

THE FALLON POST



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Churchill County Mourns the Loss of Sheriff Richard Hickox

By Leanna Lehman

Churchill County lost its sheriff Saturday, a man who spent nearly 30 years serving the community he called home.

Sheriff Richard C. Hickox Jr. died April 11, 2026, following a prolonged battle with cancer, closing out a 28-year career with the Churchill County Sheriff's Office.

Hickox began his career in the detention center and gained experience across patrol, investigations, and leadership roles before being elected sheriff. It was a path that shaped how he led, not from a distance, but from experience and a clear understanding of the demands of the job, and something he never forgot.

His job as sheriff and as a law enforcement officer was far more than an occupation. It was part of who he was and how he reflected his love for his community.

"I'm very close to this community, it's the community that I love, and I have fought for and will continue to fight for," Hickox said during a 2022 Candidates' Night appearance.

And he did, right up until the end.

The words he spoke that night were not simply a campaign message. They were who he was and how he approached the job.

Hickox believed leadership meant being present, whether in the field, in jail, or alongside his deputies.



Sheriff Richard Hickox.
Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff's Office.

"I love my community, and I want to help, so I am very much a hands-on kind of guy who is commonly found at the office at odd hours and on weekends," he said. "I strongly believe in the mantra of management by walking around, so I will randomly show up on calls for service or come in early and pass out meals in the jail, do walkthroughs of the facility, and search a cell or two."

[County Mourns continued on page 2]

Magnitude 5.5 Earthquake Shakes Fallon, Silver Springs, and Surrounding Counties

By Leanna Lehman

Residents across parts of western Nevada reported feeling a noticeable earthquake Monday evening, with the epicenter estimated roughly 15 to 20 miles from the Fallon area and 13 miles from Silver Springs. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), a preliminary magnitude 5.5 quake struck at approximately 6:29 p.m. local time on April 13, 2026. The quake reportedly occurred at a shallow depth of about 5.6 miles (13 km).

The Nevada Seismology Lab (NSL) at the University of Nevada, Reno, initially reported a preliminary magnitude of 5.5. The USGS later updated the magnitude rating from 5.5 to 5.7.

Initial reports suggest the quake was widely felt near the epicenter, though no significant damage is expected. Minor impacts, such as items falling from shelves or isolated glass breakage, may have occurred.

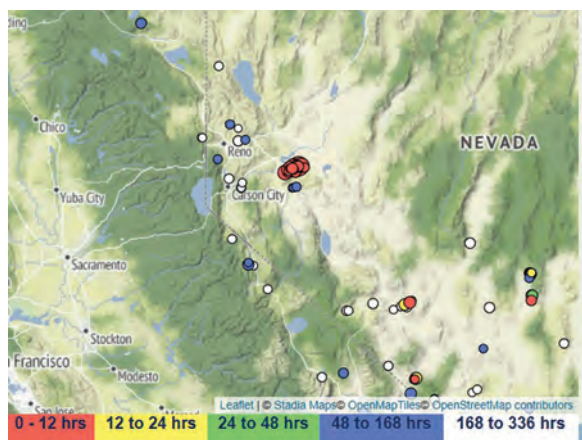
Communities closest to the reported epicenter, including Silver Springs, Fallon, and Fernley, likely experienced light shaking. Farther out, weaker movement may have been noticed in Sparks, Spanish Springs, Sun Valley, and Reno.

Updates are expected as monitoring agencies refine their assessments and gather additional reports.

NSL reported multiple earthquakes in the region on April 13, with magnitudes ranging from 2.8 to 5.4, all occurring within a short period. The lab also noted an additional 26 earthquakes by 7:53 p.m., with information continuing to update in real time.

Earthquake Track indicated as many as 25 quakes occurred in the Fallon, Fernley, Lovelock, Silver Springs, and surrounding areas in the 24 hours preceding the larger 5.5m earthquake.

Early magnitudes are automated estimates and often shift as more seismic stations report and analysts refine the calculations.



The Nevada Seismology Lab (NSL) at the University of Nevada, Reno, reported multiple earthquakes ranging in magnitude from 2.8 to 5.4, all occurring within 15 minutes of each other, less than 21 miles from Fallon on April 13. Image courtesy of NSL/UNR.

Norcutt Enters City Council Race

By Rachel Dahl

A longtime Fallon resident, Lori Norcutt, with a background in human resources and local business, has announced a bid for Fallon City Council, citing commitment to community service and steady growth.

Norcutt, who moved to Fallon in 1989, said the decision to run came after encouragement from family and friends and reflects a desire to give back to the community where they have lived and worked for more than three decades.

"This community has truly become home," she said. "It's where I raised my two children, built lasting friendships, and found a deep sense of belonging."

Norcutt spent nearly 30 years with the Churchill County School District, beginning in 1991 and retiring in 2019 as a human resources analyst. In that role, she developed skills in



Lori Norcutt.

listening, fairness, and decision-making, "values I would bring to the City Council."

Following retirement from the school district, she began working as an office manager at The Grid in 2020. The position has provided additional experience in supporting local businesses and navigating decisions related to growth and community development.

It is those combined experiences, both in public service and the private sector, that have shaped her perspective on the issues facing Fallon.

"I've learned the importance of supporting local businesses, making smart decisions about growth, and ensuring our community remains a safe and welcoming place for everyone," Norcutt said.

While acknowledging she does not have all the answers, Norcutt emphasized a willingness

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain's Log: Thoughts on Disasters

By Rachel Dahl

In case you missed it, we had an earthquake on Monday night. It was pretty spectacular.

At first, I was baffled by the strange groaning sound that was more of a feel than a noise, but was quickly followed by a horrible sonic boom and then shaking and shaking and then some more shaking. I could hear the aftershocks creaking and groaning before I could feel them, and for someone who gets motion sick in an elevator, the whole thing was quite unsettling.

The Boyer Bunny Ranch is south of town and west, close to Sheckler Reservoir and somewhat near the epicenter of the first big one – rated by the USGS at 5.7 on the Richter scale. What followed by my count just now on the website is 147 aftershocks ranging from 1.1 to 3.9 on the scale.

I'm not really sure about the rabbits; they didn't say much, and the goats were oddly silent, too, but holy cow, the chickens did not love the experience any more than I did. For several minutes after the earth quit shaking, my poor chickens were squawking and flapping themselves about in protest.

We've all grown up here listening to stories about the big quake in 1953 and taking field trips out to the earthquake faults. Our way of life in Nevada includes this sort of activity on a fairly regular basis, but I would be lying if I didn't admit that this one was the worst I've been in.

Thank goodness the damage was minimal. Except for Walmart, where several local people posted online photos of the aisles littered with inventory that had been shaken off the shelves.

I hadn't actually thought of earthquake etiquette other than what they teach us in school – get under a table or in a door frame, but one of my friends said to check all the water lines and make sure nothing had ruptured. Gas lines, too. My sister suggested charging the phones real quick.

So, while we all take a lesson and do a little emergency preparedness, we'll still be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

Rach

[County Mourns continued from page 1]

That presence extended to every part of the role he held. For Sheriff Richard Hickox, responsibility did not stop at enforcement. It included accountability and a duty of care for the people in the community he served, as well as to those placed in his custody.

He expressed great concern for the well-being of his deputies, understanding the physical and emotional toll of law enforcement. He advocated for training and resources to help officers manage stress, burnout, and the long-term impacts of the uniform, encouraging them to care for themselves and their families as seriously as they approached their duties.

Colleagues said that approach reflected a leadership style grounded not only in experience, but in a passion for the job, the people doing it, and the community they served.

Hickox recognized the importance of working together, believing strong relationships between agencies were essential to serving and protecting a rural community. "We must share, we must aid each other to properly serve and protect this community and visitors," he said.

At the center of it all was a steady belief in the principles that guided him through his career and his life.

He held a steady belief in the rule of law and the importance of truth, often expressing that the system, when followed as intended, should ultimately reflect both.

mately reflect both.

Outside of his role as sheriff, Hickox was active in his church and community, and he served on the board of the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association, where he recently completed a term as president.

The Churchill County Sheriff's Office, in announcing his passing, said, "He will be missed not only by his immediate family but also by his brothers and sisters in blue, whom he has dedicated his life to serving for so many years."

Hickox is survived by his wife, Barbara, a local schoolteacher, and their two daughters, both graduates of Churchill County High School.

The Churchill County Sheriff's Office issued a later statement thanking all the agencies, first responders, organizations, businesses, and, ultimately, the people of Northern Nevada and Churchill County for the support and love shown for Sheriff Hickox as he was brought home on Sunday, April 12.

The Sheriff's Office said, "It was an emotional time for his family and his brothers and sisters in blue. The support for law enforcement in our community is uplifting and not taken for granted."

Funeral services for Sheriff Richard C. Hickox Jr. are scheduled for May 2, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the 3C Event Complex, 227 Sheckler Rd., Fallon, NV 89406.

For many in Churchill County, Hickox will be remembered as more than just an elected sheriff, but for the way he did the job, his love for his hometown, and his commitment to the people in it.

[Norcutt continued from page 1]

to listen and work collaboratively if elected.

"I'm committed to listening, learning, and working hard on behalf of our community," she said.

Norcutt faces a crowded field for the Fallon City Council in the open Ward 1 seat, vacated by Kelly Frost, who has reached her term limit. Both Ryan Swirczek and Daniel Doty have filed for the

open seat. Swirczek announced his campaign in the Feb. 5 edition; see the story at <https://www.thefallonpost.org/article/8770,swirczek-announces-bid-for-fallon-city-council>. Doty will be featured in an upcoming story.

Norcutt says she hopes to earn the trust and support of voters as the campaign moves forward.

PETS OF THE WEEK

The Barnyard Temp Agency: MULTIPLE Positions Available

Looking for a little extra help around the farm? Our local feline temp agency has four highly specialized (and slightly judgmental) employees ready for immediate placement. Whether you need a full tactical team or a solo freelancer, these four (and more) are open to negotiations.

The Full Team Special: Adopt all four and get a 100% reduction in rodent sightings and a 400% increase in chaotic 3 a.m. roof-running.

The Build-Your-Own-Squad: Need a dynamic duo? A powerful trio? One very solitary security guard? Mix and match based on your farm's specific vibes.

These cats are mix-and-match compatible. Take one, take two, or take the whole crew—they just want a barn to call home and a job to (eventually) do.



Meet Mufasa

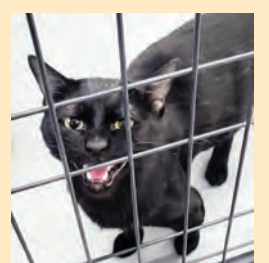
This handsome king is ready to claim his throne... could it be in your home?

Mufasa is a cat with a big personality and an even bigger presence. He knows who he is, and he's

looking for a kingdom where his voice is heard and his boundaries are respected. He'll do best with patient, understanding humans who are willing to take the time to truly get to know him.

And here's the magical part, once you earn Mufasa's trust, you're not just a subject... you're his person. The bond he forms is deep, loyal, and incredibly special.

If you're looking for a cat with character, charm, and a heart that reveals itself like a slow sunrise, Mufasa might just be your perfect match.



Questions? Call 775-217-4745

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

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

FEATURES

Fallon Residents Protest No-Bail Releases

By Riggin Stonebarger

It all started around 2 p.m. on Friday, April 10, at the corner of Maine Street and West Williams Avenue at Millennium Park across from the New River Township Justice Court. Community members, as well as Republican conservative gubernatorial candidate Matthew Winterhawk, came to protest Justice Court Judge Benjamin Trotter's recent decisions to release certain individuals without bail, or on their Own Recognizance (OR).

Sarah Levy, who organized the protest, said Trotter's recent decision to release a woman arrested on March 26, charged with 29 felony counts of alleged promotion and distribution of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) without bail, was the breaking point, noting, "It has become a pattern, and so this was sort of the final straw." She explained that she thought the protest "would give people an outlet or tool to practice their constitutional right and to send a message."

Levy also said that "remaining silent would just be approving of his behaviors." She added, "I consider that anybody who is being charged with a sexual crime against a child that in and of itself is a threat," later noting that "children are the most vulnerable."

Protesters attending the demonstration were asked what they hoped to achieve and what they hoped that the spectators, courts, and county could learn and take away from the protest.

Protester Tonya Freeman, who was also a 2022 candidate for County Commission, said, "To get Trotter out of office or get him aligned with what the law actually says. We need to protect children from predators, so he needs to stop this."

Another resident, Mr. Parrish, stated, "Children are our most precious commodity, and for judges to allow them to be harmed in any way and then not punish the people that did it, there's something not quite right about that."

Eric Weber, another Fallon resident, said, "I'm just hoping that we can convince Judge Trotter to stop releasing people without bail that are repeat offenders. Especially with child predators." He added, "If enough people come out here, they're going to learn that this is not something the



Demonstrators gather to protest no-bail releases across the street from the Justice Court building. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

community is going to let slide."

Longtime Fallon resident Leonore Proctor said, "We can't really change what the judge is doing, because of the Valdez-Jimenez v. Eighth Judicial District Court case in 2020, but the judges have discretion and he could have made his decision, and if he really doesn't think he can, then we have to change that law. If anything, we want people to know what the law is and that it has to be fixed." Proctor added, "They will notice that people care, and that we are watching them."

Brandon and Michelle Cox explained that they believe Trotter has the right to hold these predators. They asked, "Why doesn't he think they are a threat to the community? And why is he letting them go?" Michelle added, "I hope they learn that we are not okay with it."

Matthew Winterhawk, who is running for governor in the upcoming election, came from Las Vegas for the protest. During the event, he took turns at the

megaphone, encouraging passersby to protect Nevada's children from predators.

He said that public protest is a form of civic engagement, saying "lawfare activism is a great part of it." He noted that rural demonstrations carry particular weight, saying, "When your rurals are doing this, there's [something] vastly wrong and needs to be looked at from a leadership angle."

When asked how he heard about the event, he said he was frequently in Fallon. "You call, you get me," he added, "If a town calls and asks for me, I show up." He added, "I run a grassroots campaign," he said, noting that he was the only person running his campaign and that he focuses on direct accessibility across Nevada's 17 counties.

As a side note, after being asked what he would say to someone who wants to run as a young governor, Winterhawk encouraged civic education and participation, urging younger generations to "learn your history, learn your paperwork, and know your rights."

The demonstration lasted nearly three hours, with some protesters still at the megaphone at 5 p.m.

See last week's article, "The Great Debate: Public Safety vs. Rules on Bail and OR Releases," for Judge Trotter's response to growing concerns about no-bail releases.

No Budget, Rising Costs: Jail Medical Strains Local Resources

By Leanna Lehman

Editor's note: Information for this article was given during an interview with Churchill County Sheriff Richard Hickox, Undersheriff Lee Orozco, Captains Chad Sweeny and Matt Timmons, on Feb. 20, 2026, prior to Sheriff Hickox's passing on April 11.

The Churchill County Sheriff's Office, which operates the Churchill County Detention Center, is facing mounting challenges as it works to meet increasing medical obligations without the funding or staffing to support them.

Like other facilities across Nevada, the Churchill County jail is required to provide inmate medical care, including medications, emergency treatment, hospital visits, and even surgery. But according to Sheriff Richard Hickox, the funding to support these services is no longer in place.

"The county has cut our budget out completely on jail medical ... at this point, we have zero funding," said Sheriff Richard Hickox. "We're still doing it because it's required. We just have to pull the funds from other places."

Jail medical costs extend beyond routine care. These expenses include prescription medications, outside treatment, hospital stays, and transportation for inmates who require medical evaluation before booking. Specifically, a "fit for incarceration" evaluation, which is a medical clearance required before an inmate can be booked into jail, can involve transport to a hospital to ensure the individual is stable for custody. Additionally, new state mandates are requiring enhanced inmate mental health care, which requires more money and manpower.

Those costs can add up quickly. "We've spent to date ... over \$100,000," Hickox said, noting the figure was reached midway through the fiscal year.

The strain is not only financial. It also impacts staffing and daily operations. "We have one member of our staff ... who spends probably 10 hours of his 12-hour day dealing with different medical things within the jail," Hickox said.

In many cases, deputies must transport inmates to the hospital before they can be booked into the jail. That process can take hours and often requires more than one officer. Hickox explained that when an inmate has to go to the



Churchill County Law Enforcement Center. Photo courtesy of Churchill County.

hospital, one deputy has to remain with him or her. And, in situations where surgery is needed, they can be there for days.

With limited personnel available, transport and time at the hospital can reduce patrol coverage and delay response times, impacting public safety. "There are often times when it requires more than one deputy ... now you've got two deputies who are essentially out of commission," Hickox said.

The staffing issue is compounded by long-standing shortages. According to Hickox, patrol staffing levels have remained largely unchanged for decades, even as the community has grown.

"We are understaffed. We are still running on patrol ... the same staffing that we ran back in the early mid-1990s."

Those conditions have forced the department to stretch existing personnel, rely on overtime, and absorb additional responsibilities tied to inmate care. According to Undersheriff Lee Orozco, in one pay period alone earlier this year, more than 300 hours of overtime had accumulated within the sheriff's department.

"Despite the growth in the community ... we have ... stayed stagnant," said Hickox. "We've lost ground."

Efforts have been made at the county level to address the growing demands of jail medical

through a more structured approach; however, without success.

In November, the Churchill County Board of Commissioners considered a proposal to expand the Central Nevada Health District Administrator/Physician Health Officer's role to include oversight of jail medical services. The proposed compensation package, of which jail medical would have been only a portion, was capped at \$592,800, with Churchill County responsible for approximately 68% of the cost, or \$403,104.

The model would have utilized Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) staff, including nurses, and could have allowed for cost-sharing if additional CNHD counties chose to participate. It also presented the possibility of offsetting costs through Medicaid reimbursement and opioid settlement funds, according to Social Services Director Shannon Ernst.

However, commissioners expressed concern about the cost and did not move forward with the proposal. The discussion followed earlier bids for contracted jail medical services, which ranged from approximately \$707,000 to more than \$1 million annually. Those bids were also not accepted.

At the same time, the department continues to rely on its contracted current medical provider,

[No Budget continued on page 9]

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners to Appoint New Sheriff April 17

Staff Report

Churchill County Commissioners will meet on Friday, April 17, at 8:15 a.m. to appoint a new sheriff following the death of Sheriff Richard Hickox. The appointed sheriff will serve the remainder of Hickox's current term, which runs through Dec. 31, 2026.

The meeting will be held in the Churchill County Commission Chambers at 155 N. Taylor Street in Fallon and will be livestreamed at www.youtube.com/@churchillcounty/streams.

County officials also briefly addressed the process for filling the

sheriff's vacancy during an election year, beyond the initial appointment of a new sheriff.

The county referenced Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), stating, "...a person may become a candidate for the nonpartisan office at the general election if the person files a declaration of candidacy with the appropriate filing officer and pays the filing fee required by NRS 293.193 after 8 a.m. on the third Monday in June...and before 5 p.m. on the fourth Friday in July."

More information on this process will be released as it becomes available. The Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer's Office, located at 155 N. Taylor Street, Suite 110, handles candidate filings during regular business hours.

Cha Wa to Bring New Orleans Funk to Oats Park Center

By Sydney Trainor

Cha Wa, a Grammy-nominated New Orleans brass band and Mardi Gras Indian funk group, will bring its high-energy sound and vibrant cultural traditions to the Oats Park Center on Saturday, April 18.

The group is known for blending classic New Orleans street music with funk, soul, and the colorful, feathered Mardi Gras Indian performance style. Their shows are often described as nonstop, rhythm driven celebrations rooted in generations of musical heritage.

The performance will take place at the Barkley Theatre, with doors opening at 6 p.m. and the show beginning at 7 p.m.

Cha Wa has earned national recognition, including two Grammy nominations, and continues to evolve its sound with its latest album, "Rise Up." Drummer Joe Gellini said the group's music draws from deep cultural history, noting that "Mardi Gras Indian songs are inherently songs about freedom."

Tickets are available at Churchillarts.org.

Young Chautauqua Performance Set for April 18

By Sydney Trainor

A Young Chautauqua performance is scheduled for April 18 at 1 p.m. at the Churchill County Museum, where eight young actors will portray historical figures through first-person presentations. The free event offers the community an opportunity to learn about local and regional history in an engaging, student-led format.

The actors have been preparing since early February. Each student conducted independent research using museum archives and files to build a character based on real historical figures connected to Northern Nevada and local history.

This year's theme focuses on literacy and the arts, highlighting poets, writers,

photographers, and artists. To support the theme, participants created a fictional group—the "Lahontan Valley Literacy and Artistic Society"—and imagined historical figures as its members. Students will portray figures such as Mark Twain, Laura Mills, and Robert Laxalt, among others.

The program is led by the Churchill County Museum Education Director, Leticia Web, and the Museum Director, Mel Glover. Glen Perazzo assisted students with acting and performance skills, while educator and adult Chautauqua performer Pam Duarte helped guide their presentations. Together, the team has developed a program that not only celebrates local history but also helps young performers build confidence, creativity, and public speaking skills.

Grandma Rachel Dahl Would Like to Announce the Arrival of Her New Grandson

Tabor Outlaw Jones
 Born April 10, 2026
 Nine pounds, one ounce
 21.5 inches long
 12:24 p.m.

Congratulations to Parents Sloan Curtis & Jess Jones



March Marriages

- 3/2/2026 **Shawn Michael Probstfield**, 30, to **Valerie Vanessa Coronado Martinez**, 30, both of Fallon
- 3/4/2026 **Audrey Michelle Clark**, 29, to **Kyle Lee McAfee-Meints**, 22, both of Fallon
- 3/9/2026 **Tyler James Parks**, 28, to **Samantha Lynn Hornsby**, 27, both of Fallon
- 3/17/2026 **Kalika Valentine Plaisted**, 19, to **Chloe Maddison Minner**, 23, both of Fallon
- 3/20/2026 **Amber Louise Revels**, 26, to **Sethan Bojay Reed**, 39, both of Fallon
- 3/25/2026 **Daeja Monique Black**, 28, to **Kasten Jay Bangs**, 27, both of Lincoln, Calif.
- 3/25/2026 **Leslie Jean Spellman**, 70, to **John Patrick Shepherd**, 77, both of Fallon
- 3/26/2026 **Abigail Rain Miguel**, 18, to **Indigo Danielle Marion Guilbert**, 23, both of Fallon
- 3/27/2026 **Kovey Allen Huckaby**, 30, to **Aleon Tory**, 28, both of Fallon
- 3/27/2026 **Darak Jakob Reed**, 27, to **Umpitcha Khongkhwamlert**, 25, both of Fallon
- 3/27/2026 **Jason Christopher Pellegrin Jr.**, 22, of Thibodaux, La. to **Julia Katherine Reep**, 24, of Fallon

If you would like the birth of your child or grandchild announced in *The Fallon Post*, please: Ask the hospital for the form, email the details to admin@thefallonpost.org, or for an announcement like Tabor's, email the details and a photo to admin@thefallonpost.org. The cost is \$49.



SENIOR CENTER MENU

WILLIAM N. PENNINGTON LIFE CENTER 952 S. MAINE STREET, FALLON, NV | 775-423-7096

Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lunch is \$6 for those under 60 and a suggested donation of \$3 for those 60 and older.

Monday, April 20	Tuesday, April 21	Wednesday, April 22	Thursday, April 23	Friday, April 24
Chicken Tenders Cowboy Beans Comstock Corn WW Roll Fruit Cocktail	Lasagna Chopped Spinach Salad Italian Blend Vegetable Garlic Bread Fresh Orange	Open Faced Roast Beef Sandwich Mashed Potatoes & Brown Gravy Green Beans Seasonal Fruit	Pesto Chicken WW Pasta Green Salad Strawberries WW Roll	Mediterranean Shrimp Salad Cannellini Beans Fresh Orange Slices Mixed Fruit Jello WW Roll

FALLON DAILY BREAD

WOLF CENTER | 457 ESERALDA AVE., FALLON NV | 775-423-4714

Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m. All meals are subject to change. All are welcome.

Monday, April 20 Meatloaf Potatoes & Veggies	Thursday, April 23 Pancake & Eggs Fruit	Monday, April 27 Turkey Potatoes & Veggies	Thursday, April 30 Chicken Breast Pasta Salad & Fruit	Volunteer groups needed to help serve once per month, 3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Call for information.
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OBITUARIES



ART DANIELS
Aug. 18, 1934 – April 9, 2026

Art Daniels, 91, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026. He was born in Cedarville, California, on August 18, 1934, into a family rooted in resilience and the pioneering spirit of the American West. He was named after his Uncle Art, who was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident just weeks before his birth.

His family history traces back to his great-grandfather, Sylvester Daniels, a Civil War veteran who moved from Iowa to Cedarville, California, after suffering from consumption. The move restored his health and led to the establishment of a 300-acre ranch that remained central to the Daniels family for generations.

In the early 1950s, Art partnered with his brother Leroy in a dairy operation near Fallon, Nevada. Though the business failed during a national recession, the brothers repaid their debts in full, reflecting Art's lifelong integrity and sense of responsibility.

He later worked in construction before pursuing barbering. He attended barber school in Sacramento, California, apprenticed locally, and eventually owned the Ideal Barber Shop on Maine Street in Fallon. For several years, he was one of three barbers in the state of Nevada appointed by the governor to certify other barbers. During this time, he also co-developed the Ideal Mobile Home Community in Fallon.

Art was a founding member of the Fallon Elks Lodge, holding member No. 16.

In his retirement, Art crafted fine wood furniture and donated several pieces to the Catholic Church. He was also an early member of the Green Head-Hunting Club and had a lifelong love of fishing and hunting.

Art was predeceased by his brother, Leroy Daniels, and his sister, Leila Scott.

He is survived by his children, Linda Hammond (Mark), Art Daniels Jr. (Jenny), and his grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Brandon Daniels, Wyatt and Kaylee Hammond, and great-grandchild Tobyn Hammond.

Special thanks to the remarkable people at Fernley Estates and Saint Mary's Hospice.

Per his request, there will not be a service. In lieu of flowers, please donate to a charity of your choice.

JOSEPH HALE FERGUSON

Joseph Hale Ferguson was born on August 12, 1939, in Nampa, Idaho, to Aroet Hale Ferguson and Jessie Mae Mitchell. He grew up with his sister, Beverly, and his brother, Robert, known as Mitch. Joe spent his early years in Nampa before moving with his family to McDermitt, Nevada. His roots run deep; his family was among the early settlers in Wilson, Idaho. From a very young age, Joe showed strength and resilience. At just three years old, he was in a serious accident that left him temporarily paralyzed. But that didn't define him. He fought his way back, learning to walk again after many months of healing. That determination stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Joe went on to graduate from McDermitt High School in 1958, becoming the first to graduate from the school and the only student in his class, a testament to his perseverance and independence. He married the love of his life, Betty, and together they built a family that became the center of his world. They raised four children, Kari, Randy, Dennis, and Daniel, and were blessed with 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren who carry on their legacy.

Joe was a hard worker through and through. He started working at a young age, on family farms as a boy, and later in the mines by the time he was just 15. Over the years, he worked in mines and tunnels across several states, becoming a superintendent and later a respected mining consultant. He worked both above ground and deep underground, contributing to major projects like tunnels and mining operations across the country. Some of these projects included the aqueduct in New York City, the metro system in Washington DC, and the NORAD missile launch center in New Mexico. He was known as an expert in

drilling and blasting, so skilled, in fact, that he was once offered work in Hollywood doing special effects, but he chose a different path.

Outside of work, Joe had a love for life. He enjoyed motorcycles, fishing, and music. He played the guitar, and music was always a part of his home. He and his family shared that joy with others. As young men, Joe, his brother Mitch, and their dad, Hale,



performed at rodeos, fairs, and other events. Wherever Joe was, there was often laughter, music, and a story to be told. But one of the most defining moments of Joe's life came in 1976, when he gave his life to the Lord. From that moment on, everything changed. Joe and Betty stepped into ministry together, opening their home, starting a church, and eventually traveling to share their faith. They were called into tent ministry, reaching

people across the western United States, Mexico, and Canada. Through their work, many lives were touched, changed, and uplifted. Joe served faithfully for decades, never holding back, giving his whole heart to his calling.

There were challenges along the way, hard times, losses, and trials, but Joe's faith never wavered. He trusted God through it all, and time and time again, he saw restoration, provision, and purpose. He became a mentor, a leader, and a spiritual father to many. His life was one of service, strength, and unwavering faith. Joe spent over 50 years serving the Lord, giving everything he had to his family, his work, and his ministry. And now he has gone home to be with Jesus, to be reunited with his beloved wife, Betty, and all those who went before him. Until we meet again, Brother Joe...Thank you for saying yes to the Lord.

Celebration of Life Saturday, April 18, at 11 a.m. at Reservation Gym, 8955 Mission Road, Fallon, NV 89406.

Planning Commission Updates

By Sydney Trainor

The Churchill County Planning Commission on April 8 recommended approval of a 160-acre conservation easement and denied two separate variance requests for commercial signage, citing staff concerns and public opposition.

During consideration of a sending site application filed by Richard and Tina Doty, trustees of the Doty Family Trust, the commission reviewed a proposal to place a conservation easement on a 160-acre parcel and to transfer 229 development rights. Staff confirmed the application met all requirements and recommended approval, noting that the request had already been reviewed by the sending site committee. The applicants also requested flexibility to allow for an appraisal both with and without a home reservation on the property. The commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Churchill County Board of Commissioners.

George Pomeroy presented a variance application filed by GP Global LLC, proposing to install five 140 square foot signs along a long, narrow railroad right of way off York Lane. Staff recommended denial, stating that the application did not meet the variance requirements, including the requirement to demonstrate exceptional hardship. Pomeroy argued that the parcel's unique shape warranted a variance and that multiple evenly

spaced signs would create a more consistent visual pattern while supporting local businesses. Commissioners questioned whether the legal standard for hardship was met and emphasized that all variance criteria must be satisfied. Public comment included opposition from Michael Casey and attorney John Gezelin, who cited a lack of hardship, potential impacts to neighboring properties, and concerns about increased visual clutter. After discussion, the commission voted 3-2 to deny the request, with Mark Hyde, Dennis Mills, and Victor Ansotegui denying, and Joe Frey and Tami Edgmon opposed to the motion.

Pomeroy also presented a second variance application proposing two signs on a similar railroad adjacent parcel off the Reno Highway near Coleman Road. Staff again recommended denial for failure to meet variance findings, and the discussion closely mirrored the previous request. Public comment included one speaker who argued the signs would affect sky views for about 20 nearby homes and said the request was economically driven rather than hardship based. The motion to deny passed unanimously, with commissioners noting the 10 day appeal period.

Additionally, a previously rescheduled meeting was moved back to its original date, April 29. With no further public comment, the meeting was adjourned.

FALLON COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Movie Day
Coalition for Senior Citizens
The Fallon Theatre
Every third Friday at 1 p.m.

No Flea Flea Market
Churchill Animal Protection Society
Oasis Community Church
April 17-18

Cha Wa Performance
Churchill Arts Council
The Barkley Theatre
April 18 at 6 p.m.

Bingo Night
Fallon Lions Club
Fallon Eagles Hall
April 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Battle Born Broncs
The City of Fallon
Rafter 3C Arena
April 16 - 18

A Solo Exhibition by Bailey Anderson
The Stars Will Be Your Eyes
& The Wind Will Be My Hand
Churchill Arts Council, Oats Park Art Center
Public Reception, April 17; doors open at 5 p.m.

CEDA Business Council Breakfast
Churchill Entrepreneur Development
Association
Fallon Convention Center
April 22 at 7 a.m.

Wellness 2026
Churchill Community Coalition
Rafter 3C Arena
May 5 from 3 to 7 p.m.

Meet The Director
Churchill County Library
553 S. Maine St.
April 16 at 6 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast Fly-In
Flyin'Tiz Aviation
Fallon Municipal Airport
April 18 at 8 a.m.

Churchill County Junior Livestock Show & Sale
Churchill County 4-H
Rafter 3C Arena
April 23 - 26

Inaugural Spring Clinic
Reining & Ranch Horse Association
Fifty Horse Ranch
May 16 at 8 a.m.

Fallon High School Rodeo
Fallon High School Rodeo Club
Fairview Arena, 325 Sheckler Rd.
April 17 - 20

Grand Opening Celebration
Clear Path Healthcare
50 Commercial Way
April 18 from noon to 1 p.m.

Family Carnival
Life Center
952 S. Maine St.
April 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Bark in the Park 5K
Churchill Animal Protection Society
Churchill County Fairgrounds
May 16

Nature Journal Workshop
The Northwest Nevada Bird Alliance
The Churchill Arts Center
April 17-18

Blue Pig Call-In
Fallon Elks Club
93 W. Center St.
April 18 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Fallon Spring Fling
Rustoration Garage
3C Event Center
April 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WNC Graduation
Western Nevada College
Rafter 3C Arena
May 20 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Plant Bingo
Churchill County Parks and Recreation
255 E. Stillwater Ave.
May 22



Keeping Fallon powered up, one day at a time. Big thanks to Doolpower Electric for lighting up this week's community calendar! Contact Sadie at 775-423-4545 to sponsor the weekly calendar.

COMMUNITY

Western Nevada Leaders Gather in Lovelock to Map Out Region's Economic Future

By Amber Hardin

From mining and manufacturing to data centers and energy demand, leaders from across western Nevada came together last week in Pershing County with a shared goal: figuring out how to grow and keep pace with a rapidly changing economy.

The annual summit hosted by the Western Nevada Development District (WNDD) brought together local officials, state leaders, and industry representatives to tackle the issues shaping the region's future.

WNDD, a federally designated economic development district, represents nine counties, seven cities, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. The organization helps communities plan for long-term growth and secure funding for projects ranging from infrastructure to workforce development.

Nevada Lt. Gov. Stavros Anthony told attendees, "It's important that all of you come together, like you're doing today, to talk about these issues. We're working together to make sure we have great roads, that we have great energy sources, that these data centers that want to come here, we're providing them with what they need, and that mining is supported all over the state of Nevada."

Held in Lovelock, the summit highlighted both the opportunities and pressures facing rural Nevada as new industries emerge alongside longstanding ones.

Mining remains a cornerstone of the region's economy, and the conference began with a tour of the Coeur Rochester mining site on day one. Nevada continues to play a critical role in global mineral production and domestic supply chains.

On day two, panel discussions explored how the state can position itself for future growth. One major focus was infrastructure, particularly the role of rural airports. Far from being limited to passenger travel, airports are increasingly seen as economic engines that can attract manufacturers and high-tech companies. With more than 50 public-use airports across the state, leaders said rural communities have tools they may not be fully leveraging.

Another major topic was the rapid rise of data centers in northern Nevada. These facilities, which power everything from cloud computing to artificial intelligence, are drawing attention and investment to the region. But they also come with significant demands. Panelists noted that data centers require large amounts of power, water, land, and connectivity, raising important questions about how communities prepare for that level of growth. While modern systems often reuse water and improve efficiency, infrastructure planning remains a key concern.

Energy quickly emerged as one of the most pressing challenges discussed at the summit. As demand increases, driven in part by large-scale industrial and technology projects, utility providers are facing unprecedented pressure to expand capacity. That includes building new transmission systems and ensuring reliable supply, efforts that can take years to complete.

Despite the complexity of the issues, a common theme ran throughout the day: collaboration. Speakers emphasized that no single community or agency can address these challenges alone. Instead, partnerships between local governments, state leaders, and private industry will be essential.

WNDD Executive Director Christine Brandon said the organization's role is to help bridge those gaps. "We look for those [funding] opportunities in all areas that are relevant to you," Brandon said. "Not things you don't need, not things that will never matter to you, but the things that you need in your communities."

For many attendees, the summit served as both a reality check and a roadmap, highlighting not only the scale of change underway but also the opportunity for rural Nevada to shape its own economic future.

Over the coming weeks, additional, expanded coverage will take a closer look at key topics discussed during the summit, including mining and infrastructure, data center development, and Nevada's growing energy demands.

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Fallon Home & Garden Show Packs Convention Center

Story by Riffin Stonebarger

Crowds filled the Fallon Convention Center this weekend as the 25th Annual Soroptimist Home & Garden Show brought together local vendors, nonprofits, families, and plenty of hands-on activities.

The two day event, held April 11-12, featured about 25 vendors and nine nonprofit groups offering everything from handmade crafts and garden plants to community outreach and family activities.

Visitors browsed handmade jewelry, local art, garden plants, home décor, and canned goods while stopping at interactive booths offering demonstrations, samples, and hands-on activities.

Families crowded around the 4-H chicken-poop bingo game, and a Saturday morning car show drew spectators before they headed inside.

Food and drinks were a big draw as well, with Lazerz Catering serving breakfast burritos in the morning and pulled pork and chicken sandwiches throughout the day. Revel and Roam Cocktails offered mimosas, raspberry squeeze, bloody marys, and their signature "Peachy" mule.

The Soroptimists of Fallon also used the event to raise money for scholarships and local programs for women, selling peanuts and raffle tickets at their booth. Many vendors donated gift baskets for the raffle, and visitors entered throughout the

day for a chance to win.

One of the vendors, this reporter, had a meaningful first-time experience selling art at the show, talking with visitors about each piece and hearing their reactions. It was rewarding to watch people stop, look closely, and take photos of the work.

The show ultimately highlighted how much the community enjoys coming together, with visitors lingering to talk, browse, and share the experience. The Home & Garden Show once again offered a place for people to connect over local creativity and the traditions that make Fallon feel like home.

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SCAN FOR DETAILS

MAY 29TH - 30TH

MAINE ST, FALLON

BUSINESS

Claws Nail Studio Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting



Carolayne Bolt and Marjorie Judah cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Claws Nail Salon on Saturday, joined by their families at the Clover Drive location.

Story and photo by Nancy Chapman

Claws Nail Salon celebrated its grand opening Saturday, April 11, as owner Carolayne Bolt and business partner Marjorie Judah cut the ribbon and welcomed guests into their newly built suite on Clover Drive. Family, friends, and Fallon Chamber of Commerce representatives attended the event as the pair introduced the salon's modern layout and expanded service offerings. The salon's location at 240 Clover Drive features dedicated manicure and pedicure stations and specializes in hard gel nail services. The salon operates by appointment only, giving clients individualized service in a quieter, more flexible setting. The suite allows the team to offer additional scheduling options, including evening appointments available until 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, providing more convenience for customers. With a fresh space designed for specialized nail care and strong community support at the opening, Bolt and Judah are looking forward to growing their business and welcoming clients into the new salon.

A New Chapter Patriot Junk Removal

By Christina Rodarte

After a 21-year career with Kennametal, Pat Holcomb began working full-time this month at Patriot Junk Removal, the family business he and his wife, Tessa, launched as a post retirement plan and a way to involve their two sons.

The couple started the company after discussing what life would look like after Holcomb's retirement, deciding on a small business that could grow with their family. Patriot Junk Removal handles trash removal and small scale demolition for homeowners, property managers, real estate companies, and others needing debris hauled away.

The business recently marked its two-year anniversary and received the Fallon Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Home Based Business award in February.

Four employees — two full-time and two part-time — maintain the areas surrounding the landfill and the City of Fallon transfer station under a contract that provides steady work. The company focuses on professional, reliable service in Churchill County and plans to expand into Lyon and Pershing counties. Patriot Junk Removal offers free estimates, with rates based on volume, and provides discounts for seniors, veterans, active military members, and those paying cash. For scheduling or additional information, call 775 423 9149.



Tessa and Pat Holcomb, founders of Patriot Junk Removal. Photo courtesy of RaeAnn Villanueva.

The business recently marked its two-year anniversary and received the Fallon Chamber of Commerce's Outstanding Home Based Business award in February.



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Four TCID Board Members Reelected, Mike Olsen Elected for Division 4

By Leanna Lehman

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (TCID) held a special meeting on April 8 to affirm the election results for the office of director of the Board of Directors for the 2026 election year. The election, open to all TCID water users, was held on Tuesday, April 7, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Board Secretary Robert Oakden read the election results for Division 6, announcing that incumbent Abram Schank received 297 votes and challenger Denver Nygren received 165 votes. Schank, who has served on the TCID Board since 2018, was reelected and will continue his service through 2030.

Board members unanimously approved the resolution affirming the election results, which also included the election of Wade Workman, Eric Olsen, and Lester deBraga, all of whom ran unopposed and are currently serving on the Board of Directors.

Mike Olsen, representing Division 4, was initially appointed to the Board last month to fill

the vacancy created by Director Joe Gomes' retirement. Olsen ran unopposed in the election and will serve the remainder of Gomes' term through 2028.

The TCID Board of Directors helps oversee district operations from a policy standpoint, provides direction to staff as needed, represents water users in the district's six divisions, and votes on decisions regarding contracts, land sales, water policy, budgets, and other operational matters.

Board members also serve on various committees, which include the Carson Lake Advisory, Employee Relations, Finance, Negotiations, O&M (Operations & Maintenance), Policy, Public Relations, Revenue/IT, and Safety Committees.

Also on the agenda was the appointment of officers for Board Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer. The board voted unanimously to keep current officer appointments in place.

• President – Eric Olsen, Division 5, serving from 2026 to 2030

- Vice President – David Stix Jr., Division 1, serving from 2024 to 2028
- Secretary – Robert Oakden, Division 3, serving from 2024 to 2028
- Treasurer – Lester deBraga, Division 7, serving from 2026 to 2030

The seven-member TCID board also includes:

- Abram Schank, Division 6, serving from 2026 to 2030
- Wade Workman, Division 2, serving from 2026 to 2030
- Mike Olsen, Division 4, serving from 2026 to 2028

All board members were sworn in and took the oath of office. TCID Clerical Assistant Ariel Tomb will continue to serve as Assistant Secretary to the Board.

Also attending the meeting were TCID General Manager Ben Shawcroft, Construction & Maintenance Manager Cody Biggs, and Finance Manager Helen-Marie Fowkes.

County Moves Forward with Tentative Budget, Plans to Use Reserves to Close Gap

By Rachel Dahl

Churchill County commissioners on Monday advanced a tentative fiscal year 2026-27 budget, relying on a mix of targeted reductions, delayed hiring, and reserve funds to close a projected deficit that remains just over \$1 million.

The discussion took place during a budget hearing, where staff outlined the county's current position following weeks of department-level reviews and cuts. Comptroller Sherry Wideman, presenting to the board, said those efforts resulted in approximately \$481,609 in reductions. Even with those cuts, however, the county is still facing a shortfall in its general fund.

As presented, the budget shows about \$52 million in revenue against roughly \$67 million in expenditures, with a significant portion tied to capital projects. After accounting for those factors, commissioners were left working to close an estimated \$1.7 million gap in the general fund, along with a smaller deficit in Parks and Recreation.

Some potential revenue sources could reduce that gap. Commissioners discussed approximately \$300,000 that may come from CCCOM, as well as another estimated \$300,000 tied to geothermal tax revenue. Neither has been formally incorporated into the budget yet, so the county must continue to plan conservatively until those funds are confirmed.

If both sources materialize, the deficit will drop closer to \$1.1 million. Even then, commissioners acknowledged additional adjustments would be needed.

"We've dialed in everything that's existing," commission chair Myles Getto said during the meeting. "There's not a lot of meat to cut."

Rather than eliminating services or positions outright, the board focused on short-term strategies to reduce costs while preserving flexibility. Chief among those was a decision to delay the hiring of new employees.

Commissioners directed staff to push back the start dates for new positions by approximately one quarter, to around October 1. That move is expected to save roughly \$125,000 in the upcoming fiscal year while still allowing departments to proceed with hiring later if conditions improve.

The board also worked through a list of supplemental requests, trimming or postponing nonessential items where possible. In one example, the district attorney's office agreed to delay the purchase of new furniture for another year.

At the same time, commissioners were careful not to cut items that could generate revenue or be reimbursed through grants, noting that those reductions would have little real impact on the county's bottom line.

The board also agreed to suspend the county's Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program for one year. While that move does not directly affect the general fund, it reduces spending pressure in other areas of the budget.

Even with those adjustments, commissioners were clear that reserves will need to be used to balance the budget.

Under state requirements, the county must adopt a balanced budget upfront, meaning funds from reserves will be allocated at the beginning of the fiscal year if needed. However, staff noted that those transfers may not ultimately be required if revenues come in stronger than expected or if spending comes in below projections.

Commissioners pointed to what they described as "organic savings" as one potential offset. Historically, vacancies and turnover have resulted in payroll savings throughout the year, and officials expect that trend to continue.

At the same time, the county is in the middle of a compensation study aimed at improving pay and reducing employee turnover. Commissioners said the study could help stabilize staffing levels over time, though its immediate budget impact remains uncertain.

"We're basically short what the compensation study is looking at," Matt Hyde noted, adding that the long-term goal is to reduce turnover and create more predictability in the budget.

In the end, the board expressed confidence that the county will finish the year in a better position than current projections suggest, even as they acknowledged the challenges of the current budget cycle.

Following discussion, commissioners unanimously approved a motion directing staff to finalize the budget using the proposed adjustments and submit it as required.

The budget will continue to be refined in the coming months as more information becomes available, including updated revenue figures and the final results of the compensation study.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WEEK
Road Department

By Sydney Trainor

The Churchill County Road Department, which maintains local roads and manages major infrastructure projects, is entering the new fiscal year with several budget adjustments as it continues supporting daily operations across the county, Road Supervisor Gary Fowlkes said.

Fowlkes reported the department's overall budget is about \$2.8 million, supported by roughly \$1.1 million in revenue. He said the department remains in good financial shape and expects to stay within budget.

Several increases were outlined to cover rising costs. Street lighting grew by \$500, and road project funding increased by \$150,000, bringing that total to \$550,000. The regional transportation fund rose by \$200,000 to \$800,000 and remains stable with about \$1.8 million in reserves and roughly \$800,000 in annual revenue.

The public transit fund also increased from \$600,000 to \$800,000 after shifting from a planned building purchase to buying trucks. That fund holds about \$1.8 million and brings in around \$900,000 each year.

Other funding includes \$85,000 in a separate account and \$450,000 for equipment replacement, which covers repairs, tires, and major purchases. Fowlkes said the department also needs to replace a sign plotter and purchase a \$15,000 tire machine.

A \$6.3 million Lone Tree project, funded by the U.S. Navy, may be adjusted as work progresses, depending on the timing of reimbursement. The project is fully reimbursable and is expected to be completed before July 2027.



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COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

The Tenth Judicial District Court convened Tuesday, April 7, with Judge Thomas Stockard presiding.

Clay Edward Erb appeared for sentencing on Offer, Attempt, or Commission of an Unauthorized Act Relating to a Controlled or Counterfeit Substance, a Category D Felony, to which he pleaded guilty in February.

The offense occurred on April 2, 2024, and the case remained in Justice Court until sentencing.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker said that pursuant to plea negotiations, the State does not object to Erb attending diversion. The State asked for the maximum sentence, suspended, and that Erb be allowed to attend the Western Nevada Regional Drug Court program.

Defense attorney Steven Evenson said his client is willing to be supervised, has done well on diversion, and has completed Drug Court in the past. Evenson noted that Erb is the sole provider and support for his minor child. The defense agreed with the State and said incarceration would not be beneficial.

Erb said he would benefit from attending drug court again.

Judge Stockard explained to the defendant that, based on his criminal history, it was a close call regarding whether he would be sent to prison.

Judge Stockard granted Erb probation on a suspended 19–48 months prison sentence. In addition to the standard conditions of probation,

Erb was ordered to obtain a substance abuse evaluation and follow all recommendations.

Lance Kenneth Spencer pleaded guilty to Category C Felony of Burglary of a Business, punishable by 1–5 years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000.

The factual basis stated that Spencer unlawfully entered the Green Cross Pharmacy for an unlawful purpose.

Judge Stockard ordered a Pre-Sentencing Investigation (PSI), set sentencing for June 9, and provisionally placed Spencer in the Western Nevada Regional Specialty Court program.

Kelvin Kee Yesslith pleaded guilty to Category E Felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), a First or Second Offense, punishable by 1–4 years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000.

Judge Stockard ordered a PSI and set sentencing for June 9.

Misty Dawn Orpiada, in custody, admitted to a non-technical probation violation for absconding. Disposition was continued to April 14.

Ryan Ty Fischer's arraignment was continued to April 28.

Probation for Rocky Wells: Alleged Law Enforcement Misdeeds, No Drug Charges Filed

By Teresa Moon and Leanna Lehman

Rocky Wells, 45, appeared for sentencing on Tuesday, April 7, in the Tenth Judicial District Court in Fallon before Judge Thomas Stockard on Case 25-10DC-0946 for Ex-Felon Not to Possess a Firearm. Wells was granted probation on the Category B felony, punishable by 1-6 years in prison, which is not typically probational under current Nevada law.

Wells's case originated just over a year ago with his April 1, 2025, arrest. He appeared in New River Township Justice Court before Judge Benjamin Trotter two days later and was arraigned on felony and misdemeanor charges alleging drug possession, transport, and sales involving multiple controlled substances, including fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, Suboxone, and methylphenidate.

Investigators reported quantities consistent with personal use and distribution, including approximately 27 grams of cocaine, which elevates possession to transporting (which has a 28-gram threshold) into a more serious offense. Also, 30 fentanyl-laced "M30" pills commonly referred to as "Dirty 30s," along with more than 3 pounds of marijuana and cannabis concentrate exceeding legal limits.

Authorities also reported Wells had \$5,841 in cash in his pocket at the time of arrest. Additional charges include possession of drug paraphernalia and two counts of allowing a child to be present during the commission of drug-related offenses, involving a one-year-old infant in a residence with access to controlled substances. Wells is also charged with a Category B felony of an ex-felon in possession of a firearm, with three firearms allegedly recovered.

Wells was released on his own recognizance by Judge Trotter under Court Services supervision, with bail set at \$223,000, to be applied should Wells violate the conditions of his release. Wells waived his right to a Justice Court preliminary hearing on Oct. 2, 2025, and his case was bound

over to the Tenth Judicial District Court.

The Criminal Complaint filed Oct. 3, 2025, in District Court alleged only that Wells possessed a Colt MKIII .357 Magnum revolver, a Tanfoglio Model E15 .22RL revolver, and a Switch gun 22 Magnum mini revolver, having a prior felony conviction for third-offense Domestic Battery. He pleaded no contest to the charge on Oct. 28, 2025. According to the clerk's office, no Criminal Complaints relating to the other charges have been filed in District Court.

During last week's sentencing hearing, Court Services Director Brenda Ingram reported that since his release, Wells had been drug tested randomly and produced 78 negative results.

Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford told the court that Wells "became a prohibited person from possessing a firearm" in 1999 when he received his first conviction for domestic battery. She explained that laws preventing felons from possession come down from the legislature, which questions a felon's "poor judgment or dangerous behavior," and that "a felony conviction is viewed as a demonstration that an individual cannot be trusted to handle firearms in a safe, lawful manner."

Sanford said Wells' criminal history shows "this is not the type of individual that is looking for self-protection; he is the one we need protection from." Sanford asked for a sentence of 24 to 72 months in prison, stating, "He has already shown he cannot be trusted and has poor judgment."

Wells appeared with retained defense attorney Steve Evenson, who challenged the circumstances by which his client was found to be in possession of a firearm. "The state ignores the significant reasons why this matter ends up in front of you as it does. The misdeeds of law enforcement ... are prolific, even by my standards, and would shock the conscience of this court if we spent time going into them in grave detail."

Evenson said that it was in light of that this

offense was chosen "to avoid a long, expensive, and protracted legal fight." Regarding his criminal history, Evenson agreed his client "was raising some serious hell" up until about 2008. He noted Wells had an assault and battery in 2013 for which he received a suspended jail sentence, and a few years later, a charge of permitting a dog to chase "a domestic animal of some nature."

Evenson, who asked for probation, pointed out that Wells' current charge came about twelve years later, a long time with no convictions. He noted that the defense does not feel that the harshest penalty under the law is appropriate and that Wells will exceed the expectations of everyone.

Wells told the Court he has been employed fabricating rebar for about eight months, and is hoping to be full-time employed there once this is over. He apologized to everyone for his actions.

He said he has been "real good" for the last year; his last felony conviction was in 2006; he has been with his wife for 17 years; and wants to be able to take care of his family. He told Judge Stockard, "I just messed up, and I admit to the court that I did."

Judge Stockard placed Wells on probation for 36 months on a suspended prison sentence of 28-78 months and ordered him to obtain a substance abuse evaluation and follow all recommendations.

Although the charge of Ex-Felon Not to Possess a Firearm, a Category B felony, carries a prison sentence and rarely results in probation, Nevada law does allow for judicial discretion in sentencing. In practice, probation in such cases is uncommon and typically reflects factors beyond the face of the charge, including negotiated plea agreements, evidentiary challenges, or other case-specific circumstances. Given the seriousness of the offense and the defendant's broader criminal history, a probationary outcome would not be considered typical and indicative of underlying legal or procedural considerations.

March Divorces

3/2/2026	Solano-Mosley, Joan & Mosley, Timothy	Decree of Divorce
3/2/2026	Teng Akimniyazova, Adilya & Teng, Ray Shu	Decree of Divorce
3/2/2026	Browne, Nicole & Browne, Justin	Decree of Divorce
3/2/2026	Clarke, Zachary & Nevada, Krystal	Decree of Divorce
3/2/2026	Horton, Shalmaria v. Horton, Derek	Decree of Divorce
3/2/2026	Lopez, Isis Aguilar & Valenzuela, Juan	Decree of Divorce
3/3/2026	Conway, Tami M. v. Conway, John T.	Decree of Divorce
3/6/2026	Hohlt, Stephanie v. Hohlt, Timothy	Decree of Divorce
3/6/2026	Estanislao, Michelle Reyes & Estanislao Jr., Juanito	Decree of Divorce
3/9/2026	Methvin, Rondel & Methvin, Lisa	Decree of Divorce
3/10/2026	Preller, Javiera Cherniavsky & Gonzalez, Felipe Ignacio Reyes	Decree of Divorce
3/10/2026	Timothy, Danielle & Timothy, Michael	Decree of Divorce
3/12/2026	Davidson, Alex Nathaniel & Vosloh, Katharine Joann	Decree of Annulment
3/12/2026	Schroeder, Ann Marie Sauerland & Schroeder, Michael Clair	Decree of Divorce
3/17/2026	Castillo, Anthony Luis Singson & Nostrates, Gwyneth Hope	Decree of Divorce
3/17/2026	Godinez Lira, Alberto Alejandro & Godinez, Mayra Cristel	Decree of Divorce
3/18/2026	Sullivan, Christy & Sullivan, Damen Christopher	Decree of Divorce
3/23/2026	Heteroza, Maria Michaela Dasalla & Gallente, Janelle Kate Gumilao	Decree of Divorce
3/23/2026	Cager, Gerald v. Miller, Mary	Decree of Divorce - Default
3/24/2026	Bongi, Lisa & Stonell, Ricky	Decree of Divorce
3/25/2026	Morse, Amber Madison Marie & Morse, Christian Anthony	Decree of Divorce
3/25/2026	Bairfield, Dana & Mayo, Tonia Denise	Decree of Divorce
3/26/2026	Whitaker, Walter & Whitaker, Tennille	Decree of Divorce

[No Budget continued from page 3]

who has remained in place despite plans to retire, leaving uncertainty about how jail medical services will be maintained moving forward.

Sheriff's officials have emphasized that bringing medical services in-house could reduce long-term costs and improve efficiency. "If we had medical within our facility ... it puts that officer back on the street quicker," Hickox said.

Hickox said during the Feb. 20 interview that he would like to add at least one more investigator and two more sergeants to the jail. "We had asked for one sergeant position back that they took from us during the last budget cycle. But we need several more deputies on both patrol and in the jail."

Sheriff Hickox spoke during public comments at the March 18 County Commission meeting about being asked by Commissioners Blakey and Hyde at the Feb. 20 meeting to eliminate \$100,000 from the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. "I wanted to go on the record today and advise you that we were able to pull that out of the overtime budget," said Hickox, later adding, "to be more aligned with what they [commissioners] needed, and still meet the needs of the public."

When a community experiences growth, law enforcement must grow with it, Hickox said during the interview. "We can't continue to stay stagnant and provide the experience that people expect from their law enforcement service, a quick response, and community safety."

EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

Local Students Showcase Skills at Regional Competition

By Amber Hardin

Students from Churchill County High School’s culinary program recently put their skills to the test at a regional SkillsUSA competition held in Truckee, April 8-10, joining peers from across the region in a hands-on showcase of technical and career skills.

SkillsUSA is a national organization that hosts competitions in a wide range of trade and technical fields, offering students the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge in real-world scenarios. The organization spans more than 100 skill areas, and for several years, Churchill County High School students have competed in several skills-based competitions, including welding, automotive, diesel repair, digital programming, and, of course, culinary. The culinary-focused events include cooking, baking, pastry arts, and restaurant service.

Culinary Arts instructor Alisha White said this marked her second year teaching the culinary program and bringing students to the event.

At the high school, Culinary Arts is offered as a multi year program, allowing students to spend up to four years developing skills ranging from kitchen sanitation and cooking techniques to restaurant management. Students interested in competing begin preparing months in advance, with practice sessions starting in November. While first-year students are encouraged to observe and learn, competition spots are reserved for second- through fourth-year students, with priority given to those further along in the program.

This year, students competed in three categories: Culinary Arts (Cooking), Baking and Pastry Arts, and Restaurant Service. CCHS ranked highest in restaurant service and cooking, with strong finishes in both categories, including placements in the top third.

The competitions tested a wide range of practical skills. Culinary students were evaluated on tasks such as fabricating a chicken, executing precise knife cuts, and creating and presenting a finished dish. Baking students demonstrated their abilities through yeast rolls, braided bread, pie crusts, and cake decorating, while restaurant



Derek Radonski, Jocelyn Ledezma Chavez, Joan Martinez Juarez, Bradee Smith, Aevan Payne, Billy Peterson, Allison Zeitz, Kairi Esposito, Anaya Barber, Georgie Gine, and Lillyanna Plants. Photo courtesy of Alisha White.

service competitors were judged on customer service, table setting, and napkin folding.

According to White, one of the most challenging aspects of the competition was completing the written exam and performing under pressure in front of professional judges from the culinary industry.

Despite the challenges, there were standout moments. A second-year student earned 11th place in the Culinary Arts cooking category, an impressive top third finish made even more notable by limited practice time due to family circumstances.

Preparation for the competition required significant dedication, with students committing to after-school and weekend practice sessions to refine their skills.

Beyond the competition itself, the experience offers students valuable opportunities for growth. Participants gain exposure to industry professionals and connect with peers who share similar interests, often forming friendships and memories that extend well beyond the classroom. For some, these events can even open doors to future employment or mentorship opportunities within the culinary field.

The program also highlights the importance of career and technical education, offering students alternative pathways to success. “[Programs like

this show] that college may not be for everyone,” White noted. “Career and technical education can be just as rewarding financially and personally.”

Representing their school and community is a point of pride for both students and instructors. “[It] makes me proud to be a part of our school and my students’ lives,” she said.

Community support, including donations, plays an important role in sustaining the program. In addition to competition participation, students can take part in a global travel program that immerses them in international culinary experiences. One student traveled to Normandy, France, in 2025, with another set to make the trip in summer 2026.

The instructor also expressed appreciation for those who help make the program possible. “Mr. Spencer, our principal, and Mrs. Nicole Holt, our office manager, encourage my students and me to work hard and take pride in what we are doing. The parents of my students support their children by driving them to and from practice and motivating them to cook and bake at home, and my husband, Joe White, understands that the long days and nights are for a good reason.”

For these students, the competition was more than a test of skill—it was a step toward future careers in the culinary world.

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EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera, with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: LISBETY SABRINA JAZPE CASTEJON



Oasis Academy senior Lisbety Sabrina Jazpe Castejon.

Arriving in the United States from Venezuela at just 14 years old, senior Lisbety Sabrina Jazpe Castejon began her time at Oasis Academy in 2023 in the middle of her freshman year. Adjusting to a new country and school brought significant challenges for her, especially because she did not know English.

“My first two years were the most difficult,” she shared. “I didn’t know almost any English, and it was very hard for me to make friends, talk to my teachers, or with anyone who didn’t speak Spanish.”

Jazpe Castejon recalls how one teacher made a lasting impact during that transition.

“I remember Mr. Jose Ramírez followed me to each of my classes to translate everything my teachers and classmates said and to help me do my assignments,” she said.

Class presentations were particularly intimidating.

“One of the hardest things was every time I had to present in front of the whole class, because I felt a lot of embarrassment not being able to speak English well,” she explained.

Despite these early struggles, she found her place—especially through friendships that made a lasting impact.

“One of my favorite memories was mostly my sophomore year with my friends Allura and Christina, especially the day we were making monster Barbies at lunch,” Jazpe Castejon said. “I still have mine, and it is so funny to remember.”

Her high school experience also helped her discover a new passion.

“My favorite class was Watercolor I because it was the class where I had the most fun,” she said. “It helped me discover something I didn’t even know about myself, which is my ability to paint.”

Castejon will graduate in May with her high school diploma, a large number of college credits,

and extensive experience. Looking ahead, her plans reflect both ambition and independence.

“My plans after graduation are to save enough money to move alone to Reno or Los Angeles and pay for my own college,” she said. She is considering attending Long Beach City College for a short medical program or possibly joining the Navy.

Her long-term goals are even bigger.

“Before the age of 30, I want to move to the Dominican Republic,” she shared. “One of my goals is to save money and already have properties there so I can live comfortably and have something else to make money. The Dominican Republic is a super touristic country, and people going there are always going to need a place to stay. That’s really my dream.”

As she prepares to graduate, she reflects on how far she has come.

“Coming here has brought me many opportunities and has been one of the greatest blessings that God has given me,” she said.

Her message to future students is clear and heartfelt, especially for Hispanic students navigating the same beginnings she experienced.

“Be confident in yourself. Don’t feel embarrassed about asking questions, participating in sports, clubs, and school events. Also, whenever you need help, talk to your teachers. Definitely don’t limit yourself so that you can have a good high school experience and make good memories,” Jazpe Castejon closed.

RANSON PRESENTS TO HISTORY CLASSES

Students in Mr. Eric Grimes’ HIST 102 U.S. History classes recently had the opportunity to hear firsthand insights from local author Steve Ranson of the Lahontan Valley News. Ranson visited the classes to discuss Nevada’s connection to World War II and the lasting impact of the Attack on Pearl Harbor.

Ranson provided students with an overview of the war, but focused much of his presentation on three Nevada servicemen who were killed during the attack. The men—Eugene Gill of Wells, Richard Walter Weaver of Reno, and Eric Young of Fallon—served as powerful reminders of the state’s personal connection to a pivotal moment in American history.

By highlighting these individuals, Ranson helped students understand that historic events are not just distant stories, but are made up of real people with ties to local communities. His storytelling emphasized the sacrifice and service of Nevadans during a time of national crisis.

“Most students read about and discuss historic national events, but without anecdotal evidence tying these events to something they personally know, such as our community, they are just events from the past,” said Eric Grimes, history teacher. “Explaining how Nevada, and Fallon in particular, is tied to World War II brings meaning to history.”

In addition to discussing Pearl Harbor, Ranson spoke about the strategic importance of Naval Air Station Fallon, noting its role in military preparedness both historically and today. He explained that the installation, originally known as Van Voorhees Field, has long been valued for its

geographic location and training capabilities.

The visit was part of the City of Fallon’s America 250 celebration, organized in collaboration with Mayor Tedford and the City Council to commemorate the nation’s upcoming 250th anniversary. Events like this aim to connect students and the community with meaningful moments in American history.

“Steve has a wealth of knowledge about World War II, and I appreciate that he took time in his schedule to come and address both of my classes on the historical significance of Pearl Harbor and World War II on our community,” Grimes said.

Ranson also shared his ongoing work supporting veterans. He has authored a book, “Legacies of the Silver State: Nevada Goes to War,” which focuses on veterans’ stories, with proceeds benefiting veteran-related causes and programs such as the Honor Flight Network, which provides veterans the opportunity to visit memorials dedicated to their service.

BINGO FUN FINISHES NATIONAL READING MONTH

More than 130 students at Oasis Academy celebrated reading success during the school’s March



Ben Knight, Heston Baker, Antonio Rodriguez-Ugalde, Ronin Ansotegui, Thurman Hiskett, Conner Arritt, Kennedy Wilbanks, Natale Laca, and Aryana Tapia at Oasis Academy.

Bingo challenge, held in honor of National Reading Month.

The Reading Bingo activity, organized by Reading Specialist Sara Peixoto, encouraged students to explore a variety of books and genres by completing squares on their bingo boards. Each square represented a different reading task, helping students expand their skills while keeping the experience fun and engaging. Squares included: read on a Wednesday, read in the car, read with a flashlight, read to a pet or stuffed animal, and other fun reading activities.

Students who successfully completed their bingo boards were rewarded with a visit to the prize cart, where they could choose from a variety of exciting items. The incentive added an extra layer of motivation and enthusiasm, as students eagerly worked to finish their boards.

“Creating this reading bingo board was a fun way to engage students in reading just a little more at home,” Peixoto said. “Students were excited throughout the whole month and often shared with me the different squares that they had completed. I think it’s safe to say that the bingo board made reading just a bit more fun this past month.”

Veritas Preparatory School

Classical and Christian

Access to Private Education: New Opportunities for School Funding Begin in 2027

By Gretchen Felte

On July 4, 2025, H.R. 1 - commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill” - was signed into law. Among its many provisions is a measure that could prove to be a turning point in helping families afford private education.

Section 70411 of the law provides a dollar-for-dollar tax credit of up to \$1,700 per taxpayer for donations made to eligible Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). These organizations, in turn, distribute scholarships to families seeking private education for their children.

Unlike a traditional tax deduction, a tax credit directly reduces the amount of tax owed. This makes charitable giving to SGOs a highly effective way to support education. In practical terms, taxpayers may choose to direct up to \$1,700 to an SGO rather than pay that amount in federal taxes. For families who pay at least \$1,700 in federal taxes annually, this presents a simple and impactful opportunity to support private education.

For schools like Veritas Preparatory School, the potential impact is significant.

“One of the most common barriers families face when considering private education is cost,” said Veritas Assistant Headmaster David Ernst. “Scholarship programs funded through SGOs can help bridge that gap, making a classical, Christ-centered education accessible to a broader range of students who might not otherwise be able to afford it.”

Interest in private education options such as Veritas continues to grow. Many families are seeking strong academics, structured classrooms, and a Christ-centered environment for their children. The SGO tax credit could serve as a powerful tool for generating community-based funding - creating a win-win scenario for both donors and families.

For taxpayers to take advantage of the credit, states must opt into the program, and SGOs must receive federal approval. Nevada officially joined the program on January 23 of this year under Governor Lombardo, meaning that donations made to qualified SGOs on or after January 1, 2027, will be eligible for the tax credit.

“We are already pursuing the creation of a qualified SGO that can focus on access for local students,” Ernst said. “There are many engaged community stakeholders working to ensure that we have an SGO in place that can begin receiving tax-qualified donations on January 1. Those funds can then be used to provide full or partial tuition assistance for students in the 2027-2028 school year.”

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP NOW

While the program does not take effect until 2027, families and supporters can begin preparing now.

“Take time to learn about the provisions of the law,” Ernst encouraged. “Help spread the word and raise awareness so we can generate as much support as possible when the program begins.”

For Veritas Preparatory School, the opportunity is clear: greater access for families, stronger community partnerships, and the ability to serve more students seeking a rigorous, values-based education.

As this new funding pathway takes shape, we remain hopeful that it will open doors for many families and strengthen the future of private education in the community.

SPORTS

Oasis Bighorns Take the Field Despite Forfeit Win



Abigail Lacow (1), Kaylee Craig (2), and Reese Laca (3) of the Oasis Academy Bighorns, along with their teammates, compete in a scrimmage against the Damonte Ranch Mustangs after winning by forfeit on April 6, outscoring their opponents in an exciting matchup. Photos by John Baker.

Silver Defeated Blue in Annual UNR Scrimmage Game

Nevada defensive linebacker Myles Williams (92) plays a game of flag football with Fallon youth during the Fallon/Wolf Pack Football and Community Festival at Churchill County High School on Friday, April 10. Photo by John Baker.



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SPORTS

Fallon's Mauga Breaks Home Run Record



Fallon junior Hayden Dooley delivers a pitch against Elko during Friday's doubleheader. Photos by John Baker.



Mauga Sets Home Run Record as Lady Greenwave Take Two from Elko.



Fallon junior Audrey Fruzza tracks down a fly ball during Friday's doubleheader against Elko.

Staff Report

Freshman slugger Kanani Mauga powered the CCHS girls varsity softball team through a dominant Friday sweep, breaking the program's single-season home run record as the Lady Greenwave bounced back from a tough start to their series against Elko.

Fallon opened the three-game stretch with a 17-6 loss on Thursday, extending its losing streak to three. Mauga still produced at the plate, reaching base three times with two runs, a stolen base, and an RBI.

The Lady Greenwave responded with a 9-4 win in Friday's first game, fueled by Mauga's two home runs and three RBIs. She finished 2 for 3, while Bostynn Wright reached base in all three plate appearances, scoring three times and adding a stolen base.

Fallon carried that momentum into the second game, defeating Elko 12-7 in a league matchup. Mauga delivered her strongest outing of the weekend, going 3 for 3 with two more home runs, three runs scored,

and four RBIs. Wright added her first triple of the season as the Lady Greenwave secured their second straight five-run victory.

Fallon posted a .467 team batting average in the win, marking its third consecutive game with improvement at the plate.

Mauga's four homers on Friday pushed her season total to 16, surpassing the previous school record of 14 set by Lydia Bergman in 2023. The milestone capped a weekend in which she led Fallon's offense in every contest.

Fallon will prepare for its next league matchup against Lowry at home Friday at 3 p.m. Saturday will be senior day before first pitch at 11 a.m.

Saturday will also be a special day at the field as the Lady Greenwave hosts Girls in Softball Day alongside their final home games of the season.

Youth players wearing a jersey or Greenwave gear will receive free merchandise at the gate as part of the celebration. Fans can also enjoy a photo booth, concessions, and music throughout the day.

The event will celebrate Lady Greenwave seniors while also welcoming the next generation of players to the field.

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 <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">DEPARTURE DATE:</p> <p>April 25, 2026</p> <hr/> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">CRUISING TIME:</p> <p>3:00 - 6:00PM</p> <hr/> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">DESTINATION:</p> <p>Fernley Clubhouse 695 E. Main St.</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 10px;">TICKETS:</p> <p>\$50 (advance) / \$60 (at door)</p> <hr/>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin-top: 5px;">SCAN FOR MORE INFO OR VISIT BGCTM.ORG</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">THIS IS A 21+ EVENT</p>  </div>
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COLUMNS

What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen

By J Hodnett in for Kelli Kelly

We all felt the earthquake this week, and it held its own. A 5.5 that rattled the house and kept going long enough to be taken seriously. It would have registered anywhere, even in places where earthquakes are part of daily life. Around here, though, it's different. We know the faults are here, but we rarely feel them like that. What stayed with me wasn't the earthquake itself. It was what it brought back.

I thought about my dad.

As a kid in Southern California, earthquakes were familiar enough that we developed a way of responding to them. When my sister and I were young, an earthquake didn't send us running for cover. It sent us outside. We'd stand in the front yard and watch the street, looking for that slight rolling movement, and then head to the backyard to check the pool, watching how much water sloshed out and trying to guess how big it had been. It was part curiosity, part ritual. Something that turned an unpredictable moment into something we could observe together.

My dad was always there for that part. Calm, curious, and just a little amused. I remember thinking he could predict earthquakes. As an adult, I suspect I only remember the times he was right. But what stayed with me wasn't whether he could predict them. It was how he approached them. He paid attention. He didn't make it bigger than it was, and he didn't dismiss it either.

When I think about my dad, what stands out isn't any single story. It's a pattern. He is present in a way that is engaged, curious, and deliberate all at once. He asks questions. He slows things down just enough to make you think. He has a sense of humor that can be completely ridiculous or so dry you almost miss it, and he's willing to put real effort into something just because it will make someone else laugh.

The same patience showed up when it came to anything we were trying to figure out. He never took over. He stood beside us instead, asking questions, letting us work through it, trusting us to get there. At the time, it just felt like how things were done. Looking back, I understand how intentional that was.

When I'm working through something now, I find myself doing the same things. Slowing down. Paying attention. Letting things take the time they need. Cooking, at least the way I've learned to do it, feels a lot like that.

When my dad was in charge of making sure Erin and I got fed, there was



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

one meal that showed up more than most. Slumgullion. It wasn't complicated or precise. It was practical. It was whatever was on hand, brought together with enough care to make it work. You watched it, adjusted it, let it come together. It always turned out a little different, but it was always enough.

It's his birthday this week. That feels like something worth paying attention to.

A Basic Framework for Slumgullion
Modify based on what you have on hand.



Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp. Olive oil
- 1 Yellow onion, diced
- 1 Green bell pepper, diced
- 1 lb. Ground beef
- 2 clove Garlic, minced
- 2 cup Beef broth
- 15 oz. Can tomato sauce
- 15 oz. Can crushed tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups Dry macaroni
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1 Bay leaf
- 1 tsp. Paprika
- 1 cup Cheddar cheese, grated
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Slumgullion. It wasn't complicated or precise. It was practical. It was whatever was on hand, brought together with enough care to make it work. You watched it, adjusted it, let it come together. It always turned out a little different, but it was always enough.

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large pot over medium-high heat, heat the olive oil.
2. Add onion, bell pepper, and ground beef. Season with salt and pepper, and cook, stirring occasionally, until beef has cooked through.
3. Add garlic and cook 30 seconds more.
4. Stir in broth, tomato sauce, crushed tomatoes, Worcestershire sauce, Italian seasoning, bay leaf, paprika, and season with salt and pepper.
5. Bring mixture to a boil, then reduce heat to low, cover, and let simmer for 15-20 minutes.
6. Stir in macaroni, increase heat to medium-high, and cook until pasta is al dente and sauce thickens, 10-12 minutes, stirring occasionally to keep pasta from sticking.
7. Remove bay leaves and reduce heat to low. Stir in cheese until melted. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
8. Serve and enjoy!

Allison's Book Report:



Allison and her family enjoy a night out together at a metal and reggae concert in Reno, making memories that will last a lifetime. Photo courtesy of Allison Diegel

By Allison Diegel

This week, I don't have a Book Report to share with you; instead, I wanted to share a few thoughts. If you've been following my Book Report for the last three years, you may remember that one of my non-book-related loves is live music. It's like a healing salve in a world where everything can feel artificial and devoid of real human connection. This is a love that my husband and I have shared with our teenage daughters.

Back in December, as a Christmas present, I bought the family tickets to rage it out at a show that is an eclectic mix of metal and reggae, which I realize sounds kind of unhinged, but that is beside the point. At first, I was hesitant to buy those tickets. The show was on a Sunday night in Reno. A metal concert an hour away from home on a school night for a 14- and 16-year-old? Seemed like kind of irresponsible parenting. But I bought those tickets. And do you know what? Four months later, I am here to tell you this: Just buy the tickets. Play hooky on Monday. Do the thing. We had the best time, and I have zero regrets.

The \$21 apiece I spent on those tickets turned into a priceless night of fun and memories as a family.

You know when kids are little and people tell

you that babies don't keep? They aren't lying—and the only thing that keeps worse than babies is teens. Before I know it, my girls will be women with entire lives that have nothing to do with us. I mean, that's the whole point, right? Parents are working themselves out of a job from the day their kids are born. So, I am telling you: buy the tickets. Take the trip. See the show. Rage it out on the rail at a metal show with your teenagers beside you. Share your passions with your kids and let them share theirs with you. School night or not, you're not getting these moments back. Those tickets were a great gift for them, but that was nothing compared to the gift I gave myself—the gift of time standing still, even if it was just for a few songs, played way too loud and way too late on a Sunday night.

I promise I will be back next week with an actual Book Report. Until then, don't forget to check out my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more recommendations and book talk—or put your book down and go do something fun with your kids. I promise you won't be sorry!

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

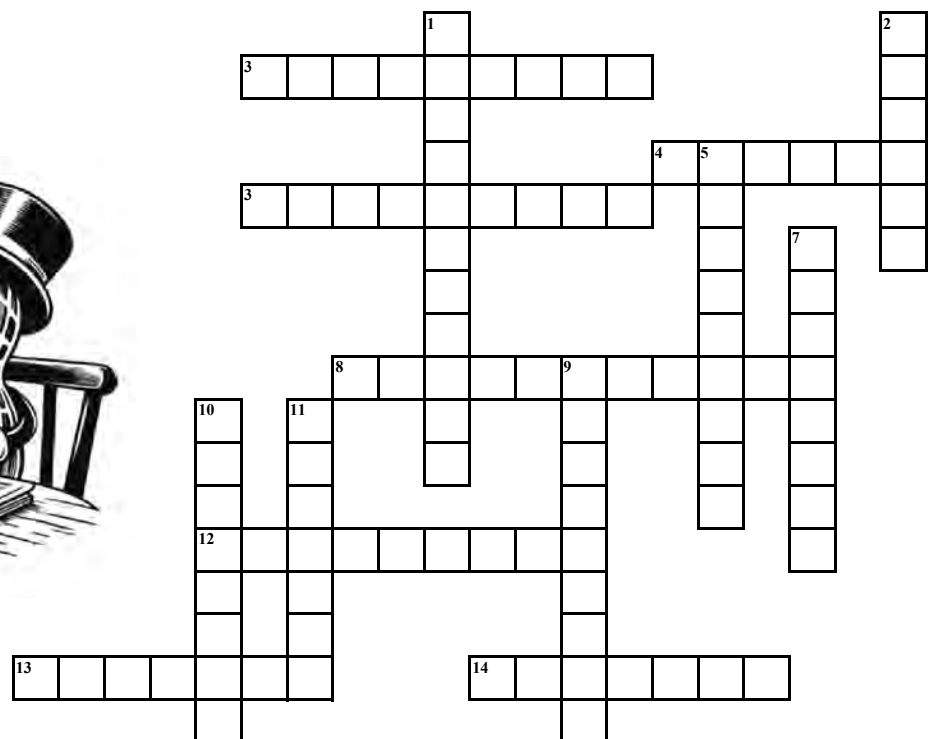
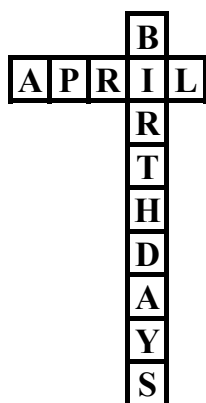
By Peanut

Across

3. Statue of Liberty sculptor
4. Florida discoverer
6. 3rd US president
8. King of the Franks
12. Will's & Harry's grandmum
13. Wireless telegraph inventor
14. Artist, naturalist

Down

1. Brit playwright
2. Jack Ryan creator
5. Jazz musician
7. Portuguese circumnavigator
9. Stock car racer
10. Little Mermaid author
11. Mona Lisa painter



[Crossword answers found on page 16]

COLUMNS

Certified Arborist Inspections Prevent Tree Disasters

By Marco DiGiacinto

When people think about protecting their investment during a real estate transaction, they often focus on the usual checklist: roofing, plumbing, electrical systems, and structural integrity. Yet one critical factor is consistently overlooked: trees. Mature trees can add beauty, shade, and value to a property, but they can also pose serious financial and safety risks if they are unhealthy or structurally unsound. That's why a certified arborist inspection should be considered an essential part of every real estate transaction.

For home buyers especially, the risks are often hidden in plain sight. To the untrained eye, a large, leafy tree may appear perfectly healthy. In reality, it could be suffering from internal decay, root damage, or structural instability. Many real estate agents, while knowledgeable in their field, are not trained to identify these issues or understand the costs associated with them. As a result, buyers may unknowingly inherit problems that can cost tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of dollars to address.

Tree-related damage can be extensive and expensive. Root systems can compromise concrete foundations, causing cracks in floors and even lifting portions of a home to the point where doors and garage openings no longer function properly. Root mitigation alone can be a massive undertaking, especially when trees have grown too close to structures. In other cases, trees become unstable due to root cutting during construction or root rot caused by poor soil conditions. These weakened trees can fail without warning.

The consequences of tree failure can be catastrophic. A falling tree or large limb can destroy roofs, vehicles, utility lines, and neighboring properties. In the worst cases, it can lead to serious injury or even loss of life. These are not rare, hypothetical scenarios. There are real risks that increase significantly when trees are not properly assessed and maintained.

Mitigating these dangers cannot be done casually or by guesswork. It requires the expertise of a certified arborist, someone trained to evaluate tree health, structural integrity, and risk factors that are invisible to most people. Only a certified arborist can provide an accurate assessment and recommend appropriate actions, whether that's pruning, treatment, or removal.

In fact, a tree inspection should be viewed as just as important as a traditional home inspection, arguably even more so in certain situations. While a leaky pipe or an aging roof can usually be repaired predictably, a hazardous tree poses an unpredictable and potentially devastating threat. A single overlooked defect in a large tree can result in sudden failure with far-reaching consequences.

I have personally seen the emotional and financial impact on new homeowners who were unaware of the condition of the trees on their property. The moment they learn that multiple trees are dying, structurally compromised, or require immediate removal, often at a cost of tens of thousands of dollars, is one of shock and despair. Imagine purchasing your dream home,



only to discover that a 60- to 100-foot elm, poplar, or cottonwood is hanging over your house with large sections of dead wood or a cracked trunk that was never visible without a trained inspection. In that moment, the question becomes unavoidable: how does this compare to concerns like a minor roof leak or a plumbing issue?

Trees are living structures that constantly change and are affected by their environment. Ignoring their condition during a real estate transaction is not just an oversight. It's a gamble. A certified arborist inspection provides clarity, protection, and peace of mind for buyers, sellers, and agents alike.

For more information or to schedule a certified arborist inspection, call 775-867-2944.

Movies & More

By Kelli Perez

Spring has arrived, making it a perfect time to visit the Fallon Theatre for a weekend of films and community events. Two movies and a special midday program are planned, offering something for all ages.

The weekend begins Friday, April 17 at 1 p.m. with the Coalition for Senior Citizens' Third Friday Matinee, featuring "The Intern" (2015). The film stars Robert De Niro as a 70-year-old widower who becomes an intern at an online fashion startup, working alongside Anne Hathaway as the company's young CEO. Senior citizens aged 60 and over will receive a free small popcorn and a small drink, and the entire community is welcome to attend. It is a relaxed way to spend a Friday afternoon.

On Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., audiences can enjoy "Cars" (2006), Pixar's story of Lightning McQueen, a



rookie race car who finds himself in Radiator Springs and learns there is more to life than winning. Churchill County Social Services is sponsoring the screenings. The film is rated G and runs 1 hour, 56 minutes.

At 7 p.m. both nights, "The Intern" (2015) returns to the main screen. For those who attend the Friday matinee, the evening showing offers another opportunity to enjoy De Niro and Hathaway's performances. The film is rated PG 13 and runs 2 hours, 1 minute.

The Fallon Community Theatre, Inc. Annual Members Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28 at 6 p.m. at the Fallon Theatre. Chairman Stuart Richardson will share highlights from the past year and plans for the year ahead. Sustaining members will be entered into a free raffle featuring several prizes. After the meeting, board members will lead a behind-the-scenes historical tour of the theatre. Refreshments will be served.

Looking ahead, the Toiyabe Chamber Music Society will return to the Fallon Theatre on Saturday, May 16 at 7 p.m. for the Loneliest Road Chamber Music Project. The Berkelium String Quartet from Berkeley, California, will open its Nevada tour with a program that includes Schubert's "Death and the Maiden," a new composition by Daniel Darmesin Flanagan, and a Beethoven quartet, accompanied by projected images. Admission is by donation, and children are welcome.

Summer programming continues with Ventura Highway – The Music of America on Saturday, July 18 at 8 p.m. The concert will feature harmonies and classic songs from the band America. Tickets are \$10.

The Fallon Theatre remains committed to offering free moviegoing whenever possible. Concessions include fresh popcorn, candy, and other favorites. For information about hosting events or placing a message on the marquee, call 775 423 6210 or email thefallontheatre@gmail.com.

Prepared Meals

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

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

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

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

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

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

Food and Commodity Pantries

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

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

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

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

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

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290 W. Williams Ave.
Lobby of Churchill County Sheriff's Office,
180 W. A St.
West entrance (outside), Wolf Center,
457 Esmeralda St.
Donations appreciated

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

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 14



- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| ANDERSON | DAVINCI | JEFFERSON |
| AUDUBON | DELEON | MAGELLAN |
| BARTHOLDI | EARNHARDT | MARCONI |
| CHARLEMAGNE | ELIZABETH | SHAKESPEARE |
| CLANCY | ELLINGTON | |

NOW HIRING: Executive Development Director



The Fallon Youth Club LLC. is announcing a position opening for an Executive Development Director. The EDD position is responsible for managing the strategic planning and operation of the Club including the Fallon Youth Club and the Little Clubhouse Child Care facilities and programs.

The EDD position will collaborate with the Fallon Youth Club Board of Directors to develop an annual income and expense budget. Will provide timely and accurate reporting of financial results and recommendations for necessary actions to maintain the fiscal health of the Club.

The EDD position will work with the Board of Directors to establish an annual marketing plan to include local schools,

fundraising events, community outreach activities and a local and social media plan.

The EDD will demonstrate strong social and communication skills in attending social clubs and organizations in recruiting and encouraging financial participation with the Club and its activities. Those skills will be essential in working with and supporting all staff and directors of the Club organization.

This is an exempt full time position reporting directly to the President and executive committee of the FYC Board of Directors. Prefer an applicant with a bachelor's degree and/or a minimum of 3 years of experience in non-profit children-based operation management and supervision.

Appropriate salary available based on responsibility of an organization with 3 executive director staff and an additional staff of 30 child centered personnel.

Applications and job descriptions are available at the Fallon Youth Club front office at 324 Pennington Cr., Fallon, Nevada or by email at imellig@cccomm.net. For more information you may call Executive Operations Directive Myndee Darcy at 775-427-0928 or FYC Board President Gary Imelli at 775-426-8461. Or email Board Vice President Tricia Stradsin at stradsint@icloud.com.

COLUMNS

Postcards: A Good Coach

By Michon Mackedon

It sounds like a cliché, but a good sports coach can do a whole lot more than teach a kid to play ball. We have all heard one story or another—sometimes as part of family lore—about a coach who helped change the direction of a student’s life, from failure to success.

Rollan Melton is part of Nevada’s history and our local history as well. He was raised in various Western towns, always in poverty. He graduated from Churchill County High School in 1950, rescued from academic failure by an interest in football and journalism, in that order. He went on to graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno, and launch a career in journalism, writing for the “Reno Gazette Journal.”

Then his lucky star became an entire galaxy. He was named editor of the paper at age 32, publisher at 35, and vice president of Speidel newspaper group at 37. Speidel merged with Gannett in 1976, and Melton’s fortune was made.

Melton never forgot his connection to Fallon and to the people who helped him turn a childhood full of failure into an adulthood full of success.

In his autobiographical book, “Sonny’s Story,” he describes the journey. Before he enrolled in CCHS, he had dropped out of school in Boise, Idaho, while living with his father, who bore no love for education. When he moved to Fallon to live with his mother, he told her, “Mom, I’m not cut out for school. I have gone through the eighth grade, and that’s enough. I won’t be going on to high school.”

I’ll compress his mother’s reply into four words: “Like hell, you’re quitting.”

Melton was at first a disgruntled student with a poor educational background. Then, he tried out for football and met Coach Wes Goodner.

“The season was my first in any organized sport, and I did not play a single down in a varsity game—all of my playing was in practice scrimmages. However, I learned a great deal that later would be part of the foundation needed in leadership roles. I discovered that one-man shows



and miracle plays don’t produce victories... If you expect to do a thing right, you must practice, practice, practice.”

It took a while, but Goodner’s advice eventually sank into the academic part of Melton’s brain, and he joined Anne Gibbs’ journalism class, originally writing about sports. One day, he was called to Coach Goodner’s office to meet Ken Ingram of the “Fallon Standard.” Ingram offered him a job “that would change my life forever.” He became a part-time apprentice printer.

However, the most telling story about Goodner as coach, administrator, and human being is narrated by Melton in these words:

“Coach Wes Goodner had taken a personal interest in me. One weekend he phoned me at the “Standard” and invited me to visit him and his wife Helen, at their home. When I arrived, Mrs. Goodner had some men’s suits and shoes laid out in the living room. Coach Goodner explained, ‘Rollan, I’ve bought some new things to wear.’ Pointing to the displayed wardrobe, he said, ‘My old clothes are a little bit worn, but we would like you to have them if you want them.’ ...The three suits and the two pairs of shoes fit perfectly. ...There was not a worn place to be seen.”

Goodner’s interest in Melton did not end on graduation day. Melton finished college and was shortly thereafter awarded the first of many prized jobs, sports editor for the “Reno Gazette Journal.” Many years later, he wrote in his memoir about achieving that early success:

“Well-wishers called or wrote. Sports people pledged their support. My high school coach, Wes Goodner, drove in from Fallon to congratulate me.”

A kind high school coach had taken him seriously, and that made all the difference.

Please send your stories or 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.

MEETINGS

April 16 – May 7, 2026

Board of County Commissioners

Meets the first Thursday and third Wednesday of each month
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: May 7 at 8:15 a.m.

CC Communications

Meets the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: May 7 at 11 a.m.

Churchill County School Board

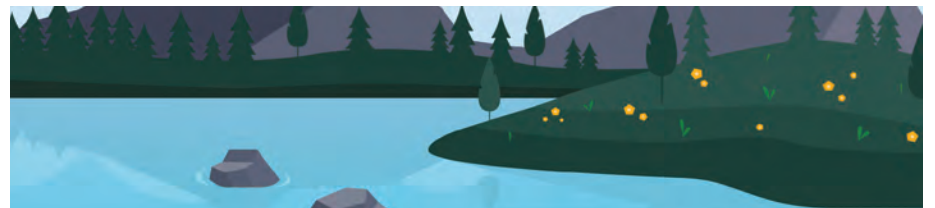
690 S. Maine St.
Next Meeting: April 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Central NV Health District

155 N. Taylor Street
Next meeting: April 16 at 1:30 p.m.

Library Board of Trustees

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 3 p.m.
155 N. Taylor Street
Next Meeting: April 23 at 3 p.m.



WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken April 13 at 8:00 p.m.

Lahontan Reservoir	235,600 af
Carson River Below Lahontan	518 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth	101 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen	62.2 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill	553 cfs

April 13, 2024	April 13, 2023	April 13, 2022
277,286 acre feet	85,140 acre feet	149,208 acre feet

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

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE PROPERTY SALE

Churchill County Treasurer

Will be conducting an online sale of delinquent tax properties to be held on Thursday, May 14 thru Friday, May 15, 2026

Bidding will begin at 8:00 AM on May 14th and conclude at 12:00 PM on May 15th

The auction website is www.Bid4Assets.com/Churchill

See website for registration and bidding instructions

PARCEL #	ASSESSED OWNERS	ACREAGE	LOCATION	LAND USE	MIN BID
001-671-06	MEEKER, OLEN JR	0.161	198 W PARK ST	200	\$ 6,207.36
004-351-37	NICHOLS W & J, FROSDICK T & P	17.041	SECTION 6 TOWNSHIP 23 RANGE 36	800	\$ 275.21
005-251-06	REMPEL, HUGO H ET AL	20.662	SECTION 13 TOWNSHIP 24 RANGE 35	800	\$ 1,128.19
005-251-08	REMPEL, HUGO H ET AL	20.662	SECTION 24 TOWNSHIP 24 RANGE 35	800	\$ 1,128.19
005-571-03	REMPEL, HUGO H ET AL	20.406	SECTION 35 TOWNSHIP 25 RANGE 36	800	\$ 1,157.16
005-571-04	REMPEL, HUGO H ET AL	20.406	SECTION 35 TOWNSHIP 25 RANGE 36	800	\$ 361.64
006-122-39	HOUSE OF SHALOM	20.750	15000 DUN MOVIN WAY	100	\$ 1,479.31
006-122-64	HOUSE OF SHALOM	19.900	SECTION 11 TOWNSHIP 18 RANGE 26	285	\$ 1,360.34
007-091-28	WAGONER, MARILYN O ET AL	160.000	SECTION 33 TOWNSHIP 19 RANGE 27	100	\$ 4,235.58
007-551-26	SWIFT, INGRID C ET AL	29.970	1435 N HARMON RD	282	\$ 4,216.16
008-752-15	GRAY, KEVIN	1.000	1177 ARROWHEAD LN	230	\$ 2,684.17

For more information regarding this tax sale please visit the website at www.Bid4Assets.com/Churchill

If you have any questions regarding this information or the tax sale, please contact us email: taxes@churchillcountynv.gov or phone: (775) 423-6028

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