

THE FALLON POST



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County Takes a Fresh Look at Landscaping, Containers, and RV Living

By Leanna Lehman

How much landscaping should a business be required to maintain in the middle of the desert? How many shipping containers make sense on a residential lot? And when a “temporary” living permit lasts 18 years — or even 39 — is it really temporary? Those were among the questions Churchill County Commissioners and Planning Commission members considered during a joint workshop Sept. 16 as the county looks to clarify several development regulations.

No rules were changed. Senior Planner Dan Cahalane and Public Works Director Randy Hines were looking for direction before bringing proposed changes back for consideration.

Cahalane began with landscaping requirements, which currently apply to new commercial, industrial, and multifamily development throughout the county and generally come into play again when an existing development expands by more than 10%.

Planning Commissioner Joe Frey questioned requiring the same landscaping at businesses far outside Fallon.

“If somebody goes and buys a whole section out in the middle of the desert, and they’re required to, you know, put in a 20-foot buffer strip and landscape 80% of it, that’s kind of ridiculous,” Frey said.

The discussion favored concentrating land-



Landscaping at Churchill Springs Casino in Fallon. Photo courtesy of CasinosAvenue.com.

scaping requirements along the major highway corridors into Fallon rather than applying them countywide. How far those requirements should extend remains to be determined. A distance of 15 miles was discussed, as was extending the Reno Highway corridor to the Lyon County line.

What counts as landscaping may also change. Planning Commission Chair Tami Edgmon supported allowing rock, decomposed granite, or similar ground cover without necessarily requiring living plants. Planning Commissioner Dennis Mills recalled an applicant who repeatedly replaced trees that would not survive.

“This is the desert,” Mills said.

County Commissioner Matt Hyde suggested retaining existing desert vegetation may make more sense in some locations than removing it and installing new landscaping.

[County continued on page A7]

Candidates Night Nears for Oct. 6

Nevada News Group

A candidates’ night for sheriff and Churchill County School Board is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 6 at the Fallon Convention Center.

Fallon’s two newspapers, the Lahontan Valley News and Fallon Post, and Lahontan Broadcasting Co., have sponsored a candidates’ night since the 2020 pandemic when residents couldn’t attend the forum in person.

If residents are unable to attend in person, they can listen to KVLV (980 AM) or KKTU (99.5 FM) radio. The event will also be streamed on Network1Sports, the web channel KVLV uses for high school sports.

Candidates’ night will begin at 5:30 p.m., and with the early date, residents will have enough time to assess their choices before early voting begins in late October.

Among the important local general election races are for Churchill County Sheriff and Churchill County School Board.

Two candidates have filed for sheriff to include Lee Orozco, who was appointed sheriff in April after the death of Richard Hickox, and Sgt. Mike Davis.

Orozco’s positions have included jail training officer, patrol, narcotics investigator, criminal investigator, patrol sergeant, captain, and executive leadership.

During a 30-year career, Orozco has served as a captain, sergeant, investigator, narcotics investigator, and a deputy. He attended the University of Nevada, Reno from 1987 to 1992. He is fulfilling the remainder of Hickox’s term, which runs through the end of 2026.

Davis said 14 of his 18 years in law enforcement have been in Churchill County. During his career, he has served in detention and patrol. Other assignments have included narcotics enforcement, gang investigations, training, and supervision.

Davis first joined the Nevada Department of Corrections in 2009.

Five candidates are seeking four seats on the nonpartisan school board. Candidates who filed in March are Celestia Blakey, Keith W. Boone, Amber Casey-Getto, Joe McFadden, and W. Derild Parsons.

Blakey, Casey-Getto, and McFadden are incumbents.

Blakey filled former trustee Matt Hyde’s term when he was elected to the Churchill County Commission in 2024. She runs Dandelion Express and her husband, Eric, a county commissioner, owns Hotwire Electric.

Celestia Blakey previously worked for the Churchill County School District.

Boone is a retired K-5 school principal who spent his final years in education at E. C. Best.

[Candidates Night continued on page A2]

Student Discipline, Workload Cited in CCSD Teacher Departures

By Leanna Lehman

Student behavior and discipline, growing workloads, and burnout are among the concerns cited by Churchill County teachers leaving or transferring from their positions, according to results from the 2025-26 Nevada Teacher Exit/Transfer Survey presented to the Churchill County School District Board of Trustees Sept. 15.

The district received completed surveys from 15 teachers, representing a 75% response rate. A separate analysis of open-ended responses included 16 teachers, including responses from teachers who did not complete the full survey.

Student behavior, discipline, and classroom safety were the most frequently discussed concerns in the written responses. Teachers reported recurrent classroom disruptions, inconsistent or ineffective disciplinary consequences, limited behavioral supports and alternative placements for students with significant needs, and concerns that behavioral issues disrupted learning and classroom safety.

Several also pointed to limited parental support and options for addressing student discipline, saying teachers were left to handle behavior concerns themselves, taking time away from preparation and contributing to fatigue and burnout.

Trustee Joe McFadden said the findings stood out as he reviewed the survey data.

“For Churchill County, our number one reason teachers are leaving is for student discipline,” McFadden said. “And number two is workload expectations with a desire for more time for planning and prep preparing.”

McFadden said he was also struck by where teachers appeared to be going when they left.

“And it’s interesting that teachers are not transferring to other districts or other positions. They’re just straight up leaving the profession,” he said.

[Student Discipline continued on page A8]



Check out the issue of the Great Basin Sun Sports section, featuring coverage of prep sports from across northern Nevada!

PERIODICAL
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain’s Log:

Important work

By Rachel Dahl

Saturday, sitting at the Nevada Press Association Hall of Fame lunch, looking around the room, I quickly grabbed my phone and made a note.

“Captain. People who are really good at what they do. Sitting in a whole room full of them.”

It was pretty inspiring to be surrounded by the people in the Nevada media industry who have been doing this, together, for so long. I was overcome just a little bit, realizing that we were sitting there with them, listening to their stories and their teasing, getting just a little taste of what they’ve lived.

It seemed like something worth writing about, something worth noting.

And then the real life of a rural Nevada newspaper publisher intruded on my best-laid plans.

Here we are — 56 minutes from our deadline — now 42 minutes, because I had to stop and record a quick meeting, and then have my handy computer tools transcribe it. I’m late, late, late because yesterday during production I had to drop everything and go get my dad’s truck and then go all the way out to the Boyer Bunny Ranch and get a sick goat and load him in the back of the truck in a huge dog crate just in case he felt good enough to jump out of the back of the truck and haul him over to the vet’s office so they could work their magic with slimy stuff in a tube down his throat.

Then back to newspapering when other people go home or to the gym and then driving home in the dark again, watching the waning moon and thinking how beautiful it is this time of year.

This morning Duane the errant goat was again ailing, so I did my chores and administered mineral oil down his gullet in between editing stories for Lovelock and researching the depths of the funding maze for the North Lyon County Fire Department in Fernley. As I walked to my car, clean and tidy in my Johnny Cash



black outfit, I noticed Duane still in distress.

It was time to try the baking soda, so sleeves rolled up and straddling a hugely swollen, mohair-clad Angora goat trying his best to gore me with a healthy set of horns, I managed to administer a couple tubes of baking soda solution and, after an honest effort, heard my first-ever goat burp.

I don’t know why the Hall of Fame lunch flashed through my head at that moment, and the thought of all those fancy people, but I started laughing as I considered the plight of a small-town publisher. It made me think of Mike Mackedon, an elegant, intellectual giant of a man if ever there was one, who used to refer to himself as a “small town lawyer who hung a shingle.”

If I ever manage to live up to the example he set, a humble man doing small, daily things of great impact to his clients and his community, it will be a life well lived, a job well done, and those important people in the press association, I will continue to admire from afar.

So, as we laugh at the whatever that is dried on my pant leg and hope like heck the goat is on the mend, we’ll always be right here...

... Keeping you Posted.

—Rach

[Candidates Night continued from page A1]

Keith and his wife Brenda moved to Fallon from Montana in the late 1990s, where he taught at Churchill County Junior High School.

Casey-Getto has been on the school board since January 2019. She is an honorary Charter FFA member, 4-H sponsor, and also the chair of many fundraising efforts for youth programs throughout the community.

McFadden has lived in Churchill County since the 1990s. After graduating in 2004 from Churchill County High School, he started a four-year electrical apprentice training with the ABC program while working on the job at

McFadden Electric. After passing the state contractors board testing, he became a managing member of McFadden Electric.

Parsons recently retired as Churchill County School District’s superintendent, a position he held for three years. He was an educator at West End Elementary School and Lahontan Elementary School. He had also served as dean of students at Churchill County High School.

Parsons moved to the central office to become director of learning and innovation after serving as director of special services.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Ridge is Available For Adoption

Ridge is a 3-year-old pit bull looking for his next adventure and a family to share it with. He came to the City of Fallon Animal Shelter as a stray, so little is known about his past, but shelter staff say he has kept his spirit intact and his tail wagging. Described as an exceptional companion, Ridge is ready to leave his “cave exploring” days behind and begin his next expedition in a new home.



Meet Cleo!

Cleo is a beautiful 3-year-old calico tabby looking for a home of her own. She can be a bit shy at first, but once she gets to know you, her personality begins to blossom. Cleo loves treats, and she loves to play more than anything. When she's ready to relax, she enjoys lying in sunny spots and watching the birds. Calm and elegant, Cleo just needs a little time to show her sweet personality.



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

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

FEATURES

Marisa Julian Sweeps Four Divisions at Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity

By Nancy Chapman

Fallon’s Marisa Julian and Sheza Lil Chili Pep swept four Non Pro Futurity divisions at the Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity, held Sept. 11-20 at the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center. Julian, who owns and showed Sheza Lil Chili Pep, won the Non Pro, Intermediate Non Pro,

Limited Non Pro, and Level 1 Non Pro championships with a composite score of 647. The pair also posted a score of 221 in cow work. Julian earned \$16,975 for the four championships. The 10th annual Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity, Derby and Horse Show featured 3-year-old horses competing in the futurity. The derby com-

petition is for 4- and 5-year-old horses. Futurity competitors are tested in herd work, rein work, and cow work. In herd work, a horse-and-rider team separates one cow from the herd and prevents it from returning. The horse must anticipate the cow’s movements and block its attempts to rejoin the herd. Once the cow stops trying to return, the rider releases it, selects another cow, and repeats the process. Competitors generally work two or three cattle during the 2½-minute time limit. Judges evaluate the horse and rider’s performance during the run. In rein work, the rider guides the horse through a predetermined pattern. Judges look for a horse that is willingly guided with little or no apparent resistance. Required maneuvers include large and small circles, lead changes, spins, sliding stops, and backing. The third portion is cow work. A single cow is released into the arena, and the horse and rider must demonstrate control through three stages. First, they box the cow at one end of the arena. Next, they drive it down the side of the arena and turn it along the fence in both directions. Finally, they bring the cow toward the center of the arena and circle it in each direction. The Non Pro Futurity was presented by JJ Fisher Construction Inc. The Tom Barton Family sponsored the Non Pro Futurity Championship in memory of Tracey Barton. J&S Farms and Stan and Jami Pura sponsored the championship buckle, made by Skyline-Vaquero. Darrel and Cari Norcutt and Cow Camp Quarter Horses sponsored silver buckles.



Marisa Julian and Sheza Lil Chili Pep compete in cow work during the 2026 Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity. Julian and the mare won four Non Pro Futurity divisions with a composite score of 647. Photo by Rockin’ Horse Photography.



Marisa Julian, aboard Sheza Lil Chili Pep, is surrounded by family and friends after winning four Non Pro Futurity divisions at the 2026 Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity. Photo by Rockin’ Horse Photography.

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CIVICS 101:

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The First Amendment Cannot Cover the Meeting

By Rachel Dahl

We recently came home from the Nevada Press Foundation Awards of Excellence with an armload of plaques and certificates—a testament to a year’s worth of hard work. We took just a minute to be proud of them, and then it’s back at work on another story list, because apparently plaques will not sit through a school board meeting and these stories won’t write themselves. Awards recognize the work. They do not give us permission to do it. That permission is protected by the First Amendment: “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” Those few words keep government from deciding what newspapers may publish, which opinions are acceptable, or who is allowed to criticize public officials. The amendment originally restrained the federal government. Through the Fourteenth Amendment, its protections also apply to state and local governments. The government does not hand out constitutional press cards to only the big, impressive papers. A tiny weekly newspaper in a rural town stands under the same First Amendment as The New York Times. So does an independent writer, a citizen with a newsletter, or anyone else doing the work of gathering information and publishing it. But freedom of the press is only the beginning. The First Amendment can protect a newspaper from government censorship. It cannot hire a reporter. It cannot drive her to the meeting, make her read the 591-page agenda packet, or keep her awake while the board discusses something important in language apparently designed to send ordinary people into a coma. That part requires a newspaper. Look at our story lists this week. Reporters are covering candidate nights and sample ballots, teacher retention and declining enrollment, planning commissions, library boards, county boards, courts, water levels, and federal decisions about wild horses on public land. Most of those stories will never appear on a national newscast. Still, they are the stories most likely to explain why your child’s classroom changed, why a road project moved, why a tax appeared on the ballot, or what a government agency is doing just over the hill. Some of that information can be found in agendas, minutes, and agency news releases. Those records are important, and the public can access them and dig through them for themselves. But they are not the same thing as reporting. An agenda tells you what officials planned to discuss. Minutes may tell you what motion passed. A reporter watches the discussion, asks questions, checks the numbers, and tells you what changed. Sometimes the most important part never made it into the news release. Our story this week about the Bureau of Land Management’s Jackson Mountains wild horse gather is a good example. The agency posted information in several places. Bridgette gathered it into one account: the estimated herd population, the government’s target, the number of horses removed, the trapping method, and the reported deaths. She put the facts where readers could see them together and decide what questions remain. That is what local newspapers do all week, usually without much ceremony. We sit through the meetings, read the documents, and create a

public record that is easier to find than a three-hour video buried on a government website. National Newspaper Week begins Oct. 4. This year’s theme is “Rooted in Community, Committed to Truth.” That is a pretty good description of the job. Local reporting works because the reporter knows the places, people, and history behind the agenda item. The commitment to truth is what keeps that knowledge from becoming favoritism. Our awards give us a lovely reason to celebrate heading into Newspaper Week. More importantly, they remind us that careful journalism can be produced in small communities and that the work is worth doing well. Next week, we will talk about the Fourth Estate and why the press became an unofficial institution watching the official ones, as we recognize the important job little local community papers are doing across this country. Plaques are really quite lovely, and we love ours, but tomorrow is City Council, and Wednesday is County Commission, and someone has to go cover them. So while the First Amendment can keep government from silencing a newspaper, it cannot guarantee that a reporter will be in the room. Only a community can keep that work alive.

EST. 2025

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fallon Youth Club Dinner and Auction Draws More Than 300

Staff Report

More than 300 people gathered Sept. 19 for the Fallon Youth Club’s annual Dinner and Auction, an evening of fundraising and community support that included a \$5,000 donation from Western Alliance Bank.

The event was held at the Fallon Youth Club facility at 324 Pennington Circle. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser help support the organization’s childcare programs, including the Fallon Youth Club and The Little Clubhouse on Taylor Street.

The organization provides affordable childcare and programming for children in Churchill County. According to the Fallon Youth Club, tuition and grants do not cover the full cost of its programs, making community fundraising an important source of support. The organization also receives no grant funding for three months each summer.

The Little Clubhouse provides another childcare option for local families, including those who qualify for childcare vouchers. The facility also reserves space for children entering foster care, allowing some children to remain in Churchill County rather than being placed outside the community because local childcare is unavailable.

The annual Dinner and Auction helps bridge the difference between revenue from tuition and grants and the cost of providing childcare. The Fallon Youth Club credited local businesses, families, volunteers, and community members for supporting the organization and its programs.



Western Alliance Bank representatives present a \$5,000 donation to Fallon Youth Club board members Penny Valentine Faith and Gary Imelli during the club’s annual Dinner and Auction on Sept. 19. Photo by Sadie Venturacci.

Fallon Theatre Show-N-Shine Draws 131 Entries

By Nancy Chapman

The 10th annual Fallon Theatre Show-N-Shine brought 131 vintage cars, motorcycles, and pickups to several blocks of Maine Street on Sept. 26.

The event has grown considerably since the first show in 2016, when 43 cars participated. This year’s entries came from California, Lovelock, Winnemucca, Reno, and Fallon.

Mike and Susan McConnell of Fallon won Best in Show with their 1957 Ford Custom, a car built over seven years. Mike McConnell said he waited 20 years to buy the car before the project began in 2019. Their names will be added to the Fallon Theatre Show-N-Shine Revolving Trophy.

“I wanted the timeless style of a beautiful 1957 Ford, combined with the comfort and convenience of a modern car: cruise control, air conditioning, power steering, intermittent wipers, backup cameras, and all the modern conveniences,” McConnell said.

Family and friends helped McConnell complete the project during its final two years.



Mike and Susan McConnell of Fallon won Best in Show at the 10th annual Fallon Theatre Show-N-Shine on Sept. 26 with their 1957 Ford Custom. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

Cantaloupe Festival Honors Volunteers



Cantaloupe Festival Board and Committee members gathered to show their appreciation for volunteers during the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Sept. 15. Pictured, from left, are front row, Tarin Jones, Angela Guthrie, Adrienne Snow, Shania Brown, and Carrie Sheldon-Davis; back row, Cody Robinson, Victoria Hagerty, Samantha Horning, and Todd Moretto. Michelle Gabiola-Rogers is not pictured. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

MEETINGS

Sept. 25 – Oct. 20, 2026

- Board of County Commissioners**
Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month
155 N. Taylor St.
Next Meeting: Oct. 15 at 8:15 a.m.

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

City of Fallon City Council
Meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m.
55 W. Williams Ave.
Next Meeting: Oct. 6 at 9 a.m.

Churchill County Communications
Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.
155 N. Taylor St.
Next Meeting: Nov. 5 at 11 a.m.
- Planning Commission**
Meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m.; workshops are scheduled as needed
155 N. Taylor St.
Next Meeting: Oct. 14 at 6 p.m.



WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken Sept. 28 at 8:30 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	79,090 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	521 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	38.0 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	18.7 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	0.84 cfs

Sept. 28, 2025	Sept. 28, 2024	Sept. 28, 2023
70,702 acre feet	225,080 acre feet	20,558 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, FALLON, NV | 775-423-7096
Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lunch is \$6 for those under 60 and a suggested donation of \$3 for those 60 and older.

Monday, Oct. 5 Shepherd's Pie Fresh Spinach Salad Oatmeal Muffin Fresh Fruit	Tuesday, Oct. 6 Baked Chicken Sage Stuffing Garlic Cream Sauce Roasted Corn Sliced Pineapple WW Roll	Wednesday, Oct. 7 Beef Goulash Tuscany Blend Veg. Cheesy Bread Salad Cherry Pie	Thursday, Oct. 8 Pork Riblett Sandwich WW Bun Scalloped Potatoes Garlic Green Beans Spiced Peaches	Friday, Oct. 9 Baked Fish Creamy Coleslaw French Fries Garden Salad Strawberries
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FALLON DAILY BREAD

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

Monday, Oct. 5 Chicken Wings Salad & Bread	Thursday, Oct. 8 New England Clam Chowder Salad & Bread	Monday, Oct. 12 BBQ Baked Chicken Rice & Veggies	Thursday, Oct. 15 Meatloaf Veggies & Dessert	Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.
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COMMUNITY

Koenig Talks Rural Nevada, Legislative Work, and What Comes Next

By Leanna Lehman

Assemblyman Greg Koenig told those attending the Churchill Community Coalition quarterly luncheon Sept. 16 that representing rural Nevada sometimes means reminding fellow lawmakers there is considerably more to the state than Las Vegas and Reno.



Assemblyman Dr. Gregory Koenig at the Sept. 16 Churchill Community Coalition quarterly luncheon. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

Koenig, who said he is one of two rural Nevada state assemblymen, is a Fallon optometrist and business owner. He represents Assembly District 38, which includes Churchill, Mineral, and Esmeralda counties, along with parts of Lyon and Nye counties. He previously served 12 years on the Churchill County School Board and as a county commissioner. As a Republican serving in a Legislature controlled by Democrats, Koenig said getting legislation passed has required working across the aisle. “I always say there’s two different type of legislature. There’s loud voices and there’s effective

legislators,” Koenig said. “I spend too much time away from my family and over in Carson City to waste my time being a loud voice and not an effective legislator.” Koenig said all 10 bills he introduced during the 2025 legislative session received hearings and seven passed, which he said was no small feat with a myriad of competing interests and 1,109 bills introduced. According to the assemblyman, rural health care has been a major focus. In 2023, Koenig sponsored legislation that created a rural emergency hospital designation, allowing smaller hospitals to operate with fewer beds, staff, and diagnostic services while remaining available to stabilize patients before transferring them for higher levels of care. “If this law had been in effect five or 10 years ago, the hospital in Tonopah wouldn’t have had to close down,” Koenig said. Koenig returned to rural health care in 2025 with Assembly Bill 326, which allows qualifying critical access hospitals to seek designation as Level IV trauma centers. Such centers can evaluate and stabilize seriously injured patients before transferring them to a higher-level trauma center, an important consideration in communities far from advanced trauma care. Koenig said what he thought would be a straightforward bill proved otherwise. “Well, I stepped into a hornet’s nest,” he said, explaining that the bill became caught in disputes involving larger Las Vegas hospitals. At one point, Koenig said an Assembly committee chair would only hear the bill proposal if he turned it into a study, while the Senate committee chairman told him he would only hear it if he did not. After negotiations with lawmakers from both parties, the bill passed. Koenig added that Banner Churchill Community Hospital in Fallon

is currently in the process of applying for Level IV designation. With the next legislative session approaching, Koenig said he has already submitted three proposals and has a “tickler list” of roughly 30 ideas he must narrow to seven. One bill would update Nevada law governing military leave for public employees serving in the National Guard. Koenig said Nevada’s limit of 10 days has fallen behind the federal standard of 15 days. “Currently, it’s illegal for counties to grant more than 10 days,” he said. If passed, the option to grant the full 15 days would be there. “It’s not smart ever to put specific numbers in law because whenever that number changes, you’ve got to go back and change the law,” he said. Another proposal comes directly from Koenig’s experience in his profession. He wants Nevada’s definition of visual impairment to expand to include central vision loss. “You could have macular degeneration and not see a single thing straight in front of you, but have decent peripheral vision, and you’re not considered visually impaired,” he said. People with central vision loss do not qualify for disability benefits, while peripherally impaired individuals do. In addition to Koenig’s presentation, the luncheon also recognized September as Suicide Prevention Month, which included an update on Project STAY (Say Something, Take Action, Ask Questions, You Can Be the Difference), which provides suicide-prevention training for sports coaches and activity leaders. Emma White of Life Is Worth It said Churchill County School District became the first district in Nevada to add the training requirement for coaches, with about 50 attending its first training. Project STAY is expanding statewide, with another Fallon training scheduled Nov. 19 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the district office.

Chautauqua Brings Churchill County History to Life

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman

Five performers brought figures from Churchill County’s past to life Saturday, Sept. 26, during an America 250 Chautauqua program presented by the Churchill County Museum in conjunction with the Fallon Theatre. The program used historical portrayals to tell the stories of J.W. Flood, Minnie Blair, the Frey family, Margaret “Peg” Wheat, and Georgie Sicking. Churchill County Museum Director Mel Glover helped present the program. Glenn Perazzo portrayed John Walton “J.W.” Flood, whose history is closely tied to the Fallon Theatre. Flood was the entrepreneur behind the theater, which opened as the Rex Theater in 1920 and was renamed the Fallon Theater in 1930. Connie Heath portrayed Minnie Blair, known as the “Bird Lady,” who became a successful Fallon poultry farmer. Blair raised turkeys and hundreds of laying hens and shipped birds to markets across the country. She also helped raise money for a transformer to provide electricity to

the Fallon Indian Reservation. After leaving the turkey business, Blair opened the Spudnut Shop in Fallon. Ernie Schank presented the story of Joseph Frey Jr. and his descendants, recounting the successes and hardships experienced by the family. The portrayal connected the family’s early history with later generations farming in Churchill County’s Newlands Project. Pam Duarte portrayed Margaret “Peg” Wheat, whose interests ranged across archaeology, geology, paleontology, hydrology, photography, and the study of Nevada’s Indigenous cultures. Although Wheat left the University of Nevada before earning a degree, she received an honorary Doctor of Science from the university in 1980. She was honored as an outstanding Nevada woman writer in 1969. Connie Thomas portrayed Sicking, a Nevada rancher and cowboy poet whose work chronicled ranch life and the experiences of women in the West. Sicking participated in the first Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko in 1985.



Connie Thomas portrays Nevada rancher and cowboy poet Georgie Sicking during the America 250 Chautauqua program Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Fallon Theatre.

Following the portrayals, audience members were invited to ask the performers questions about the historical figures they represented.

MUSEUM FALL LECTURE SERIES

Young Digs Into Nevada’s Prehistoric Past

Story and photo by Lori Kaiser

Long before Nevada was known for sagebrush, mountains, and desert, enormous marine reptiles swam through an ancient sea that covered much of the region. Geologist Tom Young brought that distant world to life at the Churchill County Museum during the latest installment of the museum’s fall lecture series, “The Layers of Nevada,” sharing fossils, photographs, and stories from years spent helping paleontologists uncover Nevada’s prehistoric past. This lecture held a special interest for me. I studied geology in college and grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota, where fossils and remarkable geology are part of the landscape. Young’s presentation was a reminder that Nevada has an equally fascinating geological story beneath our feet. Museum Education Curator Laticia Webb introduced Young as a geologist, craft brewer, and co-founder of Great Basin Brewing Company. Young spent nearly three decades in the craft beverage industry, but his geological background and interest in Nevada paleontology eventually led him into the field alongside scientists studying ichthyosaurs. Ichthyosaurs were marine reptiles, not dinosaurs, that lived millions of years ago. Young explained that Nevada has produced an extraordinary variety of ichthyosaur fossils, including specimens from Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park and other remote areas of the state. Some were giants. Young described one Nevada specimen estimated at about 55 feet long and discussed ongoing research into even larger animals. Young’s connection to the creatures began in an unusual place — a brewery. When Great Basin Brewing Company was getting started, Young and others were choosing names for their beers. One became an India pale ale named for Nevada’s state fossil. Because customers struggled to pronounce “ichthyosaur,” the beer eventually became known simply as “Icky.” Years later, the beer helped connect Young with paleontologists working in Nevada. He recalled meeting scientists who recognized the connection between



Geologist and Great Basin Brewing Company co-founder Tom Young stands with fossil samples following his presentation on Nevada’s ichthyosaurs at the Churchill County Museum as part of the museum’s fall lecture series, “The Layers of Nevada.”

the brewery and ichthyosaurs. That encounter led Young into the field, where his geological training and willingness to tackle the physical work of fossil excavation proved useful. The work is not easy. Young described traveling hours over dirt roads, camping in remote country, and hiking several miles while gaining about 2,000 feet in elevation, all while carrying equipment needed for an excavation. Once a fossil is located, removing it can involve digging through solid rock, protecting the specimen with plaster jackets, and figuring out how to transport the fossil and surrounding rock out of rugged terrain. In some locations, Young said, helicopters are the only practical way to remove the fossils. The specimens are then taken to laboratories, where technicians painstakingly separate rock from bone using small tools. One specimen Young discussed took about two years to prepare after it reached the laboratory. The fossils tell the story of a Nevada almost impossible to picture today. Young explained that rocks now exposed in Nevada preserve evidence of a time when the region lay beneath an ocean and marine reptiles inhabited waters where desert ranges stand today. Finding their remains requires knowing where to look. Paleontologists use geological maps to identify sedimentary formations of the appropriate age and areas where fossils have previously been found. Young brought fossil samples and reproductions to the museum, giving audience members an opportunity to see up close some of the evidence left behind by Nevada’s ancient inhabitants. For all that scientists have learned from Nevada’s rocks, Young made clear that the story is far from finished. New discoveries can change what researchers thought they understood about the animals that inhabited the ancient sea. “Every time you go out there, you find something new,” Young said. “I thought we had it figured out. So that’s the fun of it.”

COMMUNITY



The Rev. Ron Armenta, left; Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford, center; and the Rev. Darren Reed, right.

Nazarene Youth Missions Academy Breaks Ground on Dormitory Complex

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman

Fallon Church of the Nazarene broke ground Sept. 23 on a new dormitory complex for the Nazarene Youth Missions Academy, beginning a three-phase project expected to continue through 2029.

The Nazarene Youth Missions Academy, or NYMA, is a youth leadership and missions program based in Fallon. The program began with a pilot session at Fallon Church of the Nazarene earlier this year and is scheduled to hold its 2027 session in Fallon.

The first phase of the dormitory project is expected to be completed in 2027, with the final phase scheduled for completion

in 2029, according to information provided for the groundbreaking.

Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford joined the Rev. Ron Armenta and the Rev. Darren Reed for the groundbreaking. Reed is superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene’s Sacramento District. Armenta helped develop the proposal for NYMA and oversaw its Fallon pilot program, according to the Church of the Nazarene.

The completed complex is intended to provide space for students to live, learn, worship, serve, and prepare for mission work, according to information provided for the project. Members of the Fallon Chamber of Commerce and the community also attended the groundbreaking.

Back Roads Vintage Market Marks 10 Years in Fallon

Staff Report

Back Roads Vintage Market will mark its 10th anniversary Oct. 9-10 at the Rafter 3C Arena, a decade after the Fallon event began with vendors setting up in a field along the highway.

The twice-yearly market, founded in fall 2016, has grown to more than 50 vendors occupying more than 80 booths, according to organizers. The anniversary market will feature vintage and antique items, repurposed goods, farmhouse décor, handcrafted products, food, face painting, and live music.

“Ten years ago we set up in a field along the highway with no idea what this would become,” co-founder Jenny Young said. “We’re so blessed to have amazing vendors and shoppers who have grown this event into what it is.”

The fall market will be held indoors at the Rafter 3C Arena, 227 Sheckler Road. Hours are 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Admission is \$10 on Friday and includes admission for both days. Saturday-only admission is \$5. Children 12 and younger are admitted free, and parking is free.

The first 20 shoppers through the doors each

day will receive a Back Roads Vintage Market tote bag.

Organizers credited support from the City of Fallon, Churchill County, the Fallon Chamber of Commerce, and Visit Fallon.

For information, call 775-427-8717 or email backroadsvintagemarketnv@gmail.com.

The first 20 shoppers through the doors each day will receive a Back Roads Vintage Market tote bag.

Fascinating Fernley (and Fallon!)

Meet Your Neighbor — Mark Venturacci

By Sonia Hedrick

Unlike the eastern United States and much of Europe, man-made monuments honoring northern Nevada’s history and heroes are fewer and farther between. In these parts, the successes of past leaders are more often celebrated through the lives and accomplishments of their descendants.

In the early 20th century, Italian immigrants Eduardo and Penelope Venturacci arrived in the American West with a pocketful of dreams and the farming skills they brought with them from the old country. With the advent of desert irrigation made possible by the Reclamation Act of 1902, the Venturaccis saw an opportunity and seized it.

The U.S. government made arid land available to aspiring farmers, and the couple bought as much acreage as they could afford. Over the years, the Venturaccis became one of the best-known farming and ranching families in northern Nevada.

While much of the Venturacci land has since been sold, cattle ranching remains in the family’s blood. Two grandsons continued ranching. Jeff Venturacci recently retired, but Mark Venturacci is still going strong, albeit with some modern and innovative twists.



Mike Schuler and Mark Venturacci. Photo courtesy of Venturacci Schuler Partners, VSP Beef.

Since Mark’s grandparents’ time, ranching has become an even more challenging venture. It was never an easy life, but today’s ranchers must have nerves of steel backed by an unrelenting passion for their profession. They face crushing overhead costs and the substantial upfront expenses necessary to begin a new production cycle each year.

Combined with challenges brought by adverse weather and volatility in the economy, ranching is not for the fainthearted. To succeed today, a rancher must be creative and innovative. As fate would have it, those are two qualities very much apparent in Mark Venturacci.

In recent years, larger beef producers have faced the erratic nature of the industry in a variety of ways. Venturacci beef has long been known for its quality. Committed to maintaining those standards, Mark and his wife,

Cheryl, joined forces with ranchers Mike and Beth Schuler to form Venturacci Schuler Partners — VSP Beef.

The new business stepped away from the wholesale market, choosing instead to sell beef directly to consumers.

Rather than managing massive herds, VSP Beef focuses on roughly 100 select cattle each season, ensuring that customers receive high-quality, grass-finished beef. The cattle are pasture raised locally and provided with clean water; trace minerals, baled hay, and high-grade silage during the winter.

Customers can purchase a whole, half, or quarter beef. Boxes of select cuts and ground beef are also available. Each order comes from a single animal rather than an assortment of cuts

from multiple cattle.

And the formula appears to work. Venturacci Schuler Partners — VSP Beef — is in high demand, and the company’s product sells out each year. For more information, visit vspbeef.com.

Mark’s ambition has also taken him down another related business path. While helping a friend recover from a major illness, Mark became well acquainted with online and video livestock auctions. His friend was a sales representative for Western Video Market, one of the nation’s large cattle-marketing companies.

Mark was intrigued by the technology and the process and could immediately see its potential. When his friend retired, Mark was asked to step into the role, and he was happy to do so.

Through online communication and video, Mark now helps connect remote ranchers with buyers across the West.

Mark Venturacci is a timely example of today’s rancher. His determination reflects the generations that helped shape the western United States. By adapting his business model to meet contemporary challenges, Mark honors the legacy of Eduardo and Penelope Venturacci not with a monument, but by carrying their work forward in a changing business environment.

[County continued from page A1]

The group generally supported keeping the current 10% expansion threshold, with lesser requirements for smaller expansions rather than requiring an existing business to meet the standards for new construction.

Cahalane also asked for direction on screening, which can include fencing, walls, landscaping, or other barriers used to reduce the view of stored materials or other uses.

Hines clarified that screening requirements are intended for materials that need to be screened, not necessarily an entire property. Members also questioned requirements when road elevations or other conditions make screening ineffective. Cahalane said he would return with a proposal that “seems reasonable.”

Shipping containers, commonly called Connex boxes, raised another question: Should the same rules apply to a small residential lot, a farm, a commercial property, and an industrial operation?

Current rules limit shipping containers to one per acre and no more than two per parcel in certain zon-

ing districts. Bona fide commercial farming or ranching operations are excluded from that limitation.

Hines suggested reconsidering containers on smaller residential lots, while Planning Commission members discussed tying the rules more clearly to zoning and parcel size.

No firm recommendation was reached for residential properties. For industrial sites, however, County Commissioner Eric Blakey asked Cahalane to develop a reasonable limit and allow containers to be stacked up to three high. Mills agreed.

The workshop then turned to temporary use permits, or TUPs, which allow temporary living quarters under certain circumstances.

Churchill County currently has 89 active TUPs, including those for farm labor, watchman’s quarters, hardship or caretaker situations, and living on property while a home is being built.

Hines said farm labor permits have been active an average of 18 years, watchman’s permits 17 years, and hardship/caretaker permits eight years. One permit has remained active for 39 years.

“In my opinion that’s not temporary,” Hines said. Hines suggested longer-term uses such as farm

labor and watchman’s quarters may fit better under conditional zoning permits, leaving TUPs for situations with a more definite end. No recommendation was reached, and Hines said the issue needs more work.

That led to the related issue of people living in RVs. County code generally limits living in an RV outside a mobile home or RV park to 90 cumulative days a year without an applicable permit.

Hines said the county received 38 complaints involving people living in RVs during the past year.

One possibility discussed was creating a legal path for one occupied RV on a property, with appropriate permits and connections to septic, power, and water.

Mills said he would rather find a legal avenue for people who have nowhere else to live than have them living illegally on their own property.

Hyde agreed.

“The last thing I want to do is put somebody off of their own property,” he said. “There’s all kinds of hardships, and people are struggling right now.”

The TUP and RV questions will return for further discussion.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Domestic Violence Intervention
Marks Awareness Month

By Nancy Chapman

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Domestic Violence Intervention is raising awareness of services available to victims while encouraging community members to volunteer and support its work.

DVI assists people affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, stalking, harassment, and violent crime, according to Executive Director Carin Gomes. The organization does not provide services to perpetrators.

The organization also relies on volunteers, who help with fundraising and collecting, sorting, and organizing donated items. DVI accepts donations of household necessities, including bedding, kitchen items, nonperishable food, and money.

Gomes said financial donations can help DVI meet immediate needs for clients. She gave the example of helping someone repair a tire so the person can continue getting to work.

“Volunteer applications can be obtained by contacting the center,” Gomes said.

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Fallon students place purple-painted handprints on a bus for the “Hands are for helping, not hurting” campaign. The bus is displayed near local schools.

Gomes said volunteers who work with children must pass a full background check. Those interested in working directly with clients undergo DVI’s advocacy and sexual assault training, which includes confidentiality requirements. High school students also volunteer with the organization and may earn school or college credit, according to Gomes.



DVI maintains crisis phone lines 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Gomes said the organization helps people plan for healthier relationships and provides referrals when someone’s needs fall outside DVI’s scope of services.

“If the situation is not within our scope of work, we will put them in contact with those who can help them,” Gomes said.

DVI will recognize longtime volunteer and former board president Pauline Friedrich during its A Guiding Light fundraiser. Friedrich spent decades volunteering with DVI and working to raise awareness of domestic violence prevention in Churchill and Lyon counties.

The sold-out fundraiser is scheduled for Oct. 3. DVI also plans awareness activities throughout October.

Library Board Prepares
for Director Evaluation,
Trustee’s Term to End

By Sydney Trainor

The Churchill County Library Board of Trustees began preparations Sept. 24 for Library Director John Hong’s annual evaluation as longtime trustee Dr. Sue Segura announced she will leave the board when her appointed term ends.

During trustee reports, Segura said she felt she had fulfilled her term and civic responsibilities and that it was time to give someone else the opportunity to serve. Board members and Hong thanked Segura for her service to the library and community.

Churchill County Human Resources Director Kim Bronma explained the library director evaluation process, telling trustees that county employees are required to be evaluated at least once a year.

Each trustee will complete an individual evaluation of Hong and may meet individually with him to discuss his performance and provide feedback, according to Bronma.

After the evaluations are received, Bronma will combine the trustees’ ratings and comments into a composite evaluation. The feedback will not identify individual trustees. Hong will receive the composite evaluation at least seven days before it is presented and discussed during the board’s Oct. 22 meeting.

Trustees also discussed future planning for the library as part of Trustee Training Module 10. Hong reviewed the library’s existing mission and vision statements and five-year strategic plan, and trustees discussed how the board and staff can work together to address changing community needs.

Members suggested revisiting the strategic plan near the end of the year or in early spring and discussed potentially forming a committee to help update it. Trustees were advised that such a committee would be subject to Nevada’s Open Meeting Law.

Trustees also discussed more closely tracking progress toward strategic plan goals. Hong suggested providing a regular report connecting library activities and statistics to those goals.

In his director’s report, Hong said a candidate had been selected for the vacant library page position and would be announced at the October board meeting. He also reported that while the library was short-staffed, the Churchill County Museum provided an employee to assist with shelving on Saturdays.

Hong reported that the children’s services librarian and technical services librarian attended the Association for Rural and Small Libraries conference in Alabama in September.

Trustees discussed the library’s involvement with Nevada Promise, including providing volunteer opportunities for participating high school students who need to complete service hours. They also discussed participation in the library’s chess club, college students using newly purchased whiteboards to study, and use of the library Annex for meetings, book clubs, and other activities.

Hong reported continued participation in story times, chess club, a wildlife presentation, and adult programs. Upcoming events include Frankentoys on Oct. 24 and Tricks, Treats, and Tales on Oct. 29. The library also plans to participate with the Churchill County Museum in the Main Street Spooktacular on Oct. 31.

Hong also reported community engagement during the library’s outreach at the Cantaloupe Festival and increased engagement on social media, including interest in a Dolly Parton display featuring books from Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

He shared feedback submitted through the library’s “Speak Up Spot,” including a request for homeschool science activities involving microscope slides, cells, and molds. Hong said the library would look into the suggestion.

The board unanimously approved the monthly budget report and library gift fund report for August 2026.

The board’s next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 22.

[Student Discipline continued on page A1]

The district’s analysis also identified workload and student readiness as common concerns. Teachers described additional meetings, administrative duties, documentation and reporting requirements, family engagement, and extracurricular expectations that contributed to workloads they felt could not reasonably be completed during contract hours.

Some also said students were entering their classrooms without the foundational skills needed for grade-level work, leaving teachers to address learning gaps while still being expected to teach grade-level standards.

Burnout was frequently mentioned, with some teachers connecting chronic stress, emotional exhaustion, and difficulty maintaining a work-life balance to decisions to retire early, pursue other careers, or leave the district.

But teachers also identified reasons to stay. Supportive relationships with colleagues and school-level administrators were reported as an important factor in job satisfaction and retention.

Teachers noted collaborative school communities, positive relationships with coworkers, and principals who were accessible, trusting, and supportive as reasons they would remain or consider returning.

Other concerns included district culture and communication, whether teachers felt

heard and valued, compensation and benefits relative to workload, differences in recognition and treatment of newer and veteran employees, and opportunities for professional growth.

For McFadden, the findings raised a larger question about where the district should focus its retention efforts.

“As I went through this, I was thinking that we spend a lot of time and effort recruiting and keeping our compensation comparable and maybe we need to be looking harder at internal operations to help keep our teachers,” he said.

McFadden said comparing Churchill County’s results with other districts also indicated there are retention issues the district needs to address.

Trustee Celestia Blakey said the survey answered questions she had raised last year and wanted the board to take the next step.

“I do think that the information is helpful and hopefully in the future we can maybe talk about what we’re going to do to help fix this more alongside of what Trustee McFadden was saying of keeping our teachers here,” Blakey said.

The district’s Human Resources Department said the survey results provide additional context for understanding the combination of working conditions, student behavior, workload, leadership, compensation, and other factors influencing teacher retention.

Churchill County Honors Eight Employees for 115 Years of Service



Churchill County Commissioners Eric Blakey, left, and Matt Hyde recognized Michael “Mike” Nolan for 20 years of service with the county’s Community Activities and Facilities Department during the Sept. 16 Commissioners’ meeting. Courtesy of Churchill County.



Churchill County Commissioners Eric Blakey, left, and Matt Hyde honored Lonnie Montgomery for 20 years of service with the District Attorney’s Child Support Office during the Sept. 16 Commissioners’ meeting. Courtesy of Churchill County.



Churchill County Commissioners Eric Blakey, left, and Matt Hyde recognized Jesse Nuckolls for 20 years of service with the Sheriff’s Office during the Sept. 16 Commissioners’ meeting. Courtesy of Churchill County.

Staff Report

Churchill County Commissioners recognized eight employees representing a combined 115 years of public service during their Sept. 16 meeting.

The county honored the employees at five-year service milestones, presenting each with a plaque and lapel pin.

Michael “Mike” Nolan of Community Activities and Facilities, Lonnie Montgomery of the District Attorney’s Office, and Jesse Nuckolls of the Sheriff’s Office were recognized for 20 years of service.

Jamie Sunderman and Shannon Perez of the District Attorney’s Office, along with Julia Mello of Juvenile Probation, were honored for 15 years of service.

Stacey McNair of Social Services and the Pennington Life Center, and Maycee Wadsworth of the Sheriff’s Office, were recognized for five years of service.

The Commissioners recognize county employees quarterly for each five-year milestone. The next employee recognition ceremony is scheduled for the second Commissioners’ meeting in December.

COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, Sept. 15, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

By Leanna Lehman

Reuben Job Conkle appeared in two cases involving Possession of a Controlled Substance and Attempt to Commit Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card, Debit Card or Identifying Description.

On the possession charge, a Category E felony, Senior Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker said the state did not oppose Conkle’s application for diversion. She said Conkle had been provisionally placed in Drug Court and was “doing very well.”

Judge Stockard granted the diversion application, suspended further proceedings, and placed Conkle on probation. He ordered Conkle to enter and complete Drug Court, obtain a substance abuse evaluation, and follow all recommendations.

On the attempted fraudulent use charge, a wobbler, Baker asked Stockard to sentence the offense as a Category E felony and place Conkle on probation so he could continue Drug Court. She said the state had notified the victim, who was satisfied with the resolution.

Stockard sentenced the offense as a Category E felony. He granted Conkle probation on a 12-32 month suspended sentence, ordered \$14 restitution, and applied 48 days of credit for time served.

Daniel Alexander Dinwiddie-Porter, in custody, appeared for sentencing on Possession of a Controlled Substance, a first or second offense, which is a Category E felony punishable by 1-4 years in prison.

SDDA Priscilla Baker said the parties had originally agreed to diversion and Drug Court. However, Dinwiddie-Porter was subsequently transferred to Lyon County, where he was sentenced to 12-30 months in prison for Burglary of a Structure. Baker asked the court to impose probation in the Churchill County case.

Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer agreed with the state’s recommendation.

Judge Stockard granted Dinwiddie-Porter probation on a suspended 12-32-month sentence, ordered the sentence to run consecutively to the

Lyon County case, and applied 62 days credit for time served.

Louis Samuel Afraidofhawk appeared for continued sentencing on Assault with a Deadly Weapon, a Category B felony.

SDDA Chelsea Sanford asked the court to impose 12-36 months in prison, citing the seriousness of the incident and its continuing impact on the victim. If the court granted probation, Sanford requested strict conditions and \$9,368.16 in restitution for damage to the victim’s vehicle.

Senior Public Defender Jeffery Weed asked for probation, saying Afraidofhawk, 24, had been addressing his alcohol use through counseling and had completed anger management and substance abuse counseling. Weed said Afraidofhawk was employed and wanted the opportunity to pay restitution.

Afraidofhawk told the court he had been sober for about three months and regretted his actions. “This definitely taught me not to react to my emotions because it brought out some new emotions that I’ve never felt before that day,” he said. “I shouldn’t have acted on them and I really regret it.”

Judge Stockard granted Afraidofhawk probation on a suspended 28-72-month prison sentence with 10 days of credit applied for time served.

Stockard ordered Afraidofhawk to pay \$9,368.16 in restitution at \$500 per month, continue anger management counseling, obtain a substance abuse evaluation and follow all recommendations, and have no contact with the victim.

Robert Lilburn Nelson failed to appear for a scheduled hearing.

Deputy Public Defender Kenneth Tedford said Nelson had been notified of the hearing and that his absence was unusual. Tedford said Nelson had no previous failures to appear noted in his Court Services history and asked for a continuance.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford opposed the request and asked the court to issue a bench warrant, noting the victims were present and the state was prepared to proceed.

Judge Stockard declined to issue a warrant and continued the case to Oct. 6. He said that if Nelson fails to appear again, the court will move forward with setting the case for trial.

Hayden Sibley admitted to a nontechnical probation violation for failing to complete the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court program.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford said Sibley had made little progress during approximately 20 months in Drug Court and described an incident in which he became angry with treatment providers. Sanford said the state would have sought revocation of his probation and a prison sentence but for Drug Court’s willingness to accept him back. She instead requested a 30-day jail sanction.

CCPD Jacob Sommer acknowledged Sibley’s conduct was unacceptable but said his treatment providers believed he had made meaningful progress and wanted him to continue in the program.

Sibley apologized for his behavior. “I’m quite frankly ashamed and I’m very embarrassed for how I reacted that day,” he said. “Those people didn’t do anything wrong. They didn’t deserve how I acted at all.”

Judge Stockard said that between May and Sibley’s removal from Drug Court on Sept. 2, there was only one two-week period in which he attended all of his appointments.

“My initial inclination is to send you to prison ... and I still may do that,” Stockard said.

Stockard provisionally readmitted Sibley to Drug Court and set final disposition for Dec. 1. He said the court will review Sibley’s attendance and participation before deciding whether he will be allowed to remain in the program.

“The time for excuses is done,” Stockard told him. “It better be a perfect program.”

Socora Renee Arreguin appeared for a status hearing. Judge Stockard continued the matter to Oct. 6.

Susan Lynch’s case was continued to Oct. 6.

“To Get It Over With,” Judge Questions Plea in CSAM Case

By Leanna Lehman

Jaiden Richard Jennings, in custody, appeared for arraignment in two cases on Sept. 15 in the Tenth Judicial District Court before Judge Thomas Stockard. Jennings pleaded guilty to Failure to Appear After Admission to Bail or Release Without Bail, a Category D felony punishable by 1-4 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

He also pleaded guilty to Possession of Visual Pornography of a Person Under 16 Years of Age, a Category B felony punishable by 1-6 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000. The charge involves child sexual abuse material, or CSAM, a term used for images or videos depicting the sexual abuse or exploitation of children. The term is increasingly used instead of “child pornography” because children cannot legally consent to the creation of such material.

During the plea canvass, Jennings told Judge Stockard the material was found on an old computer that had also been used by a former roommate. When Stockard asked why he was pleading guilty, Jennings said, “Because I have no actual evidence to prove that he was in possession of it because it’s on my computer.”

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills said the state was prepared to present evidence that an FBI agent received an Internet Crimes Against Children cyber tip involving an image sent through Jennings’ Facebook Messenger account.

Jennings’ defense attorney Charles Woodman said he believed the state could obtain a conviction based on the evidence and, after extensive discussions with Jennings, believed the plea agreement was in his client’s best interest.

As Stockard continued questioning Jennings, Jennings expressed hesitation. Stockard told him, “That’s the worst reason in the world — to get it over with,” and explained that Jennings could plead not guilty and take the case to trial.

Stockard paused the proceedings and directed Jennings to confer with Woodman. When they returned, Jennings said he had been overwhelmed, and his emotions had “jumbled” his thoughts. After speaking with Woodman, Jennings said, “I got a little bit of clarity” and felt comfortable proceeding with the plea.

Stockard again questioned Jennings and ultimately accepted his guilty pleas in both cases, finding they were entered freely, voluntarily, intelligently, and knowingly.

The court also clarified that the CSAM offense does not carry lifetime supervision for a first offense, as had initially been stated during the hearing. If convicted, Jennings would be required to register as a sex offender and undergo a psychosexual evaluation.

Stockard ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation and set sentencing for Dec. 29. He also authorized Jennings’ release on his own recognizance once a GPS ankle monitor is installed and outstanding Lyon County holds are resolved. Jennings will remain on house arrest, with exceptions for approved work and drug testing.





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EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

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



Students in Vickie Purrell's and Lisa Solinski's class play "Shut the Box."



Jodie Faiman works with students as they complete their morning work, giving them an opportunity to revisit previous learning while practicing skills such as cursive.



Students in Erika Stanford's class watch, listen, and smell as popcorn pops during their five senses science unit.

CCHS

CCHS Theatre Students Prepare for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" By Salome Dawson, CCHS 12th-grade student

The theatre department is preparing for its upcoming production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," with rehearsals now underway. The playful comedy is a story of love, magic, and mistaken identity. When four young lovers flee into an enchanted forest to escape the law and a mother's threatened punishment of death, they encounter mischievous fairies, a group of well-meaning amateur actors, and a little too much magical interference. Come support CCHS theatre students and see what they have been working hard to bring to the stage during performances Nov. 19-21. Watch for posters around campus. Tickets will also be available in late October at our.show/fallon/midsummer.

CCMS

After the first month of the school year, Churchill County Middle School welcomed students and their families back to campus for an open house. With classes and routines well underway, the evening gave parents and guardians a chance to meet teachers, learn about their student's classes

and expectations, and become more familiar with the school. The evening also included the school's book fair and a tasty popcorn treat, giving everyone time to enjoy being together as a school community. "It was great to see everyone at 650 S. Maine," Principal Deana Porretta said. "We love having our students and their families in the building together."

NUMA

Students in Vickie Purrell's and Lisa Solinski's classes put their addition and subtraction skills to the test with a friendly competition of "Shut the Box." Students rolled two dice, then used addition or subtraction to create a sum or difference and clear numbers from 1 to 10 from their boards. The first student to clear the board won the game. "This definitely brought out the competitive nature of everyone, but more importantly, I loved hearing the students help each other during the game," Purrell said. "It was such a great way to demonstrate our SOAR motto."

E.C. BEST

Students in Jodie Faiman's class start their day with calm music and morning work that circles

back to previous learning. The morning work also incorporates cursive, adding a little fun as students review skills they have already learned. Faiman uses Whole Brain Teaching strategies to keep students actively engaged throughout the day. "It might get loud, and we usually have what looks like controlled chaos, but what is blossoming are students who take ownership of their learning and have fun doing it," Faiman said. Next, students will begin learning chess to help build focus, stamina, and problem-solving skills.

LAHONTAN

Students in Erika Stanford's kindergarten class explored sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch as part of their science unit on the five senses. Throughout the week, students created booklets with drawings representing each sense and added pictures to a collage on their classroom learning wall. To wrap up the unit, students put their senses to work by popping popcorn in class. "The students discussed lots of different adjectives to describe the popcorn using their senses," Stanford said. The class also enjoyed homemade lemonade with their popcorn to celebrate Yellow Day.

Veritas Preparatory School

Classical and Christian

Kindergarten Cowboys Saddle Up for Rodeo Day

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

This week, our kindergarten class wrapped up its letter "R" unit with an unforgettable Rodeo Day celebration. After spending time learning about the rich history of western cowboys — from their traditions to the tools of their trade — our little cowpokes were ready to put their knowledge into action. The day kicked off with a cowboy breakfast, where students practiced serving themselves independently and using good table manners. And, of course, before taking their first bite, they paused to say grace and thank God for their meal. Then it was time for the rodeo stations.

STATION 1 — HORSEBACK RIDING

The generous McCorkle family brought their very own horse for our students to ride, providing an experience that was a true highlight of the day. One kindergartner summed it up perfectly: "This is the best day ever."

STATION 2 — HORSE TRAINING

Students learned about the work and patience involved in training a horse and had the opportunity to experience a little of what it takes to work with these remarkable animals.

STATION 3 — CATTLE ROUNDUP

Our little cowboys and cowgirls put their rodeo skills to the test as they collected their "cattle" and rounded them up into the corral. Yee-haw!

STATION 4 — COWBOY SCAVENGER HUNT

Students searched for and identified familiar cowboy gear, including boots, spurs, saddles, ropes, and belt buckles. They then explained how each item is used, providing a fun and interactive way to review everything they had learned throughout the unit. Rodeo Day was a wonderful combination of learning, hands-on experiences, and time spent celebrating together. From practicing independence and



Bill McCorkle and Ms. Kelsey. Front, from left: Daxson deBraga, Aubree Chu, Olivia Reynolds, Lincoln Conroy, and Jaxsen Woolbright.

good manners at breakfast to demonstrating their knowledge at the rodeo stations, our kindergarten students had plenty of opportunities to put what they had learned into practice. The day also brought to mind the words of Ecclesiastes 3:13: "That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil — this is the gift of God." On Rodeo Day, our little cowboys and cowgirls did just that—learning, working, laughing, and enjoying the blessings God has given them.

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ASE CERTIFIED

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

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

SOAK-A-SENIOR EVENT RAISES FUNDS FOR TWO CAUSES



Kage Oyler, Sawyer Schank, Caitlin Oyler, Alyssa Oyler, and Emma Lewis participate in Oasis Academy's Soak-a-Senior fundraiser.



Gabriel Houyoux, Anthony O'Bryant, Aliyah Burces, and David Lincoln take part in Oasis Academy's Soak-a-Senior fundraiser.

Oasis Academy seniors took a refreshing—and very wet—turn in the spotlight during the school’s annual Soak-a-Senior fundraiser. Families, students, staff, and community members had the opportunity to pay to drench their favorite seniors while helping support two important causes.

Participants could purchase a small bucket of water for \$5 or go big with a 5-gallon bucket for \$20. For those looking to make the experience even colder, ice could be added for an additional \$5. The Fallon-Churchill Fire Department helped ensure the buckets kept flowing by bringing a truck and hoses to keep buckets full.

The fundraiser generated nearly \$1,000 through presale buckets alone, with the event raising a total of \$3,600. Proceeds will be split between Oasis Academy Grad Night and the Churchill Community Hospital Foundation, allowing the fun-filled event to support both students and the local community.

After the seniors had their turn in the splash zone, Oasis Academy staff members stepped up to take the soak. Students could purchase buckets of water to help raise even more money for the two causes.

“This is such a fun event to raise funds for our seniors’ Safe and Sober Grad Nite event. We had several staff and coaches participate because they recognize the importance of what the seniors are doing,” Student Council Advisor Eric Grimes said. “We are very appreciative to not only them but also to the Fallon-Churchill Fire Department, students, parents, and community members who came out and made this a successful event and memorable day.”

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: CRISTIAN KEENER

After spending his whole school career at Oasis Academy, from kindergarten through high school, senior Cristian Keener will graduate with his high school diploma, associate degree, and a list of lasting memories.

Following graduation, Keener plans to attend college to earn a bachelor’s degree in business and hopes to continue playing lacrosse along the way. His love of athletics has been a big part of his high school experience. Throughout his years at Oasis, he has participated in basketball, FFA, and lacrosse, where he has served as a team captain.

Keener’s favorite memories are the times spent traveling with his teammates. “Screaming songs on the bus to and from lacrosse games and hanging out with the girls’ team are the things I’ll always remember,” said Keener. For Keener, one of the best parts of being an Oasis student has been the

close-knit sense of community. “I love being a student here because of the community we have,” he said. That connection has made his years at Oasis meaningful and helped shape his experience as a student. He is especially grateful to Mrs. Kathy Keitz, whom he says supported him throughout his school. “I would like to thank Mrs. Keitz because she helped me a lot throughout school with my confidence, extracurricular activities, and understanding the paths I could take,” he said. One class that stands out was the marketing business class taught by Mrs. Angela Viera during his freshman year. “My favorite class was the business class Mrs. Viera taught freshman year because it was fun and hands-on and I learned a lot from it,” Keener explained. Along with athletics, Keener has excelled in the classroom, being named to the Western Nevada College Dean’s List. He has also been active in Student Council all four years and currently serves as a photographer for the group. As he prepares to leave Oasis, he has some advice for the students who will follow. “Make the most of high school. Whether that means attending school events, getting involved in activities, or taking advantage of the learning opportunities Oasis provides,” he closed.



Oasis Academy Senior, Cristian Keener.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN DOT DAY

Oasis Academy third-grade students celebrated Dot Day on Sept. 15 with a creative challenge inspired by the book “The Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds.

After learning about the message behind the story, students were challenged to complete the 12 Circles Challenge. Each student received a page with 12 empty circles and was asked to transform each circle into something recognizable. The activity encouraged students to think creatively

and see possibilities in something as simple as a circle. Students used their imaginations to turn the circles into a variety of everyday objects and unique creations, including sports equipment, faces, food, and planets. Some students even combined two or more circles to create something completely new. The book “The Dot” encourages students to trust their abilities, take creative risks, and express themselves. Dot Day provided students with an opportunity to put those lessons into action while celebrating creativity and individuality.



Harper Weed and Mateo Aboytes display their creations from the 12 Circles Challenge during Dot Day.

Weekly Highlights at Logos Christian Academy
Logos Christian Academy Celebrates Johnny Appleseed Day

By Angie Christian, photo(s) courtesy of Logos Christian Academy.

Logos Christian Academy celebrated Johnny Appleseed Day on Sept. 24 with an afternoon filled with fun, creativity, and, of course, plenty of apples. Each classroom sponsored a special event for everyone to enjoy. Children made pot hats, voted on their favorite way to eat apples, prepared apple pie in a cup, had fun stamping with apples, and enjoyed caramel apples with a variety of delicious toppings. The fifth- through eighth-grade classes also took part in an apple baking contest. The rules were simple: Each entry had to contain apples, and it had to be made by the student or students submitting it. The young bakers came up with an impressive assortment of treats, including pie, cake, turnovers, cheesecake, bars, croissants, and apple crisp. With 10 entries to choose from, the judges had quite a challenge deciding which one deserved the top honors.

THE WINNERS WERE:

- First place: Penny Lyle — apple croissants
- Second place: Viola Wagner — apple cheesecake
- Third place: Emma Slentz — apple bars

The celebration provided an opportunity to step away from the usual school routine and spend time together. It was an afternoon filled with laughter, creativity, friendly competition, and opportunities for students and staff to build camaraderie while enjoying all things apple.



First-place winner Penny Lyle displays her award for apple croissants during Logos Christian Academy's Johnny Appleseed Day celebration Sept. 24. Courtesy of Logos Christian Academy.



Three students display their awards following the Johnny Appleseed Day apple baking contest at Logos Christian Academy on Sept. 24. Courtesy of Logos Christian Academy.

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COLUMNS



Meet the Developer Brings Game Design to Life

By Aaron Holt
Churchill County High School
Digital Game Design and Esports Coach
TARDIS Repairman

Local gamers and aspiring creators gathered in the Churchill County High School computer lab for a hands-on “Meet the Developer” event featuring game designer Brad Warren.

Warren visited the lab to install his newly released game, “Sunken Realms,” on the lab computers, giving attendees an opportunity to play the game, talk with its creator, and learn about independent game development. “Sunken Realms” launched on Steam two weeks before the event after generating more than 60,000 wish-lists before its release.

Students, local gaming enthusiasts, and community members attended the event and had an opportunity to ask Warren questions about game development.

For local game design students, the session provided a look at the process of modern game production, from designing core game mechanics to digital marketing.



Students and community members gather in the Churchill County High School computer lab for a “Meet the Developer” event featuring game designer Brad Warren and his newly released game, “Sunken Realms.” Photo courtesy of Aaron Holt.



Participants play “Sunken Realms” during a “Meet the Developer” event at Churchill County High School featuring game designer Brad Warren. Photo courtesy of Aaron Holt.

Allison’s Book Report:
“The True Confessions of First Lady Freeman” by Deesha Philyaw

By Allison Diegel

Hello. My name is Allison, and I have an addiction to reality TV. Specifically, I love “The Real Housewives of Quite Literally Anywhere.” I know I’m not the only one, and if you are like me, this week’s book pick is a dark humor/satire selection that will surely bring back memories of Gizelle and others from Potomac, Phaedra from Atlanta, definitely Mary M. Cosby from Salt Lake. As the kids would say, if you know, you know!

Deesha Philyaw’s novel “The True Confessions of First Lady Freeman” follows 40-year-old Scharisse “Schar” Freeman, a bold and ambitious woman living a “rags-to-Rolux” lifestyle as the first lady of a massive Black megachurch alongside her pastor husband, who is 15 years her senior. To the outside world, Scharisse has it all, but among other pastors’ wives, she has always been treated like a pariah for being too outspoken and unapologetic. Beneath the designer dresses, luxury cars, and polished social media presence, she is deeply in touch with her physical desires, harbors growing doubts about her faith, and feels exhausted by the performative expectations forced upon women in religious leadership.

The main story kicks into high gear around Scharisse’s 40th birthday, when she receives the ultimate validation she has always craved: an invitation to compete in the prestigious First Lady USA pageant. This glamorized competition brings together the elite first ladies of the megachurch ecosystem to crown the nation’s model preacher’s wife. Winning the pageant represents



the peak of acceptance and respectability for Scharisse, offering a chance to finally prove her worth to the conservative church community that has constantly judged her.

However, as the pageant date draws closer, the high-pressure environment of the competition collides with sudden scandals, dark secrets, and unresolved trauma from Scharisse’s past. Her carefully built world threatens to implode as church politics, systemic misogyny, and deep-seated hypocrisy within her inner circle erupt into full view. Instead of quietly retreating to protect her husband’s reputation and pageant optics, Scharisse reaches a dramatic turning point. Supported by key allies like her fierce Aunt Marie, she decides to take control of her own narrative by laying out her unfiltered truths.

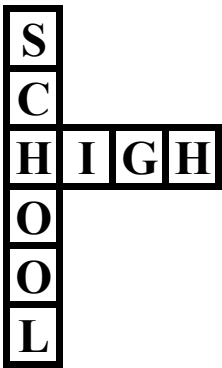
As the narrative unfolds like a series of wildly candid confessions, Scharisse systematically dismantles the illusions surrounding her life, choosing authentic self-acceptance over corporate church approval. It transforms into a hilarious, high-stakes, and deeply liberating journey where a woman decides to stop performing for a crown and start living entirely on her own terms.

I hope you enjoy this week’s book. Don’t forget to check out my Instagram, @allison.the.reader, for more book recommendations — or maybe just to share your thoughts on whatever “Real Housewives” franchise is currently airing!

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

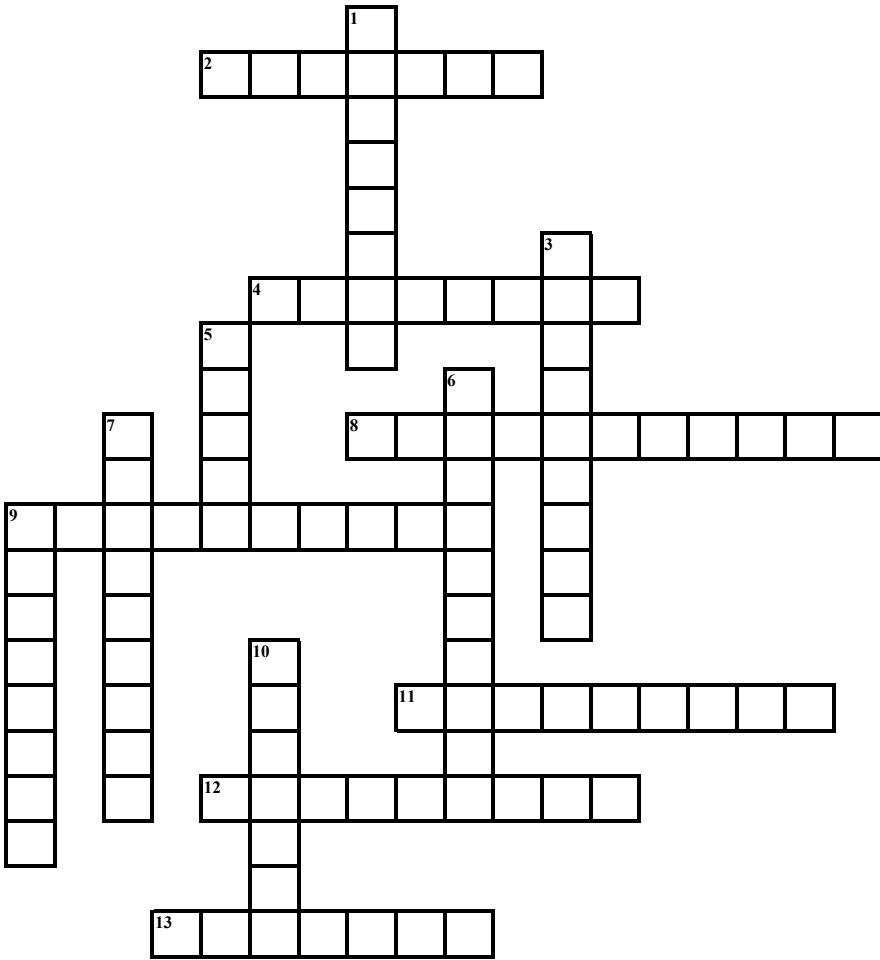


Across

- 2. $2x^2 + 4x - 6$
- 4. Slab, pinch
- 8. Composition, lighting
- 9. Prose, poetry
- 11. Rivers, mountains
- 12. Aquatics, gymnastics
- 13. Energy, matter

Down

- 1. Axioms, theorems
- 3. Micro-, macro-
- 5. Tenor, soprano
- 6. State, federal
- 7. Quasars, nebula
- 9. Latin, French
- 10. US, world



C O L U M N S

PostCards: Pain and Perseverance

By Michon Mackedon

The portrait of early Fallon (1900-1910) features many of the stereotypes found in a western movie: dusty, unpaved streets, a shooting here and there, a surplus of saloons, busy country doctors, eager politicians, up and coming businessmen, patient women, and everyday struggles for health, wealth and happiness. All of this, however, was punctuated by intermittent calamity. Two major disasters arrived in the first decade of the 20th century—flood, then fire.

The flood of 1907 was not caused simply by an overflowing river, but by a confluence of other singular events. The winter of 1906-07 saw heavy snowfall. The spring of 1907 began with an early warm spell. During February, the papers were full of reports of carriage outings and picnics, early plantings and high hopes for a bountiful harvest. The February 23 issue of the Churchill County Standard waxed poetic:

The Churchill County weather for three weeks past is calculated to make all other climates under the sun pale in comparison. Sunny Italy, balmy southern California, and the never changing skies of tropical Mexico sink in significance when compared with the glorious sunshine enjoyed in Churchill County. To live for a brief time in this section is to live your existence here, because its equal cannot be found.

But then came the rains. Lots of them. The mountain snow melted in a flash, releasing a torrent of water into the Carson River, where, upstream near Dayton, boulders, trees, and brush were swept along, taking out bridges and structures. Remember that, at the time, there was no Lahontan Dam to help capture and control the resulting mess.

On the morning of March 20, the waters breached Diversion Dam and rushed downriver. In an oral history given by Roy Williams (b. 1900), he recalled that earlier on, someone had constructed a dam on the Carson River (pre-Lahontan Dam; many private dams were erected along the river), forcing the stream into a relatively narrow channel that ran close to the heart of Fallon. The river had since changed course, flowing more to the northwest (where it still flows). In 1907, the Southern Pacific



AI illustration by Lori Kaiser, via ChatGPT.

Railroad had just completed a spur connecting Hazen to Fallon. According to Williams, when the huge volume of water from the spring runoff arrived, brush and trees were caught on the railroad bridge near present Highway 50, forcing water back into the older narrow channel. The water engulfed much of Maine Street, lapping at the foundation of the courthouse and damaging the first floor of the Fallon Hotel across the street from the courthouse. North Maine Street, then known as “Lover’s Lane,” looked like a swamp.

At the Fenner Poultry Farm, location not known, the water flooded a standing chicken coop, drowning the feathered friends inside. At the Mills District School (in Old River, close to the present

Sagouspe Dam), students and teachers were marooned in the schoolhouse for five days. Apparently, the school was reached via a swinging bridge over the Carson River, and that bridge had fallen victim to the flood. In addition, the previously mentioned Southern Pacific Railroad bridge was washed out, leaving “several hundred feet of track lay dangling in mid-air” (Rossman, Andrea. “Rain-on-Snow.” In Focus, Volume 20, p. 36).

No lives were lost, but breathless tales of the flood were passed down for years. Harry Huff Pierce, working for the Bureau of Reclamation, added this one:

One of our mules for the Reclamation Project was swept away and started swimming the flood. This mule was caught on an island about 3:30 a.m. and took this trip about 9:00 a.m. He was picked up eight miles from where he started (Rossman).

The mule survived; the railroad survived; and the town survived. The fire of 1910, however, almost took us down. More next week.

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

Michon Mackedon is a native of Fallon and a retired professor of English and Humanities (WNC). She loves her family, her home, her dog, reading, writing, making good food, and sipping a glass of fine white wine. Beyond that, she refuses to be categorized.

Fallon Theatre Movies & More

Our team here at the theatre is jumping right into October with both feet by presenting a fantastical interactive big-screen adventure with “A Bug’s Life” 4D on Friday, Oct. 2, and Saturday, Oct. 3.

Get ready to see, hear, and feel Pixar’s animated classic like never before as Flik and his insect friends fight to save their colony, complete with synchronized interactive effects and themed sensory surprises right in the auditorium that will immerse you in the story. Showtimes are set for 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2, and both 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, with all proceeds going directly toward our Façade Restoration Fund to help repair and preserve our historic building’s exterior. Due to high demand and custom interactive seating for this multisensory weekend, advance reservations are strongly recommended, so grab your tickets early through the link on our website or Facebook event, pick up some fresh buttered popcorn at concessions, and join us for an unforgettable weekend of 4D movie magic.

However, if you would prefer the standard movie, those screenings (with no special effects or reservations required) run Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Our extra special thanks goes out to the Huck Salt family



who plan, prepare, sponsor, and host these epic 4D events for the community to enjoy. They put in a massive amount of time and effort into making these showings immersive and memorable, and we appreciate every bit of it.

October is also bringing back one of our favorite small-town traditions, and it’s bigger than ever. The Maine Street Spooktacular returns on Saturday, Oct. 31, and since Halloween falls on a Saturday this year, the fun is expanding with an extra hour of festivities from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Free for all Churchill County residents, this spooktacular evening features trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treating, bounce houses, pumpkin painting, a haunted house, delicious food options, and music by DJ Todd Moretto. We are also thrilled to announce a very special guest: Jacques Magician will be visiting with the trick-or-treaters and performing mind-bending tricks. If you’d like to join the fun and pass out candy to our local ghosts and ghouls, please contact Huck Salt at 775-423-2055 or via email at huck_salt@yahoo.com.

In November, gear up for a night of pure laughter on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. as clean, family-friendly stand-up comedy returns to the Fallon Theatre. We are thrilled to welcome Nashville-based comedian Lee Hardin (Dry Bar

Comedy, “The Mike Huckabee Show”) back to our stage for an evening of warm, relatable humor the whole family can enjoy. Tickets are \$20, or grab a Double Date Discount to get four tickets for the price of two. Grab your seats early and join us for a great night out right here in your favorite historic theater.

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

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

Prepared Meals

William Pennington Life Center Monday through Friday (hot lunch), 11:30 a.m. to 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 through Fridays (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) <i>Food and hygiene products – two per visit</i> Front porch of Chamber of Commerce, 290 W. Williams Ave. Lobby of Churchill County Sheriff’s Office, 180 W. A St. West entrance (outside), Wolf Center, 457 Esmeralda St. <i>Donations appreciated</i>
Commodities, New Frontier Food Pantry Second Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1490 Grimes St.	



LOCAL AUTHOR, LARRY NEEL



Larry Neel
Shadows in the Sagebrush



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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

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

Dated: September 10, 2026.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE
OF REDEMPTION OF CERTAIN
FALLON NUGGET CHIPS:**

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

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

IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE

The 2nd (2nd) Installment of the 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR taxes will be due and payable on or before October 5, 2026. If not paid on or before October 15, 2026, delinquent charges will be applied in accordance with NRS 361.483. Failure to receive a tax bill does not excuse the taxpayer from the timely payment of taxes in accordance with NRS 361.480. If you have recently refinanced, purchased, paid off your mortgage, moved, or not yet received your property tax bill, please contact the Clerk/Treasurer’s office or visit our website at: www.churchillcountynv.gov for current tax information and/or online payment options.

Linda Rothery
Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer
775-423-6028
Office / Mailing Address:
155 N. Taylor St., Suite 110
Fallon, NV 89406

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 2, 2026
Ad #7777

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 12

ALGEBRA

ASTRONOMY

ATHLETICS

CERAMICS

CHOIR

ECONOMICS

GEOGRAPHY

GEOMETRY

GOVERNMENT

HISTORY

LANGUAGE

LITERATURE

PHOTOGRAPHY

PHYSICS

**DISTRICT COURT
CHURCHILL COUNTY NEVADA**
CASE NO. 10DC-26-0856, DEPT: 1
MELISSA DYER
3235 Pflum Lane Fallon, NV 89406
775-217-5134 mldyer52@outlook.com
Petitioner

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF:
KATHLEEN SUSAN RODEGEB,
DECEASED.**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been duly appointed and qualified by the above-entitled court on the 8th day of September, 2026, as Administrator of the Estate of KATHLEEN SUSAN RODEGEB, 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 and serve a copy upon the undersigned.

DATED: This September 8, 2026.
/s/ Melissa Dyer, Petitioner

Published in
The Fallon Post
Sept. 18, 25 and Oct. 2, 2026
Ad #7747

Remembrance

For obituaries
please call 775-423-4545
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TO SUBMIT AN OBITUARY

Please send via email to:
customers@rangemediaco.com
You can attach a photo. Obituary text
must be sent in Word document
format, or in the body of an email,
no images or pictures of text, please.

**NOTICE OF CHANGE
OF DATE OF REGULARLY
SCHEDULED COUNTY
COMMISSION MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to NRS 244.085, the Churchill County Commissioners have changed the DATE of their second meeting in October, scheduled for October 21, 2026. The meeting will occur on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 8:15 AM, at the Churchill County Administrative Complex, 155 N. Taylor St, Commission Chambers, Fallon, NV.

Dated: August 28, 2026.
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer
Prepared by: Tara Adams,
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
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Sept. 25, and Oct. 2, 2026
Ad #7734

**Statement of Ownership,
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Rachel Dahl Owner:
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Free or nominal rate mailed at other classes - 0
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Total Distribution - 822
Copies not distributed - 161
Thursday returns
Percent Paid distribution - 97.20%

Signed by Rachel Dahl, Publisher

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 2, 2026

Send us Your Birth Announcements!

If you would like the birth of your child or grandchild announced in *The Fallon Post*, please:
Ask the hospital for the form, email the details and a photo to
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