

THE FALLON POST



KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

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Fallon Cowgirl, Andrea Van Leuven, Named Woman of the West

By Christy Lattin

Longtime Fallon resident Andrea Van Leuven, who spent decades learning and living the cowboy lifestyle, earned the prestigious honor of being named the Woman of the West by Western Horseman magazine earlier this year. Featured on the January cover, Andrea received the award during the Art of the Cowgirl event in late February in Wickenburg, Arizona.

Andrea, her husband Scott, and daughter Kadie are part of the driving force behind the big loop roping and cattle handling competition she helped found, held each November in Winnemucca. The Buckaroo Traditions Gathering not only celebrates America’s Western heritage but also promotes stockmanship, horsemanship, and low-stress animal handling.

“To say she deserves ‘Woman of the West’ is an understatement,” said daughter Kadie Zeller. “She is a force to be reckoned with and it’s an honor to be her daughter.”

While she and her husband are currently working at the remote C Punch Ranch outside Lovelock, Nevada, Andrea spent many years in Fallon, raising her family and helping others.

Her professional journey included multiple leadership roles in youth outreach, substance abuse prevention, and mental health services. She worked for the Churchill County Juvenile Probation Office managing programs to prevent underage drinking, directed the Cantaloupe Festival where she changed policies to protect youth, and later led afterschool programs for the school district. Most recently, she served as executive director of the Churchill Community Coalition, where she focused on mental health, suicide prevention, and family support services.

Her long-standing work in the mental health field led to her nomination by Western Horseman editor Dani Licklider.

“Dani loved how we are incorporating mental health, addiction, and community resources for rural families,” Andrea said. “Dani was inspired at the culmination of work I had done, and she nominated me to be Woman of the West!”



Andrea Van Leuven received her Woman of the West award at the Art of the Cowgirl event in February. Pictured above, from left, are Macy Zeller, Kadie Zeller, Scott Van Leuven with granddaughter Arlonie, Andrea Van Leuven, and Jennifer Denison and a representative from Western Horseman. Photo courtesy Kadie Zeller.

Andrea grew up in Hawthorne and received her first horse in first grade. It was kept at a local facility, and in those corrals she met many different types of people, but one vaquero in particular made a lasting impression.

“He befriended me. He had a beautiful well-broken spade bit bridle horse that was very fancy. He braided me a hackamore set up, and I rode my pony in it for years,” Andrea said. “He taught me about creating a nice horse through the old vaquero rules of being respectful of their mouths.”

She competed in horse shows and rodeos as a child and helped friends on their ranches.

“At 18 I wanted to go sneak off and work on one of Nevada’s bigger ranches,” Andrea said. “Back then, no women were hired on crews.” She continued working with horses during college and “cowboyed” on her days off.

After college, she and her first husband were working on a ranch in California when they found themselves unexpectedly unemployed after their first daughter was born. They reached out to the cowboy community for help.

“We called our friends, the Openshaws, who found us a job in Fallon in 1993,” she said. Andrea returned to showing horses, raising cattle and cowboying.

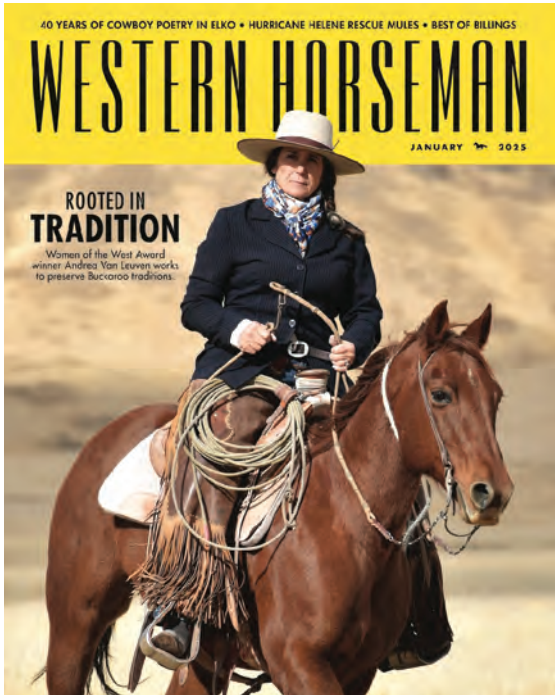
Kathy Openshaw said she and her husband Bud first met Andrea in 1987 on a packing trail in the Sierras; Andrea delivered camp supplies on horseback and Kathy was the cook.

“Andrea’s always been a really fun gal to know,” Kathy said.

Following her divorce, Andrea entered the business world and began her career in mental health and substance abuse prevention. Fast forward many years, Andrea married Scott Van Leuven. While he cowboyed across the West, she remained behind, raising her daughters and focusing on a stable life.

“I wanted to go back to cowboying, but I had two girls that were in school in Fallon, and I felt a stable lifestyle and paycheck was the best!”

[Fallon Cowgirl continued on page 2]



Andrea Van Leuven won the Woman of the West Award and was featured on the cover of Western Horseman magazine. Photo courtesy Western Horseman.



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PERIODICAL
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The Fallon Post
169 E. Center Street
Fallon, Nevada 89406

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THE FALLON POST

Publisher/President
Rachel Dahl
rachel@fallonmediallc.com

Editor
Leanna Lehman
LeannaLehman@thefallonpost.org

Advertising
For advertising contact:
775-481-3582, or email
Advertising@FallonMediaLLC.com

Layout & Ad Design
Christine Bryner
christine@studio509llc.com

Office Manager
Cheryl Venturacci

Logistics Manager
Denice Pinder

Staff Writers
Christy Lattin
christy@fallonmediallc.com
Riggin Stonebarger
riggin@fallonmediallc.com

Contributors
John Baker
Winston Brooks
Nancy Chapman
Stuart Cook
Allison Diegel
Suzann Gilliland-Peterson
Isis Harris
Sonya Johnson
Vicki Jones
Kelli Kelly
Trina Machacek
Michon Mackedon
Anne McMillin
Teresa Moon
Sylvia Nash
Robert Perea
Kelli Perez
Kaitlin Ritchie
Angela Viera
Patricia Whitten
Vic Williams

Volunteers
Victoria Crystal
Nancy Coon
Jim & Tina Dakin
Tess Fife
Mike & Beth Reese
Harry Smith

Mail
169 E. Center Street
Fallon, Nevada 89406
775-423-4545
admin@thefallonpost.org

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SUBSCRIPTIONS OR ADDRESS CHANGE
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Single copies may be purchased for \$2 at local merchants listed on page 13.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log

Progress.

By Rachel Dahl

This guy I worked for once would say often, “Let’s not confuse motion with progress.”

That always got me picturing a duck swimming in a pond – all cool, and collected above the water, while his little feet are madly paddling far away from where anyone can see.

Leanna and I are currently practicing being charming and calm. We have given up frantic and stressed out. We are intentionally minimizing and managing the release of cortisol into our system and working on defusing the fight-or-flight reflex.

Probably that chocolate cupcake Denice brought me back from the Courtyard isn’t going to be super helpful in this effort. It was quite lovely though. I’ll be napping shortly – forget about madly paddling.

We’ve been having a blast lately (I can’t say that in front of the team, or they will surely destroy me, I’m sure I’ve put them straight through hell) what with moving us to the new shop, but also moving all of *RANGE* magazine down from Carson City where it’s been produced for the past 31 years. You should see some of the relics and artifacts that are coming out of these boxes.

This scrappy little team has handled every crazy thing I throw at them with calmness and willingness and I cannot be more grateful for them.

It’s possible what I see as calm and willing is abject resignation, but let’s go with they just see what needs to be done and they get after it.

We’ve also been blessed with a few new

team members who have come in and jumped right on the crazy train, stepping up with just as much vim and vigor and commitment as our original team.

It’s also really important to acknowledge all of you and thank you for sticking with us and all your support. As we watch the renewals come rolling in, the gratitude just washes over me, and I honestly feel like the luckiest person around.

Please be sure to join us this Friday, August 8 for our Open House. Swing by any time after 2 p.m. The ribbon cutting is at 5:30 p.m..

So, while we keep pushing and paddling and making progress, we’ll still be right here...

... Keeping you Posted.

—Rach



[Fallon Cowgirl continued from page 1]

After a series of personal challenges, Andrea reevaluated her path.

“I was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2018, my mom had cancer and became home-bound, and my granddaughter was born in 2019 with Downs Syndrome and a heart defect,” she said. “It was a lot to deal with. It made me reevaluate my priorities and what were the things I wanted to do in life. I did NOT want to have regrets. Cowboying had always had my heart, so in 2019 I left Fallon and went to work cowboying.”

When Scott was named cow boss at the C Punch Ranch later that year, Andrea was finally able to join him full-time. Both daughters had graduated, and the timing was right. The million-acre ranch is remote, miles from any neighbors or grocery store — and she loves it.

“It’s peaceful, quiet and away from the busy life,” Andrea said. “Our granddaughter Arlonie has been the biggest blessing. She has lived with us at the ranch for a lot of the time while mom was in beauty school. She has her own pony, she rides and moves cows, and she feeds the horses and baby calves.”

During a long drive to Idaho, Andrea and Scott talked about the lack of good stockmanship and horsemanship competitions. She shared her idea with Kadie, and the Buckaroo Traditions Gathering was born. The first event was held in November 2023 in Winnemucca, with a focus on low-stress competitions for both horses and cattle.

“When timed events became popular, it added a lot of pressure to go fast, many times at the animal’s expense,” she said. “Buckaroo Traditions Gathering highlights and honors buckaroo traditions and art forms that have been used in ranching over 150 years, which were handed down from the old Californios.”

“Our cattle live outside year-round and only see man on a horse twice a year when we gather them to cull, wean and ship. So, they have to be handled in a way that gives them a positive, low-stress interaction,” Andrea said. “If you’re a good stockman you can read these cattle and know how to handle them to win. If you’re fast and aggressive, you’re not going to do well at this roping!”

Family friend Kadee Buckmaster Muratore said Andrea and Scott have cultivated a culture of learning without judgment.

“Just as they believe in low-stress cattle handling, they believe in low-stress people handling,” Kadee said. “I have seen them let

the greenest of people ride some of their best horses, myself included. I have been on the receiving end of nothing but encouragement and belief from Andrea, even when I didn’t believe in myself.”

After hearing Andrea talk about organizing an event like this for years, Kadee is pleased to see it come to life.

“It is magnificent to see it come to fruition. She has done a truly remarkable job. The event has stayed true to her values of low-stress cattle handling, fancy loop roping and well-handled horses,” Kadee said. “I only wish that she competed at her own event as Andrea is so much fun to watch!”

Andrea also incorporated her mental health background into the new event in hopes of reaching a largely overlooked population.

“Mental health issues and addiction don’t affect just one type of person; it affects all types. The cowboy world is greatly affected. Most working ranchers, farmers, cowboys and buckaroos work in remote or rural places, mostly isolated; towns are usually small with little to no services. Our intention was to bring education and resources to these folks, so they do have options,” she said.

Reflecting on the Woman of the West award, Andrea said it was humbling, especially when considering the many women working as stewards of the land, family and community.

“I had to sit with it a bit and come to realize that this award has been my best gift, because I never worked at getting it. This version of me – all-encompassing me, imperfect me – received that gift. I’ve ended up living such a blessed life!”

Kadie, who sees the event as a family effort, is proud to see her mom realize her dream in her 60s.

“Getting to see her live out her dream of doing this full-time as an adult has been such a gift because it’s not often, historically, that women get their flowers and cowboying and ranching,” Kadie said. “I’m most impressed with her care and love for our community and wanting to bring cowboy mental health and suicide prevention to the forefront of the buckaroo community,” she said.

The Buckaroo Traditions Gathering will be held Nov. 14–16 in Winnemucca at the Winnemucca Event Center. For more information, visit btgathering.com.

CANTALOUPE FESTIVAL

Get Moo-ving!

Ag Experience Returns to Cantaloupe Festival

Enjoy Interactive Exhibits, a Real Country Fair, and Loads of Family Fun



Cutest Little Cowgirl 2024 Contestant. Photo by Taryn Lenon Photography.



Ag Experience Entrance. Photo courtesy of CFCF.



Cutest Little Cowboy 2024 Contestant. Photo by Taryn Lenon Photography.

By Nancy Chapman and Leanna Lehman

One of the most popular attractions at the Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair is back and better than ever. Redesigned last year under the leadership of Joe Frey, the Ag Experience is now a fully immersive exhibit that highlights the role of agriculture in everyday life.

Designed for both children and adults, the Ag Experience invites families to explore together, learn how food is grown, and discover how agriculture continues to shape the community. The self-guided tour begins inside the Rafter 3C building, continues through the Dry Gulch, and wraps around to the animal sheds. Several local ag-related organizations will be part of the exhibit again this year, including FFA, 4-H, High Desert Grange, and the Churchill County Farm Bureau. Volunteers from across the community help bring the Ag Experience to life.

All attractions are included with a weekend festival ticket, which allows guests to revisit exhibits, booths, and entertainment throughout the event.

Festivalgoers should also explore the exhibit hall, where locals will showcase their talents in arts and crafts, amateur photography, canning and preserving, quilting, and more.

In addition to the fun and flavor of the festival, local talent will be on full display in this year’s Country Fair exhibits. From quilts and photography to homegrown cantaloupes and canned goods, the exhibit hall highlights the creativity, craftsmanship, and agricultural pride of Nevada residents.

All entries and judging will take place in the Barrel Room (formerly the Multi-Purpose Building), with scheduled entry and judging times for each category listed below. The exhibits will be open to the public throughout the weekend, offering a chance to admire the work of neighbors, friends, and fellow community members.

Also returning is the fan-favorite Cutest Little Cowgirl and Cowboy Contest, scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. on the Pavilion Stage. More information on how to participate will be available soon.

Don’t forget to say hello to this year’s Cantaloupe Festival Royalty—Queen Annabelle Forshee and King Elijah Southfield—who will help celebrate 40 years

of agricultural heritage, community pride, and local flavor.

Heads up, festival guests! This year, entry into the festival has moved from the old ticketing booths to the main front entrance of the Rafter 3C Arena. Clear signage will be posted to help direct traffic. Be sure to enter through the front doors to get your wristband and start the festival fun without delay.

With live music, dancing, incredible food, truck and tractor pulls, vendors, a carnival, and so much more, this year’s Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair promises something for everyone.

For the full festival schedule and event guide, be sure to check out the Aug. 22 edition of *The Fallon Post*.

COUNTRY FAIR EXHIBITS

Listed below are the dates and times entries will be accepted, along with corresponding judging times. All entries and judging take place in The Barrel Room (formerly the Multi-Purpose Building).

Monday, August 18, 2025 – Section 2: Quilts | Entry: 9 a.m.–12 p.m., 2–6 p.m. | Judging: Tuesday, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – Section 1: Amateur Photography | Entry: 3–7 p.m. | Judging: Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – Section 3: Crafts & Hobbies | Entry: 2–7 p.m. | Judging: Wednesday, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – Sections 4–8: Fine Arts, Knitting & Crochet, Needlework, Sewing, Home Arts & Furnishings | Entry: 2–7 p.m. | Judging: Wednesday, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 – Sections 9 & 10: Food Preservation, Food & Nutrition | Entry: 4–7 p.m. | Judging: Thursday, 4 p.m.

Thursday, August 21, 2025 – Sections 11 & 12: Fruits & Vegetables, Roses & Flowers + Special Section: Cantaloupe Growing | Entry: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. | Judging: Fruits & Vegetables at 1 p.m., Food Preservation at 4 p.m., Food & Nutrition at 4 p.m., Roses & Flowers at 7 p.m.

EXHIBIT GUIDELINES AND GENERAL RULES

1. Any Nevada resident (youth or adult) may exhibit. Judging is limited to entries by amateurs only.
2. All entries must be entered under the

- creator’s name only and must be solely the work of the entrant.
3. Exhibits must be presented as required by Section. See the section page for entry times and additional rules. No late entries will be accepted.
 4. All entries must include an exhibit tag, which will be provided at the time of entry.
 5. All classes and entry times are the same for youth and adult.
 6. Entries will be limited as stated in specific sections.
 7. No offensive exhibit entries will be accepted. If visible characteristics of the exhibit eliminates the exhibit from consideration of an award, it will not be accepted at the time of entry.
 8. All exhibits will be in The Barrel Room (formerly the multi-purpose building), which will be open to the public on Friday of the festival, from 1pm to 9pm, Saturday of the festival from 9am to 9pm, and Sunday of the festival, from 9am to 4pm.
 9. Entries must be the individual’s own work and be completed between August 2024 and August 2025, unless specifically noted in the section rules.
 10. All entries must be displayed for the entire fair. No entries will be removed before 5pm Sunday of the festival. Early removal will result in the forfeiture of all ribbons and awards.
 11. All exhibits are to be picked up at the designated times. If they are not picked up, they will become the property of the Fallon Festival Association Fair Committee and may be disposed of or destroyed.
 12. Claim tickets must be turned in to redeem exhibits.
 13. No prize monies will be awarded unless otherwise stated on the section page.
 14. Judges have the right to subdivide or combine all classes for judging.
 15. All judge’s decisions are FINAL.
 16. All general rules apply to youth and adult participants.
 17. No food or beverages of any kind are allowed in the exhibit hall.
 18. The Fallon Festival Association Fair Committee reserves the right to settle all arguments that may arise in the interpretation of the rules.

RANGE
THE FALLON POST
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the Fernley reporter

THE PERSHING POST
KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

Ribbon Cutting 5:30 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE
August 8, anytime between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Fallon Media Co. | 169 E. Center Street, Fallon Nevada

PLAYING ON THE
MAIN STAGE

JAKE JACOBSON

Friday,
August 22

7PM

CANTALOUPE FESTIVAL
FALLON
& COUNTRY FAIR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music, Movies, and More at the Fallon Theatre

By Kelli Perez

We've got a fun-filled weekend lined up at the Fallon Theatre with animated chaos, sci-fi adventure, and snacks for everyone, so grab your friends and family and head downtown for a great time!

This Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., don't miss "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" (2009), a colorful comedy where inventor Flint Lockwood accidentally turns water into food, causing cheeseburgers and spaghetti to rain from the sky. Packed with laughs and heart, this PG-rated film runs 1 hour and 30 minutes and is perfect for all ages.

Or, at 7 p.m. both nights, gear up for “Star Trek: First Contact” (1996), a thrilling journey through time and space as Captain Picard and the crew of the Enterprise battle the Borg to protect humanity’s future. This fan-favorite is rated PG-13 and runs 1 hour and 51 minutes.

We're also proud to take part in Fallon's Community Reunion next weekend! Join us Friday, August 15 at 7 p.m. for a free concert featuring the Great Basin Band. Then stop by Saturday, August 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for an open house and guided tours of the theatre's historic space.

Ready to run (or stroll) for a good cause? Lace up for the Fallon Theatre's Cantaloupe Canter 5K on Saturday, August 23 as part of the Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair. The race kicks off at 8 a.m. at 333 Sheckler Road, with check-in

from 7 to 7:50 a.m. Register by August 13 for \$25 and get a T-shirt, or pay \$30 on race day. Sign up now on our website or at Kent's Supply Center.

Looking ahead, don't miss David Hayes – Master Showman on Saturday, September 20 at 7 p.m. Known for his musical talent and fun-loving stage presence, David's variety show delivers clean, family-friendly entertainment. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

And mark your calendar for our annual Show 'N' Shine.

Saturday, September 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This free community favorite features classic cars, live music, and great food. Want to enter your vehicle? Register now at fallontheatre.com.

That evening at 7 p.m., we're teaming up with the Toiyabe Chamber Music Society for a special concert featuring the Toiyabe Trio. This performance blends live classical music with projected imagery in an immersive "Not-So-Lonely" Illustrated Concert experience. Suggested donation: \$5.

Beyond that, get ready for our 4D weekend of “Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl” on October 3 and 4, plus the return of comedian Lee Hardin on November 14 and a live concert with River Rogue on November 15.

As always, movies at the Fallon Theatre are free to attend, and our concession stand is stocked with your favorites. Want to rent the theatre or put your name in lights on the marquee? Contact us at 775-423-6210 or thefallontheatre@gmail.com.



August 14-17



A HOME GROWN FAIR

LYON COUNTY FAIR • RODEO
SILVER STATE LIVESTOCK SHOW

Join us for a fun weekend of Live Entertainment, Powerhouse Dancers, Kiddle Karoo Show, Alley Cat Band, James the Juggler, Food Vendors, Commerical Exhibits, Face painting, local talent groups and much more!



Lyon County Fairgrounds | 100 Highway 95 East, Yerington Nevada

For more information please call, Lisa Tibbais 775-221-4087 or Donna McDonald 775-309-3720.

Paid for by City of Yerington Room Tax and Lyon County Room Tax

BACK TO *school* EVENTS



NORTHSIDE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

NEW DATE!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – OPEN HOUSE | 2:30–4:00 PM
(SCHOOL STARTS FOR PRE-K STUDENTS 9/2)





LAHONTAN

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21
FIRST GRADE MEET & GREET
 4:00–5:30 PM

WEEK OF AUGUST 25
KINDERGARTEN MEET & GREET/ASSESSMENTS
(TEACHERS WILL CONTACT PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO SET A DATE & TIME)





E.C. BEST

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22
OPEN HOUSE
 1:00–3:00 PM



NUMA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22
OPEN HOUSE
 2:30–4:00 PM



CCMS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20
OPEN HOUSE
 5:30–7:00 PM



CCHS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21
HOSTED AT CCHS!
 6:00–7:30 PM



For more information visit: bit.ly/CCSDbacktoschoolwebpage

PETS OF THE WEEK

Cheeky Cheech

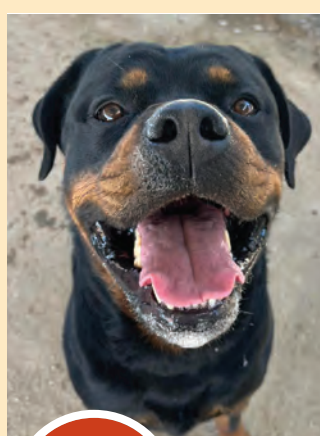


Cheech is a 1-year-old Great Pyrenees /Husky mix—a big, playful pup looking for a new home. Due to his breed mix, he needs a home without livestock.

If you think Cheech would be a good fit for your household, give us a call or stop by the Fallon Animal Shelter to meet him in person!

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

Too Cute Zazu



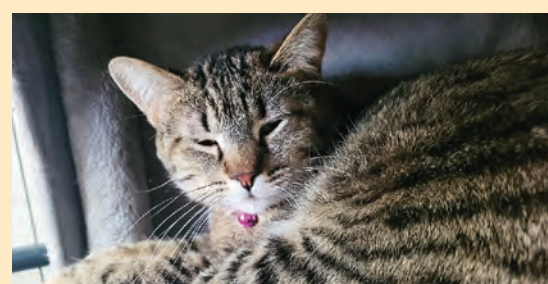
**NEW
ARRIVAL
ALERT!**

ARRIVAL ALERT! Before he's officially ready for adoption (we'll get that scheduled Monday), but we're already accepting applications!

Please remember, we do not answer questions on social media. For more information, call us or visit capsnevada.org.

Churchill Animal Protection Society
5894 Pasture Rd, Fallon
775-423-7500 | capsnevada.org
caps@ccccomm.net

Meet Nala



Nala is a beautiful 1-year-old tabby who is spayed, vaccinated, and ready to find her forever home. This sweet girl thrives in calm, quiet environments and would be happiest in a gentle, loving household.

She enjoys lounging on her cat tree, soaking up the sun, and receiving soft pets from her favorite people. Nala is a relaxed, affectionate companion who would make a wonderful addition to any family seeking a mellow cat.

Come meet Nala and see if she's the perfect match for your home—and your heart.

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

OBITUARIES



ALVIN ROY HANKS
October 19, 1947 – July 6, 2025

Alvin Roy Hanks passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on July 6, 2025, at Renown hospital in Reno.

He was born in Elko, Nevada, on October 19, 1947, to Eugene “Gene” Roy Hanks and Alice Jane Hanks. Raised in Fallon, he worked alongside his dad, learning the trade of building homes. After graduating in Fallon, he continued working in construction with integrity and pride—values he passed on to both his sons.

Alvin loved to hunt, fish, and go camping. Always including his family and friends, being outdoors was his life. He valued honesty and raised his children to do the same: to always do your best and take pride in what you do. He had lifelong friends who knew they could count on him whenever they needed.

Alvin was preceded in death by his parents and older brother, Carl Hanks. He is survived by his wife, Christine “Tina” Hanks; his sister, Nancy Hanks; his three children, Brent Hanks, Tracy Hawks, and Jason Hanks; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Please help us celebrate the life of Alvin on August 23, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at his and Tina’s home, 3195 Eugene Way, Fallon, NV 89406. Food will be provided. If you would like to bring something, please feel free to bring a dessert.

A Small Gift, A Big Impact — Veterans Guest House Donation Drive

Staff Report

Local veterans’ organizations are collecting donations for the Veterans Guest House in Reno, which provides lodging and support services for veterans and their families receiving medical care in the area.

IN FALLON, DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT:

- American Legion Post 16 – 90 N. Ada Street
- VFW Post 1002 – 405 S. Maine Street

REQUESTED DONATIONS INCLUDE:

- Trail mix, peanut butter & crackers, cheese crackers, fruit snacks
- Microwaveable rice bowls, mac & cheese

- Canned chili, ravioli, spaghetti, baked beans
- Cereal and jelly
- Individual bags of chips or popcorn
- Bottled water and sugar-free drinks
- All types of paper products
- Gift cards for milk
- Heavy-duty plastic utensils
- New t-shirts (all sizes)
- Travel-size toiletry kits

Donations will be accepted through Thursday, Aug. 15.

Every donated item helps ease the burden on veterans and their families during times of medical crisis. Whether it’s a bag of snacks, a clean shirt, or a simple show of support, your contribution makes a difference. Help show our veterans that Fallon stands with them—drop off your donation today.



**OATS PARK ART SCHOOL**



END OF SUMMER ART CAMP
With Mrs. Sorensen

Join us for an exciting art camp at the Oats Park Art School! We will be making Hot August Sun Painting & Collages inspired by artist Clare Youngs

6 DAY CAMP: AUG 11/12, 15/16, 19/20
LOWER ELEMENTARY: 9-10:00 AM
UPPER ELEMENTARY: 11-12:00 PM
MAX OF 15 SEATS PER SESSION

\$50 /CHILD

FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER: CHURCHILLARTS.ORG

Fallon Media Co.

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the
Fernley
reporter

THE PERSHING POST
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- ✓ Executive Assistant
- ✓ Production Manager

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Interested? Email cover letter and resume to: Rachel@FallonMediaLLC.com



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Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lunch is \$6 for those under 60 and a suggested donation of \$3 for those 60 and older.

Monday, August 11
Italian Beef Bake
Peas and Carrots
Spinach Salad
Strawberry Yogurt

Tuesday, August 12
Spanish Omelet
Onion Roasted Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Oat Bran Muffin
Apple Crisp

Wednesday, August 13
Baked Herbed Chicken
Onion Sage Stuffing
Cream Sauce
Green Bean Stewed Tomatoes
Sliced Peaches
WW Roll

Thursday, August 14
Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Buttered Brussel Sprouts
Spiced Applesauce
WW Roll

Friday, August 15
Brats with Sliced Onions
WW Bread
German Cole Slaw
Baked Beans
Baked Potato Chips
Spiced Pears

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Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m. We serve sandwiches on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Monday, August 11
Sub Sandwiches
Fruit

Thursday, August 14
Nacho Bar
Dessert

Monday, August 18
Meatloaf
Potatoes & Veggies

Thursday, August 21
Stir Fry
Rice & Dessert

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

COMMUNITY

Youth STEM Program Accepting Applications for 2026 Nevada Flight Crew

By Christy Lattin

Students interested in STEM subjects and leadership development are encouraged to apply for the Nevada Flight Crew Youth Ambassador Program, a year-long opportunity led by the Nevada Afterschool Network. The program helps Nevada students advocate for STEM learning beyond the school setting. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The state program, launched in 2023, is grant-funded by the national Million Girls Moonshot program, which aims to engage more students in STEM learning through afterschool and summer programs. Each group of students is called a Flight Crew cohort, and they progress through the months-long program as a team.

“The main goal is to expose students to various fields and careers in STEM so they can explore and refine their interests,” said Margaritte Bouffard, the Flight Crew Coordinator. “We also help train them to be leaders and to speak in public at conferences.”

The Nevada Flight Crew is open to students ages 12 to 16 who are passionate about STEM and have participated in an afterschool program. Once selected, students participate in monthly training sessions held over Zoom and are paired with a STEM professional in their city. Training topics include leadership, public speaking, advocacy, and exploring STEM careers. Fallon student Melody Garcia-Bishop, 14, wrapped her year-long training in 2024 and is grateful for the skills she gained. Interested in nursing, she was partnered with a local nursing professional, meeting over three months to discuss her career goals and tour the hospital’s ambulance bay.

At the end of the year-long program, the cohort gathers in Las Vegas for a final event, nicknamed “Reach for the Stars” by the first Nevada Flight Crew. This year’s group called their event “Reach for the Stars – Nevada Flight Crew Goes Nuclear,” held at the Atomic Museum in Las Vegas.

Bouffard said students play a major role in planning their final event, from choosing the venue and theme to speaking on stage. Some serve as spotlight speakers, while others moderate a panel of STEM professionals who share their experiences.

Following the Reach for the Stars celebration, many students attend a STEM-related summer camp. Garcia-Bishop was sponsored to participate in a nursing camp at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

“As a teen, it’s hard to get people to listen to you, let alone to your ideas,” Garcia-Bishop said. “The Flight Crew program gives you



Members of the 2024 Flight Crew cohort celebrated their final event at the Mob Museum in Las Vegas. Fallon’s Melody Bishop-Garcia is pictured on the left in the front row. Photo courtesy Nevada Flight Crew.

knowledge and training to snap people to attention.” She plans to stay in touch with the other members of her cohort to build her network for the future.

Garcia-Bishop’s mother, Stephanie Winder, said she promoted the Nevada Flight Crew to other parents after seeing the positive influences in her daughter’s life.

“I’ve seen significant growth in Melody’s confidence and communication skills during her time with Nevada Flight Crew. I’ve watched her become a beautiful young woman who can articulate her ideas clearly and enthusiastically, engaging with both kids her own age and adults effectively,” Winder said.

“This has been a great way for students to grow—both within the program and within themselves,” Bouffard said. “They have more confidence after the program, and we love to see them blossom.”

Applications for the 2026 Nevada Flight Crew are open until Sept. 17. The first meeting will be held on Sept. 24. For more information or to apply, visit nevadaafterschool.org/nvflightcrew.



Fallon student Melody Bishop-Garcia, right, and another student practice applying tourniquets during the UNLV nursing camp in 2024. Bisop-Garcia was sponsored to attend the camp following her completion of the Nevada Flight Crew program. Photo courtesy Melody Bishop-Garcia.

Teen Struck in Crosswalk Prompts Pedestrian Safety Reminder

By Christy Lattin

After a teenager was struck in a crosswalk, police are encouraging both drivers and pedestrians to stay alert when approaching intersections. A 14-year-old girl was hit by a car on July 28 while crossing W. Williams Avenue at Allen Road.



Police Chief Daniel Babiarz said the teen and her sister waited for the pedestrian signal, but as they began crossing, a vehicle making a right turn struck the 14-year-old. Babiarz said the driver claimed she didn’t see the teens due to a blind spot in her vehicle. The driver was cited for failure to yield to a pedestrian.

The teen’s mother wrote in a social media post that her daughter suffered only scrapes and bruises and praised the driver for staying on scene and calling 911. The next day another resident posted they were almost hit by two cars while crossing the same Allen Road intersection, claiming both drivers not paying attention.

Babiarz said less than five percent of accidents in the last four years involved “non-motorists” like walkers or scooters, and the department has not added patrols to that intersection. However, he is concerned about the influx of e-scooters and e-bikes and the speed at which they travel, sometimes up to 30 miles per hour. He encouraged parents to teach their children proper safety protocols like wearing helmets and crossing intersections safely.

Ron Wenger, outgoing Chief of Police, said he’s always pleased to see parents walking with their young students the first week of school. He said it’s up to parents to teach them the “rules of the road” and how to safely use crosswalks, including making eye contact with drivers.

Some of Fallon’s major intersections used by school children include Merton and Taylor streets, Harrigan and Front streets, and Williams and Sherman streets. Wenger said the three-way intersection at Merton and Taylor, which leads to Churchill County

High School and Lahontan Elementary, presents the biggest problem and is why crossing guards are in place to safely move motorists and pedestrians.

City of Fallon Public Works Director Brian Byrd said a \$6 million congressional earmark approved in 2022 for a traffic signal at Williams and Sherman streets is being administered through the Nevada Department of Transportation. Byrd said the final design was recently submitted to NDOT, and he anticipates construction will begin in spring 2026.

Fallon Police Department installed containers with high-visibility flags at several intersections. Pedestrians are encouraged to grab a flag while crossing to help alert motorists. Babiarz said the Volunteers In Policing Service check the flag supply each day to ensure flags are available.

It is mandatory for officers on duty to be on proactive patrol during school arrival and dismissal times, Babiarz said, noting the officers will stop and talk with pedestrians if they see unsafe activity in an effort to educate students.

“Your child’s safety as a pedestrian starts with you teaching them how to be a pedestrian,” Wenger said, noting that crosswalks are for people on foot, not on bicycles or scooters. “We encourage drivers and pedestrians to be less distracted. We live in a very distracting world.”

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Position Open for Hybrid County Manager-HR Director Role

By Christy Lattin

Churchill County is once again recruiting for an Assistant County Manager/Human Resources Director, following the recent promotion of Chris Spross, who vacated the position on Jul. 7, 2025, upon assuming the role of County Manager.

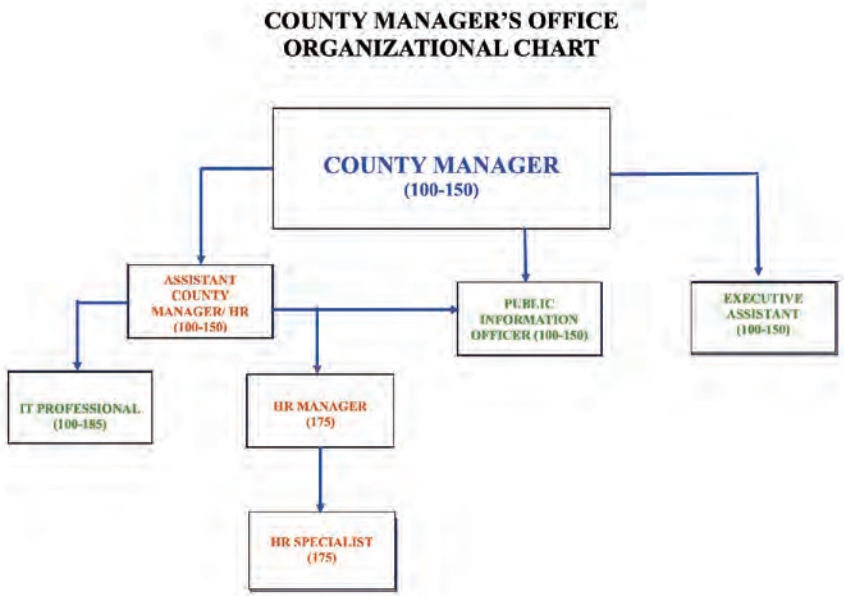
The job, which combines assistant manager duties with oversight of the Human Resources Department, is currently posted on national hiring websites, with a starting salary of \$130,228.80, and is set to close on Aug. 13.

The job description underwent an overhaul in November 2023 when Human Resources Director Geoff Stark and County Manager Jim Barbee began reviewing county staffing structures in anticipation of Stark’s retirement. After evaluating comparable positions, Barbee and Stark proposed combining the roles of Assistant County Manager and Human Resources Director into a single position. The commissioners approved the position at Paygrade 86, Step 1, and the county began recruiting.

Stark reported that 40 applications were received, though only a few candidates were qualified to move forward to interviews. Among those interviewed was Public Works Director Chris Spross, who Stark said stood out among the other applicants.

“Mr. Spross has worked for the county for three and a half years, having stepped into the Public Works Director position in September of 2020. His qualifications and ability are exemplary, and he comes in with working knowledge of several of the county departments and staff.” Furthermore, Stark stated that he believed Spross’s knowledge of the county and his ability to adapt and grow are crucial to the success of this new position.

At its meeting on Jan. 17, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved Spross’s promotion from Public Works Director to Assistant County Manager/Human Resources Director. According to the Title 3 guidelines in Churchill County Code, a standard advancement from his prior position would have placed him at Grade 85 Step 5. Commissioners approved Spross at Paygrade 86, Step 7, and a \$600 monthly car allowance. The total fiscal impact for the year was \$17,231. The board approved a salary of \$148,116, citing what



commissioners referred to as a difficult recruitment environment.

Four months after accepting the position, Spross told commissioners that his time was split between the HR department and county manager functions, and that the need for a full-time position to oversee the county’s 254 employees remained. Stark, who formerly managed the day-to-day human resources operations, retired shortly after recommending Spross for his new role. At their Jun. 20, 2024, meeting, commissioners approved the job description and pay grade for a Human Resources Manager.

An organizational chart presented during this year’s budget hearings shows the Assistant County Manager/Human Resources Director will oversee both an HR Manager and an HR Specialist. Any hired candidate must obtain a certificate in human resources (PHR, SPHR, SHRM-CP, or SHRM-SCP) within one year of accepting employment.

Any applicant hired for the Human Resources Manager position must hold a four-year degree in human resources and have a minimum of four years of experience in HR.

Tourism Board Awards \$29,000 in Grants for Fall Events

By Christy Lattin

The Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority awarded \$29,000 in grants at its recent meeting to organizers of several local events slated for this autumn.



No Hill Hundred cyclists. Photo courtesy of City of Fallon.

The largest funding grant was awarded to the Fallon Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair for \$15,000. Organizers estimate that 18,000 unique visitors will attend this year, with 18% coming from out of town, and hope to fully book all 531 hotel rooms in Fallon, as they did last year, according to the grant application.

An economic impact assessment report about last year’s festival was presented to the tourism board at its Apr. 15 meeting. The University of Nevada, Reno’s College of Business analyzed data from the previous year and compiled the report. Fred Steinmann, the Director of the Center for Economic Development at UNR, presented the report. Some of the figures include:

- 11,484 unique attendees
- \$9.2 million in total visitor spending
- Attendees came from 31 states other than Nevada
- Average length of stay was 3.75 days
- Food and beverage spending at the fair was \$775,000
- Retail shopping at the fair and Fallon area totaled \$866,000
- \$1.1 million spent on fuel and transportation
- Churchill County’s direct economic impact was \$4.8 million
- Local region’s direct economic impact was \$5.9 million

“We have never been able to break down not only the overall economic impact, but all those specific categories,” said Tourism Director Jane Moon, noting those were good numbers to see for the event.

Adrienne Snow, executive director of the Cantaloupe Festival, said she plans to use the grant money to help advertise special festival events that benefit local nonprofit organizations. For example, 100% of the proceeds from the cornhole tournament benefit the Churchill Community Hospital

Foundation, and profits from the Cantaloupe Canter 5K will help the Fallon Theatre.

The Fallon Junior Rodeo was awarded a grant of \$3,000 for their annual Labor Day event. The event, produced by Jennifur and Travis Peek, will take place from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 at the 3C Event Complex. Organizers anticipate that 200-300 participants and their families will attend the four-day event, creating a need for approximately 150 hotel room nights. The event also received \$1,307.49 from the county in July.

The No Hill Hundred Century Bike Tour will be held Oct. 4, sending bicyclists across the county for a 60 or 100-mile tour. The event, organized by Churchill County Parks and Recreation, attracts 150-200 riders, with 75% coming from outside Fallon. Organizers estimate that they will fill 62 hotel rooms for one night. The bike tour was awarded a \$2,000 grant.

The final grant of \$9,000 was awarded to Back Roads Vintage Market for the Fallon 2025 and Spring 2026 markets, held on October 10-11, 2025, and May 8-9, 2026. Organizers Jenny and Mitch Young hope to increase the number of attendees this year to 3,000, a 400-600 increase from prior events, by boosting their advertising budget.

The bi-annual antique market expects to draw 500 visitors from outside a 60-mile radius to Fallon, and to fill 70 hotel rooms for one night. They listed a long-term goal of partnering with other organizers to host complementary events, such as an Oktoberfest.



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COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

Tuesday, July 29, Judge Thomas Stockard presiding

By Teresa Moon

Melissa Shawnette Aleman pleaded guilty to two counts of Category D Felony of Making, Uttering, or Possessing with Intent to Utter a Fictitious Bill, Note, or Check. Each charge is punishable by 1–4 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000. Sentencing was set for September 30.

Joseph Anthony Mathison appeared for sentencing on Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), a Category E Felony, to which he pleaded guilty in May.

Based on recommendations from Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Priscilla Baker and Churchill County Public Defender (CCPD) Jacob Sommer that Mathison had shown himself responsible and willing to comply, Judge Stockard granted probation on a suspended 19–48-month sentence, placed Mathison in the Western Regional Drug Court program, and ordered him to follow the recommendations of his substance abuse evaluation.

Jeremy Lee Morton appeared for sentencing on Category E Felony Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), to which he pleaded guilty in May. Judge Stockard found Morton in direct contempt of court for appearing under the influence of multiple controlled substances. Stockard ordered him to serve seven days in jail and continued sentencing to August 5.

Martin Rosas, in custody, pleaded guilty to Failure to Stop on the Signal of a Peace Officer, a Category E Felony punishable by

1–4 years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000. Judge Stockard ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) and set sentencing for September 30.

Ronald G. Renzulli, in custody, pleaded guilty to Embezzlement in the amount of \$1,200 to \$5,000, a Category D Felony punishable by 1–4 years and a fine up to \$5,000.

Senior Deputy District Attorney (SDDA) Chelsea Sanford said Renzulli was on parole when he accepted \$1,100 for home improvement work, received tools and gas money, and failed to complete the job or return the funds. The state requested \$1,200 in restitution.

CCPD Jacob Sommer explained that Renzulli took a short job in California, where he violated his probation or parole, and has since remained incarcerated. Sommer requested a suspended sentence or the statutory minimums.

Based on Renzulli’s criminal history, Judge Stockard denied probation and sentenced him to 14-46 months in prison, which is to run consecutively to his current sentence.

CCPD Jacob Sommer stated that Ruth was initially charged with seven counts in Churchill County and 24 counts in Mineral County. The plea resolves all charges in both jurisdictions. Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set sentencing for October 14.

Luis Alberto Machado, in custody, pleaded guilty to Battery Causing Substantial Bodily Harm, a Category C Felony punishable by 1–5 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000.

Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set



sentencing for September 30.

Aidyn Jace Purdy-Knudson, in custody, pleaded guilty to two Category B Felonies: Count I – Failure to Stop on the Signal of a Peace Officer; Count II – Assault on an Officer with the Use of a Deadly Weapon. Each charge is punishable by 1–6 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000. Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set sentencing for September 30.

Troy Holbrook, in custody, admitted to a non-technical sentencing violation, including absconding, in relation to a Category D Felony for Failure to Stop on the Signal of a Peace Officer, which is punishable by 1-6 years in prison.

SDDA Chelsea Sanford reported that Holbrook never checked in with probation, stating, “He got what he wanted [probation] and he skedaddled.” Judge Stockard revoked Holbrook’s probation and remanded him to custody for imposition of his underlying sentence.

Ruth Pleads Guilty in Child Sexual Assault/Exploitation Case



Timothy Ruth. Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff's Office.

By Teresa Moon and Leanna Lehman

Timothy Raymond Ruth, in custody, appeared in the Tenth Judicial District on July 29 before Judge Thomas Stockard. Ruth pleaded guilty to two Category A Felonies: Count I, Sexual Assault of a Child Under 14 which punishable by a mandatory to life in prison term, with the possibility of parole after 35 years; and Count II, Unlawful Use of a Minor Less than 14 Years of Age in Produce Pornography or as the Subject of a Sexual Portrayal in Performance, punishable by life in prison with the possibility of parole after 10 years and a fine of up to \$100,000.

CCPD Jacob Sommer stated that Ruth was initially charged with seven counts in Churchill County and 24 counts in Mineral County. In Churchill, the arresting charges included four counts of Sexual Assault Against a Child Under 14, one count of Coercion with Physical Force or Threat of

Immediate Physical Force, and one count of Use or Permit Minor Under Age 14 to Produce Pornography, and more.

Court documents indicate that the alleged sexual assault occurred between December 2012 and December 2013 and the Child Exploitation (Pornography) offenses occurred between April 2019 and August 2021, in which Ruth is alleged to have knowingly used or permitted a child, who was four to six years of age at the time, to engage in sexually related acts that was used in exploitative photograph(s).

The plea resolves all charges in both jurisdictions. Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set sentencing for October 14.

All information in this report is based on court documents and public hearings. Defendants are presumed innocent until they plead guilty or are found guilty at trial by a judge or jury.

Fernley Open Murder Case Advances

Adam Miller Preliminary Hearing Set for November 6

By Leanna Lehman

Adam Elijah Miller appeared in Canal Township Justice Court via Zoom from the Lyon County jail on July 29. Miller’s appointed defense attorney, Patrick Mansfield, and Judge Lori Matheus scheduled the next steps in the felony murder case stemming from a December 2024 knife attack that left Miller’s father dead, and his mother seriously injured.

A preliminary hearing is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 6, at 9 a.m., with Friday reserved in case the hearing extends beyond one day. A status check was scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, to ensure both sides are ready to proceed.

A preliminary hearing is not a trial, and guilt does not have to be established; rather, it is a proceeding where the state must present enough evidence to establish probable cause that the crimes charged were committed and that the defendant may have committed them. If the judge finds sufficient evidence, the matter will be bound over to the Third Judicial District Court for trial. Justice courts in Nevada do not have jurisdiction to try or sentence felony cases.

Early this month, Miller was ruled competent to stand trial following a court-ordered psychological evaluation.



Adam Miller at the time of his arrest last December. Photo courtesy of Lyon Co. Sheriff's Office.

He is charged with Open Murder with the Use of a Deadly Weapon, a Category A felony. In Nevada, “open murder” is a general allegation that could include first- and second-degree murder, as well as voluntary and involuntary manslaughter. Murder in the First Degree is a Category A Felony and may call for the death penalty if the “aggravating circumstances outweigh the mitigating ones. Otherwise, First-Degree Murder is punishable by life in prison, with or without the possibility of parole after 20 years, or 50 years in prison.

Miller is accused of killing his 73-year-old father, Lance Miller. He also faces charges of Attempted Murder and Battery with a Deadly Weapon Causing Substantial Bodily Harm to a Victim Age 60 or Older, stemming from the knife attack on his mother, Elizabeth Miller. Additional charges include Destruction of Evidence, for allegedly hiding the knife, and Carrying a Concealed Weapon and Obstructing a Public Officer from an earlier incident.

Miller was arrested on December 19, 2024, after a two-day manhunt ended with his capture in the rafters of an abandoned barn. He remains in custody in Lyon County on a no-bail hold.

GARDENING

Effective Strategies to Combat Garden Mites

Courtesy of The Village Nursery

Mites are tiny—sometimes microscopic—pests that can wreak havoc on plants. Their head and thorax are fused into a region called the cephalothorax, and their grouped



Mite infestation on plant. Photo courtesy of The Village Nursery.

mouthparts form a structure known as the capitulum. Some mites appear to have abdomens, but in many species, the cephalothorax and abdomen are compact and indistinguishable. Mites come in a variety of colors, including red, yellow, green, purple, black, and translucent. Adult mites typically have four pairs of legs, distinguishing them from insects. Larvae begin life with three pairs of legs, with a fourth pair developing during the nymph stage. Heavy mite infestations cause leaves to turn yellow or brown and eventually fall off. Two-spotted spider mites are the most common type to infest bedding-plant crops. Barely visible to the naked eye, they appear as small, moving dots. Mites draw nutrients from plants using their scraping mouthparts,

creating a blotchy or “salt and pepper” pattern on leaves. Mites can damage plant flowers and foliage as well as ornamental trees and shrubs. Evergreens like junipers and Colorado blue spruce are especially vulnerable during dry, hot weather. Mites also affect bedding and garden plants, potted plants, cut flowers, and foliage crops. Implementing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that includes product rotation is an effective strategy to prevent resistance and control infestations. Visit The Village Nursery at 2975 Reno Highway or call 775-867-GROW to learn more about the full line of organic Monterey products available. Rid your garden of those pesky pests and keep your plants healthy.

Happiness in Your Yard: Hummingbirds

By Trina Machacek

These lovely little flitting zoomers begin appearing in Northern Nevada as early as April, just as dandelions bloom and the snow starts to recede.

Hummingbirds can survive in temperatures down into the 20s, as long as they have a food source, like full feeders or early-blooming weeds and dandelions. During cold snaps, they enter a state of torpor, a temporary hibernation-like condition in which body temperature and metabolic rate drop. Once the sun returns, they perk up and resume their hovering ways. There are about 366 species of hummingbirds, and six can be seen in our region. Some stick around year-round, while others pass through. The earliest arrivals are usually on the move again by late spring, replaced by those that stay with us through summer. It’s common to see feeders up all season long. But some practices once considered helpful have since fallen out of favor, such as adding red food coloring to sugar water. Southern Living reports that dyes like Red #40 are derived from petroleum and have raised health concerns for both humans and animals. Because we’re drawn to help and to attract these birds with vibrant feeders, red coloring was often added to entice them. In response, manufacturers began making feeders in bright colors, allowing people to offer clear sugar water while still drawing in hummingbirds safely. Hummingbird nests are tiny. They are so small that they can be mistaken for yellow jacket nests. They’re often tucked into tree limbs, porch overhangs, or even hanging wires and yard art. If you spot one near your home, consider it an honor. Birds build nests where they feel safe, and the incubation period for their eggs is typically 14 to 18 days. Look—but don’t touch. As the season moves on and local crops like alfalfa begin to bloom, food sources increase, drawing even more activity. Watch carefully and you might see a lively aerial dance among the fields, with hummingbirds zipping alongside butterflies of all sizes and colors. If you see several birds battling near a feeder, you’re not imagining



Hummingbird in Northern Nevada. Photos courtesy Kristi Miller, Diamond Valley, NV.

things. Hummingbirds are fiercely territorial and will dive-bomb intruders to defend their nectar. Think of it like someone snatching your cookie bag—except at 60 mph. Sometimes the zooming may look playful, but it’s rarely friendly. Occasionally, males perform dramatic swoops to impress a potential mate, but most of the time, it’s a turf war. Experts recommend setting up multiple feeders out of view from each other to reduce conflict. As in many bird species, male hummingbirds are the flashier of the pair, showing off vibrant feathers to attract mates—or to assert dominance. That flash of red or green you see at the feeder might be part of a romantic display or a warning signal. When it comes to nectar, pre-packaged versions available in liquid or powdered form are convenient but often contain preservatives and dyes. Experts recommend homemade nectar as a safer, healthier option. It’s easy to make and keeps well when stored properly.

- HOMEMADE HUMMINGBIRD NECTAR RECIPE**
- 4 parts clean, clear water
 - 1 part white granulated sugar

Heat in a saucepan just until boiling. Do not over-boil. Once it starts to roll, remove from heat and stir until the sugar is fully dissolved. Let cool completely before adding to feeders. Store leftovers in the refrigerator in an airtight container for up to a week. Wondering what to plant to attract more hummingbirds? These birds need a high-calorie diet and prefer bright, tubular flowers with abundant nectar. Daffodils, tulips, and crocuses bloom too early to help. Instead, plant blooms that thrive in summer, such as bee balm, columbine, or trumpet vine. If you spot hummingbirds poking around evergreens or shrubs, they’re likely not feeding on nectar—they’re hunting bugs. Protein from beetles and insects is a vital part of their diet. These agile little birds drink like sailors but hunt like hawks. Whether you’re filling feeders or just enjoying their visits, take a moment to watch the aerial show. If you’re lucky enough to host hummingbirds in your yard, you’ve got front-row seats to one of nature’s most dazzling performances.

BUSINESS

Fallon Chamber Welcomes Silver Sage Collision Center

Story and photo by Riggin Stonebarger

Silver Sage Collision Center, formerly Crown Collision, located at 730 S. Taylor Street in Fallon, is now under new ownership and operating under a new name. Mark Frechette, who has worked in the collision repair industry for decades, recently took over the business.

Frechette has a strong background in auto-body work. He previously owned a collision center in Reno and comes from a family with a long history in the industry. His experience began in Southern California, where his family has owned and operated a body shop for many years. To mark the occasion, the Fallon Chamber of Commerce hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting on Aug. 1. The event featured lunch from Mendoza’s Food Truck, shaved ice from The Snow Flo, and a pirate ship bounce house from Bouncing Around Party Rentals. Tables and shade were generously provided by Louie’s ACE Home Center. Frechette said he looks forward to serving the Fallon community with quality repairs and dependable service. For appointments or more information, email office@silver-sagecollision.com.



L-R: Silver Sage Collision Center owner Mark Frechette and his family join Mayor Ken Tedford in celebrating their grand opening and ribbon cutting August 1.

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

OASIS TEACHERS EXPAND CIVIC EDUCATION THROUGH TRAINING

Oasis Academy middle school teachers Kelly Nott, Tamara McNeill, and fifth grade teacher Amber Revels attended several civic education trainings this past year, including Project Community; Elevating Unheard Perspectives of Rural and Indigenous Communities in Carson City; and the We the People Nevada Summer Institute, hosted at the University of Nevada, Reno’s Lake Tahoe Campus.

Last year, the trio organized Oasis Academy’s first mock congressional hearings for Revels’ fifth grade class and some middle school students. All Oasis middle schoolers also participated in National History Day for the first time. The teachers plan to expand these programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. They also plan to introduce Project Community as a new middle school elective.

Each training provided new strategies along with classroom resources and materials. At the Lake Tahoe event, Nott and Revels joined a panel to share their experiences integrating the We the People program and organizing mock hearings. The teachers’ commitment to civic education has been evident as they joined colleagues from across Nevada and the country at these sessions.

These educators say they value the opportunity to connect with peers and share what’s working in the classroom. They have returned from each session with renewed energy and fresh ideas to implement, including methods for improving student engagement, project-based learning approaches, and ways to assess civic understanding in

practical terms. Their involvement has not only enriched their own classrooms but is helping to shape broader school culture around civic responsibility.

“The opportunities provided through the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement have been numerous, generous, and inspiring,” said Nott. “For me personally, I have a newfound passion in teaching, which made me put off retiring for a while. I love the students at Oasis Academy and our school’s mission. I truly hope that what we have learned helps prepare our students to be active, participating citizens in their community and beyond.”

SENIOR NIGHT KICKS OFF SCHOOL YEAR FOR CLASS OF 2026

Oasis Academy ushered in the new school year for the Class of 2026 with its highly anticipated Senior Night on Monday, July 28. The evening served as both a celebration and a planning session to prepare students for the year ahead.

Students and parents received guidance on college applications, scholarships, and preparing for graduation. Vice Principal Andy Lenon led the evening, sharing insights from his ten years as high school counselor.

He also introduced new Lead Counselor Gabriella Madraso. The two will begin weekly meetings with seniors as she transitions into the role.



Senior Alyssa Ayers applies for UNR.

“Our Senior Night is all about empowering our students and their families, ensuring they feel confident and supported throughout the year,” Lenon said. “We achieve this through engaging weekly meetings with our seniors, where the goal is to create a personalized post-secondary plan.”

Lenon recognizes the stress seniors and their families face going into their final year of high school. “Oasis students navigate a rigorous academic program, and we are dedicated to assisting both students and parents with college and trade school admissions, personal statements, essay writing, updating their digital portfolios, and scholarships,” he said. “What sets the Oasis program apart is our focus on the overall well-being of the students during their individual meetings and creating a nurturing and fun environment.”

He added that the school encourages families to remain active participants throughout the senior year, especially as students face major decisions about their future.

Stephani Price, admissions coordinator for the University of Nevada, Reno, gave a presentation on the application process, campus housing, and scholarships. She urged students to apply early—UNR applications opened Aug. 1.

With support from Oasis staff, families, and UNR partners, the Class of 2026 begins its final year with optimism and preparation.

Veritas Preparatory School – Classical and Christian

Finding Their Voice: The Power of the Rhetoric Stage in Classical Education

By Assistant Headmaster David Ernst with photos courtesy of Veritas.

In a world filled with soundbites, scrolling, and shouting matches, the ability to speak truth clearly and persuasively is more valuable than ever. That’s why the Rhetoric Stage—the final phase of the classical Trivium—is such a powerful part of a student’s education. It’s where everything comes together: knowledge, understanding, and now, expression.

Classical education is structured around the Trivium, a three-part progression that mirrors the natural development of a child’s mind. The Grammar Stage focuses on memorizing foundational knowledge. The Logic Stage teaches students how to think critically and make sound arguments. And the Rhetoric Stage—usually occurring in high school—is where students learn how to express themselves with clarity, beauty, and impact.

Rhetoric isn’t just about public speaking—though that’s a key component. It encompasses writing persuasively, engaging in respectful debate, crafting thoughtful essays, delivering speeches, and even learning the art of storytelling. In rhetoric, students are chal-



Veritas students finding their voice.

lenged not only to express themselves but to do so ethically, winsomely, and persuasively.

It’s also a stage where personal formation becomes central. Teens begin to wrestle with questions of identity, purpose, justice, and truth. Teachers act as mentors, guiding students to ask, “What kind of person do I want to be?” and “How can I use my words to serve others and uphold what is good?”

At Veritas, students begin to experience the Rhetoric Stage early through activities like the annual Speech Meet. Students in grades two through eight prepare and deliver speeches before an audience and a panel of judges. While younger students focus on memorization, older students are required to write their own speeches, revising them multiple times with guidance from their teachers, as they prepare for the final presentation.

In a society hungry for thoughtful discourse and authentic leadership, the Rhetoric Stage offers hope. It equips young people not just to succeed academically, but to lead wisely, speak well, and live purposefully.

CCSD Meal Program Update

Staff Report

Churchill County School District will return to the Free & Reduced-Price Meal Program. While we still qualify for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), rising participation costs make it unsustainable. This shift ensures long-term support for high-quality nutrition services.

WHAT THIS MEANS

Families must complete a Free & Reduced-Price Meal Application to determine eligibility:

- If eligible, students will receive free or reduced-price meals based on income.
- If not eligible, families will be responsible for full meal costs.

Families directly certified through SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, FDPIR, or who have students identified as homeless, migrant, or runaway will receive a notification letter the first week of August. No application is needed in these cases.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Submit your application via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.
- If you need help logging in, email: parentinfo@churchillcsd.com.
- District staff will be available during Back to School events and at the District Office to assist.

Once reviewed, you’ll receive an email confirming your child’s eligibility status.

Even if you may not qualify, submitting an application helps the district receive important program funding.

MEAL PAYMENTS

Families can add funds to student accounts through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal using a debit or credit card (no American Express). A \$2.50 service fee applies per transaction, with a \$5 minimum. Bank account payments are currently unavailable.

Checks (payable to Churchill County School District) or cash may also be submitted:

- In person to the Business Office at 690 S. Maine Street.
- Brought to school by students:
 - Elementary:** give to the teacher.
 - Middle/High School:** give directly to food service staff at breakfast or lunch.

MEAL PRICES FOR 2025-26

Full-Priced Meals:

- Breakfast (PreK–12): \$2.00
- Lunch:
 - Elementary (PreK–5):** \$3.25
 - Middle (6–8):** \$3.75
 - High School (9–12):** \$4.00 (Middle and high school students receive larger portions)

Reduced-Price Meals:

- Breakfast: \$0.30
- Lunch: \$0.40

For more information, contact Churchill CSD Business Office at 775-428-7230 or foodservice@churchillcsd.com.

SPORTS

Clinic at Rafter 3C Brings Elite Reined Cow Horse Training to Fallon

By Nancy Chapman

Flint Lee hosted the second annual Cowboy Clinic at Rafter 3C, teaching the fundamentals of showing a horse in the Cowboy Class at the NRCHA, a four-event class: reining, herd work, down-the-fence, and roping. The facilities were sponsored by Priefert Ranching Equipment. Forty-five talented riders had the opportunity to learn from seven of the National Reined Cow Horse Association’s top-winning riders, who donated their time to help participants improve their performance and gain better show experience.



Nicholas Barthelemy, Flint Lee, Jimmy VanBelle, Ron Emmons, Jake Telford, Shane Steffen, and Darrel Norcutt. Photo courtesy of Maci Meads, Media Coordinator, NRCHA.

THE SEVEN CLINICIANS INCLUDED:

- Flint Lee, owner of Lee Stockhorses, has won multiple championships in NRCHA events, including the Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity, Snaffle Bit Futurity events in Texas and Las Vegas, and championships with the Idaho Reined Cow Horse Association. He is based in Fallon.
- Darrel Norcutt, owner of Darrel Norcutt Performance Horses in Fallon, has multiple titles from the Snaffle Bit Futurities in Texas and Las Vegas, as well as the Idaho Reined Cow Horse Association and Reno Snaffle Bit events.
- Jimmy VanBelle, of BMW Performance Horses, runs a family-owned ranch in Paisley, Oregon. He has earned championships through the Idaho Futurity Reined Cow Horse and the High Desert Reined Cow Horse Association.
- Nicholas Barthelemy, originally from New Caledonia, now trains reined cow horses at Creek Hollow Ranch in Southern California. He has won the Novice Open class at the NRCHA Stakes and earned multiple titles since 2014.
- Shane Steffen, owner of Steffen Performance Horses in Powell Butte, Oregon, holds lifetime earnings nearing \$500,000 and is ranked 14th among Open Professional Horsemen in 2025. He was named the 2021 World’s Greatest Horseman Champion.
- Russell Funk, of Running R Rope Horses, trains calf roping and team roping horses. He also conducts roping clinics and coaches high school rodeo athletes.
- Ron Emmons, of Ione, California, is a two-time World’s Greatest Horseman Champion with numerous AQHA world titles and NRCHA premier event wins.
- Jake Telford, of Caldwell, Idaho, is a \$2 Million Dollar Rider and one of only four NRCHA trainers to reach that milestone.

The two-day clinic, held August 2–3, was divided into four event stations. Each clinician assisted participants with techniques, communication, and strategy for each of the four competitive areas. In Herd Work, clinicians Darrel Norcutt and Jimmy VanBelle demonstrated how to use the mechanical flag to develop cow sense and positioning. Riders practiced both flag work and live cattle scenarios in the arena.

In Cow Work, Flint Lee broke down boxing, fence work, and circling. Riders first practiced with a mounted partner acting as the cow, before moving to live cattle. Clinicians Jake Telford and Shane Steffen coached each participant through boxing, controlling the cow down the fence, and circling.

The Rein Work station focused on precision maneuvers. Ron Emmons worked with riders on circles and lead changes, while Nicholas Barthelemy focused on stops and spins. Each clinician identified specific rider issues and helped improve accuracy and communication with the horse.

The final stop, Roping, was led by Russell Funk. He evaluated each rider’s swing, rope position, dally technique, and strategy for turning and stopping the steer.

On Sunday, a mock show allowed 44 participants to run a full pattern and receive live critiques from clinicians. Riders were given feedback on where they gained or lost points and how to improve their scores in a real show environment.

Award sponsors included Marissa Rae Julian, Branded N Silver, and Integrity Feeds. Branded N Silver donated a silver concho snaffle bit, awarded to show winner Lynette Frye.

NRCHA staff helped ensure the event ran smoothly, while generous food and supply sponsors included Fallon Livestock Processing, Horny Toad Jerky, Snyder’s Pinenut Livestock, Berney Realty, Patty Julian, Fallon 4-H and FFA, Fallon Livestock LLC, and American Ag Credit.

Flint Lee expressed sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the clinic’s success.

Fallon Youths Join Rebels Team at The American Tournament



Team Picture L-R: Demarcus Brewster, Assistant Coach-Reno, Easton Escovedo, Reno, NV, Sam Gonser Doylestown, OH, Kaeden Kelekoma, Hanapepe, HI, Chason Hernandez, Ely, NV, Kayne Longoria, Roseville, CA, Walker Williams, San Diego, CA, Colton Tatom, Redding, CA, Aiden Lane, Clovis, CA, Mason White, Fallon, NV, Bradley Howells, Fallon, NV, Coach Ricky Brewster, North Valley High School, Reno. Photo by Ann Kirby.

By Nancy Chapman

The American Baseball and Softball Tournament was held July 21–29, 2025, at Golden Eagle Sports Complex in Sparks, Nevada. In this tournament, players had not yet played together as a team. All-Star coaches selected athletes to represent their regions and compete under a new team name. To be eligible, players must have participated in the Nationals Tournament held in June and are assigned to teams by random draw.

Two Fallon players earned the honor of competing: Mason White of the Fallon Hornets and Bradley Howells of the Reno Muckdogs. For the American Tournament, they played on a team called the Rebels 13U–14U, coached by Ricky Brewster, head coach at North Valleys High School.

What makes the tournament especially challenging is that players and coaches have only two hours of practice before their first game to form a cohesive team. The format is single elimination.

On Sunday, teams participated in Opening Ceremonies, introducing rosters and players. The Rebels dropped their first two games Monday. Those games were delayed from their original 8 a.m. start to 10 a.m. due to the shooting at the Grand Sierra Resort.

In the third game on Tuesday, the Rebels held a 6–6 tie until the Wolfpack scored in the bottom of the seventh inning, eliminating the Rebels from the tournament.

Congratulations to Mason and Bradley for being nominated and representing Fallon in The American Tournament. Way to make us proud!

Pancake Breakfast

Monday, September 1

From 7 - 10 am.

Thank you for supporting Rotary's scholarship and youth program!

Includes:
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\$10 Adults
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courtesy of the City of Fallon.

At the dirt lot next to the Library 553 S. Maine St., Fallon, NV

COLUMNS

What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen:
Not Sure About Sumac? This Tart,
Tangy Spice Just Might Surprise You

by J Hodnett

The library’s Summer Reading Program might be over, but August’s Spice Club selection is still an experiment with spices that are also used as natural dyes: in this case, sumac. As with last month’s turmeric, I was more interested in the dye possibilities than the cooking because of previous culinary experiences.



I have a history with sumac, it being one of those things people tell me tastes lemony, but which to me do not taste even close to lemon (I’m looking at you, cilantro). I first tried sumac when cooking recipes from “The Sioux Chef’s Indigenous Kitchen” by Sean Sherman, but found I didn’t like the flavor. But the huge family of sumac variations all around the world means it’s used in all kinds of cuisines, and I knew I needed to try it again and be more informed about which kind I was getting.

There are many different species of sumac, and the plants grow all over the world. That’s why sumac is used in so many different culinary traditions. The sumac I could find for culinary use, including the Spice Club samples from the library, are from Turkey. It would be interesting to find an American variety and see how the taste compares.

And the recipe I chose to try did indeed taste lemony, which I loved, but I wasn’t sure if that was the sumac or the lemon juice that’s also in the recipe. In fact, lemon was the main flavor, eclipsing the garlic and paprika — the recipe’s two other major flavors. Full disclosure: I did the minimum marinating time, and I’m sure the flavor would have been more complex with longer marinating. The flavor was great though, especially with a salad of light summer veggies. I can imagine it also pairing really well with flavored rice.

I also picked this recipe because my doctor is trying to get me to eat more protein because it is so important in the healing process. I know this is a national trend, and there is added protein in everything nowadays — even my favorite cereal now has added protein — but protein-rich foods are something I usually ignore. I don’t

mind meat, but I just like potatoes so much better! And don’t get me started on beans. I so wish I liked them! I also find the protein-fills-you-up idea to be as big a myth for me as things that aren’t lemons tasting lemony.

But in the interest of coming out of this cancer journey as healthy as possible, I am trying to take in more protein-rich foods, like the chicken in this recipe. Although next time I make it, I am going to try it with chicken thighs. The chicken breast I used this time tended to dry out before it browned as much as I wanted.

Shish Tawook Ingredients

- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken
- 1 cup whole milk yogurt
- 3 tbsp. olive oil (plus more if frying)
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2tbsp. tomato paste
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. sumac
- 1 tsp. thyme
- 1 tsp. salt

DIRECTIONS:

Mix yogurt, olive oil, garlic, lemon juice, tomato paste, paprika, sumac, and thyme together in a bowl large enough to hold the chicken. Mix well.

Cut the chicken into bite-sized pieces and add to the yogurt mixture. Cover the bowl and put it in the refrigerator to marinate for at least two hours (and up to eight hours).

Heat grill, grill pan, or frying pan over medium heat. If you are using a frying pan, heat olive oil in a large pan over medium heat. Add chicken pieces in a single layer.

If using a grill, spear chicken pieces on a skewer. Sear the chicken pieces on one side until they are well browned. Flip and sear on the other side. I noticed when I cooked this recipe in a frying pan that the first batch of chicken browned really well, but the second batch didn’t sear because the chicken juices and yogurt caramelized in the pan. So the chicken got brown from the liquid in the pan, but didn’t sear. It tasted wonderful, but if you are looking for a good sear, make sure to wipe out the pan carefully between batches of chicken.

Serve with salad, pita, or rice. I chose to have this dish with a salad and found my favorite poppy seed dressing went really well with the flavor of the chicken.

J is the Children’s Services Librarian at the Churchill County Library. Currently J is undergoing chemotherapy and modeling an increasingly wide variety of hats.

Allison’s Book Report:
“Bookish Break
at the Lake”



Allison and family taking to the rapids.

By Allison Diegel

The past week was spent on “Tahoe Time” — sleeping in, floating the river, taking long walks, and breathing in that sun-baked, pine-scented mountain air. Every moment was spent soaking it all in and going with the flow, which didn’t end up leaving much time for reading. So, no Book Report this week — but here’s a photo recap of a picture-perfect vacation at the lake.

Editor’s Note: If you need some Tahoe-inspired fiction, dive into the Owen McKenna Mystery Thriller series with “Tahoe Deathfall” by Todd Borg. McKenna is a former San Francisco homicide inspector turned Tahoe-based PI. This series is beloved locally for its strong sense of place, fast plots, and faithful Tahoe detail. For a lesser-known indie novel that takes place on the eastern shores of Lake Tahoe, try “Edge of the Lake” by Ted Thoma, a suspense-filled story involving buried secrets, lost love, and stunning lakefront imagery.

If you’re in the mood for a true story, check out “Snowbound: A True Story of Survival” by John Shedd — a harrowing account of a family trapped near Donner Pass in the Sierra Nevada. “Tales of Tahoe” by David C. Antonucci, a collection of short stories and historical vignettes about the people, places, and lore of Tahoe, gives readers the backstory beyond the view.

Allison will be back next week with more bookish fun. If you can’t wait that long, visit her on Instagram @allison.the.reader to see what other great titles are on her summer reading list.

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

Crossword

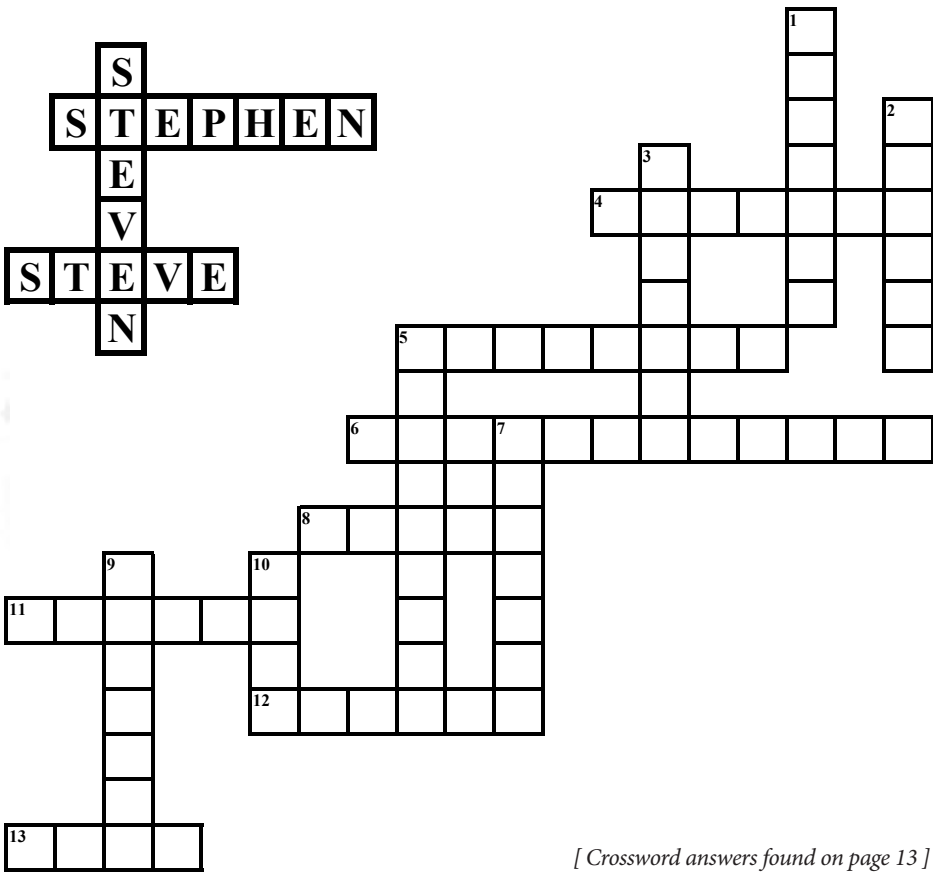
By Peanut

Across

- 4. Declaration of Independence signer
- 5. “West Side Story” lyricist
- 6. “Devil & Daniel Webster” author
- 8. First “Tonight Show” host
- 11. Created “L.A. Law”
- 12. Hollywood action star
- 13. Horror / Suspense novelist

Down

- 1. Scientist, cosmologist
- 2. “My Old Kentucky Home” songwriter
- 3. Last “Late Show” host
- 5. Director of Jaws, ET, etc, etc
- 7. Created “The A-Team”
- 9. “The Great Escape” actor
- 10. Apple co-founder



[Crossword answers found on page 13]

LEGAL NOTICES

MEETINGS
August 11–15, 2025

Churchill County School District
4th Wednesday of the Month
at 5:30 p.m.
CCSD Admin Bldg.,
690 S. Maine Street
Next meeting, Aug. 27

Fallon City Council
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
of the Month at 9 a.m.
City Hall, 55 W. Williams Avenue
Next meeting Aug. 19

TCID
Next Meetings:
Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 2 at 9 a.m.
2666 Harrigan Road

County Meetings
155 N. Taylor Street
Commission Chambers

County Commission meets
1st Thursday and 3rd Wednesday
of the Month
Next meeting, Aug. 20
at 1:15 p.m.
Planning Commission,
Aug. 13 at 6 p.m.
Wildlife Advisory Board,
Aug. 13 at 7 p.m.
Central NV Health District,
Aug. 14 at 1:30 p.m.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

**HVAC Removal / Replacement
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
Indian Reservation**

Scope of work: The FPST Housing Department is soliciting bids from qualified contractors to perform the removal and replacement of HVAC systems in 49 occupied residential housing units.

This project is funded by Indian Housing Block Grant and is subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO), and tribal tax policies.

Key Dates: Pre Bid Meeting:
Aug. 14, 2025, at 10 a.m.
(FPST Housing Department)
Bid Deadline: Sept. 2, 2025, by 5 p.m.

A full RFP packet is available upon request by contacting:
Housingdevelopment@fpst.org
775-423-3321

Published in
The Fallon Post
Aug. 8, 15, 22, 29 and Sept. 5, 2025
Ad #6356

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Mello Self Storage
256 Doral Way, Fallon, NV 89406

Unit # 71
Jason Wilson
Contents: Speakers, Tools, Appliances, Misc.

Unit # 169
Devin Dobbs
Contents: Shop Cabinet, Fridge, Misc.

Published in
The Fallon Post
August 8, and 15, 2025
Ad #6357

In the Matter of
The Carol A. Fraser Trust
Dated: April 22, 2022
CAROL ANN FRASER. Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT EUGENE FRASER IV and LISA DAVIS are the duly appointed and qualified Co-Trustees of the Carol Ann Fraser Trust dated April 22, 2022. The Grantor of that estate. CAROL ANN FRASER died on June 6, 2025. Any creditor who has a claim against the Trusted Estate must file his or her claim with the undersigned for the Co-Trustees at the address given below within ninety (90) days after the first publication of this notice. Dated the 23rd day of July 2025.

Eugene Fraser IV and
Lisa Davis Co-Trusteed

341 Beth Way
Fallon, NV 89406

Published in
The Fallon Post
August 1, 8 and 15, 2025
Ad #6350



CROSSWORD ANSWERS
Crossword found on page 12

ALLEN	JOBS
BOCCHO	KING
CANNELL	MCQUEEN
COLBERT	SEAGAL
FOSTER	SONDHEIM
HAWKING	SPIELBERG
HOPKINS	VINCENTBENET

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C O L U M N S

Postcards: A Very Hidden Cave

By Michon Mackedon

David Hurst Thomas, an archaeologist with the American Museum of Natural History, once wrote, “Archaeologists are the scientists who sift other people’s garbage. They have probed and poked the garbage of 10,000 years in the deserts of Nevada.” In the case of Hidden Cave near Grimes Point, the archaeologists who have excavated the site have found little garbage but much of interest.

The discovery of the cave goes back to the earliest settlement of Lahontan Valley. According to a legend, toward the end of the 19th Century a bank robber bragged that he had hidden a fantastic amount of money in a cave near Grimes Point. That led four young Fallon boys to begin a search for the treasure in 1927. Climbing around the rock features close to Grimes Point, they felt a breeze and crawled through the small cave opening but were too frightened to pursue their adventure. A guano miner named McRiley heard about the boys’ discovery and began excavating the cave to extract the guano, prized as fertilizer.

If you study the record of almost any archaeological discovery made in this part of Nevada, you will run into the name, Margaret “Peggy” Wheat, our local expert on Native American history and customs and author of “Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiute.” Peggy kept her eyes and ears open to any potential archaeological discoveries. When she heard that McRiley was complaining that his guano mining efforts were hindered by the fact that the cave was full of “Indian junk,” she went to work, inviting archaeologist Mark Harrington, with permission from the BLM, to excavate the cave in 1935. Wheat escorted Harrington and his assistant, Sessions

Wheeler, to where she remembered seeing the cave. At first, they could not locate any cave opening, prompting Harrington to exclaim, “This is certainly one very hidden cave.” A place name was born.

They finally located the very hidden cave, and, in 1940, Wheeler returned to the site, now working as an archaeologist for the State Highway Commission. He was assisted by his wife, Georgette, and at times by men from the local Civilian Conservation Corps camps. During their excavation project, the Wheelers recovered more than 1500 prehistoric artifacts, some of them dating back 1800 to 1500 years ago (200-500 C.E.) and a few dating from as far back as 3,000 years ago. The Wheelers were challenged by the blinding and choking guano dust stirred up by their excavations and by the difficulty of climbing in and out of the cave, but their work has been assessed by later archaeologists as having been very professionally executed. Their collection of artifacts is held by the Nevada State Museum.

The most thorough archaeological excavation was undertaken in 1979 by the above-mentioned David Hurst Thomas and crew. Because of the difficulties encountered by the Wheelers, Thomas had ramps and walkways built to facilitate access into the cave and reduce disturbance of the cave’s surface. Thomas knew that the guano mining had degraded the top surface of the cave, which, if intact, would have revealed more about its more recent history. His methods greatly facilitated both the excavation of the lower levels and public access into the cave.

The archaeological evidence gathered through these combined efforts supports the fact that Hidden Cave was a cache pit, as distinguished from a burial site, a ceremonial site, or a dwelling. It had been used for stowing away valuables in a dry place that could be located for their later retrieval, not unlike a safety deposit box. Recovered treasures include basketry, projectile shafts and points, nets, beads, and seeds.

I recently visited the Hidden Cave display cases housed in the Churchill County Museum to view the Hidden Cave artifacts displayed there. I was not prepared to be as touched as I was. Across a bridge of thousands of years, I felt the bond that connects “them” to me, forged by our common fears, desires, and hopes. I was quite taken by a kind of carryall bag, beautifully made of interwoven strands of hemp, similar to a modern tote used to carry essentials to town or to the beach. I loved a small sandal woven of plant material (cattail or tule). It would not be terribly out of place on a sandy beach at Tahoe. A few shell beads confirm the fact that 1800 years ago (c. 300 C.E.), a trade route connected the Lahontan Valley to the sea, an ancient “Seashell Road” parallel in time to Asia’s Silk Road. A woven round mat had been designed to cleverly shelter and conceal the valuables so that they might be retrieved from the “cache” on the owner’s next pass through the Valley.

For more information about tours of Hidden Cave and to view a well-produced video on the subject, visit www.ccmuseum.org.

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.

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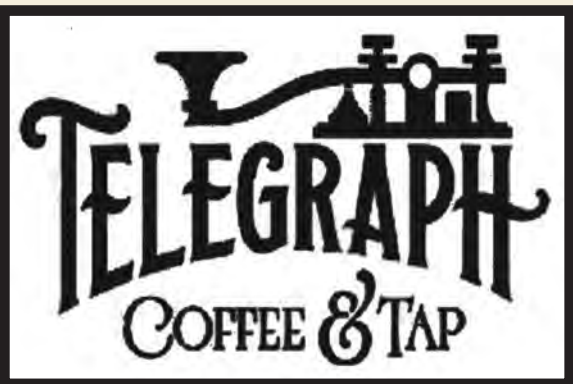
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11TH ANNUAL

Community Wide Reunion

All Years, All Classes, Students, Teachers, Family & Friends

Don't miss the opportunity to connect with friends from the past!

Friday, August 15

7:00 p.m. FREE concert at the Fallon Theatre

Saturday, August 16

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

FREE Breakfast at the Oats Park Arts Center - Lariat Patio

FREE Show-n-Shine Car Show and Antique Tractors display

Tour the Oats Park School & Art Center

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Tours

Old High School

Cottage Schools

Douglass House

Fallon Police Department

The Old Post Office

Tour City Hall w/Mayor Tedford

Fallon/Churchill Fire Department

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tour Churchill County Museum

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

FREE Swim at the City Pool & the New Splash Pad area

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Historic Fallon Theatre Tours 10am-2pm

Frey Ranch Distillery Tours

4:00 p.m.

Gather at Oats Park

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS - Some classes will have tents set up

We will be honoring the Class of 1965.

Purchase food, ice cream, beer and wine, or pack a picnic.

Enjoy the photo booth, face painting, balloon artist,

reuniting with friends, and other fun-filled activities!

7:30 p.m. FREE concert

Della Mae | EXTRA parking at E.C. Best



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			CATCH 21	
			7pm-11pm	

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