

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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Council votes 3-2 to expel Lau

By Robert Perea

In a 3-2 vote at its March 4 meeting, the Fernley City Council voted to permanently expel Councilman Stan Lau.

The action by the council was to adopt resolution 26-002, which states that an independent outside investigation determined that Lau violated City of Fernley Personnel Policies and Procedures Fair Employment Practices and that such conduct constitutes grounds for permanent expulsion pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 266.240.

The resolution also declares the seat formerly held by Lau to be vacant as of March 4, 2026 and the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with NRS 266.225, including an applicable appointment or special election requirements.

Nevada Revised Statute 266.240 states, "The city council shall determine its own rules of procedure, may punish its members for disorderly conduct, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the city council, may expel a member for cause."

The investigation was based on outbursts by Lau during budget hearings last April 3 and May 8. In



Fernley City Council members look on as the results of the vote on the motion to expel Councilman Stan Lau are posted. Photo by Robert Perea

the April 3 incident, Lau yelled at Councilwoman Felicity Zoberiski during a discussion, and told McIntyre to shut up when the mayor tried to intervene. In the May 8 incident, during discussion after Councilman Albert Torres asked for an item on the next agenda to not fund the city manager position, Lau told Torres to shut up and at one point stood up facing Torres. When Torres said "Don't talk to me like that," Lau responded "I'll talk to you any way I want."

In his opening remarks introduc-

ing the item for Wednesday's discussion, Torres said Lau "threatened to kick my ass," during that May 8 meeting.

Lau said he had asked Torres to go outside to talk, not to fight.

"We all have that in the report that all I said was 'Let's go outside,' and all I meant was let's go out and talk," Lau said. "None of us up here communicate like we used to, and I think that's an issue."

At the beginning of the discussion at last Wednesday's meeting, City

Attorney Aaron Mouritsen told the council it had the authority to consider actions ranging from censure to permanent removal. He said the hearing was also Lau's opportunity to respond and present any evidence.

When reached for comment after the meeting, Lau said he was not ready to make any statements and did not say whether he intends to contest his expulsion. During the hearing, however, Lau repeatedly apologized

Continued on Page 4 - LAU...

Fernley Chamber luncheon highlights growth, scholarships and major development interest



Taylor Adams, CEO of the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, discussed business retention and expansion in Fernley during the Fernley Chamber of Commerce quarterly luncheon. Photo by Robert Perea

By Rachel Dahl

The Fernley Chamber of Commerce used its quarterly luncheon to spotlight both its own 2026 priorities and the larger economic forces shaping Fernley's future, with Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada CEO Taylor Adams telling attendees the city is positioned to play a major role in the region's next wave of growth.

Adams said EDAWN continues to focus on business attraction, retention, expansion, entrepreneurial development, workforce partnerships and investor relations. He described Northern Nevada as an increasingly attractive market for companies looking for a lower-cost alternative to California, particularly in advanced manufacturing, logistics, technology and energy-related development.

"If it were up to me, I'd make Gavin Newsom governor for life," Adams

joked, drawing laughs from the audience before explaining that high costs in California continue to push companies to consider Northern Nevada for manufacturing and operations.

Adams said Fernley is especially well positioned because of its location, entitled housing, transportation access and the amount of private investment already made in industrial land and infrastructure.

"I can tell you, the future of the Northern Nevada economy is right here," Adams said. "Fernley's time has come."

He said EDAWN currently is working with 275 qualified leads and described Fernley as one of the communities most likely to benefit as those opportunities turn into projects. He also pointed to a continued need for energy generation and infrastructure, especially as data centers and

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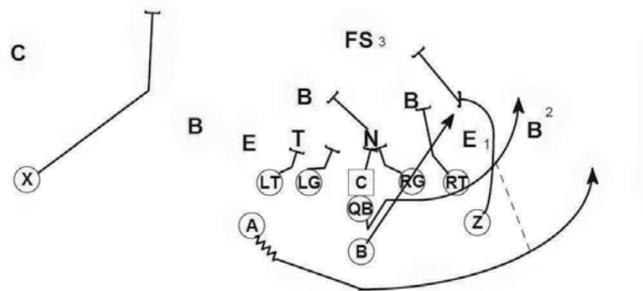
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



Fernley has spoken, and the message was unmistakable

There are times when public comment during local government meetings drifts, meanders, or circles around a handful of familiar concerns. And then there are nights like last Wednesday, when the community shows up with a single, unmistakable message that it's had enough.

Speaker after speaker stepped to the podium at the beginning of last Wednesday's City Council meeting, not to argue policy or push an agenda, but to plead for something far more basic: grown up governance.

Residents, business owners, life-long Fernley families, and newcomers who chose this city on purpose all said some version of the same thing, that the council's infighting, personal targeting, and public feuds are hurting Fernley's reputation, its growth, and its sense of community.

One resident put it bluntly: "What we're seeing isn't stability. It's dysfunction."

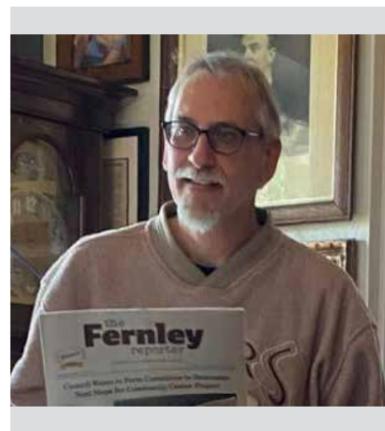
Another speaker, a business owner who works daily with families moving to Fernley, warned that perception matters.

"When leadership appears divided or focused on personal battles instead of policy, it affects confidence," she said. "Confidence affects growth."

That line could have been the thesis of the entire night.

While there was certainly some anger behind some of the comments, most of them were coming from a place of disappointment, sadness and even a little pity.

Several speakers referenced that Fernley is on the cusp of enormous



ROBERT PEREA

growth. The Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada had just told the Chamber of Commerce at its quarterly luncheon earlier that day that Fernley may be one of the fastest growing areas in the country over the next decade.

And yet, as one business owner said: "We are really the city on the hill right now, but the infighting makes it uncomfortable. I don't want to have to pick and choose."

The most stinging comment of the night may have come from a lifelong resident who said he watches every meeting. "You guys are really like a bad episode of The View," he said. "It's embarrassing. I'm embarrassed for you."

It wasn't said with malice. It was said with the exhaustion of someone who loves this place and expects better from the people elected to lead it.

Across all the comments, the request was simple: stop the personal attacks, stop the retaliatory complaints,

stop airing every grievance in public and start governing.

Or, as one speaker put it, "We voted you to represent us, not your personal interests and not your personal name."

The message was clear that Fernley is frustrated with its leadership.

And on this night, the community spoke with one unmistakably united voice, asking the council to reset the tone, refocus on the work, and remember who they serve.

Because as they spoke one by one, each speaker made it clear that Fernley deserves better, and they still believe better is possible.

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.



CODE ENFORCEMENT TUNE-UP!

Join the discussion!

Every Fernley resident has a stake in the City's appearance. Your Voice Matters!

Please join us on:

March 13th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
March 14th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: City Hall Council Chambers @ 595 Silverlace Blvd.

Code Enforcement exists to protect public health, safety, and quality of life by reducing environmental hazards and maintaining property standards. The city is updating the nuisance ordinance to help preserve property values and prevent neighborhood deterioration. We would love to hear input and have open conversations about the nuisance ordinance the city may adopt. To view the new Ordinances, please go to: <https://www.cityoffernley.org/DocumentCenter/View/30296/Clean---New-title-16--Fernley>

Questions: codeenforcement@cityoffernley.org (775) 784-9900

Discussion Topics:

- Code Update
- Code sections
- Definitions
- How will the change affect you?
- Your rights as a resident.
- Q&A with code enforcement staff.
- Learn what code enforcement is and what it isn't.

Key Components of Code Enforcement

- Public Safety & Health
- Neighborhood Preservation
- Fairness & Consistency
- Voluntary Compliance
- Service & Partnership

Fernley Women's Golf Club Results, Mar. 3

Game: Monthly Stroke Play

- 1st Gross: Sandy Corsi, 80
- 1st Net: Shane Miller, 55
- 2nd Gross: Jana Garner, 81
- 2nd Net: Susan Marinucci, 57
- 3rd Net: Sandi Sewchok, 58
- 4th Net: Val Montgomery, 58
- Low Putts: Jana Garner, 31
- Closest to hole #7: Val Montgomery, 10'4"
- Closest to hole #11: Patty Liljeberg, 13'8"
- Birdies: Sandy Corsi, #3; Juneil Key, #6; Loretta Bradley, #10; Patty Liljeberg, #10 & #15; Rita Hanifen, #12; Jana Garner, #12 & #17; Marla Garrett, #12 & #17; Shane Miller, #15
- Chip-In: Shane Miller, #18

FERNLEY NEWS MINUTE

Get the latest in City of Fernley and Lyon County news every weekday at 6am, 9am, 1pm, & again at 4pm with the Fernley News Minute. sponsored by The Fernley Reporter and presented by 101.3 fm My Biggest Little Radio

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FEATURES

Dunagan-Stephens and Jacobson leave as the most accomplished players in Fernley boys basketball history

By Robert Perea

Before they ever rewrote Fernley's record book, before the 38-2 league record and three straight regional titles, Bryce Dunagan-Stephens and Sheldon Jacobson were just two kids sitting in the bleachers, imagining themselves in orange and black.

Four years later, they leave as the most accomplished players in program history.

As four year varsity players, the pair went 38-2 in league play, a run their coach shakes his head at. needs to say their coach Cade Knutson shakes his head at.

"Thirty eight and two," he said. "Who's done that? It's not an easy league. The fact that they lost two league games their entire career, and won three regional tournaments in a row, is incredible."

Across four years, the numbers behind their careers are as remarkable as the wins. Both played 118 varsity games, with Dunagan-Stephens starting all four seasons. He leaves as Fernley's all time leading scorer with 1,562 points, along with 351 assists and 558 rebounds, ranking second in both categories. Jacobson finishes with 1,474 points, fourth all time, along with 325 assists (third) and 544 rebounds (fifth).



Bryce Dunagan-Stephens and Sheldon Jacobson. Photos by John Baker.

Together, they went 97-21 as varsity players, including an almost unthinkable 38-2 in league play over four seasons.

They were also recognized across the region for their dominance. Dunagan-Stephens and Jacobson



were co-MVPs of the Northern 3A East All-League and Northern 3A All-Region teams this season, and both earned first-team All-State honors.

In addition, Bodie Parsons was named to the All-League first team and All-Region second team, Michael

Fitzgerald was named to the All-League second team and Skyler Ledesma-James earned All-League honorable mention. Knutson was the league and region Coach of the Year.

Asked whether they ever imagined becoming this good, Dunagan-Stephens didn't hesitate.

"I was working since I was in the third grade with my dad, training outside," he said. "He just said be confident. So I kind of did, yeah."

Jacobson's confidence came from watching the players who came before him.

"I'd always come up here watching the games when I was young," he said. "I watched Carson Kingston a lot, the way he moved, the way he played. That's kind of where I wanted to be."

Dunagan-Stephens moved to Fernley in seventh grade, and his dad immediately started taking him to varsity games.

"It was like Jett (Caudle), and Carson, and those guys," he said. "And before that, I watched Elijah Jackson from Fallon a lot. My parents used to babysit him. I learned a lot from him."

Both played varsity minutes as freshmen, though neither remembers it as a smooth arrival.

Continued on Page 11 - BASKETBALL...

Softball star Tollestrup sets basketball scoring standard

By Robert Perea

Basketball was never supposed to be Taylor Tollestrup's defining sport. She grew up a softball kid, playing year round, and has already signed to play Division I softball at UNLV next year. Basketball, she said, "was just to get in shape."

And yet she leaves Fernley High School as the all time leading scorer, boys or girls, in school history, finishing with 1,710 career points.

"It was a little surprising," Tollestrup said. "That wasn't really my goal going into high school. I didn't think I'd hit a thousand points. But once I hit a thousand and realized how close I was to breaking the record, that was my only goal, and obviously, going to State."

Her four year run was as dominant as it was unlikely. Fernley went 105-19 overall and 39-3 in league play during her career, reaching the state tournament all four seasons.

Tollestrup's final year was her most decorated. She was named the Northern 3A East League MVP, the Northern 3A Regional MVP, and earned first team All State honors, a sweep that underscored her impact on both ends of the floor.

Tollestrup was joined on the All-League and All-Region first team by Justice Martell-Artiaga, while Irene Brown and Laura Rosales were named to the All-League second team. Zaelynn Wasson, Lillianna Young and Tatiana Velazquez all earned honorable mention.

Fernley coach Ralph Dunn was named the League and Region Coach of the Year.

Dunn said the awards only tell part of Tollestrup's story.

"She's just so athletic and a fierce competitor with high pain tolerance," Dunn said. "She will go down as the best girls basketball player to play at Fernley. Her stats speak for themselves."

Tollestrup was also the League MVP in softball last year.

"If Taylor would have played volleyball, she would have been a three sport Player of the Year," coach Ralph Dunn said.

Tollestrup never pretended basketball was her main focus.

"I think it was just getting in shape for softball," she said. "It was always a side sport."

Tollestrup signed with UNLV softball in November.

"Felt good," she said. "Felt locked in,



Fernley's Taylor Tollestrup was named the Northern 3A East All-League and Northern 3A All-Region Most Valuable Player, while coach Ralph Dunn was named Coach of the Year. Photo courtesy of Ralph Dunn

a plan for the future."

Before she leaves, Tollestrup has one more goal: helping Fernley softball win back to back state championships, and earning back to back MVP honors in the process. And what will it take to accomplish that?

"Just have another good hitting year, fill my spot at shortstop, and be on a team that wins," she said.

Tollestrup's basketball career will be

remembered for her numbers, but also for her perspective. She never chased the spotlight or pretended basketball was her passion, even as she became the best scorer the school has ever had.

"I didn't exactly have the most fun playing it," she said.

Even so, she will leave Fernley with a record that may stand for decades and with a future already mapped out in the sport she always loved most.

Chapin presented with Vaquero Hart Award at Booster Club banquet

By Robert Perea

Fernley High School softball coach Diane Chapin was announced as the winner of this year's Vaquero Hart Award at the FHS Booster Club Crab Feed on March 7 at the Fernley Senior Center.

The Vaquero Hart Award, named after former Fernley football coach Dave Hart, is presented annually to an individual who has made an extraordinary impact on Fernley High School.

Booster Club member Chrissy Haas said the honor recognizes a legacy of service, leadership and long term influence on student development, school programs, facilities and culture and public community service that demonstrates commitment to the legacy of excellence in the Fernley community.

Booster Club President Jackie Kingston shared a personal memory of first encountering Chapin years ago.

"I met Diane when my husband (Tom Kingston) coached against her in Winnemucca all those years ago," she said. "Our goal was to beat Diane because she was so good at what she did. We'd say, 'That blond lady, she knows

her game.'"

The two coaches met in the 2006 state title game, with Lowry winning. They met again in 2007, and Chapin's team came out on top.

"And then Tom said, 'Let's move to Fernley. I think I want to coach softball under Diane,'" she said with a laugh. "And I said, 'Okay.'"

Chapin, who also coaches volleyball, has the most wins of any softball coach in state history, entering this season with 682. She has also led the Vaqueros to the state tournament 14 times, winning seven state titles, tying her for second in state history with Dick Allen, who coached at Reed and Wooster.



Fernley softball coach Diane Chapin was presented with the Vaqueros Hart Award at last Saturday's FHS Booster Club Crab Feed fundraiser. Photo by Robert Perea



A nearly full house packed the Fernley Senior Center for the FHS Booster Club Crab Feed fundraiser last Saturday night. Photo by Robert Perea

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Obermayr announces candidate filing for Nevada Assembly District 39

Staff Report

Longtime Lyon County resident Erich Obermayr, a Democrat, has filed to run for Nevada Assembly District 39. Obermayr and his wife Meg are 34-year residents of Silver City, where they built their home, raised their daughter and are active members of their community. He has been on the Silver City Citizen Advisory Board for 11 years and currently serves as Chair.

“The 2027 Legislature will need to respond to a number of challenges facing the state, and District 39 in particular,” Obermayr said. “These include the funding crisis facing the Douglas County School District and

the prohibitively high cost of housing in Douglas and Lyon Counties. We must change the Pupil-Centered Funding Plan formula to give more weight to the unique problems facing rural school districts, as well as re-examining state-mandated expenditures, and exploring additional revenue sources. The legislature must also continue pressing forward to balance housing supply and demand by supporting attainable housing construction and passing legislation limiting private equity firms’ manipulation of the housing market.”

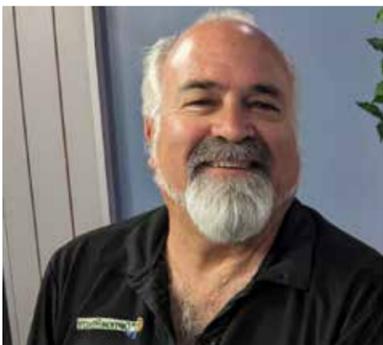
Obermayr also proposes changes that would allow nonpartisan voters to participate in closed primary

elections. He proposes that registered non-partisan voters receive mail-in primary ballots for each party and then choose which one to complete and submit. Or they could vote, as usual, only for non-partisan offices and issues. They would be offered the same choice of ballots for in-person voting.

“This is a classic case of taxation without representation,” he said. “This is not an open primary in which, for example, Republicans could vote in the Democratic primary, or vice versa,” Obermayr said. “It applies only to registered non-partisans, who by the way, comprise almost one-third of District 39 voters.” voters.”



Erich Obermayr



Dana Uhlhorn, founder of the Fernley ACES (Art Culture Event Squad). Photo courtesy of ACES.

Uhlhorn to speak March 17 at FRW meeting

Staff Report

The Fernley Republican Women will feature Fernley ACES founder Dana Uhlhorn as the guest speaker at their March meeting, taking a brief break from political programming before campaign season begins.

The meeting will be held March 17 at the Fernley Senior Center, 105 Lois Lane. A light meal will be served at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:30

p.m. The public is invited to attend, and RSVPs are requested.

Uhlhorn was born in California and moved to northern Nevada at age 5. He began working in construction at a young age, spending time on job sites as early as 10. After back issues forced him out of construction, he shifted to building and painting custom cars and later owned several body shops.

Starting a family led him to a new

career in real estate. Uhlhorn has been a licensed Realtor since 2009 and founded 1st Option Realty in 2016. In 2018, he launched Fernley ACES to promote art and community events. The organization has since grown to a board of about 10 members and another 10 or more contributing artists and volunteers, organizing projects such as community boards, haunted houses, and the Music, Murals and Margaritas events.

Continued from FRONT - LAU...

and raised several objections to the process.

He began by apologizing for his behavior in both of the meetings cited in the investigation, saying his passion got away from him. He said he had apologized publicly and privately to Torres on May 28 and he believed the two had agreed to “bury the hatchet.”

“I’m hoping that the city of Fernley, we can move past this, and we can move forward,” Lau said.

Lau continued to apologize throughout the meeting. He raised several procedural objections, arguing that he had not been properly notified because he did not receive notification that his character, conduct and competence would be discussed; that the agenda item did not clearly state that permanent removal was being considered; and that he had already been censured in September for the same incidents, calling the new action double jeopardy.

Attempting to prove that he didn’t threaten Torres, Lau played a recording of that part of the May 8 meeting, then apologized again to city staff, the council and to Torres.

“I was very unprofessional and I take completely full responsibility for my actions, and I apologize for that,” he said.

Councilman Ryan Hanan argued that Lau was being held to a different standard than the rest of the council. He requested to play a recording from the Sept. 17 meeting where the council voted to censure Lau. Mouritsen said it is up to the mayor to determine what is and is not relevant to the topic.

During its vote at the beginning of

the meeting to adopt the agenda, the council had voted 3-2 to remove an item from the agenda to discuss the character, competence and conduct of Torres stemming from an independent outside investigation into his conduct.

“So if this has anything to do with me, it needs to be readdressed in a different venue or a different time and be agendized,” Torres said. “This is strictly supposed to be discussing the actions of Councilman Lau.”

McIntyre said he didn’t believe the recording or the transcript of the recording Hanan was attempting to discuss was relevant and involved other council members, not just Lau.

“We are holding someone to a standard that we’re not holding the other folks to, and I can absolutely use that in my rebuttal testimony against the censure hearing of Councilman Lau,” Hanan argued.

McIntyre again denied Hanan’s request.

Zoberski asked whether the investigation, which was conducted by POOL/PACT, the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool, substantiated the allegations against Lau. When Mouritsen said it did, Zoberski asked if he could give a brief summary.

Mouritsen responded that a quick summary could be done during a legal brief and it’s their prerogative whether they wish to discuss what they’re told during a legal brief.

“But I’m not going to disclose what occurred in that legal brief or any documents related to that legal brief,” he said.

Mouritsen said both documents are confidential because they relate to personnel matters. However, the report involving Torres was included in

the minutes of Wednesday’s meeting by Torres and Hanan. Mouritsen said the City Clerk said she expects those minutes to be completed Friday and available to the public.

Hanan said he reviewed the investigation and said he believes a censure allowed by law is sufficient in Lau’s case. But he argued that he’s not aware of a body that’s permanently removed an elected official.

He referred to the case of former Councilman Dan McCassie, who moved out of his ward and the council was unable to remove him.

“My understanding of Nevada state law is that we are duly elected by the representatives in our ward and those people, and only those people, can put us here and remove us,” Hanan said.

In McCassie’s case, Third Judicial District Court Judge John Schlegelmilch ruled that McCassie must resign.

In 2013, Representative Steven Brooks was expelled from the Nevada Assembly. Prior to his expulsion, Brooks had been arrested twice, first when Assembly Speaker Marilyn Kirkpatrick said he had threatened her, and second on a charge of domestic battery.

Hanan said he believes that if Lau was removed by the council, he could file a lawsuit that would cause the city serious financial harm and the court would likely put him back on the council until the case was decided.

“We removed him from the committees he was on, and like I said, I didn’t vote at the time, but I would have voted tonight to remove him from committees, because what he’s done is an embarrassment to the city,” Hanan said.

Hanan attempted to use the investi-

gation into Torres to demonstrate that the council was holding one councilman to a different standard than the rest, but McIntyre again said that was not part of the agenda item to discuss Lau’s expulsion.

Before the council voted, Mouritsen addressed some of the issues brought up by Lau. He said the city sent notification of the hearing to Lau by certified mail on Feb. 5. He said NRS requires the notice to be sent, and whether it was received is not a requirement. He also said there is no Open Meeting Law violation because the agenda explains clearly and concisely what the agenda item is and that the notice sent to Lau includes possible actions related to expulsion. He said expulsion was also on the agenda on the Feb. 4 meeting, then the item was continued to the March 4 meeting.

Councilman Joe Mendoza thanked Lau for his apologies, and asked Lau to resign from his position.

“Accountability is not just apologizing, but doing what’s right,” Mendoza said. “I just want to offer that before we move any further and ask if you’d be willing to resign from your position, step down for the duration of your term.”

Lau instead said he objects to the action as an elected councilman, saying exclusion from council meetings infringes on the rights of his constituents, raises due process and Open Meeting Law concerns.

“I request that my objection be entered into the minutes, and no, I will not resign,” Lau said.

After Lau apologized a final time, the council voted 3-2 to approve the motion by Mendoza to adopt the resolution that included expelling Lau from the council.



FERNLEY SENIOR CENTER MENU

105 LOIS LANE, FERNLEY, NEVADA | 775-575-3370

Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Prices: 60+ \$2 donation, for those under 60 \$7 fee.

Monday, Mar. 9

Cheeseburger Whole Wheat Bun
Texas Ranchero Beans
Mixed Veggies
Fruit Cocktail
100% Juice

Tuesday, Mar. 10

Corned Beef Irish Champ
Mashed Potatoes, Green Onions & Gravy
Roasted Carrots
Sliced Apples
100% Juice
Pistachio Delight

Wednesday, Mar. 11

Chicken Parmesan
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Italian Dressing
Pineapple Chunks

Thursday, Mar. 12

Shrimp Scampi Bake
Whole Wheat Penne Pasta
Biscuit
Lima Beans
Cauliflower
Peaches

Friday, Mar. 13

Turkey Chili
Cornbread
Mixed Green Salad
Italian Dressing
Ambrosia

COMMUNITY

One person found dead after structure fire



By Robert Perea

One person was found dead inside a home after a structure fire March 4.

At approximately 11:35 a.m., North Lyon Fire Protection District responded to reports of a structure fire in the area of Canal Road in Fernley.

Upon arrival, Battalion 60 and Engine 61 observed a well-involved residential structure fire that was threatening nearby homes. Crews immediately initiated fire suppression efforts under challenging, windy conditions.

North Lyon units, with assistance from mutual aid partners at Central

Lyon Fire Protection District, Storey County Fire Department, and Pyramid Lake Fire worked together to contain the fire. Despite the weather conditions, crews were able to quickly knock down the primary fire and prevent significant spread to surrounding residences. The fire did extend to one neighboring home, causing minor damage to a garage. Lyon County Sheriff's Office responded to secure the area.

One victim was found dead inside the home.

The cause and origin of the fire are under investigation by the Nevada State Fire Marshal's Office.

Fire Chief asks council for help with revenues for staffing

By Robert Perea

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Chief Brian Bunn asked the Fernley City Council during its March 4 meeting to reconsider supporting the district with revenues for staffing.

Bunn was speaking to the council during an agenda item for reports from various public entities.

He began his presentation by thanking Mayor Neal McIntyre for recent meetings that he said have been fruitful. He said the fire district is looking forward to finalizing some of the verbal agreements with the city as far as one time monies, and for deeding the new fire station, which will be built on Duffy Road by Mark IV Capital as a requirement of a development agreement, to the district upon the issuance of its Certificate of Occupancy.

Bunn also said the fire district is in negotiations with a public-private agreement to house a medical transport helicopter in Fernley. He said the district has secured donations for concrete and labor for a helipad behind the Main Stret Fire Station.

He then got emotional, referring to a fatal house fire earlier that day in which one person was killed.

"Today was a long day," Bunn said. "I feel like a broken record. I talk about our call volume. In 2025, we had over 4,000 overlapping calls, with no resources. We had it today with the fire."

Bunn then placed a pressurized water can on the table next to the podium where he was speaking.

"We had one captain available to show up and try to save a life; 1,200 degrees, he got pushed out and we lost a citizen of this community," Bunn said. "We're underfunded. We're understaffed. The community should worry."

Last April, Bunn said he had asked the city, through meetings with McIntyre and City Councilwoman Felicity Zobernski, for a cooperative agreement where the city would provide the fire district with \$1.7 million, the amount he said the district is losing from property tax abatements.

During the council's tentative budget hearing on April 3 last year, Zobernski proposed adding a line item to the city's budget to help the fire de-

partment. She didn't request a specific amount, saying the council could decide what amount it might want to earmark. During a second budget hearing on May 8, Zobernski and Councilman Joe Mendoza asked that the city include a line item in its final budget for public safety.

Then-City Manager Ben Marchant said the item wasn't included in the budget because he had not been given a specific request, and added that the same tax formula that costs the fire district \$1.7 million per year in abatements costs the city \$4 million per year. City Treasurer Robert Carson also told the council the city can't allocate money for public safety to a specific fund because it doesn't have a public safety function.

Bunn concluded his report at last week's meeting by renewing his request for the council to help the fire department.

"I'm going to ask you, Mr. Mayor and City Council, can you reconsider supporting us with revenues for staff?" he said. "It is very much needed."



North Lyon County Fire Protection District Chief, Brian Bunn speaking to the Fernley City Council during the March 4 meeting. Photo courtesy of the City of Fernley

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BUSINESS

City moves toward aligning land-use code with new state law on multi-family and mixed-use developments

By Kerry Lyman

Reacting to a recent change in state law, the Fernley City Council will hold a public hearing on March 18 to amend the city's land use table to allow multi-family housing and mixed-use developments by right in all the city's commercial zoning districts.

Such development is already allowed in commercial zoning districts, subject to the issuance of a conditional use permit (CUP). However, the proposed amendment would remove CUP requirement in accordance with Assembly Bill (AB) 241, recently passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, which took effect last October, ac-

ording to a city staff report.

AB 241 provides that multi-family and mixed-use developments, meaning development of commercial and multi-family uses in the same project, typically with commercial uses on the ground floor, would be allowed by right on properties zoned for commercial use, according to the staff report.

The bill also declares any state or local regulations in conflict with the provisions of AB 241 to be void.

The amendment would remove the CUP requirement in the city's Neighborhood Commercial (C1), General Commercial (C2) and Tourist Commercial (TC) zoning districts, the staff report noted.

New business licenses

The Fernley City Council approved the following new business licenses at its Mar. 4 meeting:

Rocket Electric LLC, Sparks, NV, Residential Electrical Contractor
Ventus Hospice Care, Inc.
 dba/ICare Hospice Reno, Reno, In-Home Hospice Services
Highland Investments LLC dba/ The Window Shop, Fernley, Window Sales
Wallace P Johnson Plumbing & Heating, Anaheim, CA, Plumbing Contractor
Morgan Construction Nevada, LLC, Reno, Demolition Contractor
SB Builders LLC, Carson City, General Commercial Contractor
Van De Pol Enterprises, Inc. dba/

Silver State Petroleum, Sparks, Petroleum Sales
GCW, Inc., Las Vegas, Professional Engineering Services
Community Tech Support, Fernley, Computer Repair and Consulting
Telaid Industries Inc, Niantic, CT, Alarm Systems/Security
Phelps Engineering Services, Inc, Reno, Engineering Development
Jaeger Electrical LLC, Reno, Electrical Contractor
Kemper & Sons Masonry, Inc., Stateline, Masonry Contractor

Continued from FRONT - CHAMBER...

advanced manufacturing users seek locations in Northern Nevada.

Adams said data centers can offer strong tax benefits to local governments but added that growth must be handled responsibly so it does not unfairly burden existing residents.

That discussion was reinforced by comments from Mark IV Capital Senior Vice President, Rick Nelson, who said the company has already invested approximately \$440 million into Fernley-area property and infrastructure.

Nelson said Microsoft has purchased 300 acres in the development area and is expected to begin the permitting process. He also said Mark IV is moving forward with a power substation that will provide a substantial boost to the City of Fernley coffers through franchise fees. In previous meetings, Nelson has said franchise

fees could yield nearly \$58 million to the city. Plans are also advancing for natural gas generation nearby.

He said additional businesses are also looking at the area, including data centers, retail, restaurants and other commercial users, though some remain under non-disclosure agreements.

"While it doesn't look like a lot's going on, a lot of things are happening," he said.

According to Nelson, the company is also planning a master-planned community to the north of I-80 and is working on workforce development efforts in partnership with regional education and training providers. He said current workforce demand tied to future development could rise from roughly 400 workers now to as many as 3,000 within a year.

Both Adams and Nelson emphasized the same basic message: growth is coming, and Fernley has an opportunity to shape it.

Adams told the audience that the city's location along the I-80 corridor, future transportation connections and industrial readiness have made it a focal point for regional and even national attention.

"This place is happening," Adams said.

Before Adams spoke, chamber committee leaders gave updates on membership, scholarships, events and business outreach, underscoring an effort this year to make chamber events more valuable to members while keeping them financially sustainable.

The Ambassadors Committee chair, Kim Jones, said the chamber is focused on boosting attendance and creating stronger value at both breakfasts and luncheons.

Treasurer Dan Ravetto said the chamber is also working closely with committee chairs to ensure events at least break even, crediting sponsors with helping keep costs manageable

while allowing the organization to invest in community efforts.

Education Committee Chair Wendy Fagundes announced the chamber's 2026 scholarship application is now available. She encouraged businesses to share the application with employees and families, noting that scholarships are available both for traditional college students and for those pursuing trade school.

Karoline Ciesielska, who chairs the membership committee, said the chamber has reviewed its membership rolls and now counts nearly 300 businesses among its members. She said the committee will soon begin outreach calls to gather feedback from members and better understand how the chamber can provide support, resources and educational workshops.

Other chamber announcements included the Fernley Chamber golf tournament, scheduled for May 2, and the annual gala on March 21.

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To submit an obituary send via email to: admin@FallonMediaLLC.com

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.

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GOVERNMENT

Council OKs zone change for Chaparral Estates following second hearing

By Kerry Lyman

Following a public hearing at its March 4 meeting, the Fernley City Council approved a zone change for the proposed Chaparral Estates subdivision from rural residential to single family zoning with 6,000-square-foot lots.

The proposed 102-dwelling subdivision is located between Farm District Road to the south, Langdon Street to the north, Winnie Lane on the west and Nevada Pacific Boulevard to the east.

The proposed zone change for the 24.7-acre site was continued last October due to safety concerns and other issues regarding an irrigation ditch that runs alongside the western boundary of the property. Those issues continued to be an area of concern at the second public hearing on March 4.

However, since many of the issues had been addressed in the interim and any remaining issues will apparently be addressed in the final design, the council approved the zone change by a 4-1 vote, with Councilman Joe Mendoza voting against the measure.

As was previously proposed, housing along the western property line, adjacent to the irrigation ditch, will be set back from the ditch a total of 65 feet. Thirty-five feet of the setback consists of the existing NV Energy easement and 30 feet will be the back yards of homes in the proposed subdivision, according to Derek Kirkland of Wood Rogers Inc., representing the applicant.

Due to the difficulty in piping the ditch as had been proposed earlier as a possible solution, it was decided to leave the ditch open and to install an open 6-foot-tall wrought iron fence directly adjacent to the ditch, Kirkland said.

In addition, housing pads adjacent

to the ditch will be constructed at a level three feet higher than the elevation of the ditch, effectively creating a 3-foot deep and 35-foot wide retention basin along the NV Energy easement should the ditch overflow, Kirkland said, noting that solid fencing along the 30-foot back yards will separate housing from the utility easement.

"If water tops the ditch, the open view fence won't be destroyed and water can collect there (in the easement) without impacting the houses," Kirkland said.

Along the eastern property line, there will be 30-foot back yards and a 30-foot "no build" buffer, topped by a small berm and solid fencing. As a result, on both the east and west sides of the subdivision "our back yards are going to be at least 60 feet deep, pushing those houses a lot farther away" from adjacent larger lot properties than would be normal, he said.

Steven Griswold, a property owner to the east of the subdivision, complained about an irrigation box that irrigation water flows into and is then distributed to different users. He said it is six feet wide, six feet deep and six feet across with three or four outlets that can easily get plugged by debris or wildlife.

For that reason, he did not feel possible flooding issues had been properly addressed and he was also concerned about children possibly getting into the irrigation box and playing. Kirkland said the developers were well aware of the issue, which would be addressed in the final design, by possibly relocating the box and/or placing fencing around the box.

There was also still some resistance among the public to the "postage stamp" sized smaller lots. But, Michelle Barney, a local resident and realtor, indicated the smaller lots are needed to

keep housing affordable since housing on half-acre lots typically costs about \$600,000 to \$700,000 and much more for even larger lots.

Mendoza asked if a drainage plan had been prepared to prevent flooding. Kirkland said two retention basins are planned along the west side of the subdivision and the depressed utility easement can serve as a backup retention basin, adding that the final design will calculate if those retention plans will be adequate.

Councilwoman Felicity Zoberiski asked if the retention basins in the plan are considered open space, and if that open space would actually be useable, since many retention basins are covered in rock and are fenced. Public Works Director Barry Williams said retention basins can be useable as a park, depending on how they are designed.

Zoberiski also asked who would be responsible for maintaining the utility easement along the western boundary. Kirkland said maintenance would be the responsibility of the adjacent property owners.

The city also had imposed a requirement that Clover Lane be paved with curb, gutter and sidewalk from Farm District Road to the southern entrance to the subdivision. Due to the rural nature of the properties abutting the road on both sides of Clover Lane until it reaches the subdivision, Kirkland requested a relaxation of that requirement.

Instead, he proposed paving Clover Lane, leaving existing drainage ditches on both sides of the road in place to not disrupt the drainage of those adjacent properties and providing a five-foot paved pedestrian path along one side of the road. That adjustment was also approved by the council.

Local races taking shape as filing period ends Friday

By Robert Perea

With four days remaining in the filing period, several local races were beginning to take shape as the first candidates filed for office. As of Monday, two people had filed to run for the Fernley City Council in both Wards 1 and 3, while five had signed up to vie for the mayor's position.

There are two seats open on the Fernley Swimming Pool GID Board of Trustees, and two on the North Lyon Fire Protection District Board of Directors. No candidates had filed

for the Pool Board as of Monday, while only one person had filed for the Fire Board.

The filing period ends at 5 p.m. Friday, but as of Tuesday these were the candidates who had filed:

Fernley City Council

Ward 1: Ryan Hanan, Gregory Barrett

Ward 3: Ryan Cross, Roy Edgington

Mayor

Neal McIntyre, Alex Colosi, John Barchie, Lawrence Ruiz, Tim Bickerton

Lyon County Commission

District 2: Scott Keller

District 5: Mark Phillips, Cole Mortensen, Micah Triplett, Mark Jones

District Attorney

Mark Krueger, Mario Walther

North Lyon County Fire Protection District

Erik Wallitner

Lyon County School Board

District 2: Darin Farr

District 4: Tom Hendrix

District 6: Kallie Day, Vince Spoon

Sheriff

Brad Pope, Timothy Shaffer

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Meetings

Fernley City Council
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month
at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting March 18

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday of the
month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting April 8

**Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory
Committee**
2nd Friday of even numbered
months at 9:00 a.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting April 10

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 March 19

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 April 14

**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 March 24

**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 March 24

**North Lyon County Fire Protection
District
Board of Trustees**
2nd or 3rd Thursday
of the month
195 E. Main St.
Next meeting April 9

**Fernley Swimming Pool
General Improvement District**
3rd Tuesday of the month
at 5:30 p.m.
300 Cottonwood Lane
Next meeting March 21

NOTICES

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District has an immediate opening for a **Full-Time Mechanic II (Automotive and Heavy Equipment Maintenance)**. Salary dependent on experience. Health insurance, enrollment in NV State Retirement, vacation and sick leave. Responsibilities include diagnosing and repairing mechanical and electrical issues related to equipment and fleet. Valid Nevada driver's license, documentation to work in the US, and ability to pass drug test required. Applications, job description and wage scale available at www.tcid.org or 2666 Harrigan Road, Fallon, Nevada. EOE.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 EDEN HEALTH

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LAW AND 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.

Mar. 2 – Mar. , 2026

JEFFREY THOMAS – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,447, Charges: Drive w/revoked driver's license for DUI (2 counts)
WILLIAM CHOMES – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$25,000, Charges: Theft, \$100,000+
ANTHONY BRATTAIN – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$1,185, Charges: Assist other agency – hold
STEPHANIE CINKOVICH – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court commitment
KENNETH THIELEN – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime
SHELBY HARSHBARGER – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,000, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
JACINDA PIERSON – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
JUSTIN RILEY – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$16,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime; Assist other agency – hold
JIMMY CURRIER – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$553,420, Charges: Assault w/deadly weapon; Child abuse or neglect, 1st; Domestic battery, 1st
AMANDA CONN – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$2,500, Charges: Conspiracy to commit crime
KASEY MILLER – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,275, Charges: DUI, 1st; Fail to maintain lane/improper lane

change/improper signal
MELISSA AYALA – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$1,025, Charges: Criminal contempt
RACHEL CANNON – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$91,780, Charges: Assault w/deadly weapon; Discharging gun/weapon where persons might be endangered; Domestic battery, 1st; Drawing deadly weapon in threatening manner
SEBASTIAN BLACKMORE – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$78,140, Charges: Child abuse or neglect, 1st; Domestic battery, 1st
GENE TERRY – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$3,640, Charges: DUI, 1st; Possession of dangerous drug w/o prescription, 1st/2nd
ANTHONY ORTEGA – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$605, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
CHRISTIAN MCMILLEN – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence
DANA ROSE – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
WESLY SELLS – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$2,640, Charges: DUI, 2nd
DONALD DAVIS – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$1,140, Charges: DUI, 1st
ROBERT MUSGROVE – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$1,140, Charges: DUI, 1st
IRA KELLY – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount:

\$12,500, Charges: Intimidate public officer/others w/threat of force, 1st; Unlawful use of emergency phone number (911)
ELIEZER MORENO OROZCO – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$4,280, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st; Resist public officer
JAMES GRESHAM – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$9,230, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g, 1st or 2nd; Drive w/o driver's license; Owner – proof of insurance required; Use/possession of drug paraphernalia; Criminal contempt (2 counts)
JACOB HETZLER – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court commitment
CHARLES CRIDLAND – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$1,140, Charges: DUI, 1st
JUSTIN KAUERS – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,380, Charges: Drive w/suspended driver's license; Operator – proof of insurance required
JANELLE PERO – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$1,050, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
MATTHEW MORTON – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$978, Charges: Contempt of court; Petit larceny
BRANDI CARGILE – Area: Yerington PD, Bail Amount: \$3,000, Charges: Assist other agency – hold
EDWARD MASSENGALE – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,780, Charges:

DUI, 1st; Non-resident driving when privilege suspended/revoked/cancelled
JACOB GUEVARA – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$3,640, Charges: Unlawful use of emergency phone number (911); Resist public officer
GUADALUPE WILBUR – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
RICHARD RICHARDS – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$5,000, Charges: Prohibited act: violation of sex offender registration, 1st
KEVIN WHITE – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$30,000, Charges: Own/possess gun by prohibited person (2 counts)
TRAVIS KREIS – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$940, Charges: Assist other agency – hold
JONELLE JONES – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$4,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st; False statement to/obstruct public officer
TIFFANY LYBARGER – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
ELSIE VENTRESS – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$70,000, Charges: Felony bench warrant (2)
SHAINA WILLARD – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$555, Charges: Criminal contempt – failure to obey court order

Charged with open murder, Miller case moves to District Court

By Leanna Lehman

Adam Elijah Miller appeared in Canal Township Justice Court in Fernley on March 5, 2026, for a preliminary hearing, at which time Judge Lori Matheus determined that probable cause existed and that the state had sufficient evidence to proceed with a criminal case. The matter was waived to Lyon County's Third Judicial District Court.

Miller was represented by Christopher Robert Day of Silver State Law in Reno, a former Washoe County Deputy District Attorney. Last year, Miller was evaluated and found competent to stand trial.

Miller, who was 19 when arrested, is facing several felony allegations in connection with the Dec. 18, 2024, murder of his father, Lance Miller, and the attempted murder of his mother, Elizabeth Miller, who was 61 at the time.

The charges against Adam Miller include Open Murder with the Use of a Deadly Weapon, a Category A Felony, which in Nevada is punishable by the death penalty, life in prison, 20 years to life, or 50 years in prison with parole eligibility after 20 years; Attempted Murder; Battery with a Deadly Weapon with Substantial Bodily Harm to a Victim 60 Years of Age or Older; and a misdemeanor charge of Destroying or Concealing Evidence.

Elizabeth Miller told the court that Adam, their only son, was living in a separate apartment attached to the house at the time. Things had become very difficult with him, and she and Lance had attempted to limit his access to the main house.

During the hearing, extensive testimony was given by Elizabeth Miller, who witnessed her husband's murder in their home on Farm District Road in Fernley. While she recalled extensive details leading up to the event and afterward, including how Lance Miller was fatally stabbed, she had difficulty recollecting many of the details of the event, particularly of her own attack.

She said she did not hear Adam approach her husband and did not immediately realize what was happening. Additionally, she was trying to administer lifesaving measures when she was attacked. According to Elizabeth, there was a great deal of blood, and she was focused on trying to keep Lance Miller alive.

Day cross-examined Elizabeth Miller during the hearing.

The state produced evidence that Elizabeth Miller gave extensive information to sheriff's deputies at the scene. However, during the hearing, she said she was not able to recall or confirm several of those statements. She explained that she had been severely



Adam Miller. Photo courtesy of Lyon County Sheriff's Office.

traumatized by the event and has been having an extremely difficult time. While she has sought professional help, she said she still has extensive memory gaps from that day.

Additionally, the state presented evidence and law enforcement testimony regarding the scene and the events that followed. In preliminary hearings, evidence does not have to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Rather, it determines whether enough evidence exists for the matter to proceed to the next phase of the criminal process.

In simple terms, a preliminary hearing determines whether a crime was committed and whether the defendant likely committed it. The court's finding does not determine guilt, but allows the case to proceed to district court.

Justice courts in Nevada cannot sentence felony cases. As Matheus found sufficient probable cause to move the case forward, it will now be heard by either Third Judicial District Court Judge Leon A. Aberasturi or Judge John P. Schlegelmilch in Yerington.

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Fernley Community Events

MAR. 13

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PRE PARTY & KARAOKE
Doors 5:00 p.m.
Karaoke 8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 14

TABLE TENNIS
9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

YOUTH CODING CLUB
(ages 8 - 12) bi-weekly
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

St. Patrick's BINGO
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

MAR. 14 (continued)

ROTARY CLUB FUNDRAISER DJ, AXE THROWING AND RAFFLE - \$42
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 18

Bingo Night hosted by Joyful Noise Preschool
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 19

TRIVIA (21+)
7:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 20

FAMILY CRAFT
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

OPEN MIC NIGHT (21+)
6:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 21

VIDEO GAME CLUB
1:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

LIVE MUSIC (21+)
Mr. Johnson and his Loaded Dice
7:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 25

FUN PAINT PARTY Create a lighted bottle - fundraiser for **PRECIOUS PAWS SOCIETY OF NEVADA**
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 26

HEALTHY STEPS FOR OLDER ADULTS (HSOA) FREE WORKSHOP
9:30-3:00 P.M. (Break 11:30-12:30)
Silver springs senior center
2945 Churchill road
(775) 784-4774

TRIVIA (21+)
7:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 27

Bingo Night hosted by Fernley Republican Women
6:30 p.m.
Fernley Senior Center
105 Lois Ln.



This page is brought to the community through a partnership between Fallon Media Co. and Victory Logistics District, and is aimed at informing Fernley residents about local government, community development, and economic growth. Each week, we provide in-depth coverage of key issues shaping the city's future, fostering transparency, and encouraging engagement.

SPORTS

Fernley swept by Dayton in league opening series

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School baseball team opened league play with a three game sweep at the hands of Dayton last weekend, and coach Thomas Chapin said the story was simple: too many mistakes in every phase of the game.

"Too many little things we don't do right," he said. "We shoot ourselves in the foot. At the end of the day, this series was about too many mistakes, at the plate, on the mound, in the field, on the bases. Baseball's a game where you can't afford to make that many mistakes because mistakes turn into runs."

All three of the games were close into the late innings. Even Friday's first game, which Dayton won 11-1, was a 2-1 game before Dayton scored six runs in the fifth and three in the sixth.

The first game of Saturday's doubleheader was tied in the fifth inning, but Dayton scored two in the fifth and one in the sixth to win 8-5. In Saturday's second game, the Vaqueros came from behind to tie the game in the fifth inning before losing 9-7.

"Friday, I walked away feeling like we got our butts kicked," he said. "But 2-1 game, we know where we're at. We're right there. We know what we're capable of when we clean up those mistakes and we fix those things."

The Vaqueros were down 2-0 Friday, but got a run on a ground out and had the tying run on third base in the top of the fifth, but left the runner stranded. Then in the bottom of the inning, an error on a Dayton bunt loaded the bases with no outs, and Dayton capitalized immediately with a two-run double by Michael Reitman to start the six-run rally.

Chapin credited Dayton for taking advantage of Fernley's miscues.

"I think they've massively improved from a year ago, and I think that's what our league is going to be like all year,"



Fernley's Alex Juliot slides into second while Dayton's Duke Williams tries to stop the ball during the second game of last Saturday's doubleheader. Photo by Robert Perea

he said. "I think anyone's good enough to beat anybody. When you make that many mistakes, it opens the door for teams to capitalize."

Saturday the Vaqueros answered in the next half inning after each of the first three times Dayton scored. But pitching in relief, Reitman shut the Vaqueros down in the sixth and seventh innings, allowing only a walk in the sixth and hitting a batter in the seventh.

In the second game, The Vaqueros again fought from behind, tying the game 5-5 in the fifth inning when two runs scored on a Dayton error. In the bottom of the fifth, Zackary Burnitt blasted a home run to put Dayton back up 6-5, then Duke Evans drove in two more with a double.

The Vaqueros scored twice to make it 8-7 in the sixth, but a walk, an error and a hit batter set up Reitman to drive in the insurance run.

Despite the sweep, Thomas said he

was encouraged by his team's competitiveness.

"They don't stop playing," he said. "My job is to take that competitiveness and funnel it into what turns into success. Sometimes you lose, sometimes you win. You get back on the horse Monday and go to work and you do what you can to win the next three."

This weekend, Fernley hosts Truckee for a league series with a single game at 3 p.m. Friday and a doubleheader starting at 11 a.m. Saturday. The Wolverines, the defending state champions, graduated a senior heavy roster but remain dangerous.

"They're extremely well coached," Thomas said. "They reloaded with a good JV group, a lot of sophomores, and they went up and took it to Lowry this weekend. I expect a very competitive series where the team that wins is probably the one that doesn't make the mistakes."

Fernley boys win second track meet; girls finish second behind Lowry

By Robert Perea

The Fernley boys ran away with the team title at last week's Fernley Sticker Meet #2, scoring 243.5 points to finish well ahead of Lowry's 135.42. The Fernley girls placed second with 169 points, trailing Lowry's 190.

Fernley collected a string of individual wins on the track. Elijah Price won the 400 meters in 54.94, while Alex Mergell took the 800 in 2:17.54. Cael Wilson swept the distance races, winning the 1600 in 5:02.28 and the 3200 in 11:28.84.

The Vaqueros also swept the hurdles. Andrew Peterson won the 110 meter hurdles in 17.84, and Bodie Parsons captured the 300 hurdles in 44.74.

Fernley added a relay victory as Michael Fitzgerald, Elijah Perez, Drostan Reno and Andrew Peterson combined to win the 4x400 in 3:58.80.

In the field events, Kole Miller won the shot put with a throw of 45 feet, 8 inches, while Parsons added wins in the discus at 140 05 and the long jump at 17 8.

On the girls side, Justice Martell Artiaga swept the hurdles, winning the 100 hurdles in 16.59 and the 300 hurdles in 48.70. Fernley also won the 4x400 relay, with Laura Rosales, Asia Christopher, Kinley Behrendt and Bronwynn Garrett finishing in 4:33.41.

Reese Johnson added a win in the triple jump with a mark of 30 11.5.

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SPORTS

Softball: Fernley rolls past Sparks as Chapin evaluates depth, pitching options

By Robert Perea

With limited field time and several players just coming out of basketball season, Fernley softball coach Diane Chapin said she was pleased with how quickly her team is beginning to settle in after a 17-0 win over Sparks last Friday, following a 3-2 start at a tournament in Needles, CA the previous weekend.

The Vaqueros plated 13 runs in the second inning and the game was called after three innings because of the 15-run rule.

The tournament games in Needles were played with time limits, and the Vaqueros fell behind early in both of their losses.

"The two games we lost, we gave up big first innings, and in timed games you sometimes run out of time before you have the chance to come back," Chapin said. "But we're getting better every day, and I thought over the weekend we got better every game."

Chapin used Friday's game to push her team situationally and to get playing time for athletes still fighting for roles.

"I was forcing some runners just to make them hit the ball and not let them get away with mistakes," she said. "Hopefully we're giving some people who don't get opportunities a



Fernley's Ximena Rodriguez catches a throw ahead of the slide by Sparks runner Joana Anguiano during last Friday's game at Sparks. Photo by Robert Perea

chance now and seeing who's going to step up when we need them later on."

Fernley also showed its pitching

depth. The Vaqueros now have four pitchers available, including freshman McKenzie Noseep-Fox, who

threw Friday and didn't allow a batter to reach base.

"She hadn't pitched much last week because she hadn't been in the workouts as much, so I didn't know if she was ready," Chapin said. "We gave her that opportunity today. We do have four different arms, and they're all different, with one lefty in there."

The Vaqueros entered the season with minimal outdoor practice time because of weather. Six players were still competing in the state basketball tournament, leaving the team with only two full practices before opening weekend.

"That's the nice thing about going down south early, getting on the dirt," Chapin said. "That's why we do it."

Fernley returns to action this week hosting Truckee at 1 p.m. Friday and a doubleheader at South Tahoe starting at noon Saturday.

Chapin said she expects the Northern 3A East to be competitive again.

"Elko still has their senior pitcher, Lowry has good pitching, and Dayton still has their pitcher, now a senior too," she said. "The East side should still be good competition."

As for her own team, Chapin believes the pieces are in place.

"I think we've filled in the spots from the ones who graduated," she said. "We should do well if people are playing like they can."

Continued from Page 3 - BASKETBALL....

"It was kind of back and forth," Jacobson said. "He shot a lot better than me when he was a freshman."

Dunagan-Stephens had his 'I'm here' moment early, scoring 24 points in his second varsity game against Hug as a freshman.

Jacobson's came a year later.

"My moment was probably sophomore year at Spring Creek," he said. "I think I had like 26 or 28."

For their first two seasons, they played behind older standouts like Johnnie Williams, Garrett Harjo and Jake Cumming, and others who set the tone.

"They were all really good to me," Jacobson said. "They gave me a blueprint for what it needs to be. Just kind of had that dog mentality."

The shift came during their junior year.

"We had more experience than everyone else," Dunagan-Stephens said. "We knew we had to step up and be scorers and be leaders."

Their chemistry didn't happen by

accident. Although they played against each other in middle school, they played on the same Jam on It summer team in eighth grade with Kade Snyder and future Vaquero teammates Bodie Parsons, Nolan Berreman and Mikey Fitzgerald.

"I thought we clicked right away," Dunagan-Stephens said. "Our eighth grade summer team was super good, all studs."

Jacobson said trust was the key to the Vaqueros' success the past four years.

"Playing with him for so long, you just know each other's game," he said. "And a lot of us have been playing together since elementary school. That helps."

He pointed to players like Shane Nelson, who arrived as a junior and quickly became part of the core.

"As the season went on, we saw he was going to be good for us," Jacobson said. "Guys like Mikey - I played with him back in recess in fifth grade. That pre-made chemistry matters."

As their roles grew, so did the responsibility of making sure teammates

didn't simply defer to them.

"I just tell them be confident," Dunagan-Stephens said. "Like the Elko game, I wasn't scoring, Sheldon wasn't scoring that much, and Mikey stepped up. He had like 21. He helped us win that game."

Jacobson said their approach was simple.

"We take what's given," he said. "Find the best matchup and roll from there. We're confident in each other."

Their trust extended to every possession.

"Every shot he puts up, I believe it's going in," Jacobson said.

"Same with him," Dunagan-Stephens added.

While their legacy is shaped by wins, Dunagan-Stephens and Jacobson both said it's losses that linger the most.

"I'm happy with what I accomplished," Dunagan-Stephens said. "But I'm kind of sad we didn't win state. I feel like the job wasn't finished."

Jacobson agreed. "It's a happy sad kind of feel," he said. "So many chances to get the job done, and never quite got over the true goal.

But it was a lot of fun."

For his next step, Jacobson has signed to play next season at Oregon Tech, where his sister Willow played volleyball. He said he talked to a school in West Virginia and another in Oregon, but decided Oregon Tech was the fit for him three or four years ago.

"I met the coaches when I was a freshman or sophomore," he said. "I kept sending tape, and finally they took a look at it and then it kind of took off. It never went to the next step with any other college."

Dunagan-Stephens said he is considering schools in California, Washington and Oregon and plans to take visits next month.

"I want to go to the best college that's the best fit for me," he said. "Somewhere I can get playing time and develop."

Dunagan-Stephens and Jacobson will each leave with records, championships, and a legacy built on years of work long before they ever put on a Fernley jersey. And they leave as the two most accomplished players the program has ever seen.



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