

THE FALLON POST



KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

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Mental Health Care Challenges Stretch Jail Resources

By Leanna Lehman

Imagine someone struggling with severe anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, or another psychiatric condition. Then imagine them being arrested, separated from their family or support system, removed from everything familiar, and placed in a jail where nearly every aspect of the day is beyond their control.

That person may be frightened, confused, or experiencing a psychiatric crisis. They may not understand what is happening or be able to explain what medications or treatment are needed. Perhaps they were never diagnosed, and their symptoms contributed to the circumstances that brought them into contact with law enforcement.

While this may sound hypothetical, it is a very real experience for many individuals who have been taken into custody after an arrest.

Now, the responsibility for their safety and medical needs rests with a county jail that may, and often does, lack the personnel and resources to provide specialized treatment.

Moreover, untreated conditions can increase the risk of justice-system involvement. Most people in jails or prisons have some mental or behavioral health issues, including substance use disorders. Even the federal government recognizes the prevalence, with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimating that

44% of people in jails have a mental illness and 63% have a substance use disorder. Further, SAMHSA reports that people with these disorders have challenges in getting appropriate treatment, and incarceration often exacerbates their symptoms.

Some inmates arrive with established treatment plans; however, many enter custody with needs that have never been addressed. At the Churchill County jail, deputies must recognize signs of distress, prevent self-harm, and arrange medical assistance, often without the clinical resources needed to treat serious psychiatric conditions.

Nevada Revised Statutes 211.140 requires jails to coordinate mental health and substance use disorder treatment to maintain continuity of care. But the law does not provide dedicated funding for every jail to employ the professionals needed to deliver those services.

Asked how difficult it is to maintain treatment for inmates already receiving mental health care, Churchill County Sheriff Lee Orozco offered a two-word answer: “Very difficult.”

Providing treatment to those who are undiagnosed can be equally, if not more, challenging. “All jails have become the de facto mental health for the counties, especially in the small rural counties,” Orozco said.

Jail personnel ask about medical and mental health conditions during intake. However, obtaining

[Mental Health Care continued on page A6]

Friendly Crafts and Chats Brings Local Hobbyists Together



Members of Friendly Crafts and Chats gathered Oct. 7 at Rush Coffee Company and Rhythm Taphouse in Fallon to work on craft projects and meet other local hobbyists.

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman

When Laura Robertson posted on Facebook hoping to find one or two people interested in getting together to craft, she received more responses than she expected.

Robertson started Friendly Crafts and Chats to bring local hobbyists together, share their interests, and meet new people.

The group gathered Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Rush Coffee Company and Rhythm Taphouse, where participants pulled tables together, ordered beverages, and settled in for an afternoon of crafting and conversation.

Projects included crochet, jewelry making, lantern jar art, and cross-stitch embroidery.

Robertson said machines are not permitted because of limited space and noise concerns.

Those interested in future gatherings can contact the group at fallonfcc@proton.me.

Winter Coat Drive Collects More Than 125 Coats

By Mary Sorensen

The Fallon Cares Community Winter Coat Drive collected more than 125 coats to help local families in need this winter. The annual effort brought together volunteers, local businesses, and donors from across Churchill County.

Community members donated clean, new, and gently used winter coats in all sizes, with a special need for children’s sizes 5 to 18. Donations were collected at Louie’s Ace Hardware, Nature’s Beauty Salon, WaFed Bank, Financial Horizons, Century 21 Realty, and 7 Sisters Co.

Coats were distributed to anyone in need Oct. 2 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 750 W. Richards St. in Fallon.

JustServe presented Sarah Lavy with the Heart of Service Award in recognition of her contributions to the community. The award honors individuals whose service strengthens communities, inspires others to serve, and brings people together through generosity, integrity, and purpose. The award recognizes Lavy’s efforts to unite the community, encourage volunteerism, and advance the spirit of service through JustServe and America 250. Lavy has organized



Sarah Lavy, left, received the Heart of Service Award during the Fallon Cares Community Winter Coat Drive. Joining her were Debbie Perazzo, center, and Alan John Perazzo of JustServe. Photo courtesy of Mary Sorensen.

the winter coat drive independently for several years.

“I want to say first and foremost that all Glory goes to God. Because God makes a way. Everything I do is to serve Him. I want Him to be

[Coat Drive continued on page A2]

Inside!!

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



IN THIS EDITION	
From the Publisher	2
Features	3
Community	4
Obituaries	5
Local Government	6
Nevada Votes	8
Court	11
Education	12
Columns	14
Legal Notices	16
Business Directory	16

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FROM THE PUBLISHER



Covering it All

By Rachel Dahl

We went from launching the new paper in Eureka last week and going from 8 pages to 12, covering the car show and homecoming, to a power plant and street beautification in Fernley, an open meeting violation in Lovelock, the tragic death of a young woman in Winnemucca, wild horses in Battle Mountain, mental health in Fallon, and fall festivals across the board, to the voter guides and candidate features, statewide energy development, and how to start a new business in rural Nevada.

From good to bad, we get a chance to tell the stories every week across these communities, and we vacillate every day with the highs and the lows of the stories we’re writing.

It’s such an interesting roller coaster of an emotional ride when you stop and think of each story on its own. From the unimaginable grief of families losing children to the sweet, traditional joy of kids in parades and celebrating the changing of seasons, this tough little crew of ours travels from broken hearts to hearts bursting with gladness.

We sort of take for granted the continual beat of the regular news and get a little complacent, but then something at either end of the happy/sad scale will happen and rip us to shreds.

Sometimes people will remark along the lines of, “What would you cover out there in the great empty expanse of the Nevada desert?” and I just

laugh. There is so much going on we cannot cover it all. But we’re giving it a heck of a shot.

We were talking the other day in the shop about different stories and the communities and all the things going on, and someone made the observation that even though we all share similar experiences and happenings, there still is a very distinct personality to each one of these rural towns. We laughed as we agreed and recognized the “quirkiness” that each place has — and makes each place special in its own unique way.

As we grow and learn each community, we’re also starting to develop a solid team of talent across the central part of the state. There is quite a lot of hidden, untapped talent that has begun to come out of the woodwork and it’s really fun to meet these little gems as they reach out and offer their help.

We hope that you, too, will reach out with any story ideas or let us know if we’re missing anything. We’re always happy to hear from our readers and we encourage letters to the editor and guest columns. Just shoot us over a note to *customers@rangemediaco.com* anytime. We love to hear from you.

So while we ride the unpredictable, always exciting wave of local, community newspapering, we’ll always be right here...

... Keeping you Posted.
—*Rach*

[Coat Drive continued from page A1]

glorified in everything I do. One of my main goals when I do this, and anything I do, is to make sure that people who maybe don’t feel seen, feel seen. I’m so thankful to the church. You guys provide a facility and help every year. There is no way I could do this on my own. It really does take a village,” Lavy said.

Three additional Heart of Service Award recipients were recognized: Monica Miller of the Pregnancy Care Center of Churchill County, Pastor Dawn Blundell of Epworth Methodist Church, and Lori Crook, coordinator of Fallon Daily Bread.

“JustServe was honored to recognize Sarah Lavy, Pastor Dawn Blundell, Lori Crook and Monica Miller with the Heart of Service Award as part of the America 250 celebration. Their willingness to turn compassion into action is a beautiful reminder that one person’s desire to serve can inspire an entire community to serve their neighbors,” JustServe specialist Debbie Perazzo said.

Community members interested in future volunteer opportunities and service projects can visit *JustServe.org* to find ways to make a difference in their community.



PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Chloe

Chloe is a gentle, 5-year-old princess waiting for her Cinderella story to come true. She doesn't need glass slippers, a fancy gown, or a royal ball. All she dreams of is a loving family and a place to call home.

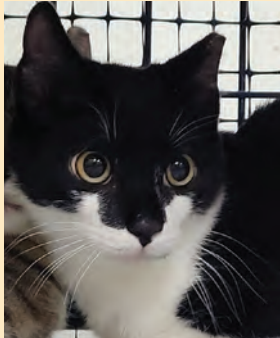
Quiet and sweet-natured, Chloe doesn't demand attention. She simply hopes someone will recognize her loving spirit. Chloe is spayed and gets along with other dogs.

No castle, prince, or fairy godmother required. Just a warm bed, a loving heart, and a second chance at happiness. Could you be Chloe's happily ever after?



Meet Hemlock

Hemlock is a handsome black-and-white domestic shorthair kitten looking for a patient, loving home. Rescued from a frightening situation, Hemlock is timid and still learning to trust people. He would do best in a calm, quiet home where he can receive plenty of affection and time to adjust. Although initially unsure of his surroundings, Hemlock allows himself to be held and quickly settles down. Once he feels comfortable, he enjoys being petted. With patience and kindness, this sweet kitten could become your best friend.



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

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

An Evening of Laughter for a Good Cause

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman

An evening of family-friendly comedy brought community members to the Fallon Theatre Thursday, Oct. 8, for a fundraiser benefiting the Pregnancy Care Center of Churchill County.

Stand-up comedian Tim Boyd took the stage for the fundraiser, sponsored by Oasis Community Church and First Southern Baptist Church. The evening offered something for the whole family, with parents enjoying Boyd’s performance while children watched a movie at the theater. The Fallon Theatre also operated its snack bar during the event.

Before the comedy began, Monica Miller, executive director of the Pregnancy Care Center of Churchill County, welcomed the audience and shared information about the organization’s work with local families.

For families facing an unexpected pregnancy, the center offers a place to find information, education, and practical assistance. The nonprofit provides free and confidential services, including pregnancy testing and verification, prenatal and parenting classes, counseling related to abortion and miscarriage, and doula services.

The center’s work also extends to fathers. Through its fatherhood program, men have opportunities to learn

about parenting responsibilities and ways to support their partners as they prepare for a new baby.

The organization also plans to introduce an ultrasound program in 2027, according to information provided for the event.

Keeping those services available depends on community support. As a nonprofit organization, the Pregnancy Care Center of Churchill County relies on donations to help sustain its programs and provide assistance to families.

Miller emphasized that contributions of all kinds are welcome. Financial donations help support the center’s operations, while diapers, baby clothing, and other necessities help meet the everyday needs of parents and young children.

Thursday’s comedy night brought together local churches, the Fallon Theatre, and community members for an evening that combined entertainment with an opportunity to support families in Churchill County.

Financial donations help support the center's operations, while diapers, baby clothing, and other necessities help meet the everyday needs of parents and young children.



Comedian Tim Boyd performed during a family-friendly comedy fundraiser at the Fallon Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 8.



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We Need to Talk

By Rachel Dahl

Somewhere along the way, we seem to have confused disagreeing with someone with needing to destroy them.

You can see it in the comments on social media; we hear it at public meetings. Someone raises a question about a project, a policy, or how the government is spending money, and pretty soon we are discussing whether that person is stupid, corrupt, or secretly trying to ruin the country.

Which is quite a leap from asking who is paying for the new fire station.

I have been thinking about civil discourse and what it actually means in a country where the people are supposed to govern themselves, because ultimately, we have to be able to talk.

We all have different interests, different experiences, and different ideas about what government should do, but we still have to share a town, pay for public services, elect representatives, and figure out how to live together.

The people who founded this country understood that problem. They disagreed about plenty. Their answer was to build a system that could handle disagreement.

We start with the Declaration of Independence.

Before listing their complaints against the king, the signers explained that “a decent respect to the opinions of mankind” required them to give their reasons for separating from Britain. They also said government gets its rightful power from the “consent of the governed.”

Those are two useful ideas to put together. The people are the source of government’s authority, and when you take a consequential public position, you ought to explain why.

The Declaration was an argument presented to the world. Here is what we believe. Here is what happened. Here is why we are taking this action.

The Constitution then established a government in which decisions would move through representatives, two houses of Congress, and a president. Article I even expressly protects congressional speech and debate from being questioned elsewhere.

That provision concerns Congress, but it tells us something about the importance of allowing lawmakers to argue their positions freely. Debate is the work of government.

Then comes the Bill of Rights.

The First Amendment protects speech, the press, peaceful assembly, and petitions asking government to address grievances. These are the tools people use to question power, share information, organize, and demand answers.

It does not say you may speak only when the government likes your tone.

Civil discourse should never become an excuse for telling people with legitimate complaints to sit down and be pleasant. A serious accusation deserves examination. Uncomfortable questions still deserve answers.

For the clearest discussion of how we should approach disagreement, though, we turn to the Federalist Papers – the essays written to persuade Americans to ratify the Constitution.

In Federalist No. 1, Alexander Hamilton warned that good and wise people could land on opposite sides of important questions. He urged moderation and cautioned that even people supporting the correct position could be driven by ambition, greed, or personal hostility.

Being right, apparently, does not automatically make us charming.

Hamilton also recognized the temptation to win converts through loudness and bitter attacks. He understood the problem long before anyone could type in all capital letters.

In Federalist No. 10, James Madison explained that differences of opinion were inevitable. Eliminating them would require destroying liberty or somehow making everyone think alike. His solution was to control the harmful effects of factions through representative government and a large republic with many competing interests.

So where does that leave us?

It asks us to explain our position and hear the answer. To check whether an accusation is supported by facts. To address what someone actually said instead of inventing an easier argument to knock down.

It asks us to consider the possibility that we have missed something.

We can hold firm convictions and still ask a fair question. We can oppose a proposal without assigning wicked motives to every person who supports it. And we can change our minds when the evidence changes.

Listening does not necessarily require surrender.

A local newspaper has a responsibility here, too: establish the facts, explain the decisions, and give the community a place to examine competing arguments. That work helps people participate with something more productive than a rumor.

The Constitution cannot do our listening for us, nor can it make us honest about an inconvenient fact. A republic does not require us to agree. But to make it work, we must be capable of disagreeing and remaining civil.

I used to teach my students that in a classroom we engage in “polite public discourse.” It’s the same in a community — we need to talk. And then we need to let the other person finish, and we need to listen.

GABBS COMMUNITY LIBRARY PRESENTS

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6:00 P.M. 530 E. AVENUE

All proceeds will go to Derrick Chiaratti & his daughter after their accident. Donations can be dropped off at the Gabbs Library from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Friday or Saturday.

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OBITUARIES

LAVERN ANN ALBAUGH
October 2, 1939 – September 27, 2026



LaVern Ann Albaugh passed away on September 27, 2026, at the age of 86, surrounded by her loving family. Born on October 2, 1939, she had an adventurous childhood in Northern California. She spent many wonderful week-ends going to “the Diamond,” a ranch managed by her grandparents, George and Susie Oliver, west of Red Bluff, California. LaVern often reminisced about running home on Fridays because it was faster than taking the school bus. There, Papa George or one of the hired men would be waiting to take her to the Diamond for the weekend.

As she grew up, LaVern became active in 4-H. Highly competitive, it was hard to beat her. She loved telling the story of how a judge couldn’t decide whether she or her sister should win and finally placed her sister higher because her lamb was “fitted just a bit better.” She always chuckled at that because she had fitted both lambs. Another highlight of her childhood was traveling to San Francisco to show her livestock at the Cow Palace.

As the youngest daughter, LaVern enjoyed squabbling with her older sister, Marie. Her favorite story to tell was how one night, while the two were milking cows and bickering, LaVern upended her milk pail right over Marie’s head, ruining her hairdo for an upcoming date. Even decades later, you could get her laughing by simply mentioning the night of the milk debacle.

In 1965, she married Ron Albaugh. They were married for 48 years and raised two sons, Mark and Norris. They first lived on Ron’s family ranch in Adin, California. In 1969, they moved to Fallon, Nevada, after the Albaughs expanded their operation. Fallon would be home for the next 52 years.

In the decades that followed, LaVern was the ultimate ranch wife. She ran a leather business, sold pine cones, grain, and cattails to florists, and cooked for harvest crews. She loved company and baked some of the best desserts, including her famous Mississippi Mud Cake. Everyone knew her freezer would be well stocked with treats, and visitors often showed up around mealtime.

She was also a devoted member of Parkside Bible Fellowship and the Churchill County Cowbelles.

LaVern took ranching seriously. She often talked about the highs and lows of ranch life, particularly one brutal winter when she had 23 chilled calves in front of her wood stove to warm up. Ranching wasn’t just her identity; it was her life, woven into nearly every part of who she was.

LaVern also took great pride in her hair. Every two weeks, like clockwork, she would be at the salon. Her appointments were a sacred routine, and everyone in the family knew it. On one memorable occasion, her grandchildren were out hunting when they shot a buck, leaving them unable to take her to her hair appointment. For a brief moment, that was the end of the world... until the appointment was rescheduled for the next day.

As the years continued, LaVern had several big adventures. In 2022, she moved with her son, Norris, and his family to a ranch near Maywood, Nebraska. There, she built a brand-new home and enjoyed daily visits from her grandchildren. Birthdays were always celebrated with her, and if you were asked what kind of cake you wanted, “Granny” would make sure that was what you got.

In 2024, the Albaugh family sold their Nebraska ranch and moved to Milan, Missouri. There, LaVern made her home with her son, Norris, alongside her granddaughter, Helen, and grand-son-in-law, Sam. She enjoyed going to church, watching the sheep from the porch with an embroidery project in hand, and keeping tabs on her cattle. She also cherished visits from her grandchildren, Ann, Waldo, and Wilhelmina, who all lived out of state.

LaVern leaves behind a lifetime of memories and more stories than could ever fit on a few pages. But we know she is reunited with the family she loved in heaven, cooking meals for the angels and making sure her hair is just right.

LaVern is survived by her sons, Norris Albaugh and Mark (Teresa) Albaugh; her four granddaughters, Ann Albaugh, Carrie Albaugh, Helen (Sam) Brewster, and Wilhelmina Albaugh; her grandson, Waldo Albaugh; four great-grand-children; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ron Albaugh; her parents, John and Helen Hencratt; and her sister, Marie Haley.

A private burial will be held with family. A Celebration of Life will be held at the Adin Community Center in Adin, California, at 11 a.m. on October 17, 2026, with a meal to follow. Friends and family are invited to celebrate LaVern’s life.

MAMIE JEAN BUHLIG
February 27, 1932 – October 4, 2026



Mamie Jean Buhlig, age 94, was called home to the Lord on October 4, 2026. She was born on February 27, 1932, to James L. and Flora Mae Garrison in Mayhill, New Mexico. Mamie graduated from Churchill County High School in 1950 and then married the love of her life, Glen Buhlig, on February 27, 1955. She had a long and illustrious career in banking with First National Bank, which later became First Interstate Bank in Fallon. Mamie enjoyed being involved in community associations such as Soroptimist and Harmon Social Club. She and Glen were heavily involved in the Antique Car Club, and that forged many of their close friendships. Mamie also loved bowling, starting at an early age and continuing until right up to her being admitted for care. She bowled in the seniors league as well as in the ladies’ league, and in her younger years, she was often recognized for bowling high-point games and was team treasurer. Mamie and Glen shared the love of music and dancing, and she would never pass up a chance to dance! She loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and once she retired, she loved to care for them while their parents were at work, and they loved their time with her, being spoiled with popcorn and ice cream with chocolate sauce.

Mamie was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Glen; her parents, James and Flora; her brothers, Richard and J.L. Garrison; and her sisters, Bea Stanhope, Reba Doyle, Juanita Hadley, and Kay Luce. She is survived by her brother, Allan Garrison; daughters, Debbie Bullock and Toni West-Guillen; grandchildren, Rebecca Nuttall (John), Lacie McAfee, Cody Bullock (Wendy), Monty Bullock (Crystal), Tyler Peel (Savannah), and Alec West-Guillen (Annemarie); 15 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial reception will be held on October 25 at 11 a.m., with a graveside service at 1 p.m. at the Gardens Funeral Home at 2949 Austin Highway, Fallon, Nevada.

Interfaith Panel Set for Oct. 21 at Fallon Theatre



Community members gathered during a previous Fallon Interfaith Association event. Photo courtesy of Dawn Blundell.

Staff Report

The Fallon Interfaith Association will host a public panel discussion Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Fallon Theatre.

The event will bring together representatives of several faith traditions, including pastors and members of local Fallon churches, the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, and Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Bahá’í, and Hindu communities.

Panelists will briefly answer the question, “How do you understand God or the divine, and why does it matter?”

Following the presentations, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Organizers describe the event as an opportunity for people of different backgrounds to discuss their beliefs, ask questions, and learn about other faith traditions.

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Movie Day
Coalition for Senior Citizens
Fallon Theatre, 71 S. Maine St.
Third Friday of each month at 1 p.m.

Judy Collins: “Sweet Judy Blue Eyes” Farewell Tour
Churchill Arts Council
Barkley Theatre, Oats Park Art Center
Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

Gallery Reception for Ricki Klages and Cesar Piedra
Churchill Arts Council
Oats Park Art Center, 151 E. Park St.
Oct. 16 at 5 p.m.

Soroptimist Quarter Auction
Soroptimist International of Fallon
Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way
Oct. 17: Doors open at 5 p.m.; dinner at 6 p.m.; auction at 7 p.m.

Big Game Banquet
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Fallon Golf Course
Oct. 17 at 5 p.m.

Brews & Boos Bash
Rush and Rhythm
1805 W. Williams Ave.
Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

Bad Art
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Oct. 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Autumn in Bloom Resin Workshop
Churchill Arts Council
Oats Park Art Center, 151 E. Park St.
Oct. 22 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Churchill Animal Protection Society
Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way
Oct. 22 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Halloween Bingo Bash
Rotary Club of Fallon
Pennington Life Center, 952 S. Maine St.
Oct. 23: Doors open at 5 p.m.; bingo begins at 6 p.m.

Annual Witches’ Ride
The Grid Marketplace & Brewery
2030 Reno Highway
Oct. 24 at 11 a.m.

Frankentoys
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Oct. 24 at 3:30 p.m.

Harvest Festival
Oasis Community Church
1520 S. Maine St.
Oct. 25 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Author Talk with Tammy Grace
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.

Halloween Bash
Pennington Life Center
952 S. Maine St.
Oct. 29 at 11 a.m.

Tricks, Treats, and Tales
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Oct. 29 at 3 p.m.

Halloween Extravaganza
Fallon Tribal Development Group
Fox Peak Cinema, Fallon
Oct. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m.

“The Haunted Schoolhouse” Youth Musical
Performing Arts of Churchill County
Fallon Theatre, 71 S. Maine St.
Oct. 29 and 30 at 7 p.m.; Oct. 31 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Maine Street Spooktacular
Downtown Fallon
Maine Street
Oct. 31 from 3 to 6 p.m.

RC Rampage with NVRC Dust Devils
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Nov. 2 at 3 p.m.

P.E.O. Chapter D’s Comedian Night
Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.), Chapter D
Fallon Theatre, 71 S. Maine St.
Nov. 4 from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m.

Financial Literacy Workshop
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.

First Friday Night Fish Fry
American Legion Post 16
90 N. Ada St.
Nov. 6 from 6 to 8 p.m.

This Community Calendar is sponsored by Range 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.



Sheriff Candidates Speak at Candidates Night

Editor's note: The Fallon Post and Lahontan Valley News are sharing articles on Churchill County sheriff and school board candidates. Sara Dowling of the Lahontan Valley News reports on the sheriff candidates' responses.

By Sara Dowling, Lahontan Valley News

The Oct. 6 Candidates Night at the Fallon Convention Center featured the school board races as well as two Fallon residents who are seeking the position of Churchill County sheriff, Lee Orozco and Michael Davis. The candidates alternated responses in alphabetical order.

Early voting begins Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Churchill County Administrative Complex, 155 N. Taylor St. Early voting is also available Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Community Learning Center, 8955 Mission Road. Early voting continues through Oct. 30. Election Day voting is Nov. 3 at the learning center and at the Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way.

Incumbent Orozco was appointed sheriff in April after the death of Richard Hickox. Originally from Reno, Orozco began his law enforcement career as a reserve deputy with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office before moving to Churchill County in 1996.

For the past 30 years, Orozco's positions have included jail training officer, patrol, narcotics investigator, criminal investigator, patrol sergeant, captain, and executive leadership. He attended the University of Nevada, Reno, from 1987 to 1992. Orozco and his wife, Elizabeth, raised their four children in Fallon.

"My experience has not been limited to one assignment or one part of the organization," Orozco said. "I've spent three decades learning Churchill County Sheriff's Office CCSO from the ground up and taking on progressively greater levels of responsibility."

Davis, originally from Gardnerville, first joined the Nevada Department of Corrections in 2009 at the Lovelock Correctional Center. Prior to that, he and his wife, Shannon, owned and operated a northern Nevada construction company for eight years. Davis is currently a CCSO sergeant and has spent 14 of his 18 years in law enforcement in Churchill County.

During his career, Davis has served in detention and patrol, narcotics enforcement, gang investigations, training, and supervision. He currently leads active shooter training sessions throughout the county. He resigned from the Churchill County Sheriff's Deputies Association in order to run for sheriff.

"Leadership has always been important to me, which is why I served as vice president and president of the Churchill County Sheriff's Deputies Association," he said. "In those roles, I was entrusted to represent my fellow deputies, manage budgets responsibly and help guide important decisions during contract negotiations."

What are your views about license plate readers, and do the cameras violate an individual's privacy as defined by the Fourth Amendment?

Davis said the county only has one such camera near Walmart that was taken offline by vandalism a month ago. He said the county doesn't run actual Flock cameras, but uses a Motorola system controlled exclusively by the sheriff's office. He said, if elected, he would continually assess the policies regarding who has access to the camera footage and why, as well as require deputies to obtain a search warrant to track a vehicle.

"I don't want to spend money on something that is not going to be useful to the community," Davis said. "As a law enforcement officer I love them, but I have to evaluate whether or not they're going to violate rights of the citizens of this country."

Orozco said he sees the camera as a valuable tool and pointed out that the Supreme Court has ruled that its use in a public space is not a violation of the Fourth Amendment. He said the intention is to install license plate readers at points along the highway to catch stolen vehicles, high-speed chases, silver alerts, and Amber alerts before they reach town.

"We have no intention of violating anyone's rights," Orozco said. "We're looking for tools so we can catch the bad guys."

How will you deal with budget shortfalls?

Orozco said this past year the department has worked within some budgetary restrictions by applying for equipment and training grants,



Sgt. Michael Davis. Photos by Leanna Lehman.



Sheriff Lee Orozco.

purchasing one new patrol truck instead of four and lowering the number of requested new personnel. He is also considering the addition of a civilian employee to handle vehicle checks and animal control calls to free up the deputies for law enforcement calls.

Davis said his first priority would be to evaluate the necessity of every current program and reallocate funds, if needed. He would also compare the possibility of purchasing cheaper patrol vehicles, such as a motorcycle for speed enforcement, instead of only trucks.

How can Churchill County attract and retain highly qualified deputies?

Davis said the department lost over 30 years of experience when two long-term field training officers left for another county about four months ago. He has proposed several programs to give deputies something outside office work and to create diversity in their careers. He said he would like to see a motors unit, a mental health outreach team, a student Explorer Program, and a tactical team in partnership with the Fallon Police Department.

"It's a tough deal to tell them to work in detention, patrol and maybe, if you're lucky, you can be an investigator," Davis said. "We need to create programs for the deputies to stay here. This is a great community we live in, and it has a lot to offer."

Orozco said Churchill County has been very supportive of law enforcement, but positions across the country are currently very tough to fill. Wages and benefits are negotiated by the county commissioners and the union, he said.

"What we want to do is make a department where people want to stay," Orozco said. "We want to make sure they have the right training, equipment, and the opportunities to develop in their chosen career."

Both candidates said they would like to see applicants who want to build a life and a career in Churchill County. They encouraged exploring interest through joining the sheriff reserves, or making an appointment with a law enforcement ride-along program or the dispatch sit-along program.

Are the rumors true on social media about increased crime within the county?

Davis said it depends on the type of crime in question. The CCSO is working with the Fallon Police Department to address a recent increase in vehicle thefts, he said, and the current staffing shortfall is making it difficult to proactively patrol.

"We've gone backwards in 30 years," Davis said. "That's a problem when the population's gone up 12,000 people, and we're still policing it with the same numbers we were in 1992."

Orozco said there has been some increase in batteries, domestic violence, and DUI cases. Some of those can be fixed through proactive patrol, he said, and some need assistance such as assigned counselors.

"A lot of times, burglaries and crimes of that nature are done by one or a small group of individuals," Orozco said. "If we can proactively go out there and find these subjects, put them in jail, then we're taking these guys off the streets. Those crimes go down."

What should we do as a community to address the homeless population we are beginning to see?

Orozco said a private property owner can call for the CCSO to process a trespass charge. Public property and the Bureau of Land Management areas have rules for how long someone can stay.

"We do encourage them to move along," Orozco said. "We have to do it within a legal framework. Unfortunately, these people don't really want our help. They're happy the way they're living."

Davis said the CCSO offers resources including lists of church groups and amenities like showers, but he agreed that the homeless population doesn't want assistance. He said he believes creating a mental health outreach and crisis intervention team will help with the "revolving door" of the situation.

"It's a complex issue," Davis said. "But, at the end of the day, it's here, and we have to learn to manage it."

In his final thoughts, Davis reiterated his experience in leadership roles and his work to bring wages up and increase incentives for deputies in the county.

"I'm willing and ready to go to work for this county," Davis said. "It's time for a working sheriff; someone that's going to roll up their sleeves and get to work."

Orozco said the CCSO is bringing back the RapidSOS system, which allows texting to 911, two-way language translation for many different languages, pinpoint location ability, and emergency video calls. The department is also testing Live911, which allows patrol deputies to hear calls in the vehicle along with a dispatcher, saving precious seconds on arriving to help.

"When you take on the weight of the administrative executive positions, it's a lot of responsibility," Orozco said. "I feel I'm ready for that. I've been doing that responsibility now for six months and for several years as undersheriff."

Election Day voting is Nov. 3 at the learning center and at the Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way.



Early voting begins Oct. 17 for Nevada general election

By Jen Anderson
jen@rangemediaco.com

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW for the 2026 General Election

Election Day
Tuesday, Nov. 3

Early Voting
Oct. 17-30

Election Day Voting Hours
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Early Voting
Voters may use any early voting location in their county.

Mail Ballots
Active registered voters who have not opted out receive a mail ballot.

Mail Ballot Delivery
In-state ballots were scheduled to be mailed Oct. 5-8, depending on the county.

Returning a Mail Ballot
Return it by mail or at an official ballot drop box.

Mailing Your Ballot
Mail it at least one week before Election Day.

Same-Day Registration
Available on Election Day.

Check Registration
Visit [VOTE.NV.GOV](#) to register, update an address or name, or check voter information.

Track a Mail Ballot
Visit [myballot.nv.gov](#)

Find Voting Locations
Visit [NVSOS.gov](#)

EASE Voting
Available to eligible military members and families, Nevada voters overseas, voters with disabilities and eligible Tribal voters.

Election Questions
Call (775) 687-VOTE (8683)

Nevada voters will have several ways to cast their ballots in the Nov. 3 general election, including early in-person voting, voting by mail and voting at the polls on Election Day.

Early voting will run from Saturday, Oct. 17, through Friday, Oct. 30. Voters can cast a ballot at an early voting location in their county. Polling locations and other election information are available through the Nevada Secretary of State’s Office.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nevada also allows same-day voter registration for eligible voters.

In addition to candidate races, Nevada voters will decide two statewide ballot questions this year. There are no statewide Questions 1 through 5 on the 2026 ballot; initiatives proposed for those numbers did not receive enough valid signatures to qualify.

Question 6 proposes amending the Nevada Constitution to make abortion access an individual right, while Question 7 proposes amending the state constitution to require voter identification for voting in person or by mail. Both measures passed in the 2024 general election. Because they are proposed constitutional amendments, they must receive voter approval a second time in 2026 to amend the Nevada Constitution.

The Secretary of State’s 2026 Ballot Question Guide includes the language of each question, an explanation and digest, arguments for and against passage, rebuttals, fiscal information and the full text of the proposed amendments. The guide is also available in multiple languages, with American Sign Language versions of the two statewide questions offered for the first time.

Nevada is a universal vote-by-mail state, and active registered voters who have not opted out of receiving a mail ballot are mailed one for the general election. In-state ballots were scheduled to be sent Oct. 5-8, depending on the county.

Completed ballots can be returned by mail or delivered to an official ballot drop box. The Secretary of State’s Office recommends mailing completed ballots at least one week before Election Day. Voters may track the status of their mail ballots through the state’s MyBallot system.

Nevada also offers the Effective Absentee System for Elections, known as EASE, for eligible military members and their families, Nevada voters living overseas, voters with disabilities and eligible Tribal voters. The system is available for the 2026 general election through the close of polls on Election Day.

Before voting, residents can check their registration status and make sure their name and address are current. Nevada’s online voter registration system also allows eligible residents with a current Nevada driver’s license or identification card to register or update their information.

Voters can also use the state’s election website to locate polling places and ballot drop boxes, check registration information and find other election resources.

LOCAL RACES

Churchill County

County Commissioner, District 2 Myles R. Getto, Republican Party	District Court Judge, Tenth Judicial District Thomas Stockard, Nonpartisan
County Assessor Denise L. Mondhink-Felton, Republican Party	School Board Trustee Vote for no more than four. Celestia Blakey, Nonpartisan Keith W. Boone, Nonpartisan Amber Casey-Getto, Nonpartisan Joe McFadden, Nonpartisan W. Derild Parsons, Nonpartisan
County Clerk-Treasurer Linda Rothery, Republican Party	
County Recorder Tasha Hessey, Republican Party	
District Attorney Art Mallory, Republican Party	
Public Administrator Robert “Bob” Getto, Republican Party	
Sheriff Michael J. Davis, Nonpartisan Lee D. Orozco, Nonpartisan	

Source: Nevada Secretary of State, 2026 General Election Certified List of Candidates, dated Aug. 25, 2026.

Churchill County Voter Turnout
in 2026 Primary Election:

27%

Registered voters: 17,107
Ballots cast: 4,601

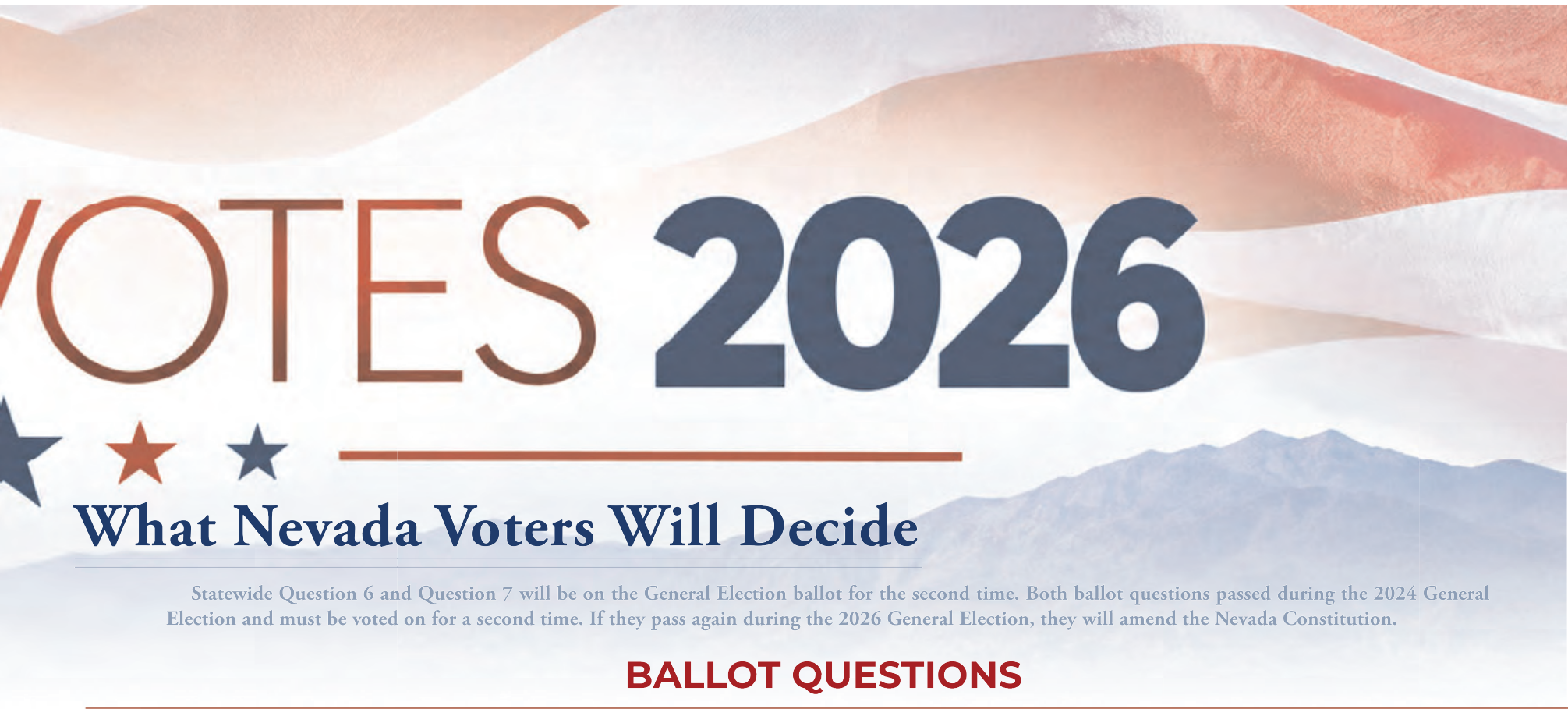
IMPORTANT RESOURCES

[VOTE.NV.GOV](#)

[MYBALLOT.NV.GOV](#)

[NVSOS.GOV](#)

[\(775\) 687-VOTE](#)



What Nevada Voters Will Decide

Statewide Question 6 and Question 7 will be on the General Election ballot for the second time. Both ballot questions passed during the 2024 General Election and must be voted on for a second time. If they pass again during the 2026 General Election, they will amend the Nevada Constitution.

BALLOT QUESTIONS

6 STATE QUESTION NO. 6 • Amendment to the Nevada Constitution Abortion Initiative

AS IT APPEARS ON THE BALLOT

Should the Nevada Constitution be amended to create an individual’s fundamental right to an abortion, without interference by state or local governments, whenever the abortion is performed by a qualified healthcare professional until fetal viability or when necessary to protect the health or life of the pregnant individual at any point during the pregnancy?

YES Means

A yes vote would amend the Nevada Constitution to establish a fundamental right to abortion performed by a qualified health care practitioner until fetal viability, and afterward when necessary to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient.

NO Means

A no vote would leave the Nevada Constitution unchanged. Abortion would remain legal under existing Nevada law, generally through 24 weeks of pregnancy and afterward when necessary to preserve the pregnant person’s life or health.

FURTHER EXPLANATION Question 6 would place abortion protections in the Nevada Constitution. Its standard would be fetal viability rather than a fixed 24-week limit. The measure defines fetal viability as the point when the treating health care practitioner determines there is a significant likelihood of sustained survival outside the uterus without extraordinary medical measures. After viability, the protection would apply when abortion is necessary to protect the pregnant patient’s life or health.

7 STATE QUESTION NO. 7 • Amendment to the Nevada Constitution Voter Identification

AS IT APPEARS ON THE BALLOT

Should the Nevada Constitution be amended to require voters to either present photo identification to verify their identity when voting in-person or to provide certain personal information to verify their identity when voting by mail ballot?

YES Means

A yes vote would amend the Nevada Constitution to require voters casting ballots in person to present an approved form of photo identification. Generally, the identification would have to be current or expired by no more than four years; voters older than 70 could use otherwise-valid identification regardless of how long ago it expired. Acceptable identification would include a Nevada driver’s license, state or federal identification card, U.S. passport, military identification, qualifying government employee ID, Nevada public college or university student ID, Tribal photo identification, Nevada concealed firearms permit or another government-issued photo ID approved by the Legislature.

NO Means

A no vote would leave the Nevada Constitution unchanged and would not establish the proposed statewide voter-identification requirement. Nevada’s existing voter-identification and verification rules would remain in effect.

FURTHER EXPLANATION If approved for a second time by voters, the Legislature could enact legislation during the 2027 legislative session, with the changes taking effect for the 2028 election cycle.

1 CHURCHILL COUNTY QUESTION NO. 1 Fire Equipment Tax Renewal

SUMMARY OF THE BALLOT QUESTION

Question 1 would renew the existing property tax levy of up to 3 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation for major fire equipment and apparatus purchases for the Fallon Churchill County Volunteer Fire Department.

The levy would continue for up to six years, from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2033. The estimated annual cost for the owner of a new \$100,000 home would remain up to \$10.50. The levy would remain outside existing property tax liability caps.

YES Means

A yes vote would authorize continuation of the existing fire equipment levy.

NO Means

A no vote would reject renewal of the fire equipment levy.

STATE & FEDERAL RACES

These races will appear on the Churchill County voter ballot

NOTE: Churchill County is divided between Congressional districts 2 and 4, so we’ve included both races and identified which voters will see them. The county is in State Senate District 17 and Assembly District 38.

Representative in Congress, District 2

Only Churchill County voters residing in Congressional District 2 will see this race.
Teresa F. Benitez-Thompson, Democratic Party
Lynn Chapman, Independent American Party
David Flippo, Republican Party

Representative in Congress, District 4

Only Churchill County voters residing in Congressional District 4 will see this race.
Russell Best, Independent American Party
Steven A. Horsford, Democratic Party
William Johnson, No Political Party
Cody K. Whipple, Republican Party

Governor

Aaron D. Ford, Democratic Party
Danielle Ford, No Political Party
Joseph Lombardo, Republican Party

Lieutenant Governor

Stavros Anthony, Republican Party
Janine Hansen, Independent American Party
Sandra Jauregui, Democratic Party

Secretary of State

Francisco “Cisco” Aguilar, Democratic Party
Brad Lee Barnhill, Independent American Party
John T. Kennedy, Libertarian Party of Nevada
Jim Marchant, Republican Party

State Treasurer

Drew Johnson, Republican Party
Tya Mathis-Coleman, Democratic Party

State Controller

Michael MacDougall, Democratic Party
Andy Matthews, Republican Party

Attorney General

Nicole Jeanette Cannizzaro, Democratic Party
Adriana Guzmán Fralick, Republican Party

State Senate, District 17

Lynne Ballatore, Democratic Party
Robin L. Titus, Republican Party

State Assembly, District 38

Gregory S. Koenig, Republican Party

Justice of the Supreme Court, Seat B

Kristina Pickering, Nonpartisan

Justice of the Supreme Court, Seat D

Douglas Herndon, Nonpartisan

District Court Judge, Tenth Judicial District

Thomas Stockard, Nonpartisan

Source: Nevada Secretary of State, 2026 General Election Certified List of Candidates, dated Aug. 25, 2026.



Candidates for School Board

By Leanna Lehman

School board candidates discussed academic proficiency, career education, finances, and governance at Candidates Night on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Fallon Convention Center. Moderators were Steve Ranson, Lahontan Valley News editor emeritus, and Rachel Dahl, publisher of Range Media/The Fallon Post.

The event was broadcast on KVLV 980 AM and KKTU 99.5 FM and livestreamed at Network1Sports.com, where a replay is available with a subscription.

Four candidates — Celestia Blakey, Keith Boone, Joe McFadden, and Derild Parsons — participated in the forum. Amber Getto was unable to attend because of her son’s wedding. Ranson read excerpts from her written responses to candidate questions.

Responses appear alphabetically rather than in speaking order.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND TESTING

Recent state data show that fewer than three in 10 Churchill County students in grades three through eight are proficient in English language arts, and about one in five are proficient in math. Standardized tests are only one measure of student achievement, so beyond test scores, how should the school board determine whether students are actually learning what they need to know, and what specific actions should the board take when students are not meeting those expectations?

Celestia Blakey: Appointed after Matt Hyde became a county commissioner, Blakey said test scores do not always reflect classroom progress. She supports the adopted curriculum and extra help for students. “I don’t want people to think that our kids are not making progress because our test scores don’t show those numbers,” she said.

Keith Boone: The recently retired district principal cited health, happiness, and attendance as factors in learning. “Another thing that compounds a child’s learning is just being in school,” said Boone. He supports school social workers and less computer time for younger students in favor of books, writing, and face-to-face activities.

Amber Getto: In written comments read later in the forum, Getto, who is also a school board trustee, identified student achievement as a priority and emphasized addressing behavioral problems that disrupt classroom instruction. She said the district needs to address behavior effectively so teachers can teach and students can learn.

Joe McFadden: McFadden questioned time spent on testing and data collection and urged reducing redundant assessments.

“We need to we need to go back to trusting our teachers,” he said, noting teachers recognize progress that state reports may miss.

Derild Parsons: Parsons, who recently retired as district superintendent, acknowledged the district’s academic challenges but said standardized testing does not capture every measure of student success. He supports maintaining rigorous, adopted curriculum over several years rather than repeatedly changing instructional approaches. “If you don’t stick with something for 5 to 7 years, it’s not going to work,” he said, referring to the need for consistency in educational programs.

WORK-BASED LEARNING AND CAREER PREPARATION

How important is it for the school district to have a program that allows students to job shadow or intern for a local business? How do you support that program and work with the Churchill Entrepreneurial Development Authority (CEDA) to achieve success?

Celestia Blakey: Blakey favors local employer partnerships and teaching punctuality,

dress, and communication skills as important skills in the workforce.

She stressed keeping graduates employed locally. “All we’re going to do if we don’t is just raise the kids and send them with great skills to outside communities or other states,” she said.

Keith Boone: Boone supports vocational and technical education opportunities, particularly those connected to northern Nevada industries. He described the value of students experiencing career opportunities firsthand, calling it “hands on” education. Boone also said the district and participating businesses should establish clear expectations and determine whether students are prepared for internships before placing them with employers.

Amber Getto: Getto supports hands-on career education and working with businesses to identify barriers to participation.

She also supports continuing the district’s partnership with Western Nevada College, which allows high school students to earn college credits.

Joe McFadden: McFadden, who serves on the high school’s work-based learning advisory committee, described efforts to help graduating seniors develop individual plans for college, trade schools, employment, or military service. He said he strongly supports preparing students to become productive members of their communities and encouraging them to return to Churchill County after completing their education or training.

Derild Parsons: Parsons said business partnerships help students explore careers, gain skills, and find jobs after graduation. Schools must recognize that “everyone is looking to be on their own path.”

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT TERM

What is the one big change, issue, or improvement you would like to see occur, or would advocate for, during your term on the school board?

Celestia Blakey: Blakey prioritizes consistent curriculum across grade levels, help for struggling students, and employee recognition. She called teachers “the heart and soul of our education.”

Keith Boone: Boone wants to consider restoring an alternative high school. As former Lahontan Valley High School principal, he said some students thrive in smaller, supportive settings. “It wasn’t a fact of that they didn’t have the academic skills. It was a fact that they needed to be in a program where they felt supported,” he said.

Amber Getto: Getto prioritizes academic achievement and addressing disruptive behavior so teachers can teach and students can learn.

Joe McFadden: McFadden wants students prepared for life after graduation, addressing learning gaps from kindergarten onward. “It’s not simply prepared to pass a test or receive a diploma,” he said.

He also supports consistent curriculum implementation and continued advocacy for increased state funding, particularly for rural school districts.

Derild Parsons: Parsons wants consistency in curriculum, expectations, behavior supports, and resources, giving initiatives time to work. “I think for me, the biggest change needs to be maintaining some consistency,” he said.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCES AND DECLINING ENROLLMENT

As you know, counties around the state have experienced financial shortfalls, including Elko, Douglas County, and Carson City. Several rural school districts have experienced tremendous budget shortfalls, school closures, and staff layoffs. How do we avoid that in Churchill County?

Celestia Blakey: Blakey urged scrutiny of finances and enrollment projections, balancing staffing, class sizes, and resources as

enrollment-based funding changes.

Trustees need accurate projections from district officials to make informed decisions.

Keith Boone: Boone encouraged realistic enrollment projections and adjusting staffing as student populations change. He suggested reassigning existing teachers where appropriate before hiring additional staff, including retired educators working in critical-need positions.

Districts must anticipate enrollment changes, he said.

Amber Getto: Getto said the district has avoided severe deficits. “Maintaining financial stability requires careful planning, responsible stewardship, and a continued focus on directing resources where they have the greatest impact on our students and teachers,” she wrote.

On outsourcing services, she said decisions should consider costs, service quality, employee impacts, and long-term consequences.

Joe McFadden: McFadden cited declining enrollment and rising insurance, salary, and contract costs. Trustees must weigh spending priorities. “No one wants to close a school. That’s not good for a community,” he said.

Derild Parsons: Parsons urged careful enrollment projections, fiscal responsibility, and advocacy for state funding.

“The funding is simply tied to enrollment,” he said, emphasizing planning for declining student numbers.

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT AND FORMER ADMINISTRATORS

With the possibility of several retired school administrators serving on the board, how can trustees provide independent analysis and objectively represent the community as a whole, rather than viewing decisions primarily through their experiences as educators or administrators?

Celestia Blakey: Blakey expressed concern about three former administrators potentially serving together, while acknowledging their qualifications.

“I’m slightly terrified that the fact that we could have three administrators on that board,” she said. As a parent of a district student and business owner, she offers another perspective.

Keith Boone: Boone said serving as a trustee differs significantly from working as a school administrator. He pledged to approach decisions with an open mind, consider differing perspectives, and support decisions made collectively by the board. “I don’t think it’s all that bad of a thing to have a little bit of school background going into this,” he said.

Amber Getto: Getto’s response to this question was not included in the excerpts read during the forum.

Joe McFadden: McFadden stressed diverse perspectives, citing business ownership, electrical contracting, volunteer work, and four years on the board.

Derild Parsons: The former superintendent acknowledged concerns about becoming a trustee. “I don’t expect to be still the superintendent to have that capacity. I expect to be a board member,” he said.

He cited experience outside education and his commitment to serving as one member of the seven-person board.

Each candidate was sent questions in advance. Candidates Night was presented by The Fallon Post and Lahontan Valley News, with broadcasting provided by Lahontan Valley Broadcasting Co., including Lynn Pearce, managing partner of KVLV 980 AM and KKTU 99.5 FM, and broadcaster Larry Barker. Special thanks go to Gary Smith, who helped organize Candidates Night during the COVID-19 pandemic to bring candidates and their views to the public, and Assemblyman Greg Koenig for their support of the event.



Joe McFadden, Derild Parsons, Keith Boone, and Celestia Blakey. Photos by Leanna Lehman. Pictured far right, Amber Getto, who was not in attendance. Photo courtesy of Nevada Association of School Boards.

COURT

Rocky Wells Lands 60 Days for Probation Violation

By Leanna Lehman

Rocky Emerson Wells, 45, appeared before Tenth Judicial District Court Judge Thomas Stockard Monday for an evidentiary hearing on an alleged probation violation, six months after Stockard granted him probation on a felony firearm conviction, a case in which a plea agreement dropped 16 of 17 charges relating to possession of cocaine, fentanyl, guns, as well as other charges.

Wells was taken into custody in the Walmart parking lot following a Fallon Police Department investigation into the report that Wells had violated a Temporary Protection Order. He was subsequently booked into the Churchill County jail Aug. 21 on that charge, which was deemed a potential non-technical sentencing/probation violation.

On Sept. 15, Wells denied the violation in District Court. However, more than three hours into Monday’s evidentiary hearing, following testimony and multiple viewings of eight Walmart surveillance clips capturing the encounter, Wells admitted to the violation.

Fallon Police Department Officer Kieran Wilson and Sgt. Joshua Schumann testified that the video footage showed Wells coming into contact with Angelina Ferguson, the aggrieved party named in the TPO, on Aug. 21.

Throughout witness testimony, Wells’ attorney, Steve Evenson, argued that Ferguson initiated all contact. Footage appeared to show Wells approaching Ferguson and the man she was shopping with. Evenson argued that Wells was approaching the man, whom he was not prohibited from contacting, and that Ferguson stepped between the two men in one of the videos. Other clips also

showed Wells and Ferguson in close proximity.

In the last clip, Ferguson could be seen hurrying to interact with Wells as he was leaving through the Walmart grocery area entrance. Evenson again asserted that it was Ferguson who approached Wells, stating, “She clearly comes up to him.”

After Schumann testified that approaching someone standing next to the protected person could constitute contact, Evenson challenged that interpretation. “You’re, in essence, making up the law at that moment, aren’t you?”

Schumann replied, “No, I’m not making up the law.” To which Evenson said, “Well, then explain to me the basis for your legal conclusion that you reached to put this man in handcuffs.” Schumann then conceded that Ferguson initiated contact in some of the videos.

Wilson, who was the lead officer on the case, was asked similar questions by Evenson during cross-examination. Wilson explained that in investigating the reported potential TPO violation, he determined that Wells violated item three listed on the order, which stated, “do not contact,” or what he interpreted as “no contact.”

Evenson asked Wilson, as well as Walmart’s asset investigator who provided the videos to the Fallon Police Department, why the video footage of the parking lot was not obtained, alleging that Ferguson followed Wells to the parking lot, got into his car, and spoke to him. The parking lot video would have been “a critical piece of evidence



Rocky Wells. Photo courtesy of the Churchill County Sheriff’s Office.

that impacts somebody’s freedom,” Evenson said.

Evenson further argued that while Wells may have been in proximity, he did not “contact” Ferguson.

The state, represented by Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford, questioned both officers about what they determined from the video footage and about statements given by both Ferguson and Wells when questioned. Both testified that Ferguson and Wells gave conflicting accounts of the interaction. And, while there was some question as to who approached whom, Wilson,

the lead officer on the case, maintained that contact was made; therefore, Wells violated the protection order.

Nearing the end of the session, the court was preparing to continue the matter to another day to allow time for Sanford to call two additional witnesses when Evenson informed Judge Stockard that the defense had reached an agreement with the state. Wells then admitted to the violation.

Stockard noted there were “mixed messages” surrounding Wells’ conduct, but said it fell short of what he expected. He also reminded Wells that the court could impose his underlying 28- to 72-month prison sentence. “I’m not going to do that. I don’t think this was egregious enough,” Stockard said.

Stockard instead imposed a 60-day jail sanction, granted Wells 45 days for credit for time served, and reinstated him on probation under his previous conditions.

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, Oct. 6, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

By Teresa Moon

Robert Lillburn Nelson pleaded guilty to violation of a temporary court order restricting stalking or harassment, a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,000.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford requested a probation on a suspended sentence for cutting a lock and chain from a fence in violation of a restraining order.

Churchill County Deputy Public Defender Kenneth Tedford said Nelson fully admitted to his actions. Tedford said the incident “amounts to a family squabble on a piece of property that everyone jointly owns.” Tedford asked the court to follow the state’s recommendation and place Nelson on probation.

Nelson told Judge Stockard, “I’d just like to say that I’m not the bad man that they put me out to be.”

Judge Stockard granted Nelson probation on a suspended sentence of 364 days in jail.

Brandon Ronald Mood, in custody, pleaded guilty during his arraignment on two charges: Count I, High-Level Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), a Category B Felony punishable by 2 to 16 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000, and Count II, Failure to Stop on the Signal of a Peace Officer, a Category D Felony, punishable by 1 to 6 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Mood was charged with possessing 42 to 99 grams of methamphetamine.

Judge Stockard ordered a presentence investigation report and set sentencing for Dec. 8.

Candice Lee Scollard, in custody, appeared on a non-technical sentencing violation, to which she admitted for absconding from Parole & Probation supervision.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker explained that Scollard was sentenced in August 2024 and had planned to return to California through an interstate compact, which California denied. Baker said it took Scollard from April to June to return to Fallon from California. When she returned, she reported to the Division of Parole and Probation but left without submitting a monthly report as directed.

“She left without permission; she was told to wait to see her probation officer, and she just left. She never came back. She never reported,” Baker explained.

According to Baker, Scollard had failed to meet her probation obligations and absconded for more than 441 days.

The state asked the court to revoke Scollard’s probation and impose her underlying sentence of 12 to 32 months.

CCPD Sommer said his client “recognizes she needs to be more responsible; she has to fulfill her obligations.” Sommer explained that Scollard had continued to live in California, where she cared for an elderly family member.

Sommer requested either a dishonorable discharge or reinstatement on probation, which would allow Scollard another opportunity to obtain an interstate compact, to which Baker opposed.

“There needs to be consequences. She knew what her responsibility was ... she shouldn’t be rewarded for doing nothing, and just putting her head in the sand,” Baker said.

Scollard told Judge Stockard, “I’m just really sorry and I was irresponsible and I want a chance to show that I can do this.”

During the hearing, the court learned that a supplemental violation report had been filed but had not been received by either counsel or the court. Judge Stockard continued the hearing to Oct. 13.

Christopher Anakin Marcellino, in custody, appeared for disposition on a continued probation violation hearing to which he admitted on Sept. 29.

SDDA Baker told the court, “This defendant is going to kill himself. He continues to huff; he continues to drink while on probation.”

Baker reminded the court that Marcellino had beaten his father while highly intoxicated. At the victim’s request, Marcellino was given an opportunity to participate in Drug Court. Baker said he failed to comply with the program and was removed. The court then gave him another chance by placing him on probation.

Baker said Marcellino was again highly intoxicated, with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .304. “This defendant needs to be revoked.”

Churchill County Alternate Public Defender Wright Noel argued, “This is a tough situation, Your Honor. Mr. Marcellino recognizes that he has burned through a number of chances this court has given him. We’re here, Your Honor, asking for one more.”





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EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

By Kaitlin Ritchie, photos courtesy of CCSD.



Hope Squad members William Brady, Evan Innes, and Dominick Milne presented to local community partners during the Community Partnership Meeting.



Students in Glenda Lee's class displayed soil samples they collected from the playground.



Brylee Barnes and Asher Campbell showed off the Bulldog Bucks raffle boxes, where students can enter their Bucks for a chance to win monthly prizes.

CCHS
Hope Squad students Evan Innes, Dominick Milne, and William Brady presented at the Social Services Community Partnership Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 8, sharing their efforts to promote mental health awareness, kindness, and connection throughout the district. Hope Squad is a peer-nominated, student-led suicide prevention and mental health awareness program focused on helping students feel supported, valued, and connected. During their presentation, students highlighted their outreach to elementary schools, collaboration with Churchill County Middle School Hope Squad members, initiatives at CCHS, and positive messaging through social media. They also discussed their involvement in school community activities, including a Spring Fling dance organized in partnership with the Churchill County Coalition, and plans for a Winter Fest and schoolwide assembly focused on unity and connection. The meeting gave students an opportunity to share who they are and their accomplishments with local community partners while exploring new opportunities for collaboration, volunteering, and outreach. Their presentation highlighted the meaningful role students play in building a more supportive and connected school community.

CCMS
Courtesy of Randi Orong's Film and Photo Students
Churchill County Middle School is giving its Gerka Great recognition program a bright new look. The school's Gerka Great sign recently received a neon glow-up, creating a special space to

celebrate students who demonstrate what it means to be a great Gerka. Each month, selected students will have their photos displayed beneath the glowing sign and receive a special goodie bag in recognition of their positive contributions to the school community. The new display will help shine a spotlight on outstanding Gerka Greats throughout the 2026-27 school year.

NUMA
Students in Glenda Lee's science class took their learning beyond the classroom with an investigation of the soil beneath their playground. They collected soil samples from the school grounds and brought them back to the classroom to examine. Throughout the week, students observed their samples, identified and mapped different soil layers, and compared their composition and appearance. The activity allowed students to practice scientific observation, collect information, and connect what they are learning in class to the environment around them. Using their own playground for the investigation gave students a hands-on opportunity to better understand the different layers of soil and how they form.

E.C. BEST
Students are being recognized for making positive choices throughout the school day through the school's Bulldog Bucks program. As part of the school's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), the program encourages students to demonstrate the four Bs: Be Kind, Be Respectful, Be Safe, and Be Responsible. Staff members

award Bulldog Bucks when they see students putting these expectations into practice in classrooms, hallways, and other areas of the school. Students can then choose to save their Bucks for a chance to win prizes in monthly raffle drawings or spend them at the student store. "This system provides consistent, schoolwide positive reinforcement while encouraging students to practice the four Bs across all school settings," said Brianna Wickware, E.C. Best reset room teacher. The program gives students an opportunity to be recognized for their efforts while reinforcing the importance of kindness, respect, safety, and responsibility in their everyday interactions.

LAHONTAN
Kindergarten students in Jennifer Vasquez's class spent the week learning about the life cycle of apples through a variety of activities that combined science, math, and a little taste testing. Students explored the different stages of an apple's life cycle before putting their curiosity to the test with an experiment to see whether apples would float or sink in water. The learning continued with a graphing activity where students compared their favorite apple varieties, choosing between red, yellow, and green apples. Students also enjoyed sampling applesauce and discussing their favorite flavors, including strawberry, cinnamon, and regular. These activities gave students opportunities to make predictions, collect and compare information, and share their observations while building their understanding of how apples grow and connecting classroom lessons to everyday experiences.

A Day of Fall Fun and School Spirit at Logos Christian Academy

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



Three Logos Christian Academy students posed together in a corn box during the school's Oct. 8 visit to Lattin Farms.



Logos Christian Academy students and adults gathered with pumpkins during a fall outing to Lattin Farms on Oct. 8.



Logos Christian Academy students and accompanying adults enjoyed a hayride during their Oct. 8 visit to Lattin Farms.

Thursday, Oct. 8, was an extra-special day at Logos Christian Academy, as students, staff, and family members enjoyed a full day of fun, fellowship, and school spirit. The morning began with a trip to Lattin Farms, where everyone had the opportunity to enjoy some of the best parts of the fall season. Students took a hayride, searched the pumpkin patch for the perfect pumpkin, and tried their luck making their way through the corn maze. There was also plenty of time to play in the corn boxes, run around with friends, and enjoy the farm. After a busy morning of outdoor fun, everyone gathered for a pizza lunch on the grounds before heading back to school, ready for an afternoon of more exciting activities.

The fun continued back at school, where classrooms enjoyed a variety of crafts, movies, and science experiments. One class even made volcanoes,

giving students a chance to explore science in a hands-on way. The day ended with a lively school pep rally filled with games, cheers, and plenty of excitement. With students cheering, participating in games, and showing their school spirit, the excitement and noise were hard to miss! The pep rally was a fun way to bring everyone together and finish the day on a high note.

Days like these provide a welcome break from the regular school routine and give students opportunities to learn, laugh, and make memories outside the classroom. Whether enjoying a day on the farm, working on a classroom project, or cheering alongside classmates at the pep rally, students and staff had plenty of reasons to smile. These shared experiences help build friendships, strengthen camaraderie, and create a sense of togetherness that makes Logos Christian Academy a special place to learn and grow.

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ASE CERTIFIED

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

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

RAISINS REVEAL THE SCIENCE OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

By Neel Bhakta

Second- and third-grade students recently used something as simple as raisins to explore interesting scientific principles in physics and chemistry. Through a fun experiment, students were able to observe concepts such as density, buoyancy, and gas behavior in an interactive way.

During the activity, students placed raisins in a liquid and carefully watched what happened to them. The raisins moved up and down, allowing students to see how changes in density and buoyancy can affect an object’s movement. The experiment also demonstrated how gases can interact with the raisins and cause them to behave differently.

Instead of only learning about these concepts from a textbook, students were able to see the scientific concepts they were studying happening in front of them. The activity gave students an opportunity to make observations, ask questions, and connect what they were learning in class to a real experiment.

Although raisins may seem like an ordinary snack, this experiment showed students that science can be found in unexpected places. By using a simple activity, students gained a better understanding of physics and chemistry while having fun learning.

MATH IS EVERYWHERE AT THIRD ANNUAL MATH NIGHT EXPO

Oasis Academy recently hosted its third annual Math Night Expo, giving K-6 students and their families an evening filled with interactive learning, games, strategies, and plenty of opportunities to discover that math can be both useful and fun.

As families arrived, they received a lanyard with information about the evening and the different activities available throughout Gordmans. In true expo style, families were invited to choose their own adventure, with students able to attend engaging math presentations or visit a variety of booths featuring hands-on math games, activities, and strategies that can also be used at home.

The evening was designed to make math approachable and enjoyable while giving families



Heather Wiessmer, Meaghan Relias, and Ali Montgomery participate in Math Night.

practical ways to support their students’ learning outside of the classroom. Students were encouraged to participate, explore different activities, and try new strategies as they moved throughout the expo.

“It was incredible seeing so many families exploring, learning, and enjoying math together. It was the highlight of the evening for me,” Kim Sorensen said. “I’m grateful to the families who supported the event and to our administrators and extra staff members who helped out. A huge thank-you goes to our amazing teachers, whose creativity, hard work, and dedication made the entire evening such a success.”

Families also had the opportunity to take home free math tools to continue the learning at home. A special thank-you goes to the J Resort in Reno for donating decks of cards, which provided families with another simple and fun resource for practicing math skills together.

The success of Math Night Expo would not have been possible without the tremendous time, creativity, and effort put forth by Oasis Academy’s math teachers and Math Specialist Kim Sorensen. Their dedication to creating meaningful learning experiences for students and families was evident throughout the evening.

FIRST-YEAR FFA STUDENTS ATTEND GREENHAND CONFERENCE

Oasis Academy’s first-year high school students in the National FFA Organization (FFA) recently attended the Greenhand Conference at Venturacci Gym in Fallon. The conference brought together beginning FFA members from across the area for a day focused on learning, leadership, and discovering more about what it means to be part of the FFA organization.

Throughout the conference, students participated in activities designed to introduce them to the opportunities available through FFA. They learned more about FFA traditions, leadership, teamwork, and the many ways students can become involved and grow through their experiences in agricultural education.

For Oasis Academy’s first-year members, the Greenhand Conference was a great opportunity to meet other FFA students, build new friendships, and gain confidence as they begin their FFA journey. Events like this help students see that FFA is about more than agriculture; it is also about developing leadership skills, serving their communities, and preparing for their futures.

“Greenhand was a very educational experience and helped me grow my knowledge about FFA,” Angela Pratt said. “As I continue with FFA, I look forward to taking different classes, staying connected with fellow FFA members, and possibly attending state or nationals.”

Oasis Academy FFA currently has 89 members from middle school through high school and is led by adviser Jackie Bogdanowicz and co-adviser Sarah Perry.



Kelsey Nall and Angela Pratt attend the FFA Greenhand Conference.

Veritas Preparatory School

Classical and Christian

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

Last week was filled with excitement, creativity, and hands-on learning at Veritas Preparatory School as students across several grade levels celebrated academic milestones and explored their studies in memorable ways.

Ms. Kelsey’s kindergarten class celebrated an important milestone with its annual Alphabet Tea, marking the completion of their study of all 26 letters of the alphabet. The special event brought together food, fun, and student presentations in a creative celebration of everything the students have learned.

The highlight of the morning was a unique alphabet breakfast featuring 26 different foods and other items, each beginning with a different letter of the alphabet. From A to Z, students enjoyed discovering the connection between the foods on their plates and the letters they had spent weeks learning to recognize and use.

In addition to the breakfast, students gave a special presentation of the alphabet, demonstrating their growing knowledge and confidence. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments while reinforcing the foundational literacy skills they will continue to build upon throughout the year.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Gilbert’s second-grade class traveled back in time to ancient Greece as students concluded their history unit with the Veritas Greek Olympics.

Dressed in traditional Greek garb representing different Greek city-states, students participated in a series of competitions inspired by the athletic traditions of the ancient world. The young Olympians tested their strength, speed, coordination, and determination through games of might and mastery.



Mrs. Gilbert’s second-grade students posed for a photo following the Veritas Greek Olympics.

Events included relay races, the discus throw, “horse” races, and other competitions modeled after the ancient Greek Olympiad. Students enthusiastically participated in the contests, putting their athletic abilities to the test while experiencing a small taste of the culture they had been studying.

The Olympics also provided opportunities to practice good sportsmanship, perseverance, teamwork, and graciousness in both victory and defeat. These lessons in character are an important part of the educational experience at Veritas, where students are encouraged to demonstrate Christian virtues in all areas of school life.



Ms. Kelsey’s kindergarten students and their parents gathered for the Alphabet Tea at Veritas Preparatory School.

At Veritas, education is about more than what students learn from a book. It is about helping them discover the wonder of God’s creation, the richness of history, and the joy of learning something new.

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COLUMNS

Things I Didn't Know: *I've Been Carving Pumpkins Wrong*

By Lori Kaiser

I have never particularly enjoyed cleaning out pumpkins. I don't mind carving them. It's the part where you stick your hand deep inside a cold pumpkin and pull out handfuls of slippery seeds and stringy orange goo that I could do without. I've been doing it that way for years because I assumed there wasn't another option.

Apparently, there is. And it involves a kitchen mixer.

I recently read an article in Good Housekeeping featuring Michael Natiello, creative director of the Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze in New York, where thousands of illuminated pumpkins are displayed each fall. I figured someone responsible for that many jack-o'-lanterns probably knows a thing or two about carving them.

For starters, I've been cutting the wrong end off the pumpkin. Like most people, I've always cut a circle around the stem, lifted off the lid, and gone to work. Natiello recommends cutting a hole in the bottom instead. That way, the stem stays intact, the pumpkin maintains its shape, and you can simply lower the finished jack-o'-lantern over a light.

That makes sense. I wish someone had mentioned it about 60 years ago.

I spent years teaching students about the history of Halloween, including the Irish tradition of carving turnips before pumpkins became popular in America. Apparently, I knew considerably more about the history of jack-o'-lanterns than I did about actually making one.

But the real revelation was the mixer.

The article led me to a short YouTube video demonstrating how to use a hand mixer with a single beater attachment to clean out a pumpkin. Instead of reaching inside and scraping around with a spoon, you insert the beater into the pumpkin and let the mixer loosen the seeds and stringy

pulp. Then you scoop everything out.

I watched the video, which was only about a minute long, and immediately showed it to my husband.

I don't know who first looked at a pumpkin and thought, "This needs a kitchen appliance," but I appreciate the ingenuity. I also wonder how much explaining was required when the mixer came back into the kitchen.

Professional carvers thin the inside wall of the pumpkin where they plan to carve. A thick pumpkin wall makes it harder to cut detailed designs, particularly when you're trying to produce something more ambitious than the traditional triangle eyes and crooked grin.

I've always blamed my carving skills when a pumpkin face turned out looking slightly deranged. It hadn't occurred to me that the thickness of the pumpkin might be partly responsible.

Then there's the problem of keeping a jack-o'-lantern looking respectable for more than a couple of days. Once you cut into a pumpkin, the exposed surfaces begin drying out. One suggestion in the article was to apply a thin layer of



petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline, to the exposed flesh to help retain moisture. Keeping the pumpkin cool can also extend its life. Eventually, though, the pumpkin is going to do what pumpkins do. Rot.

I was so impressed with the mixer idea that over the weekend I wanted to go get a pumpkin and try it out with my granddaughter. Unfortunately, we ran out of time.

I hadn't forgotten about it, though. When I went to Safeway on Sunday, I made a point of looking for pumpkins.

I haven't actually tried the mixer trick yet, so I can't say whether it works as well as it did in the video. But I'm willing to find out.

If the mixer works, my granddaughter and I may start a new Halloween tradition. One that doesn't involve me being elbow-deep in pumpkin guts.



Allison's Book Report:

“Bad Words” by Ríoghnach Robinson

By Allison Diegel

Happy Fall, y'all! That cold, snappy feeling has finally arrived in Fallon. Grab your cozy sweats, make yourself a quick cup of tea, and get ready to cuddle up with this week's book. I always say that readers love a book about bookish people, and this week's pick won't disappoint.

If you are looking for a smart, witty romance that dives headfirst into the chaotic world of modern publishing, "Bad Words" by Ríoghnach Robinson is an absolute treat. The story kicks off with Parker Navarro, a struggling author whose career took a massive hit a few years ago after a brutally sharp, viral review in City Magazine turned his highly anticipated debut novel into a high-profile flop. The person holding the pen was Selina Chan, a brilliant and unapologetically honest literary critic who views harsh, precise criticism as a vital service to readers who only have so much time in their lives to read. Fast-forward to the release of Parker's follow-up novel, where he desperately tries to avoid another pan from Selina. Unfortunately for him, she gets her hands on an advance copy anyway, dishes out another scathing assessment, and sets off a fiery face-to-face confrontation between the two at a chaotic literary party. Someone captures their explosive argument on camera, and before either of them can process what happened, the video goes wildly viral online.



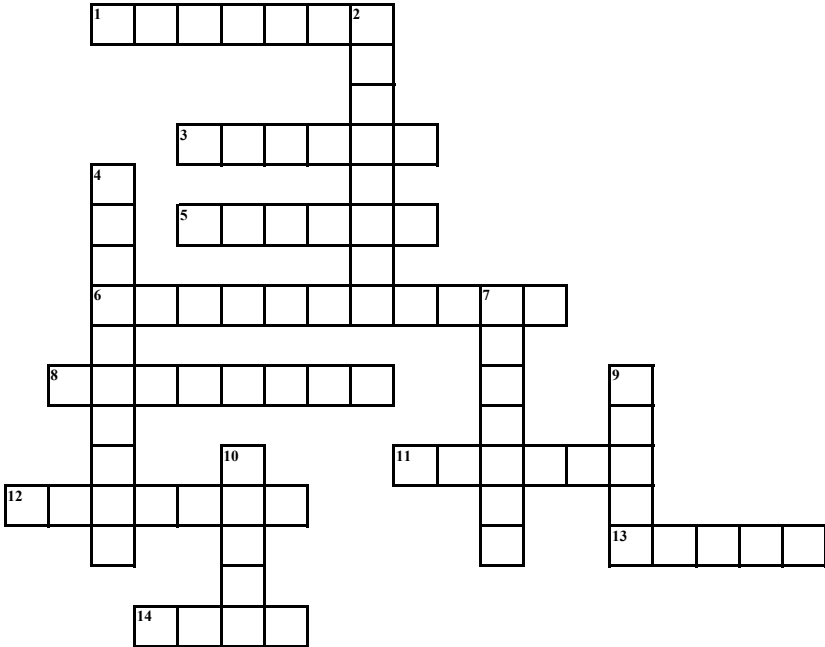
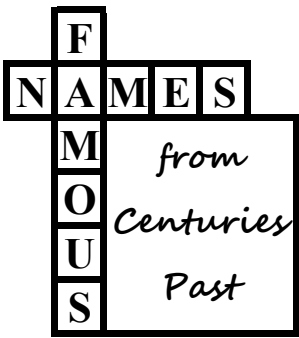
Rather than letting the public meltdown destroy them, their respective employers realize there is serious money, PR, and attention to be made from the drama. Parker urgently needs to boost his book sales to save his writing career, and Selina's struggling magazine desperately needs digital subscriptions to stay afloat, so they are pushed into maintaining a very public, staged feud. What starts as sharp banter, passive-aggressive emails, and carefully calculated public spats slowly begins to evolve as the two are forced into constant communication. Beneath the sharp barbs, Parker starts to realize that Selina isn't just a heartless villain out to wreck careers; she's someone who cares deeply about literature and guards her heart behind a fortress of professional detachment. Meanwhile, Selina discovers that beneath Parker's anxious, eager-to-please persona lies a surprisingly resilient heart and a genuine desire to create something meaningful. As the boundaries between a fake rivalry and real intimacy begin to blur, their public sparring morphs into an unexpectedly deep, honest dialogue about emotional vulnerability, the fear of being disliked, and what it truly means to be seen by someone else. It is a delightfully funny, sharp, and romantic enemies-to-lovers story that explores how we navigate criticism, art, and love in an outrage-driven world.

I hope you love "Bad Words" as much as I did. Don't forget to check out my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more book recommendations and book talk.

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

- 1. 1836 - First elected president of the Republic of Texas
- 3. 1879 - Perfected filament light bulb
- 5. 1811 - Had first novel published in London
- 6. 1854 - Nurse in Crimean War
- 8. 1787 - One author of Federalist Papers
- 11. 1873 - Greatest Show on Earth debuts
- 12. 1793 - Patented cotton gin
- 13. 1726 - Gulliver's Travels published
- 14. 1881 - Survived OK Corral gunfight

Down

- 2. 1812 - Retreated from Moscow
- 4. 1781 - Surrendered at Yorktown
- 7. 1886 - Statue dedicated in NYC harbor
- 9. 1866 - Gang robs bank in Missouri
- 10. 1721 - Proclaimed Emperor of all Russia

Crossword answers found on page 16

C O L U M N S

Postcards: The Boys and Girls of Summer

By Michon Mackedon

In the late spring of 1910, while the city fathers and business leaders mopped up after a fire and quickly put the town back together again, what were the young adults up to?

Even in those early days, the local newspapers ran what we could call gossip columns. They are great fun to read. They chronicle trips to Reno to shop; visits to a doctor; the recovery from measles or appendicitis or a fall; the purchase of a bicycle; the details of winning or losing a card game—nothing was too trivial to print. This is where to look to find the adventures of the young.

I’ll share one of my favorite items of this nature. It evokes the essence of a lazy day in the Lahontan Valley, spent by youths doing what youths did before automobiles were common and television sets, let alone cellphones, were nonexistent.

On Sunday last, a crowd of Fallon’s younger set formed an equestrian party and repaired to the region around Soda Lake in search of sport and adventure. Failing of adventure, their efforts in the line of pleasure and sport were rewarded in good measure and a very enjoyable day was passed. After a lunch on the edge of the lake, athletic games were in order, and many championships were decided, chief among which was the blue ribbon for premier horseshoe hurler, which fell to one James J. Johnson, before whose indomitable pluck and perseverance the effort of all others were as naught. Repairing homeward in the late afternoon so that the latter end of the ride was finished in the glorious Nevada moonlight, the day was brought to a fitting close by a banquet at the Overland, where a very delectable feast was enjoyed. Those composing the party were Misses Allen, Williams, Ruff and Whipp, and Messrs. Clancy, Post, Marean and Albert and James Johnson (Churchill County Standard, September 29, 1910).

It sounds so idyllic. So do the reports about summer baseball. Teams of young men were organized in Fallon as well as in Stillwater. The two



An illustration depicts a baseball game as it might have appeared in the Lahontan Valley in 1910, when Fallon and Stillwater fielded rival teams. AI-generated illustration.

teams were great rivals, and both sponsored dances to raise funds for uniforms and equipment. Churchill County Standard, May 12, 1910. “The baseball benefit dance given by the ball boys [Fallon’s team] Saturday evening was a success. Preparations are being made for a big game with either Reno or Lovelock and the local grounds are being made spick and span.”

Not to be outdone were the Stillwater boys. Churchill County Standard, May 19, 1910: “The Stillwaterites will give a dance Saturday evening, the proceeds of which will go towards equipping the community’s baseball team. The residents of the county’s former seat of government are quite proud of the ball playing prowess of their lads.”

Churchill County Standard, May 26, 1910: (The editor of the Churchill County Standard did not hide his loyalty to the Fallon boys.): “A large crowd of Fallon young folks made the journey to Stillwater Sunday to see our team trounce the lads who live at Stillwater, on the baseball diamond, to the tune of 19-7. The game was hugely enjoyed by those present.”

The same edition carried the news that all the dancing had paid off. “The baseball boys received handsome suits and other equipment for the diamond Friday, and when they next appear on the baseball battlefield, they will, for a while at least, present quite a nobby appearance. The boys will travel to Reno on Sunday, June 5, and will give the first team there a try for first honors. Quite a number of the local fans are planning to accompany the home team to Reno.”

Did they travel by rail via Hazen? Did they pool the small fleet of autos then owned by local townsfolk? The paper is silent on that topic, but my sense is that those were delightful times to be young in Fallon.

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

By Kelli Perez

As the autumn leaves begin to fall and the evenings turn cool, there is no better place to warm up than inside your favorite historic theater. We love seeing our community gather under the marquee as the fall season kicks into high gear, and we have a fantastic lineup of movies, live shows, and special events planned to help us close out the year together. Be sure to stay tuned for our upcoming November and December schedules, as we have so many exciting holiday traditions and fun surprises in store. In the meantime, check out what’s hitting the big screen this weekend:

Join us this Friday, Oct. 16, at 1 p.m. for our monthly Third Friday Matinee featuring Mel Brooks’ hilarious comedy classic “Young Frankenstein” (1974). Gene Wilder stars as Dr. Frederick Frankenstein (“Fronkensteen”), who inherits his infamous grandfather’s estate and ends up creating a monster of his own with unforgettable results. Proudly sponsored by The Coalition for Senior Citizens, all moviegoers aged 60 and older receive a free small popcorn and small soda at the concession stand. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour and 46 minutes.

Then at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights, gather the whole family and brew up some fun with Disney’s Halloween favorite, “Hocus Pocus” (1993). When a curious teenager accidentally frees a trio of diabolical 17th-century witches in modern-day Salem, Massachusetts, he must team up with his sister, his crush, and an immortal

talking cat to steal their book of spells before the sisters reclaim their youth forever. This is definitely one of our most highly attended holiday films, so come early to grab your snacks and settle in. Rated PG, it runs 1 hour and 36 minutes.

Or, at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, keep the laughs rolling into the evening with another screening of “Young Frankenstein” (1974). If you can’t make our afternoon matinee, join us for prime-time evening fun as Mel Brooks and Gene Wilder serve up page after page of mad-science parody and legendary one-liners on the big screen.

At the end of October, one of our favorite Fallon traditions returns, and this year it’s bigger, spookier, and better than ever. Join us downtown on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 3 to 6 p.m. for The Maine Street Spooktacular. Free to attend, this ultimate autumn block party features trick-or-treating, trunk-or-treating, bounce houses, pumpkin painting, a haunted house, tasty local food, and beats by DJ Todd Moretto. Plus, there will be a very special guest. Jacques Magician will be wandering the street, visiting with trick-or-treaters and performing mind-bending magic tricks all afternoon. If you or your organization would like to set up and pass out candy to our local ghosts and ghouls, contact Huck Salt at 775-423-2055 or huck_salt@yahoo.com to reserve a spot.

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, but you can snag an Early Bird Discount of \$5 off until Oct. 31, 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 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.

CALLING ALL LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS!



WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER A LOCAL COMMUNITY CALENDAR AND WE WANT YOU TO HELP FILL IT!

PHOTO DEADLINE: Friday, Nov. 27

Do you have a photo that captures what makes our little corner of Nevada special? Maybe it's a beautiful sunrise, local wildlife, a community event, a favorite landmark, or a spectacular sunset. We want to see it! Think small-town pride, rural life, local scenery, familiar faces, and the places we all know and love. Submit your best local photos for a chance to be featured in our community calendar!

Photo Requirements: Must be landscape and high resolution.

Submit photos to: contest@thefallonpost.org

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Churchill County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on November 5, 2026 at 8:15 AM during a regular meeting, held in the Commission Chambers, County Administration Building, 155 North Taylor Street, Suite 145, Fallon, Nevada, on the following matters:

Consideration and possible action re: A zone change application, ZC26-4, filed by Lawrence & Tami Boyce. The property is located at 5748 Reno Highway, Assessor's Parcel Number 008-572-05, in the C-2 zoning district. The applicants request to change the zoning from C-2 to E-1.

If you cannot attend the Board of County Commissioners meeting, written comments may be submitted to the Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 110, Fallon, NV 89406, before 5:00 p.m., November 4, 2026. A copy of the application is on file and available for public inspection at the Churchill County Administration Building, Clerk/Treasurer's office. We will also post a scanned copy of the application on October 29, 2026, with the Board of County Commissioners' agenda on our web page at www.churchillcountynv.gov under Agendas & Minutes for the November 5, 2026 meeting.

Linda Rothery,
Clerk/Treasurer
Notice prepared by:
Tara Adams,
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 16, 2026
Ad #7832

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

NOTICE OF APPOINTIVE
POSITION VACANCY

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking a public-spirited citizen who is willing to serve as a member on the **Churchill County Planning Commission**. The Planning Commission is an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners and will meet twice monthly. The person will be on a seven (7) member board responsible for decisions with Planning Department matters associated within Churchill County. This member will serve a term from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2030. Computer knowledge and experience is essential. Familiarity with Churchill County and a broad understanding of Churchill County's governance, Master Plan, and land use planning policies is preferred. For more details, interested persons may talk to the Public Works Director for additional information about the Planning Commission and what the position entails. Interested persons may obtain an application at the County Manager's Office, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 194, Fallon, Nevada 89406.

All letters and applications are to be submitted to the above address not later than 3 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Alexa Robinson,
County Manager's Office

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 9, 16, and 23, 2026
Ad #7796

NOTICE OF OPEN
APPOINTIVE POSITION

The Board of County Commissioners is seeking a public-spirited citizen willing to serve as a member on the **Library Board of Trustees**. The Library Board is a governing board that meets once a month. This person will serve on a five (5) member board and act as Library Trustee for the public library. Applications are being considered to fill a 4-year term through October 31, 2030. For more details, interested persons may talk to the Library Director for additional information about the Library Board and what the position entails.

Interested persons may obtain an Application at Churchill County Manager's Office, 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 194, Fallon, Nevada 89406 or by downloading at: <https://nv-churchill-county.civicplus.com/773/Advisory-Governing-Board-Openings>.

All letters and applications are to be submitted to the above address not later than 3:00 PM on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Alexa Robinson
County Manager's Office

Published in
The Fallon Post
October 9, 16, and 23, 2026
Ad #7805

Remembrance

For obituaries
please call 775-423-4545
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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.



WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken Oct. 12 at 8:30 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	67,310 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	368 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	4.26 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	19.7 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	0.72 cfs

Oct. 12, 2025

65,809 acre feet

Oct. 12, 2024

136,583 acre feet

Oct. 12, 2023

218,189 acre feet

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



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 14

AUSTEN	NAPOLEON
BARNUM	NIGHTINGALE
CORNWALLIS	PETER
EARP	SWIFT
EDISON	WHITNEY
HAMILTON	
HOUSTON	
JAMES	
LIBERTY	



All letters and applications are to be submitted to the above address not later than 3 p.m. Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Alexa Robinson,
County Manager's Office

Published in
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Ad #7796

MEETINGS

Oct. 16–23, 2026

Fallon City Council

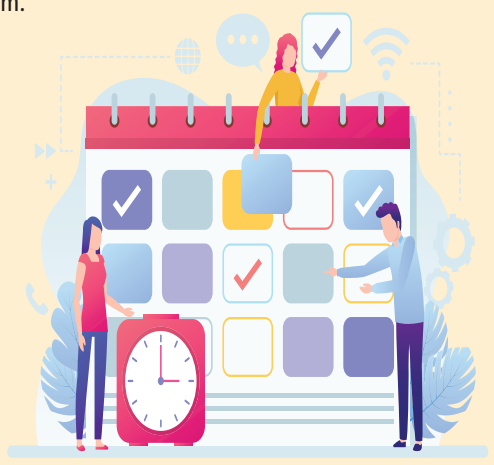
Meets the first and third Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
City Hall, 55 W. Williams Ave.
Next meeting: Oct. 20 at 9 a.m.

Churchill County School Board

Meets monthly at 5:30 p.m.
690 S. Maine St.
Next meeting: Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Churchill County Library Board of Trustees

155 N. Taylor St.
Meets monthly
Next meeting: Oct. 22 at 3 p.m.



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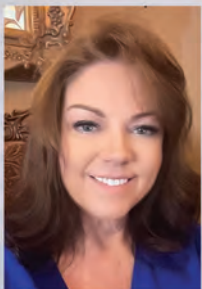
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