

THE FALLOON POST



KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

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\$2.00 | The Week of January 23, 2026

New Frontier Treatment Center – Bigger, Better, and Ready to Serve

Story and photos by Leanna Lehman

New Frontier Treatment Center in Fallon celebrated its recently completed facility expansion on Jan. 13. A host of state, federal, and local partners, who helped make the project possible, were on hand for commendations, tours, and a ribbon cutting.

Fallon's only dedicated substance abuse treatment center, New Frontier, has been offering residential and outpatient services for over 50 years. In 2019, it earned the distinguished designation as the state's first Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic and now also offers an array of mental health and support services.

New Frontier Executive Director, Lana Robards, and her staff began working on funding for the project nearly seven years ago. Through \$3 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan and grant funding, New Frontier was able to expand the residential wing by 10,000 square feet and increase treatment capacity from 28 beds to 40.

The expansion also included a dedicated women's section, improved clinical and therapy rooms, and a much-needed kitchen upgrade. With the project complete, the facility will now be able to serve up to 1,200 patients each year.

Rural Development Director with the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA), Alida Ceballos, and her team worked with New Frontier throughout the funding process, helping guide the project from concept to completion.

During presentations, Ceballos credited Robards as a driving force behind the expansion. "It takes vision, persistence, and a forward-looking



From left, NDA Rural Development Director Alida Ceballos, NDA Community Programs representative Gus Wegren, Mayor Ken Tedford, and in front, New Frontier Executive Director Lana Robards.



New Frontier expansion.

focus to execute on a project of this scope," Ceballos said, who acknowledged the scarcity of mental health facilities throughout the state. "Facilities like New Frontier are transforming the medical landscape of rural Nevada by the great work they do."

Robards, who has been with New Frontier for 22 years, said she has long envisioned a facility that could accommodate the growing needs of the community. New Frontier has been working with individuals seeking substance abuse treatment since 1971 and has offered a residential facility since 1974; the need has often outweighed capacity and continues to grow.

"I want to say thank you to a few people who have been instrumental in the success of New

Frontier and who help strengthen our mission, vision, and values," said Robards, noting special appreciation for Mayor Ken Tedford's continued support.

Robards thanked the USDA, NDA, New Frontier staff, and local contractor Trevor Hammond and the Hammond Homes family, the general contractor for the expansion. "Lana told me when we started this job that we had a year to do it. We had to do two different additions and remodel the interior of this building," Trevor Hammond said. "And she was not going to shut down at all."

According to Hammond, New Frontier continued operations throughout all phases of construction, even maintaining an outdoor cooking tent

[New Frontier continued on page 2]

\$17.8 Million Funds Northern Nevada Projects

By Sydney Trainor

On Jan. 8, the U.S. House of Representatives advanced a bipartisan appropriations act to secure funding for projects in Nevada. The act allocates \$17.8 million for 10 locally driven projects across Northern Nevada. The package includes funding for projects relating to Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Interior, and Environment.

According to Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV), "This package focuses on priorities that matter to Americans nationwide. It invests in public safety, supports access to affordable and reliable energy, strengthens deterrence against foreign adversaries, ensures national parks remain open and accessible, responsibly stewards taxpayer dollars, fully funds programs families and communities rely on, and much more."

The City of Fallon is set to receive \$1 million, included in appropriations for Commerce, Justice, and Science.

The funding is for a project called "Fallon Police Department Dispatch and Emergency Response Communication Network and Records Management System," and will support local law enforcement. The City of Reno, Douglas County, and Washoe County also received Commerce, Justice, and Science funding. The allocated project funding totals \$5,600,000.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Gardnerville Ranchos General Improvement District, City of Fernley, City of Elko, Lyon County, and the City of West Wendover are to receive funding included under the "Interior and Environment" section of this bill. The interior project funding for these communities totals \$12,162,000.

Amodei's office reported that this package is part of an agreement that keeps total FY26 spending below the level projected under the current continuing resolution, delivering real savings for American taxpayers. "With a few bills still to finalize, the passage of three additional Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bills sets the year off on a strong footing..." said Amodei.

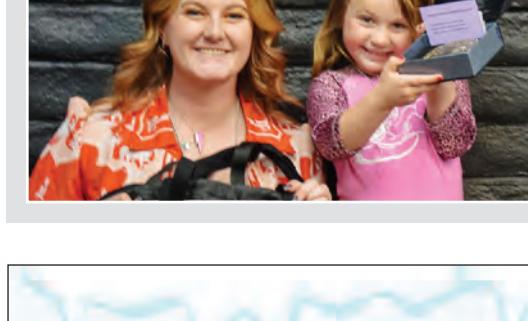
School Calendar Approved

By Rachel Dahl

The Churchill County School District Board of Trustees voted Tuesday night to adopt a two-year school calendar, approving Option B for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years, following community survey feedback and a staff vote on two proposed calendar options.

Under Option B, the district will continue its modified four-day schedule with a later August start for both the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. Students will attend full-length instructional days Monday through Thursday, with early release on Fridays. The first day of school for grades 1-12 will be Aug. 24, 2026, and Aug. 23, 2027, with Pre-K and kindergarten starting one week later each year. The school year will extend into early June, ending June 4, 2027, and June 2, 2028, allowing the district to observe Memorial Day while still meeting state instructional time requirements. District administrators noted Option B results in a slight reduction in total in-

[School Calendar continued on page 5]



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PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID AT
Fallon, NV

IT'S CHILLY...
STAY IN AND STREAM
WITH OUR LIGHTNING-FAST
INTERNET
SPEEDS UP TO 1GB
cccomm.net
CC Communications

The Fallon Post
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain's Log

By Rachel Dahl

This week has been spent as winters should be, in the south, where it's warm. I'm in Vegas helping a friend who had her foot rebuilt, and the days have been so beautiful – a lovely 73 degrees.

I've been watching the Fallon weather out of the corner of my eye (16 degrees) so I can coach the pet sitter on keeping the bunny's water from freezing. And of course, the North Dakota weather (7 degrees), keeping an eye on those kids up there, so no one freezes my grandson. Oakland is 44 degrees this morning, same as here, and Spring Creek is 18 degrees.

The offspring scan is complete; all is well with those adult children.

Not gonna lie – 56, small business owner, and empty nester has its perks. I love that the crew can hold down the fort at home, and technology allows us to work from nearly anywhere. Tomorrow I'll take a break and go see my momma and sister number three, who live in Henderson, for a nice visit before heading home late in the week. Or maybe I'll stay here with Julie and the palm trees.

All kidding aside, hitting the open road and getting away for a bit is good medicine.

In between the comedy of two old lady high school friends figuring out how to adjust the placement and setup of a hospital bed, driving to

doctor's appointments, and cooking some fun food, Julie actually got me to watch some TV. This isn't a normal activity in my life, and it's surprising how out of touch I am.

Speaking of which, this whole growing old with the same people who knew you as a child is quite a feat, we've recognized this week, and we're really enjoying our regular remembrances of antics through the years. We speak the same language and enjoy a shorthand that we both take for granted, but realized during a check-up appointment with Julie's doctor yesterday.

Everything we do is either connected to a song, a person, or a story from the past, and we laugh all the time as we walk down memory lane.

It really hit home as I watched the doc wrap Julie's foot and ankle: how many times in my life I'd sat and waited while a coach did the same thing. I was instantly transported back to the locker room before every game, when Coach Serrano would carefully and expertly line, wrap, and then tape Julie's ankles.

Same activity, 40 years later. Isn't life funny?

So, while I enjoy some time away with one of the oldest and dearest, relying on my team up north, we'll all still be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

—Rach

[New Frontier continued from page 1]

when there was no kitchen access. "The everyday staff to keep this whole place moving and going while I was doing construction, literally around them on all sides, did an amazing job," he said.

Before kicking off the ribbon cutting and tours of the new additions, staff from the offices of U.S. Sens. Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto and Rep. Mark Amodei presented certificates of commendation. Representatives from the state, including the governor's office, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and Rural Economic and Community Development, were also present to mark the occasion and acknowledge New Frontier's role in behavioral health treatment.

Fallon native and Nevada Assemblyman Dr. Gregory Koenig attended the celebration and shared a brief history of New Frontier, which began with a seven-member board and a single counselor. Over time, the facility expanded its services and capacity. In 2007, a catastrophic fire burned through the interior of the grounds. "But we didn't quit," Koenig said.

"Since then, New Frontier has become a leader in the state and is consistently proving that rural doesn't mean second class," he said. Koenig added that federal support has allowed the facility to reduce wait lists and expand access to medication-assisted treatment and psychiatric care.

Lt. Gov. Stavros Anthony also attended the event, praising the collaboration among legislators, state and local government, nonprofits, and the private sector. "Everyone came together to make sure that New Frontier was able to not only get this money, but to expand their mission," said Anthony.

Mayor Ken Tedford, a passionate advocate for mental health care who also serves as board chair of the Central Nevada Health District, closed the remarks by reflecting on how far New Frontier has come. "Many years ago, I sat in the parking lot and watched New Frontier burn to the ground," Tedford said. "And to be here today, you can't imagine from that night to where we are now ... It's just astonishing for a small community like ours to have what we have."

PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Axel (Round 2, Let's Do This Right!)

Axel (D-5801) is a 2-year-old shepherd looking for his forever home. This time, we're being honest, so he lands where he truly belongs.

Axel was adopted and returned after it became clear small children aren't his thing. He's not a jump-in-your-arms dog—more of a slow-burn friendship type. Think introvert, not party animal.

What we've learned: Axel is chill, polite, and laid-back once he knows you. He gets along with other dogs, does well with cats, and is both leash and crate-trained. He knows several commands, including sit, down, paw, and kennel.

Smart and capable, Axel prefers to build trust at his own pace.

Axel takes longer than most to warm up, but when he does, you'll see his soft, vulnerable side. Each day, he comes out of his shell a little more.

His ideal home is with adults or older teens in a calm, patient environment. Axel needs people who understand that building trust takes time and not all dogs bond right away.

Axel isn't broken or stubborn; he's just thoughtful and wants to feel safe before he commits. If you believe trust is earned and bonds are built, Axel might be your perfect match.

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

Meet Mufasa

Meet Mufasa, a sleek black cat whose unforgettable personality and resilience have made him a standout among shelter animals. Fixed, fully vaccinated, and microchipped, Mufasa is ready to rule a forever home.

Shelter officials say Mufasa is seeking a patient human willing to build trust and earn his loyalty. After being found weak and thin, he has thrived with frequent wet food meals and attentive care. With understanding and kindness, this resilient feline blossoms into a deeply rewarding companion.

Mufasa prefers calm spaces and respectful affection, choosing to interact on his own terms. Shelter staff encourage potential adopters who appreciate independent animals and are committed to providing a gentle environment.

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

Nevada Bound: Sex Trafficking in the Silver State

By Leanna Lehman

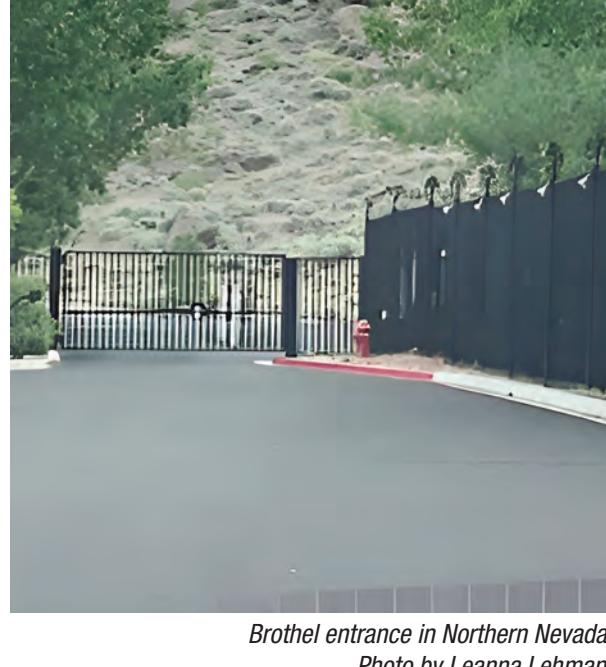
Part I: The Prostitution Connection

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, a time intended to focus attention on a crime that is often hidden in plain sight.

The Silver State, also known as the "Vice State," is now reporting the highest per capita rates of sex trafficking. While states with larger populations report more total cases, more incidents based on population – or per 100,000 residents – occur in Nevada. It is also the only state with legalized prostitution, and those two facts are rarely discussed together.

Sex trafficking is largely believed to be women and children packed into shipping containers, stolen only to be sold abroad. Often misunderstood as a crime marked by kidnapping or outright violence, it most often occurs close to home and relies on coercion rather than force, with victims controlled through fear, drugs, money, circumstance, or emotional manipulation.

While sex trafficking does not differentiate between the legal and illegal sex trade, many experts believe that the high trafficking rates are due to Nevada's legitimate sex industry. They argue that legal brothels increase the overall demand for commercial sex, leading many to falsely believe it is legal statewide, which then fuels the larger illegal market in metropolitan areas where prostitution is not permitted.



Brothel entrance in Northern Nevada.
Photo by Leanna Lehman.

No one should be surprised that most prostitution in Nevada occurs illegally. This is where the assumption that legalized prostitution prevents sex trafficking begins to break down, and the laws of supply and demand prevail. Nevada's illegal trade in the Las Vegas area alone is estimated to bring in about \$5 billion annually – roughly 67 times more than legal sex sales.

For years, brothels have been promoted as reducing the risk of sexual assault and trafficking.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH



They are declared as regulated, monitored, and safer than the underground sex trade. However, few people realized that most current or former brothel workers report having been trafficked at least one time in their lives, often more.

In 2019, 2020, and 2021, Nevada was named in the "Dirty Dozen," a report compiled by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), which identified 12 mainstream entities said to contribute to the normalization of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Nevada was the only state listed, specifically its prostitution industry, alongside big names like Amazon, OnlyFans, Massage Envy, and Reddit.

Sex industry researcher Robin Smith recently wrote, "The decriminalization of sex sales leads to a substantial growth of sex trafficking through underage prostitution, 'loverboy' coercion, debt bondage, and other illicit sex trafficking activity." Loverboy coercion, also known as "Romeo pimping," is a common, calculated method where men pretend to be romantic partners who build trust, groom, and ultimately compel victims into sexual exploitation.

Some sex workers DO enter the trade voluntarily, while others are led by desperation and a belief that there is no other choice. On the front-lines of the human trafficking battle is Reno attorney, Dr. Jason Guinasso, who says, "When a person's choices are shaped by poverty, trauma, addiction, or instability, the question is not simply whether they agreed, but whether they had a meaningful alternative."

Within the legal sex trade, Nevada brothel workers are often required to live on the premises during their shifts which can last one to three weeks and they must be on hand to take customers. "You could go days without having a client, but the tab grew and grew, and it grew," says former Bunny Ranch publicist Deanne Holliday. "The girls were constantly trying to pay off their tab. That's why it was called debt bondage."

Some facilities are fenced and locked, often described as a protective measure. Workers may have limited ability to leave and little control over which clients they see. Fees for housing, food, testing, licensing, and more are typically deducted from earnings, potentially creating financial dependency. Guinasso says that a transaction can appear voluntarily on paper yet meet the legal definition of trafficking if the conditions compel someone against their will.

He noted one sex worker who earned \$1,000 one day, gave the contracted half to the brothel, but also had to pay her tab. With \$200 left in her pocket, she walked out of the brothel and gave her pimp all she had left. According to Guinasso, it is not uncommon for a sex worker to have a pimp who forces her into brothel work.

Coercion has many faces; it may even look like love. For many women, a pimp often begins as a romantic partner. Others will work under a pimp's protection for safety reasons. However, the moment a sex worker is no longer a willing participant and is compelled to perform by her pimp, he becomes her trafficker. "If she tries to get away from the trafficker... he knows everything about her life and can do real harm," says Guinasso. The line between pimp and trafficker is almost always crossed at some point, but the force or coercion is almost never reported.

Legalizing sex work does not automatically mean protection. Guinasso argues this: "When other states... are considering some form of legalization, they point to Nevada and say, 'See, this is Nevada, and Nevada has been doing it for 50 years and it works.' And our message is really no, actually. It's not working."

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, a time intended to focus attention on a crime that is often hidden in plain sight.

Annual Cattlemen's Update Looks Ahead to 2026

By Rachel Dahl

Nevada ranchers heading into 2026 are navigating a rare convergence of opportunity and uncertainty: historically, tight cattle supplies and favorable price signals on one hand, and escalating wildfire risk, regulatory complexity, and animal health threats on the other.

Those themes anchor this year's Cattlemen's Update, a multi-day, statewide series bringing producers together with veterinarians, economists, fire professionals, and land-use experts to examine what lies ahead and how ranchers can position themselves to endure and adapt.

The most anticipated information from the Update is always the economic outlook. Shannon Neiberger, with the Western Extension Risk Management Center at Washington State University, presented a Nevada cattle market outlook shaped by tight national inventories, rebuilding pressure, and difficult heifer-retention decisions.

With fewer cows nationwide and drought-driven liquidation still rippling through the system, prices remain supportive, she said, but risk remains elevated. Neiberger emphasized that profitability hinges not just on market timing, but on disciplined financial analysis, especially when evaluating whether to retain heifers, invest in genetics, or expand cautiously rather than chase short-term price signals.

Sessions on genetics, reproduction, and herd improvement, led by Luis Schütz of the University of Nevada, Reno, reinforced that message. Tools such as Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs), DNA testing, synchronization, and artificial insemination can improve long-term efficiency, but only if costs, labor, and market realities are weighed carefully.

Beyond markets, wildfire remains one of the most immediate economic threats facing Nevada ranchers. The 2026 Fire Outlook & Rancher Liaison Program sessions brought ranchers, fire personnel, and agency representatives together to discuss preparedness, response, and recovery.

Speakers outlined anticipated wildfire risks for the coming year, along with the expanding role of the rancher liaison program, which helps integrate local livestock producers into fire response and post-fire decision-making. Ranchers learned how grazing can reduce fuel loads, how wildfire monitoring technologies are evolving, and how early communication with agencies can reduce conflict when fires ignite.

Organizers emphasized that ranchers are no longer seen solely as land users during fire events, but increasingly as partners in landscape resilience.

Animal health updates underscored how quickly biological threats can become economic crises. Peter Rolfe, Nevada's state veterinarian with the Nevada Department of Agriculture, delivered a regulatory update that included discussion of the New World screwworm, an emerging concern for producers across the West.

Veterinary perspectives from Randy Wallstrum (Gardnerville), Sarah Hummel (Winnemucca), and Lyle Whitaker (Fallon) addressed current animal health challenges and emphasized the economic cost of delayed detection, biosecurity lapses, and misinformation.

Those concerns were reinforced in a biosecurity session led by Tracy Shane, who outlined practical planning tools producers can use to protect herds from disease incursions that can shut down operations overnight.

One of the Update's most forward-looking messages came from keynote speaker Tipton D. Hudson, a professor of rangeland and livestock management with Washington State University Extension and creator of the Art of the Range podcast and Stocksmart App.

Hudson argued that while technology will continue to shape grazing management, people skills, not software, will drive the future of grazing enterprises. As grazing is increasingly recognized as an ecological tool, ranchers who can communicate effectively, build trust with agencies and communities, and demonstrate conservation outcomes will be better positioned to access land, influence policy, and remain viable.

Technology, Hudson emphasized, should support human judgment not replace it.

The Update also made room for the future, with Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) sessions offered at multiple locations. The national program provides hands-on, face-to-face training for youth ages 8–21, covering animal well-being, food safety, and character development— at no cost to participants.

Organizers noted that sustaining Nevada's livestock industry depends not only on markets and policy, but on preparing young producers to meet rising expectations from consumers and regulators alike.

Cattlemen's Update sessions are offered both virtually and in person across the state, with stops in Fallon, Ely, Elko, Winnemucca, and online via Zoom. In-person events include meals and dedicated networking time, allowing producers to connect directly with agencies, specialists, and one another.

While the topics are technical, the message is straightforward: Nevada ranching remains economically viable, especially for those who plan ahead, manage risk deliberately, and stay engaged in a rapidly changing landscape.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Editorial: Downtown Works When We Work Together

Downtown businesses flourish when we work together to bring people to Maine Street and once they're there, let them walk, linger, and discover what our local businesses have to offer.

Recently, a familiar concern surfaced: a downtown merchant was frustrated that there isn't always an open parking space directly in front of his shop. It's an understandable worry. Small business owners live and die by foot traffic, and when sales are tight, every obstacle feels personal.

But there is a different way to see this, and it is how the City of Fallon community has operated for years, even before "walkability" was fashionable: one open parking space does not fill a shop. People do.

In fact, a lack of immediate parking is often a sign of the opposite problem, not that downtown is failing, but that it's working. When parking spots are full, it usually means there are people already there walking, shopping, meeting friends, grabbing lunch, and popping into stores they hadn't planned to visit. That activity is the lifeblood of a successful downtown.

Maine Street was never meant to function like a strip mall, where customers pull up, dash in, and leave. It was designed as a place. A destination where people park once and experience multiple businesses. When downtown works the way it's supposed to, no single shop depends solely on the curb space in front of its door.

Everyone benefits from foot traffic.

We're seeing this in Fallon more and more: a vibrant, busy Maine Street, not just on special occasions, but daily. Parking gets tight and business gets better. People stroll. They window-shop. They wander into stores they may not have even known were there. Dollars circulate instead of stopping at a single counter.

That's not accidental, it's Maine Street theory in action, even if we don't call it that. It's at the hands of the great investment the city has made in curbs and trees, lights and benches, an iconic fountain, and, yes, the Christmas Tree. But also, the investment of business owners who committed time and treasure to restore and rebuild one of the most attractive downtowns in Rural Nevada.

It's worth acknowledging the fear underneath the parking complaint. For small business owners, the concern isn't really about asphalt and white lines; it's about visibility and survival. The worry is that customers won't stop if it isn't easy. But decades of experience in towns like ours suggest the opposite: downtowns that prioritize walkability, activity, and shared foot traffic outperform those built solely around convenience.

If every business needs its own guaranteed parking space out front, you don't get a downtown, you get a drive-through corridor, and we've created something way better than that.

Parking does matter, but it isn't the point. What we're looking for is traffic – cars coming downtown bringing shoppers who increase foot traffic inside stores, restaurants, and the theatre.

When we promote Maine Street as a destination rather than a series of isolated stops, everyone gains. Encouraging customers to "park once and walk" helps neighboring businesses just as much as it helps your own.

Customers play a role too. Downtown shopping isn't meant to be a curbside errand. It's an experience. Walking half a block is not a burden; it's part of the charm.

The City does an amazing job of maintaining sidewalks, keeping downtown inviting, and supporting events that bring people out of their cars and onto the street. These investments pay dividends not just for one business, but for the entire area.

Here's the simple takeaway: empty parking spaces in front of shops are not what we're looking for. Activity is the measurement; a full street and parking around back, if you have to, means people are here with their purses and wallets, and that's how we'll keep this downtown alive.

Downtowns don't survive because parking is easy; they survive because they're worth walking, and when we remember that Maine Street is doing what it's supposed to.



One for the books.



A Remembrance

It has been three very lonely years since my hubby, Rick Capucci, left this earth on January 27, 2023. I miss all of the little things we did together, cutting wood, watering our lawn, riding our quads in the field, checking the cows. So many memories. The grandsons miss their hunting buddy. All we have left are the precious memories. I feel his presence all the time, and that is the most rewarding feeling. For 43 years, we had a great life. Until we meet again, Cathy Cappuci and family.



MEETINGS

January 15 – February 5, 2026

Board of County Commissioners

Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month
155 N. Taylor St
Next Meeting: Feb. 18 at 1:15 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.

CC Communications

Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: Feb. 5, at 11 a.m.



Churchill County School Board

690 S. Maine Street
Next Meeting: Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m.

Central NV Health District

155 N Taylor Street
Next meeting: Jan. 15 at 1:30 p.m.



WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken January 19, at 8 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	134,000 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	3.22 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	475 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	469 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	356 cfs

January 19, 2024

226,291 acre feet

January 19, 2023

91,232 acre feet

January 19, 2022

78,733 acre feet

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

SENIOR CENTER MENU

WILLIAM N. PENNINGTON LIFE CENTER 952 S. MAINE STREET, 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, Jan. 26

Pesto Chicken WW Pasta
Tossed Salad
Strawberries
WW Roll

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Broccoli & Cheddar Soup
Turkey & Swiss Sandwich
Fruited Jell-O
Baked Chips
Fall Bean Salad

Wednesday, Jan. 28

Chili Cheese Baked Potato
Steamed Carrots
WW Banana Muffin
FF Yogurt

Thursday, Jan. 29

Shepherd's Pie
Spinach Salad
Bran Muffin
Fresh Fruit

Friday, Jan. 30

Shrimp Louie Salad
Red Lentil Soup
Mandarin Salad
Oatmeal Muffin Square

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, Jan. 26

Shepherd's Pie
Bread & Dessert

Thursday, Jan. 29

Waffles
Ice Cream

Monday, Feb. 2

Sausage, Rice
Carrots & Onions

Thursday, Feb. 5

Meatloaf
Potatoes & Veggies

Volunteer groups needed

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Record Number of WNC Students Make Dean's List

WNC Press Release

Whether they are taking their classes in person, remotely, or a combination of the two, Western Nevada College students are excelling academically.

For the recently completed Fall 2025 Semester, a record 572 students made the Dean's List. This immense list of academic achievers significantly surpasses the 487 students who made the Dean's List in Fall 2023.

"Earning a place on the Dean's List is a remarkable accomplishment, and reaching a record number of honorees makes this achievement even more meaningful," said WNC President Dr. J. Kyle Dalpe. "Our students continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication, perseverance, and academic excellence

— whether they are learning in the classroom, online, or through a combination of both. I am incredibly proud of our Fall 2025 Dean's List students and grateful to our outstanding faculty and staff who support and inspire them every day."

To earn this honor, students must complete at least 12 units during the semester and accumulate a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

Congratulations to the following students for their dedication to their studies and for striving to be their best!



FALLON

Leonidas Arcoraci, Alyssa Ayers, Sophie Bake, Trevor Barrenchea, Karen Batsel, Joel Bieg, Kamron Bracken, Tabitha Brocksby, Valeria Casillas Ibarra, Nicolle Cassidy, Meirra Cavanaugh, Aidan Clark, Kaylee Craig, Dahlila Creer, Ashlynn Farmer, Kaimani-Lei Feliciano, Danielle Fenton, Adelyne Flick, Haley Flick, Paige Frey, Audrey Fruzza, Abigail Gilman, Richard Gomez, Nicole Gonzalez, Lyannrose Goss, Hannah Hanks, Phynex Hunt, Melanie Ibarra, Elijah Jones, Cristian Keener, Savahanna Kelley, Mackenzi Kerr, Allura Knight-Zumwalt, Kelti Koehler, Olivia Kutansky, Grace Laca, Trevor Layton, Mikala Ledesma, Jeana Lee, Emma Lewis, River Litts, Hazel Mackedon, Abigail Madera, Natalia Martinez de la Cruz, Dawson McKnight, Oaklee McKnight, Ryder McNabb, Owen Miller, Ryan Miller, Jilliana Morales, Madison Palmer, Emma Papada, Alyssa Partridge, Aevan Payne, Alexandra Perez Garcia, Ethan Peterson, Rochelle Prentice, Marissa Rau, Randall Reeder, Christina Robinson, Jose Robles, Mason Rolfe, Aidan Rowe, AlexZander Sheldon-Davis, Alexis Slupski, Taylor Sowersby, Dean Spencer, Jenna Steffens, Laporsha Warren, Owen Whitaker, Kaena Williams, Gavin Wolf, Aden Wright, Taylor Zupancic

Congratulations - Great job!

[School Calendar continued from page 1]

structional minutes—about 105 to 115 minutes over the full school year—due to the inclusion of Memorial Day and one fewer “Blue Friday,” though overall daily schedules remain unchanged.

Superintendent Derild Parsons told trustees that the district's calendar committee set survey criteria, distributed a community survey, and developed two similar calendar options that were later sent to staff for voting. Parsons said the two options differed by about a week in start and end dates and included only a minor change in total instructional time, which he characterized as “less than two hours” over the course of a full year.

Parsons recommended Option B, describing it as a “two-week later start” and saying the district should give the newer start date a chance to show results. He said the district moved to a later start only last year and typically needs “two to three years” to recognize benefits or pitfalls. Parsons also cited practical concerns with an earlier August start, including extreme heat and travel schedules for families still on summer vacation.

The superintendent noted he had included attendance data in the memo after community comments raised concerns about lower Friday attendance. Parsons said Fridays were lower, but “not significantly lower” than other days. He also said administrators would be asked to ensure Fridays are treated as full-value instructional days and not viewed as wasted time.

Parsons acknowledged that many survey comments again raised the idea of a four-day week, but said that option was not advanced for voting based on survey results indicating satisfaction with the current schedule. Moving to a true four-day work week, he said, would require

either a longer school year or longer daily schedules to meet instructional minute requirements. Parsons said he is not a fan of extending school days, especially for older students with activities and busy family schedules and added that longer days could reduce flexibility and create tradeoffs for families.

Several trustees discussed how calendar decisions intersect with the structure of quarters, semesters, and major holidays.

Trustee comments included concerns about basing spring break placement on Easter. Trustee Julie Guerrero-Goetsch pointed to a survey question about spring break aligning with Easter and warned that Easter can shift by nearly a month depending on the year, making it difficult to reliably align with quarter-ending timelines. She argued calendar planning should prioritize quarter structure rather than chasing movable holidays.

Trustees also discussed concerns raised in feedback about semester finals occurring after winter break. Parsons said high school teachers can choose to give finals before the break if they want, but the district's calendar must still meet state instructional-time requirements. He said the calendar approval process at the state level has become “very extensive,” with instructional minutes broken out and reviewed by semester and course.

In clarifying survey feedback themes, Parsons said a major request from respondents was clarity, consistency, and early communication, and he encouraged the board to be a year ahead in calendar development so families can plan further in advance. Parsons said approving a two-year calendar now, and then developing the following year's calendar next year, would reduce

annual uncertainty and help schools, especially the high school, build master schedules and enrollment timelines earlier.

Trustees also discussed how to interpret one summary statement included with the survey results: that the modified four-day model is viewed by some as temporary. Parsons said the comment reflected mixed community perspectives with some wanting a true four-day week for consistency, others simply wanting the district to commit to a predictable model. He described the current schedule as a compromise between four and five days and said it can be helpful in teacher recruitment because it offers “a different option.”

Not all trustees agreed. Trustee Joe McFadden said he could not continue supporting the current calendar, “especially in reading the results of the survey,” indicating dissatisfaction. Trustee Wendy Bullock said her preference would be a traditional five-day calendar but acknowledged half-day Fridays were still viewed by families as “wasted Fridays.” She said by going back to a five-day week, “we would be adding more to that,” and this B calendar is a great compromise.

A separate concern focused on the minor difference in instructional time between the options. Blakey said teachers she talked to had asked not to reduce class time and opposed Option B because it shaved off a small amount of time compared to Option A. Parsons clarified the reduction was tied to how Fridays fall around Memorial Day and amounts to less than two hours across the entire school year, which another trustee described as “less than a minute a day.”

After discussion, the board voted to adopt Option B, with trustees Joe McFadden and Celstia Blakey opposed.

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ukulele for Beginners

Western Nevada College
160 Campus Way

Jan. 20 - Mar. 10, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball Cajun Boil

Churchill County High School
1 Greenwave Cir.

Jan. 23, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Burns Night

Fallon Rotary Club
90 N Maine St.

Jan. 23, Whisky tasting at 6 p.m.,
Dinner at 7 p.m.

Patrick Kikut Gallery Reception

Churchill Arts Council
151 East Park Street

Jan. 23, 5 p.m.

Nevada Farmers Forum

UNR Joe Crowley Student Union
Jan. 23, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Jan. 24 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pottery Studio

Western Nevada College
160 Campus Way

Fridays, Jan. 23 - May 15, 12 to 4 p.m.

Book Sculpting for Beginners

Western Nevada College
160 Campus Way

Jan. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Author Talk with Megan Russ

Churchill County Library
553 S Maine St.

Jan. 27, 6 p.m.

ASIST Training

Office of Suicide Prevention
100 Campus Way

Jan. 29 - 30, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Father-Daughter Dance

Churchill County High School
1 Greenwave Cir.

Jan. 31, 6 to 8 p.m.

Valentine Craft Fair

The Wolf Center
457 Esmeralda St.

Feb. 6 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

and Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunchtime Book Club

Churchill County Library
553 S Maine St.

Feb. 6 at 12:15 p.m.

Fallon Chamber Awards Dinner

Fallon Chamber of Commerce
100 Campus Way

Feb. 6, 6 p.m.

Taylor Swift Eras Tour fundraiser,

Class of 2026

Fallon Theatre

71 S Maine St.

Feb. 7, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Bad Art: Junk Journaling

Churchill County Library
553 S Maine St.

Feb. 9 at 2:30 p.m.

Crafting for Adults

Churchill County Library
553 S Maine St.

Feb. 19 & Feb 21 at 4 p.m.

Author Talk: Jessica Rowe

Churchill County Library
553 S Maine St.

Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.



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COMMUNITY

FHA Honors Riders at Year-End Banquet

By Nancy Chapman

More than forty riders and equestrians were recognized for their achievements at the Fallon Horseman's Association (FHA) year-end awards banquet, held on Sunday, January 11, 2026, at Troy's Double Shot Bar and Venue. The event celebrated the hard work and dedication of participants from the 2025 show season.

Founded in the early 1990s by Ray Blodgett, FHA is one of Fallon's oldest horse show clubs. While originally focused on reining and cow horse disciplines, the club has evolved into an all-breed, all-schooling organization that welcomes horses, mules, and riders of all experience levels. Its weekend events at the 3C outdoor complex feature English and Western riding, horsemanship, halter, versatility, equine driving, gymkhana, barrel racing, and pole bending.

Current club leadership includes President Lisa Piccolotti, Vice President LeAnn Mounce, Treasurer Theresa Norcutt, Secretary Amanda Nevers, and board members Ashley Brooks, Debi Johnson, Jackie Paris, and Sierra Mendoza. Their efforts have made FHA more inclusive by adding youth, riders with disabilities, and senior riders' classes. The club also recognizes members who have volunteered at least four hours each show season for over 25 years, maintaining active status and good standing.

This year's Century Team Class winners, where horse and riders' ages must total 100 years, are Judy Burger with her horse Betty, and Kay Letchworth with Delta. On the gymkhana side, Joyce Koepke and her horse Molly were honored, with the award presented posthumously to Joyce.

Special appreciation was extended to Cyndi Lipnicki, who has generously volunteered her time and resources to photograph FHA events and trail rides for over a decade.

Congratulations to all participants and winners for their contributions to the FHA's ongoing success and community spirit.



Stevie DeSomber, left, and Raelyn DeSomber, 4, who was named champion in the Lead Line Division, pose for a photo during the Fallon Horseman's Association year-end banquet. Photo by Cyndi Lipnicki.

Senior Coalition Meeting

By Sydney Trainor

The Coalition for Senior Citizens met Jan. 12, 2026, to conduct regular business, approve prior actions, and plan a spring informational event for older adults. The board approved the meeting minutes and agenda, discussed outreach challenges for seniors, finalized details for a March informational event, adopted an official coalition logo and tagline, and took several formal actions related to sponsorship agreements, insurance coverage, and charitable donation programs.

One of the major topics of discussion was planning a spring event. The board discussed possible locations for this event, including the city hall lobby and the senior center. They agreed to set the date for March 25, with a tentative time of either 9 a.m. to noon or 10 a.m. to noon. The event will focus on providing resources for aging adults, regarding taxes, Medicare/Medicaid, scams, and community services.

Members highlighted challenges with outreach to seniors who aren't regularly connected to the Senior Center. They discussed advertising through newspapers, flyers, word of mouth, and partnerships. The group emphasized the need to expand outreach to younger seniors and those not currently engaged. Members also discussed terminology for the event and agreed upon calling it an "aging adult informational event."

The board also addressed confusion surrounding a donation received through a vehicle dealership's

"Pay It Forward" program and its eligibility for a Toyota matching grant.

Members discussed the inconsistency in how the check was issued, noting that similar donations in previous years had been made directly to county social services, while this year's funds were made payable to the Coalition for Senior Citizens. The change raised questions about donor intent, matching-grant requirements, and whether the funds should be routed through the coalition or another nonprofit. Board members eventually agreed that processing the donation through the coalition would simplify the application process, preserve eligibility for matching funds, and ensure the money continues to support senior services as intended.

A motion was approved to submit the necessary application and process the donation through the coalition to preserve eligibility for matching funds.

Additionally, the board reviewed logo concepts and discussed branding consistency for flyers, shirts, and other materials. A motion was approved to adopt the revised logo and branding, including the name "Coalition for Senior Citizens, Churchill County." Members also approved a motion to continue a sponsorship agreement, allowing the coalition to serve as a nonprofit. The board considered approval of Directors and Officers liability insurance coverage through PHIRST in the amount of \$743. The motion to maintain insurance coverage for the board was approved unanimously.

Beginning Farmer Program Begins this Week

By Rachel Dahl

From backyard gardens and small-acreage livestock to farm-to-fork food production, a new statewide program is giving Nevadans the tools they need to turn agricultural ambition into a working business.

The University of Nevada, Reno Extension is launching the Beginning Farmer and Rancher (BFR) Certification Program through its Herds & Harvest initiative, a hybrid education model designed to support aspiring and early-stage producers across the state.

The program blends online instruction, in-person learning, and one-on-one business planning support, drawing from Extension's Small Acreage and Farm to Fork curriculum. Participants who complete the program will earn a BFR Level 1 Certification, signaling they have gained foundational skills in production, regulation, and agricultural business management.

To receive certification, participants must complete all online course sessions, attend an in-person field experience, develop a business plan, and take part in an individual business plan review. Organizers say the program is intended to move participants beyond hobby-scale agriculture and into sustainable, well-informed operations suited to Nevada's unique regulatory and environmental landscape.

Classes begin January 21, 2026, and run through March 11, 2026, with weekly sessions held from 6 to 8 p.m. Session topics are designed to build knowledge step by step, from production basics to marketing, finance, and water law.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 21, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.: Introduction – Overview of small-acreage and farm-to-fork production, including resource identification, understanding jurisdictions, developing a business plan, and setting goals.

January 28, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.: Meat Quality, Processing & Training – Characteristics of meat based on nutritional management, along with an overview of Nevada meat regulations and the statewide meat program.

February 4, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.: Plant & Soil Health – Understanding plant and soil fundamentals, including plant needs, nutrient and day-length requirements, and soil basics to determine the best plants for your land.

February 11, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.: Value Added Programs – Learn about Nevada value-added opportunities, marketing strategies, farm stands, direct marketing, sale yards, Nevada Grown, and the use of social media. Participants will also develop a marketing plan.

February 18, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.: Livestock Production – Basics of livestock and poultry nutrition, feed management, reproduction, and the Quality Assurance Program.

February 25, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.: Partners, Funding & Regulations – Hosted live at the Roots 2 Results Conference in Las Vegas, NV. Attendees may participate in person or virtually. The session includes an overview of opportunities and resources available to Nevada producers.

March 4, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.: Farm Financial Management – Focus on building farm financial stability, business skills, assets, estate planning, and understanding balance sheets and cash flow.

March 11, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.: Understanding Nevada Regulations and Water Law – Introduction to Nevada water law and a recap of key regulations related to starting an agricultural business.

Field Trip: Dates TBD – Participants will tour local farms and ranches in Reno and Douglas County, including attending a popular Farm to Fork Dinner. Participants may choose to attend either a field tour or one of Extension's agricultural conferences (Roots 2 Results – Southern NV or Roots 2 Results – Northern NV).

The cost to participate is \$75, with Eventbrite fees bringing the total to \$81.88. Program coordinators say the Herds & Harvest Program reflects a growing demand for practical, Nevada-specific agricultural education that addresses both production realities and business sustainability. The program is supported by the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, which funds initiatives that strengthen local and regional food systems nationwide.

For more information, contact Kaley Chapin, Lead Agriculture Program Coordinator with UNR Extension, at kaleys@unr.edu or 702-467-2668, or Staci Emm, Extension Professor, at emms@unr.edu or 775-475-4227.

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BUSINESS

Fallon Community Embraces Local Recycling



A posted sign at the Fallon Transfer Station displays the recycling hours, helping residents plan their sustainable drop-offs efficiently. Staff photo.

Staff Report

A simple way to support sustainability efforts in a small rural town like Fallon, Nevada, is to recycle. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, recycling offers the following benefits: conserving natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving energy, and reducing waste and pollution.

Recycling is considered the third step in sustainability, after reducing and reusing consumer items. Drop-off recycling bins are available to the community at the Fallon Transfer Station, located at 2900 Enterprise Way, on the northeast side of Rattlesnake Hill, off Indian Lakes Road, about 4.5 miles from downtown Fallon. This station is open seven days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Whether new to recycling or an experienced recycler, there are important things to know that make recycling easier and more effective. One common issue is "wish cycling," the act of placing items in recycling bins without knowing if they are recyclable. This practice can lead to contamination and equipment failures, driving up the long-term cost of recycling.

To recycle properly, residents should learn what materials are accepted and how to prepare them for the bins. The Nevada Department of Environmental Protection provides clear online guidelines outlining what can and cannot be recycled in Nevada at ndep.nv.gov/nevada-recycles.

Acceptable items at the Fallon Transfer Station include books with bindings only, magazines, white paper (no junk mail), newspapers, aluminum cans, cat food cans, steel cans (tin) (no aerosol cans), colored #2 plastics, clear #2 plastics, and #1 plastics. Many containers are labeled with their recycling number.

Be sure the food and detergent containers intended for recycling are empty, clean, and dry. This extra step ensures there is no contamination during the recycling process. Simply rinse the items and store loosely to dry.

One item to avoid is plastic bags, which should not be thrown into recycling bins. These materials can disrupt the recycling

process and are not accepted at the local facility. Every few feet at the Fallon Transfer Station recycling center, there are signs that read: "No black bags." If you have plastic grocery store bags to recycle, the center entrance at Walmart has a recycling bin for this purpose.

City of Fallon employees at the Fallon Transfer Station report a steady flow of community members who bring recyclable materials each day. Due to this steady participation, the station's recycling bins are emptied daily, and their contents are sent to the next processing center called a Material Recovery Facility (MRF). Waste Management operates the Eco Center Material Recovery facility in Reno, where recyclables from northern Nevada are sorted, processed, and prepared for recycling. This facility also sorts recyclables from waste streams using magnets to extract aluminum and tin, and a human sorter who extracts other recyclables. Once the materials are sorted and baled, they are sold to customers as feedstock for new products. MRFs play a vital role in the recycling process.

To recycle properly, residents should learn what materials are accepted and how to prepare them for the bins.

According to Jim Cork, Transfer Station staff, the local process is sometimes disrupted when individuals leave garbage or items that do not belong in the recycling bins. In these instances, city employees take proactive steps to remove any non-recyclable materials, ensuring that only acceptable items proceed through the recycling process. Unfortunately, if garbage is mixed with significant amounts of liquids or other contaminants, the entire contents of the recycling bin may need to be discarded, preventing those materials from being recycled.

Overall, Cork said that Fallon residents do a good job at recycling and follow guidelines well.

Fallon Farmer Modernizes Family Hay Ranch

By Nancy Chapman

Chris Gomes, a third-generation Fallon farmer, is carrying on his family's tradition of hay farming, a legacy that started with his grandfather, Constantino, in 1935.

Constantino first arrived in the United States from the Azores Islands off Portugal in 1917, earning citizenship in Yreka, Calif., according to the Sept. 20, 1968, issue of the Fallon Eagle Standard. After several trips between the Azores and the U.S., he settled in Fallon and worked at what is now Dodge Island Ranch, eventually purchasing nearby property. His son, Louis Gomes, was born there, and hay production methods were markedly different at the time.

"The alfalfa was mowed in five-foot swaths, raked into windrows, cross-raked into bunches, and loaded onto wagons by hand," Chris Gomes recalled. Hay was stacked with a derrick, forming oblong stacks of about 25 to 35 tons each, with two harvests per season, the first after July 4 and the second beginning in September, the Eagle Standard reported.

At age 7, Louis and his family returned to the Azores, where they remained until he was in his twenties. Louis came back to Fallon, arriving by train in Hazen during a snowstorm. "My dad had to wonder what he had done, leaving a tropical island for this," Chris joked. Louis eventually returned to the ranch on Schurz Highway, now Miller Ranch, and moved his young family closer to Fallon, settling on Allen Road and starting an alfalfa operation on 80 acres.

Louis and his brother Johnny bought neighboring properties, with Louis focusing on hay and Johnny operating Gomes Dairy. Over time, Louis expanded the ranch, acquiring adjacent parcels, which were irrigated and harvested separately.

He was also the first in Fallon to purchase a Harobed, a hay-loading machine named by its inventor, Gordon Grey, after his daughter Deborah. Harobed is Deborah spelled backward.



Nathan Moffitt, nephew of Chris and Samantha Gomes, helps at the family ranch.

The new equipment greatly sped up hay stacking, and 90 percent of the hay was shipped to California dairies. After haying season, livestock would graze the property, a tradition that now continues with only sheep. "Sheep don't bring in weeds like cattle do," Chris said, guaranteeing clean, weed-free hay.

Chris leased the property from his parents, Louis and Nancy, in 1988 and began modernizing nearly 400 acres, making irrigation, farming, and hay processing more efficient. He grows alfalfa, teff, and a three-grain rotational hay. By removing sand hills, leveling fields, and adjusting ditches and fence lines, the property was consolidated into one large field, simplifying irrigation.

Chris starts the hay season in late May with four cuttings throughout the season, yielding an average of 2,400 tons annually. The hay is swathed, raked, baled, and picked up by Harrow Beds—renamed by New Holland in 1962—and stacked in barns. Alongside his wife, Samantha, and daughter, Jessica, the ranch employs three full-time workers, including Brian, who has been with the ranch for more than 25 years.

The Gomes Ranch has evolved from producing two crops a year, yielding 25 to 35 tons, to producing 2,400 tons annually. Today, 90 percent of the hay is sold within the valley, reflecting the impact of improved equipment and technology on the family's enduring legacy.

Churchill County December Business Licenses

Business Name	Mailing Address	Type of Business
Enamel Salon	2170 Reno Hwy.	Full Service Salon and Retail
ARID Guitars LLC	2235 Smart Ln.	Custom Guitar Building
Mannered Mutts LLC	6150 Cox Rd.	Dog Care Services (except Veterinarian)
Dirt Tech LLC	581 Needles Ct	Excavation
Julie's Sign Shoppe, Inc.	125 E. Glendale Ave.	Signage Manufacturing & Installation
Vasko Electric Inc.	4300 Astoria St.	Contractor
Battle Born Home Services	3173 Schindler Rd.	Handyman

Business Owner Name
Alisha Hill
Benjamin Gallegos
Jennifer Clark

Brian Hearold



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Commission Meeting Summary

By Rachel Dahl

The Churchill County Planning Commission took action on several land-use matters during the Wednesday, Jan. 14 meeting, including resolving a long-standing special use permit issue, recommending approval of two parcel map applications, and setting the stage for upcoming code cleanup workshops.

Under old business, commissioners reviewed the status of a special use permit previously granted in 2020 to Shalina Hoisington for a home-based horse boarding operation at 425 Bench Road. At the December meeting, the commission had initiated revocation proceedings after the permit holder failed to meet conditions and did not attend scheduled hearings.

Public Works and Planning staff reported that Hoisington has since brought the permit fully into compliance. According to staff, all required state and county documentation has now been completed, and the business license fee was paid earlier on the day of the meeting.

With confirmation that all conditions of approval had been met, the commission unanimously voted to cease revocation proceedings and to end the annual review requirement for the permit.

In new business, commissioners considered a parcel map application submitted by Joe and Lori

Werlinger to divide a 40.45-acre property at 3434 Crest Place into two lots. The proposal would separate an existing second residence onto a 9.11-acre parcel, with both parcels continuing to use existing wells, septic systems, and access from Crest Place.

Staff noted that, while no major issues were identified, the application would formalize the road easements that currently exist within the federal canal and drainage easements. The applicants were also reminded of the requirement to dedicate two acre-feet of water per lot for non-irrigated uses.

Following brief clarification regarding parcel numbering on the map, the commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Board of County Commissioners, subject to staff conditions and acceptance of access easements.

Commissioners also reviewed a merger and re-subdivision application from Friendly Business Park, LLC, involving approximately 163.78 acres along Inland Port Drive. The proposal merges two existing parcels and re-divides the land into four lots of varying sizes.

Staff explained that the same map had previously been approved in 2023 but expired due to delays in securing required signatures. Those issues have since been resolved, and the revised map incorporates updated access, easement

abandonment approvals, stormwater protections, and corrections to road names and addressing.

One key change addressed historic access challenges to land northeast of the railroad tracks, which now has legal access through agreements with the Bureau of Land Management. The map also reflects approval of a gated private road, replacing a former public road to accommodate site security while preserving emergency and infrastructure access.

The commission voted 7-0 to recommend approval of the re-subdivision to the Board of County Commissioners.

In other business, staff announced a workshop scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27, to review proposed changes to the Churchill County Consolidated Development Code. Planned changes include revisions to the E-1 zoning district, lot dimension standards, accessory dwelling unit language, and recently adopted industrial zoning provisions.

Staff also outlined plans to remove technical design standards from the code and place them into a separate design and development manual, which will include more than 100 new engineered standard details and hydrology requirements.

Before adjourning, commissioners requested that a review of the Planning Commission bylaws be placed on the agenda for the February 11 meeting.

CNHD Reports High Flu Cases, Approves Reorganization

By Sydney Trainor

On Jan. 15, the Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) Board of Health held a meeting to discuss structural changes, funding, and leadership reorganization. The board reappointed Ken Tedford as chair for 2026. They also appointed Don Witten to serve as vice chair. Additionally, the board corrected conflicting language in their bylaws and clarified that board members serve two-year terms, removing prior references to one-year terms.

The board considered removing the administrator doctor position and reorganizing the leadership structure. Previously, the board had approved structure two, which combined an administrator and a doctor into a single position. However, when this was presented to the Churchill County Board of Commissioners, concerns were raised about cost, as about 64 percent of the salary would have to be paid by the county initially. Because of this, the Board of Health recommended structure one, which establishes a clear administrative structure with specific leadership roles. A motion was made to approve an updated organizational chart, utilizing structure one and removing the administrator doctor position, which was approved.

The board reviewed a proposed adjustment to the administrator's pay scale following changes to the organizational structure. The administrator pay scale was approved at Grade 85, which increased from Grade 77. This change, intended to improve recruitment after unsuccessful hiring attempts, was approved unanimously.

The board also proposed an expedited hiring process for the CNHD administrator. This authorized the chair to oversee advertising and screening, conduct interviews, negotiate and hire a top candidate up to step 10, and return the final selection to the board for ratification. Chair Ken Tedford noted that the streamlined approach is intended to avoid delays, following previous hiring efforts that were unsuccessful and left the position vacant for nearly a year. The motion passed unanimously, with the goal of bringing a candidate forward by the next meeting or sooner.

The board ratified a \$10,400 grant for chronic disease prevention and management programs. The grant is intended to provide outreach and education within communities regarding chronic disease and disease investigation. They also ratified a subaward grant of \$43,006 from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and

Behavioral Health, to CNHD to expand youth development in Mineral, Churchill, Eureka, and Pershing counties.

The board reviewed a grant-funded agreement with KPS3 to create a public health data dashboard. The dashboard will display outbreaks, trends, and case data. Funding ends Jan. 31, so this requires immediate launch. The agreement was approved for \$30,000. They also reviewed a contract with KPS3 to redesign the CNHD website, including a full redesign and one year of maintenance. Improvements will include accessibility, online applications, dashboards, and service navigation. The \$72,925 agreement was approved unanimously.

Security upgrades for CNHD's annex building were reviewed, and the board approved \$59,307.24 for the purchase of security equipment. This includes cameras, mag locks, and remote monitoring. It is 100% grant funded through SB 118.

Fiscal Officer Shasta Garrison provided a Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Report highlighting year-to-date financials. This showed \$822,619.88 in revenue collected, or about 31 percent of the budgeted amount, and just over \$840,000 in expenditures, or roughly 34 percent, placing the district slightly under budget midyear. Garrison noted that revenue figures are expected to increase significantly as additional county assessments and grant payments are received.

Under staff reports, Tedd McDonald, M.D., announced that the current respiratory virus season has been more severe than expected, driven by Influenza A, with 360 confirmed cases, 23 hospitalizations, and one fatality. He also warned of rising measles cases nationally and regionally, noting a recent case in Reno.

Board members expressed concern over declining vaccination rates and discussed growing public doubt following the COVID-19 pandemic. McDonald noted that Nevada will not adopt recent CDC recommendations to reduce vaccine schedules and is instead finalizing policies to strengthen shared clinical decision-making and documentation.

The board emphasized the need for clearer, shorter, and more accessible public health messaging through social media, dashboards, and a redesigned website to better reach families and improve community understanding.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

School Board Updates and Approvals

By Rachel Dahl

During their recent board meeting, school district trustees heard from consultants regarding the ongoing search for the district's next superintendent. Keith Lewis of ModernEducateHR reported strong early interest and engagement. Since the district finalized its superintendent profile and launched recruitment in December, the search website has received more than 600 visits, with increased traffic in recent weeks.

The position has been advertised through multiple national and regional professional associations, including superintendent and administrator organizations in Nevada and neighboring states. Consultants reported that several completed applications have already been received, with additional candidates in progress, and said stakeholder surveys are expected to be distributed shortly to gather community input.

Board members expressed appreciation for the organization and the transparency of the process and said they were encouraged by early response rates.

Trustees unanimously approved the district's audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, following a presentation from auditors with Hinton Burdick CPAs.

The audit resulted in an unmodified, or "clean," opinion, the highest level an auditor can issue. Auditors reported no findings related to federal programs and noted the district operated within approved budgets across all funds.

Financial highlights included an overall increase of approximately \$892,000 in government

fund balances and a general fund unassigned balance of \$8.5 million, representing more than three and a half months of operating reserves. Auditors noted one recurring internal control deficiency related to segregation of duties, attributed to recent staffing transitions, which district leaders said is expected to be resolved going forward.

The board also approved the district's annual investment report, which included changes designed to improve interest earnings on district funds.

District officials reported consolidating accounts into a public funds sweep account that automatically transfers idle cash into interest-bearing accounts overnight. As part of the change, a separate savings account holding approximately \$3 million was closed and transferred into the higher-yield structure. Trustees discussed ensuring student activity funds are both accessible for student use and managed responsibly.

Superintendent Derild Parsons and Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Drinkett presented a revised Campus Beautification and Maintenance Plan, emphasizing transparency, communication, and public engagement.

The plan, which will be published online as a living document, outlines ongoing and planned maintenance, beautification, and improvement efforts across district campuses. A dedicated facilities email address has been established to allow community members to submit concerns or suggestions, and future updates will include photos and project status reports.

Trustees commented on the clarity and design of the plan, noting it provides better visibility into

work already underway and long-term facility goals. No formal action was required, as the plan serves as a management and communication tool rather than a board-controlled document.

Following the presentation, the board unanimously approved updates to the district's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which governs funding for major facility projects.

Highlighted items include investments in campus security, such as electronic locking systems, door replacements, fencing, and integration of safety systems; upgrades to athletic facilities and lighting; and ongoing repairs and renovations at older campuses. Trustees noted the district remains in a healthy capital position, with projects rolling forward as needed and balances sufficient to support planned improvements.

The board also approved district-funded hiring incentives for the 2026-27 school year, allowing administrators to move forward with recruitment while awaiting delayed state funding tied to Assembly Bill 398. District leaders said early authorization is critical to remaining competitive in attracting and retaining staff. The board also approved hiring incentives for new licensed teachers beginning in the 2026-27 school year.

New licensed teachers will receive a one-time \$2,000 taxable incentive, payable on August 20, 2026, while new special education licensed teachers will receive a \$3,000 taxable incentive on the same date. In both cases, if a teacher does not complete their first and second-year contracts, the district reserves the right to prorate the incentive based on days worked and recoup the remaining balance from the employee's final paycheck.

COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, Jan. 13, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

By Teresa Moon

Lauren Nicole Gilmore appeared for sentencing on a Category E felony charge of Possession of a Controlled Substance, a First or Second Offense, to which she pleaded guilty on July 13.

Judge Stockard suspended proceedings, placed Gilmore on probation, and ordered her to complete the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court. He also ordered that progress reports be submitted to the court and the Division of Parole and Probation (P&P), and that a review hearing be set for Oct. 13.

Richard Anthony Davis appeared for sentencing on Burglary of a Business, a Category C Felony, which he pleaded guilty to on Nov. 4.

Court Services Director Brenda Ingram reported Davis has been on Court Services for 307 days, had 71 negative random tests and one positive for methamphetamine and alcohol, and has been cooperative with Court Services.

Senior Deputy District Attorney (SDDA) Chelsea Sanford told the court, "Very rarely do we actually have a defendant who says, 'If I could go back in time, I wouldn't do it,' not to avoid the legal problems, but because he's ashamed." She said Davis, along with four others, took on a large job that spiraled out of control, became driven by greed, and planned and executed a burglary.

"What sets this defendant apart from other defendants we typically see is ... what he did afterwards," Sanford said. She told the court that, based on Davis's conduct following the crime and his contrition, the state was asking for a suspended sentence of 24–60 months. Sanford encouraged Davis to distance himself from the group he had been involved with and from Frontier Drilling.

Churchill County Public Defender (CCPD) Jacob Sommer told the court about the transformation he has seen in Davis. Sommer said becoming a father had opened Davis's eyes, and that he is now employed full-time and engaged in positive interests he had not pursued for some time.

Sommer also said he and Davis discussed the importance of building a support system to rely on when challenges arise. "Mr. Davis is a good man who has a good heart, who made some really bad decisions; and to his credit, he genuinely and

sincerely feels remorse for what he's done."

Davis told the court that bonding with his son "has been an experience I didn't know was humanly possible." Davis added, "I do wish that I could take back what happened. And it is because it wasn't right."

Judge Stockard granted Davis probation on a suspended 24–60-month sentence, ordered a substance abuse evaluation, and prohibited contact with Frontier Drilling and his four co-defendants.

Judge Stockard told Davis, "You're right; you have a lot to be ashamed of for what you did. You also have a lot to take credit for. You've got a good job. You have remorse. You're moving forward. And you're a father ... so, keep building on that."

Michael Dwayne Alliston appeared for sentencing on a Category C felony charge of Burglary of a Business, to which he pleaded guilty on Nov. 4.

"The state respectfully asks that this defendant be held responsible for his crime," Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford told the court. "He doesn't quite understand that this action has consequences." Sanford recommended probation on a suspended sentence of 12–36 months in prison and asked for a fine of up to \$8,000 should Alliston be placed on probation. She noted that Alliston deactivated an alarm so the burglary could be committed. "This was not a crime of opportunity," Sanford said. "This is one that was planned out, where he used his skills and knowledge to commit this offense."

Churchill County Alternate Public Defender Wright Noel agreed a suspended prison term was appropriate, stating, "I think the state is correct that a stiff penalty suspended over Mr. Alliston would be a good resolution here." Noel said his client recognizes the need to make serious changes and is currently involved in a long-term program at Union Gospel.

Alliston told the court the program has been the biggest change in his life and that it was long overdue. He said he now understands the seriousness of his actions and accepts responsibility, stating, "At this point, whatever falls upon my shoulders, I accept that penalty." He reported that he had entered a 10-month treatment program that includes random testing, assistance with employment, and housing upon reentry.

Judge Stockard granted Alliston probation on

a suspended 24–60-month sentence, ordered him to complete the Union Gospel program in California, and ordered \$3,800 in restitution related to extradition costs.

Charles Marvin Lee, in custody, appeared for sentencing on Possession of a Firearm by a Person Convicted of Domestic Violence, a Category B felony, and Unlawful Acts Relating to Human Excrement or Bodily Fluid Without Disease, a gross misdemeanor, both to which Lee pleaded guilty on Nov. 4.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills urged the court to deny probation, stating, "When this court is considering whether this defendant is appropriate for probation, we really need to look at the sheer number of convictions he has ... Seventeen convictions, 10 incarcerations." Mills noted Lee had received multiple suspended sentences and opportunities in the past, arguing, "This is not a probation case."

Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer responded that Lee's prior convictions were all misdemeanors, "This day will be the first day that Mr. Lee is now officially a convicted felon," Sommer said, acknowledging his client's conduct was unacceptable and largely driven by alcohol use.

Sommer quoted from a victim statement, "My work boots had blood spit on them while trying to assist Charles with his injuries. He was uncooperative and resisted my efforts to help him." Sommer said the behavior was not acceptable "by any stretch of the imagination," but argued Lee performs better under supervision and asked the court to impose an underlying sentence and grant probation so Lee could "prove it."

Lee told the court, "I do take full ownership of the problems that I caused." He said he contacted law enforcement himself, acknowledged breaking the law and making poor decisions, and left sentencing to the court.

On the felony charge, Judge Stockard sentenced Lee to 14–60 months in prison and ordered restitution of \$674.59. On the gross misdemeanor, Stockard sentenced Lee to 364 days in jail and fined him \$1,000, with the sentences to run concurrently. Lee was remanded to the sheriff's custody.

Jose Carlos Trujillo's sentencing was continued to February 10.

DeWitt Sentenced to 8 – 20 in Sexual Assault Case

By Teresa Moon

Brian Keith DeWitt, in state custody, appeared for sentencing in the Tenth Judicial District Court before Judge Thomas Stockard on Jan. 16, 2026. In November, DeWitt entered an Alford plea to the Category B felony of Attempt to Commit Sexual Assault on a Child Under the Age of 14. In an Alford plea, a defendant does not admit guilt but accepts the consequences associated with a guilty plea.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker asked the court to impose the maximum sentence allowable under the law, and for it to run consecutively to the Carson City case DeWitt is already serving in the Nevada Department of Corrections for similar offenses.

Baker began sentencing by stating that a father is a daughter's "first sense of safety; he is often the person who makes the world seem less scary," and that "to a girl, it means helping her grow up knowing that she is valued, capable, deeply loved, and that the world is something she can meet with confidence."

Baker told the court that DeWitt, the stepfather, took that role and used it to victimize and harm. She said DeWitt had sexually abused his own daughters, then moved to the area, remarried, and began abusing his new stepdaughter, who indicated the abuse began when her mother left town to attend a funeral. "He took that opportunity to sexually victimize this young child," Baker said.

According to Baker, the victim became fearful whenever her mother left her alone with DeWitt and would hide under clothing in her mother's room. "But the defendant would still find her," Baker said, also stating that DeWitt blamed his conduct on mental health issues, alcohol use, marijuana use, or a combination of those factors.

DeWitt claimed to remember "how happy she was to have another father figure, and that all their happiness then and now means the world to him. He wonders how to give that happiness back. He can't give it back, Your Honor," Baker added. "Abusing a child like this does not create happiness; it creates intense and confusing emotions. It creates a sense of fear. No place is safe."

Baker explained that the biological parents of the victim were involved in plea negotiations and agreed to the lesser count of attempted sexual assault to avoid trial and having their child relive this abuse again by testifying. The original charges included two counts of Sexual Assault on a Child Under the Age of 14 and Lewdness with a Child Under the Age of 14.

Baker asked Judge Stockard to "give this young victim her own separate justice, to impose a sentence in hopes that this victim will learn that she doesn't have to feel shameful, she doesn't have to feel fearful, she doesn't



Brian DeWitt. Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff's Office.

have to feel guilty, she doesn't have to feel sadness. She is the victim."

Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer said his client does not dispute the seriousness of the offense.

"The issue before the court is not whether punishment is warranted, for it clearly is. But the issue is what sentence best serves the interests of justice and public safety." He asked the court for a punishment that remains proportionate in individual cases, which he said, "preserves the principle that punishment should be calibrated to both culpability and actual harm."

According to Sommer, the record shows DeWitt's risk can be managed and reduced through structured supervision. He noted DeWitt will be required to register as a sex offender and will be subject to lifetime supervision.

"Mr. DeWitt has accepted responsibility

for an offense with an aim to reduce the trauma to individuals who are affected," Sommer said.

Sommer said research shows that "early and intensive treatment and supervision reduces the risk of re-offense," and that such measures are more effective than incarceration alone. He asked the court to impose a sentence that combines accountability, close monitoring, and mandatory treatment.

DeWitt addressed the court, stating he did not remember these events, "Damaging your child forever is the biggest fear every parent has ... When I look at the things in this report it makes me want to throw up ... I don't want any of this to reflect what she may or may not have gone through because I personally do not know ... I don't want this to be some kind of repetitive generational thing, so I hope that she can get counseling as well."

It was clarified that an earlier report incorrectly stated DeWitt was serving two 20-year-to-life sentences. DeWitt is serving a combined 20-year term, with the earliest possible release date of 2044. Judge Stockard sentenced DeWitt to 8–20 years in prison, to run consecutive to his existing sentence, moving his earliest possible release date to 2052.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker asked the court to impose the maximum sentence allowable under the law, and for it to run consecutively to the Carson City case DeWitt is already serving in the Nevada Department of Corrections for similar offenses.

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera, with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

STUDENTS CELEBRATE NATIONAL MILK DAY

Oasis Academy students, faculty, and community partners came together to celebrate National Milk Day on Thursday, January 8. Thanks to generous contributions from Model Dairy, Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), and local dairy Jared and Katrina Laca, students from kindergarten through 12th grade received a complimentary carton of milk. Students were also able to dress in cow and agriculture-themed attire for the day.

National Milk Day, observed each year on January 11, was established to honor the first organized milk shipment in the United States in 1878 and to promote the value of dairy products in a balanced diet. Milk is an excellent source of calcium, protein, and essential vitamins, nutrients that support growing bodies and healthy lifestyles.

"This is the fifth year we've celebrated Milk Day. We're thrilled to partner with community organizations that help us celebrate both healthy habits and the importance of local agriculture," said Shannon Garcia, K-6 Vice Principal. "Giving each student a carton of milk not only honored the day's traditions but reminded us of the impact of local dairies in our community."

The dairy industry is a key part of agriculture in Churchill County. Agriculture accounts for hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in economic output. In fact, dairy cattle and milk production have historically been among the top contributors to the county's agricultural output.

Churchill County is home to one of the highest concentrations of dairy cows in Nevada, with around 14,000 head cared for by local producers whose work supports both local needs and broader industry demands.

OASIS JUNIORS PREPARE FOR ACT SUCCESS THROUGH ANNUAL PREP COURSE

Junior students are getting a head start on college readiness through the school's annual ACT preparation course. The course is offered each year between the fall and spring semesters.

The course is designed to build confidence and improve exam performance. It walks students through the key components needed to succeed on the ACT while familiarizing them with the exam's structure and expectations.

Taught by Oasis High School faculty, the class covers all major sections of the ACT, including English, Math, Reading, and Science. In addition



Addison Sweeney and Shayana McNamer enjoyed free milk during National Milk Day at Oasis Academy.

to content review, students learn valuable test-taking strategies, such as time management, question analysis, and pacing. They also cover valuable information on the importance of nutrition and hydration for test-taking. These skills help students approach the test strategically rather than feeling overwhelmed by its format or time constraints.

"Students have committed themselves to thorough ACT preparation," said Andy Lenon, 7-12 Vice Principal. "I take pleasure in teaching them the Slight Edge Theory, which focuses on achieving success through small, consistent, positive daily habits and the idea of marginal gains, making small improvements that lead to substantial progress. My section covers topics such as nutrition, hydration, sleep, and insights into college admissions. It is an honor to help them come in primed to take the ACT."

By the time juniors sit for the ACT later in the spring, they are better prepared and more confident in their abilities. The school has seen how the class has helped students improve their test scores.

The annual prep course reflects Oasis's commitment to supporting students academically and equipping them with tools that will benefit them beyond the classroom as they begin planning for college and future opportunities.

TEACHER USES DONORSCHOOSE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS THROUGH FOOD PANTRY AND SNACK PROGRAM

The Oasis Offerings Food and Hygiene Pantry is making a difference beyond the classroom walls by addressing a challenge many students face every day: hunger.

Through a successful DonorsChoose project

that raised more than \$3,000, led by Melinda Santos, Oasis Offerings secured vital funding to provide nutritious snacks for students and essential items for families. This support helps ensure students have consistent access to food and basic necessities throughout the year. The project arrives at a critical moment, as more than one-third of Oasis Academy students live in low-income housing and face food insecurity.

"Our students come to school each day eager to learn, grow, and succeed, but many face challenges outside the classroom that directly affect their ability to focus and thrive," Santos said. "A significant number of students experience food insecurity, unstable housing, or limited access to basic hygiene supplies."

The initiative provides nutritious snacks, emergency lunches, and hygiene and laundry items that students and families can access during the school day, after school, and year-round through the school food pantry. These resources help remove barriers that can interfere with learning and emotional well-being.

"For these students, having reliable access to food and personal care items is not just about comfort. It's about dignity, health, and the ability to fully participate in learning," she explained.

Teachers often see firsthand how hunger affects students' ability to concentrate and regulate their emotions.

"Something as simple as a snack can prevent behavior struggles, tears, or a student trying to learn while feeling sick from hunger," Santos added.

"When students are hungry or worried about basic needs, academics become secondary."

The success of the project was made possible by generous donors who believed in the mission and stepped forward to help. Their contributions are already making an immediate impact.

The teacher expressed heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported the project, emphasizing that the effects go far beyond the supplies themselves.

"Every time a student takes a snack, receives a lunch, or uses a hygiene kit, your impact is felt immediately and meaningfully," Santos said.

"Your kindness goes beyond funding supplies—it sends a powerful message to our students: You matter. You are cared for. You are supported."

Oasis Offerings is managed by a dedicated team of volunteer teachers, including Kelly Nott, Nicole Hyde, Michal Horn, and Jami Rowlett. To learn more about Oasis Offerings Food and Hygiene Pantry or to donate contact Kelly Nott at knott@oanv.org.

Veritas Preparatory School: Classical and Christian Holiday Celebrations Highlight a Spirit of Service

By Gretchen Felte with photos courtesy of Veritas.

As the school year drew to a close, Veritas Preparatory School marked the holiday season with joyful classroom celebrations that went beyond festivities and treats. 2025's end-of-the-year holiday parties emphasized service, gratitude, and community, giving students meaningful opportunities to bless others while celebrating together.

In a heartwarming display of mentorship and kindness, 5th and 6th-grade students spent part of their holiday celebration reading books to K4 students. Gathered in classrooms and reading corners, the older students carefully selected stories and brought them to life for their younger peers through animated reading and gentle encouragement.

"We created our own Nativity books, complete with pictures, and then read them to the 4-year-olds. It was really fun," shared fifth-grade student Clara Ernst.

Teachers noted that the experience benefited both age groups - building confidence and leadership in the older students while creating a warm, memorable moment for the younger children.



Tennyson Hammond, Royal Mora, Trent Hallisey, and Clara Shaffer attended a holiday party where students celebrated the season through service, reading, and gratitude activities.

alongside academic excellence. The holiday season at Veritas focuses on the gift of the manger and the birth of Jesus. Students are encouraged to demonstrate God's love for us through service to one another.

As students begin the new year, they carry with them more than memories of parties and treats; they also carry lessons in kindness, gratitude, and community.

Weekly Highlights at Logos

By Brenna Goings with photos courtesy of Logos.



Alex proudly shares the colonial toy he crafted as part of a hands-on lesson about life in early America.

This week, Mrs. Jeanna's 1st and 2nd-grade students enjoyed a variety of engaging activities focused on colonial times. The class explored the history of colonial trades and learned about the types of work people did during that era. To bring history to life, students made colonial toys such as button cups and whirligigs.

The hands-on experience continued as students participated in a bartering activity, trading their handmade toys with friends to simulate how goods were exchanged in colonial communities. They also had the opportunity to act as Silversmiths by crafting their own "silver" plates, giving them a glimpse into an important colonial trade.

The week concluded with a memorable field trip to Fallon's Fox Peak Theatre, where the class watched the Angel Studios movie, "David." The students were excited to see their favorite Bible story come alive on the big screen, especially since Mrs. Mitchell's chapel sermon that week focused on David and his faithfulness.

EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD.

CCHS

Senior economics students recently wrapped up a semester-long online stock market simulation with a celebratory pizza party hosted by their teacher, Jeremy Sivers. The top 25 finishers enjoyed pizza, ice cream, and soda, all funded through the class snack shop fundraiser. Trevor Brown took first place and was awarded a custom-designed t-shirt. "He was very active in the simulation and turned his \$100K into over \$127K. Very impressive," Sivers said. The simulation provided students with hands-on experience in investing, financial decision-making, and analyzing market trends, offering a real-world application of economic principles learned in the classroom.

CCMS

Students in Darby Rowe and Mike Lipnisky's second-period sixth-grade physical education class have been developing their volleyball skills while also working on overall fitness. Last week, students finally had the opportunity to compete against one another in volleyball, challenging themselves to improve their techniques and strategies with every game. In addition to volleyball, several students dedicated time in the weightroom to increase strength and endurance, further supporting their physical development. Students will continue learning the value of teamwork, perseverance, and personal growth, while building both confidence and a variety of athletic skills during the second semester.

NUMA

Susannah Hooper-Howe's fourth-grade class participated in a social-emotional learning lesson led by school counselor Noreen Swenson. Students learned how their brains function and explored strategies to regulate their emotions effectively. They will continue these lessons weekly. Activities will include discussions, reflection exercises, and practical techniques for managing stress, frustration, and other feelings that arise in school and at home. By practicing these skills regularly, students are developing self-awareness, emotional regulation, and empathy, which contribute to both academic success and positive peer interactions. The lessons are designed to help students understand themselves and others, fostering a supportive classroom community.

E.C. BEST

Jenny Mitchell's second-grade class kicked off 2026 by setting personal goals to guide their growth for the year ahead. Each student identified a friendship goal, a home goal, and a school goal, reflecting on ways they can improve in different areas of their lives. Students were encouraged to think



Susannah Hooper-Howe's fourth-grade class diving into social-emotional lessons with school counselor Noreen Swenson.

about kindness, responsibility, and perseverance while being given a clear framework for personal development. Reflecting on their hopes and plans, the students are starting the year with purpose and positivity, ready to grow as friends and learners.

LAHONTAN

Rachel González's kindergarten class explored the States of Matter through the read-aloud "Sneezy the Snowman." Students read and retold the story while observing and experimenting with solids, liquids, and gases. Hands-on activities gave them a chance to see the properties of matter in action, reinforcing what they learned from the story. The lessons also helped students practice observation, collaboration, and communication as they shared their findings and discussed what they noticed about the materials they worked with.

NELC

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., Octavia Merritt's pre-K class participated in an art activity focused on kindness and shared one way they hope people can be kind to others, regardless of race, color, or background. Students also learned their colors and practiced staying in the lines and focused on coloring carefully.

SPORTS

Update:
**Greenwave
Basketball
Victories**

Staff Report

Churchill County High School's Greenwave varsity basketball squads continued their winning ways last week, notching key victories over Dayton and Elko before splitting games against Spring Creek.

The Greenwave boys edged Dayton 62-61 to improve to 10-6, then topped Elko 72-64 on Friday to push their record to 11-6. On Saturday, the boys fell to Spring Creek, 56-51, dropping to 11-7.

The Greenwave girls dominated Dayton 54-19 and Elko 49-29, led by standout performances from Karlie and Kortnie Simper. Saturday saw Churchill County roll past Spring Creek 41-12, with Kortnie Simper and Amillya Bishop powering the team to a 17-3 mark.

Churchill County returns to action Saturday, Jan. 24, hosting the Fernley Vaqueros. Girls' junior varsity tipoff is set for 3 p.m.

Great Job!



Oasis Academy's Emma Lewis dribbles down the court during Saturday's game against Silver Stage High School.

Photos by John Baker.



Oasis Academy's Jackson Snow attempts a shot from behind the rim during Saturday's game against Silver Stage High School.

Photos by John Baker.

Oasis, Silver, Stage Split Games

Staff Report

Silver Stage High School hosted Oasis Academy for a full slate of basketball games Saturday, Jan. 17, with both schools trading victories across four matchups.

Oasis Academy's JV girls rolled to a 32-9 win to open the day. Silver Stage responded in the

JV boys contest, pulling away late for a 38-28 victory.

On the varsity side, Oasis Academy's girls dominated, cruising to a 46-13 win. Silver Stage capped the event with a commanding 58-17 win in the boys' varsity game.

The Nighthawks and Bighorns will meet again later this season as both teams look to build momentum heading into league play.

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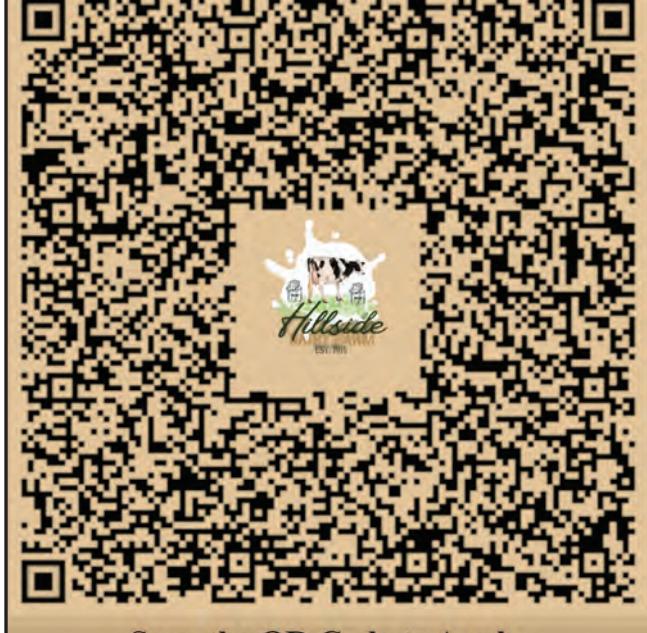
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COLUMNS

What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen

Chocolate Pot de Crème

A Small Way to Say "I Love You" On Any Day

By Kelli Kelly

Valentine's Day is coming up, and everywhere you look, there are reminders to make it special. Reservations, special menus, roses wrapped in plastic, chocolate boxes that look better than they taste. I don't begrudge any of that. If a fancy dinner out is your thing, enjoy it. I have certainly been known to splurge on a prix fixe menu while dining alone (or with my spouse) at the bar of a fancy restaurant.

But over the years, I've realized that I don't want love to live on the calendar. I want it to show up on a Tuesday. Or a Thursday night when everyone is tired and hungry, and the sink is already full.

I've always been drawn to the idea of love languages. Not as a quiz or a label, but as a way of noticing how people give and receive care. For some of us, that language is an act of service. Doing the thing that makes someone else's day easier. Anticipating a need. Paying attention.

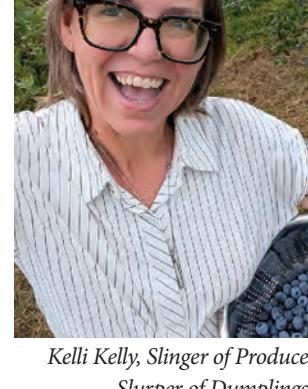
Cooking fits right there for me. Cooking says: I thought about you. I know what you like. You matter to me. It doesn't have to be elaborate. Some nights love looks like a pot of soup. Other nights, it's just making sure there's something warm on the table.

I also think we've gotten into the habit of saving the good stuff. The silver. The china. The dessert that feels "too special." The flowers we walk past at the store because there isn't a reason. But ordinary days are reasons.

By all means, celebrate Valentine's Day. Enjoy it. But don't stop there. Celebrate again next Thursday. And the Tuesday after that. Show love and care when it arrives without warning, when it isn't tied to a holiday or a reason. Those unexpected gestures, quiet and unannounced, are often the ones that mean the most.

Light a candle if you want. Or don't. The point isn't the performance. The point is the care.

Chocolate pot de crème is one of those desserts that feels special without asking much of you. It's rich and comforting, but not fussy. You can make it ahead, tuck it into the fridge, and pull it out when the moment feels right. It doesn't need perfect plating or matching dishes. A spoon, a little whipped cream, a handful of berries, and time to sit at the table together is enough. It's the kind of dessert that invites you to slow down, which might be the most generous thing you can offer on any day.



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



Ingredients

6 oz.	Good-quality dark chocolate, chopped
1 1/2 cups	Heavy cream
1/2 cup	Whole milk
3	Large egg yolks
1/4 cup	Sugar
Pinch	Salt
1 tsp.	Vanilla

For serving

Lightly sweetened whipped cream
Fresh berries

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 325°F. Set a kettle of water on to boil.
2. Place the chopped chocolate in a heatproof bowl.
3. In a saucepan, gently heat the cream and milk until they are just steaming. Do not boil.
4. Pour the hot cream mixture over the chocolate and let it sit for a minute, then stir until smooth.
5. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg yolks, sugar, salt, and vanilla. Slowly whisk the chocolate mixture into the eggs.
6. Pour into small ramekins or oven-safe cups. Place them in a baking dish and pour hot water around them, halfway up the sides.
7. Bake for about 30 to 35 minutes, until the centers are just set but still slightly wobbly.
8. Cool, then refrigerate for at least two hours.
9. Serve with whipped cream and berries.

This isn't a dessert you rush. It's one you sit with. One you make because you want to offer something gentle, rich, and intentional.

And maybe that's the real Valentine's message. Love doesn't need a single day. It just needs a little attention, offered often.

Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

The Fallon Theatre is gearing up for a busy winter and early spring, featuring a slate of crowd-pleasing movies, live music events, and a brand-new film festival spotlighting local storytellers.

On Friday and Saturday nights, moviegoers can catch "F1: The Movie" (2025) at 7 p.m. The film offers a high-octane, behind-the-scenes look at Formula One racing, charting the sport's intensity and drama. Rated PG-13, the movie runs 2 hours and 35 minutes.

Live music will take center stage next weekend when The Kindred North, an acoustic duo founded in Fallon, performs Friday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. Raena Blais and McKenzie Warren blend folk, country, and rock, delivering heartfelt harmonies and arrangements. Admission is \$12.

Rounding out January, the theatre will host its annual screening of "Operation Haylift," telling the story of the 1948-49 Nevada rescue effort when the U.S. Air Force delivered hay to snowbound cattle ranches, a pivotal chapter in state history.

February brings the Galentine's Show, with the Domesticated Man Band performing at 7 p.m. on Feb. 6 and 7. Admission is free. The

theatre will also host its annual Valentine's Day 5K fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 7, with registration open at 8 a.m. The cost is \$25 for individuals and \$40 per couple in advance.

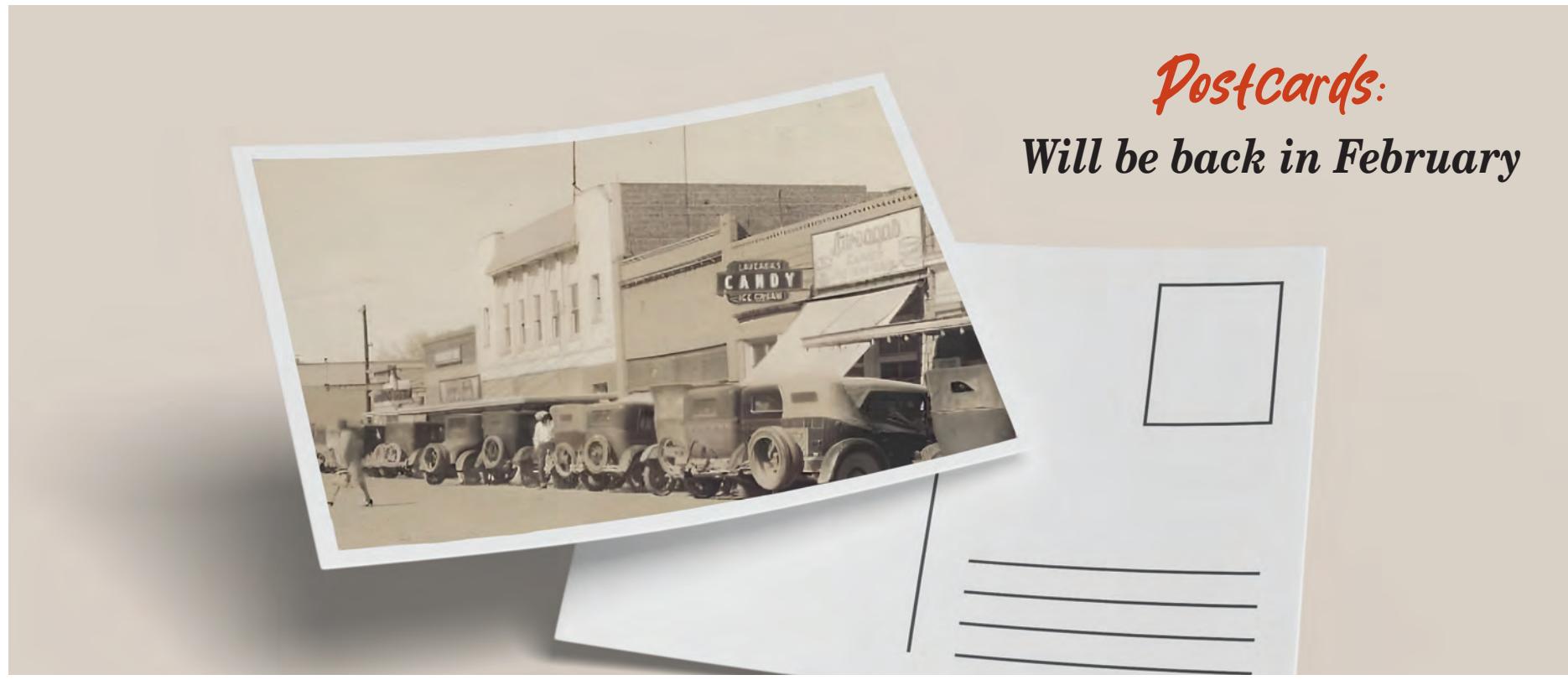
On Feb. 12, Kat & Dave: The Acoustic Rock Experience brings classic rock favorites to the stage at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Looking ahead, the Fallon Theatre will present "Heritage of the West" on March 7, 2026, a free event celebrating regional history through music, poetry, and storytelling. Organizers are inviting performers and historians to participate. Contact huck_salt@yahoo.com or call 775-423-2055.

The theatre also announced its inaugural Oasis Film Festival, "An Oasis for Storytellers," open to filmmakers of all experience levels. Entries must be PG-rated, no longer than 15 minutes, and inspired by the theme "America 250." The deadline is March 2, with a \$20 submission fee. Twelve finalists will be screened on March 8.

Behind the scenes, volunteers are upgrading the theatre's seating with newer, more comfortable chairs featuring cup holders and swivel arms. The Fallon Theatre continues to offer free movies when possible and classic concessions. For rental or marquee messages, call 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com.

COLUMNS



*Postcards:
Will be back in February*

Allison's Book Report

"The Invisible Wild" By Nikki Van De Car

By Allison Diegel

I'm still adjusting to being back from the balmy heat and endless sunshine of Hawaii, and I'm not going to lie – the cold winter weather here at home has been a shock after two full weeks of summer. I have been freezing. I am trying out a mind over matter approach by reading books that take me back to the sand and the sea, and this week's book is a perfect remedy – a whimsical, magical realism story set on the beautiful island of Maui - and I know that you will love it too.

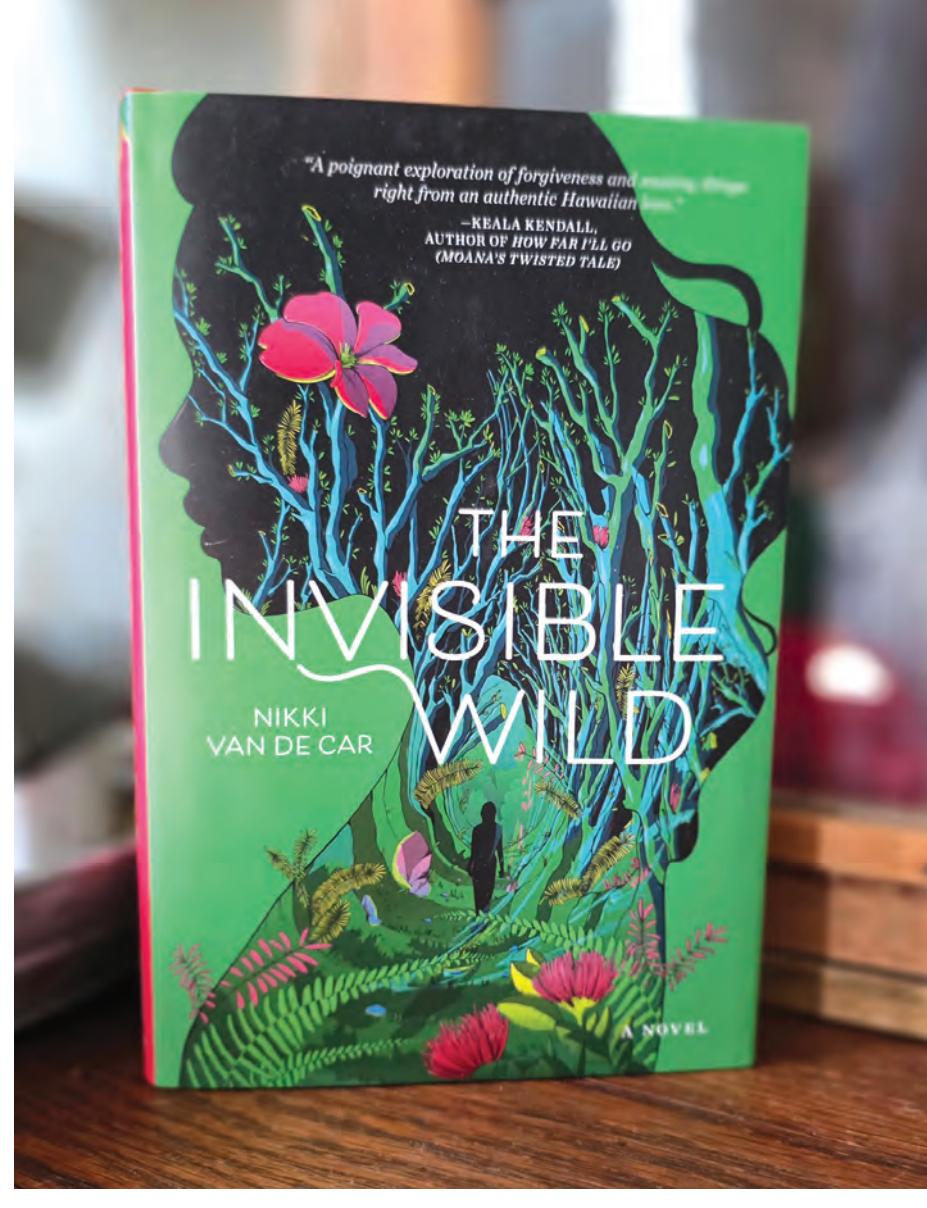
Set in the lush, spirit-charged landscape of Hawaii following the 2023 Maui fires, "The Invisible Wild" follows sixteen-year-old Emma, a Native Hawaiian teen who feels a bit stuck between worlds. Emma is "white-passing" and often struggles with whether she is "Hawaiian enough," despite her deep, soul-level connection to her home. Her summer is supposed to be about helping run her family's store and preparing for her sister's big wedding, but the island has other plans.

Everything shifts when Emma encounters a mysterious boy from Hilo in the woods. He's talking to logs and behaving as if he's seeing things no one else can. Emma soon realizes she can see them too: the Menehune, the legendary, small-statured forest dwellers of Hawaiian lore. These aren't just myths - they are very real, very grumpy, and very much in danger. A massive new resort development is threatening the forest they call home, and their desperation is starting to spill over into Emma's world - causing wedding decorations to tangle and tiles to go crooked as the spirits' unrest grows.

As Emma works to hide the "Hilo boy" and understand what the Menehune need, she is forced to confront the harsh reality of modern Hawaii: the friction between sacred ancestral lands and the relentless push of economic development. The story beautifully weaves together elements of magical realism with very real themes of environmental activism, indigenous sovereignty, and the complex journey of reclaiming one's identity.

By the end, Emma's journey isn't just about saving a forest or a group of spirits; it's about finding the courage to stand up for her heritage and realizing that her connection to the land is what defines her, not the way she looks. It's a heartfelt, urgent, and ultimately hopeful story about what happens when we stop ignoring the "invisible" parts of our world and start fighting for them.

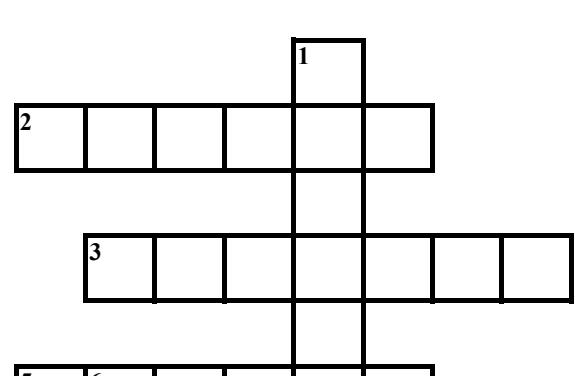
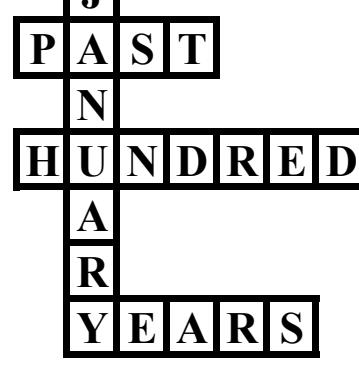
"The Invisible Wild" is a fun, quick read and the perfect salve for my bitter return to winter. I hope you enjoy this book – or whatever you're reading this week – and don't forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more book talk and to let me know what you think I should read next.



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

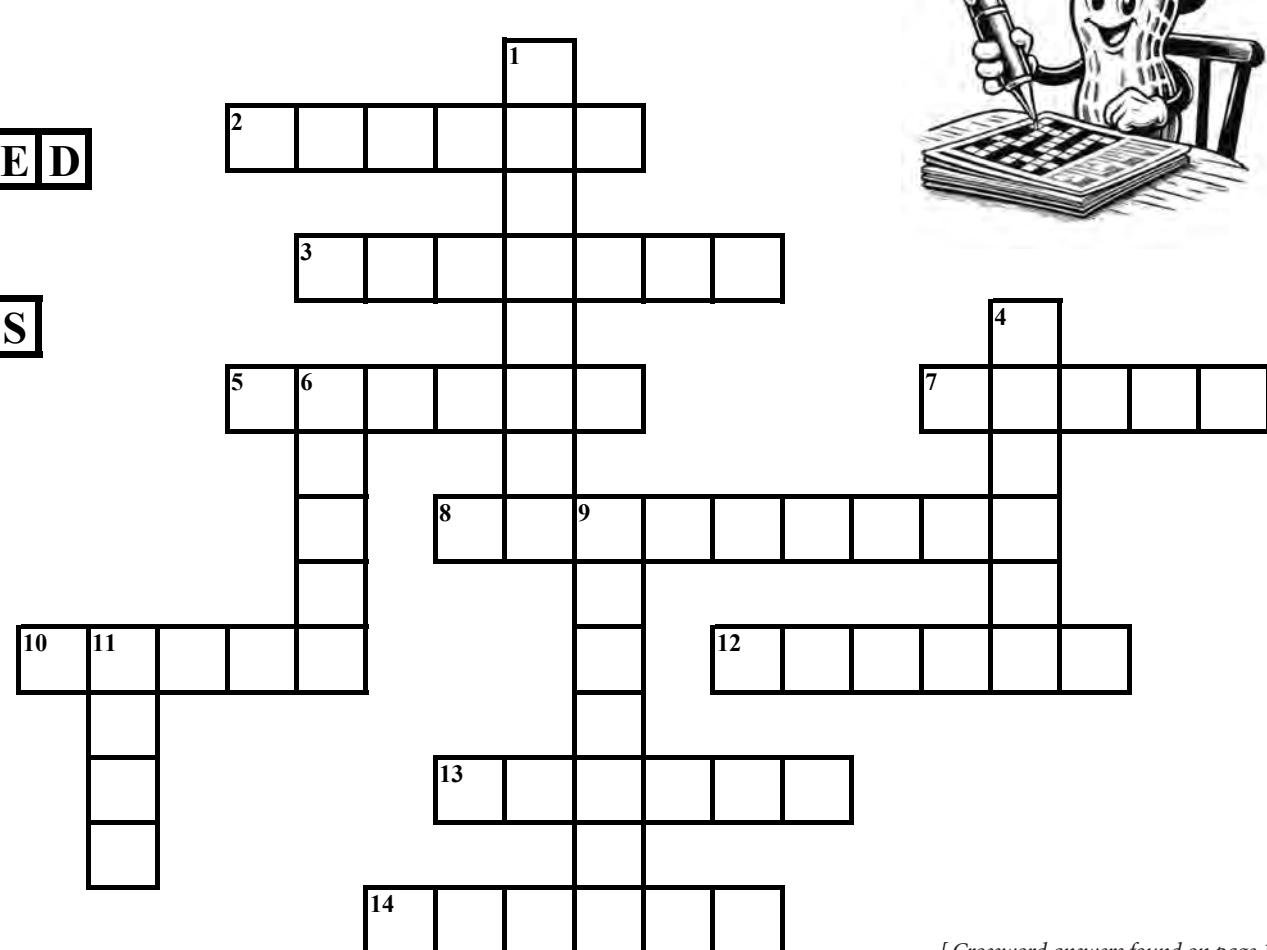


Across

2. 1930-Bonnie Parker met partner
3. 1946-Mom bought his 1st guitar
5. 1951-The Rest of the Story broadcaster
7. 2023-Published memoir "Spare"
8. 1929-Tarzan cartoon strip creator
10. 2014-Rejoined Fleetwood Mac
12. 2000-retired from Miami Dolphins
13. 1931-Electricity pioneer died
14. 1929-Missionary nun arrived in India

Down

1. 1968-1st undersea special on TV
4. 1980-The Far Side cartoonist
6. 1977-Wozniak/Jobs' company
9. 1959-Eastwood's TV series
11. 1959-Performed in San Quentin



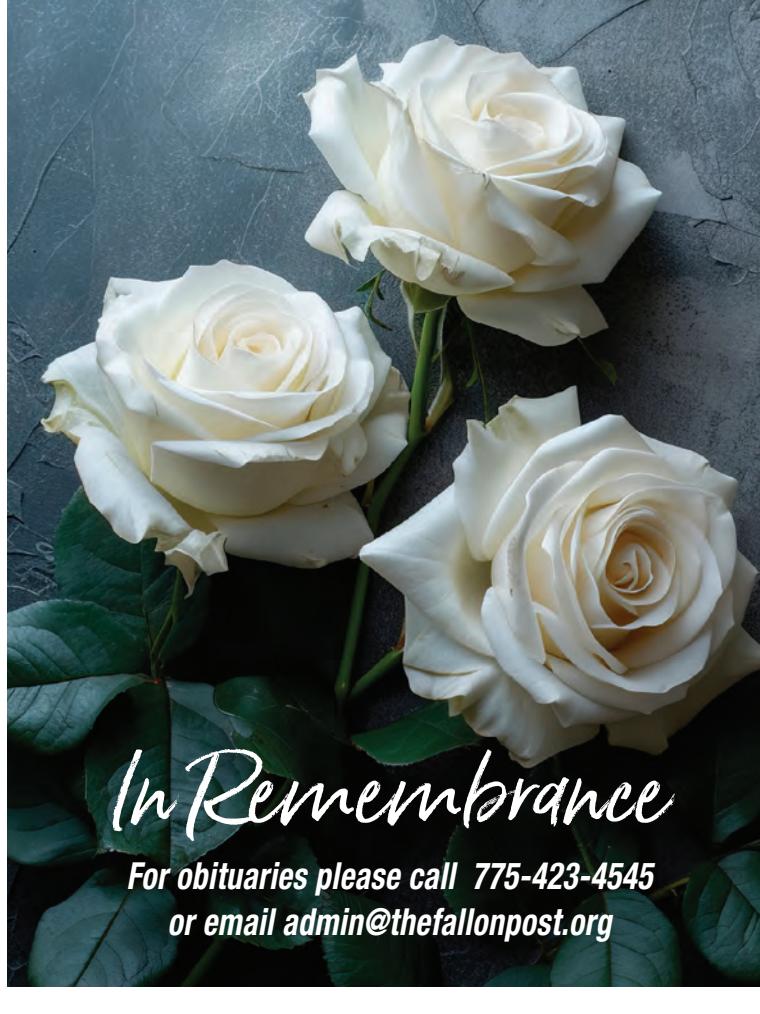
[Crossword answers found on page 14]

LEGAL NOTICES

<p>CASE NO. 25-10DC-1239 Dept. No. 1 AMBER L. MELLO 58 Venturacci Lane Fallon, Nevada 89406 775-225-8229</p> <p>IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CHURCHILL</p> <p>In the Matter of the Estate of SCOTT ALLEN MELLO, Deceased.</p> <p>NOTICE TO CREDITORS</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been duly appointed and qualified by the above-entitled court on the 6th day of January, 2026 as Administrator of the Estate of SCOTT ALLEN MELLO, deceased. ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to file the same with the proper vouchers attached, with the clerk of the court within SIXTY (60) days after the first publication of this Notice.</p> <p>DATED: This January 6, 2026.</p> <p>/s/ AMBER MELLO Administrator for the Estate</p> <p>Published in <i>The Fallon Post</i> January 9, 16, and 23, 2026 Ad #6417</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>A child was born to Meranda Bufkin in December 2023 in Fallon, Nevada and is now two (2) years old. The identity and whereabouts of the child's biological father are currently unknown.</p> <p>If you believe you may be the father, or if you have any information that may assist in identifying or locating the father, please contact:</p> <p>Sharlee Bufkin: 775-217-8394 Josh Bufkin: 209-968-2782</p> <p>All information will be handled confidentially.</p> <p>Published in <i>The Fallon Post</i> Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 2 and 13, 2026 Ad #6415</p>	<p>ONLINE AUCTION www.storagetreasures.com</p> <p>AUCTION ENDING Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026 at 9 a.m.</p> <p>A Street Storage 235 S Maine Street (office) Fallon, NV 89406</p> <p>Unit # A201 Carl LaCount Contents: Tool boxes, Guitar, Furniture, Misc. Household</p> <p>Published in <i>The Fallon Post</i> January 23, 2026 Ad #6424</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Commnet Wireless, LLC is proposing to install new wireless antennas on an existing Monopole located at 4025 Saint Clair Road, Fallon, Churchill County, Nevada 89406. The modifications will consist of the collocation of antennas not to exceed 126 feet tall on the 126 foot tall tower. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 250057289PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 617-715-1822.</p> <p>Published in <i>The Fallon Post</i> January 23, 2026 Ad #6416</p>
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CROSSWORD ANSWERS
Crossword found on page 13

APPLE	COUSTEAU	LARSON	RAWHIDE
BARROW	EDISON	MARINO	TERESA
BURROUGHS	HARRY	MCVIE	
CASH	HARVEY	PRESLEY	

December 2025 Divorces and Annulments

Miranda, Gabriela v. Guevara, Marvin Douglas	Decree of Divorce - Default
Beard, Jared M. & Beard, Alyssa R.	Decree of Divorce
Dennis Jr., Eric Marshall v. Dennis, Codie Mae	Decree of Divorce
Brown, Arianna & Madison, David	Decree of Divorce
Langevin, Thea & Langevin, Jeffery	Decree of Divorce
Rutta, Marianne G. & Rutta, Craig A.	Decree of Divorce
Irazoqui-Ordune, Rosa Elena v. Alcaraz, Jesus Fonseca	Decree of Divorce - Default
Robb, Lynn Marie & Robb, Dennis Joseph	Decree of Divorce
Desouza, Kristen Elizabeth & Cooper, Stephen Christopher	Decree of Divorce
Smith, Anastasiya Marie v. Duvall, Emily Lyn	Decree of Divorce - Default
Siewart, Roxanne & Christiansen, Mick	Decree of Divorce
Zhang, Chuiyi & Shaw, Bradley Joseph	Decree of Divorce
Christy, Karena v. Christy, Bryson	Decree of Divorce - Default
Shoemaker, Zanete & Shoemaker, Benjamin Warren	Decree of Divorce
Langner, Ari J. & Langner, Jaime	Decree of Divorce
Camacho, Jesus & Barrios, Diana	Decree of Divorce
Lambert, Tyler & Lambert, Jennifer	Decree of Divorce
Ayala, Rolando & Salazar, Claudia Maldonado	Decree of Divorce
Delgado, Megan Lynn & Delgado, Luis Enrique	Decree of Divorce
Reese, Yolanda Kiana & Doss, Emmanuel Isaiah	Decree of Divorce
Whitley, Anthony Scott & Whitley, Kristina Lynn	Decree of Divorce
Liayers, Tiffany & Liayers, Kevin	Decree of Divorce
Hernandez, Maricela & Hernandez, Robert	Decree of Divorce
Mytil, Clifford Ha & Rachoutis, Stefanie Zoe	Decree of Annulment

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William Pennington Life Center Monday through Friday (hot lunch), 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 952 S. Maine St. <i>Free over 60</i>	Fallon NAZ Wednesdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m. 1520 Grimes St.
Wolf Center (Fallon Daily Bread) Mondays and Thursdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m. 457 Esmeralda St.	Back Porch next to Wolf Center Wednesdays and Saturdays (sack lunches) 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 280 E. Stillwater Ave.
Oasis Community Church Tuesdays (breakfast), 7 to 8:30 a.m. 1520 S. Maine St.	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.	FBNN Mobile Harvest Produce Second Thursdays, 9 to 10:30 a.m. William Pennington Life Center, 952 S. Maine St.
New Frontier Food Pantry Mondays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1490 Grimes St. <i>Available 24 hours by phone, 775-442-1686</i>	Commodities, William Pennington Life Center Fourth Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 952 S. Maine St.
Out of Egypt Food Pantry Thursdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. 1075 Taylor Place	Fallon Cares (formerly Karma Box) Food and hygiene products - two per visit Front porch of Chamber of Commerce, 290 W. Williams Ave.
Commodities, New Frontier Food Pantry Second Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1490 Grimes St.	Lobby of Churchill County Sheriff's Office, 180 W. A St. West entrance (outside), Wolf Center, 457 Esmeralda St. <i>Donations appreciated</i>

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District Attorney

Pershing County proposes to select and hire an attorney to fill the position of the vacant unexpired term of the District Attorney to provide legal representation for Pershing County. The appointment may be as a permanent appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term ending December 31, 2026.

Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be admitted to practice law in the State of Nevada and be an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Nevada.
2. Must have attained the age of 21 years on the date he/she would take office.
3. Is a qualified elector of the State of Nevada.
4. Must not have been convicted of a felony or any offense involving moral turpitude, regardless of whether or not civil rights have been restored.

Submittal of Qualifications:

Must be submitted to Pershing County Clerk, 398 Main Street, P.O. Box 820, Lovelock, Nevada 89419 by 4:00 p.m. on or before Wednesday, January 28, 2026. The qualifications shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked clearly, "Response to RFQ for Pershing County District Attorney". Provide one copy.

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