

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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Council rejects Mayor’s Pond design contract

By Rachel Dahl

The Fernley City Council voted Sept. 16 to reject a \$169,330 design contract for the proposed Mayor’s Pond Park, sending the project back for further discussion while leaving open the larger question of how the city should use the property.

The contract with Lumos & Associates had originally been placed on the consent agenda but was pulled for discussion by Councilman Albert Torres. The proposal called for designing the entire park, including a fishing pond, sports fields, playgrounds, walking paths, tennis and pickleball courts, horseshoe pits, an archery range, pavilion, restrooms and parking.

The city had previously set aside \$100,000 for design work, which was carried forward into the current budget. It also received a \$100,000 Nevada Department of Wildlife grant that could be used for design and construction of the pond itself. Staff said a full design would improve the city’s chances of obtaining future construction grants.

Council members, however, questioned whether the city should spend nearly \$170,000 designing a park it does not yet have money to build.

Torres said engineers had indicated the full project could ultimately cost \$4

million to \$5 million and noted the city does not currently have firm donations or construction funding committed. He also questioned whether the proposed pond’s effect on the groundwater table had been sufficiently established.

“We don’t actually have facts on that,” Torres said, referring to the potential groundwater benefit. He said the city should concentrate first on improvements to existing parks and consider what could be designed with the \$100,000 already budgeted.

Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski also raised concerns about existing park conditions and questioned whether money should first be directed toward facilities already in use.

Residents speaking during public comment had made similar arguments, pointing specifically to conditions at Green Valley Dog Park and questioning whether the city should add another major park before maintaining existing ones.

The discussion also suggested, however, that the pond has always had a second purpose beyond recreation.

Councilman Ryan Hanan said the two parcels involved were originally intended in part for rapid infiltration – allowing water to soak into the ground and help replenish groundwater supplies.

Hanan said groundwater recharge should remain the primary purpose of the property, with recreation secondary.

“I just want to for the record state that rapid infiltration and mitigation of the groundwater and well-water concerns is a top priority,” Hanan said.

He pointed to problems experienced with wells during the Truckee Canal shutdown and lining work and referenced recent unfavorable court rulings in Fernley’s long-running litigation involving the canal.

“It’s not about a fishing park,” Hanan said. “This is an issue that if we were to have five or six drought years, this is something that would take us five or six years to implement and it would be too late.”

Chief Development Officer Michele Rambo said the city has been discussing the pond concept with the Bureau of Reclamation and Truckee-Carson Irrigation District for about two years, including the possibility of using the pond for groundwater infiltration.

Chief Operating Officer Barry Williams said formal approval from agencies would come during the design process. Reviews could involve the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Water Pollution Control, the State Engineer, Bureau of

Reclamation and TCID.

Councilman Joe Mendoza questioned whether the city should obtain written approval before paying for design work. Williams said the agencies typically would not issue approval until they had an actual design to review.

Mendoza also asked that any future design of sports fields preserve the ability to add the pond later if council ultimately decides to move forward.

Near the end of the discussion, Hanan asked that whatever proposal returns to council maintain rapid infiltration as the primary use of the two parcels and recreation as a secondary use.

Torres then moved to deny the Lumos contract and bring the \$100,000 previously budgeted for the project back for further discussion. Zoberski seconded the motion, and the council approved it 3-1, with Hanan opposed.

The vote stops the current park design contract, but it does not resolve the future of the property – or the city’s broader groundwater recharge strategy.

The Fernley Reporter will take a closer look next week at the city’s long-running concerns over Truckee Canal seepage, recent court rulings and the role rapid infiltration could play in protecting Fernley’s aquifer.

State ratings show mixed results for Fernley, Silver Stage schools

By Lori Kaiser and Leanna Lehman

New state accountability results show mixed performance among six Fernley and Silver Stage schools, with both high schools gaining a star while other schools remained steady or lost ground.

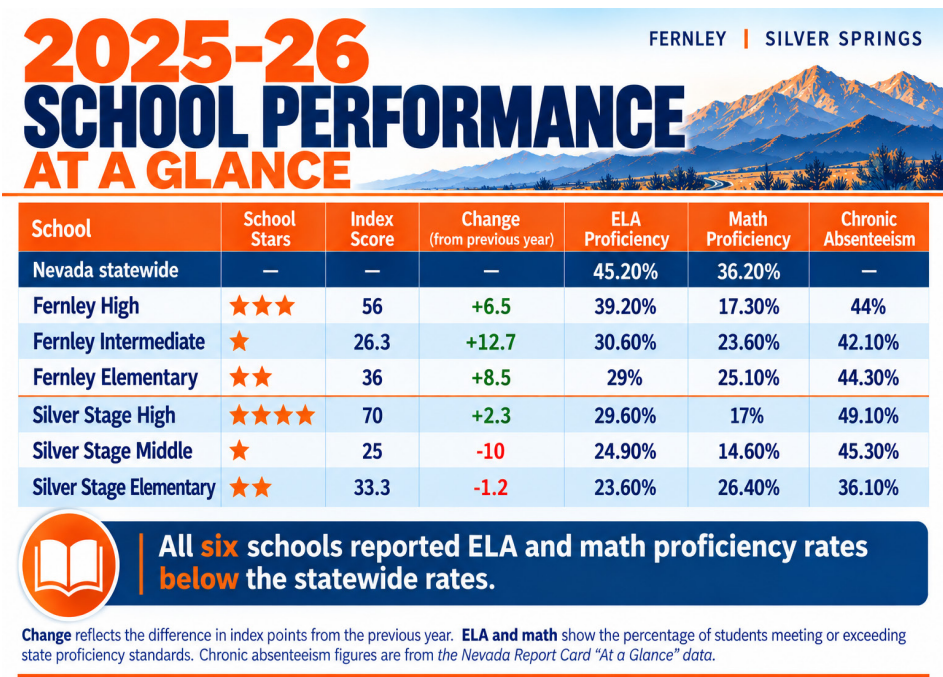
The Nevada Department of Education recently released its 2025-26 school accountability results, including star ratings for individual schools and Nevada’s first performance ratings for school districts.

Among the six Fernley and Silver Stage schools reviewed by The Fernley Reporter, Fernley High School improved from two stars to three, while Silver Stage High School moved from three stars to four. Silver Stage Middle School dropped from two stars to one. Fernley Intermediate School remained at one star despite making the largest index-score gain among the six schools.

Fernley Elementary and Silver Stage Elementary remained at two stars.

What Do the Stars Mean? – A school’s star rating is not the percentage of students who passed state tests. Nevada combines several measures into an index score from 1 to 100, which determines a school’s rating of one to five stars. Elementary and middle school students take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) assessments, while high school juniors take the ACT, making direct comparisons between grade levels difficult.

Academic proficiency and student growth are important parts of elementary and middle school ratings. High school ratings also include graduation and college and career readiness. Despite those differences, all six Fernley



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Infographic courtesy of Lyon County Schhol District.

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Captain’s Log – Squirrel

I have this one friend...
Actually, funny story. That reminds me of a very dear friend of mine who used to joke that she got so old and cranky that she only had two friends left – Leanna and me. And then she died, so Leanna and I will joke from time to time that we only have one friend left.
Sometimes I do feel that way, sort of like a loner. There are definite hermit tendencies the older I get. Lots of them, which leads me to time on the porch with Clio and the chickens instead of going to the Arts Council to join the Fallon Film Society, which really did sound fun, but then there was the sagebrush and the sunset calling, so home I went.
Anyway, back to this friend. Well, now I can’t remember what the heck I was going to write about said friend. Neither is there any recollection of what in the world that whole train of thought even was. Nor of which friend I had in mind. A few days ago, this idea came to my head, so I hurried up and sat down and typed all that out and then got sidetracked writing stories and editing and figuring out layout for Lovelock and finessing Fernley... and, and, and.
We were all laughing around the office yesterday, comparing notes of how we all have so many balls in the air right now

we often come back to some task several days later baffled by what we had been doing and left lying there undone. Some of us are claiming age, but others are assigning to us personality flaws.
Imagine. Being so organized and disciplined that you can look at another human, a coworker even, and cast aspersions.
So, while some of us spin these plates, and others tap their toes with impatience, we’ll all still be right here...
...Keeping you Posted.

– Rach

\$4.29 million grant to boost Lyon County EMS

By Rachel Dahl

Lyon County has accepted a \$4.29 million grant aimed at expanding emergency medical services and improving access to healthcare in rural communities across the county.
The Board of County Commissioners formally accepted the \$4,289,351 award Sept. 17 from the Nevada Health Authority through the Rural Health Transformation Program. The initial grant period runs through Aug. 30, 2027.
The money will be distributed across Lyon County’s four fire protection districts, the Sheriff’s Office Dispatch Center and Lyon County Human Services.
Among the planned investments are six additional single-role EMT or paramedic positions across three fire districts, one ambulance for each district, cardiac monitors, mechanical chest-compression devices, motorized stretchers, medication-management equipment and quick-response vehicles capable of reaching patients in remote areas during difficult weather conditions.
The grant will also support up-graded dispatch software and a review of billing practices for EMS and Human Services case management, with the goal of identifying reimbursement opportunities and improving the long-term financial sustainability of those services.
The county said the project was developed through several months of planning among the Office of Emergency Management, Lyon County’s four fire districts, the Sheriff’s Office and Human Services. Lyon County will handle grant administration and oversight while the individual fire districts implement the EMS portions of the project through their existing operations.
The need is driven in part by the county’s geography and call volume. Lyon County covers more than 2,000 square miles, much of it rural or frontier. In 2025, 7,149 of the 9,106 calls handled by the county’s four fire districts – 78.5 percent – were medi-

cal calls.
Long travel distances, limited provider availability and transportation barriers can also mean residents use 911 for medical needs that are not necessarily emergencies.
The pilot program is intended to create a more tiered response system, allowing dispatchers and EMS providers to better match resources to each call and, when appropriate, connect patients with healthcare or social services instead of automatically sending full emergency-response resources.
County officials say the approach could reduce unnecessary demand on ambulances and emergency departments while keeping critical EMS units available for serious emergencies.
The county may be eligible to apply for as many as four additional years of Rural Health Transformation funding, depending on future state and federal requirements and available funding.

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FEATURES

House passage could open another 12,085 acres to Fernley growth

By Rachel Dahl

A sweeping northern Nevada public lands bill that passed the U.S. House last week includes a provision that could eventually place another 12,085 acres of federally managed land under City of Fernley control for future economic development.

The House passed H.R. 2317, the Northern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act of 2026, on Sept. 14. The bill was received by the Senate the following day and referred to the Senate

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. It has not yet become law.

For Fernley, the legislation is significant because it includes the Fernley Economic Development Act, directing the U.S. Department of the Interior, at the city’s request, to convey approximately 12,085 acres of federal land to the city at fair market value.

Under the bill, Fernley would be responsible not only for the appraised value of the land, but also for costs associated with appraisal, surveys and administration of the

transfer.

The new proposal is separate from Fernley’s existing federal lands conveyance, which was authorized by Congress in 2014 and included approximately 9,779 acres.

After more than a decade of work, the Bureau of Land Management transferred the first eight parcels from that earlier lands bill to Fernley in 2025, totaling about 2,167 acres. A second phase, containing another roughly 7,600 acres, is still moving through surveys, environmental review and

other federal requirements.

Those earlier lands are being transferred under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, a process generally intended for public facilities, recreation and other public uses.

The new 12,085-acre Fernley Economic Development Act takes a different approach. The land would be conveyed at fair market value for economic development, potentially giving the city greater flexibility

Continued on PAGE 4 - PUBLIC LANDS...

Fernley cemetery master plan aims to create more welcoming, park-like space

By Rachel Dahl and Christina Rodarte

Fernley is developing a long-range master plan for the city cemetery that would gradually transform the largely undeveloped site into a more inviting, landscaped and park-like space while expanding burial options and planning for future growth.

Stephanie Sloan of Sloan Consulting Group said her firm, along with subcontractors CivisWorks and WC Frye Design, has spent the past several months reviewing the cemetery’s history, burial records, property records and existing conditions.

The goal, she said, is to develop a phased plan that improves the cemetery over time without requiring a major upfront investment.

The planning effort grew in part from concerns raised by residents about the condition of the cemetery,

including maintenance issues and the relatively barren appearance of the property. Sloan said those concerns have also led to volunteer cleanup efforts and other recent improvements.

“There’s an arc of improvement that we’re really excited by,” Sloan said.

About 50 residents responded to an initial community survey identifying priorities for the cemetery master plan.

One of the central recommendations is to improve the appearance and experience of the existing burial area through relatively simple landscaping features, including trees and small landscaped areas that would help break up the broad views across the desert.

Rather than looking across an open, largely undeveloped site, Sloan said the idea is to create more defined

spaces and visual focal points that give visitors a greater sense of privacy and reflection.

The plan would also change the cemetery’s entrance and circulation.

Currently, visitors park near a closed vehicular gate and a pedestrian gate that may appear closed even when it is unlocked. The proposed concept would create a more defined boulevard entrance and destination area, improving both vehicle and pedestrian access.

The existing parking area could eventually be converted into a landscaped burial area with turf, creating what Sloan described as an “oasis” effect as visitors approach the cemetery from Mission Way.

Planners are also looking at adding approximately 10,000 burial spaces over time.

That would be far more inventory

than the cemetery currently needs. Sloan said only about 10 cemetery plots are sold annually, even though there are roughly 270 deaths each year among Fernley residents.

One reason for that gap may be the high rate of cremation in Nevada, where Sloan said as many as 70 percent of people choose cremation.

The master plan therefore includes additional options specifically designed for cremated remains, including smaller columbarium structures similar to the larger cremation walls at the nearby Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Those facilities could provide families with a permanent place for cremated remains, as well as a memorial wall or marker where a loved one’s name could be preserved and visited.

Continued on PAGE 5 - CEMETERY PLAN...



CIVICS 101: Why your home chooses your ballot

By Rachel Dahl

“If I own a business in a city and pay taxes there, shouldn’t I be allowed to vote there?”

In an ordinary city election, generally no.

A person may own property in several communities. But representative government requires each voter to belong to one electorate. Otherwise, power would follow wealth.

One house, one vote. Five houses, five votes. A corporation operating in 40 states would need a very large ballot.

That would be government by property, not citizens.

The principle is simple: Your interests may reach across many communities. Your vote belongs to the community where you live.

The Declaration of Independence says governments receive their just powers from “the consent of the governed.” That raises another question: Who are “the governed” for a particular government?

Americans are governed nationally. States govern their residents. Counties govern county residents. Cities govern people inside city boundaries. The smaller the government, the more important its boundary becomes.

The Constitution did not create a separate national set of voter qualifications. Instead, each state continued deciding who could vote

for its own state legislature. Those same people were allowed to vote for members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

That meant Congress could not choose its own voters. The people already qualified to vote under their state’s laws would also decide who represented them in Congress.

James Madison explained this in Federalist No. 52. He called voting a “fundamental article of republican government.” The House was supposed to depend upon the people, not Congress’s changing definition of the people.

Federalist No. 10 explains why the country uses representation. A large republic contains many interests, Madison argued, making it harder for one faction to control everyone. Citizens choose representatives rather than voting on every government decision.

The Anti-Federalists worried that representatives in such a large country would become distant from ordinary people. In Brutus No. 1, Brutus warned that a national legislature might not understand the “local condition and wants” of different communities. The Federal Farmer argued that representation had to reflect “the situation of the people.”

The two sides disagreed about whether the Constitution could accomplish that. Both understood that representation connects actual people to actual places.

America did not begin with uni-

versal voting rights. State rules often restricted voting by property, taxpaying, race, sex, religion, age and residence.

Over time, America separated voting from property ownership. Constitutional amendments prohibited voting discrimination based on race and sex, poll taxes in federal elections, and denial to citizens 18 or older based on age.

The developing principle became one qualified resident, one vote—not one parcel, one vote.

That is why owning a downtown building does not give its owner more political power than renting an apartment. A renter is not half a citizen. A landowner is not five citizens.

Supreme Court decisions reinforce this. Dunn v. Blumstein permits genuine residence requirements but rejected long waiting periods. Kramer v. Union Free School District rejected an ordinary electorate limited to selected property owners. Holt Civic Club v. Tuscaloosa held that people outside a city do not gain its vote merely because its policies affect them.

Nevada law makes this concrete. Voters register where they actually reside. The law discusses a person’s fixed and permanent home. When someone’s family lives in one place while that person does business elsewhere, the family home is generally the residence.

As Fallon Mayor Ken Tedford often explains it, your domicile is

where you lay your head at night.

If you live inside a city’s boundaries, your ballot includes that city’s offices and ballot questions. If you live outside those boundaries, you may vote in county, state and federal elections—but not that city’s election. Owning a business or other property inside the city does not make you a city voter. You may still attend meetings, speak, petition officials and persuade city voters. But your ballot is determined by where you live.

Your home places you in a precinct. That precinct places you inside city, county, school, legislative and congressional districts. Those boundaries determine which representatives answer to you and which ballot belongs to you.

Americans have many ways to influence communities where they do not live. We may speak, write, petition, organize, contribute and show up at public meetings. What we may not do is collect electorates the way we collect property.

A ballot is not a shareholder dividend or a receipt for taxes paid. It is the voice of a citizen within the political community that citizen calls home.

In a constitutional republic, boundaries tell us who gets to decide. Domicile tells us where each of us belongs.

One home. One community. One ballot. One vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fernley FFA teacher named National Teacher Ambassador

Staff Report

Fernley FFA teacher Ms. Sydney Botts has been selected to serve as a National Teacher Ambassador for FFA for the 2026–2027 school year. National Teacher Ambassadors are agricultural educators who receive training to provide resources and instruction to fellow teachers across the country and serve as subject-matter

experts in agricultural education. The National FFA Organization selected 88 educators from 38 states to serve in the ambassador program this year. Nevada FFA announced Botts’ selection and congratulated her on the recognition, calling it an achievement for both Fernley FFA and agricultural education in Nevada.



Ms. Sydney Botts with her FFA students. Courtesy Fernley FFA

Traffic sensors to be installed near Silverland Middle School

Staff Report

The City of Fernley Engineering Department announced that traffic and pedestrian sensors will be installed near Silverland Middle School as part of the city’s Safe Routes to School Action Plan. LiDAR Matrix, a research group working with the Federal Highway Administration, will collect traffic and pedestrian movement data in areas identified as concerns.

The first sensors are scheduled to be installed near Silverland Middle School from Sept. 23 through Oct. 1. According to the city, the sensors will not collect facial images or personally identifying information. The equipment will record only shapes and movement patterns. The data will be used as part of the Safe Routes to School planning effort to better understand traffic and pedestrian activity around local schools.

We’d love to hear from you.

rachel@rangemediaco.com

Have a story?

Continued from PAGE 3 - PUBLIC LANDS...

over how the property is ultimately used. The legislation reflects a long-standing constraint on Fernley’s growth: much of the undeveloped land surrounding the city is federally managed. That means future housing, industrial development, roads, utilities and other infrastructure can depend not only on local zoning and planning decisions, but also on federal land policy and congressional action. The Department of the Interior previously told Congress that approximately half of the 12,085 acres identified in the Fernley proposal were already considered potentially suitable for disposal under the BLM’s existing land-use plan.

The agency nevertheless raised concerns about the scale of the proposed conveyance and said it wanted to continue working with lawmakers on the provision. The bill would bypass some of the limitations of ordinary administrative disposal by specifically directing the secretary of the Interior to convey the identified land to Fernley if the city requests it and pays fair market value. The Fernley provision is part of a much larger package affecting federal lands throughout northern Nevada. H.R. 2317 includes land transfers and economic-development provisions in several counties, along with conservation designations and tribal land provisions. The overall bill is intended to combine development needs in growing communities with conservation and public-land protections elsewhere

in the region. For Fernley, the most immediate impact would not be construction. Even if the bill becomes law, the land would still have to be appraised and formally conveyed, and any future development would remain subject to local planning, zoning, infrastructure and permitting requirements. The city would also have to determine which parcels it wanted to acquire and how to pay for them. Fernley has already been working through those kinds of questions with the older 2014 lands bill. During a June meeting of the Nevada Legislature’s Interim Public Lands Committee in Fernley, city officials said the remaining parcels from the earlier conveyance include checkerboard federal lands north of Fernley and along the Interstate 80 corridor. City and county officials have said federally

controlled land in and around the community can affect roads, water and wastewater systems, communications, workforce housing and economic development. The new Fernley Economic Development Act would considerably expand the amount of federal land potentially available to the city. If both the remaining 2014 conveyance and the new legislation are ultimately completed, Fernley could gain control over thousands of additional acres at a time when the city is simultaneously planning for new housing, industrial expansion, transportation improvements and utility capacity. The bill now moves to the Senate, where it has been referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. No Senate vote has yet been scheduled.

Fernley Community Events

SEP 25 MOVIE - THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE 2:30 p.m. Fernley Branch Library 575 Silver Lace Blvd 775-575-3366	SEP 26 LOW COST MIRCOCHIP CLINIC 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. \$15 per pet OR donate an unopened 10-pound bag of pet food. 595 Silver Lace Blvd Live COMEDY (21+) 8:00 p.m. McHoppers Brew Co. 396 US Highway 95A North	SEP 29 TRIVIA NIGHT 7:00 p.m. Frontier Fun Center 480 W. Main St. OCT 1 TRIVIA (21+) 7:00 p.m. McHoppers Brew Co. 396 US Highway 95A North	Oct 6 TRIVIA NIGHT 7:00 p.m. Frontier Fun Center 480 W. Main St. OCT 8 TRIVIA (21+) 7:00 p.m. McHoppers Brew Co. 396 US Highway 95A North
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COMMUNITY

Polaris Plaza receives \$6,500 Microsoft grant for improvements

Staff Report

The Fernley Community Foundation has received a \$6,500 grant from the Microsoft Northern Nevada Community Fund to continue improvements at Polaris Plaza.

The new funding will be added to nearly \$100,000 in privately raised contributions already invested in the Main Street and Lois Lane area, which serves as a gateway to Fernley’s Community Campus. The campus includes the Fernley Senior Center and the Community Response and Resource Center, which houses the Boys & Girls Club.

According to the foundation, the grant will be used to add additional shade and landscaping and improve areas intended for community activities including vendor events and cornhole tournaments.

The foundation said the Polaris Plaza project is intended to create a more welcoming and usable gathering space at the community campus and plans to continue sharing updates as work progresses.

The announcement follows previous private fundraising efforts that have already brought significant improvements to the site.



Polaris Plaza, photo by Richard Roznos

Fernley expands city workforce as growth increases demand on services

By Rachel Dahl

The City of Fernley has expanded its workforce by more than 50 percent since Mayor Neal McIntyre took office, adding engineering, planning, public works and communications positions as city officials work to keep pace with continued development.

McIntyre told members of the Fernley Builders Association earlier this month that the city had 68 employees, including elected officials, when he became mayor. Today, he said, Fernley employs approximately 105 people.

“We’re able to sustain every one of those positions,” McIntyre said, crediting the city’s finance department for managing the growth.

The mayor said the additional staffing is intended in part to reduce delays for builders, businesses and residents navigating city processes.

Among the positions recently added or filled are engineering staff, a project manager, public information officer and public works director.

The city has also reorganized several leadership positions as it builds a more specialized administrative structure.

At the Sept. 16 City Council meeting, Chief Development Officer Michelle Rambo announced that Tristan Rodriguez had been promoted to planning director. Chief Operating Officer Barry Williams told council additional personnel changes and promotions were still being finalized and would be announced at a future meeting.

Williams also announced that Fernley’s new public works director is scheduled to begin Sept. 28.

The new position is intended to allow Williams, who has been overseeing multiple operational responsibilities, to return more fully to his duties as chief operating officer, McIntyre told the Builders Association.

The city has also hired a new public information officer, Francesca Pereira, who is taking over management of the city’s social media, website, news releases and newsletter.

City staff described the addition as a way to shift communications duties away from development staff as workloads have increased.

McIntyre said the broader staffing expansion has helped shorten development review times.

“When I was first mayor, it was taking like nine months to get approval and plans and stuff,” McIntyre told builders. “I think we’ve got that down to like three months or less depending on the size of the project.”

The additional employees come as Fernley manages an increasing number of infrastructure, development and planning projects.

During the Sept. 16 council meeting, city staff provided updates on the Mesa Drive water main project, wastewater pond relining and the surface-water treatment plant project, which recently held its initial kickoff meeting.

The city is also overseeing plans for Out of Town Park improvements, roundabout landscaping, Safe Routes to School projects, development-code revisions and a series of long-range planning efforts tied to Fernley’s expected population growth.

At the Builders Association meeting, city officials reported 59 building-permit applications during August, including 10 applications for new single-family homes. The city collected more than \$66,000 in permit fees tied to projects valued at nearly \$7 million.

Fernley’s growth has also increased the complexity of development review.

The city is simultaneously planning new transportation infrastructure, utility capacity, residential development and industrial expansion while coordinating with outside agencies including the Nevada Department of Transportation, Bureau of Land Management, Lyon County and regional service providers.

McIntyre characterized the additional staffing as an investment in the city’s ability to respond to that growth.

The increase from 68 to 105 employees represents roughly a 54 percent increase in the city workforce during his tenure.

The mayor said the goal is not simply to add employees, but to place staff in specialized roles that allow projects and development applications to move through the city more efficiently.

“We’ve got a lot of things happening,” McIntyre said.

Continued from PAGE 3 - CEMETERY PLAN..

Sloan said the final master plan will divide proposed improvements into short-, mid- and long-term phases.

Rather than recommending a large one-time expenditure, the plan is intended to identify relatively low-cost improvements that can have an immediate impact.

Trees, landscaping and improved access are among the types of early projects being considered.

“We don’t want to recommend just spend \$10 million on this,” Sloan said, noting the city has many competing priorities and cemetery use remains relatively low.

The planning team is also looking at how the cemetery fits into Fernley’s broader growth plans.

The cemetery lies within the city’s north area, where future residential, mixed-use and open-space development is expected. Sloan said planners are considering how the cemetery could eventually function as a green, park-like anchor as surrounding areas develop.

The city is continuing to gather public input before the plan is refined and presented to the City Council.

Residents attending open houses have also been given an opportunity to submit written feedback through an online survey.

The final master plan is expected to provide the city with a phased roadmap for improving the cemetery while expanding burial and cremation options for future generations.



FERNLEY SENIOR CENTER MENU

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Monday, Sept. 28

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Country Gravy
Whole Wheat Roll
Green Beans
Black Bean & Corn Salad
100% Juice

Tuesday, Sept 29

Chicken Parmesan
Cali Blend
Vegetables
Orange Spinach Salad
Toasted Bread Stick
Fruit Cocktail

Wednesday, Sept 30

Flounder in Cilantro Sauce
Spanish Rice
Black Beans
Mixed Greens Salad
Unsalted French Dressing
Mango Orange Cup

Thursday, Oct 1

Minestrone Soup
pasta, beans, and vegetables
Tuna Salad
Whole Wheat Pita Bread

Friday, Oct 2

Turkey & Bean Burrito
Spanish Rice
Seasoned Zucchini
Apricot Halves

COMMUNITY

Recycle day huge success

Staff Report

Fernley’s Mayor’s Free Recycle Day drew 172 vehicles Saturday, with collection bins filling by 9:50 a.m. Volunteers helped residents dispose of hard-to-handle items during the annual event at Out of Town Park. Sierra Nevada Realtors used the event to kick off Realtor Give Back Week, joining other volunteers and sponsors including HERO Environmental, Waste Management, Redwood Materials, Greater Nevada Credit Union and Buddy Boys. Organizers said some residents were lined up before the event opened and are already looking ahead to next year.



Photo courtesy of the City of Fernley.

Fernley pool renovation moves forward, one test at a time

By Suzanne Prouty
Fernley Swimming Pool
District Board Chair

What began as wind damage to the Fernley Swimming Pool roof in February 2024 has grown into a major rehabilitation of an aging public facility, with hidden structural and mechanical problems revealing themselves one layer – and one system – at a time. Construction began Feb. 17 with an initial completion deadline of May 31. The district expected to spend the following two weeks refilling the pool, heating the water and balancing chemicals before reopening around June 14, after school was out. The original project became necessary after high winds tore metal panels from the building. Inspection revealed that the panels had been fastened directly to plywood without a water barrier. After decades of exposure, portions of the plywood had deteriorated badly enough that they also had to be replaced. Once the roof and ceiling were opened, crews found additional condi-

tions that could not have been identified beforehand. Parts of the building did not match the original construction plans, including an entire insulated roof layer shown on the plans that was not actually present. Aging electrical, fire, security and other systems also required upgrades to meet current codes. Production and delivery delays for replacement roof panels added more time. By June 14, the roof was not yet complete and the pool could not reopen. The district next hoped for a Fourth of July opening, then the end of July and later the end of August. Each target was overtaken by additional work or another problem uncovered as the rehabilitation continued. By late summer, the major roof and building work was nearing completion and the pool was partially refilled. Restarting equipment that had been idle for months then revealed problems with the pumps and the manifold that directs water through the circulation system. The water level later had to be lowered about a foot while those

repairs continued. The project has now reached a critical testing stage. Once the pool is completely refilled and the circulation system is placed under pressure, pipes or seals that have been without water for approximately seven months could reveal additional problems. The water must then be heated, chemicals balanced and the required health inspection completed before the pool can reopen. Because several previous target dates had to be changed, the district is not announcing another projected opening date. Trustees, staff, contractors and project specialists continue working toward reopening, but we will wait until the facility is operating safely and has received all required approvals before setting a date. Pool staff are also preparing for reopening. Lifeguards have begun retraining and recertification so qualified staff will be ready when the facility is cleared for operation. Fernley resident Vicki Leigh attended the district’s September board meet-

ing to hear the update firsthand. In a public post afterward, she wrote that she arrived wondering whether the delays reflected indifference or incompetence, but left believing the district was capable and eager to reopen. She compared the renovation to repairing an old car: sometimes fixing one problem reveals the next one. “We have worked nonstop to make this happen,” I told those attending the meeting. “But we are not going to announce another date until the systems are working and the required inspections are complete.” When the pool does reopen, the district plans to thank the community for its patience by offering free admission all day every Friday for the first two months. Fridays will also include Family Nights from 4 to 8 p.m. The district will continue providing updates as testing and repairs proceed. The final stages may still uncover additional work, but each completed repair brings Fernley another step closer to having its pool back.

Continued from FRONT - RATINGS...

and Silver Stage schools reported proficiency rates below the statewide rates of 45.2% in English language arts and 36.2% in mathematics. **Fernley Schools** – Fernley High School earned three stars with an index score of 56, up 6.5 points from the previous year. The school also reported an 87.1% four-year graduation rate. Fernley Intermediate showed the largest gain among the six schools. Although it remained at one star, its adjusted index increased 12.7 points to 26.3 – just 0.7 points short of the two-star threshold. Fernley Elementary remained at two stars, but its index increased 8.5 points to 36. **Silver Stage Schools** – Silver Stage High School moved from three stars to four, with its adjusted index increasing 2.3 points to 70. The school reported a

four-year graduation rate of 93.9%. Silver Stage Middle School’s adjusted index fell 10 points to 25, dropping the school from two stars to one. Silver Stage Elementary remained at two stars, with its adjusted index declining 1.2 points to 33.3. **What Do the Improvement Designations Mean?** – Three of the six schools also carry federal school-improvement designations, which are separate from Nevada’s star ratings and can identify concerns an overall rating may not show. Fernley High is designated for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), which identifies a school where a particular group of students needs additional support. A school can therefore improve its overall star rating while still being identified for targeted improvement. Fernley Intermediate is designated for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), which calls for broader schoolwide improvement.

Silver Stage Middle is designated for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, which is tied to low performance among a particular student group. **Graduation, Proficiency and Attendance** – Fernley High reported an 87.1% four-year graduation rate, while 17.3% of students met the state mathematics proficiency standard. Silver Stage High reported a 93.9% graduation rate, while 17% met the math standard. Graduation rates and state test scores answer different questions. A student may earn enough credits to graduate without scoring proficient on a state assessment, which helps explain how a school can have a high graduation rate and a much lower math proficiency rate. Chronic absenteeism also varied among the six schools. The Nevada Report Card’s At a Glance data show rates ranging from 36.1% at Silver Stage Elementary to 49.1% at Silver Stage High. Fernley’s three schools ranged from 42.1% to 44.3%. The state defines

chronic absenteeism as missing at least 10% of the school year. **Lyon County Receives Level 2 Rating** – Lyon County School District received an overall Level 2 rating, the middle of three levels under the new Nevada District Performance Framework. The district received Level 2 ratings for both school outcomes and district support. District support looks at factors including qualified teachers, equitable staffing, instructional materials, college and career readiness opportunities, and financial stability. Districtwide, Lyon County reduced the number of one- and two-star schools from 16 to 14. Teacher coverage increased slightly, from 82.2% to 82.5%. Those figures apply to the entire Lyon County School District, not specifically to Fernley and Silver Stage. The first year of district ratings establishes a baseline and carries no formal accountability consequences.

Letters to the Editor

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Two ambulances, 11 calls a day

North Lyon Fire works to close staffing gap

By Rachel Dahl

On an average day, North Lyon County Fire Protection District has four firefighter-paramedics on duty – enough to staff two ambulances.

The problem, Battalion Chief Bill Snyder told the Fernley City Council Sept. 16, is that the district is regularly receiving more calls than those two crews can handle at the same time.

North Lyon had responded to 2,920 calls through Sept. 15, an average of 11.27 calls per day. During the previous 30 days, crews handled another 329 calls, or about 10.96 per day.

More significant is how often those calls overlap. Snyder said the district has averaged about 5.5 instances per day this year when more than two calls were occurring at the same time.

With four firefighter-paramedics staffing two ambulances, once both crews are committed, “we have zero people to respond to emergencies,” Snyder said. During the most recent 30-day period, overlapping calls had fallen somewhat, to about 3.6 times per day.



Councilwoman Zoberski recognized the North Lyon Fire department for their commitment and their willingness to support the community youth. Members of the fire department recently at a Vaquero game. Photo courtesy North Lyon Fire.

The workload is not new. Snyder said that during 2025, North Lyon crews spent an average of 13 hours and 48 minutes of every day com-

mitted to 911 calls.

At the same time, the district is carrying five firefighter vacancies. North Lyon has traditionally opened

recruitment for 30 to 60 days at a time, but Snyder said the district changed that approach this year and has kept recruitment open indefinitely since approximately May.

About 160 applications have been received through four rounds of testing. Two applicants have been offered jobs, while another round of testing is scheduled for October.

Snyder said some of the vacancies resulted from firefighters leaving for other agencies because of pay, workload and other factors.

The two new hires began a 16-week regional fire academy in Carson City Sept. 21, a significant change in the way North Lyon trains new firefighters.

Historically, North Lyon conducted much of its new-hire training internally while most neighboring departments participated in the regional academy. Snyder said cost and staffing made regional participation difficult: for up to three students, a department must provide an instructor for the academy.

For North Lyon, that would mean

Continued on PAGE 8 - N. LYON FIRE...

Fernley adopts rules for short-term rentals

By Rachel Dahl

The Fernley City Council has adopted new regulations for short-term rentals, creating standards for properties rented for fewer than 30 days and requiring operators to obtain city approval, a business license and pay lodging taxes.

Council approved Bill 383 on Sept. 16 following a lengthy discussion over how broadly the ordinance should apply and whether the city’s definition could unintentionally capture ordinary family arrangements.

The ordinance defines a short-term rental as a residential dwelling, portion of a dwelling, bedroom or accessory dwelling unit rented for fewer than 30 consecutive days. City staff said the rules are intended to apply to rentals such as Airbnb, Vrbo, Booking.com and similar arrangements rather than traditional long-term leases.

Under the new rules, short-term rentals may operate throughout the city but must receive a minor conditional use permit, obtain a business license and pay transient lodging taxes.

Maximum occupancy is three people per legal bedroom, plus two additional people per unit. Parking is limited to established parking areas including driveways, garages, carports and street frontage. Weekly trash collection is required, and functioning smoke detectors must comply with current fire code.

Only one short-term rental unit is allowed per property.

Special events such as weddings, receptions, private parties, fundraisers and business seminars are prohibited, and recreational vehicles, trailers and tents cannot be used to provide additional short-term sleeping space.

The Planning Commission will review applications and may impose

additional conditions based on circumstances including inadequate parking, impacts on neighboring properties, the concentration of nearby short-term rentals and prior code violations.

The maximum occupancy and one-rental-per-property limits cannot be waived. Appeals of Planning Commission decisions may be taken to the City Council.

The Planning Commission had previously recommended the ordinance

7-0 after increasing the proposed occupancy limit from two to three people per bedroom and allowing street parking.

Much of the council discussion centered on the definition itself.

Councilman Joe Mendoza said the language initially struck him as broad enough that someone could interpret it to require a business license if a family

Continued on PAGE 8 - RENTALS...

Meetings

Fernley City Council
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting Oct. 2

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting Oct. 14

Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
2nd Friday of even numbered months at 9:00 a.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting Oct. 9

Lyon County Commission
1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting Oct. 1

Lyon County Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting Oct. 13

Lyon County Library Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.
Locations rotate between the 5 county libraries
Next meeting Oct. 27

Lyon County School District Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
Locations rotate between each attendance area
Next meeting Oct. 27

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees
2nd Thursday of the month 195 E. Main St.
Next meeting Oct, 15

Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District
3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
300 Cottonwood Lane
Next meeting Oct 20

ROULETTE REWARDS

10

12

4

45

32

22

0

42

20

16

35

24

14

NUGGET FERNLEY

JACKPOT REWARDS

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SUNDAYS	10X POINTS FACEBOOK FRENZY BINGO 1PM-5PM
MONDAYS	MEN'S APPRECIATION
TUESDAYS	LADIES' APPRECIATION
WEDNESDAYS	SENIORS' APPRECIATION BINGO 1PM-5PM
THURSDAYS	KIOSK SCRATCHER
FRIDAYS	10X PIONTS ROULETTE REAWARDS 5PM-9PM
SATURDAYS	KIOSK SCRATCHER SPIN TO WIN 5PM-9PM

NEWS UPDATES

Attorneys drafting written order following pivotal Stan Lau hearing

By Robert Perea

Legal counsel representing both the City of Fernley and expelled City Councilman Stan Lau are still in the process of drafting a formal written order following an Aug. 11 court hearing in which a district court judge denied Lau's request for a preliminary injunction seeking to overturn his expulsion from the council.

Attorney Jeff Dickerson said the legal teams received the certified court transcripts Sept. 18, beginning a meticulous process of converting the judge's spoken directives into a proposed written order. Legal counsel

Sean Lancaster, representing the city, is preparing his portion of the joint order, while opposing counsel is drafting theirs.

The collaborative process is intended to ensure the final document reflects the rulings and language delivered from the bench. Dickerson estimated the drafting process may take up to a week to complete. He said the judge has requested a status report Oct. 2 if the orders have not been submitted by then.

At the Aug. 11 hearing, Judge Leon Aberasturi also affirmed his earlier ruling that the City Council violated the state's Open Meeting Law when it

expelled Lau on March 4, leaving the two sides divided over what the decision means for Lau's status on the council.

Aberasturi directed Dickerson to prepare an order regarding the Open Meeting Law ruling and Lancaster, who represented the city alongside City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen, to prepare the order denying the preliminary injunction. The proposed orders were originally to be submitted to the court by Sept. 11. The judge will review and finalize the orders before entering them.

Dickerson and Mouritsen disagreed over whether the ruling meant Lau

could reclaim his seat on the council because the judge's ruling did not address corrective action taken by the City Council on April 15 under a new agenda item to expel Lau.

Mouritsen said that issue was not addressed by the judge because Lau's pleadings did not ask the court to consider it. He said additional litigation may be filed to resolve that portion of the dispute.

A court clerk said Sept. 21 that no additional filings had been made in the case.

Continued from PAGE 7 - N. LYON FIRE...

taking an experienced firefighter off the line for 40 hours a week for 16 weeks — and then paying to backfill that employee's normal shift.

A partnership with Central Lyon County Fire Protection District is changing that.

Central Lyon has agreed to cover North Lyon's instructor, or cadre, costs — approximately \$70,000 — without asking North Lyon for any-

thing in return, Snyder said.

That allows North Lyon's recruits to attend the regional academy without removing another firefighter from an already thin daily staffing roster.

"It's a good partnership," Snyder said. "We can continue to provide a service to our public and we can be a little more thorough with the training."

After completing the academy around December or January, the re-

cruits will begin working with the district before eventually entering paramedic school, a process Snyder said takes roughly another two years.

North Lyon is also using another partnership to extend emergency medical capability.

Snyder said that within about 20 hours of a Battle Born Medevac helicopter being stationed at the Fernley fire station, crews responded to a patient with a gunshot wound to

the chest. The patient reached the trauma center at Renown in about 28 minutes from the time of the incident and survived.

Snyder called the response an example of how a public-private partnership can improve rural emergency care.

North Lyon will hold an open house Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. highlighting the Battle Born Medevac partnership and the people involved in establishing it.

Continued from PAGE 7 - RENTALS...

member paid to stay in a room for a short period.

Planning staff said that was not the intent of the ordinance, which is aimed at commercial short-term rental activity.

Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski

said the city was trying to balance property rights against impacts on established neighborhoods, including situations where companies or individuals lease houses and repeatedly place short-term workers in them.

"We don't want short-term rentals to affect public health or safety or quality of life for people that already live here," Zoberski said.

City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen cautioned against narrowing the definition only to rentals booked through third-party companies, noting that an owner could advertise and rent a property independently and avoid the rules.

He also said a somewhat broader definition gives future city officials flexibility to address rental arrangements that may not exist today.

Council ultimately amended the ordinance to specify an "adult guest or group of adult guests," exempt direct family members and replace the reference to a standard conditional use permit with the city's newly adopted minor conditional use permit process.

The council approved the amended ordinance 4-0.



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Please attach a photo to the email. Obituary text must be sent in Word document format, or in the body of an email, no images or pictures of text please.



The Victory Project: Investing in Fernley’s Future



Ask Victory

Got a question about the Victory Logistics District?
We want to answer it.

Curious about jobs, power, infrastructure, water, or what’s coming next to Fernley at our project? Tell us what’s on your mind and we’ll get you a straight answer.



You can email us directly at:
AskVictoryProject@gmail.com
or scan the QR code and
submit your questions!



Stay in touch with us by
following our Facebook page
@VictoryLogisticsDistrict

Ask Victory and We’ll Answer!

Over the past several years, the 4,300-acre Victory Logistics District has grown from open desert into one of Northern Nevada’s largest industrial developments, bringing new construction and, understandably, new questions from the community.

That’s why we’re launching Ask Victory: a direct line between our project and the people of Fernley.

Starting this week, residents can submit any question about the Victory Logistics District: about traffic, water, power, jobs, timelines, tax revenue or project costs - or anything else you want to know - through an online portal or by email at AskVictoryProject@gmail.com. We’ll respond directly to everyone who writes in, and we’ll publish the most common questions and our answers, right here in the Fernley Reporter and on our Facebook page.

We’re doing this because a project this size and community importance deserves real answers, not rumors. Victory is not a single building or a single decision. It’s a multi-year, multi-phase development - from the buildings already open and operating today to the employers, infrastructure, and housing still to come. It will keep evolving as new needs and new opportunities emerge. That complexity is real, and so is our responsibility to be straightforward about it, even when the honest answer is “we’re still working that out.”

What isn’t complicated is our goal. Victory is being built to bring lasting economic opportunity to Fernley: new employers, new career paths, new local business opportunities with our workforce partnership with Western Nevada College to help make sure local residents are first in line for the jobs this project creates. Alongside that growth, we’re committed to investing in the kind of infrastructure and community benefits - roads, services, retail and green space - that make Fernley a better place to live.

None of that happens without trust, and trust starts with listening. So if you’ve ever wondered what’s actually happening at Victory, or what it means for your street, your water bill, or your kids’ future job prospects, now’s the time to ask.

Submit your question by scanning the QR code above or email AskVictoryProject@gmail.com. We’re listening, and we’ll answer.

LAW & ORDER

Arrest report

All information for the arrest report is provided by the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office and is considered by law to be public information.
All subjects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Sept. 14 - Sept. 20, 2026

KODY GITTHENS – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$473,640, Charges: Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Carry/possess a firearm during and in commission of drug offense; Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (< 14g, 1st/2nd offense); Possession of Schedule III–V controlled substance (< 28g, 1st/2nd offense); Trafficking marijuana (50–1,000 lbs.) or cannabis (1–20 lbs.); Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (28g to < 42g); Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (14g to < 28g); Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (42g+); Possession of > 1 oz / < 50 lbs. marijuana or > 1/8 oz / < 1 lb. concentrated cannabis; Possession to sell: Schedule III, IV, V controlled substance (1st/2nd offense); Possession to sell: Schedule I/II, flunitrazepam/GHB (1st offense); Use/possession of drug paraphernalia

JUNIOR WILLIAMS – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$5,000, Charges: Assault with a deadly weapon

ISAAC CLINE – Area: Silver Springs, Bail: \$10,000, Charges: Domestic battery by strangulation

JAMIE YAZZIE – Area: LYSO, Bail:

\$0, Charges: Court commitment

JUSTIN ZUNIGA – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$890, Charges: Assist other agency – hold

CHRISTOPHER HARTLE – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$5,000, Charges: Sex offender registration violation (1st offense)

JOHN HARRIS – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$0

Charges: Court commitment

EMMA BURNS – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$83,640, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (42g+); Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (< 14g, 1st/2nd offense); Possession of Schedule III–V controlled substance (< 28g, 1st/2nd offense); Trafficking marijuana (50–1,000 lbs.) or cannabis (1–20 lbs.); Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (28g to < 42g); Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (14g to < 28g); Use/possession of drug paraphernalia; Possession of > 1 oz / < 50 lbs. marijuana or > 1/8 oz / < 1 lb. concentrated cannabis

ALBERTO DACAYANAN – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$85,000, Charges: Domestic battery by strangulation; Child abuse or neglect (1st offense)

JAMES BULLIS – Area: Silver

Springs, Bail: \$505, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation

JACOB SMITH – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$21,495, Charges: Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Possess/consume marijuana in public place, marijuana store, or vehicle; Use/possession of drug paraphernalia

JANETTE BUSS – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$26,995, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (< 14g, 1st/2nd offense); Use/possession of drug paraphernalia, Failure to yield at stop/yield sign or controlled intersection; Failure to appear on traffic citation; Possession of controlled substance or paraphernalia by prisoner; Destroy/conceal evidence

JAMES FRITTS – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$3,640, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (< 14g, 1st/2nd offense); Use/possession of drug paraphernalia

PATRICK DUKE – Area: Silver Springs, Bail: \$1,255, Charges: Duty to stop at accident with attended vehicle/property damage; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi; Felony arrest for violation of probation/condition of suspended

sentence

NICOLAS MOLER – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$1,450, Charges: Criminal contempt

ISACC ALBARRAN – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$0, Charges: Court commitment

CAMERON TOWLE – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$10,920, Charges: Duty upon damaging unattended vehicle/property; Duty to stop at accident with attended vehicle/property damage; Driver/passenger fail to report unattended vehicle/property accident

JONATHAN SANDERS – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$6,140, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance (< 14g, 1st/2nd offense); Use/possession of drug paraphernalia

JUNIOR GARCIA SALDANA – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$4,030, Charges: Domestic battery (1st offense); Break/injure/tamper with vehicle (< \$250)

EDWARD RUSSELL – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$5,000, Charges: Sex offender registration violation (1st offense)

PATRICK UTTER – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$5,000, Charges: Sex offender registration violation (1st offense)

SWAT, Guns and Drugs

Deputies were warned of a body in a bathtub – but found the alleged victim alive

By Robert Perea

Two people were arrested Sept. 16 on drug and weapons charges after Lyon County Sheriff’s Office detectives investigated a report of illegal drugs, firearms and a possible homicide at a home in the Villa Mobile Home Park.

The Sheriff’s Office said its SWAT team and Crisis Negotiation Team executed a high-risk search warrant at the home. Two people were found inside, and detectives reported finding evidence of illegal drug sales, firearms and drug paraphernalia. The initial report of a homicide was determined to be unfounded.

Chief Deputy Mitch Brantingham said detectives received information early that morning that substantial quantities of illegal drugs and firearms were inside the home, along with a claim that a person had been murdered and the body was being

stored in a bathtub.

Detectives verified as much of the information as possible before obtaining the warrant. During the operation, they found several pounds of marijuana, mushrooms, cocaine, methamphetamine and unlawfully possessed prescription medications, along with multiple firearms.

Brantingham said detectives later located the person who was reported to have been killed and confirmed he was alive and unharmed.

The occupants, Kody Gitthens, 29, and Emma Burns, 19, both of Fernley, were booked into the Lyon County Jail on multiple drug and weapons charges. Bail was set at \$473,640 for Gitthens and \$83,640 for Burns.

Brantingham said the large law-enforcement presence at both the mobile home park and Out of Town Park was related to the same incident.



Emma Burns and Kody Gitthens, photos courtesy of LCSO.

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THE INSIDE VEER

Looking past the bottom line

By Robert Perea

Football coaches are often judged entirely by numbers. Wins, losses and point differentials are often the bottom line, but every bottom line is an oversimplification.

If you look closely past the stadium lights on a crisp autumn night in Northern Nevada, the real story is found in the hidden margins of sports psychology. It's a lesson that also reaches far beyond sports.

Two recent conversations I had with local high school coaches reveal completely opposite sides of the same coin when it comes to managing a team, an organization or even a family through adversity.

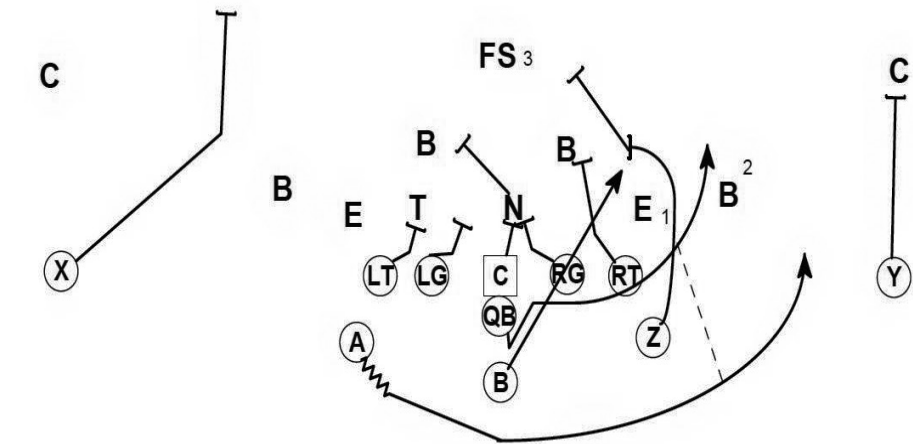
On one side of the high desert, you have Pyramid Lake High School coach Brian Borden. The Lakers are 0-3 and have been outscored 140-6. On paper, it looks bleak. But to talk to Borden is to hear a masterclass in foundational optimism. His roster is so young that only two or three players on the entire squad have ever played organized football before.

Instead of seeing a crisis, Borden sees a clean slate. There are no bad habits to break. He isn't measuring progress by the scoreboard; it's anchored to 100% effort, which is the one variable any of us can completely control in our daily lives. He is finding joy in teaching the absolute basics to young people who are showing up with pure passion, completely unfazed by their lack of experience.

Down the road in Fernley, head coach Anfernee Sloan is fighting a completely different kind of battle. The Vaqueros just suffered a definitive, humbling 42-7 loss to Spring Creek. Sloan's hurdle isn't teaching kids how to put on pads for the first time. He is transitioning away from a golden era of veteran, physical stars and dealing with a group that is learning, painfully, that success isn't inherited.

While the Pyramid Lake players are learning the game from scratch, finding joy in the pure effort of building a foundation, Fernley is learning a tougher lesson about identity, accountability and what it takes to protect a legacy when the human elements aren't clicking.

We can all find ourselves cycling through these same two seasons in our daily lives. Sometimes we are in a Pyramid Lake phase, maybe starting a new career, navigating an unfamiliar life change or building a project from scratch. The learning curve can be brutal.



Other times, we find ourselves in a Fernley phase. We aren't starting over; we're trying to sustain what we've already built, and we realize sometimes it's harder to keep what you have than it was to get it in the first place.

In the end, we can't ever escape the scoreboard. It remains the bottom line of our progress, even if it is an oversimplification of the journey. But the journey is where the actual growth happens and determines whether those final numbers eventually change.

In sports, the scoreboard measures you in comparison to another team. In life, the ultimate scoreboard is the one that forces you to compete against who you were yesterday and asks how deeply you are willing to look past the numbers to master the daily execution, effort and accountability required to change them.

Robert Perea has covered news and sports in Northern Nevada since 1993. He has published The Fernley Reporter online since 2016, loves music, is a sucker for the pets who have adopted him, and is thrilled to be printing the Reporter.

Senior Sense — Getting the best bang for our bucks

By Sonia Hedrick

Groceries have become a big issue for lots of retirees. For many, inflated food prices are making it difficult to meet other expenses. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service reports that between July 2025 and July 2026, grocery costs increased by around 3%. It doesn't sound like much until you factor in everything else that's on the rise.

Since last year at this time, the price of gasoline and diesel fuel has risen by 24%. Paper products are up 5%, sugar, candies, sodas and other treats are up about 10%, and depending on the brand, clothing, shoes and other items have increased by some 10 to 40%.

So, what's a senior to do? Enjoy your age! Take advantage of every single senior discount available. There are a few right here in Fernley.

Tuesday is a great day to be 65 years of age or older. Raley's offers seniors a 5% discount on all purchases on Tuesdays. And right across the street, also on Tuesdays, Grocery Outlet will lessen the financial strain by providing a 10% discount to older folks.

If you are enrolled in the

MyWalgreens Rewards program, people age 55 and older get a whopping 20% off their purchases on the first Tuesday — and only the first Tuesday — of every month. But here's the trick: YOU HAVE TO ASK FOR YOUR DISCOUNTS.

Need a haircut? Well, Supercuts drops its price from \$25 to \$23 for the over-65 set, while Great Clips will prune your locks for only \$20.

Not all the restaurants in town offer senior discounts, but some feature senior menus. Portions are smaller, but the price is right for enjoying a meal out with a friend. All Points Bar and Grill, Squeeze In and Black Bear Diner all have menus tailored to senior diners, while Round Table offers a discount to seniors. But again, be sure to ask for it.

Through national brand partnerships, AARP offers a ton of savings. Dining, travel options, merchandise, cell phone service, gasoline and more can be obtained at a discount with an AARP membership.

And who doesn't order from Amazon? Did you know that lower-income seniors and people with qualifying disabilities may be eligible for a discounted Amazon Prime membership?

ship?

If you're up for RVing or hiking, the National Park Service provides access to literally thousands of sites. People over age 62 can obtain an annual pass for \$20 or a lifetime pass for \$80.

Visiting our state parks will cost you a little more. However, for \$30 a year, those age 65 and older qualify for a Nevada State Park Senior Citizen Permit — a bargain considering the pass sells for \$100 for younger people.

Now, here's some more good news: The City of Fernley and Lyon County care about their older residents. In fact, the city sponsors a Senior Citizens Advisory Committee whose purpose is to bring benefits and information to those of us living out our golden years in town.

With the cooperation of the City Council, this group of appointed volunteers brings us the annual summer fan drives, the Angel Tree of past years, the coming blanket drive, the Ice Cream Social last July and much more.

On Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, at 9 a.m., the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee is sponsoring an important event at Black Bear Diner. AI and Scams: Keep Yourself Safe will be

presented free of charge by Timothy Johnston of the Better Business Bureau. Coffee and pastries will be provided.

The Fernley Senior Center, 105 Lois Lane, operated by Lyon County Human Services, is a terrific resource. The center provides nutritious lunches Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$2, but no one is ever turned away.

Periodically, commodities and food distribution days are held at the center. Additionally, a wide range of social activities are offered free of charge. Undoubtedly, the Fernley Senior Center is a wonderful place to connect with old friends and make some new ones.

While doing our shopping in town, we should all be sure to ask every merchant about senior discounts. If enough of us speak up, we might inspire more businesses to offer more savings.

Sonia Hedrick is interested in YOU! Like to share your unusual story with our neighbors? Or do you have an interesting topic you would like to explore in Senior Sense? Send Sonia an email at: shedrick-fernley@gmail.com

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet these boys...

Khan and Mojo are 12 week old boys. They are very social, playful, and love to cuddle up in a nice warm lap. Khan and Mojo are fixed, vaccinated and microchipped. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet them, please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will get back to you asap!
775-575-0950 This number does not accept texts*



Precious Paws Society of NV | 1085 Aster Ln, Fernley, NV 89408
775-575-0950 | preciouspawssocietynv@gmail.com

PET OF THE WEEK

His name is Dutton!



Dutton sure has a lot of personality for such a young guy. If not reclaimed he will be up for adoption Saturday September 12th. Keep watching for more pictures and videos of this silly boy. To meet Dutton or one of the other dogs seeking a forever home, please contact the Lyon County Shelter at 775-577-5005 for more information or to schedule a meet and greet!



Lyon County Animal Shelter
3705 Highway 50 West in Silver Springs, NV 89429
775-577-5005



the Fernley reporter

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- **A Little Off the Top Salon & Styling Company**
- **Wigwam**
- **The Canal Wine Lounge**
- **Coldwell Banker Select Fernley**
- **Fernley Chamber of Commerce**
- **The Nest**
- **Carpet King Interiors/ Abbey Carpet & Floor**
- **Silver Spur Saloon**
- **Buddy Boys**
- **All Points Bar & Grill**
- **McHoppers Brew Co.**
- **Desert Rose RV**
- **Black Bear Diner**
- **The Golf Club at Fernley**
- **Fernley City Hall Clerk's Office**
- **State Farm – Dan Glass Agency**
- **REMAX at the Golf Course**
- **The Parlor Barbershop**
- **The Boys & Girls Club**