for two medium sodas and a large popcorn per visit (a \$16 value), or the Family Membership (\$30/month or \$330/year) for four medium sodas and a large popcorn per visit (a \$22 value). If you join us for a movie more than once a month, your membership pays for itself.

We love being Fallon’s spot for movies, live show entertainment, and hometown fun. Looking to celebrate a birthday, host a private screening, or put your name on our iconic marquee? Reach out to us at 775-423-6210 or thefallontheatre@gmail.com to make it happen. See you at the movies!

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Due to music performances and travel schedules, we will not hold regular office hours. However, appointments will be scheduled as needed, including during mutually agreed-upon evening hours and days.

APPOINTMENTS
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In memory of my longtime, great friend, Dr. Jon Floto, D.C.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

If you cannot attend the meeting, written comments may be submitted to the Clerk/Treasurer's Office, 155 N Taylor St, Suite 110, Fallon, NV 89406, before 4:00 p.m. on October 14, 2026. A copy of the proposed Service Plan is on file and available for public inspection at the Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer's Office. A scanned copy of the ordinance will be posted on October 9, 2026 with the Agenda Packet on the county's website at <https://www.churchillcountynv.gov/1081/Agendas-Minutes>. Dated: September 10, 2026.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
OF REDEMPTION OF CERTAIN
FALLON NUGGET CHIPS:

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

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTIVE
POSITION VACANCY

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking a public-spirited citizen who is willing to serve as a member on the **Churchill County Planning Commission**. The Planning Commission is an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners and will meet twice monthly. The person will be on a seven (7) member board responsible for decisions with Planning Department matters associated within Churchill County. This member will serve a term from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2030. Computer knowledge and experience is essential. Familiarity with Churchill County and a broad understanding of Churchill County's governance, Master Plan, and land use planning policies is preferred. For more details, interested persons may talk to the Public Works Director for additional information about the Planning Commission and what the position entails. Interested persons may obtain an application at the County Manager's Office, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 194, Fallon, Nevada 89406.

All letters and applications are to be submitted to the above address not later than 3 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Alexa Robinson,
County Manager's Office

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 9, 16, and 23, 2026
Ad #7796

NOTICE OF OPEN
APPOINTIVE POSITION

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking a public-spirited citizen 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. Applications are being considered to fill a 4-year term through October 31, 2030. 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 Churchill County Manager's Office, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 194, Fallon, Nevada 89406 or by downloading at: <https://nv-churchill-county.civicplus.com/773/Advisory-Governing-Board-Openings>.

All letters and applications are to be submitted to the above address not later than 3:00 PM on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Alexa Robinson
County Manager's Office

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 9, 16, and 23, 2026
Ad #7805

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING
OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Fallon Replacement Tribal Health Center The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Phoenix Area (PAIHS), Schurz Service Unit, proposes to provide technical assistance to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe (FPST) for the design and construction of a new 63,157 square foot health center on a 4-acre parcel located along Sherman Street, northwest of the intersection with Williams Avenue, in Fallon, Nevada. The proposed facility would replace existing aging facilities and expand healthcare services available to the FPST and other American Indian/Alaska Native residents of the service area, including the Lovelock Paiute and Yomba Shoshone Tribes. An Environmental Assessment (EA), dated April 29, 2026, was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed project. Based on the findings of the EA, PAIHS has determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, and has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. PAIHS has determined that a 15-day public review and comment period provides a reasonable and meaningful opportunity for interested persons and agencies to review the EA and proposed FONSI. In determining the appropriate review period, PAIHS considered the nature and scope of the proposed action, the agency and Tribal coordination conducted during preparation of the EA, the environmental effects identified and analyzed in the EA, and the absence of significant environmental effects identified through that analysis. The proposed action is not an action normally requiring preparation of an EIS, is not closely similar to such an action, and is not an action without precedent. Accordingly, PAIHS has determined that the 30-day review procedure identified in HHS GAM 30-50-50 for those limited categories of actions does not apply, and that a 15-day review period is appropriate for this undertaking. Copies of the EA and FONSI are available upon request. Interested parties may request copies by: Email: christian.guess@ihs.gov.

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 9, 2026
Ad #7822

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Churchill County Sheriff's Candidate Endorsement Announcement

On August 5, 2026, the Churchill County Sheriff's Deputies Association, in partnership with the Churchill County Dispatcher's Union, hosted a Churchill County Sheriff's Candidates Night.

Following the event, the members of the Churchill County Sheriff's Deputies Association voted on whether or not to endorse a candidate for the Sheriff's Office election. The Churchill County Dispatcher's Union also held a vote.

The decision to endorse a candidate is never taken lightly. It is one of the most significant decisions our Associations makes, and it comes only after thoughtful consideration and meaningful discussion. Our members chose to endorse the candidate who they believe best reflects the values, leadership, and commitment they strive to uphold while serving the citizens of Churchill County. The Deputies Association does not always choose to endorse a candidate. We have seen several elections come and go where we have chosen to not endorse due to the individuals not representing what the members believe we stand for. The last endorsement the Association made was in 2018 when Sheriff Richard Hickox first began his campaign for Churchill County Sheriff. Our vote is not based on a popularity contest, it truly comes down to the individual we believe fully embodies the spirit and drive of the Churchill County Sheriff's Office.

It is with great pleasure that we announce, the Churchill County Sheriff's Deputies Association, as well as the Churchill County Dispatcher's Union, have voted to endorse Michael Davis in his campaign to become the next Sheriff of Churchill County.

Long before becoming a candidate for Sheriff, Michael Davis was an active and dedicated member of the Deputies Association. He devoted countless hours of his own time advocating for Deputies of the Sheriff's Office, working to ensure they were protected in the workplace and represented fairly under their contract. His dedication to those who wear the badge has never been about recognition, it has always been about giving back to those who sacrifice so much. Michael has proven to the men and women and the Churchill County Sheriff's Office that his heart is in it for the right reasons.

We have said it before: even our heroes need heroes. For many Deputies of the Churchill County Sheriff's Office, Michael Davis has been our beacon. Through years of dedication, advocacy, and service, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment not only to those within the Sheriff's Office but also to the community we are all proud to protect and serve.

The Churchill County Sheriff's Deputies Association would like to remind our community, your voice means something. Get out and vote. Let's make a difference together.

In the words of Michael Davis, "Honoring Our Past. Protecting Our Future."

