the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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Four Candidates. Two Offices.

Sheriff and DA Candidates Make Their Case

By Suzanne Prouty



Brad Pope, Tim Shaffer, Mark Krueger, Mario Walther

The Because I Can Foundation brought candidates for sheriff and district attorney together Oct. 5 at Fernley City Hall to help residents understand the candidates' experience, priorities and approaches to leadership. The two-and-a-half-hour forum gave Lyon County voters a chance to consider who should enforce the law and who should prosecute those accused of breaking it.

Host and organizer Teresa M. Morros opened by noting that the two offices serve different roles but both have a tremendous impact on public safety, accountability and the justice system in Lyon County. The evening, she said, was about giving voters information to make their own informed choices.

Kim Barney also moderated and organized the event, while panelists Greg Evangelatos and Sarah Braswell posed questions. Kim Swanson kept time and ran the Zoom broadcast.

SHERIFF

Incumbent Sheriff Brad Pope, who joined the Lyon County Sheriff's Office in 2005 and took office as sheriff in January 2023, pointed to six commitments he made during his 2022 campaign. They included promises to lower crime, reduce response times and increase transparency.

"I'm proud to say that we've accomplished every one of those goals," he said.

Pope said the county's 911 response time was about 30 minutes in 2022 and has since dropped to about seven minutes. He said he understands the department's $24 million budget, citing his business degree in management and administration. He said Fernley now has 19 deputies assigned, with 18 actively working, up from about half that number in 2022.

On school safety, Pope said crimes in schools were going unreported when he first took office. He and his chief deputy met with Superintendent Tim Logan and created a zero-tolerance policy.

"The school is not a sanctuary for a crime to be committed," he said.

He also highlighted grant-funded mental health counseling in the jail, a new inmate tablet system and efforts

Continued on PAGE 7 - DEBATE...

Fire District, City and Victory Work Toward Agreement

By Rachel Dahl



Rendering of the new fire and emergency response station planned for the Victory Logistics District. Questions over how the station will be staffed and funded are part of ongoing discussions among North Lyon Fire, the City of Fernley and Victory Logistics.

North Lyon County Fire Protection District, the City of Fernley and representatives of Victory Logistics appear to be moving toward agreement over fire protection for the developing industrial area north of Interstate 80, but questions remain about who will pay the ongoing cost of staffing and operating the new fire station.

Those questions were expected to surface Wednesday, Oct. 7, when the Fernley City Council was set to consider both creation of the proposed Fernley Power District and a conditional use permit for the proposed Victory power generation facility.

Fire Chief Brian Bunn sent a new letter to Mayor Neal McIntyre and the City Council on Monday asking the City to address long-term fire and emergency medical service funding as part of the Power District proposal.

Bunn said discussions among the Fire District, City staff and counsel, and the applicant have been productive and that the parties agree on the basic objective: a staffed and equipped fire station must be operating before the proposed power plant begins commercial operation.

The remaining question is how that service will be paid for over the long term.

Station 63 is being constructed to serve the Victory Logistics area. Under the existing Victory development agreement, the developer is responsible for construction of the station, while the City is obligated to provide or cause fire service to be provided from the facility.

North Lyon Fire would ultimately provide that service, but the district says its existing tax base cannot absorb the cost of operating another station.

In his Oct. 5 letter, Bunn said the district is already at its statutory tax-rate limit and would need additional personnel, apparatus, equipment and specialized training to serve industrial and power-generation facilities in the area.

Rather than asking the City to delay creation of the Fernley Power District, Bunn is asking the Council to use revenue generated by the new municipal electric utility as part of the solution.

The district wants a portion of Power District revenues dedicated to fire and emergency medical service within the service area and distributed to North Lyon through an interlocal agreement. Bunn also proposed that the operator of any generation facility enter into a fire protection services agreement providing recurring funding directly to the district.

The district argues that capital costs and operating costs need to be treated separately.

Construction of fire facilities, equipment and other infrastructure may be addressed through development agreements, improvement districts or impact fees. But impact fees cannot be used to pay continuing operating expenses such as firefighter salaries, benefits and station operations.

Victory representatives have similarly distinguished between construction of the station and the cost of operating it.

In an analysis provided to the Reporter, Victory has maintained that Mark IV is responsible for constructing the station but that ongoing fire service is ultimately a responsibility to be resolved between the City and Fire District.

Victory has also pointed to projected new revenues generated by development in the area, including property and sales tax revenue to North Lyon Fire and future franchise-fee revenue to the City from large power users.

The disagreement has increasingly shifted from whether Station 63 needs

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Captain's Log – Another to the Fold

It is National Newspaper Week.

Naturally, the way we have chosen to celebrate at RANGE Media Company is by adding another newspaper.

This week marks our first week producing the Eureka County Star, the baby of our dear friend Trina, who started her newspaper in Eureka about the same time we started ours in Fallon.

And now she is tired and wants to retire. I cannot even imagine why.

When Trina asked if we would consider taking over the Star, though, it really was an honor. She has spent years building something important for her community, and she wanted to know it would continue. We don't take that lightly.

So, here we are. Welcome to the family, Eureka County Star.

Which brings me to one of those sayings I absolutely hate because it is trite and annoying and, unfortunately, true: I wish there were more hours in the day.

I really do. It's not just a saying. There is just so much fun stuff to do.

There are stories I want to chase. People I want to interview. Columns I want to write. Newspapers I want to build. Pages I want to fuss over. Ideas I want to try. There are books and magazines and videos and newsletters and a bookstore and about 147 other things running around in my head at any given moment.

And now there is Eureka.

The problem is, there remain only 24 hours in a day, no matter how strongly I object.

We are finally getting more help around here, which we desperately need. Really everyone around me into the ground.

But a funny thing happens when you finally get the help you have been begging for—people start taking things away from you.

This is, of course, the entire point.

You hire good people so they can take responsibility for things. You build systems. You divide the work. You let people become really good at their piece of it. And theoretically, the person who has been running around like her hair is on fire gets to stop doing everything herself.

Except nobody tells you that some of the things they take away are the fun things.

I don't want to give up the fun things. I like making newspapers.

I like taking a pile of stories and pictures and advertisements and figuring out how they all fit together. I like finding a story nobody else noticed. I like calling somebody and hearing them say, "You know, nobody has ever asked me that before."

I like watching a newspaper come together on Tuesday when, at 10 in the morning, it appears absolutely impossible that it will be on its way to the printer by 2.

And then somehow it is.

Mostly.

There is something wonderfully satisfying about making a newspaper. At the beginning of the week, there is nothing. Then people go to meetings and ball games and schools and ranches and courthouses. They ask questions. They take pictures. They listen. They write things down.

And by Tuesday afternoon, there it all is, a record of a community's week.

So I'm learning that growing this company is going to require me to give some of that work away. If we're going to keep building strong local newspapers across Nevada, I can't personally do every part of every one of them.

I know this.

I don't necessarily have to like it.

But there is something even better than getting to make all those newspapers myself: getting to watch really good people make them.

And getting to see communities support them, the part for which I am most grateful.

Every subscription, every advertisement, every public notice, every photograph somebody sends us, every phone call with a story tip, every person who walks into the office because they think we ought to know something – all of it makes this possible.

You allow us to keep doing this, and because you do, we're able to show up in another community this week.

So, during National Newspaper Week, while everybody else is celebrating newspapers, we're going to do what we apparently do best.

Make another one. And while we scramble through one more Tuesday trying to get a growing pile of Nevada newspapers headed to Vegas by 2 p.m., we'll always be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.
Rach

Continued from FRONT - VICTORY...

to be staffed to how and when those revenues can be converted into a dependable source of operating money.

Bunn is asking that fire-service funding be established for the life of the generating facility rather than relying on an annual appropriation that could later be discontinued.

A second issue before the Council Wednesday involved the procedure for CUP26005, the conditional use permit for the proposed Victory power plant.

The Fernley Planning Commission considered the application Sept. 9 but tabled it without making a final decision.

North Lyon Fire argues that because no Planning Commission decision was made, there is nothing for the City Council to hear on appeal and the CUP should return to the Planning Commission for another public hearing.

The district also notes that CUP26005 appears on Wednesday's Council agenda as a staff report rather than as a public hearing and is asking the City Attorney to address whether the required public hearing and notice procedures have been satisfied before the Council takes action.

Bunn said the district is not raising the issue to delay the project but to make sure an approval is not later vulnerable to challenge because of a procedural problem.

Victory representative Rick Nelson said the company opposes returning the application to the Planning Commission because it does not believe it can receive a fair hearing there, citing what he described as conflicts and bias among commission members. Nelson said Victory considers its appeal to the City Council the appropriate process for obtaining an independent review of the application.

Nelson also references potential legal challenges because of procedural problems with the way the Planning Commission handled the matter.

At any rate, the tone of the latest correspondence is notably different from the district's Sept. 22 letter, which raised broad concerns about whether adequate fire-service capacity had been demonstrated for Victory development.

The Oct. 5 letter describes ongoing negotiations and outlines what the district sees as a workable path forward.

"The District, the City, and the applicant want the same outcome," Bunn wrote. "Development in this area should be served by fire and emergency medical response meeting the standards the City adopted in 2018."

The Fernley Reporter will provide follow up stories from the Wednesday, Oct. 7 City Council meeting in the paper next week and online at FernleyReporter.com

FEATURES

A Small Bucket of Water

The Fernley Swales, an act of mercy, and the human cost of Manifest Destiny

By Suzanne Prouty



Photo courtesy of the Historical Marker Database, by Marc Belanger, December 21, 2024.

The man had water.

On August 10, 1850, traveler James William Evans encountered a Native man carrying a tin bucket containing about a gallon of water. "He offered me a drink, but I refused, stating that there were men behind dying for water," Evans recorded.

The Trails West "Act of Mercy" marker on Truck Inn Way in Fernley preserves this encounter: one man offering water, another thinking of those whose need was greater. The account does not give the Native man's name, but his kindness and his presence belong in the history of this place.

Imagine how much that water mattered after months on the trail. Your children are with you. Beneath the wagon cover are flour, bedding, cooking pots, tools and the belongings you chose for a new life. The wagon holds what you hope will sustain your family, but getting it through depends on the oxen — and on drinkable water.

St. Louis connected travelers to Missouri River outfitting towns such as Independence and St. Joseph, where they prepared for a journey commonly lasting four to six months. Many wagons used four to six oxen and carried so many necessities that travelers often walked beside them. When a team weakened, possessions might have to be abandoned.

Keeping a family moving required endurance, resourcefulness and courage. Disease, especially cholera, took lives along the trails; accidents and river crossings claimed others. Families carried their hopes west knowing that reaching California together was never assured.

Those who survived to reach Nevada still faced the Forty-Mile Desert, where they crossed from Lovelock and the Humboldt Sink toward the Truckee River at present-day Wadsworth. Near Fernley, deep sand demanded still more from exhausted animals, with the Sierra yet to come.

Helen Carpenter's September 18, 1857, account, preserved on another local trail marker, describes eight miles of deep sand and dead cattle lining the road. Every failing animal narrowed a family's chances of reaching the water ahead.

That passage remains written in the ground. The Fernley Swales are long, trough-shaped depressions created by thousands of heavy, iron-bound wagon wheels. The Bureau of Land Management identifies them as the only remaining deep-sand swales on the California National Historic Trail. Beside those hollows, we can picture children walking and parents watching their animals struggle.

The people watching those wagons arrive had children to feed, too.

Northern Paiute families had lived in this region for thousands of years; Pyramid Lake was — and remains — a Paiute homeland. Washoe homelands included Lake Tahoe and neighboring valleys. Seasonal movement connected families with fishing, hunting and gathering places.

The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony's history describes how pioneer newcomers mistook those movements for aimless wandering. They failed to recognize a way of life sustained by generations of knowledge, even as Americans were hearing another story about taking the land.

In 1845, editor John O'Sullivan invoked "manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence." His language gave expansion the authority of God's purpose. For families seeking a new beginning, that promise could be compelling. But claiming divine approval did not answer a simple moral question: What right did newcomers have to take another family's home?

Readers raised on the Good Samaritan and "Thou shalt not steal" will recognize the tension. A Native man offered water to a stranger, while the promise of a continent supposedly allotted to European Americans left little room for his own people's rights.

As migration and settlement grew, newcomers occupied land and consumed resources that Native families depended on. The Colony's history describes depleted food supplies and growing hunger, and how resistance to removal and assimilation brought accusations of hostility. Think what that meant for parents who knew where food had always been found but could no longer depend on it to feed their children.

Assumptions of white superiority helped excuse dispossession. Calling it progress did not make the hunger less real or the taking of a homeland less devastating. The emigrants' courage deserves remembrance, but their suffering cannot excuse the suffering inflicted on people already here.

As Regent of DAR's Fort Churchill Chapter and Nevada DAR State Historian, I believe preserving history requires hearing the accounts of people whose lives were changed by it. Our chapter carries a fort's name; that creates an obligation to understand the whole story.

Patriotism and historical honesty are not opposites. We honor our history by looking directly at it, including the harm and the voices too often ignored.

Paiute and Washoe people remain our neighbors, carrying histories that do not end with the arrival of wagons. What changes in our own understanding when we hear their accounts alongside those of the families who came west?

The man who offered a stranger water deserves a place in our memory and in this history. The land newcomers were pouring into was already someone's home.



Civics 101: The Fourth Estate

By Rachel Dahl

It's National Newspaper Week, and I would like to report that we are celebrating with a fully staffed newsroom and everyone going home on time.

Instead, we have newspapers to get out.

Here we are, using all the volunteer help we can get, asking too much of our paid staff, and making it work with white knuckles and elbow grease. We keep going because our communities want local news and they support it.

That support has never been more important, especially this year, as our country marks 250 years of independence.

Long before Americans could argue in the comments section, they argued in newspapers. Printers put ideas into circulation that helped people question British rule and consider governing themselves. Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" was a pamphlet, and newspapers helped carry the debate it stirred. Apparently, Americans have never needed much encouragement to have an opinion.

Later, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay made their case for the Constitution in the essays we know as the "Federalist Papers." Those arguments reached readers through New York newspapers.

I went looking to see whether they had anything to say about news itself.

It was Federalist No. 84, where Hamilton considered how people living far from the seat of government could know what their representatives were doing. Newspapers, he wrote, would be "expeditious messengers of intelligence" reaching even the most remote Americans.

Around here, we call that getting the paper out. If the people are supposed to govern themselves, they need some way to find out what is being done in their name.

The name Fourth Estate comes from Britain, where the Lords Spiritual, Lords Temporal, and Commons were the traditional three estates represented in Parliament. The press became known as a fourth force because reporters could tell the public what powerful people were doing and hold them accountable.

Here in America, the idea fits pretty well. We have three branches of government, and the press keeps an eye on all of them. It has no seat at the cabinet table and no vote in Congress. It can, however, ask what happened to the money.

That question seldom improves the mood in the room, and throughout history, newspapers have given Americans information powerful people would sometimes rather keep to themselves.

Frederick Douglass founded The North Star to fight slavery and argue for equal rights. Nellie Bly, reporting for the New York World, went inside a women's asylum and exposed the conditions there.

In 1892, after Ida B. Wells challenged lynching in the Memphis Free Speech, her newspaper office was destroyed, and her life was threatened. She kept investigating and writing. Her work reminds us that telling the truth can demand much more than putting up with an unpleasant phone call.

Decades later, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein at The Washington Post kept digging into Watergate, helping expose wrongdoing that reached into the Nixon administration.

Those are famous names attached to famous stories. But much of this country's reporting happens in small newsrooms, where someone reads a budget packet, sits through a meeting, or asks a question nobody particularly wants to answer.

That work needs doing here, too, and it doesn't always earn us a warm welcome.

Someone once asked why they should support us: "Why would we support a paper that's critical of us?"

My answer is pretty simple. If you don't want stories about you doing stupid things, don't do stupid things.

Of course, we have responsibilities, too. Check the facts. Give people a chance to explain. Correct mistakes.

But supporting a newspaper cannot mean buying its silence. You should be able to disagree with us and still want someone asking questions.

There are national efforts underway to save local news, with foundations, nonprofits, and big money. Press Forward launched with a goal of mobilizing half a billion dollars over five years. I hope those efforts succeed.

I also hope they remember the people already in the trenches.

Our volunteers give their time because they care. Our paid staff carries more work than it should. Our readers and advertisers help pay the bills. Together, they make another week possible.

And there is plenty of work. A community deserves to know how its money is spent and what its officials decide. It also deserves a record of its children, its businesses, its losses, and its accomplishments. Those stories belong to all of us.

For 250 years, Americans have needed information to make decisions about their country. We still need it to make decisions about our hometown.

This National Newspaper Week, we thank everyone helping us keep the lights on. We intend to keep shining them where they're needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fernley plans two Halloween celebrations

Staff Report

Fernley families will have two chances to celebrate Halloween this month, with community events planned by the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows and the City of Fernley.

The Boys & Girls Club, serving Fernley, will hold its 6th Annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, Oct. 29, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club, 695 E. Main St.

The event will include trunk-or-treating, food trucks and a new feature this year, Mad Scientist Plaza. The event is presented by Walmart and will also recognize Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration highlighting the importance of after-school programs.

Sponsors include CareSource, SilverSummit Healthplan and Nevada Health Link.

Two days later, the City of Fernley will host its 2026 Spooktacular at City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd., on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The community Halloween celebration is open to families, and organizers are inviting residents to volunteer, donate or join in the festivities.

The Spooktacular is also participating in the Teal Pumpkin, Blue Pumpkin and Purple Pumpkin projects, which promote a more inclusive Halloween for children and families with different needs.

For information about the City of Fernley Spooktacular, contact Jessica Murdock at 775-784-9850.

With both events scheduled just days apart, Fernley families will have plenty of opportunities for costumes, candy and community fun before Halloween night.

North Lyon Fire, Battle Born Medevac to host open house

Staff Report

North Lyon Fire and Battle Born Medevac will host a community open house Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North Lyon Fire Station 61, 195 E. Main St. in Fernley.

The event will begin with a 10 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the new Battle Born Medevac base.

Following the ceremony, visitors can tour the fire station, meet North Lyon firefighters and Battle Born Medevac crews, and get an up-close look at a medical helicopter.

Food trucks will also be on site during the event.

Organizers are inviting families and community members to stop by, learn more about the agencies and celebrate the new partnership serving Fernley and surrounding communities.

Trunk-or-Treat Events

Trunk or Treat at the Track (Reno-Fernley Raceway)
Saturday, October 24, 2026 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Location: Reno-Fernley Raceway
Details: Features drift demos, race track displays, food trucks, refreshments, and a best-decorated trunk contest.
Cost: Free

6th Annual Boys & Girls Club Trunk or Treat
Thursday, October 29, 2026 starting at 5:00 PM
Location: Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows (Fernley Clubhouse), 695 E Main St
Details: Presented by Walmart, featuring decorated trunks, tons of candy, food trucks, and the new "Mad Scientist Plaza".
Cost: Free

Living Stones Church Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Living Stones Church, 868 Cottonwood Ln
Details: Candy, games, popcorn, and a photo booth.
Cost: Free

City of Fernley Spooktacular Safe Trick-or-Treating
Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Fernley City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd
Details: Annual family-friendly safe trick-or-treating event featuring local community booths and decorated displays.
Contact Jessica Murdock at 775-784-9850 for more info.
Cost: Free

Fernley Community Events

OCT 9

Movies at the Library - Ghostbusters
2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

OCT 10

TABLE TENNIS
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

OCT 13

FIBER ARTS MEET UP
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

TRIVIA NIGHT 21+
Free Billiards at 6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.

OCT 14

FAMILY BOARD GAMES AND LEGO TIME
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

OCT 15

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

OCT 17

TABLE TENNIS
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

FAMILY BINGO
2:00 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

HALLOWEEN LINE DANCING & COSTUME CONTEST!
6:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 West Main Street

OCT 24

MONSTER SLIME
Make your own slime.
2:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
575 Silver Lace Blvd

PAINT-YOUR-OWN POTTERY & COSTUME CONTEST
$30 per person
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Put on your favorite costume, bring your creativity, and join us for an afternoon of pottery, painting, and Halloween fun!
Frontier Fun Center
480 West Main Street

TRUNK OR TREAT AT THE TRACK - FREE
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Features drift demos, race track displays, food trucks, refreshments, and a best-decorated trunk contest.
1965 S Hwy 95A



FERNLEY SENIOR CENTER MENU

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

Monday, Oct. 12	Tuesday, Oct. 13	Wednesday, Oct. 14	Thursday, Oct. 15	Friday, Oct. 16
Chicken Nuggets	*Hamburger*	*Baked Yogurt Chicken*	*Parmesan Garlic Fish*	*Pork & Beans*
Green Beans	*Mixed Grain Bun*	*Potatoes & Herbs*	*Whole Wheat Penne*	*Tater Tots*
Sweet Potato Fries	*Baked Beans*	*Bean Combo*	*Whole Wheat Bread*	*California Blend Veggies*
Ranch Dressing	*Lettuce & Tomato Salad*	*Tossed Salad*	*Coleslaw*	*Applesauce*
Black Bean Salad	*Grapefruit & Orange*	*Creamy Italian Dressing*	*Fruit of the Day*	*100% Juice*
100% Juice		*Peaches*	*100% Juice*	

LOCAL NEWS

North Lyon Fire to receive $330,000 for new ambulance

Staff Report

North Lyon County Fire Protection District will receive $330,000 toward the purchase of a new ambulance through Lyon County's Rural Health Transformation Program.

The Lyon County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the subaward agreement Oct. 1 as part of the county's broader $4.29 million rural health grant program.

Emergency Management and Government Affairs Director Taylor Allison told commissioners the North Lyon award will be used specifically for the ambulance purchase. Unlike some of the other fire district agreements approved at the meeting, North Lyon did not include funding for new EMT or paramedic positions in its request.

The grant is intended to strengthen emergency medical services in rural parts of Lyon County, where fire districts often cover large geographic areas and serve communities that may be far from hospitals and other medical facilities.

North Lyon Fire provides fire protection and emergency medical response in Fernley and the surrounding area. A new ambulance will add to the district's ability to respond to medical calls and transport patients when needed.

The North Lyon award was one of several rural emergency medical service investments approved by commissioners during the meeting.

Mason Valley Fire Protection District was approved for $420,000 to support the purchase of an ambulance and EMT or paramedic personnel. Smith Valley Fire Protection District was also approved for ambulance and personnel funding under the same program.

The larger Rural Health Transformation Program grant was previously approved by commissioners in September and is designed to support a range of emergency medical service and human services improvements throughout the county.

In addition to the fire district subawards, commissioners approved a contract with Public Consulting Group for up to $296,471 to review Lyon County EMS and Human Services billing practices.

County officials said the consulting work will examine existing revenue streams, identify funding sources that may not currently be fully used and make recommendations for improving billing and revenue collection.

The combination of equipment purchases, staffing support and financial review is part of a broader effort to improve the long-term stability of rural emergency medical services.

For North Lyon Fire, the immediate result is straightforward: funding for another ambulance.

The subaward runs through Aug. 30, 2027, and is subject to federal, state and county grant requirements.

Lyon County Moves to Allow Multifamily Housing on Commercial Land

By Rachel Dahl

Lyon County is moving to change its development code to comply with a Nevada law requiring counties and cities to allow certain multifamily and mixed-use housing developments on commercially zoned property.

The Lyon County Board of Commissioners introduced the proposed ordinance Oct. 1 in response to Assembly Bill 241, approved by the Nevada Legislature in 2025.

Community Development Director Gavin Henderson told commissioners the law requires local governments to allow qualifying multifamily housing or mixed-use development with a residential component on property zoned for commercial use.

Industrial property is excluded, along with certain airport-related property and land governed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact.

For Lyon County, the practical effect would be to make multifamily housing a permitted use in several commercial zoning districts where it previously was not automatically allowed. County code defines multifamily housing as three or more units.

Henderson said the change could speed the development process. Projects that might previously have required a conditional-use permit and a public hearing before a board could instead be handled administratively if they meet county standards.

Commissioner Rob Jacobsen asked whether the change would create additional work for developers.

"No," Henderson said, explaining that the legislation was intended to expedite multifamily development by making it a permitted use rather than requiring a board-level decision.

"So this should speed it up," Jacobsen said.

"Yes," Henderson replied.

Jacobsen also questioned how the law would affect utility providers such as the Silver Springs General Improvement District and whether those systems would be required to accept new developments.

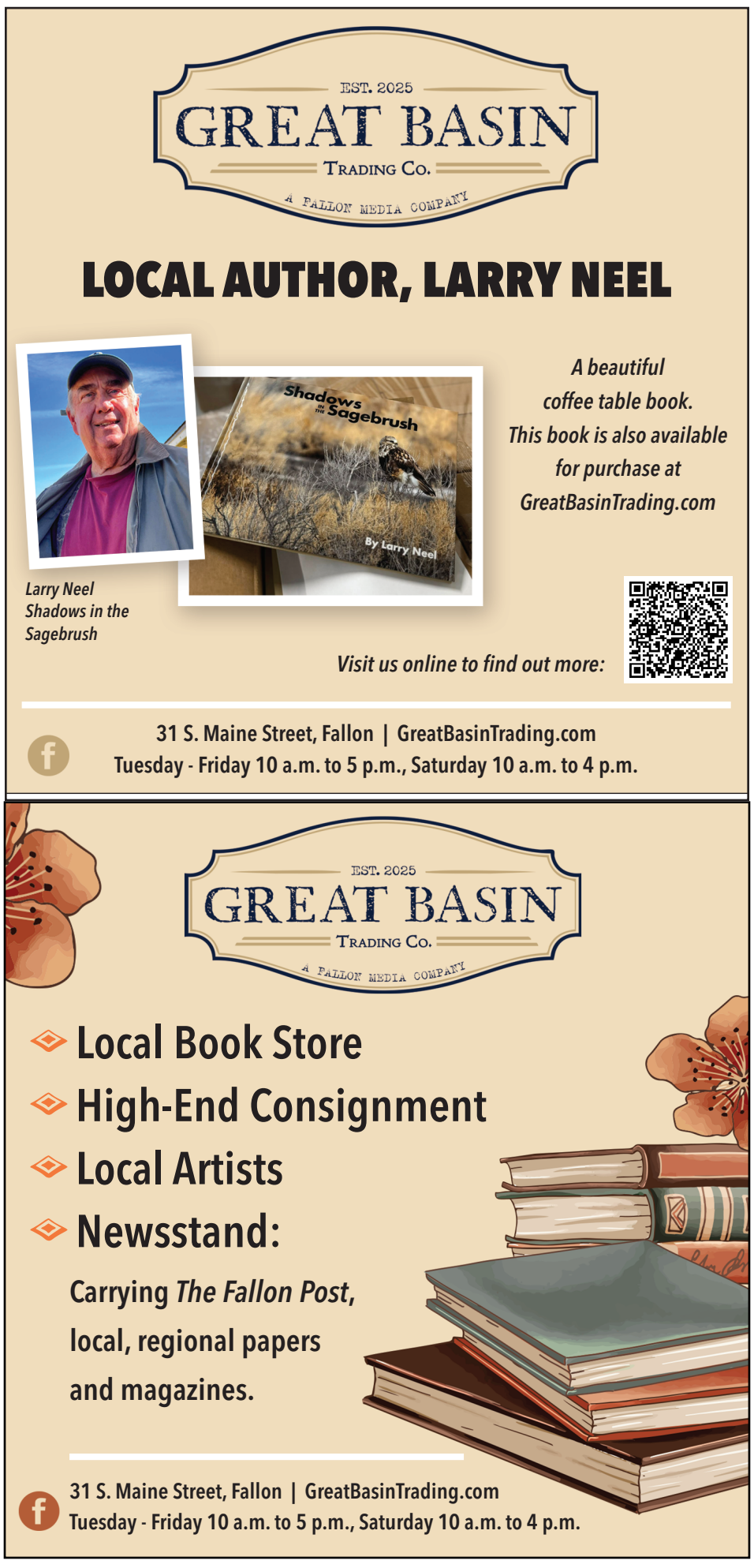
Henderson said they would not.

A utility provider could still determine that it does not have capacity to serve a proposed development, he said. Developers would also be responsible for the cost of utility connections and infrastructure improvements.

The county's proposed ordinance would require new multifamily developments to be served by public water and sewer. Projects adjacent to existing service areas would have to seek annexation into those systems and comply with the requirements of the utility provider.

Continued on PAGE 7 - HOUSING...





EDITORIAL

Powering Fernley's Growth

By Rachel Dahl

Anyone trying to follow the debate over Victory Logistics, the proposed power plant, Station 63 and the Fernley Power District can be forgiven for wondering how all these pieces became tangled together.

Add in a dispute over the Planning Commission, competing interpretations of City code and questions about who is supposed to pay for fire protection, and it gets complicated quickly.

Underneath all of it, though, is a fairly simple question: How does Fernley accommodate a large industrial development while making sure the public infrastructure needed to serve it is built, funded and operated?

That is what is really at stake as the City works through two closely related issues: creation of the proposed Fernley Power District and CUP26005, the conditional use permit for a power-generation facility associated with the Victory Logistics development.

Both could have long-term consequences for the city.

Why Victory matters

Victory Logistics is intended to bring large-scale industrial development to the area north of Interstate 80.

The proposed power plant is important to that development because large industrial users need large amounts of reliable electricity. Victory representatives say obtaining enough power through the existing utility system, on the timetable prospective users require, has become a major constraint on development.

Their proposed solution is a generation facility and a municipal electric utility — the Fernley Power District — capable of serving large electrical loads within the Victory area.

The financial implications could be substantial.

A fiscal impact analysis prepared for the 324-megawatt power project estimates approximately $43 million in City franchise-fee revenue over 20 years at a 1% rate. The analysis also projects about $10.5 million in property and sales tax revenue to North Lyon County Fire Protection District during that period.

Those are projections, not guaranteed revenue, but the assumptions behind them help explain why this is about more than one developer or one power plant.

The proposed development represents new taxable property, potential utility revenue and the possibility of additional industrial investment in Fernley.

Victory representative Rick Nelson has described the power plant alone as an approximately $600 million investment.

Then comes the fire station

Large industrial development also creates new demands on public services.

Station 63 is being constructed in the Victory Logistics area to provide fire and emergency response closer to the development.

And this is where much of the current disagreement begins.

Victory's position is that the existing development agreement assigns the developer responsibility for constructing the station, while the City is responsible for providing — or causing to be provided — fire protection from it.

North Lyon Fire would provide that service.

Fire Chief Brian Bunn has said his district cannot simply absorb the ongoing cost of staffing and operating another station from its existing revenue base.

The district has asked the City to establish a long-term funding mechanism for firefighters, apparatus, equipment, training and the other operating costs associated with Station 63 and the industrial area it would serve.

At this point, there appears to be much less disagreement about the desired result than about how to pay for it.

A staffed and equipped fire station needs to be operating before the proposed power plant begins commercial operation.

The argument is over how that happens and who pays the recurring bill.

North Lyon Fire has sought a portion of revenues generated by the proposed Power District and has also suggested a long-term fire-services agreement with the operator of the generation facility.

Victory has maintained that construction costs and ongoing operating expenses are separate obligations and that long-term fire service ultimately must be worked out between the City and Fire District.

Development fees and similar tools can help build public facilities. They do not necessarily solve the harder problem of paying firefighter salaries and operating expenses year after year.

Who gets to decide the CUP?

While those negotiations have been underway, another dispute has emerged over who should decide the power plant's conditional use permit.

The Planning Commission heard CUP26005 Sept. 9 but tabled the application rather than approving or denying it.

North Lyon Fire and Planning Commissioner Cody Wagner have argued that means the application belongs back before the Planning Commission.

Wagner formally objected to the City Council taking up the permit, arguing that Fernley delegated authority over conditional use permits to the Planning Commission and that the Council generally becomes involved after a Planning Commission decision is appealed.

Victory reads the City code differently.

Fernley's general appeal provisions refer to City Council review of a Planning Commission "action or decision." Victory argues that the vote to table the permit was itself an action and therefore can be reviewed by the Council.

That may sound like semantics, but it is not.

Fernley's development rules give the Planning Commission a formal decision-making role in conditional use permits. Other provisions give the City Council authority to review certain Planning Commission actions and decisions. City procedures also allow a hearing body to continue an application rather than decide it.

The question is how those provisions work together when the Planning Commission tables an application rather than granting or denying it.

A separate fairness argument

Victory has raised another issue as well.

Nelson has said the company does not believe it can receive a fair hearing if the CUP returns to the current Planning Commission, citing statements and actions by Wagner that Victory believes show he has prejudged the application.

Wagner has declined to recuse himself and has sought review of his conduct by state ethics authorities.

Victory argues that an applicant in a quasi-judicial land-use proceeding is entitled to an impartial decision-maker.

That claim has not been adjudicated, and an allegation of bias is not

Continued on PAGE 8 - POWER...

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. 15

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. 16

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

Fernley Church Directory

Summit Church
Silverland Middle School

Living Faith Church
110 Center Street

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
625 Desert Shadows Lane

Grace Baptist Church
460 W. Main Street, Suite 108
gbcfernley.org

Crosswinds Assembly of God
3015 Farm District Road

Fernley Free Methodist Church
100 N. West Street

Fernley First Baptist Church
485 E. Main Street

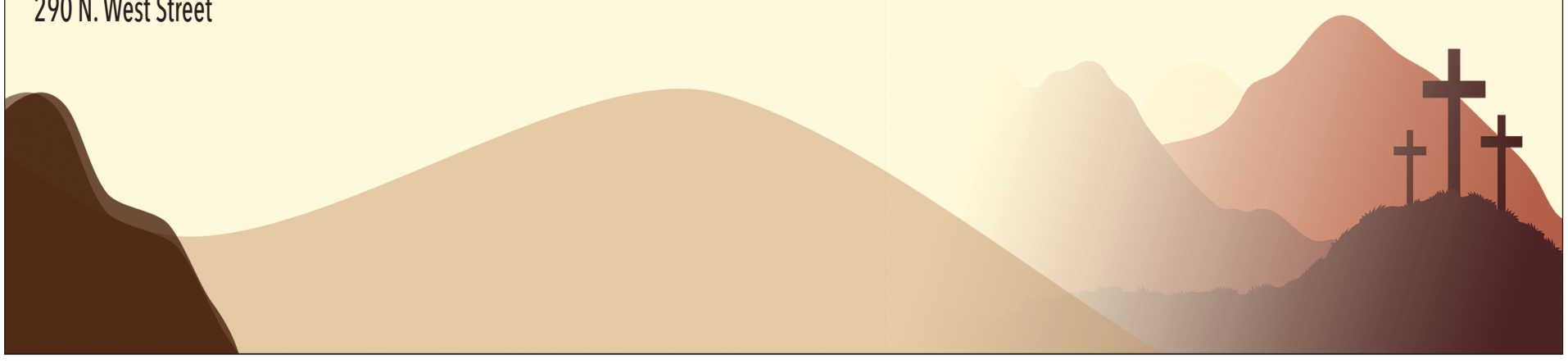
Calvary Chapel
875 Fremont Street

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
155 Hwy 95A South

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
290 N. West Street

Joy! Alliance Fellowship
www.facebook.com/JOYchurchFernley

Living Stones Church
868 Cottonwood Lane



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Lyon County Eyes ZIP Code Cleanup After Backing Storey County

By Rachel Dahl

Lyon County may take a closer look at its own ZIP code boundaries after commissioners voted Oct. 1 to support a similar effort underway in neighboring Storey County.

The Lyon County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a letter supporting Storey County's effort to make ZIP code boundaries more closely match county geographic boundaries.

County Manager Andrew Haskin said Storey County has identified several problems created by ZIP codes that cross jurisdictional lines. The Mark Twain area of Storey County, for example, shares a ZIP code with part of Lyon County, while areas along the Interstate 80 corridor share ZIP codes with Sparks.

Storey County officials have cited possible confusion involving emergency dispatch, addresses and the distribution of tax revenue.

Haskin told commissioners Lyon County has some of the same issues and said the county may eventually consider joining Storey County's effort.

He specifically pointed to Mound House, which is in Lyon County but uses a Carson City mailing address.

The mismatch can create confusion when addresses are used by state agencies, businesses or online retailers to determine jurisdiction. Commissioners also questioned whether ZIP code boundaries can affect the distribution of taxes and vehicle registration revenue.

Haskin said taxes are generally supposed to be determined by a person's physical location rather than mailing address, but acknowledged that the systems do not always line up perfectly.

"If they can get that fixed, then maybe it'll be a little bit more accurate and won't create some of that confusion," Haskin said.

During public comment, a resident asked whether changing ZIP code boundaries could affect where residents vote.

Haskin said it would not.

Voting eligibility is determined by county and parcel information rather than ZIP code, he said. Commissioners also noted that Lyon County uses vote centers, allowing county voters to cast ballots at any voting location within the county.

Haskin said he plans to discuss Lyon County's similar concerns with Storey County and could bring the issue back to commissioners at a future meeting.

For now, the board's action applies only to Storey County's effort to correct its ZIP code boundaries.

Continued from PAGE 5 - HOUSING...

Commissioner Scott Keller raised broader concerns about how the statewide law could affect rural communities, particularly Silver Springs.

"In my opinion, it's probably one of the stupidest laws that they enacted," Keller said.

He pointed to commercial property along Highway 50 in Silver Springs, saying some highway frontage had been placed in commercial zoning partly because of concerns about residential development in flood-prone areas.

Keller also questioned whether allowing residential development on commercially zoned land could create problems for families living near major highways or reduce land available for future commercial development.

He asked what restrictions Lyon County could still place on qualifying developments, including setbacks, sound walls and density limits.

Henderson said existing setbacks would remain in effect and the county could consider additional development standards.

Lyon County currently allows up to 18 multifamily units per acre in its multifamily residential zoning district, he said, and commissioners could consider establishing a lower density limit for multifamily projects on commercially zoned property.

However, Henderson cautioned that the county cannot adopt standards that conflict with the state law.

"The hard part about this Assembly bill is to have that provision that anything that would go against it would automatically be void," Henderson said.

He said most jurisdictions have taken a relatively simple approach by changing their land-use tables, while Lyon County is proposing an additional public water and sewer requirement.

Keller said the law illustrates the importance of counties following legislation as it moves through the Nevada Legislature.

"I understand why Clark County, Vegas, Reno and Carson would want to do that, but I don't know any other county that's happy with this," he said.

The county's proposed ordinance would change its development tables to allow qualifying multifamily and mixed-use residential developments on commercially zoned property while requiring new multifamily projects to have public water and sewer service.

Developers would remain responsible for applicable utility connection, capacity and infrastructure costs.

The Oct. 1 action introduced the ordinance as Lyon County begins the process of bringing its development code into compliance with the state law.

Continued from FRONT - DEBATE...

to keep a reentry position funded to reduce recidivism.

Pope said a limited school district grant covers about 2.5 school resource officer positions, while the sheriff's office now provides five officers plus a K-9. The goal, he said, is to break down barriers between law enforcement and children so students know they can come to a deputy for help.

Pope emphasized enforcement as central to his approach to public safety.

Challenger Tim Shaffer, who has nearly 30 years in law enforcement, said his experience has been entirely as a deputy — reserve, jail, patrol and, most recently, behavioral health peace officer.

"I've been on the front line for my entire career," he said. "I believe I can do a better job and hopefully bring back ethics and accountability to the sheriff's office."

Shaffer said his priorities include expanding mental health response, citing what he called a crisis in Nevada and nationwide. He also wants better deputy training, from the field training program through POST, going beyond state minimums and possibly using grants so deputies can train elsewhere.

On budgets, he said he met with county Comptroller Josh Foley to learn how the department budget works.

"I believe I have enough experience to be able to supervise and do what I think needs to be done," he said.

On the jail counseling program, Shaffer called it "a really, really good program" that should continue and grow. He emphasized defusing mental health situations the department often faces both at the jail and in the community before they lead to arrests.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Mark Krueger, who has practiced law in Northern Nevada for 25 years, including six as Lyon County's chief deputy district attorney, said he has prosecuted more than 40 criminal jury trials, from drug cases to elder abuse.

He cited one case that ended in a sentence of 375 years to life, which he called the longest in Lyon County history.

"I did not do that for headlines. I did that for justice for six little girls," he said.

He said Sheriff Pope endorsed him because "he knows that I have the experience to do the job on day one."

Krueger, now a chief deputy attorney general in the Bureau of Consumer Protection, said he has handled the state's opioid litigation, which he said brought in more than $1 billion, and has held social media companies such as Meta accountable for harms to children.

If elected, he said he wants to build a larger victim-witness program to help victims navigate the court system.

Mario Walther, who was born and raised in Lyon County, said he has spent his entire legal career in Lyon County, appearing in county courtrooms almost daily.

"Lyon County is home," he said, adding that he is the only candidate in the race who lives in the county and is raising a family there.

His practice spans civil and criminal litigation, estate planning, and agricultural and water law, and he cited support from local employers, small businesses, farmers and ranchers.

Walther said he is honored to be endorsed by the Lyon County Employees Association, as well as PSAN and NAPSO, which he said represent most law enforcement employees in the state.

"As your district attorney, this is personal to me," he said, describing his motivation as protecting his own children and Lyon County.

Walther said his focus would be on ensuring full staffing levels to cover cases, which he said would improve morale and help retain attorneys in the department. He also emphasized the importance of strong communication between the district attorney and sheriff.

In response to a question about handling cases with insufficient evidence, Krueger said he would meet with victims and their families and would not proceed without the necessary evidence.

Walther emphasized communicating clearly about such decisions. He also stressed the need for strong evidence because, as a mentor once told him, "You can't make chicken soup out of chicken poop."

Asked how they would balance collaboration with law enforcement against independent prosecutorial discretion, Walther said he works with Lyon County Sheriff's Office deputies daily and that they have seen his abilities in the courtroom. Working with the sheriff's office, he said, is one of his top priorities.

Krueger answered that he is "the only candidate in this room who's actually done it."

The district attorney's office serves as a check and balance on the sheriff's office, he said, but the two must work together through communication, guiding investigators without directing them.

"There are gonna be times that we can't prosecute," he said, "but we can collaborate, work together, and end up with the result that's fair and just."

In rebuttal, Walther said he had never suggested the two offices should have an adversarial relationship. He reiterated the importance of relationships, especially with the sheriff, when discussing accountability.

Victim services drew attention from both candidates. Krueger advocated for a victim-witness program; Walther discussed working with nonprofit agencies to provide support. Both emphasized early communication and keeping victims informed.

Questions about wrongful prosecution brought calls for reviewing evidence and correcting mistakes. Walther supported independent review and consideration of new evidence. Krueger said errors should be corrected.

Both also addressed the practical work of running the office. Krueger emphasized training, recognizing employees' contributions and managing cases efficiently. Walther stressed maintaining a fully staffed office and retaining employees.

In conclusion, Walther said one measure voters could use to evaluate the district attorney's office would be the number of convictions in major drug cases. Krueger emphasized transparency and publishing data for the community.

The final round asked all four candidates to state three measurable results the public would see if they were elected.

Walther said voters should expect a fully staffed district attorney's office that continues to grow, employees who stay and improved relationships.

Krueger cited teamwork within the department and with the sheriff, a victim-witness advocate and transparency.

Pope said voters should expect quick and safe response times, a focus on criminal activity and transparency.

Shaffer cited improved mental health services, better training for deputies and strong communication between the district attorney and sheriff.

The forum's purpose was to give residents information to make their own choices. Across both races, the answers offered voters a basis for weighing experience, priorities and judgment — and considering what accountability should look like after the election.

The general election will be held Nov. 3. Early voting begins at Fernley City Hall on Oct. 17.



BUSINESS

Lyon County backs temporary water transfer for Mineral County solar project

By Rachel Dahl

Lyon County commissioners voted Oct. 1 to recommend approval of a temporary water-rights transfer that would allow about 26 acre-feet of Lyon County water to be used for construction activity associated with a solar project in Mineral County.

The application would temporarily change the place and manner of use of a portion of an existing water right now used for irrigation in Lyon County.

County Manager Andrew Haskin told commissioners the water would be used as temporary construction water for the Mineral County project, likely for purposes such as dust suppression.

The transfer would last for one year. After that, the water right would revert to its existing irrigation use.

Walker River Irrigation District General Manager Bert Bryan told commissioners the application involves only primary groundwater rights and does not include supplemental groundwater tied to surface-water rights.

Bryan said the amount involved is relatively small and would be metered and monitored by state water officials to ensure the permitted amount is not exceeded.

He also told the board that the State Engineer, not Lyon County, will make the final decision on the application. The county's recommendation is advisory.

Several members of the public urged commissioners to oppose or delay the transfer, raising concerns about exporting water out of Lyon County, possible effects on existing water rights and environmental impacts.

One commissioner said he did not want to oppose the transfer because the Mineral County project was already affecting people in Mason Valley and he wanted the project completed as soon as possible.

The board voted 4-0 to recommend approval of the transfer to the State Engineer.

The application was filed under water-rights application 95277T and involves a portion of Permit 13879, Certificate 5074.

Continued from PAGE 6 - POWER...

the same thing as a formal finding of wrongdoing. But the dispute helps explain why Victory has pushed for City Council review instead of simply returning to the Planning Commission.

Three institutions, three jobs

Part of what makes this so difficult to follow is that three different public bodies are involved.

The Planning Commission administers portions of Fernley's land-use process and considers applications such as conditional use permits.

The City Council writes City law, makes broader policy decisions and hears certain land-use appeals or reviews.

The North Lyon County Fire Protection District is a separate governmental entity responsible for providing fire and emergency medical services.

Those institutions have different legal authority, different responsibilities and different sources of revenue.

The current conflict is partly the result of those responsibilities colliding.

The Planning Commission is dealing with land use. The Fire District is dealing with whether it can safely and financially serve the development. The City Council has to consider City policy, infrastructure and finances. Victory is trying to obtain the governmental approvals necessary to proceed with a major private investment.

None of those interests disappears simply because the process has become difficult.

The larger question for Fernley

There are legitimate public-safety questions here, along with legitimate procedural questions. And there are legitimate economic-development consequences when major projects face long delays while public agencies sort out responsibilities that ideally would have been clear much earlier.

The useful question for Fernley is probably not which side wins the argument.

It is whether the City's institutions can produce a clear, predictable answer.

Editor's note: The Fernley City Council considered matters related to the Fernley Power District and CUP26005 Wednesday night, after this edition went to press. Updated coverage of the meeting is available at the Fernley Reporter website.







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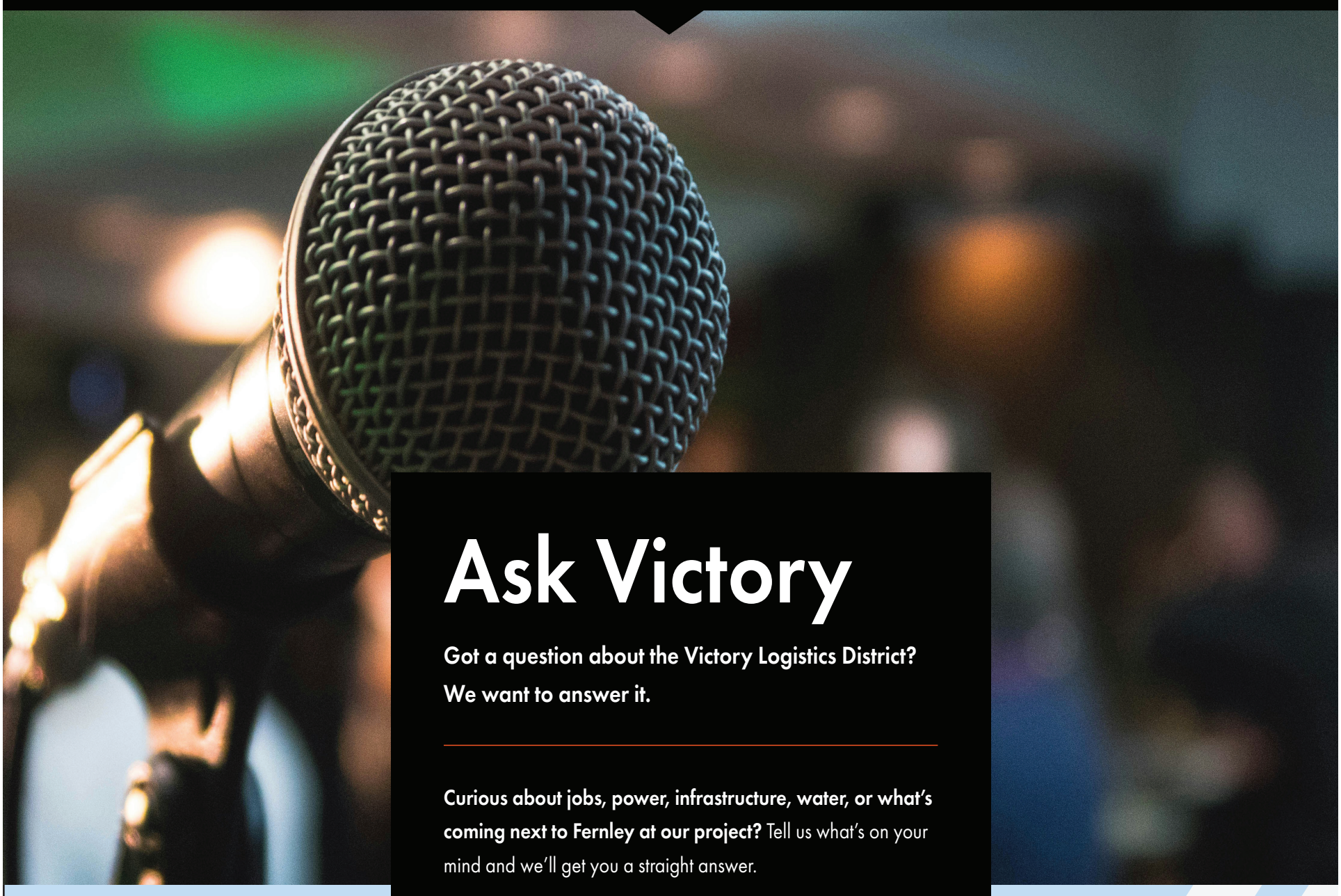
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The Victory Project: Investing in Fernley's Future

VICTORY
LOGISTICS | DISTRICT



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. 29 - Oct. 4, 2026

DELROY MASINI—Area: Fernley, Bail: $940, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
RANDOLPH HANDLEY—Area: Fernley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense)
NICHOLE BENNETTS—Area: Fernley, Bail: $23,640, Charges: Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, (1st or 2nd offense); Use/possess drug paraphernalia
JAMES CONN—Area: Fernley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense)
TYLER WUTCH—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $0, Charges: Court commitment
CHARLES HAKALA—Area: LYSO, Bail: $745, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime; Assist other agency-hold
PRAXEDIS YANEZ—Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,275, Charges: DUI, (1st offense); Fail to maintain lane/improper lane change/use signal
CASEY SPRAGUE—Area: Dayton, Bail: $1,140, Charges: DUI, (1st offense)
ANDREW DEESING—Area: Fernley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense)
TYLER MCCARTY—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $4,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime; Assist other agency--hold
CHESTER DUDA—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense)
HOPE FLOYD—Area: LYSO, Bail: $0, Charges: Contempt of court
JAMES GONZALES—Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,985, Charges: DUI, (2nd offesne); Open alcohol container in vehicle; Criminal contempt
COURTNEY KING—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $0, Charges: Attempted insurance fraud
AARON HOBSON—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $1,805, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
MICHAEL MONTOYA—Area: Dayton, Bail: $405, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
KARLA WOODS—Area: Dayton, Bail: $1,140, Charges: Drive with revoked driver's license
DAVID PULFREY—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $850, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
GONZALO GOMEZ—Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,055, Charges: Operator - proof of insurance required; Drive without driver's license
ARNALDO DIAZ—Area: Dayton, Bail: $1,000, Charges: Criminal contempt - failure to obey court order
ANTHONY BENGOCHIA—Area: LYSO, Bail: $0, Charges: Court commitment
ROXANNE ROSSI—Area: Dayton, Bail: $2,640, Charges: Unlawful use of emergency phone number (911)
CLIFFTON GARRARD—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $0, Charges: Court commitment
BARRY ESLICK—Area: Mason Valley Bail: $6,155, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation; Criminal contempt - failure to obey court order
JEFFERY GUNDERSON—Area: Dayton, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense)
JORGE MEDRANO—Area: Fernley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense)
DESMOND MITCHELL—Area: LYSO, Bail: $1,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
NICHOLIS RODRIGUEZ—Area: Fernley, Bail: $44,635, Charges: Possess/receive/transfer stolen vehicle; Grand larceny of motor vehicle, (1st offense); Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, (1st or 2nd offense); Use/possess drug-paraphernalia; Possess/consume marijuana in public place/marijuana store/vehicle; Drive with suspended driver's license
JORDAN OSBORN—Area: Dayton, Bail: $4,640, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st offense
DION HOLMES—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of probation/condition of suspended sentence
SHELLEY ELLISON—Area: Dayton, Bail: $2,500, Charges: Isolate old/vulnerable person, (1st offense)
CHRISTOPHER WASHINGTON—Area: Fernley, Bail: $4,780, Charges: Criminal contempt; Conspire to resist public officer; Battery on protected person
JUSTIN SMITH—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $59,920, Charges: Carry concealed weapon without permit; Draw deadly weapon in threatening manner; Assault with deadly weapon; Assist other agency--hold
CHRISTOPHER SANDS—Area: LYSO, Bail: $1,140, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
SEAN BLACKBURN—Area: LYSS, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Unlawful use of emergency phone number (911); Intimidate public officer/others
JESSE SHINKLE—Area: LYSO, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Criminal contempt - failure to obey court order
OBDULIO RECINOS-MEJIA—Area: Fernley, Bail: $0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of probation/condition of suspended sentence
LAURA SORENSEN—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $3,000, Charges: Domestic battery, (1st offense)
NICHOLAS BARCHIE—Area: Fernley, Bail: $3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, (1st offense)
WILEY WASHAM—Area: LYSO, Bail: $0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime
SEAN MORGAN—Area: LYSO, Bail: $3,755, Charges: Criminal contempt – failure to obey court order
KEITH CARR—Area: Fernley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense)
CHELSIE GONSALVES—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $0, Charges: Attempted insurance fraud
MAYRA LUNA HERNANDEZ—Area: Dayton, Bail: $710, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
RODNEY SLONE—Area: Fernley, Bail: $46,140, Charges: Intimidate public officer/others, with threat of force, (1st offense); Assault on protected person; Battery on protected person; Resist public officer
WILSON VELIZ CARRERA—Area: Fernley, Bail: $22,145, Charges: DUI, (1st offense); Reckless driving disregard person/property safety, (1st offense); Fail to yield at stop/yield sign or controlled intersection; Driver disobey peace officer, endangering other person/property
STEVEN DOWELL—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $6,195, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense); Reckless driving disregard person/property safety, (1st offense); Drive without driver's license
TRICIA MILLAGE—Area: Fernley, Bail: $740, Charges: Resist public officer
ALONDRA PARRA DEL RIO—Area: LYSO, Bail: $30,000, Charges: Domestic battery with use of deadly weapon
JOEL SANCHEZ—Area: Fernley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st offense)
SETH OSBORNE—Area: LYSO, Bail: $640, Charges: Drive with suspended driver's license

Two LCSO K9s win awards at regional K9 challenge

By Robert Perea

Lyon County Sheriff's Office K9 teams participated Oct. 3 in the fifth annual Carson City Sheriff's Office K9 Unit Challenge, with two LCSO dogs earning second-place finishes in individual events.

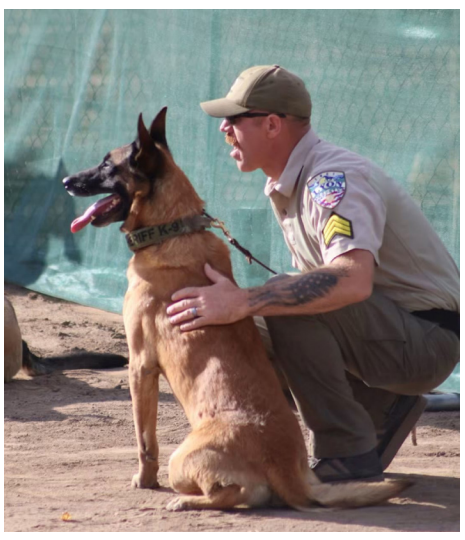
K9 Blady placed second in the agility competition, and K9 Ares placed second in narcotics detection. LCSO also entered K9s Linda and Kilo in the regional event, which brought together K9 teams from multiple agencies across Northern Nevada for skill and discipline demonstrations centered on the duties they perform in the field.

The Carson City Sheriff's Office hosted the challenge, which highlights the training and teamwork between handlers and their K9 partners. Agencies, volunteers and community members supported the event.

Next year's competition is scheduled to be held in Virginia City.



Lyon County Sheriff's Office K9 Ares and his handler, Deputy Brian Kharrl, compete during the Carson City Sheriff's Office K9 Unit Challenge Oct. 3 at Fuji Park. Ares placed second in narcotics detection. Photo courtesy of LCSO.



Lyon County Sheriff's Office K9 Blady and his handler, Sgt. Matt Galvin, wait for their turn to compete during the Carson City Sheriff's Office K9 Unit Challenge Oct. 3 at Fuji Park. Blady placed second in the agility competition. Photo courtesy of LCSO.

Sheriff's Deputy Receives Life Saving Award for Preventing Inmate Suicide

By Robert Perea

At the Oct. 1 meeting of the Lyon County Commission, Lyon County Sheriff Brad Pope presented Deputy Benjamin Wheeler with a Life Saving Award in recognition of his quick response and actions that saved the life of an inmate attempting suicide.

In the letter nominating Wheeler for the award, LCSO Sgt. Zachary Westbrook wrote that on Sept. 3, Wheeler intervened after observing an inmate attempting suicide inside a jail cell. Westbrook wrote that the inmate had tied a sheet around a metal bunk and his neck.

Wheeler immediately entered the cell and removed the sheet from the inmate's neck, preventing the attempt from being completed. The inmate was subsequently evaluated by medical staff and received psychiatric care.

Westbrook wrote that in a later interview, the inmate said he waited for deputies to leave the pod after serving lunch and then attempted suicide.



Lyon County Sheriff Brad Pope presented Deputy Benjamin Wheeler with a Life Saving Award at the Oct. 1 Lyon County Commission meeting. Wheeler intervened after seeing an inmate in the Lyon County Jail attempting suicide. Photo courtesy of LCSO.

THE INSIDE VEER

Truth That Can't be Measured

By Robert Perea

Some things can be proven with a ruler, a calculator or maybe a scale — something that measures a finite length, distance, weight or fact, or even evidence that stands up beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

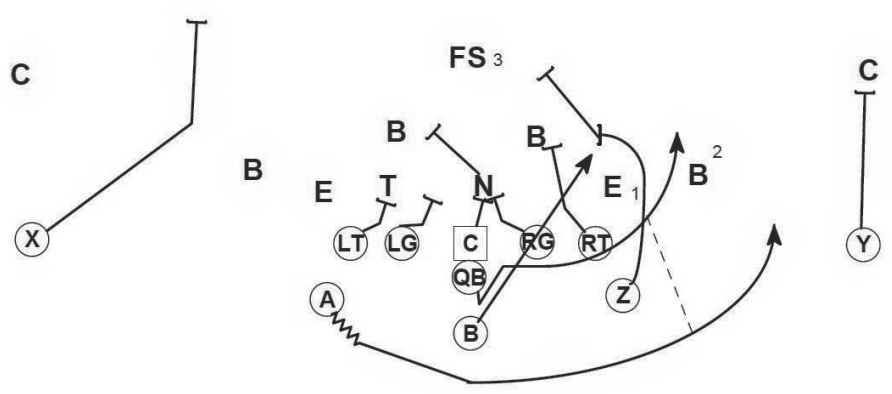
And then there are truths that can't be measured.

This weekend, while feeling nostalgic after hearing about the passing of my cousin Ben, I spent quite a while looking for a picture of him and me that was taken the last time I was at his house.

I didn't find the photo, but looking for it did remind me of a picture he showed me that day. At the time, it had been a few years since I had seen him, and Ben, one of our uncles, another cousin and I were looking through old family photos.

One of them, a picture of Ben with his father, my uncle John, stopped me cold because the geometry of the frame made no sense.

My uncle John passed away when I was in my late teens, and in my memory, he was a giant of a man. Probably because his personality was so big and his presence filled every room he entered, I always pictured him as a large man. I was shocked that day when I realized that Ben, who was about three or four inches shorter than me, was exactly the same height as his dad.



I would have sworn on a Bible that Uncle John was at least 6-foot-4, because that's the image I've had of him since I was a child. Instead, he would have had to stand on his tiptoes to reach 5 feet, 8 inches.

Ben wasn't loud and bombastic like his father, but despite their stature, he was every bit the giant of a human being his dad was. He didn't need to shake the walls to make you feel his presence. He did it with a steady nature that made everyone in his life know he was someone they could depend on, and then he backed that up by going beyond the call whenever he was needed.

He was the type of person who, when asked to watch a neighbor's or family member's house while they were gone, would make sure there was a fresh pot of beans and chile ready in the slow cooker when they got home.

While a camera lens or a ruler is a cold, objective thing that can record facts, neither can measure impact. To a kid, a man who laughs loudly and makes you feel entirely safe is always 6-foot-4, even if the ruler says he's nowhere near that. And anyone lucky enough to know Ben knows that a man who quietly looks out for everyone else occupies that exact same massive space.

That is something I know to be true, even though it can't be measured.



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 — Aging in Place (and Alternatives)

By Sonia Hedrick

In a world obsessed with accomplishment, it shouldn't surprise us that "experts" feel compelled to define the best possible approach to the aging process as a "success." To those of us who are walking that road, the term is almost laughable. Although we may be relatively healthy and enjoying a pretty good retirement, the golden years and success as we once knew it can seem miles apart.

The word success is just a bit heady, don't you think? How about a more down-to-earth term, like maybe "achieved equilibrium?"

While we are "younger older," perhaps between the ages of 50 and 65, we would do well to realistically consider what may lie ahead and study our options for the future.

An important first step is to consult an expert. While we are dancing through middle age or just beginning our golden years, it makes great sense to talk with a certified professional financial advisor. If you stopped working after 65, either by choice or by circumstance, what kind of retirement income would be possible? How much is Social Security likely to provide? Are there investments that might provide a return? How are the savings accounts, pensions and 401(k)s looking?

Regardless of how frightening this review might be — and for many of us it is downright terrifying — at least we know what we have to work with.

For many, aging in place is the most desirable and affordable option. If our home or condo is paid off, this can seem like a no-brainer. Of course we want to stay in our home, surrounded by familiar things, trusted neighbors and nearby friends and family.

But hold on. Not so fast.

How well will this home serve us as things become a little more difficult? In 10 or 20 years, can we expect to safely navigate that flight of stairs to our bedroom or down to the basement where the washing machine is? Are the hallways and doorways wide enough to accommodate a walker or wheelchair if necessary?

Let's say the home is a one-story ranch style with wider doorways and halls. Modifying it to be more senior-friendly can be a less expensive option than moving to other accommodations.

Maybe remodel a bathroom to include a zero-entry shower rather than that hard-to-climb-over bathtub. Change out the toilet for one raised to comfort height, putting less strain on knees and hips. Install grab bars in the shower and near the toilet. Consider adding a wheelchair ramp at an easily accessible entrance to minimize steps.

To avoid contortions when reaching for something at the back of a cabinet, think about replacing traditional shelving with pull-out shelves.

And declutter as much as possible. Open paths around the home are crucial for preventing falls. Strategically rearrange furniture to create wider walkways. The sooner you begin, the more you can spread the work and expense over time so it doesn't all hit at once.

Now here's another important consideration: What happens if we become disabled in some way? What if we can no longer do everything for ourselves? Do we — or will we — have the resources to hire help?

Medicare will cover only so much. Can we supplement that cost? When we were younger, did we purchase and continue paying for long-term care or disability insurance? If we did not, purchasing that kind of coverage later in life may be difficult or expensive.

When thinking about what may be coming, some of us who live near our grown children can also have a false sense of security.

"Surely, little Johnny will help me!"

But what if little Johnny isn't in a position to help? Little Johnny is now a grown man with a full-time job, children and bills of his own.

And, of course, when we reach that stage, many of us discover that the last person we want to burden is our adult child. So we tell them everything is just dandy and suffer in silence.

Before becoming completely defeated, though, remember there are alternatives.

We'll explore some of those in the next edition of Senior Sense, scheduled for publication the week of Oct. 18, 2026.

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

Share with Your Community.

Send *The Fernley Reporter* your obituaries.

To submit an obituary send via email to: customers@rangemediaco.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.



PETS OF THE WEEK

MORE KITTENS!

These kitties are very social, lovable little furbabies. They enjoy playing and cuddling too! All adoptable cats are fixed, vaccinated and microchipped. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet one, please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will get back to you within 72 hours to do a phone questionnaire.

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

The Lyon County Animal Shelter is FULL!

Meet just a few of the amazing Fernley dogs below, there are many more waiting for a second chance! 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

Donate. Volunteer. Adopt. Make a difference.



Share with your community.

Send *The Fernley Reporter* your obituaries.

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