

# THE FALLON POST



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TheFallonPost.org | Vol. 6 No. 39 \$2.00 | The Week of August 1, 2025

## BLM Approves Lahontan Wild Horse Herd Gather

### Roundup Date to be Scheduled

By Christy Lattin

The Bureau of Land Management has authorized a roundup of wild horses in the Lahontan Herd Management Area following the release of its final Environmental Assessment (EA), published July 18. The assessment recommends the gather to reduce the wild horse population in the area.

BLM representatives briefed Churchill County commissioners on local projects during the July 16 commission meeting. Zach Reichold, BLM Stillwater Field Manager, told commissioners the bureau prioritized the Lahontan HMA because it was “grossly” over the appropriate management level. Aerial data from 2023 estimated 518 wild horses in the area, where the target population is 7 to 10.

The environmental assessment analyzed both the 9,687-acre Lahontan Herd Management Area and a larger surrounding area encompassing approximately 304,705 acres in Lyon and Churchill counties, located south of Lahontan Reservoir.

Another factor in the roundup decision is that the Lahontan HMA overlaps the B-16 bombing range south of Fallon. BLM Public Affairs Specialist Lisa Ross confirmed the plan is to gather all horses



Wild horses – File photo.

from within the B-16 area, with a long-term goal to install fencing, though no timeline has been announced

The BLM held a public scoping period from Dec. 11, 2024, to Jan. 20, 2025, distributing its plan to local and state governments, media, and the public. Public comments on the preliminary EA were accepted from April 10 to May 12. The agency received

[ Wild Horse Herd continued on page 2 ]

## Aging Equipment Strains Sheriff’s Office Budget Early in Fiscal Year

By Christy Lattin

Sheriff Richard Hickox told Churchill County Commissioners at their July 16 meeting that the department’s fingerprint machine malfunctioned earlier this year. When a technician repaired it, they recommended an upgrade. However, the manufacturer, Idemia, later informed the department that the machine could not be upgraded due to outdated software. Hickox said he wasn’t sure how old the machine was, as it was already in use when he took office in 2018.

Hickox requested approval to purchase a new fingerprint machine for \$19,070, along with a three-year maintenance agreement costing \$3,383, for a total of \$22,453. Commissioners approved the purchase. The new machine is a similar model and supports both fingerprint and palm print scans. Hickox said future department budgets will include the maintenance cost.

Later in the meeting, Hickox also reported problems with the detention center’s locking system. He said some doors had started to



The Churchill County Detention Center is experiencing equipment failures and an insufficient budget. Photo courtesy Arrington Watkins Architects.

pop open on their own. When he contacted the company that holds the maintenance contract, they told him the system was aging and needed to be replaced. Hickox declined to specify which locks were affected, citing safety concerns for deputies working in the facility. He said the department developed a

workaround to maintain security until the new system is installed.

Although the detention facility is less than 10 years old, Hickox noted that not all of the original equipment was the most up to date when it was installed.

An order for the new locking system was placed under emergency authorization by County Manager Chris Spross. Installation is expected as soon as possible.

In investigating when the locks began to malfunction, the department attempted to review surveillance footage but discovered a “catastrophic failure” in the server housing the video system. Hickox said the department had already identified a need to upgrade or replace some computer equipment, but his capital outlay budget was reduced this year.

Hickox said he will return to the commissioners with a funding request for a new server. As the department continues to face equipment failures, additional budget adjustments may be necessary in the months ahead.



### IN THIS EDITION

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| From the Publisher  | .....2 |
| Cantaloupe Festival | .....3 |
| Announcements       | .....4 |
| Obituaries          | .....5 |
| Community           | .....6 |
| Government          | .....7 |
| Court               | .....8 |

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Business           | .....9  |
| Gardening          | .....9  |
| Education          | .....10 |
| Sports             | .....11 |
| Columns            | .....12 |
| Crossword          | .....12 |
| Legal Notices      | .....13 |
| Business Directory | .....14 |

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# Captain’s Log

## Henlightenment

By Rachel Dahl

I never thought I’d be a chicken lady.

When we were kids there were always chickens as a normal part of the daily chores. At some point during our early upbringing there was also a very mean rooster. Every time we would go in the pen to feed, he would do what roosters do and attack us. At the time it seemed quite brutal and was very frightening. We figured out that if we climbed in the top of the barn, we could chuck the food down through the top of the chicken pen and avoid him all together.

Sometimes the chickens would be out all day free ranging, which meant that we would cut a wide swath around wherever he was. Our entire course of play could be altered with appearance of the awful little creature.

I don’t even think he had a name, we were all so scared of him. He finally landed in the soup pot one day after attacking the barely toddling Harvey as he and my mom slowly made their way to the horse pen to watch dad with some new colt. We hated him so much none of us kids would eat it.

Chester now fills the attack rooster role at my house. Rescued as he was from a guy in Lemmon Valley whose neighbor was threatening to shoot him, I feel like Chester should be a lot more grateful and a lot less aggressive. At first I was completely traumatized and the PTSD from my youth would send me in a wide circle to the bunny barn, which Chester guards like Fort Knox. But the more I was around the flock and watched how they all interact, it became apparent that he was just doing his job, and he was super good at it. My instinct to hold him off with a shovel was replaced by grudging respect and then I found myself not wanting to do anything to discourage him from protecting his girls.

One day when he was feeling particularly spicy, I happened to be wearing thick winter leggings and tall, rubber chore boots and just let him have his way with my right leg. He came at me in twelve different directions with great gusto, plowing into my armored leg with his impressive back claws, and I realized it didn’t even actually hurt. We now have a bit of an understanding, but still sometimes, usually when I’m in a chore dress and bare-legged, Chester will have a go at me and re-establish his dominance.

The other day as I approached the house, Chester had decided his protection now encompassed the large front deck. He attacked my leg as I walked along, hopping up to spur me as I sort of mocked him while gently encouraging him, telling him what a good protector he was and what a good job he was doing.

As I looked down at him, tearing into me with all the vim and vigor he possessed it dawned on me what a metaphor this was for raising children and managing people on a staff. You spend a lot of time encouraging, and sometimes there’s a fiery one who is just determined to hone their skills on you in spite of your support.

So, while we tear through life, learning lessons from the barnyard, we’ll still be right here...

... Keeping you Posted.

—Rach

[ Wild Horse Herd continued from page 1 ]

161 individual comment letters, largely from private citizens but also from wild horse and animal advocacy groups. The Churchill County Commission submitted a letter supporting the proposed gather.

Although authorized, the roundup has not yet been scheduled. The BLM’s 2025 Wild Horse and Burro Gather and Fertility Control Schedule, released Sept. 9, 2024, does not list the Lahontan gather. It is expected to appear on the 2026 schedule.

The gather will include areas both inside and outside the HMA. The surrounding area overlaps with six grazing allotments, while the HMA itself includes a portion of the Lahontan grazing allotment. Four of the allotments are not designated for wild horse use, but the animals are present and utilizing resources in those areas, according to the BLM.

Roundups conducted in Nevada in late 2024 and early 2025 included a large operation at the Triple B Complex in Elko and White Pine counties. There, the BLM gathered 2,196 horses, treated 23 with fertility control, and returned 39 to the range—fewer than its proposal goal of treating 50 mares and returning 100 horses.

The Wild Horse Education organization submitted comments on the EA and also shared concerns on its website, arguing that the BLM is overreaching by including areas far outside the Lahontan HMA in its gather plan. The group warned that the plan could affect animals from neighboring herd areas that were not analyzed.

“This EA far exceeds any logical scope,” the organization stated, “and BLM cannot simply use a Lahontan Removal plan to rid itself of responsible management of Horse Mountain and surrounding areas.”

The Decision Record also addresses public concerns about the use of helicopters and motorized vehicles in gathers. A public hearing held May 6 drew widespread opposition to the use of helicopters for capturing excess horses and burros.

“In response to the concerns raised, the BLM reviewed its Standard Operating Procedures governing motorized vehicle use. Based on this review, they found no changes were warranted,” the agency stated.

The BLM maintains that helicopter gathers are conducted safely, reporting a total mortality rate of approximately 1.1 percent. It also noted that helicopter operations are avoided during the peak of foaling season and are not conducted from March 1 through June 30.

The full Decision Record is available at [www.eplanning.blm.gov](http://www.eplanning.blm.gov).

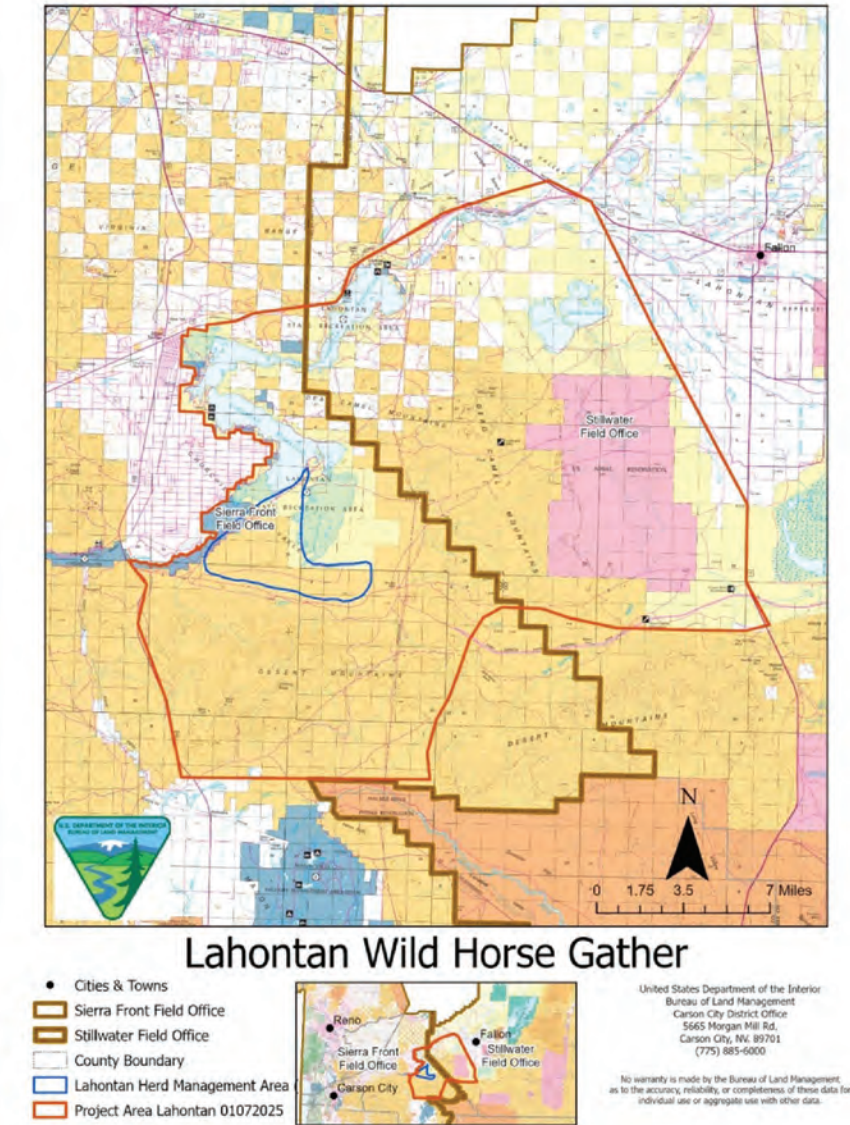


Figure 1: Map of Lahontan Wild Horse HMA and Proposed Gather Area



CANTALOUPE FESTIVAL



Cantaloupe ice cream. File photo.

Only Three Weeks Until the Cantaloupe Festival and Country Fair

By Leanna Lehman

Every August, just as the summer heat peaks in Northern Nevada, something sweet takes center stage in Churchill County: the mighty Hearts of Gold cantaloupe. Grown in the Lahontan Valley since the early 1900s, this delicious melon is more than just a crop. It’s part of Fallon’s agricultural and community heritage.

The Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair, celebrating 40 years, began in 1985 as a homegrown celebration of this most-favored Fallon melon, and today it holds the distinction of being Nevada’s longest-running agricultural festival. Hosted at the Rafter 3C Events Complex, the weekend-long event draws visitors from across the state and beyond, eager to taste, tour, and toast to Fallon’s farming roots.

Over three jam-packed days, the festival features everything from 4-H and FFA livestock showcases to carnival rides, quilt raffles, live music on multiple stages, a car show, and fan-favorite events like the Cutest Little Cowboy & Cowgirl Contest. With any luck, the hilariously competitive fan favorite, the Kiss a Pig fundraiser, will return for another year. It’s a true country fair, complete with deep-fried treats, handmade goods, music, entertainment, and so much more.

But woven through it all is the star of the show: cantaloupe, cantaloupe, cantaloupe. From melon-themed snacks and daiquiris to

produce stands selling freshly harvested fruit, the Hearts of Gold melon is honored in every slice and scoop.

And around Fallon, creativity doesn’t stop at the tasting table.

We know it’s juicy, we know it’s sweet, but did you know that cantaloupe is nearly 90% water and loaded with vitamins A and C? That makes it the unofficial hydration hero of a Fallon August. Perfect for the notoriously hot festival weekend, even if it’s in the form of a fabulously tasty treat!

Here in the Lahontan Valley, where the sun seems to hang just a little longer and higher than anywhere else, resourceful locals have long found ways to put their melons to work — on and off the plate.

**THE LEGENDARY CANTALOUPE DAIQUIRI**

First grown-up stop: the bar. These frozen beauties have become a festival rite of passage. Blended fresh with rum and a splash of citrus, cantaloupe daiquiris are as much a tradition as the crowning of the Cantaloupe King & Queen, the prize jam, and occasional raffle ticket bidding wars. If you’re lucky, a vendor might even throw in a salted rim and local honey. Do you have your own Cantaloupe Daiquiri recipe? Send it to the Post and it just might make it into this year’s Cantaloupe Festival Guide.

**GRILLED AND GLORIOUS**

Cut thick, brushed with a touch of oil, and tossed on the grill, cantaloupe caramelizes like a dream. Paired with prosciutto or crumbled cheese, it’s a backyard BBQ sleeper hit — and one you just might find

featured in a food booth or pop-up demo during the festival.

**SWEET & SAVORY SALSAS**

Cantaloupe chunks mixed with lime, red onion, and jalapeño or other fresh-grown peppers create a refreshing summer salsa that goes as well with grilled fish as it does with tortilla chips. Some locals add mint or cucumber for an extra garden-fresh twist.

**ICE CREAM, POPS, AND FREEZER TREATS**

From creamy cantaloupe ice cream to icy melon popsicles, frozen delights are the ultimate way to beat the heat. Fallon kids have grown up with the festival’s signature cantaloupe cone — sticky, orange, and unforgettable.

**FALLON FACE MASK, ANYONE?**

OK, maybe you won’t find this one at a vendor tent — but in a town where summer skin gets dry and dusty, it’s no surprise that some Fallon residents whip up their own melon-based skin soothers. A quick mash of cantaloupe and yogurt? Instant cool-down. Add honey and you’ve got a hydration boost straight from the garden. A few big skincare brands have even capitalized on the magic of the melon, but why not try a soothing, fresh Hearts of Gold salve?

So, whether it’s in your glass, on your plate, or (gasp!) on your face, the Hearts of Gold is Fallon’s golden ticket to summer fun. Don’t miss the Cantaloupe Festival Guide — coming August 22 with recipes, activities, and maybe even your new favorite way to melon.

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FALLON THEATRE PRESENTS

**CANTALOUPE CANTER**

5K FUN RUN/WALK

Saturday, August 23, 2025

Check-in & Late Registration: 7:00AM – 7:50AM  
Race Starts at 8:00AM

**STARTING POINT:**  
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music, Movies, and More at the Fallon Theatre

By Kelli Perez

We’re kicking off August with a weekend of animated laughs and Marvel action at the Fallon Theatre, so plan to join us for quality entertainment at a price anyone can afford!

This Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., bring the whole family for “Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation” (2018). In this third installment of the monster comedy series, Dracula and the gang set sail on a luxury cruise, but things get complicated when he falls for the ship’s mysterious captain. It’s rated PG and runs 1 hour and 37 minutes.

Or, if “Guardians of the Galaxy” (2014) is more your speed, we’ll be showing it both nights at 7 p.m. This fan-favorite Marvel adventure follows a ragtag group of outlaws who must work together to save the galaxy. With its sharp humor and killer soundtrack, it’s a perfect way to wrap up your evening. Rated PG-13, and runtime is 2 hours and 1 minute.

We’re also excited to be part of Fallon’s Community Reunion this August. Join us on Friday, August 15 at 7 p.m. for a free live concert featuring the crowd-favorite Great Basin Band as they return to our stage with their signature mix of pop, country, and rock hits. Then come back on Saturday, August 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a special open house with guided tours.

Get moving at the Fallon Theatre’s Cantaloupe Canter 5K on Saturday, August 23 as part of the Cantaloupe Festival & Country Fair. The race kicks off at 8 a.m. at 333 Sheckler Road, with check-in from 7 to 7:50 a.m. Early registration is \$25 (\$30 day-of),

and you’ll get a T-shirt if you sign up by August 13. Whether you’re racing or strolling, join this fun, family-friendly fundraiser benefiting the Fallon Theatre. Register with the link on our website or at Kent’s Supply Center.

On Saturday, September 20 at 7 p.m., join us for David Hayes – Master Showman, an entertaining evening of clean, family-friendly performances showcasing David’s versatile talents, sure to keep everyone smiling. Tickets are just \$15 at the door.

Our annual fundraising Show ‘N’ Shine rolls into downtown on Saturday, September 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This free event is a community favorite, featuring classic cars, live music, delicious food, and more. Want to show off your ride? Registration is now open at fallontheatre.com.

Set sail with us October 3 and 4 for a “Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl” 4D weekend, sponsored by Huck Salt. Our 6 p.m. screenings feature immersive effects like mist, scent, vibrations, and flashing lights, plus live character interactions, themed treats, and more. If you prefer a traditional viewing, the 7 p.m. showings will play without any added



effects. This swashbuckling adventure is one weekend only, so reserve your seats today. A small reservation fee applies and you can find the link on our website.

And save the date as laughter returns to the Fallon Theatre on Friday, November 14 at 7 p.m. with comedian Lee Hardin. Hailing from Nashville and seen on NBC, DryBar Comedy, and Nateland Live, Lee brings his smart, clean humor and wildly relatable stories back to our stage. Last year’s show sold out, so don’t wait. Tickets are

just \$20 for a night of guaranteed laughs.

Then on Saturday, November 15 at 7 p.m., catch River Rogue live on stage. This dynamic cover band, hailing from Schurz, Fallon, and Carson City, brings a high-energy mix of country, rock, and blues favorites. Admission is free, but the band will be playing for tips, so come ready to enjoy great music and show your support.

As always, movie screenings at the Fallon Theatre are free to attend, and the concession stand is stocked with goodies. To rent an auditorium or schedule a Marquee Message, contact us at 775-423-6210 or thefallontheatre@gmail.com.

Community-Wide Reunion and Free Concert in the Park Aug. 16

Staff Report

The Churchill Arts Council will present a free Concert in the Park on Saturday, Aug. 16, featuring bluegrass ensemble Della Mae. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. on the Centennial Stage at Oats Park.

Known for their dynamic blend of bluegrass, folk, and Americana, Della Mae is a Grammy-nominated, all-woman string band celebrated for high-energy performances and rich musical storytelling. The group features founding members Celia Woodsmith (lead vocals, guitar) and two-time Grand National champion fiddle player Kimber Ludiker, along with guitarist Avril Smith and two-time IBMA Bass Player of the Year Vickie Vaughn.

In addition to the evening concert, the Churchill Arts Council will host several arts-focused events at the Oats Park Art Center throughout the day:

- 8–10 a.m. – Community breakfast in the Lariat Courtyard, hosted by the City of Fallon
- 10 a.m.–Noon – Tours of the historic Oats Park Art Center
- 6–7:30 p.m. – Closing reception for The Lahontan Valley Fine Arts Invitational and Reid Sewell: A Journey in Art
- The Art Bar will be open during the reception, and the Lariat Bar will be open during the concert
- Show-n-Shine classic car display in front of the Art Center during the day



The Della Mae band features, from left to right, Vickie Vaughn, Avril Smith, Kimber Ludiker, and Celia Woodsmith. Photo by Laura Schneider, Courtesy Della Mae.

These festivities are part of the Annual Community-Wide Reunion, a weekend-long celebration that brings together friends, families, and neighbors for music, memories, and shared pride in the Fallon community.

Concert in the Park events are hosted by the Churchill Arts Council and generously presented by the City of Fallon and Mayor Ken Tedford.

PETS OF THE WEEK

This is Ronin



Ronin (D-601) is a 3-year-old Kelpie mix who’s house trained, crate trained, and knows basic commands like sit, bed, and kennel. He’s friendly with other dogs and even okay with cats, though he’s a bit shy around them. Ronin does pull on a leash, but we’re working on it. If you’re looking for a gentle, well-mannered companion with great potential, give us a call to meet Ronin.

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

Oh Baby!



Baby is a 15-year-old senior cat looking for a calm, loving home. He came to CAPS after spending his life with one family and now needs someone patient and gentle to help him enjoy his golden years. Baby enjoys being brushed and will even “run” to greet you. He has early-stage kidney disease and requires prescription food.

CAPS is also seeking new board and committee members — if interested, give us a call.

Churchill Animal Protection Society  
5894 Pasture Rd, Fallon  
775-423-7500 | capsnevada.org  
caps@cccomm.net

Meet Gracie



Gracie is a 1-year-old tabby with a big personality and even bigger heart. She’s spayed, vaccinated, and ready for her forever home. Gracie is very chatty and loves to follow her people, making her the perfect companion for anyone who wants a little shadow with sass. If you’re looking for a loyal, talkative friend, come meet Gracie — she’s ready to win you over with her charm.

Fallon Animal Welfare Group is a 501(c)(3) charity supporting the welfare of cats in Churchill County, Nevada. Questions? Call 775-217-4745 or, for barn cats, call Pat at 775-217-7248.



OBITUARIES

STEVEN FRANK SOARES  
October 16, 1957 – July 22, 2025



Bonnie Soares; his sister, Debra Hoffmann (Gary); as well as nieces, nephews and cousins.  
A service will be held at 11 a.m. on August 6, 2025, at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church.

Steven Frank Soares of Fallon, Nevada, passed away on July 22, 2025, at Carson Tahoe Hospital. He was born in San Francisco, California, on October 16, 1957. Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Viola Soares. He is survived by his wife of 24 years,

MARGARET D. BAILEY  
January 20, 1930 – July 7, 2025



Margaret D. Bailey passed away peacefully at home on July 7, 2025, after a long illness. She was 95 years old. Her steadfast devotion to family, a lifetime of service to this community as a nurse and nurse practitioner, and her unwavering generosity will remain an inspiration to all who knew her. Born January 20, 1930, in Fallon, Nevada, Margaret was the beloved daughter of Joe and Annie Soares, wife to the late Ira Bailey, mother to the late Francis “Danny” Bailey, and older sister to the late Frank Soares. Margaret is survived by her sons, Joe Bailey and Michael Bailey; daughter, Cindi Williams; son-in-law, Paul; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A rosary will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, with Mass of the Resurrection at 11 a.m. and burial to follow at the Churchill County Cemetery.

Generosity Strikes Again

Miss Margie Donates to Sherrif’s Office K9 Program

Courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff’s Office

On July 18, 2025, Miss Margie – Fallon’s fabulous benefactor, contacted Churchill County Sheriff’s Office to discuss the agency’s K9 program. During the meeting, she learned the department hopes to purchase another narcotics detection K9 for the community and is currently seeking funding to acquire an additional K9 patrol vehicle.Moved by the effort, Miss Margie was adamant about helping make the vision a reality and offered to contribute to the K9 fund. Earlier today, Captain Matt Timmons, K9 Deputy Noel Ugalde, and K9 Tokos met with Miss Margie at the Sheriff’s Office, where she made a generous donation to support the program. The funds will be directed to the Churchill Community Coalition, which has established a 501(c)(3) account to benefit the Sheriff’s Office K9 Unit. The Churchill County Sheriff’s Office extends heartfelt gratitude to Miss Margie for her continued support of the K9 Unit and the community we serve.



Miss Margie with Captain Matt Timmons, K9 Deputy Noel Ugalde, and K9 Tokos.

BACK TO  
*school*  
EVENTS



**NORTHSIDE EARLY LEARNING CENTER**  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – OPEN HOUSE | 2:30–4:00 PM  
(SCHOOL STARTS FOR PRE-K STUDENTS 9/2)

**LAHONTAN**  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21  
FIRST GRADE MEET & GREET  
4:00–5:30 PM  
WEEK OF AUGUST 25  
KINDERGARTEN MEET & GREET/ASSESSMENTS  
(TEACHERS WILL CONTACT PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO SET A DATE & TIME)

**E.C. BEST**  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22  
OPEN HOUSE  
1:00–3:00 PM

**NUMA**  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22  
OPEN HOUSE  
2:30–4:00 PM

**CCMS**  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20  
OPEN HOUSE  
5:30–7:00 PM


**CCHS**  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21  
HOSTED AT CCHS!  
6:00–7:30 PM

For more information visit: [bit.ly/CCSDBacktoSchoolWebpage](https://bit.ly/CCSDBacktoSchoolWebpage)

In Remembrance

For obituaries please call  
775-426-4545  
or email  
[admin@thefallonpost.org](mailto:admin@thefallonpost.org)





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.

|   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Monday, August 4</b><br>Chicken Nuggets<br>Green Beans w/Mushrooms<br>Mashed Sweet Potatoes<br>Tossed Salad<br>Mixed Berry Cup | <b>Tuesday, August 5</b><br>Tator Tot Casserole<br>Orange Beet Salad<br>Comstock Corn<br>Tropical Fruit Cup<br>WW Bread | <b>Wednesday, August 6</b><br>Pesto Chicken Florentine<br>WW Pasta<br>Vegetables Normandy<br>Spiced Apples<br>Garlic Bread | <b>Thursday, August 7</b><br>Hamburger<br>Mixed Grain Bun<br>Baked Beans<br>Mandarins<br>Coleslaw | <b>Friday, August 8</b><br>Cajun Baked Fish<br>w/Mango Salsa<br>Red Beans and Rice<br>Capri Veggies<br>WW Bread<br>Peach Cobbler |
|---|---|--|---|--|

FALLON DAILY BREAD

WOLF CENTER | 457 ESMERALDA AVE., FALLON NV | 775-423-4714  
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| <b>Monday, August 4</b><br>Chef’s Salad Bar<br>Fruit | <b>Thursday, August 7</b><br>Spaghetti<br>Salad & Bread | <b>Monday, August 11</b><br>Sub Sandwiches<br>Fruit | <b>Thursday, August 14</b><br>Nacho Bar<br>Dessert | <b>Volunteer groups<br/>needed to help serve<br/>once per month,<br/>3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.<br/>Call for information.</b> |
|--|---|---|--|---|



COMMUNITY

# Cowgirl Tough

## Cody Smith Stays in Saddle Despite Rare Brain Tumor

By Nancy Chapman

*At just 20 years old, she was working two jobs, living independently with her brother, and spending her free time riding horses and helping at rodeos. But the symptoms quickly became dangerous—especially while handling animals and medical equipment as a veterinary technician in training.*


After a series of medical appointments and an MRI, Cody and her family received devastating news: an inoperable brain stem tumor known as a Tectal Plate Glioma. Her doctor described the situation as “dangerous and urgent.” The slow-growing tumor is located on the brain stem, blocking the flow of spinal fluid and interfering with the body’s central nervous system. Because of its location, the tumor cannot be biopsied. Her physicians hope that when Cody travels to Stanford University later this month, they may find another abnormal growth elsewhere in her body to biopsy, allowing them to determine whether to begin treatment with radiation or chemotherapy—and at what dosage. As her mother Mandy put it, “this was a real gut punch.” The diagnosis has created an enormous emotional and financial strain for Cody and her family. In response, the close-knit community she’s long been a part of has stepped in to help. With support from James Dexter of Fifty Horse Ranch and longtime family friend Kirk Ferris, a fundraiser



Cody Smith and her horses. Photo by James Dexter.

is being organized to help with Cody’s medical and travel expenses. Monica Fairbanks has taken the lead in planning and logistics. To those who know her, Cody is an amazing young lady—an inspiration. Her kindness, faith, and quiet determination have always been contagious. She was raised on a ranch in Standish, California, where her family runs a horse rescue. In recent months, wildfires in the region have led them to take in everything from pigs and rabbits to goats, cows, and—of course—more horses. Growing up in that environment, Cody learned early on to help people and animals in need. A dedicated rodeo athlete throughout high school and college, Cody specialized in barrel racing but describes herself as an all-around competitor. In June 2024, she rode with the Reno Rodeo Flag Team, calling it one of


the best experiences since graduating from college. Through her family’s friendship with the Dexter family, Cody met Kirk Ferris, who rides, trains, and shows cutting horses throughout Nevada and California. She often helps Kirk at shows, saddling and warming up horses before competition, and cooling them down afterward. “I’ve found another way to enjoy horses,” she said. Working hard and having big goals has always been Cody’s way of life. She earned an associate degree in veterinary technology and a certification in cattle reproduction from the University of Nevada, Reno. She now puts those skills to use at the VCA Baring Boulevard Animal Hospital in Sparks. On her days off, she works at Big R, also in Sparks. She and her brother share an apartment and split expenses—life was unfolding as it should for two young adults just starting out. Despite the challenges of her diagnosis, Cody continues to work when she can. Both of her employers have supported her need for time off. “On the good days, things are great, but on the bad days I can’t even get out of bed,” she said. One of the hardest parts, she added, has been learning how to talk about her illness—saying how she really feels out loud isn’t easy. A benefit playday and fundraiser for Cody will be held at Fifty Horse Ranch, 13333 Carson Highway in Fallon, on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025, beginning at 8 a.m. The event is free to attend; however, horse events require registration. Donations are welcomed to help with medical and travel costs as Cody continues her fight. #Cody Strong.



# PanCake Breakfast

## Monday, September 1

From 7 - 10 am.



Thank you for supporting Rotary's scholarship and youth program!



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*All-You-Can-Eat*  
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**\$10 Adults**  
Kids 12 and under are free,  
courtesy of the City of Fallon.

At the dirt lot next to the Library 553 S. Maine St., Fallon, NV

## Sheriff's Office Warns of Bail Money Scam

Courtesy of CHSO



The scammers are at it again. Residents have recently received calls requesting payment of bail money via Green Dot Cards or gift cards, or the scammer requests that money be transferred via a wire service. Government agencies, including law enforcement, never contact the public to demand payment by wire transfer or prepaid cards when individuals are being held on bail. If there is ever a doubt about bail for an individual, you can call the jail directly at 775-423-1596. They can advise if someone is in custody, their charges, and any bail amount required.



## OATS PARK ART SCHOOL



## END OF SUMMER ART CAMP

With Mrs. Sorensen

Join us for an exciting art camp at the Oats Park Art School! We will be making Hot August Sun Painting & Collages inspired by artist Clare Youngs

**6 DAY CAMP: AUG 11/12, 15/16, 19/20**

LOWER ELEMENTARY: 9-10:00 AM  
UPPER ELEMENTARY: 11-12:00 PM  
MAX OF 15 SEATS PER SESSION

**\$50 /CHILD**

**FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER: CHURCHILLARTS.ORG**



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mitigating Flood Risks at Heart of Carson River Watershed Flood Plan



Carson River Floodplain second weir. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

By Christy Lattin

Reducing flood risks along the Carson River is the primary purpose of the updated Carson River Watershed Floodplain Management Plan (CRFMP). The plan was finalized last year and is now being presented to governing bodies in the Carson Watershed. The document lays out the characteristics of the watershed, flood history, risk assessment and suggested emergency responses.

Members of the Carson River Coalition Floodplain Management Working Group with representatives from Alpine, CA, Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties served as the steering committee for the plan. Ed James, general manager of the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD), presented the plan to Churchill County commissioners at their July 16 meeting where they voted to adopt the plan. Three previous plans were released in 2008, 2013, and 2018.

The plan provides a regional approach to floodplain management, seeks to protect floodplains from development, and offers suggestions to reduce flood damage on a watershed scale. This plan affirms the “Living River Approach,” which recognizes the importance of balancing the river’s natural floodplain form and function with various land uses.

“Once the floodplain, and especially the river’s meander belt corridor, is impacted by development, the river loses the ability to reestablish its natural functions,” stated Brenda Hunt, CWSD Watershed Program Manager. “Agricultural fields near the channel are critical for floodwater attenuation, groundwater recharge, nonpoint-source pollution buffering and providing habitat for wildlife.”

The Carson River Watershed is 3,966 square miles, with 606 square miles in California and the balance in Nevada. The Carson

River flows 184 miles from its headwaters in Alpine County, Calif., to the terminus at the Carson Sink in Churchill County, north of Fallon. The updated plan also acknowledges the economic impact a flood can have on communities, noting the 2017 flood damage totaled \$9.6 million to the six counties in the watershed.

The plan states because there is no upstream storage, record snowfall in 2017 led to record runoff in the river and into Lahontan Reservoir. The reservoir was designed to store 300,000 acre-feet of water; the inflow in 2017 was three times this amount. James said Churchill County officials reacted swiftly in early 2017 when predictions of high-water flows along the river threatened Fallon. The CWSD had already studied the use of a weir to reduce flooding risks, and he was happy to see it come to fruition within six weeks.

The first weir was constructed on the V-Line Canal off Casey Road and sent water into the desert south of Fallon. He added the Nevada Department of Transportation also responded quickly to install culverts under Highway 95 South and at Highway 50 near Grimes Point to funnel the water into the “Big Dig,” a massive ditch running from Carson Lake north to the Stillwater wetlands.

Churchill County was threatened again in 2023 when another high-water year forced officials to construct a second, bigger weir. The Big Dig ditch was cleaned out to ensure water flowed unobstructed all the way to the Stillwater wetlands.

CWSD is a Cooperating Technical Partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the district has received \$6.9 million from FEMA from 2010 to 2024 for projects like flood-hazard mapping, mitigation planning and outreach.

The types of flooding along the Carson River include riverine flooding in the main channel, alluvial fan flooding from flash floods, stormwater flooding, and flood-after-fire debris flows and mud flows. Flood hazards primarily occur when developers build within the floodplain, river corridor or in and around alluvial fans. It was noted Carson City purchased all the riverine floodplain lands in Carson City to offset any potential property damage.

Funding was the number one barrier to mitigation listed by each county, the management plan states. Carson City is the only watershed county that has a stormwater utility that helps fund mitigation projects, and the idea of a tax or flood utility can be met with fierce resistance.

The plan concludes with a strategy to implement the floodplain management plan. It suggested each community adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan to effectively handle emergencies and to become eligible for FEMA disaster assistance.

The 150-page plan can be found in its entirety on the CWSD website, [cwsd.org](http://cwsd.org).

Physician Sought for Central Nevada Health District Board



Letters of Interest  
Due by Aug. 6

The Central Nevada Health District (CNHD) Board of Health is seeking a licensed physician to serve a two-year term on its governing board. In accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 439.390, one board seat must be filled by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state.

Eligible applicants must reside in one of the five CNHD communities: Churchill County, Eureka County, Mineral County, Pershing County, or the City of Fallon.

Letters of Interest will be reviewed and considered during the CNHD Board of Health’s regular meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Submissions must be received by close of business on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2025.

For more information or to submit a Letter of Interest, contact the Central Nevada Health District.

Churchill County Library’s August Happenings  
Stay Cool This Summer at the Library!

Statt Report

Churchill County Library Offers August Activities for All Ages

The Churchill County Library invites the community to enjoy the final weeks of summer with free programs and events for all ages.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Financial Literacy: Navy Federal Credit Union hosts a session on Aug. 9 at 2 p.m.
- Author Talk: Local horror author Zachary O’Shea speaks Aug. 19 at 6 p.m.
- Senator Rosen’s Office: Staff available for public drop-in Aug. 14 at 1 p.m.

CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

- Story Time: Wednesdays at 11 a.m., Thursdays at 10 a.m. & 11 a.m. (no sessions Aug. 6–7).
- Reading with Rover: Aug. 14 at 3:30 p.m. Practice reading aloud and keep your book!

- STEAM Fridays: Weekly at 1:30 p.m. Hands-on activities for ages 6–11.
- Elementary Book Club: Aug. 29 at 3 p.m. Reading “A Wolf Called Wander.” Sign up at: [bit.ly/CCElementaryBookClub](http://bit.ly/CCElementaryBookClub).
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: Join anytime at [bit.ly/CCL1000BBK](http://bit.ly/CCL1000BBK).

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Crafting for Grownups: Aug. 21 at 4 p.m. & Aug. 23 at 2 p.m.
- Spice Club: August’s featured spice is sumac.

FOR ALL AGES

- Game Night: Wednesdays at 4 p.m.
- Virtual Reality: Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. (ages 10+ with signed form).
- Reading Challenges: Join via the Beanstack app or at [www.churchill-countylibrary.beanstack.org](http://www.churchill-countylibrary.beanstack.org).

SEED LIBRARY

Got seeds from your summer garden? Donate labeled, resealable bags of non-invasive seeds—vegetables, flowers, or natives—to the seed library at the front desk.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Public computers, printing, and photocopying available. Free small meeting room use. Access online learning tools like Rosetta Stone and World Book from home or mobile devices.

LOCATION & HOURS

Churchill County Library is at 553 S. Maine St., Fallon. Open Mon–Fri, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., and Sat, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sundays and holidays.

NO OVERDUE FINES.

Visit [www.churchillcountylibrary.org](http://www.churchillcountylibrary.org) or call 775-423-7581 for updates.

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COURT

Tenth Judicial District Court

Tuesday, July 22, Judge Thomas Stockard presiding

By Teresa Moon

*John Mitchell Swanson* pleaded guilty to Count I, Battery on an Officer, Provider of Health Care, School Employee, Taxicab Driver, or Transit Operator, a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to 364 days in the Churchill County Jail and a fine of up to \$2,000; and to Count II, Simple Battery, a misdemeanor carrying a possible sentence of 180 days in jail, a \$1,000 fine, and 200 hours of community service.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker requested that the court follow the joint recommendation of the plea agreement: suspend the 364-day jail sentence, place Swanson on probation, order a substance abuse evaluation, deny diversion, impose 48 hours of community service, a \$200 fine, and six months of domestic violence counseling.

Swanson acknowledged making poor decisions and stated that he had completed a 30-day diversion program. However, as Judge Stockard questioned the defendant, he determined Swanson had not followed all the program’s recommendations. He continued the hearing to August 12 and ordered that the recommendations be provided to the court and the District Attorney’s Office. He said he expects to see progress by the next hearing.

*Bryant Bennett Jayne* appeared for sentencing on the following gross misdemeanor charges: two counts of Unlawful Acts Relating to Human Excrement or Bodily Fluid Without Disease; Battery on an Officer; a Provider of Health Care, a School Employee, a Taxicab Driver, Transit Operator, or a Sports Official; and Intimidating a Public Officer Without Threat.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills told the court Jayne “seems to be a different person. He seems to have his anger under control, seems to be able to relate to counsel ... And that’s to his credit.” Mills said the state would like to see a sentence that would incentivize the defendant’s current good behavior.

Appointed Defense Counsel Jesse Kalter reminded the court that multiple attorneys had represented Jayne throughout the case. “Fortu-

nately for me,” he said, “I inherited somebody that had started to turn that corner and take responsibility for his actions.” Kalter agreed with the state that “an appropriate sentence to incentivize Mr. Jayne to continue on with his very good behavior and very good understanding of where he is now in his life is appropriate.”

Kalter presented two letters Jayne had submitted to the court, including one to the officers involved, which he said was sincere. He asked for suspended sentences, stating, “I would like to see him have the opportunity to continue on living a healthy life.”

Jayne told Judge Stockard, “I owe everybody involved an apology, and I am sincerely sorry. And even though I can’t explain any of my actions or behaviors, I do promise never to repeat any of it.”

Judge Stockard said, “There is a marked observable change that I think everyone involved in this case has seen.” When asked what he attributes that to, Jayne replied, “God is on my side. He sent me an angel.” Of the man who is helping him, he added, “He is a saint. He doesn’t like me calling him that, but he truly is a saint.”

Judge Stockard granted probation on four suspended sentences of 364 days in jail and ordered Jayne to comply with the recommendations of his evaluation.

“I think you should be commended for the changes that you’ve made. I recognize them,” Stockard said. “You have an enormous opportunity to effectuate good in this world. ... There aren’t many people who have gone through what you have gone through. And you may have an opportunity to help someone down the road. And if you have that opportunity, I think you could really bless their lives. ... Good luck to you.”

*Carl Lee Miller* appeared for sentencing on the Category B Felony of Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor, a third or subsequent offense. He pleaded guilty to the offense in April 2022, and the court placed Miller in the DUI Diversion Program at that time.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lane Mills said Miller successfully completed the three-

year program. Miller thanked the court and said he has now been sober for nearly four years.

Judge Stockard withdrew the prior felony plea and entered a guilty plea to second-offense DUI and imposed a statutory \$750 fine.

*Cody James Palmer Lehman* appeared for sentencing on the Category B Felony of Driving Under the Influence of an Intoxicating Liquor, a third or subsequent offense. He also pleaded guilty in April 2022 and entered the DUI Diversion Program that same month.

Lehman successfully completed the program and has been sober for more than three years. “I would like to thank the court for this program,” he said. “It helped me a lot.”

Judge Stockard withdrew Lehman’s prior plea to the felony and entered a guilty plea to DUI, second, and imposed a statutory fine of \$750.

To both Lehman and Miller, Stockard offered encouragement: “You really can’t think of this as the end. It’s just kind of the beginning of continuing to do what made you successful.”

*Joshua Benton Ryland*, in custody, pleaded guilty to Gross Misdemeanor of Attempt to Commit Burglary of a Motor Vehicle, punishable by up to 364 days in jail and a fine of up to \$2,000; and to Misdemeanor of Petit Larceny, punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford requested \$170 in restitution, stating Ryland was caught on surveillance entering a truck and taking a backpack, of which some of the items were recovered. She recommended a suspended jail sentence of 364 days.

Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer supported the recommendation, noting Ryland turned in the backpack and accepted responsibility. “Perhaps when someone is in this situation and they’re using substances that cloud their judgment, as a community we would want people to make things right the best they can,” Sommer said.

Judge Stockard granted Ryland probation on suspended sentences: 364 days in jail for the attempted burglary and 180 days for the petit larceny, to run concurrently.

EDITORIAL

The Dirty Job of Reporting Ugly News

We’ve recently faced criticism for reporting on three sexual assault-related arrests, one of which drew intense public reaction because of a familiar last name. Some have accused us of clickbait or of harming those involved. But here’s the reality: three men were arrested in a 48-hour span for serious charges involving sexual assault. That is grave news for any community and unprecedented in Fallon’s memory.

As journalists, we can’t ignore that. We cover these stories because this matters, not just to the victims, but to our entire community. What would the outcry be if we had this information and stayed silent?

We publish all arrests, from the most minor offenses to the most serious – albeit not always timely. We don’t pick and choose based on last names, speculation, or public pressure. Our arrest reports include only the facts: the charges filed, and arrest date. To withhold one arrest or not call attention to these three arrests, when we’ve published hundreds before would be to abandon the core of fair, consistent reporting.

Yes, the possibility exists that the accused is later found not guilty. And if that happens, we’ll report that as we always do. In fact, we will shout it from the rooftops. We want the crime to have NOT occurred. We want the victim(s) to be safe. We want the accused to walk away cleared, unharmed, and vindicated. But in six years of reporting on sex crime cases, most involving children, only one has gone to trial, and was found far from innocent. The rest have pleaded guilty before a trial ever begins.

We don’t write these stories to shame, enrage, or entertain. We write them because this is happening. And if no one reports it, what then? Laws don’t change. Victims don’t come forward. Silence allows predators to thrive in the dark and continue victimizing. But when we shine a light, something shifts. People pay attention. Communities begin to confront hard truths. And sometimes, slowly, change follows.

We deeply regret the pain these stories cause. But we regret more the frequency with which we must write them.

In the words of Nick Stone, “It’s a dirty job, but somebody has to do it.”

OP ED

Improving Access to Medications Should Be a Congressional Priority

By Alice Heiman

I’ve dealt with a lot of medical challenges throughout my life. It is exhausting, disheartening, and overwhelming at times. It’s also been a lifelong crash course in the pitfalls of our health care system in the United States, and what I’ve learned isn’t pretty. As anyone who has tried to regularly access health care in this country knows, being exhausted, disheartened, and overwhelmed isn’t just a symptom of illness; it’s a direct consequence of trying to navigate our dysfunctional health care system. It’s even harder in rural Nevada, where medical facilities and pharmacies are scarce.

In few places is this clearer than when it comes to prescription drugs. I’ve taken a variety of medications over the years to deal with medical issues. Unfortunately, to receive the prescription drugs I rely on, I need to go to a compounding pharmacy (which are becoming more and more scarce in Nevada), as the corporate pharmacy doesn’t carry what I need. Even worse, my insurance will not cover the costs.

While I appreciate that President Trump is trying to address drug costs, I don’t believe the Most Favored Nation Executive Order will fix the root problems. This plan could kill future development of new drugs, and, making matters worse, it does nothing to address the abuse of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs).

PBMs are the rogue middlemen in the prescription drug supply chain, operating between drug manufactur-

ers, chain pharmacies, and large insurers. While PBMs have flown under the radar in Congress, they have a surprising amount of control in our health care system, and, instead of using this to help people, they only look out for their own interests and leave struggling patients to fend for themselves.

At the top of the list of PBMs’ misdeeds is their regular practice of absorbing savings intended for patients back into their profits. Even though PBMs receive large discounts and rebates on medications, they don’t share those savings with patients. That means that patients are often left paying more than they should at the pharmacy counter, which only exacerbates the access issues many Americans already face.

We can’t just stand by and watch greedy middlemen pad their profits at the expense of patients and drive up prescription drug costs for all Americans. We need more transparency and accountability with PBMs, and I have seen that there are practical, bipartisan solutions in Congress that can lower drug costs and help patients immediately.

I urge our federal legislators to pass PBM reform this year, and the best way to do this is by passing the PBM Reform Act, which was recently introduced by Congressman Buddy Carter. Hopefully, Nevada’s congressional delegation will lead the way on this issue and deliver a big win for patients in Nevada.

Alice Heiman owns her own sales consulting company in Reno.



BUSINESS

# Mills Farm & Industrial

## Serving Fallon for Five Decades

By Christy Lattin

For Grant Mills, what started as a way to earn extra money in high school has turned into a thriving business going on 50 years. Mills Farm and Industrial celebrates 50 years in business this year.

While still in high school, Mills began hauling manure to Naval Air Station Fallon housing when service member’s wives wanted to start little gardens at their homes. He said his father only had two pick-up trucks, so Mills purchased a 1957 F-700 bobtail truck to fulfill those orders. He was paid in cash and still can recall he received \$16 per load of manure. He graduated from Churchill County High School in 1973 and obtained his Nevada sales tax permit and Churchill County business license in 1975.

Following graduation, Mills attended the University of Nevada, Reno. He did so poorly his first semester he was put on academic probation, which he attributes to the thriving party scene in Reno. Soon though, he turned it around and made it to the dean’s list after switching his major to agricultural science. Although he completed three years of college, Mills did not receive his bachelor’s degree because his new business was growing so rapidly, he had to choose between a degree and a livelihood.

More trucks were added to the MFI fleet and he continued hauling manure from Mills Jersey Farm to farms around the valley. It was around this time he purchased the business site at 4545 Sheckler Road from his grandmother’s estate. Mills secured a lucrative deal hauling barite from the Soldier Mine near Austin to the Standard Plant in Fallon. He bragged that he purchased the only brand-new Chevrolet semi-truck from Bill Janess Chevrolet in 1979 bringing his fleet up to five trucks.

When the market for barite collapsed just three years later, Mills needed to find a way to pay for his new truck, so he pivoted and began hauling grain like barley and wheat from farms in the Lahontan Valley and Eureka. He continued working with area farmers as his open-bin trucks followed combine harvesters.

“The 80s were thin,” Mills joked. “In the early 90s, we were recovering, and we learned that we want to own everything we haul.”

Mills began farming his own barley, wheat and alfalfa, and continued working with other famers chopping and harvesting silage for many years. In 2001 he purchased his first crane to help erect a grain mill at MFI. Mills said at that time, crane operator certificates didn’t exist in Nevada. He has, however, held a crane operator’s certificate for 17 years now and is certified through the National Commission for Crane Certified Operators. He noted that he is a three-star crane operator, one of just 4,000 operators in the United States.

Currently, MFI has four cranes ranging from 60 to 100 tons, several tractor-trailer trucks and 12 employees. Surprisingly, Mills’ largest customer is the U.S. Forest Service – he’s helped set many prefabricated concrete bathrooms across the West. He joked that he’s on the third generation of prefab bathrooms, and the newer



Mills Farm & Industrial celebrates 50 years in business this year. Pictured above, from left, are office manager Jennie Norcutt, certified crane operator Peter Lossing, and owner Grant Mills. Photo by Christy Lattin.

multi-section wet bathrooms drove him to secure bigger cranes.

His cranes are also called upon by geothermal companies to help during construction and repairs, to assist construction companies in setting trusses and modular units, and to help set large air conditioning units atop commercial and residential buildings. His most interesting crane job was replacing the elevators at the historic Mizpah and Belvada Hotels in Tonopah.

Mills has been married to Edith Isidoro-Mills for 38 years, and having just turned 70 years old, Mills acknowledges he probably needs to slow down, but “I couldn’t NOT do something,” he said, adding he’s slowly dialing back his hours. Looking to the future, Mills said he would like to sell MFI someday to the right person, as he has no children of his own.

Mills has been involved in local organizations for most of his adult life. He’s served with the Farm Bureau, the Lahontan Valley Pilots Association, Fallon Chamber of Commerce, and he’s the current Church Council Chair for Epworth Methodist Church and the Wolf Center. Both he and Edith also serve with the Carson City Symphony – she’s a flutist and he’s a stage manager (herding musicians, he quipped).

Although MFI specializes in crane service, they also have rentals and used equipment for sale. For more information, call the office at 775-867-3000. Congratulations on marking 50 years in business, Grant!

GARDENING

# Pruning Trees for Safety and Aesthetics

Story and photos by Marco DiGiacinto, M.D. Tree Surgery

We’re going to talk about why we prune our trees. Liability is our number one priority at M.D. Tree Surgery. When it comes to pruning your trees, aesthetic value is important (espalier and topiary is an artistic ornamental form of pruning on smaller trees). Safety, however, is the most important reason.

Prune trees to provide clearance for walkways and traffic. Several cities have an 8-foot clearance ordinance around sidewalks. This prevents pedestrians from being poked in the face and eyes in parking areas and streets, and large trucks from getting damaged when making deliveries or picking up trash. Alleyways are the number one location for poor walkway clearance.

Prune trees to reduce interference with utility lines. When trees grow into and over the power lines they can burn, causing power outages. When a branch falls onto the lines, sending electrical current down through the branches, this can be dangerous, even fatal, when working around power lines. Always call an expert, M.D. Tree Surgery, which is line clearance certified.

Prune trees to reduce the risk to people and property. Removing dead and dying branches, and reducing the weight of heavy horizontal branches prevents risk of damage. Late spring into early summer is when tree growth and branch weight is at its peak: trees are coming out of dormancy, and high water content and gusting winds may result in significant breakage causing damage to people, property and trees. The large cottonwood trees that fill our Lahontan Valley have unique characteristics. We at M.D. Tree Surgery know what those features are, how



Cottonwood tree in Schurz, before pruning.

to prune them, or determine whether removal is necessary when trees exhibit a compromised root system or heart rot resulting from wood-decaying fungi. In addition to the cottonwood, there are many large elm trees and several other non-indigenous trees in Fallon.

Cotton from poplar and cottonwood trees is at peak production primarily during June and July. The cotton or cotton seed pods are extremely flammable and burn very rapidly. Fires are caused when people burn this debris. Rake the cotton and leaves and wet the area around the pile before burning. If you don’t, you could cause damage to the tree, destroy your property or your neighbor’s. So be responsible. Minimize the risk. Meet safety precautions or please DO NOT BURN!



Cottonwood tree, after pruning.

As always, topping trees is not an option. This can kill trees or significantly reduce their lifespan and may lower property value. When buying property, have an ISA-certified arborist inspect any trees on the property. Realtors should do this but normally do not unless it’s required. The cost of removing large, dead cottonwood trees or poplar tree branches hanging over your new home can run into thousands of dollars. M.D. Tree Surgery is an ISA-Certified arborist and routinely do inspections of trees for homeowners.

Our work is based on training, science and decades of experience. We know these trees. If you have any questions, contact Marco DiGiacinto at M.D. Tree Surgery.

Email: Marco@mdtreesurgery.com or call 775-867-2944 or 775-217-9009.



EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy.

OASIS ALUMNA: BREANNA CATLIN



Oasis Academy Class of 2019 alumna Breanna Catlin takes great pride in having played a role in the school’s growth and remains appreciative of the support and strong foundation she gained there.

“I attended Oasis starting from 8th grade. My time at Oasis Academy has shaped me in many ways,” Catlin said. “I loved being able to be a part of growing the school. I still remember helping to prepare for the high school to be in the old Walmart with the kindergarten through eighth grade classes.”

She credits Oasis educators for their lasting impact. “I will forever be grateful for the amazing educators who led me along the way. Some of the people who stand out from my time at Oasis Academy are Mr. Andy Lenon, Mrs. Julie Stockard, and Coach Brandon Byrd.”

“Mr. Lenon always encouraged everyone to do their best and was always an open ear when I needed to talk about my problems. Mrs. Stockard pushed my limits and helped me become a stronger writer,” she said.

In 2019, Catlin graduated with her high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree from Western Nevada College. “I appreciated being able to take college classes alongside getting my high school diploma,” she said.

During high school, Catlin participated in several co-curricular activities. She played softball and managed the girls’ lacrosse and volleyball teams, lettering in all three. “I was also lucky to be one of the first on the Oasis Academy softball team,” Catlin said. “Coach Byrd was hard on all of us on the softball team. He pushed for not only academic excellence but also athletic excellence.”

“I loved all my teachers, coaches, and other staff and will never be able to repay them for helping me and the class of 2019,” she expressed.

After graduation, Catlin continued her education in Texas, earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from East Texas Baptist University in 2022. She now works in Carson City as a Medical Oncology Registered Nurse.

“I strive to continue to expand my education, which is why I have included getting my master’s degree in my five-year plan,” she said. “Other goals I have are to move to Carson, and possibly own a house in the next few years.”

Catlin also offers encouragement to current students. “To all students, time really does fly. One minute you’re learning algebra and the next you’re walking into your first college class,” she explained. “School is important, but I wish someone had helped me to remember that you are not defined by your test scores or your grades.

“Everyone is different, and each of you has a different path. My advice to you, as odd as it seems, is to quote Albert Einstein: ‘Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.’”



**UNIFORM STORE SUMMER HOURS**

The Oasis Academy Uniform Store will open for back-to-school shopping on Tuesday, Aug. 5 from 9–11 a.m., and will continue to be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 9–11 a.m. through the start of school. The store is located in the Gordman’s building next to Big 5.

All kindergarten through eighth-grade students must wear school-approved uniforms purchased from the Oasis Academy Uniform Store. Families are encouraged to bring students with them to try on items, as returns are not accepted.

Logowear may be purchased online at <https://shop.game-one.com/nevada/fallon/oasis-academy-high-school> at any time. Please note: sweatpants, joggers, tank tops, and shorts ordered online are not uniform-approved for K–8 students.

The Uniform Store also accepts clean, gently used uniform tops and bottoms as donations to the Oasis Offerings Food Pantry. Donors will receive a discount on a future purchase.

CCSD New School Year Update

Waitlists on Full Bus Routes, New Dismissal Time Set for Lahontan Elementary

Staff Report

Due to high demand for bus service in the 2025–2026 school year, Churchill County School District has placed waitlists on routes that have reached capacity. The CCSD Transportation Department worked to assign students to routes based on address, schedule, and alternate stops, but most routes are now full.

Families placed on a waitlist will be notified directly. Until they receive confirmation of an assigned seat, parents should arrange alternate transportation and should not send students to bus stops. Daily student counts are ongoing, and staff will reassign students as soon as space becomes available.

Once school begins, transportation staff will monitor bus rider volumes and work to accommodate all requests promptly.

The district encourages families to coordinate carpools to ease demand. Note that high school students living within city limits are ineligible for district transportation as per policy. These measures align with Regulation 5144, supporting safe and effective transportation for students.

Questions about registration or waitlist status should be directed to the Transportation Department at [stopfinder@churchillcsd.com](mailto:stopfinder@churchillcsd.com).

In addition to these updates, CCSD is adjusting dismissal times for young students. For the 2025–2026 school year, Kindergarten and first-grade students at Lahontan Elementary School will dismiss at the same time as students at E.C. Best and Numa Elementary Schools. The aim is to streamline operations and improve traffic flow around campuses.

Recognizing the overlap of dismissal times

may inconvenience families with children at multiple schools, each elementary site will supervise students in a designated area after dismissal. This accommodates parents who need extra minutes to travel between campuses. Staff will oversee students through the designated dismissal window.

CCSD officials will monitor conditions at each campus during the first months of school and will communicate any further adjustments well in advance.

Start and end times for all schools in the district are available on the district’s website. Churchill County School District remains committed to providing a safe, responsive environment for students and looks forward to welcoming families back for the new school year.

Veritas Preparatory School – Classical and Christian

Thinking Takes Shape:

Veritas Students Enter the Logic Stage of the Trivium

By Assistant Headmaster David Ernst with photos courtesy of Veritas.

As Veritas Preparatory School students move beyond the early years of memorization and fact mastery, they enter a new and exciting chapter in their classical education journey: the Logic Stage — the second phase of the Trivium (a three-part model that includes Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric).

Building on the foundation laid during the Grammar Stage, the Logic Stage typically begins in the middle school years. It marks a shift from learning what to think toward learning how to think. Students at this stage are naturally inclined to question, analyze, and debate — and classical education meets them right where they are.

In the Logic Stage, students begin formal instruction in reasoning, argumentation, and critical thinking. They learn the principles of logic, how to identify fallacies, and how to construct sound argu-



Photo: 5th and 6th grade Veritas students.

ments. Across all subjects, they are encouraged to compare, contrast, question sources, and trace cause and effect.

In history, lessons become more than dates and names — they become debates about motivations, consequences, and worldviews. In science, students move from memorizing facts to forming hypotheses and evaluating evidence. In literature, discussions explore themes, character motives, and moral dilemmas. In math, students begin to understand and justify why formulas work.

Middle schoolers are often known for being argumentative — at Veritas, they are taught to channel that trait and argue with clarity, charity, and purpose.

Indeed, in a world filled with noise, Veritas students are learning to think deeply, question wisely, and speak with precision — all thanks to the thoughtful design of the Trivium.



SPORTS

August–September  
Events and Happenings

Carson City

- Aug. 2 - Supervisor White meets with residents, Bella Vita Bistro
- Aug. 3 - Artist’s Open Studio, Brewery Arts Center
- Aug. 16 - High Sierra Chili Championship

Churchill County

- Aug. 2 – Junior Golf Fundraiser, Golf Course
- Aug. 5 – National Night Out, Oats Park
- Aug. 9 – Fallon Community Day, Rafter 3C Arena
- Aug. 16 - Cosmos in the Desert, Lahontan Reservoir, Fallon
- Aug. 16-17 - Community Reunion & Concert in the Park, Oats Park

Douglas County

- Sept. 5-6 – Douglas County Rodeo, Gardnerville
- Sept. 27-28 – Genoa Candy Dance Arts & Crafts Faire, Genoa

Elko County

- Aug. 2 -Food Truck Around and Find Out Fun Festival, The Boardwalk at Spring Creek Marina
- Aug. 8-9 – Elko Pop Con, Elko Convention Center
- Aug. 9 – Jarbidge Days, Jarbidge
- Aug. 9 – Lamoille Hille Climb, Lamoille Canyon

Esmeralda County

- Aug. 1-3 – Goldfield Days Celebration & Land Auction, Goldfield

Eureka County

- Aug. 7-10 – Eureka County Fair, Eureka Fairgrounds

Humboldt County

- Aug. 2 – Youth Trap Shoot Tournament, Orovada Trap Club

Lander County

- Aug. 24 – Battle Mountain Burners Show & Shine Car Show, Elquist Park
- Labor Day Weekend – Kingston’s Firemen’s Picnic, Kingston
- Sept. 7-13 – World Human Powered Speed Challenge, tabletop flats of SR305

Lincoln County

- Aug. 29-Sept. 1 – Pioche Labor Day Celebration, Pioche

Lyon County

- Aug. 14-17 – Lyon County Fair, Rodeo & Silver State Livestock Expo, Lyon County Fairgrounds, Yerington
- Aug. 17 - 3-D Fun Fly RC Planes, 1925 S. Hwy95A, Fernley
- Aug. 23 - Summer Sendoff Concert, Dini Cultural Center, Yerington
- Aug. 23 - Fernstock, Fernley

Nye County

- Aug. 23 – Crew MC Bike & Car Show, Joe Friel Sports Complex, Tonopah
- Sept. 6 – Summer Soiree, Tonopah Historic Mining Park
- Sept. 25-28 – Pahrump Fall Festival & Rodeo, Petrack Park

Pershing County

- July 31-Aug. 3 – Lovelock Frontier Days, Court House Park
- Aug. 2 - Blazin’ Beats & Water Street LVFD Fundraiser, Lovelock Fire Department
- Aug. 9 - Pershing Healthcare Foundation Scholarship Dinner & Auction, Pershing County Community Center
- Sept. 13 - Safe Haven Wildlife Sanctuary Annual Fundraiser, Imlay

Storey County

- Aug. 16-17 – Art Walk on the Comstock Craft Fair, Virginia City
- Aug. 29-Sept. 1 – Heritage Civil War Days & Battle Trains, Virginia City
- Sept. 5-7 – International Camel & Ostrich Races, Virginia City

White Pine

- Aug. 2 – Symphony Under the Stars with Lacy J. Dalton, White Pine County Fairgrounds
- Aug. 9 – Tour de Schell Bike Race, Ely
- Sept. 6 – Race the Rails Bikes vs. Trains, Ely



Fallon Lady Hornets 16U  
Battleborn Bash Tourney Champs



Fallon Lady Hornets Softball team 16U. L-R: Zoey Sheldon-Davis, Angie Fillmore, Shayana McNamer, Ariyah Santos, Brooke Manskie, Claire Barbee, Allison Favier, Audrey Fruzza, Kanani Mauga, Sophia Alexander, Hayden Dooley, Kaitlyn Hornby, Kalaya Downs, Rylee Hammond (holding the banner). Not pictured: Coaches Troy Fillmore, Shannon Davis, Justin Judd and Nick Favier. Photo by Emily Judd.

By Nancy Chapman

The Fallon Lady Hornets 16U went undefeated in Elko, Nevada, this weekend to close out their summer softball season with a championship title.

The team traveled to Elko to compete in the Battleborn Bash Tournament, opening play on Friday, July 25, against the Drillers from Spring Creek. The Hornets took their first game in dramatic fashion with an 8-7 walk-off victory.

Later that day, Fallon scored 11 runs in the first inning to defeat the Timberwolves 2025 16U team from Twin Falls, Idaho, with a dominant 17-0 win.

On Saturday, the Lady Hornets swept both of their remaining games, winning 10-1 and 11-0 to clinch the tournament championship.

The team wrapped up their season on a high note and returned home as the 2025 Battleborn Bash Tournament champions. Congratulations, Lady Hornets!

PCCHA Fiesta Brings  
Major Cutting Horse Show  
to Fallon



Amanda Dingley, Phoenix, AZ Riding Kat Klaw, scoring 74 points, in the \$35,000 Non-pro division. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

By Nancy Chapman

*The Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association brought its first-ever show to Fallon this year with the PCCHA Fiesta, held at the Rafter 3C Arena beginning July 23. More than 280 horses were entered in the four-day event.*



Katrena Wenger, Fallon, warming up a horse for Tom Long, Gardnerville, NV. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

Each day featured 10 classes, typically with 10 or more horses per class. Classes were divided based on the horse’s ability and lifetime earnings. In the cutting arena, professional riders competed in the first pen. These “open” riders earn their living training and showing cutting horses, whether their own or others’.

Amateur, or “non-pro,” riders competed in the second pen. These participants ride a horse owned by themselves, or a family member, and are judged on their performance in the cutting pen.

Cattle for the event were supplied by Martin Ronayne and Cliff Detar, with hay provided by Tuni Hay.

The Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association was established in 1996 and has played a major role in developing and promoting cutting horse competition across the West Coast.

This is the first year the Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association has hosted an event in Fallon, with next year’s PCCHA competition already on the books.



COLUMNS

What’s Cooking in Kelli’s Kitchen:  
Seafood Pan Roast

By Erik Jimenez

This is a very important recipe for me as a cook. Ever since I can remember, I have eaten a version of this dish at least 30 times. Now after tinkering with it and serving it for numerous catering events and dinner parties, it is finally ready.

In a small locals’ casino, one that’s off the beaten path in Las Vegas, exists a restaurant that has stood the test of time. The Palace Station Oyster Bar has only 18 seats, is open 24 hours a day, and does not take reservations—instead you have to wait in line. More often than not, this line is at least two hours long; however, the food is so good that people do indeed wait for it.

The signature dish for this renowned oyster bar is the Seafood Pan Roast. Cooked in a steam kettle, this boiling hot, decadent seafood stew combines the Holy Trinity of Creole and Cajun cuisine, with a creamy tomato-based sauce that’s finished with brandy.

Today, I bring you my version of the classic Pan Roast that I have eaten so many times before, and it is the dish that I truly cherish in life. This is not an easy recipe—yes, it has a lot of ingredients. But I’ve scaled the recipe up so you can cook this dish for a small dinner party to impress all of your guests.

My advice is to cook and blend the soup base together ahead of time and keep it in the fridge until you are ready to finish the seafood and serve. This dish is traditionally served on top of perfectly cooked white rice.

I hope you enjoy this recipe as much as I do.

Seafood Pan Roast Ingredients

Serves: 7-8

- 2 cups

Yellow onion, small dice
- 2 cups

Celery, small dice
- 2 cloves

Garlic, sliced
- 6

Basil leaves
- 24 fl. oz.

Chicken stock (homemade or low sodium if store bought)
- 24 fl. oz.

Canned tomato sauce
- 10 fl. oz.

Heavy cream
- 3 tbsp.

Jasmine rice, for thickening
- 8 fl. oz.

Clam juice
- 4 fl. oz.

Vermouth, extra dry
- 2 tbsp.

Old Bay seasoning
- 1 tbsp.

Creole/Cajun seasoning
- 1 tsp.

Cayenne pepper
- 2 tsp.

Paprika
- 1 tbsp.

Worcestershire sauce
- 1 1/2 lbs.

Shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 lb.

Dungeness crab meat, cooked
- Holy Trinity (1 cup onion, 1 cup celery, and 1 cup green bell pepper, all small dice)



- 4 tbsp.

Brandy
- 2 tsp.

Black pepper
- 12 tbsp.

Unsalted butter
- 4 tbsp.

Garlic, minced
- Parsley, to taste
- Kosher salt, to taste
- 7 cups

cooked jasmine rice, warmed for serving

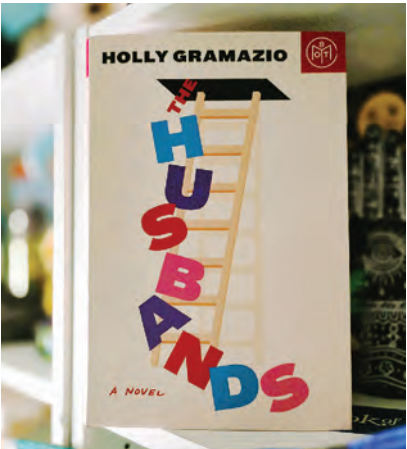
DIRECTIONS:

1. Melt 4 tbsp. of butter in a pot on medium-low heat and add 2 cups celery, 2 cups onion, 2 cloves of sliced garlic, and a pinch of salt. Sweat until translucent.
2. Add the tomato sauce, chicken stock, and jasmine rice. Stir together, turn up the heat, and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes or until the rice has softened.
3. Transfer the soup base to a blender, add heavy cream and basil leaves, then blend until smooth and set aside.
4. Add 4 tbsp. of butter to a sauté pan on medium-low heat. Once melted, add 4 tbsp. of minced garlic and cook until aromatic.
5. Add the shrimp to the garlic butter. Gently sauté until cooked through, then add the crab meat, stir, and season with salt and black pepper to taste.
6. Clean out the same pot. Return it to the stove, melt the final 4 tbsp. of butter, then add the Holy Trinity, a pinch of salt, and sweat on low until translucent (about 5 minutes).
7. Once softened, add the spices (Old Bay, cayenne, paprika, Creole/Cajun seasoning) and sweat for another minute. Add vermouth, clam juice, Worcestershire sauce, brandy, and the blended soup base.
8. Bring the pan roast liquid to a simmer, then add the cooked seafood. Season with salt to taste.
9. Garnish with finely chopped parsley and serve over cooked jasmine rice.

Allison’s Book Report:  
“The Husbands”  
by Holly Gramazio

By Allison Diegel

Another busy week here in the Diegel house as we get ready to take a little vacation. We are headed to Tahoe for a few days this week to just cool off and relax. I don’t think it will take too much to adjust to



“Tahoe Time” – especially with a couple of good books in my arsenal! I have some fun magical realism to share with you this week, perfect to take on a vacation or just to dig into at home.

Holly Gramazio’s “The Husbands” is a witty and thought-provoking novel of magical

realism that explores the complexities of identity, choice, and the elusive nature of happiness within relationships. The story centers on Lauren, a single woman in her early thirties living in London, whose life takes an extraordinary turn when she arrives home late one night to find a man named Michael in her apartment who claims to be her husband. The bewildering situation is compounded by the fact that her flat’s decor is subtly improved, and her phone contains photos of them together, suggesting a shared history she cannot recall.

Before Lauren can fully process this inexplicable reality, Michael goes to the attic to change a lightbulb and vanishes, only for a new, entirely different man to descend in his place. With each “husband” emerging from the attic, Lauren’s life subtly shifts around her – her job, her friendships, and even her personality are altered to fit the new dynamic. She quickly realizes her attic possesses a bizarre, magical property, offering an endless supply of potential partners and, by extension, countless versions of her own life.

Initially, Lauren is intrigued and even excited by the prospect of finding the “perfect” husband and the ideal life. She begins to cycle through men, each representing a different path her life could have taken. From the ambitious to the artistic, the kind to the chaotic, these husbands embody various possibilities and challenges. However, the constant flux and the perpetual option for something “better” soon lead to a unique existential crisis.

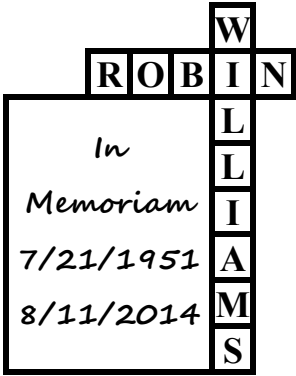
The novel delves into profound questions: How does one commit to a single path when infinite alternatives are readily available? When does the search for perfection become an impediment to truly living and finding contentment in the present? As Lauren navigates this surreal predicament, she grapples with the impact of relationships on her own sense of self and the choices that define a life. “The Husbands” is a clever and engaging exploration of modern anxieties surrounding decision-making, the pursuit of an idealized existence, and the ultimate realization that happiness might not lie in endless possibilities but in embracing the imperfect realities we choose.

Wherever you’re reading this week, I hope you find a great book to get lost in and don’t forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader for more recommendations and book-ish fun!

Allison Diegel is the Executive Chaos Coordinator at the Diegel Home for Wayward Girls. She has been reading since before she could talk, and now she likes doing lots of both.

Crossword

By Peanut

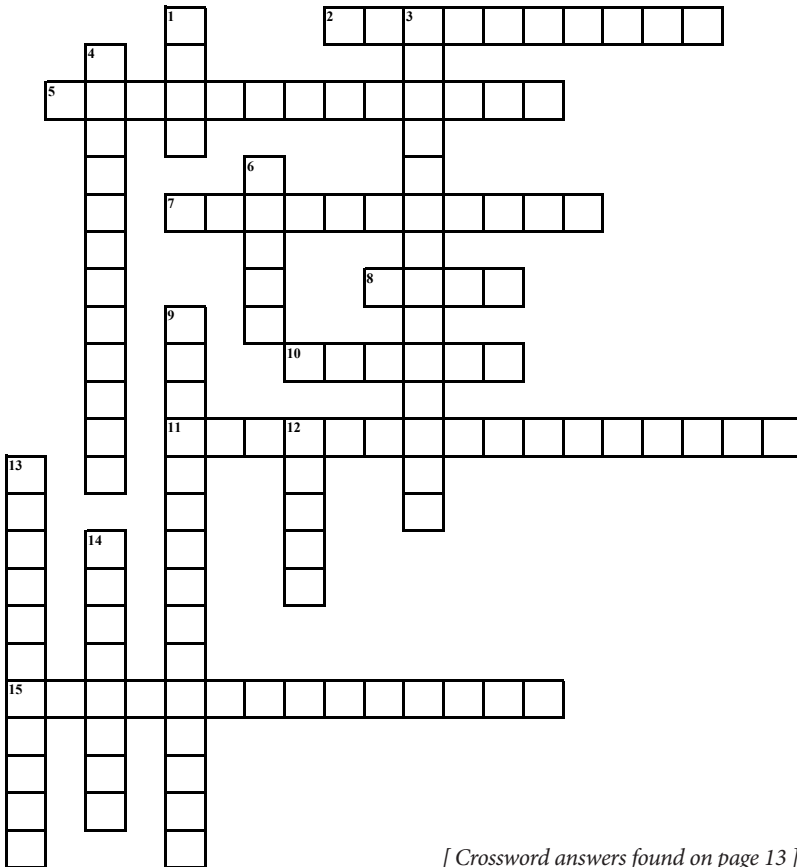


Across

2. Patch Adams
5. The Birdcage
7. Jumanji
8. Mork & Mindy
10. Popeye
11. The Butler
15. Good Morning, Vietnam

Down

1. Good Will Hunting
3. Night at the Museum
4. Mrs. Doubtfire
6. Fisher King
9. Moscow on the Hudson
12. Alladin
13. Dead Poets Society
14. Hook



[ Crossword answers found on page 13 ]



LEGAL NOTICES

CASE NO: 25-10DC-0737

**DISTRICT COURT  
CHURCHILL COUNTY,  
NEVADA**

**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR  
CHANGE OF NAME**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was filed in the above-entitled Court requesting that the Court legally change applicant's name from:  
xxx      xxx      EVERS  
(first)      (middle)      (last)

MARIEL KATHERINE EVERS  
(first)      (middle)      (last)

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

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

DATED this 25 day of July, 2025.

Submitted By:  
/s/ Mariel Katherine Evers

Published in  
*The Fallon Post*  
August 1, 2025  
Ad #6352

**DISTRICT COURT  
CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA**

In the matter of the application of:  
Melanie Lauray Mora  
For Change of Name.  
CASE NO.: 25-100C-0619  
DEPT: 1

**NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

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

**MELANIE LAURAY MORA  
to  
VIOLET MORA BUSKADA**

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

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

DATED this 20 day of June, 2025.

Submitted by: Melanie Mora

Published in  
*The Fallon Post*  
August 1, 2025  
Ad #6351

In the Matter of  
The Carol A. Fraser Trust  
Dated: April 22, 2022  
CAROL ANN FRASER. Deceased

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT EUGENE FRASER IV and LISA DAVIS are the duly appointed and qualified Co-Trustees of the Carol Ann Fraser Trust dated April 22, 2022. The Grantor of that estate. CAROL ANN FRASER died on June 6, 2025. Any creditor who has a claim against the Trusted Estate must file his or her claim with the undersigned for the Co-Trustees at the address given below within ninety (90) days after the first publication of this notice. Dated the 23rd day of July 2025.

Eugene Fraser IV and  
Lisa Davis Co-Trusteed

341 Beth Way  
Fallon, NV 89406

Published in  
*The Fallon Post*  
August 1, 8 and 15, 2025  
Ad #6350

**VEHICLE LIEN**

**Credit Concepts Inc.**  
220 W. 7th Avenue, Eugene, OR

**Casandra Gail Davis**  
5465 Caleb Drive, Fallon, NV

**Shop Lien:**  
Fixxed Auto 775-217-5832  
Vehicle: 2004 Chrys 300M  
2c3he66g44h698209

Vehicle lien for unpaid repairs storage and tow.

Published in  
*The Fallon Post*  
July 11, 25, and August 1, 2025  
Ad #6344

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

*Crossword found on page 12*

ADRIANCRONAUER  
ALANPARRISH  
ARMANDGOLDMAN  
DWIGHTEISENHOWER  
GENIE  
JOHNKEATING  
MORK  
MRSDOUBTFIRE

PARRY  
PATCHADAMS  
PETERPAN  
POPEYE  
SEAN  
TEDDYROOSEVELT  
VLADIMIRIVANOFF





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Grand Slam  
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Harmon Junction  
His Inspirations  
Homestead  
JD Slingers  
Jerry's Restaurant  
Just In Time  
Jiffy Rooter  
Kent's Supply Center  
Mackedon Law  
Mane Attraction  
Momma's Meats  
My Gypsy Soul  
Nugget Maine Office

Parsons Drilling  
Pennington Life Center  
Qwik Stop  
Robertson Koenig Optometry  
Skips Market  
Stone Cabin  
Stuf 'N Such  
Tedford Tire Co.  
Telegraph  
The Village Nursery  
Washington Federal Bank  
Workman Farms  
U.S. Post Office, N. Maine St.



COLUMNS

Postcards: Melvin Dummar

By Michon Mackedon

I have a photo of my first-grade classmates taken at West End School, Fallon, Nevada, circa 1951. Standing tall, wearing overalls and a shy smile is Melvin Dummar, the only one of us in the photo to make the front page of “The New York Times,” on several occasions, let alone become the subject of a Hollywood movie.

Melvin left Fallon some years after the class photo was taken, and he finished school in Utah. For a while, he lived in Gabbs, Nevada. His story goes like this. One night, in 1967, he was driving through the Nevada desert, near Lida Junction, when he spotted a man dressed in rags lying beside the road. He thought the man might be injured so he picked him up, drove him to Las Vegas, and dropped him off where the man wanted to be dropped—the Sands Hotel. During the ride, his passenger told Melvin that he was the billionaire, Howard Hughes. Hughes died nine years later, and, according to Melvin, he (Melvin) received an envelope at the gas station he owned in Utah and was told to deliver the envelope to the headquarters of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormon Church) in Salt Lake City.

Inside the envelope, opened by church officials, was the famous hand-written Mormon Will, in which Hughes bequeathed one-sixteenth of his fortune to “Melvin DuMar of Gabbs, Nevada.” The church was also to receive one-sixteenth of the estate, valued at the time at about two billion dollars.

The discovery of the will created a sensation, to say the least. Lawyers for Hughes’ relatives pointed to misspellings and other discrepancies within the will, including their claim that the handwriting was not Hughes’. Several of Hughes’ associates testified that he never left the Sands during the time frame described by Dummar. With fortunes at stake, the probate hearings, held in 1978, drew the attention of the nation and resulted in the will being declared a forgery by a Nevada jury. Dummar received no portion of the Hughes estate, but neither were criminal charges filed against him,

as the evidence of forgery was fairly thin. Dummar never wavered from his account of his meeting with Hughes.

The story captured the imagination of filmmaker Jonathan Demme, who directed the film, “Melvin and Howard,” released in 1980. “The New York Times” called the movie a tale of “a struggling Everyman, well intentioned, drowning in debt and dogged by bad choices, to whom something truly extraordinary might have happened.” The famed movie critic, Roger Ebert, said of the movie, “It’s a world of mobile homes, Pop Tarts, dust, kids and dreams of glory .... Dummar is the kind of guy who thinks they oughta make a movie out of his life. This time, he was right.” Demme even gave Dummar a cameo role as a man selling tickets at a bus depot.

In 2005, a retired FBI agent, Gary Magnesen, claimed to have found new evidence supporting Dummar’s story including the fact that Hughes’ closest employees remembered him entering the Sands on the morning of the encounter described by Dummar. They further remembered that he named Dummar as having picked him up in the desert. Magnesen thought that Dummar had been “steamrolled” during the legal proceedings.

To the contrary, writing in 2008, Las Vegas journalist and Hughes biographer Geoff Schumacher said in a phone interview with the “Times” that there had been no logical reason for Mr. Hughes to be in the desert without his usual coterie of aides, and that the handwriting on the will was not even close to Mr. Hughes’.

Dummar, for the most part, remained good natured about his fame and his infamy. He said of the film, “I didn’t like the way they made me appear naïve and frivolous, but mostly, it is a fun movie.” He died in 2018, leaving behind an unsolved mystery and many divided opinions.

Please send your stories and ideas for stories to [mackedon@phonewave.net](mailto: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.

### WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken July 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Lahontan Reservoir            | 139,000 af |
| Carson River Below Lahontan   | 866 cfs    |
| Truckee Canal at Wadsworth    | 118 cfs    |
| Truckee Canal at Hazen        | 71.4 cfs   |
| Carson River at Ft. Churchill | 1.14 cfs   |

|                   |                   |                  |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| July 29, 2024     | July 29, 2023     | July 29, 2022    |
| 230,755 acre feet | 292,511 acre feet | 88,633 acre feet |

Cfs - Cubic Feet per Second | Af - Acre Feet | [TCID.org](http://TCID.org) & [Water.Data.USGS.gov](http://Water.Data.USGS.gov)

### MEETINGS

August 1–8, 2025

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Churchill County School District</b><br>4th Wednesday of the Month<br>at 5:30 p.m.<br>CCSD Admin Bldg.<br>690 S. Maine St.<br>Next meeting, Aug. 27 | <b>County Meetings</b><br>155 N. Taylor St.,<br>Commission Chambers<br>County Commission meets<br>1st Thursday and<br>3rd Wednesday of the Month<br>Next meeting, Aug. 7 at 8:15 a.m. |
| <b>Fallon City Council</b><br>1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month<br>at 9 a.m.<br>City Hall, 55 W. Williams Ave.<br>Next meeting Aug. 5                  | <b>CC Communications</b><br>Aug. 7 at 11 a.m.   |
| <b>TCID</b><br>Next Meetings:<br>Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7 at 9 a.m.<br>2666 Harrigan Road   | <b>Parks &amp; Recreation Commission</b><br>Aug. 5 at 6 p.m.  |
|  | <b>Highway Commission</b><br>Aug. 7 at 10:30 a.m.   |

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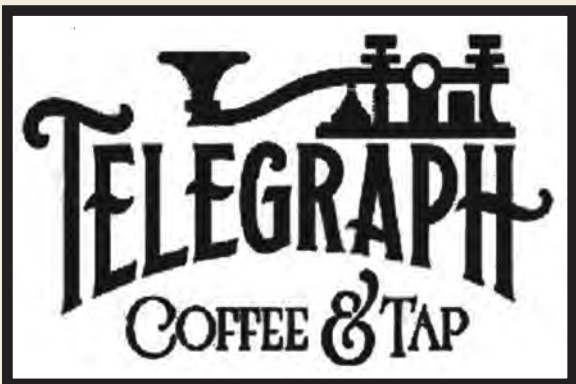
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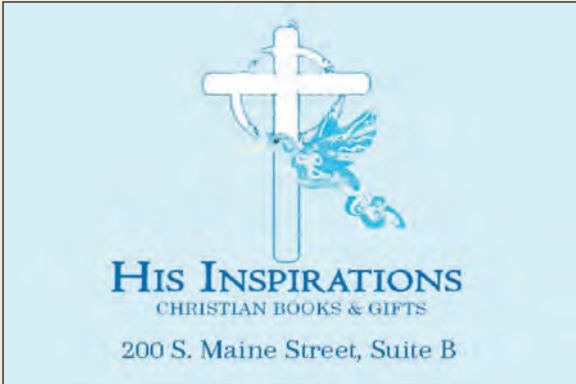
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11TH ANNUAL

Community Wide Reunion

All Years, All Classes, Students, Teachers, Family & Friends

Don't miss the opportunity to connect with friends from the past!

Friday, August 15

7:00 p.m. FREE concert at the Fallon Theatre

Saturday, August 16

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

FREE Breakfast at the Oats Park Arts Center - Lariat Patio

FREE Show-n-Shine Car Show and Antique Tractors display

Tour the Oats Park School & Art Center

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Tours

Old High School

Cottage Schools

Douglass House

Fallon Police Department

The Old Post Office

Tour City Hall w/Mayor Tedford

Fallon/Churchill Fire Department

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tour Churchill County Museum

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

FREE Swim at the City Pool & the New Splash Pad area

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Historic Fallon Theatre Tours 10am-2pm

Frey Ranch Distillery Tours

4:00 p.m.

Gather at Oats Park

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS - Some classes will have tents set up

We will be honoring the Class of 1965.

Purchase food, ice cream, beer and wine, or pack a picnic.

Enjoy the photo booth, face painting, balloon artist,

reuniting with friends, and other fun-filled activities!

7:30 p.m. FREE concert

Della Mae | EXTRA parking at E.C. Best



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CASH BINGO

FRIDAYS

| SUN                         | WED                          | THUR                       | FRI  | SAT                     |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| STARS & STRIPES<br>12pm-4pm | ICE CREAM SOCIAL<br>6pm-10pm | JACKPOT BASH<br>6pm-9:30pm | CASH BINGO<br>12pm-4pm<br>CATCH 21<br>7pm-11pm | CASH LADDER<br>7pm-11pm |

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| WED                        | THUR                   | FRI                            | SAT                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| BIG WHEEL SPIN<br>11am-3pm | GRUB STAKE<br>7pm-10pm | LADIES APPRECIATION<br>All Day | CASH BINGO<br>12pm-4pm |

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