

THE FALLON POST



TheFallonPost.org | Vol. 7 No. 14 \$2.00 | The Week of February 6, 2026

Tired, Happy Dogs Maggie’s Playhouse Says Goodbye

By Rachel Dahl

For 17 years, if you dropped your dog off at Maggie’s Playhouse Doggie Daycare, you knew exactly what you were getting: a tired, happy dog at the end of the day — and the quiet confidence that they were safe, cared for, and loved.

On Saturday, that chapter officially came to a close.

More than 80 people packed the Barrel House in Fallon to celebrate the retirement of Shannon Miller, the woman behind Maggie’s Playhouse, a dog daycare that became a fixture for local pet owners and their four-legged family members.



Photo by Rachel Dahl.

The venue's walls told the story before anyone said a word. One banner, filled with paw prints, represented the hundreds of dogs that passed through Maggie’s doors over the years. Another banner gave pet owners and friends a chance to leave messages of thanks. Together, they captured what Maggie’s Playhouse had quietly become: a canine community.

Founded in 2008, Maggie’s Playhouse wasn’t just daycare. It was a place where nervous dogs learned to trust, where aggressive dogs learned how to exist in a pack, and where owners knew they could leave their animals without worry.

“I could write a book,” Miller said with a laugh, looking around the room. “There are just so many memories.”

Some of her favorites came from the hardest cases, the dogs that arrived scared, reactive, or shut down.

“Watching them change,” she said. “Seeing dogs that couldn’t be around anyone turn into these amazing beings that could be with other dogs, those are my best memories.”

Miller said she made a genuine effort to sell the business before deciding to close. She reached out to other daycares, rescues, and contacts in Reno and beyond, hoping someone would step in.

[Maggie’s Playhouse continued on page 2]

Judge Stockard Files for District Court Seat, Will Run Unopposed

By Rachel Dahl

Judge Thomas Stockard has filed for re-election to the Tenth Judicial District Court and will not face an opponent in the 2026 election.

“It’s an honor to continue to serve the people of Churchill County,” Stockard said.

Stockard has served as Tenth District Court judge since 2012, when he was appointed to the bench by former Gov. Brian Sandoval following the death of Judge David Huff. He has since run unopposed in 2020, 2024, and again this year. Stockard received his law degree from Brigham Young University in 1993. He served as chief deputy district attorney for Churchill County from 1999 to 2012 and was previously in private practice.

He grew up in Southern California and, after two years of college, served a two-year church mission in Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil.

Statewide, 155 candidates filed for Nevada’s judicial offices, including two seats on the Nevada Supreme Court. About 31 percent of the state’s District Court judges were up for election this cycle, with many races also drawing no challengers.

On the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Douglas Herndon and Justice Kristina Pickering were both re-elected to six-year terms after no opponents filed against them. They were the only Supreme Court justices up for election this year.

For judicial offices, the filing window opened Jan. 5 and closed Jan. 16, ahead of the March filing period for nonjudicial offices. Nonjudicial filing

for the 2026 election cycle opens March 2 and runs through March 13.

Several county offices will be on the ballot, including County Commission District 2, assessor, clerk/treasurer, district attorney, public administrator, recorder, and sheriff. Republican Myles Getto is the lone county commissioner up for re-election.

Current county officeholders include Denise Mondhink-Felton, assessor; Linda Rothery, clerk/treasurer; Art Mallory, district attorney; Robert Getto, public administrator; and Tasha Hessey, recorder. Sheriff Richard Hickox is completing his second four-year term.

The Churchill County School Board will have four nonpartisan trustee seats on the ballot. Incumbents include Joe McFadden, Julie Guerrero-Goetsch, Amber Casey Getto, and Celestia Blakey.

Voters will also weigh in on the Mosquito, Vector & Noxious Weed Abatement Board seat currently held by Richard Grondin.

At the state level, Assemblyman Greg Koenig and State Senator Robin Titus have both indicated they plan to seek re-election. U.S. Representative Mark Amodei has also announced he will run again, as well as Governor Joe Lombardo.

The city of Fallon will hold elections for two city council wards. Kelly Frost, who represents Ward 1, is termed out, while Paul Harmon currently represents Ward 3.



Swirczek Announces Bid for Fallon City Council

By Rachel Dahl

Ryan Swirczek, a lifelong Fallon resident and long-time City of Fallon employee, has announced his candidacy for Fallon City Council.

Swirczek worked for the City of Fallon for 25 years, primarily in the Public Works Department, where he gained firsthand experience with municipal operations, infrastructure planning, and interagency coordination. He also served for more than 14 years as a volunteer firefighter with the Churchill County Fire Department.

“Fallon is more than just a place to live, it’s our home,” Swirczek said. “I want to help ensure the city continues to have leadership that understands our values and protects our future.”

In announcing his campaign, Swirczek said he is focused on maintaining public safety, supporting

families and youth, and managing growth in ways that align with Fallon’s infrastructure and community character.

He has identified youth and family support as a priority, including after-school programs, mentorship opportunities, sports, and faith-based activities. Swirczek also said he supports continued partnerships that serve senior citizens and families.

On growth and housing, Swirczek said he favors a balanced approach to attainable housing that accounts for infrastructure capacity and long-term sustainability, with coordination between the city and Churchill County.

Drawing on his background in public works and emergency services, Swirczek said he understands the needs of police, fire, and first responders and supports responsible investment in roads, water systems, and other critical city infrastructure.

He also emphasized transparent budgeting, accessibility in city government, and support for local businesses, tourism, agritourism, and Fallon’s relationship with Naval Air Station Fallon, military families, and veterans.

Additional information about Swirczek’s campaign is available at www.ryan4fallon.com.



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Single copies may be purchased for \$2 at local merchants listed on page 18.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain's Log

Small Towns

By Rachel Dahl

I love small towns, but I love ours the best.

Last week, heading to a meeting somewhere far from Fallon, a frantic text came in from the office on Center Street. Sadie said Denise had called from the shop on Maine Street because the post office had called her because they knew she works with us and could find me.

Apparently, the front door to my house (all the way southwest of town, about nine miles away) was wide open and “the animals were all over the place.” I could just imagine peacocks roosting on the couch.

We decided, in the interest of time, to have Sadie call Nancy, who writes for us and lives across the road from me, to see if she could run over there really fast to check what was going on.

Nancy then texted me that the door was closed and everything looked fine, but there was a note on the door from the mail gal. Nancy takes care of all the beasts and fowl for me when I’m gone, and she knows it’s a free-range free-for-all at the Boyer Bunny Ranch. The mail lady apparently hasn’t gotten that figured out yet, though, and was concerned for my living room.

And rightfully so, the goats did end up indoors one day, thanks to my little grandson.

Gratefully, the menagerie had remained outside, and the run-around was for naught, but what a lovely feeling to know that we’re all watching out for each other.

So, while we reinforce the goat pen and complain that the shop cats have to patrol the



farm for mice now that they have to earn their keep, we’ll all still be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

—*Rach*

[Maggie’s Playhouse continued from page 1]

“I tried all the things,” she said. “But nobody wanted to do it. Nobody wants to work hurt, without insurance, without backup. I didn’t even get responses.”

Ultimately, the decision to retire was driven by health. Miller is dealing with serious neck issues and will need surgery, something that makes continuing the physically demanding work impossible.

Still, “retirement” is a loose term.

While Maggie’s Playhouse has closed, Miller continues to run Bean’s Senior Dog Care, a non-profit rescue focused on senior dogs, the animals that are often overlooked, surrendered, or abandoned late in life.

The mission is simple: provide safety, medical care, and love for senior dogs until the end of their lives.

“Because every dog, no matter their age, deserves love,” reads the organization’s message.

Bean’s Senior Dog Care is a natural extension of the work Miller has done her entire career, advocating for dogs that need patience, understanding, and time.

As the party wound down, guests added a few more paw prints, a few more signatures, and a few more hugs. Maggie’s Playhouse may be closing its doors, but the relationships built there are clearly lasting.

For those interested in supporting or learning more about Bean’s Senior Dog Care, information is available at beanseniorcare.org or by contacting Miller at 775-294-5987.

After 17 years of tired, happy dogs, Shannon Miller isn’t stepping away from the work; she’s simply focusing on the ones who need her most.



PETS OF THE WEEK

Available for Adoption

Bear, a white-coated, soulful-eyed dog with a penchant for being the center of attention, is looking for a new home. Known as a socialite with high standards, Bear carefully selects his friends and values his personal space. He's fully house-trained, excels on a leash, and is famous for negotiating extra treats with his irresistible gaze. However, Bear is not fond of cats—acting as a self-appointed feline-removal specialist—and would do best as either the only dog in the household or with a carefully selected companion. His loyalty and protective instincts extend to both family and fallen popcorn, making him an ideal four-legged shadow for the right adopter.

Shelter officials say Bear’s dream home is one where he can shine as the primary pet and offer steadfast companionship. “He’s the kind of dog who will fiercely love his people and keep them entertained,” a spokesperson said. Prospective adopters should be prepared for a pup with personality and clear preferences when it comes to both canine and feline friends.

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



My Name is Honeybun

Honeybun, a spirited 7-month-old male, is looking for his forever home after overcoming a tough start in life, according to the Fallon Animal Welfare Group (FAWG). Known affectionately as “Honey” to his friends, he’s described as petite, playful, and resilient, winning hearts with his energetic personality and fearless spirit.

Honeybun is almost ready for adoption and will be available following his neuter, FAWG said. Despite early challenges, he has grown into a “bouncing ball of fun and chaos” and is eager to bring joy to a new family. Anyone interested in meeting Honeybun or learning more about his story is encouraged to call FAWG at 775-217-4745. The organization is hopeful that Honeybun’s journey will inspire potential adopters to give this brave little kitty a loving home.

Questions? Call 775-217-4745

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

FEATURES

Fallon Offers Romantic Dinners for

Valentine's DAY

By Sydney Trainor

Couples and friends looking for a special way to celebrate Valentine’s Day in Fallon can choose from an array of local restaurants, many of which are offering romantic evenings and special menus. Several venues are encouraging guests to make early reservations and purchase tickets in advance to guarantee a spot at their preferred restaurant.

Valentine’s Day, celebrated every Feb. 14, has its roots in ancient Roman and early Christian traditions. The holiday’s origins are believed to stem from a unique blend of cultural influences, most notably the Roman festival of Lupercalia—a mid-February celebration held to promote fertility and ward off evil spirits.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe, the festival was gradually reinterpreted and linked to St. Valentine, a figure shrouded in legend and associated with acts of kindness and secret marriages during times of oppression.

Over the centuries, these traditions merged and evolved, with Valentine’s Day growing in popularity and becoming increasingly associated with expressions of romantic love. Today, Valentine’s Day is recognized not only for its historical significance but also as a celebration of affection and connection among couples, friends, and families.

Romantic dinners eventually became a hallmark of Valentine’s Day because they offer couples an intimate setting to connect and celebrate their relationship. Sharing a meal in a cozy atmosphere helps create lasting memories and reinforces the holiday’s focus on love and togetherness.

Whether you’re celebrating Valentine’s Day with a partner or with friends, the restaurants of Fallon offer diverse options and a welcoming spirit that will suit all seeking to celebrate this day.

Special Dinners on Valentine’s Day

- Fallon Golf Course
- Historic Middlegate Station
- Maine Street Café
- The Depot Diner
- The Grid
- The Slanted Porch
- The Twisted Branch
- Uzumaki

Father-Daughter Dance Rafter 3C



Harper and Alex Haffner share a moment before the Father-Daughter Dance, at Rafter 3C on Jan. 31, 2026. Photo courtesy of Leslieann Haffner.



AJ Drake and his daughter, Allie Jo Drake, attend the Father-Daughter Dance Rafter 3C, Jan. 31, 2026. Photo courtesy of Ashley Drake.



Churchill County High School students Miranda Reeder as Moana, Leah Sorensen as Snow White, Kylee Simper as Elsa, Dylan Ekins-Faught as Belle, and Jada Anastasio as Cinderella pose during the Father-Daughter Dance at Rafter 3C on Jan. 31, 2026. Photo by Loni Johnston Faught.

MEETINGS

February 5 – March 19, 2026

Board of County Commissioners
Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: Feb. 5 at 8:15 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees
Meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: Feb. 26 at 3 p.m.

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

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

Central NV Health District
155 N Taylor Street
Next meeting: March 19 at 1:30 p.m.



WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken February 2, at 8:30 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	153,700 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	4.90 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	459 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	451 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	316 cfs

February 2, 2024	February 2, 2023	February 2, 2022
233,153 acre feet	106,042 acre feet	85,864 acre feet

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Deputy

Deputy Brandon Anderson was officially sworn in by Churchill County Sheriff Richard Hickox on January 26, 2026. Anderson will start his law enforcement career at the Churchill County Detention Center, where he will undergo field training and pursue Nevada Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) certification.



Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff's Office.

RHAN Announces
2026 Board



From left, front row: Treasurer Heidi Nash and Secretary Karen Kidney. Back row: President Robin Moxley and Vice President James Dexter, the 2026 board members of the Reining Horse Association of Nevada (RHAN), which has been active in Fallon since 1994. Photo by Hayden Andersen.

IRS Certified Volunteers Offer Free Tax Preparation Services

Staff Report

Certified volunteers are providing free tax preparation at IRS VITA/TCE sites this tax season, with hours and services varying by location. Some sites prioritize seniors, and visitors may experience wait times, officials said.

Volunteers can assist with wages, retirement income, capital gains and losses, state tax refunds, self-employed income, gambling winnings, debt cancellation, education and child tax credits, and more. However, complex returns, business depreciation, home office use, and certain other forms are



not covered. Filers with complicated returns are encouraged to seek professional help.

Taxpayers should bring photo IDs, Social Security or ITIN documents, last year’s return, relevant income and deduction forms, birth dates for all listed individuals, and banking information for direct deposit. Both spouses must be present for joint filings. For details, visit www.irs.gov/vita.

IRS e-file is recommended for secure, accurate, and fast submission.

Nevada Statewide Child
and Family Support Project

Staff Report

A new statewide initiative led by the University of Nevada, Reno School of Public Health and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Public Health is changing how Nevada addresses childhood adversity by expanding data access, strengthening prevention efforts, and fostering community partnerships.

The Nevada Essentials for Childhood project focuses on using data to drive prevention, helping communities and policymakers identify where support is most needed. “We are collecting information that helps communities and policymakers see where support is most needed and how positive experiences can protect against trauma,” said project lead Clements-Nolle.

The project’s Data Dashboard maps childhood experiences and deprivation scores across ZIP codes, revealing neighborhoods with higher adversity and fewer protective supports. These findings have enabled local leaders to target services to families who need them most, while public health professionals, educators, and community organizations use the insights to guide prevention programs, grant proposals, and policy discussions.

The collaboration aims to create more effective, community-driven solutions for children and families throughout Nevada.

We are collecting information that helps communities and policymakers see where support is most needed and how positive experiences can protect against trauma.



A photograph of the Depot Casino & Diner building. It features a prominent clock tower with Roman numerals. A sign on the roof reads 'Depot CASINO & DINER'. Another sign on the left shows a train engine with 'DEPOT CASINO' written on it.

A photograph of a bingo card with numbers and the word 'BINGO'.

A photograph of a large hamburger with cheese, lettuce, and tomato.

A photograph of several slot machines with '7' and cherry symbols.

Your place for
food, fun and
entertainment!

View our complete menu online
depotcasino.com

875 W. Williams Ave.
775-423-2411

OBITUARIES

ROSEMARY BUCK GEIS

February 3, 1940 – January 26, 2026

Rosemary Buck Geis passed away peacefully in Sparks, Nevada, on Monday, January 26, 2026, surrounded by family. She was born on February 3, 1940, in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to Dr. Robert and Lucille Buck, and spent much of her life devoted to faith, family, education, and service to others. Rosemary grew up in Belle Fourche, where she lived in the same home until she got married.

We learned to love education and music thanks to our mother’s influence. In high school, she was an ambitious and successful student. She was a member of the Honor Society, a clarinet player in the school band, a soprano in the choir, and a talented pianist. Music remained an important part of her life, and she and her friends often performed together as a singing group at school functions and special events.

Our mother empowered us with the ability to recover from challenges and persist through obstacles. At 16, Rosemary survived a life-changing accident. A gunshot injury grazed her spinal cord, leaving her temporarily paralyzed. She spent months in hospitals in Colorado and South Dakota. Through determination and aqua therapy, she relearned how to walk. Being left-handed, she learned to do everything with her right hand. Her resilience then defined her strength and perseverance for life.

Despite missing months of school, Rosemary caught up and graduated with her class in 1958 from Belle Fourche High School. After graduation, she traveled with her Girl Scout troop to Cuernavaca and Mexico City, an experience that helped spark her lifelong love of travel.

Our mother laid a foundation for our lives, emphasizing the importance of family, community service, our Catholic faith, and education. Rosemary began her undergraduate studies at the University of Denver before transferring to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in

Elementary Education. She later married her high school sweetheart, Kenny Geis, and together they built a life rooted in education, family, and adventure. After living in several places across the country, they ultimately settled in Fallon, Nevada, where they raised their four children, Nancy, Deborah, David, and Douglas, who were the pride and joy of their lives.

In Fallon, Rosemary devoted two decades to teaching second grade, shaping the lives of countless young students with her patience, kindness, and love of learning. She was an active member of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church and participated in the Ladies Guild, Red Hat Society, AAUW, bridge clubs, and Girl Scouts. During her final year as Girl Scout Cookie Mom, her garage was filled with cookies until the family dog snuck in and ate most of them.

After retiring, Rosemary moved to Sparks, Nevada, to be closer to her children. She became a dedicated member of Holy Cross Catholic Community, participating in the Joy Club and Holy Red Hats, serving as an Eucharistic Minister to nursing homes, and teaching catechism. She also cherished spending time with her grandchildren, attending school events, extracurricular activities, and volunteering as a guest reader in classrooms.

Our mother taught us to embrace the joy of living. Rosemary had a passion for travel and visited many states, including Hawaii and Alaska, as well as destinations abroad such as the Caribbean, Canada, Italy, France, and Spain. She especially loved cruising and welcomed every opportunity to explore somewhere new.

If you knew Rosemary, you also knew she was a sports fanatic. She loved the San Francisco Giants. Her family knew not to visit during the Giants’ baseball games unless you were there to watch, not visit. She enjoyed Fantasy Football



and the NCAA basketball tournament bracket. She proudly displayed her Fantasy Football trophies with her team’s name, Sparky.

Rosemary is preceded in death by her husband of 31 years, Kenneth Geis; her parents, Dr. Robert and Lucille Buck; and her brother, Bob Buck.

She is survived by her four children: Nancy (Ray) Leisy, Deborah (Todd) Galati, David (Claudine) Geis, and Douglas Geis; eight grandchildren: Briana (Tyler) Trout, Nicole (Pierce) Wisnovsky, Anthony (Sidney) Galati, Gillian Geis, Brandon Leisy, Gelina Geis, Garrison Geis, and Ciara Geis; one great-granddaughter, Kennedy Trout; her sisters and brothers-in-law, Suzanne and Bill Howe and LeeAnne and Gene Schmidt; sisters-in-law Nancy Buck, Charlaine Gatje, and Judy Geis; brothers-in-law Tam Gatje and Bob Geis; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has shared in our mother’s wonderful life. She loved life, and life loved her.

Our mother was a beautiful lady. She was very caring and loving, with a wonderful sense of humor. Our hearts are broken, but the memories keep us smiling. We know how blessed we are to have had the best mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. We will miss her greatly.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 12:00 pm on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 5650 Vista Blvd., Sparks, NV. A reception will follow at Red Hawk Golf Course Event Center at 6600 N. Wingfield Pkwy., Sparks, NV. She was laid to rest next to her husband in Fallon, NV, at the Churchill County Cemetery, 500 Rio Vista, Fallon, NV, on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 2:30 pm, with a reception that followed at St. Patrick’s Parish Hall at 850 W. 4th St., Fallon, NV.

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, February 9

Honey Garlic Chicken
Red Pepper-Garlic Pasta
Brussel Sprouts
Mixed Salad
WW Bread

Tuesday, February 10

Stuffed Pork Loin
BBQ Baked Beans
Herb Roasted Potatoes
Beet Salad
Applesauce

Wednesday, February 11

Salisbury Steak
Cheddar Mashers
Onion Gravy
Garlic Green Beans
WW Roll
Ice Cream Cup

Thursday, February 12

Sloppy Joes
WW Bun
Cowboy Beans
Glazed Carrots
Fruit Cocktail

Friday, February 13

Shrimp Scampi
WW Seasoned Pasta
Roasted Corn
Garlic Bread
Mandarin Oranges
Chocolate Dipped Strawberries

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, February 9

Turkey Bacon Melt
Baked Potato & Veggies

Thursday, February 12

Neapolitan Baked Pasta
Salad & Dessert

Monday, February 16

Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes & Veggies

Thursday, February 19

Pancakes & Eggs
Sausage or Bacon

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

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ukulele for Beginners

Western Nevada College
160 Campus Way
Jan. 20 – March 10, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Lunchtime Book Club

Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Feb. 6 at 12:15 p.m.

Bad Art: Junk Journaling

Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Feb. 9 at 2:30 p.m.

Applied AI series

Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Pottery Studio

Western Nevada College
160 Campus Way
Fridays, Jan. 23 – May 15, 12 to 4 p.m.

Fallon Chamber Awards Dinner

Fallon Chamber of Commerce
100 Campus Way
Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.

Great Basin Bull Sale

Rafter 3C Arena
325 Sheckler Rd.
Feb. 12 – Feb. 15

February Chamber Luncheon

Fallon Youth Club
324 Pennington Circle
Feb. 19 at 11:30 a.m.

[T]HERE Gallery Exhibit by Patrick Kikut

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

Taylor Swift Eras Tour fundraiser,

Class of 2026

Fallon Theatre
71 S. Maine St.
Feb. 7, 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Joe Nichols

Rafter 3C Arena
325 Sheckler Rd.
Feb. 12 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Crafting for Adults

Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Feb. 19 and 21 at 4 p.m.

First Friday Night Fish Fry

American Legion Post 16
90 N. Ada St.
Feb. 6 at 6 p.m.

Valentine’s Day 5K

The Fallon Theatre
71 S. Maine St.
Feb. 7 at 8 a.m.

Val’s Night Scholarship Fundraiser

Churchill Arts Council
151 E. Park St.
Feb. 13, 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Author Talk: Jessica Rowe

Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.

Galentine’s Show

The Fallon Theatre
71 S. Maine St.
Feb. 6 and 7 at 7 p.m.

Aquafit Kick Off

Churchill County Aquatic Center
333 Sheckler Rd.
Feb. 7, 8:45 – 10 a.m.

Twisted Branch & Wild Horse Café

Valentine’s Dinner

The Twisted Branch
111 S Taylor St.
Feb. 14, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

SWA Wrestling Tournament

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

Valentine Craft Fair

The Wolf Center
457 Esmeralda St.
Feb. 6 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
and Feb. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Julie Fowlis - The Voice of the Highlands

The Barkley Theatre
151 E. Park St.
Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

Valentine’s Dinner

Fallon Golf Course
2655 Country Club Dr.
Feb. 14 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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



COMMUNITY

Dr. Stuart Richardson, Someone to Know

By Nancy Chapman

For nearly 45 years, Stuart Richardson, O.D., has served the Fallon community as an optometrist, earning loyalty from generations of patients and leaving his mark far beyond the exam room.

Richardson, a Greenville, Maine, native, opened his practice on Maine Street in January 1981 after graduating from UC Berkeley’s Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science and one year of living and working in France. Ironically, the street name echoes his New England roots. Many of the original patients still seek his care, while newcomers are welcome for comprehensive eye exams and updated prescriptions as needs evolve.

Richardson’s influence extends well outside of optometry. Shortly after arriving in Fallon, he joined the Fallon Library Board, serving eight years, and later contributed to the Newlands Water Protection Association. He ran for County Commissioner in 2000 and has served 18 years on the planning commission. In 2002, seeking further education while maintaining his practice, Richardson enrolled in online courses at Concord

School of Law, passed the California Bar in 2009, and ran an online law practice for 6 years.

In 2018, Richardson campaigned for Justice of the Peace, but Judge Ben Trotter won the seat. Richardson was subsequently appointed Fallon Justice of the Peace Pro Tempore by the Churchill County Commissioners. In this role, he presides over criminal, civil, eviction, and traffic matters, but he says officiating weddings is his favorite responsibility, taking joy in seeing couples begin their journey together.

Richardson’s commitment to community revitalization is evident in his stewardship of the historic Fallon Theater. In 2015, he fulfilled a lifelong fascination by purchasing the theater, a nod to his high school days working at Greenville’s local movie house. His first project involved reupholstering the seats with covers sewn from repurposed jeans, a collaborative effort with Fallon’s sewing club and local volunteers. He expressed gratitude for their



Dr. Stuart Richardson, optometrist, at his Fallon, Nev., clinic. Photo by Stuart Richardson.

creativity and dedication. Later that year, D & D Plumbing replaced cast-iron pipes originally installed in 1920, bringing the building up to date. Richardson cherishes stories from patrons who first visited as children and now return as adults to enjoy the theater’s restored charm.

In 2017, Richardson sold the theater to a nonprofit and remains actively involved on its board, often seen working the snack bar during nostalgic movie screenings. Away from downtown, he tends his favorite hobby, an alfalfa farm and large orchard on Swingle Bench, where he manages hay, fruit trees, and a herd of goats, finding satisfaction in the challenges of agricultural life.

Growing up in Greenville, Richardson learned the importance of small-town values and community engagement, lessons reflected in his decades of service and leadership. “It’s important to be a part of your community,” he says, a philosophy that continues to shape his impact in Fallon.

Free Job Workshop Saturday at Churchill County Library

Staff Report

The Churchill County Library will host a free workshop for job seekers Saturday, Feb. 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its location on 553 S. Maine St. in Fallon.

NevadaWorks and EmployNV representatives will be available to discuss complimentary training opportunities in health care, digital technology, manufacturing, and logistics. Attendees can stop by at any time during the three-hour event to learn what it takes to enter these industries.

The workshop aims to connect individuals seeking new careers with resources and guidance on breaking into high-demand fields. Free training options will be explained, and specialists will answer questions about job requirements and career paths.

The event is open to the public and requires no registration. For more information, visit the Churchill County Library or call ahead.

Patrick Kikut Brings Great Basin Landscapes to Fallon



Artist Patrick Kikut addresses guests during the opening of his exhibition at the Churchill Arts Council in Fallon, Nev., on Jan. 23, 2026. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

By Rachel Dahl

Artwork exploring the vast, often-overlooked landscapes of the Great Basin is now on display at the Churchill Arts Council, following a recent gallery opening at the E.L. Wiegand and Kirk Robertson Galleries.

The exhibition, Binocular and Spy Glass Paintings of the Great Basin, features work by artist Patrick Kikut, whose paintings draw from decades of travel throughout the American West. Kikut’s work focuses on remote highways, wide horizons, and the spaces between protected lands, places shaped by both natural forces and the quiet imprint of human presence.

Kikut describes his paintings as emerging from extensive time spent on the road, often sketching in landscapes that feel suspended between isolation and history. His work invites viewers to step into scenes that resemble abandoned stage sets, where traces of human activity suggest stories left unfinished. The resulting images reflect both the beauty and fragility of the ever-changing West.

Originally from Colorado, Kikut earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Colorado and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Montana. He has taught at the college level for more than 30 years, including long tenures at the University of Wyoming, the University of Texas at El Paso, and Highlands University of New Mexico. His work is held in several public collections, including the Nevada Museum of Art.

The gallery reception was held Jan. 23 at the Oats Park Art Center, with an accompanying artist workshop offered the following morning at the Oats Park Art School.

The exhibition is open to the public during regular gallery hours.

His work invites viewers to step into scenes that resemble abandoned stage sets, where traces of human activity suggest stories left unfinished.

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BUSINESS

Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

It’s hard to believe how quickly the weeks are flying by, but we’re excited for another fun weekend at the Fallon Theatre as we kick off Valentine’s celebrations with a special event.

On Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., catch *Despicable Me 4* (2024), the latest in the popular animated franchise and the final installment in our six-week series. Gru, Lucy, and the girls return, facing a new villain and plenty of Minion mischief. The film is rated PG and runs 1 hour, 34 minutes.

Love is in the air as we gear up for our annual Valentine’s Day 5K fundraiser this Saturday, Feb. 7, starting at the theater, 71 S. Maine Street. Registration opens at 8 a.m. and closes at 8:50 a.m.; the race begins at 9 a.m. Entry is \$25 for individuals or \$40 per couple, with day-of pricing at \$30 and \$50. Register at Western Alliance Bank (2061 W. Williams Ave.), Kent’s Supply Center (260 N. Maine St.), or online. For details, contact Crystal at 775-304-9975 or Taylor at 775-316-0952. Celebrate the holiday and support the theater while staying active.

At 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, join us for the Galentine’s Show featuring the Domesticated Man Band. These one-hour performances are all about fun, laughter, and feel-good entertainment. Admission is free; arrive early for a seat and enjoy an amusing night of music and comedy.

Looking ahead, we’ve added a new live music night on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. with Kat & Dave: The Acoustic Rock Experience. With more than seven years performing together, Kat and Dave bring polished musicianship and chemistry, drawing from their experience touring with a major Pink Floyd tribute band. Their acoustic duo show features reimagined classic rock favorites. Admission is \$10.

Behind the scenes, our seat upgrade project is progressing, thanks to our volunteers. Installation of “new-to-us” seating from Mesquite is moving ahead, offering added comfort with cup holders and swivel arms.

Looking further ahead, Fallon Theatre will host Heritage of the West on Saturday, March 7, 2026, a free event honoring the songs, stories, and traditions that built our communities. Performers, historians, poets, and storytellers will share heritage music, cowboy poetry, dance, and oral histories. To participate, email huck_salt@yahoo.com or call 775-423-2055 or 775-217-4142.

After the daytime celebration, enjoy a free concert at 7 p.m. featuring The Lincoln Highway Band, which will close out a day dedicated to western heritage and community.

We’re also announcing the 1st Annual Oasis Film Festival: An Oasis for Storytellers. Filmmakers can submit PG-rated short films (max 15 minutes) inspired by the theme America 250, with entries accepted across four age groups and a \$20 submission fee. Submit films by March 2. All films will be screened on Sunday, March 8, followed by a 5 p.m. awards ceremony for Best Picture, Best Acting, and Best Storyline. Film production and acting workshops will also be offered on March 8 for \$25 per participant.

The Fallon Theatre team is proud to continue offering free movie screenings whenever possible, making it easy for the whole community to gather for a night out. The concession stand features classic favorites like popcorn and candy. To rent the theater or feature a message on the marquee, call 775-423-6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com.

ROC Express Walk-in Clinic
Now Open in Fernley

By Rachel Dahl

A new walk-in orthopedic clinic is now open in Fernley, bringing specialized injury care and physical therapy closer to home for residents of Fernley, Fallon, and surrounding communities.

Reno Orthopedic Center officially opened its ROC Express & Physical Therapy location at 1034 Inglewood Drive on Jan. 5, offering no-appointment-necessary orthopedic care alongside on-site physical therapy services.

The Fernley location is designed to treat common orthopedic injuries, including sprains, fractures, sports injuries, and joint pain—without requiring patients to travel to Reno. The clinic also offers advanced imaging and coordinated physical therapy to support recovery close to home.

ROC Express provides walk-in orthopedic care Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., while physical therapy services are available Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The clinic can be reached at 775-829-2663 for ROC Express and 775-260-2619 for physical therapy.

During a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony, community leaders and local business representatives welcomed the clinic as an important addition to Fernley’s growing medical infrastructure. Speakers emphasized the value of expanding local access to specialty care, particularly as travel between Fernley, Fallon, and Reno has become increasingly time-consuming.

Clinic representatives noted that many staff members live in Fernley, Silver Springs, Fallon, and nearby communities, reinforcing the clinic’s connection to the region it serves. The Fernley location reflects a broader effort by Reno Orthopedic Center to expand access to orthopedic care across northern Nevada.

Services available at the Fernley ROC Express location include treatment for back and neck pain, broken bones, shoulder and knee injuries, sports injuries, strains, sprains, dislocations, and upper- and lower-extremity injuries.

Local officials described the opening as a sign of continued growth and investment in Fernley, highlighting the importance of supporting businesses that provide essential services to residents across the region.



The Fernley Chamber hosted a ribbon cutting for the Fernley ROC Walk-In Clinic last week. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

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COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, Jan. 27, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

By Teresa Moon

Anthony Wayne Baltazar pleaded guilty to Category E Felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), a First or Second Offense, punishable by 1 – 4 years in prison. Judge Stockard provisionally placed Baltazar in the Western Regional Drug Court program, ordered a Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI), and set sentencing for March 31.

Justin Shane Poindexter failed to appear for his scheduled status hearing. Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer said his client had been very cooperative and asked for a one-week continuation. Judge Stockard agreed and continued the hearing to Feb. 3.

Joshua Jamar Harvey, in custody, admitted to a Technical Sentencing Violation for failing to obtain employment or provide proof of three job applications per week as ordered by the court.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford noted for the record that Harvey had a previous technical violation, at which time the court temporarily revoked his probation and ordered 90 days in jail. Sandford asked for another revocation of at least 90 days.

CCPD Jacob Sommer told the court that Harvey just wanted to serve the underlying 60-day sentence. Judge Stockard consented and ordered Harvey to return to custody to serve the underlying two-month term.

Kaza Gail Kaylor appeared for a status hearing prior to a previously scheduled jury trial that was



set to begin in Jan. 28. Kaylor previously pleaded not guilty to Category C Felony of Grand Larceny of Goods or Property Valued at \$5,000 or more, but less than \$25,000, punishable by 1 – 5 years in prison, and to Category C Felony of Obtaining or Possessing a Credit Card or a Debit Card Without Consent, also punishable by 1 – 5 years.

Pursuant to plea negotiations, Kaylor changed her plea to guilty on the amended gross misde-

meanor charge of Conspiracy to Commit Grand Larceny of Property, which carries a penalty of up to 364 days in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,000.

Judge Stockard set sentencing for February 3 to allow for victim notification.

Autumn Nicole Castleberry – Sentencing was continued to March 3.

Landers Retains Counsel, Prelim Hearing Set in Sexual Assault Case

By Leanna Lehman

Sebastian Nathaniel Landers appeared for a status hearing in New River Township Justice Court on Jan. 29, 2026, before Judge Benjamin Trotter.

Landers, who was arrested Nov. 21, 2025, faces 11 counts related to allegations of Sexual Assault of a Child Under the Age of 14, Lewdness with a Child Under the Age of 14, and Abuse, Neglect, or Endangerment of a Child.

During a Nov. 23 arraignment, Judge Trotter conducted a Jimenez hearing to evaluate the defendant’s criminal history, risk of failing to appear in court, and potential danger to public safety. Under the Nevada Supreme Court’s Jimenez ruling, Trotter determined that Landers

was eligible for release on his own recognizance, without posting bail, under specific conditions. Trotter advised Landers that if he violated those conditions, he would be returned to custody, and bail would be set at \$475,890. Since that time, Landers has appeared at all scheduled court hearings, and Court Services has not reported any violations of his pretrial release.

Landers had been unable to formally retain private counsel until late last month. During the Jan. 29 status hearing, Richard Davies, Esq., of Reno appeared in person with his client and was recorded as Landers’ defense attorney. The court set a preliminary hearing for May 20, 2026, at 1 p.m.

In Nevada, a justice court preliminary hearing is a procedural step in felony cases used to

determine whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed to district court. At this stage, the state is not required to prove the charges beyond a reasonable doubt but must establish probable cause that a crime was committed and that the defendant likely committed it.

If Judge Trotter finds probable cause, the case will be bound over to the Tenth Judicial District Court for further proceedings.

All defendants are guaranteed Constitutional Due Process protections and are presumed innocent unless found guilty in a court of law. All charges against Landers are alleged, and all information in this article is based solely on publicly available court documents.

Gilbert Appears After Six Months in Lewdness Case

By Leanna Lehman

Jordan Randolph Gilbert, who has been in custody, appeared in New River Township Justice Court before Judge Benjamin Trotter on Jan. 29, 2026. Gilbert appeared by Zoom from the Churchill County Jail with his attorney, Churchill County Alternate Public Defender Wright Noel, who petitioned the court for his client’s release on his own recognizance (OR). The court granted the request.

Gilbert, who was arrested July 19, 2025, faces one count of Lewdness with a Child Under 14, a Category A felony punishable by life in prison with the possibility of parole after 10 years and a fine up to \$10,000. The criminal complaint filed by the Churchill County District Attorney’s Office alleges that on Jan. 19, 2025, Gilbert inappropriately touched an 8-year-old child.

At Gilbert’s arraignment, Justice Court Judge Pro Tem Anthony Tisdale found Gilbert eligible for public defender representation and assigned the case to the Churchill County Public Defender’s Office. Tisdale also said he found clear and convincing evidence to deny Gilbert release on his own recognizance without bail. Bail was set at \$25,000, bondable, with additional conditions and Court Services supervision, should Gilbert post bail.

During the Jan. 29 hearing, APD Noel argued for an OR release for his client,



Jordan Gilbert. Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff’s Office.

noting that Gilbert had been in custody since his July arrest and that his employer had held his job open for him. According to Noel, the Public Defender’s Office had contracted with an investigator, and Gilbert being out of custody would help counsel with his defense.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford opposed the request, arguing that no circumstances had changed since the earlier bail decision. Sanford stated that Gilbert posed a danger to the community and noted that he had only been in Fallon for approximately one hour at the time of his arrest.

Judge Trotter asked Gilbert about residence and living situation, then conducted a Jimenez hearing to evaluate criminal history, risk of failing to appear, and potential danger to public safety. Trotter found that clear and convincing evidence did not exist to deny an OR release and ordered Gilbert released from custody under specific conditions. Those conditions include weekly contact with his attorney, no contact with the victim, no new criminal violations, and required appearance at all scheduled court hearings.

If Gilbert violates the terms of his pretrial release, bail will be reinstated at \$50,000, cash only. Gilbert is next scheduled to appear on April 29 for a preliminary hearing at which time the court will determine whether enough evidence exists for the matter to proceed and be heard in district court.

[BLM continued from page 8]

includes portions of Churchill and Lyon counties. Aerial surveys estimated 518 wild horses in 2023, with herd numbers rising annually. The appropriate management level is set at just 7 to 10 animals, according to BLM Stillwater Field Manager Zach Reichold, far above the available resources.

In addition to the planned Lahontan gather, the BLM spring census flights will assess wild horse numbers in the 162,000-acre Desatoya Herd Management Area, located about 70 miles east of Fallon and spanning Churchill and Lander Counties. The AML for the area 127-180 horses.

In 2023, the BLM conducted a roundup in the Desatoya Herd Management Area. The Bureau gathered 59 wild horses, removed 12 excess animals, released 14 stallions back onto the range, and treated 33 mares with GonaCon, a fertility control vaccine.

“We conduct gathers like this to maintain the current population of wild horses within the appropriate management level,” said Kim Dow, Carson City BLM district manager, following the gather. “Consistent applications of fertility control, such as GonaCon, is one tool used to obtain this goal of a healthy population.”

The management approach is intended to protect habitat for native wildlife species, such as sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and elk, by balancing wild horse herd size with the land’s capacity.

The planned BLM roundup for wild horses in the Lahontan Herd Management Area is not currently on the agency’s roundup schedule, and any decision on a Desatoya HMA gather will depend on the results of the upcoming herd count.

Much like water, wild horse management is a longstanding and hotly debated issue in Nevada. With drought expected to impact several herd management areas, more roundups may be in store as the BLM tries to balance the state’s wildlife and delicate desert ecosystem with the livestock grazing needs of ranchers and respond to wild horse advocacy groups that argue for wild horses to range free.

The management approach is intended to protect habitat for native wildlife species, such as sage grouse, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, and elk, by balancing wild horse herd size with the land’s capacity.

EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD.



Avril Delgadillo works on the Index Card Tower Challenge in Randalyn Orong’s STEAM class at CCMS.



Landon Cowan shows classmates the Wolf Pup Playground Expectation Chart at Lahontan Elementary School.



Students in Abigail Ritts’ class build with magnetic and wooden blocks at a Creation Station in the new STEM room at E.C. Best Elementary School.

CCHS
On January 15, 2026, Churchill County High School’s Work-Based Learning Program allowed students to explore careers in cosmetology. Seven students, Arad Duenas, Kinsli Camacho, Naiomi Saling, Stephanie Abreu, Maria Gonzalez, Kelly Melancon, and Diana Lopez, traveled to Reno to visit four cosmetology schools, where they got to observe procedures, tour facilities, and learn directly from instructors and industry professionals. The trip helped students gain insight into program expectations, licensing requirements, and career pathways, all while seeing real classrooms and salon floors. The Work-Based Learning Program is designed to connect students directly with careers aligned to their interests, helping them make informed decisions about education, training, and employment after graduation. Experiences like this cosmetology field trip allow students to move beyond the classroom and gain authentic exposure to high-demand career fields. “CCHS remains committed to providing students with meaningful career exploration opportunities that support college, career, and workforce readiness, ensuring every student has a clear path toward a successful future,” Work-Based Learning Coordinator Dr. Sue Segura said.

CCMS
To kick off the second semester last week, students at CCMS participated in engaging learning activities that developed both academic and creative skills. In Courtney Aguilera’s class, students had the opportunity to lead the Daily Language overview, guiding classmates through questions while applying grammar, language, and vocabulary skills. On Fridays, they show what they learned with a quiz and earn a trip to the prize bin. Meanwhile, Randalyn Orong’s STEAM Lab students tackled the Index Card Tower Challenge, working together to build the tallest tower possible using only index cards. This allowed students to strengthen their problem-solving, collaboration, and engineering skills. Between academic challenges and creative problem-solving, CCMS students are off to an exciting and productive start to the second semester.

NUMA
Students in Jerrilynn Nall’s and Kristina McFadden’s 4th-grade social studies classes recently learned about the Space Shuttle Challenger tragedy of January 28, 1986. This year marks the 40th anniversary of Christa McAuliffe Day, a nationally recognized day honoring the teacher who was part of the Teacher in Space Program, as well as all those on board. Students engaged in meaningful discussions about NASA and space exploration, learning that advancing knowledge often comes with risk. They recognized that brave individuals help make the future possible and celebrated the courage of those who inspire progress.

E.C. BEST
Abigail Ritts’ class recently explored the new STEM Room at ECB. Since students do not have music class during the second semester, Principal Brad Barton transformed the music room into a hands-on learning space with Creation Stations. During their “music block,” teachers can bring students to the room to engage in activities that enrich their school day. Students get to enjoy a variety of stations, including Picasso Tiles, Brain Flakes, wooden train sets, magnetic and wooden building blocks, puzzles, games like Connect 4 and Jenga, a tornado simulator, 3Doodle pens, bracelet-making kits, and even a truck engine activity. “I want to give a huge shout-out to Ashley Youles for getting all the Creation Stations set up and ready for our students. She made it look so fun and inviting, and the kids are loving it,” Barton said.

LAHONTAN
Kindergarten students in Lisa Mills’ classroom are reviewing safe and respectful behavior for the playground. Lahontan Elementary uses the Wolf Pup Playground Expectation Chart to help students be safe, respectful, and responsible in all areas of the school. Students also created a playground Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to guide their classmates in being kind, safe, and responsible while playing. These activities help reinforce positive behavior and build a strong, caring school community.

Weekly Highlights at Logos Christian Academy

By Brenna Goings with photos courtesy of Logos.

This week at Logos, we held Awards Chapel to recognize our first- and second-quarter Honor Roll students and celebrate our Spelling Bee winners.



Eighth-grade spelling bee winners, from left: Jarron Benham, Austin Mills, and Ander Fisher.



Seventh-grade first-place spelling bee winner Emma Slentz.



Second-grade spelling bee winners, from left: Clayton Kruckenberg, Reagan Rose, Alex Peterson, Elijah Ethridge.

- 8TH GRADE**
1st place Ander Fisher
2nd place Austin Mills
3rd place Jarron Benham
- 7TH GRADE**
1st place Emma Slentz
- 6TH GRADE**
1st place Ellie Casey
2nd place Jake Kaster
3rd place Riata Ethridge
- 5TH GRADE**
1st place Katy Ethridge
2nd place Kinslyn Jimenez
3rd place Eliana Christian
- 4TH GRADE**
1st place Evva Brown
2nd place Penny Lyle
3rd place Abigail Van Wickler
- 2ND GRADE**
1st place Elijah Ethridge
2nd place Alex Peterson
3rd place Clayton Kruckenberg / Reagan Rose
- 1ST GRADE**
1st place Gemma Olasode
2nd place Layla Larson
3rd place Levi Kaster/ Ares Zabala
- KINDERGARTEN**
1st place Amara Bretz
2nd place Leia Nieto

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee winners! Your hard work and dedication shine through.

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera, with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: EMMA PAPADA

As graduation approaches, Oasis Academy senior Emma Papada reflects on her high school journey, defined by community, memorable classes, and a strong foundation for her future.



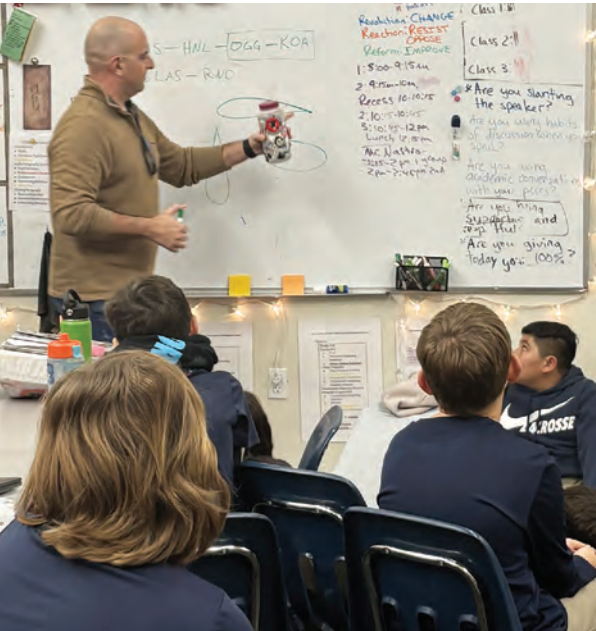
Oasis Academy Senior, Emma Papada.

Having attended Oasis Academy since her freshman year, Papada described her experience as being overwhelmingly positive. “It’s been so fun and welcoming,” she said. “Everyone is so nice, and it’s a small community, so everyone is close and knows each other.” When asked about her favorite memories and favorite classes, one immediately came to mind. “My favorite class is probably Mr. David Springfield’s history class, and my favorite memory was the final for that class freshman year. We had a mock war between the Greeks and Persians,” Papada said. “Mr. Springfield always made class so fun and enjoyable.” She also expressed gratitude for a teacher who made a lasting impact during a challenging transition back to school in the United States. “I’d like to thank our Academic Advisor, Mr. Eric Grimes,” she shared. “He helped me a lot when I got back from Bahrain, a great teacher, and he is always willing to help answer questions.” That sense of community at Oasis Academy came not just from the classroom teachers but also from being part of the Oasis Academy Girls’ Golf Team. “The golf coaches are amazing, and I had the best time with my teammates,” she said.

The team finished second at state this year, and Papada is convinced the team will win state next year. After graduating in May, Papada plans to continue her education in college, where she hopes to pursue either a career in education or a career in the medical field. Papada offered thoughtful advice to future Oasis students. “Don’t stress so much about the future and try to live in the moment more. Also, obviously, also keep your grades up,” she closed.

ADOPT-A-PILOT PROGRAM TAKES OFF AGAIN FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

Southwest Airlines’ Adopt-a-Pilot program is returning to 5th-grade classrooms, bringing real-world aviation experiences directly to students through local Southwest Airlines Pilot Kristopher Nastro. The program, which connects professional pilots with elementary classrooms, gives students a hands-on look at how math, science, geography, engineering, and teamwork are used every day in the aviation industry. Nastro brings extensive aviation experience to the classroom. He began flying with his dad as a young child and took his first solo flight on his 16th birthday. He then spent twenty years on active duty in the Navy flying the F-18 and serving on 4 combat deployments. Nastro has flown for Southwest Airlines for over 2 years and flies his private Super Cub out of the Fallon Airport.



Kris Nastro leads a classroom session as part of the Adopt-a-Pilot Program.

As part of the program, he will share insights about his career, explain how airplanes fly, discuss weather patterns and navigation, and answer students’ many questions about aviation. The Adopt-a-Pilot program also focuses on inspiring students to dream big and explore future possibilities. By interacting with a professional pilot, students gain first-hand knowledge of the aviation industry.

FFA FLORICULTURE TEAM PREPARES FOR STATE COMPETITION AND VALENTINE’S DAY FUNDRAISER

The Future Farmers of America (FFA) Floriculture team has begun its weekly practices as they prepare for the upcoming FFA State Competition. The most recent practice focused on hands-on floral design techniques, including creating ribbon bows and designing elegant single rose bud vases—skills essential for both competition success and real-world floral work. The team is coached by Sara Peixoto. Throughout the remaining practices, she will guide students as they continue studying floral identification, floral presentation, and the fundamentals of design, all of which are part of the state competition. In addition to competition preparation, the team is gearing up for a popular annual fundraiser. The FFA Floriculture team will again be selling individually designed roses for Valentine’s Day. Each rose will be thoughtfully arranged by team members, making it a meaningful, locally crafted holiday gift. Students and families will be able to purchase roses at the high school the week of February 9.



Members of the Oasis Academy FFA floriculture team, from left, Lora Siebecker, Danielle Fenton, Leannrose Goss, Meirra Cavanaugh, Abigail Owings, Bailey Peixoto, Sadie Whitaker, Reese Laca, and Brooke Manskie.

Veritas Preparatory School
Classical and Christian

Veritas Celebrates the 100th Day of School in Style

By Gretchen Felte with photos courtesy of Veritas.



Kindergarten and first-grade students dress as 100-year-olds to mark the 100th day of school.

Last week, Veritas Preparatory School marked the 100th school day with laughter, learning, and a creative celebration as kindergarten and first-grade students dressed as 100-year-olds and took part in a full day of 100-themed activities. From gray wigs and suspenders to walking canes and oversized glasses, students arrived in costume, delighting teachers, classmates, and parents alike. The playful outfits set the tone for a day that blended imagination with meaningful learning. Throughout the day, students rotated through activities designed to reinforce the concept of 100. Students counted to 100, completed a 100-themed coloring packet, and completed 100-year-old warm-up exercises, including jumping jacks and stretches. “100 is the best number ever,” said 1st-grader Lily Ernst. “101 is also good because that’s how many Dalmatians there are.” Part of Veritas’s ethos is the Biblical directive that parents bear the primary responsibility for their children’s education. Veritas teachers partner with parents to bring that education to life. This means that grandparents are of the utmost importance in the training-up of responsible children. The 100-day celebration provides students with the opportunity to play dress-up, but more importantly, highlights the crucial role of grandparents in a child’s development. Grandparents are frequently on campus at Veritas, assisting teachers in the classroom, reading to students in small groups, or volunteering in other capacities. The school hosts a Grandparents’ Day every year to honor the importance that extended family plays in the lives of young children. The 100th day of school is more than just a fun tradition at Veritas - it’s a meaningful milestone that highlights student progress and perseverance. By combining creativity with hands-on learning, Veritas continues to make education both joyful and engaging for its youngest learners.

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SPORTS

Tiny Mites Make JAMZ History

Staff Report

The Fallon Greenwave Tiny Mite cheer team placed third in their division and became the first Fallon squad to ever medal at the JAMZ Cheer & Dance Nationals, held Jan. 23 at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas. The team delivered a flawless routine, earning “HIT ZERO” status by avoiding all penalties and deductions.

Ivory, Rosalee, Rori, Kennedy, Penelope, Brynlee, Harley, Swayzee, Kylea, and Ayla executed their stunts, tumbling, and dance with precision, impressing both judges and coaches. Their perfect execution capped off six months of dedicated practice under head coach Angelina Smith and assistant coaches Regina Parsons, Kaitlin White, and Corissa Stubblefield.

The Fallon Greenwave Tiny Mites earned second place at both the Sagebrush Local Cheer Competition on Oct. 26, 2025, and the Pacific Northwest Pop Warner Cheer and Dance Regionals on Nov. 23, 2025, both in Reno, Nev., before making their historic showing in Las Vegas.

“We couldn’t be prouder of these girls and what they’ve accomplished for themselves and for Fallon,” Smith said. The performance marked a milestone for the program and set a new standard for future teams.

We’d also like to give a special thank you to Epworth Church for generously allowing us to use their space for practice over the past six months. Their support played an important role in our journey and success.



The Fallon Greenwave Tiny Mite cheer team and coaches celebrate earning third place at the JAMZ Nationals in Las Vegas, marking the first time a Fallon squad medaled at the event.



Kaylee Craig Commits to UIndy Lacrosse

By Nancy Chapman

Kaylee Craig, a junior at Oasis Academy, has verbally committed to play lacrosse at the University of Indianapolis in Indiana, where she plans to enter the school's engineering program.

Craig, who has competed for Oasis Academy and Bighorn’s, is also known for her play with The Avalanche in Reno and ADVNC lacrosse in San Francisco.

The University of Indianapolis, a member of the NCAA Division II, will gain a versatile midfielder in Craig, who has earned recognition both locally and regionally for her skill and dedication on the field. Her experience with multiple teams has helped her develop a competitive edge and adaptability in high-level play.

Craig’s commitment marks a significant milestone for Oasis Academy, spotlighting the school's athletic program and its student-athletes’ opportunities to pursue higher education and collegiate sports.

Fallon Outlaws Bring Home 21 Medals from Crush Cancer Tourney

Staff Report

Congratulations to Fallon’s Outlaw Wrestling Club on a strong showing at the Crush Cancer tournament at McQueen High School in Reno on Jan. 25. The Outlaws demonstrated determination and steady improvement throughout the event. The tournament, which supports cancer awareness and fundraising, offered both competitive matches and the opportunity to wrestle for a good cause.

“We had some big victories and some tough losses, but most importantly, we’re heading back to the room to keep getting better,” said the Outlaws after the tournament. Coaches and supporters praised the athletes for their effort, sportsmanship, and willingness to learn.

TOURNAMENT WINS:	
Harleigh	Two gold medals
Finn	One gold and one silver
Hudson	One gold
Mickey	One gold
Zayden	One gold
Landon	One gold
Jazmine	One gold
Zack	One silver
Kypton	One silver
Raymond	One silver
Tyrese	One silver
Taysom	One silver
Aiden	One silver
Patricia	One silver
Connor	One bronze
Cole	One bronze
Baylee	One bronze
Olive	Bronze
Paisley	Bronze



Outlaws shine during Jan. 25 Crush Cancer tournament in Reno Jan. 25. Photos courtesy of Fallon Outlaws Wrestling Club.

SPORTS

Greenwave Basketball Teams Secure Key Victories

Staff Report

The Churchill County High School basketball programs continued their strong seasons last week with impressive victories by both the Lady Greenwave varsity girls and the varsity boys.

The Lady Greenwave varsity girls basketball team kept its momentum going with back-to-back wins, defeating Spanish Springs High School 56-49 at home on Jan. 28 and Lowry High School 52-39 on Jan. 30 in Winnemucca. Karlie Simper paced Friday’s win over Lowry with 11 points, seven steals, and six assists, while Amillya Bishop contributed 20 points. Fallon’s defense was pivotal, forcing numerous turnovers to help secure the victory. The team’s current record stands at 20-4 as they look ahead to upcoming league matchups.

On the boys’ side, the Greenwave varsity squad earned a 72-61 road victory over the Lowry Buckaroos on Friday night, improving their season record to 12-9. The win highlights the boys’ continued growth and determination as they progress through their schedule.

Both teams are showing strong performances this season, building momentum for the challenges ahead in league play.



Wrestling Regionals Begin Friday

Staff Repot

The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) Class 3A Northern Regional wrestling tournament is scheduled for Feb. 6-7, 2026, at Churchill County High School in Fallon. The event serves as the regional championship and state qualifier for the Class 3A Northern Region.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance from the single-elimination or bracket-style tournament to the 3A State Meet, where they will compete against qualifiers from the Southern Region. The regional tournament also determines seeding for the state competition and crowns both the top team and individual champions.

The tournament is considered the final step before the state championships, which are scheduled for the Winnemucca Events Center later in the season. The event may include a consolation bracket for third place, offering athletes another opportunity to compete before the season’s final showdown.

The opening ceremonies and national anthem will start at 2:55 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, with wrestling commencing at 3 p.m. The first round matches, championship quarterfinals, and consolation rounds will be held on three mats throughout the day.

On Saturday, February 7, 2026, wrestling at the NIAA Class 3A Northern Regionals will begin promptly at 9 a.m. Saturday’s session is crucial for athletes seeking to secure top placements and earn a spot at the Class 3A State Championships, scheduled for Feb. 13-14 at the Winnemucca Events Center. The regional tournament may include a consolation bracket for third place, adding another layer of competition before the season’s final showdown.

WEIGHT	ATHLETE
106	Carter Williams
113	Kelton McAfee
120	Braylon Byrd
120	Manny Barros
126	Trey Bradley
132	Andre Green
138	Evan Garcia
144	Rio Segura
150	Neal McIntyre
150	Owen Holcomb
157	Wyatt Lambert
157	Cooper Gubler
165	Carson Melendy
165	Dustin Stritenberger
175	Alijah Juarez
190	Ashton McCourtney
215	Jason Lewis



Carson Melendy during 2025 regional tournament. Photo by John Baker.

The top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance from the single-elimination or bracket-style tournament to the 3A State Meet, where they will compete against qualifiers from the Southern Region

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COLUMNS

What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen

Getting Your Bearings: Navigating Change in Familiar Places

By Kelli Kelly

I didn’t expect the Safeway remodel to get under my skin.

But for a few weeks there, every trip felt off. The aisles I’d walked on autopilot for years no longer led to where my body expected them. Items I could once grab without thinking suddenly required scanning, doubling back, and recalibration. I found myself feeling oddly disoriented. A little nauseous, even. Not dramatic. Just unsettled.

Grocery stores are quiet maps we carry in our heads. For many of us, Safeway isn’t just a place to shop. It’s a routine. It’s muscle memory. It’s knowing exactly where the olive oil lives, which corner holds the canned tomatoes, and how to get in and out efficiently after a long day. When that map disappears overnight, the disruption is real, even if it’s hard to explain.



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

The reorganization is now finished, and the store has settled into its new layout. I am slowly rebuilding my internal map, aisle by aisle. But it occurs to me that I am probably not the only one thrown off by the change. Especially for folks who rely on routine, manage sensory overload, or simply don’t have extra time or energy to spare, that



temporary disorientation can be more than a minor annoyance.

So, I made a map. Nothing fancy. Just a simple visual guide to where things are now in case it helps anyone else regain their footing a little faster. Consider it a neighborly offering, not a critique. Change happens. Stores evolve. But sometimes it helps

to acknowledge that even small changes ripple through our daily lives in unexpected ways. If the new layout rattled you too, you’re not alone. And if a map makes your next grocery run a little easier, I’m glad to share it. Contact me at kelli.m.kelly@gmail.com. Sometimes, finding our bearings is the whole point.

Allison’s Book Report

“The Names” By Florence Knapp

By Allison Diegel

Anyone who has ever named a child knows the weight that a name carries. I know that when we named our daughters, we were so nervous – a name can shape who a person becomes. I have often wondered what my girls would be like if we had chosen differently, and this week I have a book that examines exactly that idea.

In 1987, a storm rages across England, but the real tempest is inside a registrar’s office where Cora Atkin stands at a life-altering crossroads. Trapped in a marriage to Gordon, a man whose public prestige as a doctor masks his private cruelty, Cora has a choice to make for her newborn son. Does she submit to her husband’s demands, follow her own heart, or listen to her daughter’s whimsy? Florence Knapp’s “The Names” takes this single moment and fractures it into three distinct, parallel lives: Gordon, Julian, and Bear.

This “sliding doors” narrative follows three versions of the same boy at seven-year intervals. In the Gordon timeline, Cora chooses the path of least resistance. This version of her son grows up in the suffocating shadow of his father’s toxic masculinity, becoming a man haunted by the need for approval and struggling with the cycles of addiction. It’s a poignant look at what happens when we let others dictate our identity before we even have a voice.

Then there is Julian, the name Cora chose for herself. This timeline feels



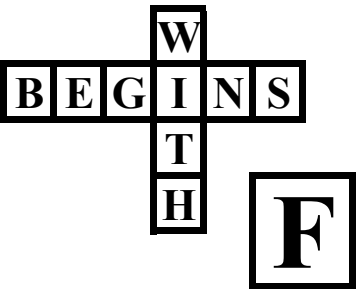
like the “middle way,” where Julian becomes a sensitive soul and a talented jewelry maker. He is perhaps the most grounded of the three, yet he still bears the psychological scars of a home life fractured by his parents’ resentment. Finally, we have Bear - the name suggested by his older sister, Maia. This choice represents Cora’s most radical act of rebellion. Bear grows up to be an adventurous archaeologist, embodying a rugged freedom and a sense of wonder that seems impossible in the other timelines. The book is a masterful study of how domestic abuse ripples through a family, regardless of the path taken. While the boy’s career and personality shift based on his name, the trauma of his father’s presence is a constant “North Star” he must navigate. It sounds intense, but Knapp’s prose is so sharp and observational that it feels more like a deep, late-night chat with a smart friend than a heavy lecture. It’s a beautiful reminder that while our names might be a starting point, our lives are shaped by the quiet courage it takes to survive our own history.

I hope you like this week’s pick – it is such fascinating food for thought! Don’t forget to pop over to my Instagram, [@allison.the.reader](#) for more recommendations and to tell me what you thought of The Names!

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

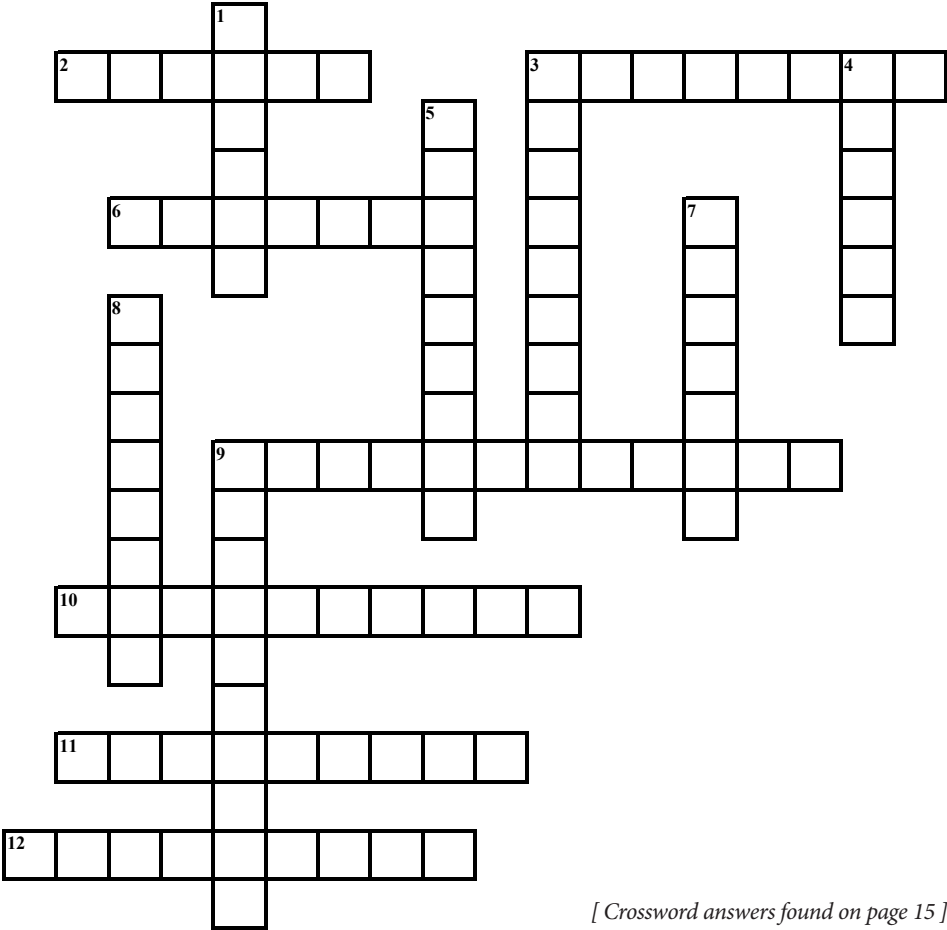


Across

- 2. All the tomorrows
- 3. Harridan
- 6. Hatfields
- 9. Intimidated, wimpy
- 10. Kappa Alpha
- 11. Picky eater
- 12. MegaBucks winner

Down

- 1. Mold, mushroom
- 3. Kevin Bacon
- 4. Prom dress
- 5. Mesmerize, charm
- 7. Professors
- 8. Second month
- 9. Felix Unger



[Crossword answers found on page 15]

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY OF FALLON, NEVADA

Request for Statement of Interest and Qualifications for Airport Planning, Engineering and Consulting Services for the Fallon Municipal Airport

The City of Fallon is formally requesting Statements of Interest and Qualifications for professional services of qualified airport consulting firms. The City of Fallon wishes to retain these services for a five (5) year period to assist the City of Fallon with the development and improvement of the Fallon Municipal Airport. The types of services may include, but not be limited to: general consulting services; preparation and administration of the necessary applications and documents for Federal Aviation Administration AIP grant funding; provide planning services as required by the City of Fallon; provide necessary services to obtain environmental clearances through the NEPA process for the proposed projects; provide engineering design and other services as required by the City of Fallon; provide construction administration, inspection, and testing services during construction projects; and attend meetings as required by the City of Fallon. The professional services may be required for, but not be limited to, the following specific projects:

- Reconstruct Taxilanes and Entrance Road
- Construction of new FBO Building
- Rehabilitate Runway, Taxiways and Aprons
- Replace PAPI's with LED, replace Windcone and Segmented Circle
- Acquire Bi-directional Tractor with Snowblower and Broom Attachment and Construct Snow Removal Equipment Storage Building
- Assistance with construction of a new FBO
- Environmental Assessment for Land Acquisition
- Land Acquisitions

A statement of your firm's interest and qualifications regarding these projects is herein solicited.

The Statement of Interest and Qualifications should include detailed information regarding the consultant's interest, qualifications, current relevant experience with the planning, design and engineering of airports and airfield improvement projects funded by FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants and resumes of key personnel. Selection criteria contained in the FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100-14, as amended, will be considered:

1. Understanding of the tasks to be performed.
2. Qualifications of the project manager and other senior personnel to be assigned to the airport projects.
3. Capability to perform all or most aspects of the airport projects and recent experience in airport projects comparable to the proposed tasks.
4. Current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines.
5. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns.
6. Ability to furnish qualified inspectors for construction inspection if applicable.
7. Familiarity with and proximity to the airport. Indicate the office location where work will be performed. Also describe the ability to attend meetings in a timely manner and/or on short notice.
8. Experience with airport construction projects over the past three years, including award amount, engineer's estimate, cost of construction, and initial and final construction period.
9. Description of the process used for design and construction projects by the consultant.
10. A description of other services provided by the consultant to assist the airport in fulfilling the FAA grant assurances.
11. References.

Please note that this is a request for a Statement of Interest and Qualifications. A detailed cost proposal is not being requested at this time. Final project costs will be determined through negotiations with the selected firm. If project cost negotiations with the selected firm are unsuccessful, the City of Fallon reserves the right to enter into negotiations with other firm(s).

Consultant submittals shall be brief and concise, containing no more than 35 pages of material. Submittals in excess of 35 pages shall be considered to be non-responsive.

The City of Fallon assumes no obligation in the solicitation of the general statement of interest and qualifications and all costs of responding to the solicitation shall be borne by the interested consultants.

Time is of the essence; therefore, the City of Fallon will evaluate all pertinent information and will endeavor to select the firm with which it will work from those firms submitting statements. If a selection cannot be made on the basis of the qualification statements alone, the most qualified firms may be contacted for additional information and, if warranted, detailed interviews.

This assignment is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 11246 (Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity), NRS Chapters 332, 338, 623 and 625 and to the provisions of Department of Transportation Regulations 49 CFR Par 23 (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation) and the following mandatory federal contract provisions:

Provision, Law / Statute

- Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI – Contractor Contractual Requirements. Law/Statute 49 CFR part 21
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, Section 520. Law/Statute 49 USC § 47123
- Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. Law/Statute 49 CFR part 26
- New Restrictions on Lobbying. Law/Statute 49 CFR part 20
- Access to Records and Reports. Law/Statute 49 CFR § 18.36
- Breach of Contract Terms. Law/Statute 49 CFR § 18.36
- Rights to Invention. Law/Statute 49 CFR § 18.36
- Trade Restriction Clause. Law/Statute 49 CFR part 30
- Termination of Contract. Law/Statute 49 CFR § 18.36
- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion. Law/Statute 49 CFR part 29

Questions regarding this request and the proposed projects should be directed to Derek Zimney, P.E., City Engineer, City of Fallon, 55 West Williams Avenue, Fallon, Nevada 89406 or by email at dzimney@fallonnevada.gov or by phone at 775-423-5107. Five copies of the Statement of Interest and Qualifications and a digital copy should be submitted to the City of Fallon no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday February 25, 2026.

Published in
The Fallon Post
February 6, and 13, 2026
Ad #6426

PUBLIC NOTICE

A child was born to Meranda Bufkin in December 2023 in Fallon, Nevada and is now two (2) years old. The identity and whereabouts of the child's biological father are currently unknown.

If you believe you may be the father, or if you have any information that may assist in identifying or locating the father, please contact:

Sharlee Bufkin: 775-217-8394
Josh Bufkin: 209-968-2782

All information will be handled confidentially.

Published in
The Fallon Post
Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 2 and 13, 2026
Ad #6415

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

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

- Granting the privilege of using or improving the airport or air navigation facility, or any portion or facility thereof, or space therein, for commercial purposes.
- Conferring the privilege of supplying goods, commodities, things, services or facilities at the airport or air navigation facility or other facilities.

- Making available services to be furnished by the City of Fallon or its agents or by other persons at the airport or air navigation facility or other facilities.

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

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

CASE NO.: 26-10DC-0058
DEPT: 1
Your Name: Stephen Patrick Coordes
Address: 1645 Rice Road
City, State, Zip: Fallon, NV 89406
Phone: 775-294-5466
Email: stephencoordes@gmail.com
Self-Represented Petitioner

DISTRICT COURT
CHURCHILL COUNTY,
NEVADA
In the Matter of the Application of:
STEPHEN PATRICK COORDES
For Change of Name.

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was filed in the above-entitled Court requesting that the Court legally change applicant's name from:

Stephen Patrick Coordes
(first) (middle) (last)

to (clearly print the name you want to be known by in the future):

Sean Patrick Doolin
(first) (middle) (last)

The applicant submitted a statement signed under penalty of perjury that the applicant is not changing his or her name for a fraudulent purpose.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person objecting to the changing of applicant's name shall file written objection with the above-entitled Court within 10 days after the publication of this Notice.

DATED this (day) 27, January, 2026.

Submitted By:
/s/ STEPHEN PATRICK COORDES

Published in
The Fallon Post
February 6, 2026
Ad #6427

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 14

FACULTY	FISHWIFE
FAINTHEARTED	FOOTLOOSE
FASCINATE	FORMAL
FASTIDIOUS	FORTUNATE
FEBRUARY	FRATERNITY
FEUDERS	FUNGUS
FINICKY	FUTURE



C O L U M N S

Postcards: Straw Hat Day

By Michon Mackedon

I just returned from a cruise with my daughter Amy to, among other places, Panama, where I heard many fascinating stories while traveling through the Panama Canal (truthfully, only half of it). I attended lectures and went on guided tours. Inevitably, each Panama Canal guide illustrated his version of the story with the now-famous 1906 photo of President Theodore Roosevelt visiting the construction site wearing a Panama hat. I learned that the hat was not made in Panama, as its name would suggest, but had been imported from Ecuador, made from the straw of the toquilla palm. Panama hats are still made in Ecuador, but they are sold in scores on the streets of Panama City as “Panama hats.”

Regardless of its true origin, by the 1920’s the Panama hat had become a staple in any respectable man’s summer wardrobe, and cities began to mark the arrival of summer by declaring a “Straw Hat Day,” usually celebrated on May 15. As autumn approached, the straw hat became disdainful...passe. “Felt Hat Day” was then celebrated on September 15, at least in New York City, and no respectable man failed to sport a felt hat until the next spring arrived. One variation of the tradition held that when Wall Street closed on September 14 of each year, the members tossed their straw hats on the floor and crushed them. The next day, they all wore felt hats.

In 1922, an event known as the Straw Hat Riot took place in New York City on September 13, as crowds of rowdy troublemakers pulled straw hats from the heads of businessmen on the streets and crushed them underfoot. It’s not clear how the Straw Hat Riot began, or why.

In light of all of this hat history, readers of “Postcards” might be interested in an article printed in the April 21, 1926 edition of the “Fallon Standard,” announcing that “For the first time in history, Fallon is to observe Straw Hat Day.... No longer will Fallon be kidded as the only village in the United States where they don’t know winter is over.... Judge E.E. Winters, district attorney, started the movement for Straw Hat Day in Fallon. The judge appeared two

weeks ago in spring head-dress—even before some local merchants had them in stock. Moral support was offered by a few others.... And thereafter, when the immaculate straw-hatted stranger arrives within the city limits of Fallon, he will no longer be qualified to return to his hometown and say, ‘ Whaddyuno about Fallon? Believe me or not, but them birds is still a wearin’ their last winter felts! They think it’s November. They dunno the war’s over yet.’”

Mayor Tedford [Jack Tedford, Sr.] formally proclaimed May 1 as “Straw Hat Day” in Fallon, telling the newspaper, “Throughout the United States, cities and villages are having their Straw Hat Days.... Therefore, as Mayor of Fallon, I am interested in Straw Hat Day because it calls attention to the delightful climate we enjoy throughout the year in our growing city....”

The following week’s edition of the “Fallon Standard” featured ads for straw hats from three vendors. Grey, Reid & Co. ran a large ad under the banner “It’s Straw Hat Time in Fallon.” Swiss Straws cost \$4 and \$6; Fedoras, \$1.75, and Fancy Straws, \$2.50 and \$4. A dry goods store named “The Army Store of Fallon,” advertised, yes, a choice selection of Panama hats, and the Eldredge and Hursh store ad proclaimed, “Look at your hat—everyone else does. Here they are—Straws for all faces and finances.”

The “Standard” capped it all off with an article warning its male readers: “Saturday is proclaimed Straw Hat Day by the Mayor. If you go blundering down the street Saturday topped off with the old, weather beaten, dirt spotted felt, not only will you violate the wishes of His Majesty, but literally you will be as conspicuous as a fellow in full dress at a ball game.”

Call me old-fashioned, but I savor vintage news reporting with its tongue-in-cheek tone and corny turns of phrase. And, I have always loved a Panama hat.

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

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

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Mondays and Thursdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m.
457 Esmeralda St.

Oasis Community Church

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

Fallon NAZ

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

Back Porch next to Wolf Center

Wednesdays and Saturdays (sack lunches)
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
280 E. Stillwater Ave.

Christian Life Center

Thursdays (dinner), 5 to 6 p.m.
1435 Kaiser St.

Food and Commodity Pantries

Epworth Community Food Pantry

Mondays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
457 Esmeralda St.

New Frontier Food Pantry

Mondays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
1490 Grimes St.
Available 24 hours by phone, 775-442-1686

Out of Egypt Food Pantry

Thursdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m.
1075 Taylor Place

Commodities, New Frontier Food Pantry

Second Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
1490 Grimes St.

FBNN Mobile Harvest Produce

Second Thursdays, 9 to 10:30 a.m.
William Pennington Life Center, 952 S. Maine St.

Commodities, William Pennington Life Center

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