

# THE FALLOON POST



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## Fallon Girls Win Second Consecutive Regional Championship

By Lori Kaiser and Robert Perea

Churchill County High School's girls varsity basketball team captured the 3A Northern regional championship Saturday, Feb. 14, with a decisive 58-38 win over Fernley in the playoff finals. The Lady Greenwave, now the No. 1 seed from the North, will advance to face Boulder City in the State Tournament in Fernley on Friday at 6:20 p.m. The championship capped a season marked by remarkable performances, resilience, and teamwork, as Lady Greenwave solidified its status as the region's top contender.

The win marks the second consecutive season that the Lady Greenwave have defeated Fernley in the title game, underscoring their sustained dominance in Northern Nevada high school basketball. Churchill County's postseason journey began with a commanding 68-14 victory in the semifinals over South Tahoe on Friday, Feb. 13. The Greenwave seized control early in that matchup, building a comfortable lead by halftime and holding South Tahoe to just 14 points. The playoff run demonstrated not only the team's offensive prowess but also its disciplined defense and depth across the roster.



Churchill County High School girls' varsity basketball team celebrates their 3A Northern regional championship with a group photo alongside cheerleaders. Photo courtesy of Robert Perea.

During the regular season, Fernley and Fallon finished tied for first place in the Northern 3A Division, each with a 9-1 record. Fernley secured the top spot via tiebreaker, determined by points differential in head-to-head meetings. Expectations were high heading into the championship,

[ Fallon Girls Win continued on page 2 ]

## Churchill County High School Students Stage Anti-ICE Walkout

By Lori Kaiser and Leanna Lehman

Up to 100 Churchill County High School students walked off campus Thursday morning, Feb. 12, to protest U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), despite being warned by the school district that absences would be unexcused.

The walkout began around 11:15 a.m., with students gathering at the corner of Taylor and Merton streets in the former Cock and Bull parking lot, where passing drivers honked in support. Carrying anti-ICE posters, Mexican flags, and an upside-down U.S. flag to symbolize distress, the group began marching about 11:30 a.m. They moved north on Taylor Street to West Tolas Place, then north on Maine Street.

Several parents followed the group to provide support and help ensure safety. There were no student incidents other than a minor medical issue, to which an ambulance and the Fallon Police Department responded. While students exercised respectful behavior, peacefully obeying traffic and pedestrian laws, only about 10 returned to campus afterward.

Many of the students said they were motivated by concerns about immigration enforcement and



Mia and Joan with their signs. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

that how they're doing this, how they're enforcing immigration, is harsh, it's inhumane, putting people in basically concentration camps. It's history repeating itself."

She added, "So, like the Holocaust, where people didn't speak up - so many people ended up getting hurt in that ... genocide. So, I think it's important that we speak now so that history doesn't repeat itself and another genocide doesn't happen."

The protest grew slightly as five or six Churchill County Middle School students joined the march as it passed their campus. While walking west on Williams Avenue, the group encountered a driver who shouted and made obscene gestures, apparently believing the protest was school-sanctioned, and threatened a Fallon Post employee with firing, believing she was the teacher in charge.

Other CCHS students who were interviewed were asked why they did not join the demonstration. Each cited concerns about being truant, while some did not want to miss their lunch period or important tests that afternoon. All expressed support for those who did walk out.

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## FROM THE PUBLISHER

## Captain's Log

### Southern Dispatch

By Rachel Dahl

Bringing you the Captain's Log this morning from beautiful Las Vegas, sitting on the veranda overlooking a gorgeous swimming pool, with the sun beginning a rosy glow across the valley.

Sisters number two and four met me Sunday morning at Dad's for a quick visit, and then we launched our first annual sister trip, heading to Vegas, where sister number three and my mom live. We got in a nice, long visit and some of the best dinner (we all are great cooks, but number three has some weird cooking magic and is, we all agree, the best) while waiting to pick up number five from the airport. She spent most of the day flying in from North Dakota.

Yesterday was spa day, followed by a most delicious lunch, lots of laughing, and an adorable café for sweets and fancy hot beverages. This is the first time we've all been in the same room at the same time in ten years, and there's been a lot of catching up and a lot of memory lane. Everyone has settled into who they are, and we're all so comfortable, relaxed, and glad to see everyone.

Conversation has jumped from "getting situated," a common phrase when we were young,

and all shared a room, to wrinkles, face cream, and how often we go to the chiropractor.

Today we're supposed to go shopping – I'd rather jam an icepick in my left eye – and then more amazing food somewhere.

We've committed to more of these, and there's some planning in the works – it's ridiculous in this modern day of air travel to go this long and not get together, but for today, we'll enjoy this time and squeeze out every little drop of fun we can, and head home tomorrow. I'll be back before the newspapers on Thursday morning.

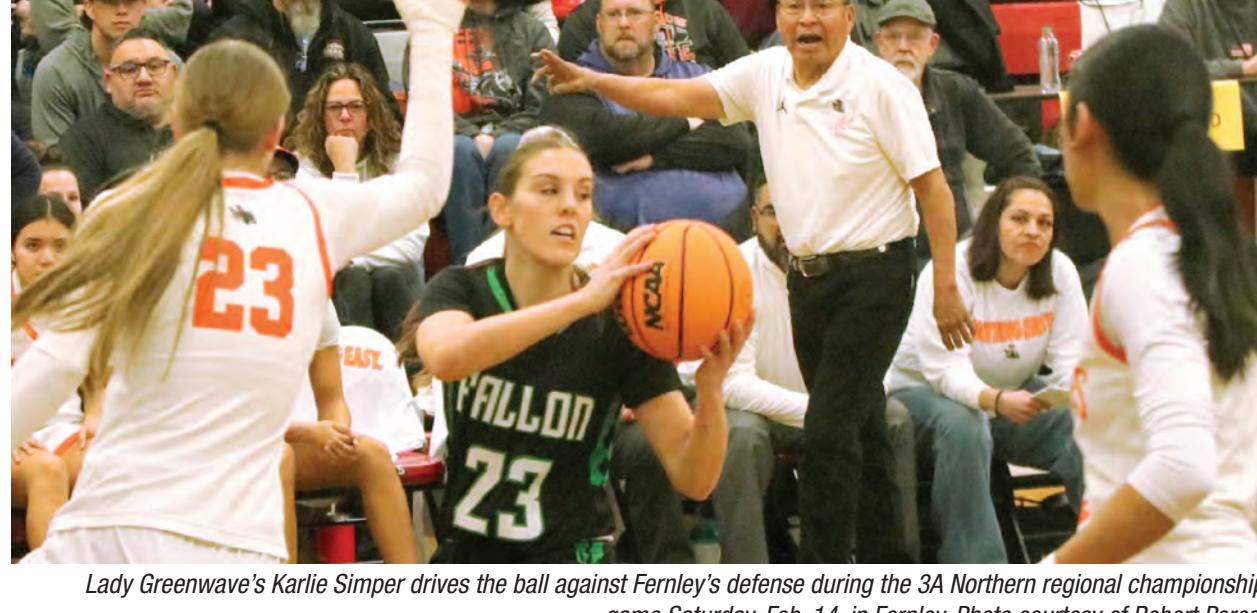
I'm really grateful for this paper and our scrappy little team for holding down the fort so I can be here with these girls. I'm grateful for laptops, the internet, and cell phones that also make this possible. We're living in an amazing age.

So, while I type away in this beautiful hotel lobby and we get these three newspapers off to the printer, we'll always be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

—Rach

[ Fallon Girls Win continued from page 1 ]



Lady Greenwave's Karlie Simper drives the ball against Fernley's defense during the 3A Northern regional championship game Saturday, Feb. 14, in Fernley. Photo courtesy of Robert Perea.

with Fernley hoping to upset the favorites. Those hopes were dashed as Lady Greenwave's offense and defense proved insurmountable.

The championship game was tightly contested early, with the score knotted at 10-10 after the first quarter. Fernley briefly took the lead with a three-pointer from Justice Martell-Artiaga just 11 seconds into the second quarter. However, Fallon responded with a surge, as Amillya Bishop sparked a 12-0 run, and the Lady Greenwave defense held Fernley scoreless for more than five minutes. Kortnie Simper contributed seven points in the second-quarter run and opened the third quarter with a three-pointer, pushing Lady Greenwave's lead to 39-19. Fernley was unable to narrow the gap to fewer than 16 points for the remainder of the game.

Throughout the playoffs, Churchill County

benefitted from standout contributions across the roster, with players stepping up in crucial moments. Their balanced attack, aggressive defense, and unwavering focus were hallmarks of the team's approach, and the coaching staff emphasized discipline and preparation. The Lady Greenwave now celebrate a season of excellence, finishing atop the 3A Northern division and earning the right to compete for the state championship.

The Greenwave will face Boulder City, the No. 2 seed from the South, at 6:20 p.m. Friday in the 3A State Tournament in Fernley. North No. 2 seed Fernley will face Southern champion Virgin Valley in the other semifinal at 3 p.m. Friday, and the winners will play for the state championship at noon Saturday. The upcoming matchups promise to deliver exciting basketball as teams vie for the coveted state crown.

## PETS OF THE WEEK

## Available for Adoption

Maggie is a 5-year-old Chihuahua mix. She is a sensitive and fearful dog who is still learning to navigate the world around her. Naturally timid, Maggie tends to shut down in unfamiliar situations and prefers to observe rather than engage. Her fear response appears to be rooted in insecurity, not reactivity.

At this time, Maggie would do best in a calm, patient home with adopters who understand shy dogs and are willing to work at her pace. Consistent routines, gentle handling, and positive reinforcement training will be key to helping her gain confidence. With patience and understanding, she has the potential to blossom into a loyal and affectionate companion.



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

## Meet Ruby

Ruby, a striking tortoiseshell tabby, is seeking a forever home after making an impressive transformation from her days as a feral cat. Once wary of humans, Ruby has embraced the comforts of indoor life, finding joy in gentle pets, tasty treats, and the warmth of a sunbeam.

Now spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped, she is ready for adoption and eager to become someone's loyal companion. FAWG staff describe Ruby as calm and quiet, preferring peaceful moments of relaxation to the hustle and bustle of other animals.

She particularly enjoys lounging in sunny spots, savoring Churu treats, and occasionally batting at her favorite toys. Though she may be shy at first, Ruby's affectionate nature shines through with patience and kindness. Now, she's ready to start a new chapter as a cherished house cat and hopes to find a family who appreciates her gentle spirit and loving heart.

Questions? Call 775-217-4745

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



## FEATURES

## Greenwave Youth Wrestling Club Dominates Local Tournaments, Eyes State Championships

By Kaitlin Ritchie

The Greenwave Youth Wrestling Club has seized the spotlight this season, capturing first place at three out of eight local SWA tournaments and amassing a staggering haul of 76 medals at the Greenwave Rural Rumble, 22 medals at the Crush Cancer Tournament, 27 at the Silver State Showdown, 30 at the Yerington Tournament, and 15 at the High Desert Challenge. The club's success signals a new era of achievement and discipline for young wrestlers in Fallon.

Building on their momentum, Greenwave wrestlers have also made their mark outside Nevada. Two athletes represented Team Nevada United at the Legacy Duels in Caldwell, Idaho, with standout performances from Colt Johnson (4-1 record) and Giavanna O'Donnell (3-2 record), the team's sole female competitor. Six club members traveled to Richfield, Utah, for the Beehive Brawl western regional tournament, where Johnson earned a second-place finish.

Head Coach Jordan Mize credited the club's transformation to a year-round training approach. "This season has been nothing short of incredible. Making the change to a year-round club was huge. Our athletes and coaches have



*Hunter Hicks-Romano and Madelyn Johnson train on the mat during practice, continuing the disciplined, fundamentals-based work that has fueled Greenwave's record season. Photos courtesy of John O'Donnell.*



*Colton Johnson earns a victory at the Legacy Duels in Caldwell, Idaho, where he finished the tournament with an impressive 4-1 record representing Team Nevada United.*

embraced it with heart and determination," Mize said. "Watching their growth has been incredible. Their confidence is building alongside their performance. As a coach, I could not be more proud of the commitment, resilience, and character these wrestlers have shown."

As the postseason approaches, Mize said the wrestlers are motivated and focused, with Regionals and State Championships to be hosted in Fallon at Rafter 3C Arena. Regionals will take place Feb. 28 and March 1, and State is scheduled for March 7-8. "Heading into Regionals and State, our wrestlers are hungry and focused. They work hard every week and believe in the program we are building. Competing in our own hometown adds to their motivation. They do not just want to compete; they want to win it all," Mize said.

Coach Chad Munoz emphasized the importance of the club's structured foundation. "We made internal changes focusing on a more structured wrestling foundation centered on long-term development, and we are already seeing meaningful results after just one year. The biggest improvement is not just in the increase in wins, but in discipline, mat awareness, and fundamentals. That tells us the foundation we

are building is working. The sky is now the limit for how far these kids want to go in their wrestling journey."

The Greenwave Youth Wrestling Club will conclude its regular season at the Reno Rumble Tournament at the Reno Livestock Events Center on Feb. 21, with 24 wrestlers registered. The club encourages community members to attend and support the athletes as they compete in Regionals and State.

Though the competitive season is nearing its end, the club will continue to offer off-season training four nights a week, Monday through Thursday, for athletes looking to develop their skills. Additional competition opportunities will be available in Northern California and at the Olympic State tournament in Las Vegas for 14U, 16U, and Junior divisions. The club remains committed to fostering athletic growth and welcomes new participants eager to join the journey.

Families interested in off-season training can visit fallonyouthwrestling.org, stop by the gym at 150 Industrial Way in Fallon, Monday through Thursday at 5 p.m., email greenwavewrestling-club@gmail.com, or call 775-217-3151 for more information.



*Daxton Ritchie faces a challenging moment in practice as Coach Jordan Mize motivates him to keep fighting, a glimpse of the confidence and determination Greenwave athletes develop every day on the mat.*

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## CALL TO CONVENTION

**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

Rafter 3C Events Complex in Fallon

Notice is hereby given that the county convention of the Churchill County Republican Party for Churchill County will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Rafter 3C Events Complex in Fallon. You must be a registered Republican to attend.

Precinct meetings will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a lunch break. The county convention will take place in the afternoon, with activities expected to wrap up by about 4 p.m.

All Republicans are encouraged to attend and participate in the precinct meetings and convention. For more information, contact local party organizers. Please RSVP to the Churchill County Republican Central Committee (CCRCC) at [contact@churchillrepublicans.com](mailto:contact@churchillrepublicans.com). Please, we need to know how many patriots to expect.

To verify your election precinct, party affiliation and voting status please visit: [www.nvsos.gov/votersearch](http://www.nvsos.gov/votersearch).

This communication was paid for by the Churchill County Republican Central Committee, P.O. P.M.B 364 2040 Reno Highway, Fallon NV, 89406-2772.

Leslie Beach, Chair 775-426-8152 | [lesliebeach004@gmail.com](mailto:lesliebeach004@gmail.com) | [churchillrepublicans.com](http://churchillrepublicans.com)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Hurlburt Speaks on Addiction Recovery at RPEN Meeting



New Frontier Treatment Center Residential Program Director Kelsey Hurlburt speaks during the Churchill Chapter of RPEN's February meeting at the Fallon Youth Center. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

By Nancy Chapman

At the February meeting of the Churchill County Chapter of RPEN (Representing Public Employees of Nevada), Kelsey Hurlburt, the Residential Program Director at New Frontier Treatment Center, served as the featured guest speaker. Hurlburt discussed the nonprofit's decades-long commitment to serving Fallon, sharing insights into the center's programs that help individuals overcome addiction to prescription drugs, alcohol, and "street drugs."

She also provided education on the use of Narcan Nasal Spray for opioid overdose, equipping attendees with practical knowledge for lifesaving interventions.

Founded in 1972, New Frontier Treatment Center has played a pivotal role in the community, offering patients coping strategies and education for a healthier lifestyle. Hurlburt's presentation underscored the importance of accessible addiction treatment and highlighted how RPEN members and their families can benefit from New Frontier's resources.

The monthly RPEN meeting, held at the Fallon Youth Center, regularly welcomes speakers from local organizations to inform members about valuable community services.

Representing Public Employees of Nevada (RPEN) is a statewide group for current or retired employees eligible for PERS retirement. The Churchill Chapter's ongoing speaker series continues to foster connections between RPEN members and community leaders.



### Notice: Churchill County Board of Equalization

Notice is hereby given that the Churchill County Board of Equalization will meet on February 25, 2026, commencing at 9 a.m., and will continue, from time to time, as needed.

The meetings will be held in the Churchill County Commission Chambers, Churchill County Administration Complex, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 145, Fallon, Nevada.

The County Board of Equalization shall conclude business on or before February 28, 2026.

Published in *The Fallon Post* February 13, and 20, 2026

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## CCHS Seeks Donations for All-State Music Competitions

Staff Report

The Churchill County High School music program is appealing to the Fallon community for donations after severe budget cuts left it without funds to send students to two major All-State competitions in April.

The music program must raise \$8,000 by April 1 to cover travel expenses and hotel accommodations for 15 high-achieving students and their adult leaders. Without this financial support, students may miss the opportunity to participate in the Nevada Music Educators Association (NMEA) Small Schools All-State Band in Pahrump, Nev., April 16-18, and the Nevada American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) All-State Choir event in Las Vegas, April 23-25.

Eleven students have been selected for the NMEA Small Schools All-State Band, while four have earned spots in the ACDA All-State Choir competition. These students have demonstrated exceptional dedication, investing countless hours in individual practice and outside rehearsals to achieve this honor.

Organizers are calling on local music supporters to help ensure these talented students can represent Churchill County High School at the state level. Donations will help cover essential expenses and allow students to showcase their skills and hard work despite financial challenges.

## WNC Urges Students to Apply for 2026-27 FAFSA Early

Staff Report

Western Nevada College is encouraging students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2026-27 academic year as soon as possible, citing a simplified process and expanded financial aid eligibility. The college's financial aid staff is available to guide families through the application, which can be completed in about 30 minutes with the necessary information prepared.

Students who submit the FAFSA are considered for federal, state, and institutional financial aid—including grants, scholarships, work-study opportunities, and loans—regardless of income level. Any student planning to attend college during fall 2026, spring 2027, or summer 2027 should apply, according to WNC officials.

The updated application now allows students with a Social Security number to create an FSA ID and complete the FAFSA on the same day, thanks to a real-time match with the Social Security Administration. Applicants will use income and tax data from their 2024 tax return, eliminating the need to update after filing 2025 taxes. Additional changes reduce asset reporting requirements and simplify inviting parents to complete their portions.

"Completing the FAFSA is one of the most important steps students can take toward achieving their educational goals," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "With the FAFSA now open on time and the process simpler than ever, this is the moment for students and families to act."

Students needing assistance are encouraged to contact the WNC Financial Aid Office at 775-445-3264 or email [finaid1@wnc.edu](mailto:finaid1@wnc.edu) for support throughout the process.

## Battleborn Keystones Offers \$500 Scholarships

Staff Report

Two \$500 Carl F. Clinger Academic Scholarships are available to high school seniors in Fallon and Churchill County, with an application deadline set for March 20, 2026. The Battleborn Keystones organization is offering these awards to honor Clinger's decades of contributions to agricultural education and youth development.

Eligible applicants must be seniors attending public, private, charter, or homeschooled; maintain a GPA of at least 3.0; and actively participate in any aspect of agriculture, such as farming, ranching, forestry, youth organizations, livestock, or farm mechanics.

Candidates are also required to submit a 750-word printed essay on an agricultural topic and participate in an interview with the scholarship committee.

Carl F. Clinger, who passed away in December 2023, was recognized for his work with local, state, and national organizations, as well as his leadership in conservation policy in Pershing County. His early involvement in agricultural activities included showing beef at the Nevada Junior Livestock Show and engaging in constructive dialogue on environmental issues affecting northern Nevada. Clinger's legacy is celebrated through these scholarships, which aim to support young people's understanding of agriculture and environmental stewardship.

For more information, contact Suzann Gilliland Peterson at 775-217-7223 or [battlebornkeystones@gmail.com](mailto:battlebornkeystones@gmail.com).

## SENIOR CENTER MENU

WILLIAM N. PENNINGTON LIFE CENTER 952 S. MAINE STREET, FALLOON, 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, February 23

Italian Beef & Rice  
Tossed Green Salad  
Buttered Carrots  
Spiced Applesauce  
WW Roll

### Tuesday, February 24

Baked Potato Chili  
W/ Cheese & Onion  
Buttered Peas  
Banana Muffin  
FF Fruit Yogurt

### Wednesday, February 25

Meatloaf  
Mashed Potatoes  
Creamy Gravy  
Mixed Vegetables  
Pineapple Upside Cake  
WW Roll

### Thursday, February 26

Spanish Omelet  
Roasted Potatoes  
Seasonal Veg  
Bran Muffin  
Apple Crips

### Friday, February 27

Clam Chowder  
Roast Turkey Sandwich  
WW Bread  
Pasta & Vegetable Salad  
Strawberry Shortcake

## FALLOON DAILY BREAD

WOLF CENTER | 457 ESMERALDA AVE., FALLOON 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, February 23

Spaghetti  
Salad & Bread

### Thursday, February 26

Lemon Fish  
Rice & Vegetables

### Monday, March 2

Taco Night

### Thursday, March 4

Spaghetti  
Salad & Bread

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

Call for information.

## OBITUARIES

## DOROTHY E. WOONER

February 8, 2026



In loving memory of Dorothy E. Wooner, who passed away Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, from cancer. Daughter, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother, and, yes, you even made it to great-grandmother at such a young age. My heart aches to hold your hand one more time. To hug you and whisper, "I love you, sister". The Lord knew it was your time to go be with him, and yet we pushed you to fight harder to make it just a little longer. No more will you hide the pain behind your smiles. You are, and always will be, the strongest person I know. Go rest high on that mountain, dear sister, your time on earth is done. And watch over us as we continue our journeys through life. I look forward to the day when we can once again hold hands, with one final greeting of "hello, sister," and never have to say another "love you, bye". Rest in peace, sweet sister. Till we meet again.

Dorothy is preceded in death by her father, Robert A. Hill Sr, her brother, Johnny L. Hill, and her brother-in-law, Francis R. Cobb, as well as many other family and friends. She is survived by her mother, Barbara A. Hill Wilson (David), her brother, Robert A. Hill Jr. (Janelle), her sisters, Shirley L. Tupin (Charlie), Jennifer G. Hawk (Michael), and Glenda D. Cobb; her daughter, Amber L. Sherman, and her granddaughters, Brookelynn Wilson, Shaylee Wilson, and Kinsley Malay-Patience O'day; her great-grandson, Leelynn Wilson, and great-granddaughter, Azariah Sibley, as well as her longtime boyfriend, Mike Robbins. She is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

Dorothy was a long-time employee of The Depot Casino. She was a cashier at the Qwik Stop, where she made many lifelong friends. This includes her BFF, Anna Clark, and good friend, Aileen Lewis. You, ladies, are awesome. Thank you so much for all your help.

We will plan a Celebration of Life for Dorothy at a later date. As soon as we figure out a date, we will try to let everyone know. Thank you all for your love and support. God Bless.

## DIANE KAY HOGAN

December 27, 1945 – February 4, 2026

Diane Kay Hogan, 80, of Fallon, Nevada, died peacefully at home on Feb. 4, 2026.

She was born in Watertown, South Dakota, on December 27, 1945, to Howard and Anne Hansen and grew up with her brother, Larry, in Hayti, South Dakota. She was an accountant by trade, but more importantly, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend, and follower of Jesus.

Diane was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her husband, Mark Hogan; daughter, Lisa Taylor; grandsons, David, Philip, and Joshua; and brother, Larry Hansen.

Diane's memorial service will be at Parkside Bible Fellowship in Fallon on Feb. 26 at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Parkside Bible Fellowship would be greatly appreciated.



## THOMAS JAMES MATTHEWS JR.

January 29, 2026

Thomas James Matthews Jr. passed away on Jan. 29 at the age of 74. He is in the arms of our Lord and out of pain. Tom lived his life to the fullest, working in his yard, taking care of his cats and dog, and his family. Tom was a self-taught drummer. He and some friends from high school and church created a band. They played for local businesses and at church, even winning a state competition. He also boxed and trained while in Fallon. Tom loved to play softball and played on teams in Fallon, Reno, Yuma, Arizona, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Tom served in the Navy during the Vietnam War, where he met his brother/best friend, Tom Phales, with whom he stayed in contact through the years. While stationed at the Fallon Naval Air Station, he met Carrie Matteucci, and they married, having two children, Shelly and Ricky. He worked as a fireman at the base and obtained a degree in Fire Safety and Management.

Tom married his second wife, Joni, in 1982, and they lived in Reno, Nevada, for a time before moving to Yuma, Ariz., where they opened a telecommunications business and lived for a few years. Tom and Joni moved to the U.S. Virgin

Islands, where the telecommunications company was booming. The company serviced hotel and resort telephone systems in the islands and Puerto Rico. Tom loved the U.S. Virgin Islands, the sun, the beaches, the people, and the ocean.

Tom had several cockatiels and parrots while in the U.S. Virgin Islands. After living through and rehabbing the house from the destruction of several hurricanes and almost dying after getting lost at sea with his brother-in-law Bob, Tom and Joni moved back to Ohio. They adopted their son, Paul, and built their home in Newcomerstown after returning to Ohio, where they lived until he could no longer live independently.

Tom loved his yard, watching the animals that visited and lived there. Tom fed the birds, the raccoons, and the opossums that visited. Tom enjoyed playing sweepstakes and sending money to causes like Service Dogs of America, Veterans' fundraisers, and others he felt he could help. Tom really enjoyed his visits with the ladies at the post office in Dover, Ohio, for his daily mailing of the sweepstakes envelopes.



Tom loved his family and did what he could to help them, no matter what the cost. As the only brother in the family, he felt it was his duty to do so. Tom worked for several car dealerships while living in Ohio and was a great salesman; it was often said he could sell ice to Eskimos.

Tom always loved animals and cared for them. His cats, Max, Kitty Kitty, and Big Boy, were his most recent cats, living in the lap of luxury, and he worried when they weren't home for dinner or breakfast. His dog, Rudy, was his companion until he went into care; they did everything together.

Tom was a good Christian but had lost his faith for a bit after his Joni became ill. He found his faith again toward the end and came to know Jesus again. He was a respected member of his church in Newcomerstown and served the Lord there. Tom is survived by his wife, Joni; daughter, Shelly (Monte) Grenamyer; and sons, Ricky (Brandi) Matthews and Paul (Kaleigh) Matthews; his grandchildren Dameion, Shasta, and Kylie Matthews; his sisters Nancy (Bob) Hesson, Kim (Bill) Heade, Missy (Jim) Gross, as well as several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

## CARL DALLAS WILLIAMS

October 13, 1939 – February 10, 2026



Carl Dallas Williams, 86, of Fallon, Nevada, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 10, 2026. Born on October 13, 1939, in Malad City, Idaho, Carl was the sixth of seven children born to Leland and Zilpha Williams.

Carl grew up on his family ranch in Weston Canyon near Malad, where he learned the strong work ethic and resourcefulness that would become lifelong strengths. He met his wife, Jeanne, at Idaho State University, and they were married and sealed in the Logan Temple on Feb. 8, 1963. Together, they built a life centered on faith, family, and love.

Carl earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a master's degree in school counseling. The majority of his 42 years in education were spent in Fallon, Nev., teaching junior high science, but he also taught school in Alaska and Oregon. He was a teacher known for his humor, enthusiasm, and compassion. Over the years, Carl worked many jobs in addition to teaching, including ranching, teamster construction jobs in Alaska

(including the Alaska pipeline), dock work, and work on fishing boats.

Carl loved to explore and travel. He enjoyed rock hounding and riding 4-wheelers in the Nevada desert. He was a great storyteller and loved talking to people, making friends everywhere he went. His greatest joy was spending time with his family, both immediate and extended. His friends and church family were important to him, and he was always willing to help anyone in need.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents, Leland and Zilpha Williams; his sisters, Nadine, Neva, and Selma; and his brothers, Clyde, Brent, and Larry.

Carl is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Jeanne; his four children; Clint Williams (Susan), Amee Clay (Daron), Nettie Rickerson, and Leigh Grasteit (Leith); his twelve grandchildren; Cutler (Brittany), Carson (Jessica), Laura (Alex), Cole, and Craig Williams; Kaleel and Kaden Rickerson; Orion, Summer, and Lincoln Clay; Freya and Alivia Grasteit; and four great-grandchildren; Finnegan, Beckham, Roczen, and Skylar.

A funeral service will be held on Feb. 28, 2026, at 1 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 750 W. Richards St., Fallon, NV, 89406. There will be viewings on both Friday, Feb. 27, from 6-8 p.m. at the Smith Family Funeral Home, and from noon to 12:45 p.m. preceding the funeral service.

A graveside service will follow at the Churchill County Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Carl's memory to The Children's Cabinet at [childrenscabinet.org/donate](http://childrenscabinet.org/donate).

## FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## [T]HERE Gallery Exhibit by Patrick Kikut

Churchill Arts Council  
151 E. Park St.  
Jan. 23 – Apr. 5, Wednesdays  
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Crafting for Adults

Churchill County Library  
553 S. Maine St.

Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

## Author Talk: Jessica Rowe

Churchill County Library  
553 S. Maine St.

Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.

## CCHS Grad Night Bingo Fundraiser

William N. Pennington Life Center  
952 S. Maine St.  
Feb. 27 at 5 p.m.

## SWA Wrestling Tournament

Rafter 3C Event Complex  
227 Sheckler Rd.  
Feb. 28 – March 1

## First Friday Night Fish Fry

American Legion Post 16  
90 N. Ada St.

March 4, from 6 to 8 p.m.

## Public Meeting to Discuss Updates

## on Greenlink North

Center for Biological Diversity  
The Lucky Spur Saloon, Kingston, Nev.  
March 6 at 6:30 p.m.

## Heritage of the West

Fallon Theatre  
71 S. Maine St.  
March 7 at 3 p.m.

## USA Youth State Wrestling

Rafter 3C Event Complex  
325 Sheckler Rd.  
March 7 – 8

## The Art of Storytelling

## Spring Lecture Series

Churchill County Museum  
1050 S. Maine St.  
March 24, March 31, April 7,  
and April 14 at 6 p.m.

## Honoring National

Vietnam War Day Event

Fallon City Hall Courtyard  
55 W. Williams Ave.

March 29 at 1 p.m.

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## COMMUNITY

## Lincoln Day Dinner Raises Funds and Rallies Support for Republican Candidates



Several attendees gather for a group photo after the auction.

Story and photos by Leanna Lehman

Churchill County Republicans marked Valentine's Day with the party's annual Lincoln Day Dinner, a fundraising evening that combined dinner, auctions, and a string of short speeches from elected officials and candidates ahead of the coming primary season.

Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford, U.S. Rep. Mark Amodei, and several state officials attended. Nevada Republican Party Chair Michael McDonald emceed the program and credited recent party wins to unity. He warned the audience not to assume those gains would last without continued work and pointed to Amodei's pending retirement as a major change for the state's congressional delegation.

Amodei, drawing laughs early, told the crowd his retirement should not be treated as "a funeral," and said he intends to stay active in campaigns. He also urged attendees to focus on facts and local realities, cautioning them not to let "somebody on a TV station 2,500 miles away" define their communities.

Lt. Gov. Stavros Anthony spoke about his office's work in tourism, outdoor recreation, transportation, and economic development, with a focus on rural areas. He criticized Democrat priorities in the Nevada Legislature and pointed to recent policy efforts related to girls' sports after a bill failed.

State Sen. Robin Titus emphasized voter turnout in the next election and said Republicans see a path to a Senate majority by picking up seats in several Clark County districts. She credited Lombardo's vetoes last session and said the

party needs strong participation even in non-presidential years.

Assemblyman Greg Koenig described himself as a rural advocate in Carson City and said much of his work centers on smaller counties. Tedford followed with a short welcome, joking about how some out-of-state contacts still need a map to find Fallon.

Churchill County District Attorney Art Mallory, who is seeking re-election, praised the county's leadership and urged residents to stay involved locally.

Several candidates took the opportunity to address the crowd.

Reno attorney Adriana Guzman Freilich, running for attorney general, said she is pro-law enforcement and wants tougher penalties for crimes against officers. She noted her Northern Nevada roots and said Gov. Lombardo has endorsed her campaign.

Clark County Commissioner Danny Tarkanian, also running for attorney general, focused on election enforcement, cooperation with ICE, and support for law enforcement.

Jeff Carter, a candidate for state treasurer, pointed to his finance background and said he wants to modernize the state treasury.

Two candidates for secretary of state also spoke. Former Assemblywoman Sharron Angle urged support for voter ID and described her years living in rural Nevada. Rhonda Kennedy, a constitutional attorney who described herself as a "refugee from California," spoke about her legal work during the COVID era and framed her campaign around election enforcement.

Congressional candidate Dave Flippo told the crowd his campaign for the 4th Congressional District had gained endorsements and momentum, including Churchill County. He said the district extends into Churchill, though most of the county's voters are in the 2nd District, with only a small portion along the southern county line in the 4th.

State Controller Andy Matthews highlighted his office's transparency efforts, including the state checkbook website, and said he plans to keep pushing for an inspector-general-style office to improve accountability. He also recognized the efforts of former state Sen. James Settelmeyer and his chief deputy, James Smack, a former Churchill County Republican Party chair.

Former congressional candidate David Gibbs promoted Question 7, the voter ID constitutional amendment, telling attendees it must pass again to be added to the Nevada Constitution. Beach later said voter ID and a girls' sports ballot question were the top local priorities discussed during the evening.

The event, largely organized by CCR Chair Leslie Beach and several volunteers, proved a success, both in rallying party members and in raising money for the conservative cause. The live auction brought in about \$25,000. Items included several firearms, vacation packages, and a framed photo with a custom commemorative coin honoring the Silver Belle, the 2025 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. The tree, the first from Nevada, was harvested from the Carson Ranger District near Mount Rose and donated by Mark Amodei. The commemorative set sold for \$8,000.

[ Anti-ICE continued from page 1 ]



Student with American-Mexican flag with students on Maine St.

Maliya and her friend Jada remained on campus to avoid being marked absent, agreed with the protest, "I genuinely don't like how the president is ... talking about how we're criminals and how we're immigrants, but how are we immigrants or criminals when the land that we are on is stolen from us?" Maliya also said, "The president is a criminal himself after all the files got leaked and just everything. He's a criminal himself, and his wife is, like, Hispanic too. So, I don't understand."

Fallon Post intern and CCHS senior Riggan Stonebarger said he supported students' right to speak out but chose not to join the demonstration. "I strongly believe complex immigration issues are best addressed through reform and civic engagement rather than demonstrations in an educational environment," he said. "I believe anybody has the right to express their views responsibly. I choose to contribute through informed discussion and policy-focused engagement, while fully respecting those who exercised their rights."

While students expressed concerns about immigration enforcement, local officials said ICE activity in Churchill County is typically tied to criminal cases, rather than broad enforcement sweeps.

According to Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills, when an undocumented person is arrested or convicted of a crime, Homeland Security may be notified, and ICE may choose to place a hold on that individual. What happens from there is decided by an immigration judge. "I think there were nine ICE holds in 2025," Mills said, "and that's when somebody is arrested for a crime here."

"In Churchill County, at this point, as far as we know, that's how the process works if someone is arrested or has been convicted. I haven't seen anything else," Mills said, adding that the most recent case involved a child pornography investigation that included Homeland Security/ICE.

Churchill County School District did not sanction the walk-out, nor did it encourage the students' actions. However, they explained that the district cannot legally prohibit student demonstrations, but can mark students absent from class.

The walkout drew mixed reactions online, with some residents praising the students for speaking out and others expressing concern that participants may not fully understand the immigration system or current enforcement practices.

Most students interviewed said their primary motivation was standing in support of Hispanic friends, relatives, and neighbors they fear could be affected by immigration enforcement.

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## COMMUNITY

## Riders Gather at Fifty Horse Ranch for Sunday Training

Story and photos by Nancy Chapman

The Northern Nevada Cattle Works Association organized a cutting-horse practice at the Fifty Horse Ranch in Fallon on Sunday, February 15. Riders participated in 38 works, honing their skills in the arena. The cattle used for the event were provided by Martin Bunyard, ensuring the practice ran smoothly for all attendees.

The session offered an opportunity for both seasoned competitors and newcomers to refine their cutting techniques, a discipline that tests a horse and rider's ability to separate a cow from the herd.



Dave Thacker of Thacker Performance Horses participates in cutting-horse practice at Fifty Horse Ranch in Fallon.



Michelle Pasquale participates in cutting-horse practice at Fifty Horse Ranch in Fallon.

## Chamber of Commerce Names Sheble Seay Businessperson of the Year



Shelby Seay of Momma's Meat Co. Photo by Lucy Carnahan.

Congratulations to this year's Fallon Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year, Shelby Seay of Momma's Meats Co. Seay purchased Fallon's historic butcher shop, Heck's Meats, in 2023 and has since made Momma's Meats Co. one of Maine Street's local favorites, carrying on the tradition the shop was known for. Momma's is located at 250 S. Maine Street and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., closing at 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

## Rio's Triplets

Churchill County High School junior Rio Segura, 17, was recently part of an extremely rare event. One of his Black Angus cows gave birth to triplets in January, and all three calves were male. According to veterinary and agricultural sources, the odds of a cow giving birth to triplets are approximately one in 100,000 to 105,000. For all three to be bull calves, the probability is lower, about one in 800,000. According to the Segura family, the cow and her bull calves are healthy and doing well.



Photo by Rio Segura.

## Stock Dogs, Handlers Shine at Trials

By Nancy Chapman

Rafter 3C hosted the Great Basin Bull Sale Stock Dog Trials on Feb. 14, where Dalton and Ashley Wright presented a test of skill for twelve handlers and their dogs. Sanctioned by the National Cattle Dog Association, competitors mounted horseback to guide three cattle through four obstacles and an exhaust, with letting the cattle out of the arena serving as a fifth challenge. Each team had six minutes from the cattle's entry to complete all five obstacles, showcasing their ability to maneuver and manage livestock under pressure.

Mike Collins and his dog Nell claimed first place at the event, followed by Dalton Wright with Mina in second, and Bill Schwoerer with Cash in third.

Stock dog trials trace their roots to sheepdog competitions in the United Kingdom, with the first recorded event dating back to 1873. The tradition crossed the Atlantic, and America's first well-documented trial took place in 1928 in Bennington, Vermont. The American Kennel Club officially recognized herding trials in 1989, marking a new era for the sport.

Despite changes and innovations over the years, the structure of stock dog trials has remained largely unchanged. The essence lies in the handler's ability to gather, drive, and pen livestock—a skill honed over generations and central to the competition's enduring appeal.



Stock dog handlers, from left: Ido Darr, Mike Collins (1st place) with his dog Nell, Bill Schwoerer (3rd place) with Cash, Blair Hunewell, Lisa Bedell, Dalton Wright (2nd place) with Mina, Starr Schwoerer, and Andrea Van Leuven. Not pictured: Tylor Thomas and Blaine Pinochi. Photo by Ellie Casey.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## TCID Update: Water Conditions, Assessments, and Financial Outlook

By Leanna Lehman

Operations and maintenance updates, early water outlook projections, and a lengthy budget discussion dominated the Feb. 3 meeting of the Truckee Carson Irrigation District Board of Directors.

Construction and Maintenance Manager Cody Biggs opened staff reports with an update on district operations. Biggs said crews were focused primarily on work at the AC7 structure, where footings had been poured, and wall construction was underway. The project is expected to continue for several months.

Additional crews have been trimming trees and completing silt removal from the L-1 canal. Biggs said work was expected to continue through the winter, with final stages likely coinciding with the start of irrigation season.

District Water Master Kelly Herwick followed with a review of water conditions for late January and the outlook report. Herwick said the Truckee River flows at Vista were at 612 cubic feet per second, with the Truckee Canal at the head measuring approximately 463 cfs, noting a discrepancy between monitoring systems. The canal was reported at 480 cfs at Wadsworth and 454 cfs at Hazen. Carson River inflows at the Fort Churchill gauge were reported at 312 cfs entering Lahontan, with Lahontan Reservoir storage at 154,827 acre-feet and minor leakage observed below the dam. Kelly said the most recent numbers from the Natural Resources and Conservation Service had not been released, and the March board meeting will entail more detailed water projections for the season.

Based on January forecasting values, Herwick said early projections for the Carson River Basin ranged from approximately 68% allocation under a 70% exceedance scenario to as high as 91% under a wetter outlook. Herwick said soil saturation was currently high and upstream Truckee reservoirs were near full, increasing the potential for runoff and spill. He said early indications suggested diversions from the Truckee to Lahontan could continue through September.

During community updates, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe (FPST) representative Anthony Berreman said the tribe was working to ensure that water-right documentation was submitted and signed on time for the upcoming season, and that maintenance activities, including ditch cleaning and tree trimming, were ongoing.

Board member Davy Stix questioned how the longstanding memorandum of agreement between TCID and the FPST applies in years when allocations fall, including the threshold at which tribal water users receive



Carson River at McLean Road, Feb. 14, 2026.

Photo by Leanna Lehman.

100% allocation, and how the agreement applies to different land classifications. Herwick confirmed the agreement provides for 100% allocation unless the overall allocation drops below 56%. Wyatt Golding, also representing FPST, said he would follow up to ensure questions involving reservation boundaries, trust lands, and individual water rights were answered accurately, noting the topic can be contentious and that he wanted to be careful. Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office representative Rob Martinez, later requested to be included in follow-up correspondence clarifying which water rights are covered under the agreement.

The meeting then shifted to financial matters, beginning with a discussion regarding an adjustment to the district's general assessment. The annual assessment is levied on all lands in the district and is tied to the consumer price index, assessed as part of the county's property tax. The board approved increasing the rate from \$7.13 to \$7.45 per acre, with staff noting the increase was expected to generate approximately \$47,000 and that 30% of the assessment is limited to administrative use.

More detailed budget discussions followed, led by General Manager Ben Shawcroft and Finance Manager and Human Resources Helen-Marie Fowkes. Shawcroft outlined what he described as both positive developments and

ongoing challenges, including improved hydroelectric contracts, relatively stable operating expenses in some categories, and reduced litigation costs, alongside increasing pressure on unrestricted operating funds.

Shawcroft said the district faces serious cash flow issues driven by rising costs, fund restrictions, and other financial obligations. He also noted last year's legal fees were \$500,000, which will no longer present the same strain on the budget in the coming year, effectively reducing expenses. Board members questioned how to balance revenue increases with cost containment, expressing concern about the impact of higher assessments on water users. Shawcroft explained that the district is planning extensive examinations on how to both cut costs and increase revenue.

After an extended discussion regarding increasing operations and maintenance user assessments, which were not amended in 2025, the board approved a 7% increase or \$4 per acre for 2026, from \$53 to \$57. The motion passed 5-1, with board member Lester deBraga dissenting after expressing concern about the financial impact on ranchers and farmers.

The board also approved Carson Lake Pasture items, including keeping the Animal Unit Monthly rate at \$5.20 and approving the Cowboy Contract with Holt Bogdanowicz.

## Tribal Water Allocation Agreement Specifics Questioned During TCID Meeting

By Leanna Lehman

The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Board of Directors met Feb. 3 in Fallon for its regular monthly meeting to discuss operations, finances, and early water supply projections for the upcoming season.

District Water Master Kelly Herwick told the board that early forecasts indicate allocations to project water users could range from about 68% to 70%, with the potential to reach as high as 91% depending on spring weather.

During an update from Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe representative Anthony Berreman on water-related activities on the reservation, Board Vice President Davy Stix raised questions about how the longstanding memorandum of agreement between TCID and the tribe applies in lower-water years and how it affects different classifications of tribal land.

In a follow-up interview with TCID General Manager Ben Shawcroft, he clarified that the 2020 agreement Stix referred to is the MOA Regarding Delivery and Use of Newlands Project Water on the Fallon Indian Reservation.

Public Law 101-618, officially known as Title I of the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, passed by Congress in 1990, established the tribe's water rights settlement and authorized a \$43 million fund for land purchase, water rights, irrigation system improvements, and economic development. The law limits Newlands Project deliveries to the reservation, and places acquired land and water rights into federal trust. Operational details, including allocation thresholds, are governed by later agreements such as the memorandum discussed at the meeting.

The Newlands Project is a federal irrigation system in western Nevada, authorized in 1902 as part of the nation's first Reclamation projects. It diverts water from the Truckee and Carson rivers through a network of reservoirs, canals, and drains to supply farms, wetlands, and tribal lands in the Lahontan Valley.

Returning to the operational terms of that agreement, Herwick explained that the MOA provides the tribe with a 100% allocation unless overall water availability falls below 56%. Early

projections for the upcoming irrigation season, he said, place the tribe at the 100% allocation level because water supply is not expected to drop below that threshold.

Stix then asked whether that 100% provision applies to tribal lands located outside reservation boundaries.

Wyatt Golding, representing the tribe via Zoom, said the tribe has generally treated water on reservation and trust lands as a single unit. "I think the way we've approached it is that all the water within the reservation boundary and the trust lands is treated as kind of like one big farm unit, and we can move water around," Golding said. He added that it was their understanding that the agreement applied "irrespective of whether it's tribal members using it or the tribe owning it."

Board members then discussed whether the agreement distinguishes between reservation boundaries and trust lands located outside those boundaries. Golding said that, to his understanding, the agreement specifies water use within reservation boundaries, and that changes in use outside the reservation typically require approval from the state engineer.

"That wasn't the question, though," Stix replied. "The question was the 100% rule. Does it apply to land outside of the tribal boundaries?"

Golding said he would follow up with the board to confirm the details. "These are careful questions and I want to be really clear about what we're talking about when we're talking about boundaries," he said. "There's the reservation boundary and there are also trust lands which are sometimes considered part of the reservation ... I just want to be very careful because I know this can be a contentious issue."

Stix later asked how the agreement applies to individual tribal water right owners within the reservation. Herwick confirmed that individual users are treated like other water users in the district, but still fall under the memorandum. "They fall under the rule because they've taken the haircut twice in this project," he said.

"Okay, but they also get a free ride with the state engineer then on transfer," Stix responded. To which Herwick stated, "That's a different question."



Canal on reservation lands. Photo courtesy of FPST.

"I think 'free ride' is inappropriate," Golding interjected, as Herwick pointed out that again, "That's a different question. There is no free ride. They pay for it just like anybody else."

Further discussion ensued around stacking water. The topic turned to the moving of water from one location to another as needed, as is routinely done on large farm units. Shawcroft clarified that the tribe has some flexibility under the agreement to begin or extend its irrigation season differently than other users, but they still must use all their water within the water year, like all water users.

Shawcroft clarified that the memorandum includes a list of the water rights it applies to and said TCID would verify whether specific rights fall under the rule. He also noted later that TCID has a very good working relationship with the tribe, and the district tries to make sure everything runs smoothly on the reservation, as it does with all water users with the Newlands Project.

The discussion ended without a final determination on how the 100% provision applies to lands outside reservation boundaries. Golding said he would provide clarification after reviewing the agreement.

## COURT

## Tenth Judicial District Court

*The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, February 10, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.*

By Teresa Moon

**Jordan Albert Mauwee** pleaded guilty to the Category D felony of Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor or a Controlled or Prohibited Substance, a Third or Subsequent Offense, punishable by 1–6 years in prison. The charge carries a mandatory prison term unless Mauwee is accepted into the DUI Diversion Program.

Court Services Director Brenda Ingram reported that Mauwee tested positive for benzodiazepines and THC on Jan. 23, then for THC on Feb. 5. However, Mauwee told the court he had not used marijuana since his release from custody approximately 25 years prior.

Stockard consented to Churchill County Deputy Public Defender Kenneth Tedford's request to provisionally place Mauwee in the DUI Diversion Program. He also ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) and set sentencing for April 14.

**Christopher Rodriguez Thomas** appeared for sentencing on Battery that Constitutes Domestic Violence Committed by Strangulation, a Category C felony punishable by 1–5 years in prison.

Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Priscilla Baker said that on Aug. 6, 2023, a neighbor called 911, reporting that a woman was screaming and breaking glass. Law enforcement responded and found Thomas had been drinking. He said he had been sleeping and was awakened by the victim. According to Baker, Thomas responded by attempting to strangle her. She screamed and fought back, kicking and breaking a window. Baker noted a similar incident had previously occurred with the same victim.

Las Vegas defense attorney Reno Aldabbagh stated that for 49 of Thomas's 53 years, "he was a law-abiding, positive, contributing member of society." He noted Thomas served eight years in the Navy, earned several awards before an honorable discharge, and then worked 21 years as an air traffic controller. Further, PTSD and anxiety contributed to alcohol use, and what he described as a volatile relationship between Thomas and the victim.

"I believe that who Chris has been of late is more indicative of who he's been his entire life," said Aldabbagh, and not this three or four-year window where addiction, personal issues, and a toxic relationship combined and brought him here today." He said Thomas has remained sober since his release, completed the ADTP program, performed 48 hours of community service, and has been accepted into Veterans' Court. Aldabbagh asked for probation, stating, "If he messes up, prison will be waiting for him. But if he is successful ... we all win."

Thomas addressed the court, stating, "I'm very apologetic for what happened, and very regretful. Powerful messages have been sent, and received." He acknowledged the harm caused to others and assured the court, "This will never happen again."

Judge Stockard granted Thomas probation on a 24–60 month suspended prison sentence and ordered restitution of \$5,177 for extradition costs. He must also complete Veteran's Court, follow all treatment recommendations, and have no contact with the victim.

**Jonathan Joshua Tullis**, in custody, pleaded guilty to Assault with a Deadly Weapon, a Category B felony punishable by 1–6 years in prison, and to Battery that Constitutes Domestic Violence Committed by Strangulation, a Category C felony punishable by 1–5 years in prison. Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set sentencing for April 14.

**John Andrew Herrera**, in custody, pleaded guilty to the Category B felony of Administration of a Controlled Substance to Aid in the Commission of a Crime of Violence, punishable by 1–20 years in prison.

Herrera was initially also charged last July with Sexual Assault, a Category A felony punishable by life in prison with the possibility of parole after 10 years.

Judge Stockard noted that the Criminal Complaint charge indicates the underlying offense was allegedly sexually motivated. He ordered a PSI and set sentencing for Wednesday, April 15. If convicted, Herrera will be subject to sex offender registration and lifetime supervision.

## January Divorces and Annulments

1/2/2026	Childs, Joseph W & Childs, Cathleen A
1/2/2026	Haq, Abdul Nasir & Shahid, Ayesha
1/2/2026	Kimsey, Michelle Rose v. Kimsey, William Kennedy
1/2/2026	Briggs, Kimberly & Briggs, Chandler
1/5/2026	Vawter, Amanda v. Vawter, John
1/5/2026	Burgoon, Jessica & Bush, Forrest
1/6/2026	Troia, Andrea & Troia, Dominic
1/6/2026	Irwin, Erin Elizabeth v. Irwin, Jason Cole
1/7/2026	Arzu, Chenay & Arzu, Jordan
1/9/2026	Roberts, Philip & Vanderwal, Aaron
1/9/2026	Kolbas, Ksenia & Ferrenbach, Samy Jean Yves
1/12/2026	Francisco, Brandi v. Francisco, Christopher
1/12/2026	Bennett, Joesaph v. Bennett, Sylvia
1/12/2026	Dembele, Cheickna & Lewis, Athena Ashlin
1/12/2026	Henry, Jason Paul & Garcia, Amanda Lynn
1/12/2026	Saputo, Miranda Cheyenne & Lhotka, Alec Barthel
1/12/2026	Dublin, Elaine Romero & Dublin, Joel Ortega
1/12/2026	Chauhan, Harsha & Puri, Amit Rajinder
1/12/2026	Bakhshaliyev, Murad & Kenney, Isabella
1/15/2026	Robu, Alexandru & Win, Shwe Yi
1/15/2026	Hodges, Alexandra v. Wallace, Stephen
1/16/2026	Dearman, Hanna & Dearman, Jimmy
1/16/2026	Cannon, Kyle & Cannon, Debby
1/16/2026	Hoover, Jeffery & Hoover, Ilka
1/20/2026	Trott, Ryan Anthony & Lee, Kerstin Nicole
1/20/2026	Wagner, Richard & Wagner, Brooke
1/21/2026	Kruckenberg, Micah v. Hopkins, Kirsten
1/22/2026	Smotherman, Wesley Ray & Smotherman, Samantha Lynn
1/22/2026	Windelinckx, Stephanie & Windelinckx, Michael
1/22/2026	Donaldson, Tina M. & Donaldson, Steven A.
1/26/2026	Chaffee, Julie & Chaffee, Thomas
1/26/2026	Leslie, Robert Cortez & Pagkalinawan, Babylyn Saplan
1/28/2026	Helton, Brandi v. Helton, Conner
1/29/2026	McCall, Emily & McCall, William
1/30/2026	Abdelsalam, Shawna Lisa & Abdelsalam, Zachary
1/30/2026	Pooi, Roderick & Tran, Helen
1/30/2026	Kurto, Olesia & Melkonyan, Armen
1/30/2026	Ross, Allison & Ross, Alex
1/30/2026	Kenealy, Kevin & Kenealy, Rhoe
1/30/2026	Cardillo, Elinor & Wagner, Christian

**Heidi Ann Kelley**, in custody, appeared for sentencing on the Category E felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), to which she pleaded guilty on Nov. 18.

Court Services reported that Kelley had been at New Frontier Treatment Center; however, she was not participating adequately. NFTC discharged her for failing to follow program rules. After leaving the program, Court Services was unable to contact her, and a warrant was issued.

DDA Priscilla Baker reminded the court that this is a mandatory probation case. "Although there have been multiple violations of the Court Services, she hasn't actually violated the agreement for the state to then make any different argument," said Baker, who did object to Drug Court.

Defense attorney Paul Wolfe told the court his client's record reflects that she struggles to maintain sobriety without structure and noted a history of trauma and self-medication. Wolfe said Kelley is a lifelong addict who has repeatedly attempted recovery and is now receiving treatment for some of her issues.

The defense read from Kelley's evaluation: "She has maintained sobriety only in a controlled environment. These symptoms require a highly structured, supportive, and supervised setting to ensure safety and stabilization." Wolfe reported that Kelley has now been sober for 114 days.

Kelley told Judge Stockard, "I need the structure. I know that Drug Court works because when I did it before back in the early 2000s, that's what kept me clean for 13 years."

Judge Stockard suspended proceedings and placed Kelley in Drug Court, ordered her to obtain a substance abuse evaluation, and to follow all recommendations.

**Rene Lucio Williams**, in custody, appeared for sentencing on Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Category E felony punishable by 1–4 years in prison.

Churchill County Alternate Public Defender Wright Noel informed the court that Williams is currently on a parole hold. He said the case was a simple possession matter, stating, "Mr. Williams learned some things in prison and came back, spent some time in jail here, got out, was doing good. He was working at Jerry's as a cook, a job that he still has if the court grants him the privilege of probation." Noel said Williams fell back into old habits and associations, but had been employed and involved in the community prior to his arrest. He asked the court to grant probation, describing the case as a reset opportunity.

Williams acknowledged that he "fell into a similar pattern of people in my life." He said he is employed and no longer homeless, but admitted that when someone he knew offered him drugs at what he described as a reasonable price, "being the addict that I am, I took the deal. And that's just the honest truth."

Judge Stockard granted Williams probation on a suspended 19–48-month prison sentence and ordered him to obtain a substance abuse evaluation and follow all treatment recommendations.

**Lawrence Alvin Stone** – Failed to appear for a sentencing violation hearing. Judge Stockard issued a no-bail warrant.

**Jose Carlos Trujillo** – sentencing hearing continued to Feb. 24.



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## EDUCATION

## CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD.



CCHS students recognized for Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance fill the hallway during a celebration on February 12, 2026.



Marissa Aguilera works intently on her argumentative essay in Kristina Langguth's class at Churchill County Middle School.



Numa Principal Shawn Purrell stands with the 4th-grade student-to-student (S2S) leadership team as they celebrate kindness and gratitude in the school.

## CCHS

On February 12, 2026, Churchill County High School honored student achievement by recognizing 35 students for Perfect Attendance, 198 students for earning a 3.5 GPA or higher, and 125 students for achieving an impressive 4.0 GPA or higher. The celebration highlighted the commitment, discipline, and focus required to reach these milestones, emphasizing that success is built through late nights, challenging coursework, and the determination to keep striving. "These achievements are not the luck of the draw. They are built through grit, perseverance, and the decision to keep showing up, even when it is hard," Vice Principal Reema Pulsifer said. CCHS is proud of its Greenwave students for modeling the values of dedication, resilience, and hard work that define the Greenwave Experience.

## CCMS

Students in Kristina Langguth's class have been crafting argumentative essays on the question, "Do mobile devices improve our lives?" They have completed their introductions and body paragraphs, using evidence and reasoning to support their claims. Next, students will focus on writing counterclaims and conclusions to further

develop well-rounded arguments. This assignment requires students to build their focus, critical thinking skills, and efforts as they continue developing essential writing skills.

## NUMA

Numa is celebrating kindness in a big way thanks to its 4th-grade student-to-student (S2S) leadership team and 5th-grade student council. Students and staff are participating in Random Acts of Kindness by sharing notes of appreciation on a special board or delivering them directly to people who make a difference in their lives. At the suggestion of 5th grader Raegan Amerine, a small "duck pond" was added to Principal Shawn Purrell's office, where students bring toy ducks to "paddle with purpose" while expressing gratitude for his example of SOARING with Perseverance. "This initiative helps our students recognize the impact they can have on others and encourages a culture of appreciation throughout our school," counselor Noreen Swenson said.

## E.C. BEST

Kirsten Perez's class is diving into hands-on learning after receiving all the DonorsChoose STEM materials from a project she submitted for funding for her classroom. DonorsChoose is a

nonprofit organization that helps teachers request funding for classroom projects, allowing students to access resources they might not otherwise have. Students have been exploring the properties of magnets, experimenting with construction projects, and learning how to stabilize structures using a variety of materials. This project allows students to apply science and engineering concepts in creative ways while building problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Through these activities, Perez's students are discovering the fun and challenge of STEM right in their classroom.

## LAHONTAN

Last week in Heather Sorensen's music class, Kindergarten and first graders were busy moving, grooving, and making joyful music together. Students twirled colorful ribbon sticks to show the beat and express the music with big, creative movements, while also exploring the keyboards to play simple patterns and melodies like true young musicians. These activities help students develop rhythm, coordination, and early music skills in a fun and engaging way. "My classroom was filled with smiles, focus, and the excitement of making music as a community of young learners," Sorensen said.

## Veritas Preparatory School

Classical and Christian

## A Week of Celebration, Discovery, and Support

By Gretchen Felte with photos courtesy of Veritas.

This past week was filled with memorable moments at Veritas Preparatory School as students celebrated special traditions, completed hands-on academic projects, and came together in support of a beloved member of the school community. Across every grade level, classrooms were alive with creativity, curiosity, and compassion.

On Wednesday, 1st-grade students delighted families and teachers alike during the annual Teddy Bear Tea, a cherished Veritas tradition. Dressed in their finest tea attire - complete with dresses, ties, hats, and polished shoes - students brought their favorite stuffed companions to join in the festivities.

The classroom was transformed into a charming tea room where students practiced manners, conversation, and hospitality. Over tea and treats, they demonstrated poise and confidence as they enjoyed time together.

"The Teddy Bear Tea is such a sweet milestone for our students," said 1st-grade teacher Mrs. Cota. "It's not only a fun celebration but also a chance to practice gratitude, kindness, and proper etiquette."

Students beamed with pride as they introduced their stuffed guests and enjoyed the special occasion with classmates.

Meanwhile, in Mrs. Felte's 3rd and 4th-grade classroom, students concluded their science unit on sound with a creative, hands-on project. After learning about vibrations, pitch, and frequency, students were challenged to design and construct their own musical instruments.

Using a variety of materials, students built drums, string and wind instruments, and other creative sound-makers. Each student demonstrated how their instrument produced sound and explained the science behind it.

The project not only reinforced scientific principles but also encouraged innovation and problem-solving.

In Mrs. Pustovrh's 5th and 6th-grade class, students took a deeper dive



First-grade girls from Mrs. Cota's class dress up and share smiles with their favorite stuffed animals during Veritas Preparatory School's annual Teddy Bear Tea.

into biology by dissecting pig hearts as part of their study of the circulatory system. With careful instruction and thoughtful discussion, students examined the heart's chambers, valves, and vessels to better understand how blood flows through the body.

Hands-on learning made the lesson especially impactful. "Seeing the heart up close helped me understand how it actually works," one student shared. "It made the diagrams in our textbook make so much more sense."

The activity reflected Veritas' commitment to academic rigor and experiential learning, allowing students to engage deeply with scientific concepts.

The week concluded with a powerful display of unity and support. On Thursday, the entire school dressed in yellow as part of a fundraiser for Sophie Behimer, who is currently battling cancer. Ms. Behimer has faithfully served Veritas as a substitute teacher and classroom aide.

Students, teachers, and families wore yellow in solidarity, demonstrating love and encouragement

for someone who has touched many lives within the school community.

"It meant so much to see everyone come together," said one parent.

"It shows what a strong and caring community Veritas truly is."

From tea parties to science labs, and from creative projects to acts of compassion, the week at Veritas reflected the heart of the school's mission — to cultivate wisdom, character, and community.

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year opens Monday, March 2. More information and applications are available on the Veritas website: veritasfallon.org.

- Percentages: If percentages are mentioned, AP style uses the word "percent" rather than the symbol "%".

Overall, the article is clear, concise, and mostly follows AP conventions. With minor adjustments to numbers and dates, it would fully align with AP style guidelines.

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## EDUCATION

## Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera, with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: ADELYNE FLICK

As graduation approaches this May, senior Adelyne Flick is preparing to close an important chapter of her life while looking ahead to an exciting future in higher education and beyond.

Flick plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno, where she will pursue a degree in psychology.

"After graduation, I plan to go to UNR for psychology and continue on to work in that field," she said.

Reflecting on her time at Oasis Academy, she described her experience as both challenging and rewarding. She transferred back to Oasis during her sophomore year and said the school quickly became a positive environment for her.

"Going through high school here has been a very positive experience for me. All of my teachers have been kind and supportive, and I have met a lot of amazing people who made coming to class fun," she said. "While it has been hard at times, it has also been very rewarding."

Among her many memories at Oasis, one stands out the most.

"One of my favorite memories at Oasis was the homecoming dance in my senior year. I spent the night dancing, laughing, and having fun with my friends," she explained. "I have a lot of good memories here, but that was a good night."

Academically, her interests were strongly influenced by her passion for psychology and true crime. Her favorite class was a Western Nevada

College course titled Making of a Murderer.

"Psychology piques my interest, as well as true crime, and I loved learning about the psychology and background of different killers," she said. "The class was very unique and interesting."

Outside the classroom, she has been involved in softball. She played during her sophomore year and later served as the team manager.

"I love the girls on the team and watching the games," she said.

When asked about mentors, she expressed gratitude to many teachers but singled out one in particular.

"I could thank all of my teachers, but I would especially like to thank Counselor Andy Lenon," she said. "He has supported me all throughout my years at Oasis and has walked me through progressing through the rest of my senior year. He's friendly and easy to talk to and has made managing my last year of high school simpler."

As she prepares to graduate, she offers practical advice for students who will follow in her footsteps.

"My advice to future students is to avoid procrastinating," she said. "Especially once you get into the JumpStart program, it's very important to stay on top of your work. It takes a lot of the stress out of doing college courses."

In addition to earning her high school diploma, she will also graduate with her Associate of Arts degree through Western Nevada College.



Oasis Academy Senior, Adelyne Flick.

## OASIS FFA STUDENTS COMPETE AT ZONE

By Sadie Whitaker

On Saturday, February 7th, Oasis FFA attended the Western Zone held at Fernley High School in Fernley, Nevada. The event was a great opportunity to grow closer and get to know the other members in our zone.

The Oasis Academy Chapter of FFA competed in Poultry, Floriculture, Milk Evaluation, Vet Med, Horse Evaluation, and Livestock

Evaluation CDEs, along with Prepared and Extemporaneous public speaking LDEs.

In the animal competitions, the poultry team earned first place, with Bailey Peixoto placing first individually, Katie Varain second, and Kinsley Viera third. The Oasis horse evaluation team earned second, and the Oasis livestock evaluation team earned second.

In the speaking competitions, Taylor Sowersby placed third in prepared public speaking, and Katie Varain placed first in extemporaneous public speaking. The Oasis horse evaluation team earned second, and finally, the Oasis livestock evaluation earned second.

Finally, in the milk evaluation competition, Sadie Whitaker placed second individually, Taylor Sowersby placed third individually in Vet Med, and the Oasis floriculture team earned second place overall.

## MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Congratulations to the Fall 2025 honor roll students in third through 10th grade. To earn placement on the honor roll, students in grades 3-6 must have earned As or Bs in all classes for the semester. Students in grades 7-10 must have earned a semester grade point average of 3.0 or higher in their coursework.

A full list of honor roll students, third through 10th grade, is available in the online version of this story.

## Weekly Highlights at Logos Christian Academy

By Brenna Goings with photos courtesy of Logos.



Logos students, teachers, and families enjoying their time at the Top Gun Skate Center.

Another week at Logos Christian Academy began in a meaningful way as Mrs. Mitchell led a chapel focused on the Gentleness of God. During this time, students and staff reflected on the truth that God is all-powerful beyond measure. Even though we fall short and sin against Him, God demonstrates His incredible strength by choosing to extend gentleness and compassion through Jesus Christ. This expression of gentleness offers us a future and a hope. We were reminded that God's gentleness is not weakness, but rather a compassionate and humble strength.

This message served as a beautiful reminder for everyone. True strength is rooted in humility, and genuine power is shown through acts of compassion. As we consider God's gentleness toward us, we are encouraged to practice that same gentleness in our interactions with others.

The week concluded with a fun-filled school field trip to Top Gun Skate Center. Students enjoyed spending quality time with friends and family, sharing plenty of laughter and creating lasting memories together.

Enrollment for Logos Christian Academy will open on March 1, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year. Those interested in learning more about the Logos community, classical education, or scheduling a tour are invited to call the office at 775-428-1825.

**This message served as a beautiful reminder for everyone. True strength is rooted in humility, and genuine power is shown through acts of compassion.**

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## SPORTS

## Melendy Wins Fourth Straight State Wrestling Title

Staff Report

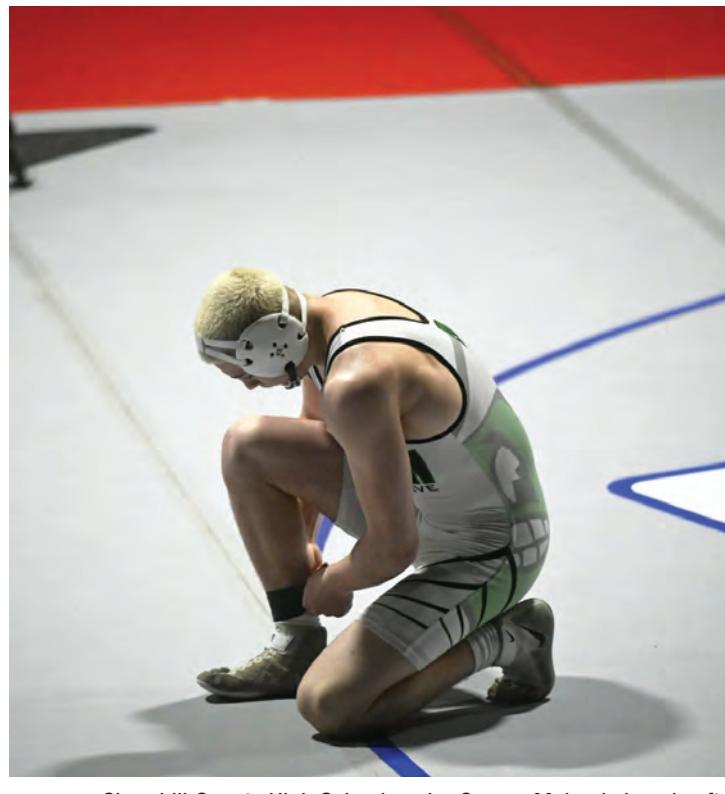
Churchill County High School senior Carson Melendy captured his fourth consecutive NIAA Nevada State Wrestling Championship last weekend, defeating Spring Creek's Colton Cunningham by major decision, 11-1.

Melendy, wrestling for the Greenwave varsity squad, controlled the match from the outset and secured the decisive victory to extend his remarkable streak at the state tournament.

Cunningham, representing Spring Creek, was unable to overcome Melendy's aggressive offense and technical skills throughout the bout.

The win marks Melendy's fourth straight state title, solidifying his status as one of the most accomplished wrestlers in Churchill County High School history.

The championship event drew wrestlers from across Nevada to Winnemucca, where Melendy's dominance was on full display.



Churchill County High School senior Carson Melendy kneels after winning his fourth consecutive NIAA Nevada State Wrestling Championship. Photo by John O'Donnell.

## Fallon Outlaws Place Sixth at RMN Wrestling's Most Wanted Event



The Fallon Outlaws wrestling team poses for a group photo after competing at RMN Wrestling's Most Wanted tournament in Medford, Ore., where they finished sixth overall. Photos courtesy of Fallon Outlaws.



Harleigh Workman, Fallon Outlaws, was named Outstanding Wrestler after winning gold at RMN Wrestling's Most Wanted event in Medford, Ore.



Kaidan Ybarra, Fallon Outlaws, was named Outstanding Wrestler after winning several golds at RMN Wrestling's Most Wanted event in Medford, Ore.

## CCHS Wave Cheer Team Wins Regional, Heads to Nationals



Cheer Squad with the Greenwave Football Team, Nov. 2025. Photo courtesy of Kari Ernst.

Staff Report

The Churchill County High School (CCHS) Wave Cheer Competition team clinched first place in the small school varsity category at the Northern Nevada Cheer and Dance Classic, held Saturday, Feb. 7, at Damonte Ranch High School in Reno. The victory propels the Wave Cheer team to the 2026 JAMZ School Cheer Nationals, scheduled for Feb. 19–21 at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The national competition opens Thursday, Feb. 19, with All Game Day Divisions, followed by Group/Partner Stunt Divisions and the first performance of All School Cheer Divisions on Friday, Feb. 20. The event concludes Saturday, Feb. 21, with the second performance for All School Cheer Divisions.

Team members representing CCHS at the nationals include cheerleaders McKenzie Bliss, Meadow Deems, Genna Ernst, Sariah Farley-Kidd, Jaiila Hibbard, Sophie Miller, Lelah Noel, Rylee Santos, Rheylynn Wells, and Sierra Weideman. Managers Gavin Shear and Justin McArthur, along with coaches Kari Ernst, Gina Grpsjean, and Darlene and Dora Robinson, will also accompany the squad.

## SPORTS

## Greenwave Rally Comes Up Short in Regional Semifinal Loss to Spring Creek

By Robert Perea

After claiming their first postseason win in six years over Wooster on Feb. 9, a late comeback wasn't enough for the Churchill County High School boys basketball team in the Northern 3A Regional semifinals Friday, Feb. 13, against Spring Creek.



Calin Anderson during the 3A Northern Regional Basketball Championship game against Wooster on Feb. 9. Photo by John Baker.

The Greenwave battled back from a 10-point deficit in the third quarter to briefly take a 2-point lead in the fourth, before the Spartans pulled away down the stretch for a 50-43 win.

"I think they might have run out of gas down the stretch," Fallon coach Andrew Brown said.

Spring Creek led by 10 early in the third quarter before the Greenwave began to claw their way back, cutting the lead to 34-31 at the

**"But Calin's number one on every scouting report. Every game we play, we know that we have to create things off of him."**

end of the third quarter. Fallon's momentum continued to start the fourth quarter, with consecutive fast-break baskets by Wyatt Peak and Calin Anderson putting Fallon on top 35-34. A free throw by Maxton Richardson made it 36-34, and after the teams traded baskets, the Greenwave were up 38-36 with 4:37 left in the game.

But Spring Creek's Hudson Sorenson tied the game with a spin move in the lane, then 32 seconds later drilled a 3-point dagger with 2:55 left to put the Spartans back on top 41-38. Fallon twice got back within one, at 41-40 on a basket by Barry Mitchell and 43-42 on a drive to the basket by Takoda Pacheco, but Sorenson made two free throws to push the lead to 45-42.

After a miss by the Greenwave, Spring Creek's Snowden Williams tipped in a miss by Sorenson with 42 seconds left to put the Spartans up 47-42.

The Spartans led throughout the first half, putting the Greenwave on the defensive from the opening minutes. Brown attributed the Greenwave's struggles in the first half to nerves.

"This group of kids hasn't played in a basketball game as meaningful to this, in a really long

time, and some of them never had," Brown said. "I don't know if we ran out of gas because we had to dig out of that hole we made ourselves. I won't speak for them, but yeah, just couldn't get the ball to go in the hole."

Sorenson, who entered the game averaging 8.3 points per game, led all players with 17 points.

"I've watched film, and he was a decent shooter, but 17 was more than we were expecting for sure," Brown said.

Anderson had 14 to lead Fallon, despite a Spring Creek defense focused on not allowing him to get to the basket.

"That's the same kind of wall defense that they put against us every time we played them," Brown said. "But Calin's number one on every scouting report. Every game we play, we know that we have to create things off of him."

Brown said he's proud of the way the Greenwave turned things around this season, coming within one win of making the state tournament after missing the playoffs last year.

"I know they really, really would have loved to get this one," he said. "I would have loved to get this one. I hate losing, but I hope they're proud of what they turned into this year."

### Correction:

In the Feb. 13 article "Greenwave Teams Dominate First Round of Regionals," the article incorrectly stated that the Greenwave boys' varsity basketball team played Sparks High School. The team actually played and won against Wooster High School from Reno in the first round of the playoffs.

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## COLUMNS

What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen:  
Something Like My Mom's Monkey Bread

By Kelli Kelly

Last week, I flew from Reno to New York City to surprise my mom, Penny Valentine-Faith, for her 75th birthday while she was visiting my sister, my brother-in-law, and the grandbabies. The flight was the easy part.

My mom has always believed that showing up for your community is just what you do. She learned that from her own parents, and it was never presented to us as an extracurricular activity. It was a baseline expectation. When my sister and I were growing up in Orange, California, volunteering was simply part of the family calendar. Church projects. Weekends at a thrift store in the Orange Circle. You helped sort. You helped stock. You helped clean. You learned that communities are held together by ordinary people doing small things on purpose.

At the same time, my mom worked full-time my entire childhood in special education, first at the California School for the Deaf in Riverside and later as a Director of Special Education for several school districts, ensuring that students with disabilities received the services to which they were entitled.

Despite all of that, she still found ways to make our childhood feel textured and specific. She hand-stitched rhinestones onto my sister's baton costumes. She shepherded me through the tunnels of the Los Angeles Forum, so I could serve as a ball kid for professional tennis matches. She made extravagant holiday meals. Herb bread at Thanksgiving. Monkey bread on Christmas morning. These were not grand gestures. They were quiet decisions repeated over time.

These days, my mom is working, running a business with her wife, volunteering in the community, and still finding ways to make life feel textured and special for my sister and me and for her grandsons. This year, though, we baked a cake for her.

When I boarded a flight last week to surprise my mom on the other side of the country, it felt less like a big gesture and more like a familiar one.

In our family, that instinct to show up has often taken the form of flour on the counter and cinnamon on our hands. So, in honor of my mom's 75th birthday, I am sharing the monkey bread recipe that has anchored our Christmas mornings for as long as I can remember. Some traditions are complicated. This one is just sticky enough to keep everyone at the table a little longer.



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

## Ingredients

## For the pan:

2 tbsp.	Softened butter
2 tbsp.	Melted butter
1 cup	Warm milk
1/3 cup	Warm water
1/4 cup	Granulated sugar
2 1/4 tsp.	Instant yeast
3 1/4 cup	All-purpose flour
2 tsp.	Salt

## Dough:

2 tbsp.	Melted butter
1 cup	Warm milk
1/3 cup	Warm water
1/4 cup	Granulated sugar
2 1/4 tsp.	Instant yeast
3 1/4 cup	All-purpose flour
2 1/4	Salt

## Glaze:

1 cup	Powdered sugar
2 tbsp.	Milk



## DIRECTIONS

- In a large measuring cup, combine the milk, water, melted butter, sugar, and yeast.
- In a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook, add the flour and salt. With the mixer on low, pour in the milk mixture. Increase to medium speed and knead until the dough is smooth, 5 to 7 minutes, adding a little flour if needed to prevent sticking.
- Place the dough in a lightly greased bowl, cover, and let rise until doubled, 1 to 2 hours.
- Butter a 12-cup Bundt pan and set aside.
- Punch down the dough and press into an 8-inch square on a lightly floured surface. Cut into about 64 small pieces and roll into balls.
- Combine the brown sugar and cinnamon in a bowl. Dip each dough ball in melted butter, then roll in the sugar mixture and place in the prepared pan, staggering the layers.
- Cover and let rise again until puffy, 1 to 2 hours.
- Bake at 350°F for 30 to 35 minutes until golden brown.
- Cool in the pan for 5 minutes, then invert onto a platter.
- Whisk together the powdered sugar and milk and drizzle over the warm bread.

*Make-Ahead Instructions: After assembling in the pan, cover and refrigerate up to 18 hours. Remove from the refrigerator about 2 hours before baking and let rise until puffy, then bake as directed.*

Allison's Book Report  
"Julie Chan is Dead" By Liann Zhang

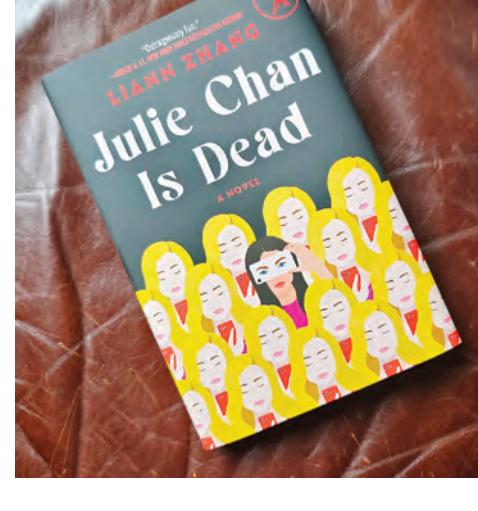
By Allison Diegel

We all spend more time on our phones than we would like to admit, watching reels and videos of everything you can possibly imagine, allowing the algorithm to take us away on a wave of cat videos, beauty influencers, or any number of 90-second clips.

If you've ever looked at a mega-influencer's life and thought, "I could do that," Liann Zhang's debut thriller, "Julie Chan Is Dead," is here to tell you to be careful what you wish for. This isn't your typical "twins switched at birth" story; it's a razor-sharp, darkly funny look at what happens when the curated world of social media crashes into a very grim reality.

The story follows Julie Chan, a supermarket cashier barely making rent, while her estranged identical twin, Chloe VanHuusen, lives the high life as a viral influencer. They haven't spoken in years, except for one awkward, filmed reunion where Chloe "generously" bought Julie a house for the views. But everything changes when Julie walks in and finds Chloe dead. Instead of calling 911, Julie makes a split-second, life-altering decision: she's going to step into Chloe's designer shoes. Literally.

Suddenly, Julie is trading shifts at the register for high-end skincare routines and luxury fashion. The transition is surprisingly easy at first—mostly because Chloe's millions of followers are too busy double-tapping to notice the person behind the screen has actually changed. But as Julie settles into



the influencer lifestyle, she realizes that Chloe's "perfect" feed was a total lie. Behind the scenes, her sister was drowning in paranoia and manipulation.

The tension peaks when Julie joins an elite clique of influencers on a private island retreat. Trapped with Chloe's "best friends"—a group of status-obsessed sharks who all seem to be hiding something—Julie has to keep up the act while investigating what actually killed her sister. It's a classic locked-room mystery with a modern, satirical twist.

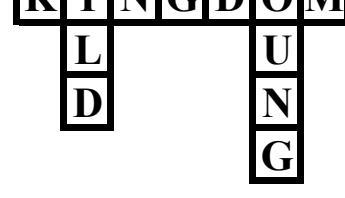
Zhang does a brilliant job of exploring the cost of fame and the weird, performative nature of being "online." As Julie peels back the layers of Chloe's life, she discovers that the sinister forces that took her sister out are now closing in on her. It's a fast-paced, addictive read that proves fitting in can be fatal, and that sometimes, the most dangerous people are the ones holding the ring light.

Now put your phone down and pick up a copy of "Julie Chan is Dead"—or whatever book is calling to you this week. After that, don't forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader - I'm not a glamorous social media influencer like the ones in this book, but I would love to talk about books with you!

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

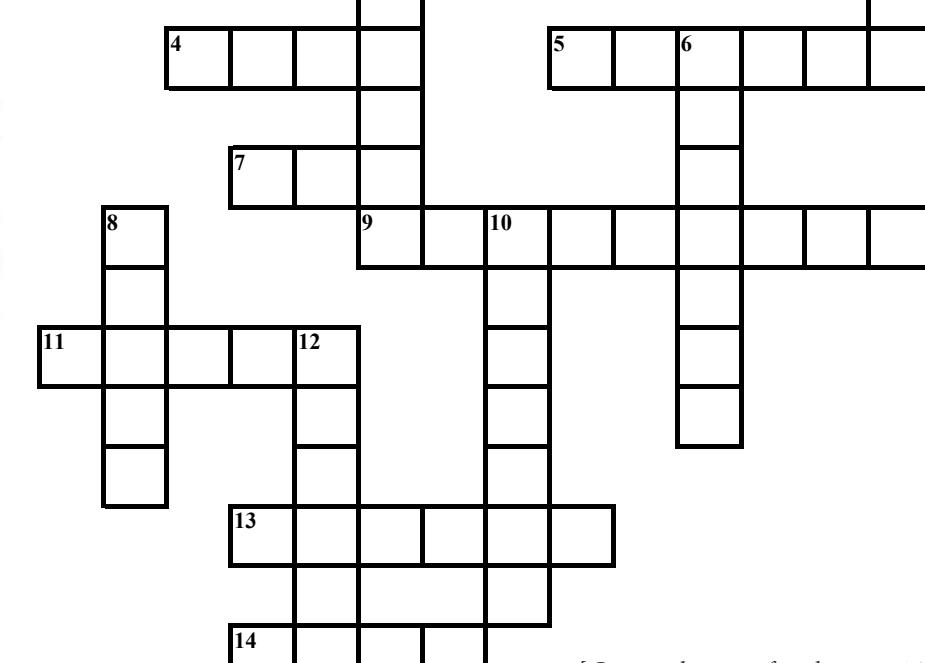


## Across

- Penguin
- Koala
- Hedgehog
- Otter
- Crocodile
- Platypus
- Swan
- Aardvark

## Down

- Fox
- Grasshopper
- Goose
- Pigeon
- Mosquito
- Jellyfish



[Crossword answers found on page 16]

## COLUMNS

## PostCards

CCHS: Stepping Stone  
to the U.S. Senate

By Michon Mackedon

The public speaking honors earned by the future U.S. Senator, Alan Bible, did not end when the CCHS debate squad took the state championship just one hundred years ago.

With encouragement from CCHS Principal George McCracken, Bible had entered a national oratory contest in January 1926. His chances of going very far seemed slim. Most of the contestants had considerably more experience, having previously entered the national contest as sophomores and juniors. This was Bible's first and only shot at winning.

In Nevada, California, and Arizona (comprising one of seven "zones" in the U.S.), over 30,000 high school students in 50 different districts entered the first phase of the contest. The topic was "The United States Constitution." Bible easily won over a Humboldt County contestant to move to the second phase, held in Reno, where Bible claimed victory and moved to the "Zone" semi-finals against only seven other survivors of a process designed to whittle the original 30,000 entrants down to one "Zone" winner.

On May 7, the "Fallon Standard" proudly proclaimed, "Bible One of Eight in 30,000," and Bible, accompanied by his father, Jake Bible (who then owned the Fallon Mercantile) and CCHS Principal McCracken, travelled to Los Angeles on a tidal wave of local enthusiasm to compete in the Semi-Finals. The first prize consisted of \$500.00 (equivalent to \$9,155.99 today) and a trip to Europe.

Bible was bested by a Hollywood, California student named Herbert Winig, but McCracken and the local newspapers did not soften their praise for their promising young orator. Asked by the

"Churchill County Eagle" how Bible had stood the ordeal, McCracken replied, "Alan never did better in his life than he did before an audience of 4000 people.... The young man who won first prize had won over all of the high schools in Los Angeles, and, besides, he had been in the contest for two years prior to this." The "Standard" praised the fact that "Alan's strength in the contest will be better understood when it is known that one of the 21 judges gave Alan 3rd place; 3 gave him 4th place."

McCracken added, "It was worth a thousand dollars to me and Jake Bible to be there.... The audience got eight sermons on the patriotic observance of the fundamental law of the land. It was a lesson to the citizens."

I wonder how many of the other contestants, as did Bible, continued on to serve his country and the Constitution as a U.S. Senator (1954-1974).

In 1966, I moved to Washington, D.C. with my husband, Mike, who was finishing law school at Georgetown University. Senator Bible employed Mike in his office and helped me find a job teaching in a D.C. School. He and his wife, Loucile, had us to dinner at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland. I will always remember what he said to me that night, "Michon, I will never forget my school days at Oats Park Elementary School and Churchill County High School. Fallon helped me find my way to the Senate."

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.*

## Movies &amp; More

By Kelli Perez

The Third Friday Senior Matinee returns, welcoming the Coalition for Senior Citizens at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, for a special showing of "Spies Like Us." This lively comedy is a perfect afternoon escape, and all senior attendees receive a free small popcorn and drink. We look forward to another afternoon with our valued community members.



On Friday and Saturday evenings at 6 p.m., join us for the 1989 family adventure "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids." When an inventor's shrinking machine accidentally miniaturizes his children, they must cross a backyard full of danger. The film is rated PG and runs 1 hour, 33 minutes. Churchill Community Coalition sponsors the screening.

At 7 p.m. both nights, catch "Spies Like Us" (1985) again, a fast-paced comedy filled with classic laughs and Cold War chaos. Two unlikely government employees are recruited for what they believe is a routine assignment, only to find themselves tangled in a far larger international spy mission. The film is rated PG and runs 1 hour, 42 minutes.

Behind the scenes, our seat upgrade project is making exciting progress. Volunteers have removed old seats and prepared the auditorium, and installation of "new-to-us" seating

from Mesquite is coming together. Upgrades like added cup holders and swivel arms will bring extra comfort to every movie night and event. We're also replacing and upgrading both projectors to enhance picture quality. These improvements are about creating a more comfortable, welcoming space, and we're thankful to everyone lending their time and talents.

Volunteers are preparing for a celebration of our region's roots. On Saturday, March 7, the Fallon Theatre hosts "Heritage of the West," a free event honoring songs, stories, and traditions that built the heart of our communities. Performers, historians, poets, and storytellers will share music, cowboy poetry, dance, and oral histories. Contact huck\_salt@yahoo.com or call 775-423-2055 or 775-217-4142 to take part. The celebration continues with a free concert at 7 p.m., featuring The Lincoln Highway Band.

We're thrilled to announce the Inaugural Oasis Film Festival: "An Oasis for Storytellers." This festival invites filmmakers to share PG-rated short films (15 minutes or less) inspired by the theme "America 250." Entries are accepted across four age groups, with one submission per person and a \$20 fee. All films must be submitted by March 2. The festival takes place Sunday, March 8, with screenings followed by a 5 p.m. awards ceremony for Best Picture, Best Acting, and Best Storyline. Workshops on film production and acting will be offered March 8 for \$25 per participant.

Looking ahead, the Toiyabe Chamber Music Society returns Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m. for the Loneliest Road Chamber Music Project, featuring the Berkelium String Quartet from Berkeley, Calif. The ensemble will perform Schubert's "Death and the Maiden," a new work by Daniel Darmesin Flanagan, and a Beethoven Quartet, all with projected images. Admission is by donation; children are welcome.

The Fallon Theatre team is proud to offer free movie screenings when possible, making it easy for the community to gather and enjoy a night at the theatre. The concession stand will be open with favorites like popcorn and candy. To rent the theatre or feature a message on the marquee, call 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com.



## The Greenwave Plant Corner

Story and photo by Patrick Silva

Calling all Plant People! Welcome to The Greenwave Plant Corner. A place where students from the Plant Systems classes at the Churchill County High School (CCHS) will share all things garden. We hope to tell you about the projects we're working on, what is growing in our greenhouses, and hopefully some tips and tricks for gardening in the Lahontan Valley.

My name is Patrick Silva, and I have the pleasure of starting this new column. I am one of the student gardeners, a senior at CCHS. I have spent many seasons growing a garden with my family and also helping my father out in his landscaping business.

Some of my favorite plants to grow are tomatillos. My family uses them for garden-fresh green salsa, a delicious sauce for many Mexican dishes. Now is a great time to start tomatillo, tomato, and pepper seeds if you want to make your own salsa this summer.

Our greenhouses at CCHS are toasty warm, and I have already started quite a few tomatillos from seed. These plants should be large and in flower by the time it's safe to plant them outside, around May 15.



Patrick Silva, a Churchill County High School senior, holds a Valley Oak sapling grown from an acorn in Fallon.

Along with my classmates, I will be helping with the new Greenwave garden landscape in front of the school. We are working hard on the design now as a class, and we are all growing plants that we would like to add to the area. I plan to add tomatillos to the culinary beds we are installing near the building entrance. I am also going to add some tomatoes because we all know that Mrs. Alisha, the Culinary teacher, loves vine-ripe tomatoes.

I have also germinated some very special Valley Oak trees from acorns that I gathered from the beautiful yard of our family friend, Susan McCormick (see the seedlings and me in the photo). The trees around her house provide ample shade and a cool place to rest, even in summer. With some care, Valley Oaks can grow up to 100 feet (maybe 150 feet) and live 300 to 600 years, perhaps even more. Did you know that the giant tree that grows above Stone Cabin Coffee is a Valley Oak?

If you don't have time to start your own seeds, we have you covered. Churchill County High School and the Lahontan Conservation District will be working together again for our 3rd Annual plant sale on May 9, 2026, from 9 a.m. to noon. Save the date!

You can find houseplants, fruits, and veggies, as well as my Valley Oaks, in two greenhouses full of plants. Stay tuned for more details. Lahontan Conservation District will have bare-root starts available that day, which can help with windbreaks, riparian restoration (narrow transitional areas of land along bodies of water), soil erosion control, and creating a cool place to rest in your yard.

Thank you for reading and growing with us. CCHS Plant Systems-we put the "green" in Greenwave!

## LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

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- Conferring the privilege of supplying goods, commodities, things, services or facilities at the airport or air navigation facility or other facilities.
- Making available services to be furnished by the City of Fallon or its agents or by other persons at the airport or air navigation facility or other facilities.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a regular meeting of the City Council will be held on March 3, 2026, at 9 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, 55 W. Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada, at which meeting any interested person may appear.

Published in  
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February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2026  
Ad #6430

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

Crossword found on page 14

CALF	KIT
CHICK	NYMPH
CYGNET	PIGLET
EPHENA	PUGGLE
GOSLING	PUP
HATCHLING	SQUAB
JOEY	TUMBLER



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**MEETINGS**

February 26 – March 19, 2026

**Board of County Commissioners**

Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month  
155 N. Taylor Street

Next Meeting: March 5 at 8:15 a.m.

**CC Communications**

Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.  
155 N. Taylor Street

Next Meeting: March 5 at 11 a.m.

**Churchill County School Board**

690 S. Maine Street

Next Meeting: March 17 at 5:30 p.m.

**Central NV Health District**

155 N Taylor Street  
Next meeting: March 19 at 1:30 p.m.

**Library Board of Trustees**

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m.  
155 N. Taylor Street

Next Meeting: Feb. 26 at 3 p.m.

**WATER LEVELS**

Measurements Taken February 16, at 8:30 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	171,800 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	4.03 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	473 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	469 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	316 cfs

February 16, 2024

240,486 acre feet

February 16, 2023

119,830 acre feet

February 16, 2022

96,194 acre feet

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

**Prepared Meals**

**William Pennington Life Center**  
Monday through Friday (hot lunch),  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
952 S. Maine St.  
Free over 60

**Wolf Center (Fallon Daily Bread)**  
Mondays and Thursdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m.  
457 Esmerilda St.

**Oasis Community Church**  
Tuesdays (breakfast), 7 to 8:30 a.m.  
1520 S. Maine St.

**Fallon NAZ**  
Wednesdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m.  
1520 Grimes St.

**Back Porch next to Wolf Center**  
Wednesdays and Saturdays (sack lunches)  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
280 E. Stillwater Ave.

**Christian Life Center**  
Thursdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m.  
1435 Kaiser St.

**Food and Commodity Pantries**

**Epworth Community Food Pantry**  
Mondays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
457 Esmeralda St.

**New Frontier Food Pantry**  
Mondays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
1490 Grimes St.

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**Out of Egypt Food Pantry**  
Thursdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m.  
1075 Taylor Place

**Commodities, New Frontier Food Pantry**  
Second Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
1490 Grimes St.

**FBNN Mobile Harvest Produce**  
Second Thursdays, 9 to 10:30 a.m.  
William Pennington Life Center, 952 S. Maine St.

**Commodities, William Pennington Life Center**  
Fourth Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
952 S. Maine St.

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