

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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\$1.00 | The Week of September 4, 2026

Electrical problem delays Fernley pool opening

By Rachel Dahl

The reopening of the Fernley swimming pool has been delayed again after an electrical problem prevented the new circulation pump from starting.

The pump has been installed and connected to the pool's main line, but an attempt to start it resulted in an electrical failure involving either a transformer or part of the variable frequency drive, according to an update from pool officials.

A variable frequency drive, or VFD, controls the speed and operation of an electric motor by regulating the frequency and voltage of the electricity supplied to it. In the pool system, it is used to control the pump motor.

Patrick Daniel, director of the Fernley Swimming Pool, said in an email that officials were working to determine the fastest way to get the system operating.

"The pump has been placed and connected to the main line," Daniel wrote. "Attempting to start the pump

resulted in an electrical failure, likely a step-up transformer. We are chasing the fastest solution to get working, which is to either replace the transformer or possibly part of the VFD."

Daniel said he did not expect the pump to be operating by the end of last week.

Pool Board Chairman Suzanne Prouty said she visited the pool Friday and that replacement parts for the transformer or VFD were expected to arrive Monday, Aug. 31.

Even if the repair is successful, the pool will not be able to open immediately.

Prouty said lifeguards must complete a safety refresher before reopening, and that training cannot be conducted until the pumps are working and the pool is ready for use.

She estimated the pool could still be about two weeks away from opening.

The delay is the latest hurdle in a project that has included replacement of major pool equipment and other work required before the facility can reopen.



The Fernley pool opening has been delayed due to an electrical failure. Photo courtesy of Desert Surge Swim Club.

Jurisdiction ruling moves Richards murder case to Churchill County



Robert Richards, photo courtesy of Third Judicial District Court.

By Robert Perea

The murder case against Robert Matthew Richards, accused of killing 25-year-old Sara Filiatraut in March 2024, is now proceeding in Churchill County after a district court judge dismissed the Lyon County case for lack of jurisdiction.

The order by Third Judicial District Court Judge Leon Aberasturi was filed Aug. 3, concluding that there was no forensic evidence establishing that the murder occurred in Lyon County rather than Churchill County, where Filiatraut's body was found.

A new criminal complaint charging Richards with Open Murder was filed July 23 in New River Township Justice Court in Fallon. The complaint alleges Richards killed Filiatraut by strangulation, blunt force trauma, or both. Richards was arraigned on Aug. 6, and a status hearing scheduled Aug. 20 was continued to Oct. 1.

The jurisdictional dispute originated earlier this year. At a status hearing March 30 in Third Judicial District

Court in Yerington, Aberasturi set a criminal settlement conference for July, and a trial date of Oct. 27 through Nov. 6 if the matter was not resolved.

However, at that hearing, attorney Kale Brock, representing Richards, told the court the defense intended to seek a change of venue to transfer the case to another county. On May 7, the defense filed a Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction, contending the state had no proof establishing where or when Filiatraut died, meaning the crime could have occurred in either county.

Aberasturi heard arguments on the motion to dismiss on July 14.

Filiatraut was reported missing April 15, 2024, by her father in Michigan, who said she had not contacted him in many weeks. He told investigators she did not have a cell phone and would borrow phones and computers from others to communicate.

Filiatraut's family in Michigan re-

Continued on PAGE 2 - MURDER...

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FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Captain's Log – Strength

A friend of mine has a beautiful family and a wonderful life, but his wife, the matriarch of their tight-knit batch of children and grandchildren, is sick. He was called on to speak extemporaneously in church Sunday, and I was struck by his strength. Pure, raw power that comes from deep inside of a person who knows exactly why he's here and has peace, deep in his soul.

It's inspiring to be around people like that. There aren't a whole lot of them, but when we happen across one, it's good to take note and see if you have any of that inside your own self.

Actually, writing this has me thinking of all the other strong people I know and am surrounded by every day. Maybe there are more

of us than I had originally thought.

Not everyone is as bold or openly powerful, but they go through their days with quiet, resilient strength. Just doing the regular little things the best they can. Always looking for how they can make the world a little easier for those around them. Taking pride in their work and going a little further to figure things out and do better at everything they touch.

There really is a lot we can learn from each other, and I really enjoy this part of life – being around good people, getting to know them, and appreciating all the little intricacies that make us who we are. I love seeing how we interact in our families and at our work or our school, and how everyone brings

pieces that are uniquely theirs but together make us who we are as a community.

Sometimes I've noticed as I've aged that there's a tendency to avoid people altogether. To get overly attached to my hermit way of life. It's often an effort to go where people are and I have quite a bit of resistance.

But every time I venture out, there is the reward of being around someone fantastic.

And so, while I push myself out the door this morning of my peaceful Boyer Bunny Ranch and march dutifully to the office for more "peopling," I'll still be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.
Rach

Continued from FRONT - MURDER...

ported that her last known location was in Lyon County on March 21, 2024. That's the day she was released from jail after an arrest on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Lyon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) investigators determined that after being released from jail, Filiatraut traveled to Fernley, where she used an acquaintance's phone. LCSO said her social media activity stopped completely after March 22, 2024.

According to the Findings of Fact detailed in the court order, Richards and Filiatraut conversed on March 22, 2024, about going to a casino. Through search warrants, the Sheriff's Office was able to verify that Richards and Filiatraut met.

Deputies found video that showed a woman who resembled Filiatraut getting into a truck that resembled Richards' truck near McDonald's on March 22. Video showed Richards going into Raley's shortly after being seen near McDonald's.

Location data showed Richards' vehicle went to a local casino and then back to his residence, where it remained until the next morning, March 23, 2024.

A surveillance camera at the Fox Peak gas station captured a picture

of Richards' truck on the morning of March 23, 2024. Filiatraut was not visible in the truck.

The location data then tracked the truck into a desolate area of Churchill County.

Richards told investigators he knew Filiatraut and said he had spent time with her on three occasions. He claimed their last meeting was March 22, 2024, and that she had left after showering at his trailer.

On May 20, 2024, investigators from Lyon and Churchill counties searched the desert area where Richards' truck had traveled, discovering Filiatraut's body in a remote desert pit about 30 miles east of Fallon.

Investigators documented one set of vehicle tracks going in and out of the area, along with drag marks leading from where the vehicle appeared to stop to where the body was found. Phone location records placed Richards within five meters of where the body was found.

The Lyon County District Attorney's Office argued that Lyon County was the appropriate venue for the case because the location records indicated that Filiatraut was at Richards' residence the night before his truck traveled to the site where her body was found.

The prosecution argued that the

circumstantial evidence met the preponderance of the evidence standard to establish that Filiatraut was killed in Lyon County and her body was disposed of in Churchill County.

The defense argued that the state presented no forensic evidence as to where the act of murder occurred and that without forensic evidence concerning location or time of death, the location could be either Lyon or Churchill County.

In his ruling, Aberasturi cited a 2021 case, Martinez Guzman v. Second Judicial District Court, which he said requires the state to "present some modicum of nonspeculative evidence that some act of murder occurred in Lyon County since the body was found in a different county."

The judge also referenced the 1962 ruling in Walker v. State, in which Paul Allison, driving a pickup truck through Elko, picked up Walker, who was hitchhiking. They later stopped in Lovelock, and at some point Walker stabbed Allison during a fight. Allison was found dead in the pickup camper in a parking lot in Reno.

"The Court finds the facts and holding in Walker provide a safe harbor for a conclusion that venue is proper in Churchill County, as the Guzman opinion did not expressly overrule Walker," Aberasturi's ruling states.

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FEATURES

Recent fires offer reminder: Emergency preparedness doesn't have to be expensive

By Rachel Dahl

After weeks of wildfires, smoke and emergency response across Northern Nevada, the start of National Preparedness Month comes with a little more urgency this year.

The Bug, Stallion and Hawk fires brought evacuation concerns, hazardous smoke and extensive firefighting operations to the region in August. At one point, Lyon County officials were assuring Fernley residents that the city was not immediately threatened by the Stallion Fire, which had grown to more than 22,000 acres. Northern Nevada Public Health later declared a local public health emergency because of hazardous ash and debris left by those fires.

The American Red Cross of Northern Nevada says families do not need to spend hundreds of dollars on a prepackaged emergency kit to be better prepared for the next wildfire,



Firefighters hold the line on the Stallion Fire. Photo courtesy Reno Firefighters Association

flood, winter storm, earthquake or extended power outage.

“Getting prepared doesn’t mean buying everything at once,” said Bridget Posson, executive director of the American Red Cross Northern Nevada Chapter. “Start with what you already have, make a plan and

add a few useful items as your budget allows.”

The Red Cross recommends beginning with items already around the house.

A backpack, duffel bag or plastic storage container can become an emergency kit. Flashlights, blankets, charging cables, reusable water bottles, a manual can opener, sturdy shoes, work gloves and basic hygiene products are among the supplies many families may already own.

Residents should also make copies of important documents and keep written emergency phone numbers somewhere other than their cell-phones in case power, internet or cellular service is unavailable.

From there, families can add one or two items during normal shopping trips. Bottled water, nonperishable

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Free health coverage help expands in Lyon, Pershing counties

By Rachel Dahl

Nevadans in Lyon and Pershing counties will have more places to get free, one-on-one help enrolling in and keeping health insurance under an expanded statewide assistance program announced by Nevada Health Link and the Nevada Health Authority.

The state awarded funding to 16 community organizations through a \$2 million Enrollment Assister Grant Program. Several of the selected organizations serve Lyon and Pershing counties, including the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Community Health Alliance and Lyon County Human Services.

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe was also selected to provide assistance to rural and tribal communities, including communities in and around Pershing County.

The program is intended to help Nevadans navigate Medicaid, Nevada Health Link plans and changes in eligibility requirements that can cause people to move between different types of coverage.

“Health coverage can be difficult to navigate, especially when eligibility requirements are changing, or someone is moving between Medicaid and a Marketplace health



Open enrollment through Nevada Health Link runs from Nov. 1 through Jan. 15. Photo courtesy Nevada Health Link.

plan,” said Jennifer Krupp, administrator of the Division of Consumer Health Services.

Krupp said placing trained enrollment workers within community organizations is intended to give residents a familiar place to get help completing applications, submitting documents and maintaining coverage.

During the 2026 open enrollment period, more than 70,000 Nevadans who enrolled in coverage through Nevada Health Link received assistance from a licensed enrollment professional, according to the state.

Under the expanded program, trained Certified Application Counselors and Exchange Enrollment Facilitators will help residents determine eligibility, enroll or reenroll in Medicaid or private insurance plans, submit required documents and understand available health and dental coverage.

They will also help Medicaid recipients understand new federal work requirements and other changes that could affect their eligibility.

Lyon County residents may receive assistance through Lyon County Human Services,

Community Health Alliance, Nevada Health Centers, the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

Pershing County is included in the service areas of the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows and Food Bank of Northern Nevada, while the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe’s grant includes outreach to rural and tribal communities surrounding the Lovelock Paiute Tribe.

“Local organizations understand the communities they serve, including the language, cultural and practical barriers that can make enrolling in health insurance challenging,” Nevada Health Link Executive Officer Janel Davis said.

Many uninsured residents may qualify for Medicaid or financial assistance to reduce the cost of private insurance purchased through Nevada Health Link.

Free enrollment assistance is available statewide. Residents can find help at NevadaHealthLink.com or call 1-800-547-2927.

Open enrollment through Nevada Health Link runs from Nov. 1 through Jan. 15. People who lose insurance, move, marry, divorce or have a baby may also qualify to enroll outside that period through a special enrollment period.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boys & Girls Club offering youth basketball leagues

Staff Report

The Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Serving Fernley is offering All-Star Youth Basketball Leagues in Fernley.

Registration is open now for the leagues, which run Nov. 2 through Dec. 31 for students in kindergarten through second grade. Leagues for students in third through eighth grades will run Jan. 4 through March 12.

Games and practices will be held at Silverland Middle School.

Kindergarten through second-grade league offers a fun introduction to basketball, giving boys and girls a chance to get on the court, learn the fundamentals, stay active, build confidence and make

new friends while learning the value of being part of a team.

Older players will have the opportunity to strengthen their fundamental skills while growing as athletes and teammates.

The kindergarten through second grade and third- and fourth-grade leagues are co-ed, while the fifth- and sixth-grade and seventh- and eighth-grade leagues are divided into boys and girls divisions.

The cost is \$60, plus a one-time \$20 membership fee for nonmembers.

More information and registration forms are available at bgctm.org/athletics/fernley-youth-basketball-leagues or by emailing FernleyAthletics@BGCTM.org.

North Lyon Fire hiring full-time firefighters, paramedics

Staff Report

North Lyon County Fire Protection District is accepting applications for full-time firefighter positions as the district continues to build its fire and emergency medical services staff serving Fernley and the surrounding area.

Openings include firefighter/EMT, firefighter/advanced EMT and firefighter/paramedic positions, with salaries ranging from \$60,541.44 to \$96,652.13 depending on certification and experience.

Firefighter/paramedic positions pay between \$78,723.77 and \$96,652.13. Applicants must hold a current National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification or Nevada EMS license.

North Lyon Fire describes itself as a growing combination fire and EMS organization with an emphasis on training, professional development and community service.

The district is accepting applications continuously, with upcoming testing scheduled for Oct. 3-4. Flexible testing dates may also be available upon request.

Applications are available online at NorthLyonFire.com or may be picked up at the district business office, 195 E. Main St. in Fernley.

North Lyon Fire serves Fernley and portions of northern Lyon County, responding to fires, medical emergencies and other calls for service throughout the district.

Fernley Community Events

SEP 4

MOVIE - HOPPERS
2:30 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

SEP 5

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

SEP 6

COAT DRIVE - FREE - TAKE WHAT YOU NEED
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Carpet King
785 Hwy 95A S,

SEP 8

TRIVIA NIGHT
7:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.

SEP 10

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

SEP 11

MOVIE - SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE
2:30 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

SEP 12

FERNLEY HEALTH FAIR & COMMUNITY WELLNESS
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
805 E. Main St.
775-204-4000

CANAL NIGHTS CARS & (FOOD) TRUCKS CRUISE-IN
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Car Show, Vendors, Music, Food Trucks & More!
1032 Inglewood Dr.

SEP 15

TRIVIA NIGHT
7:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.

SEP 17

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

SEP 18

Open Mic Night
7:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

SEP 19

MAYOR'S FREE RECYCLING DAY
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Out of Town Park
ahomme@cityoffernley.org

POKER TOURNAMENT BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
\$75 Buy-In
5:00 PM
695 E. Main St.
(775) 360-2424

SEP 22

TRIVIA NIGHT
7:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.



Fernley Church Directory

Summit Church
Silverland Middle School

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

Fernley First Baptist Church
485 E. Main Street

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
290 N. West Street

Living Faith Church
110 Center Street

Crosswinds Assembly of God
3015 Farm District Road

Calvary Chapel
875 Fremont Street

Joy! Alliance Fellowship
www.facebook.com/JOYchurchFernley

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
625 Desert Shadows Lane

Fernley Free Methodist Church
100 N. West Street

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

Living Stones Church
868 Cottonwood Lane



COMMUNITY

Semi-truck fire extinguished near Fernley truck stop

Staff Report

North Lyon Fire crews responded early Tuesday morning to a semi-truck fire near the entrance to a local truck stop.

The call came in shortly after 12:30 a.m. Responding firefighters arrived to find the tractor portion of the semi heavily involved in flames, with the fire threatening to spread to the attached trailer.

Crews quickly began attacking the fire and were able to bring it under control before conducting an extensive overhaul to make sure the fire was fully extinguished.

The trailer was loaded with beverages and was confirmed to contain no hazardous materials.

North Lyon Fire support personnel were called to assist with additional resources, and law enforcement officers also helped at the scene.

No injuries were reported. Damage was limited to the truck and trailer.

North Lyon Fire said the incident was another example of the around-the-clock nature of emergency response, with career and support personnel responding while much of the community was asleep.



Photo courtesy of North Lyon Fire.

Nevada is making its largest-ever investment in rural healthcare

By Governor Joe Lombardo

When I talk with Nevadans across our rural counties, I hear a common concern: access to healthcare shouldn't depend on your zip code. A rancher in White Pine County deserves the same quality of care as a family in Summerlin. That's why I'm proud that the Nevada Health Authority is putting unprecedented resources behind rural healthcare – including nearly \$150 million in Rural Health Transformation Program awards to date, supporting 158 projects across 17 counties. These investments are made possible through a five-year federal initiative that provided Nevada \$180 million in its first year, and we are making sure those dollars reach the communities that need them most.

Ensuring Nevada has a strong healthcare workforce has been central to my work as Governor, because access to quality care depends on the people who provide it. You can build a clinic anywhere, but a clinic without doctors, nurses, and paramedics cannot address the critical and immediate medical needs Nevadans depend on. These grants put people first: they expand access to care, grow the provider pipeline, and support the hospitals and clinics that rural and Tribal communities rely on every day.

These investments target three areas where rural Nevada needs them most.

First, we're training the next generation of rural physicians right here at home. Nearly \$5 million will expand rural medical residencies, including a new rural family medicine residency track in Fallon and a first-of-its-kind rural obstetrics fellowship to bring more provid-



Infographic courtesy of @JoeLombardoNV on X (formerly Twitter).

ers capable of delivering babies to communities that have gone without. A new fellowship will also allow nurses already practicing in rural Nevada to earn dual certification in primary care and behavioral health, because the fastest way to grow our workforce is to invest in the dedicated professionals already serving our communities. And a new statewide Rural Graduate Medical Education Consortium will help rural hospitals build residency programs of their own for years to come.

Second, we're recruiting and retaining providers where they're needed most. More than \$32 million will bring primary care, pediatric, behavioral health, OB/GYN, orthopedic, and family medicine providers to communities including Mesquite, Pahrump, Elko, Tonopah, Fallon, Incline Village, and Tribal reservations. These awards also expand dental services, strengthen Tribal

dental care, increase behavioral health capacity, and support EMS leadership and statewide specialty tele-mentoring - so rural providers are never practicing alone.

Third, we're building long-term pipelines so rural Nevada can grow its own workforce. Over \$14 million will modernize rural clinical training: expanding simulation centers, launching rural nursing apprenticeships, advancing EMTs to paramedics, establishing a new Medical Laboratory Scientist program, and creating training pathways in geriatrics, imaging, social work, dental assisting, behavioral health, public health, and early childhood education. We're even reaching into K-12 classrooms, so a student in Eureka or Owyhee can see a clear path from their hometown school to a healthcare career serving their hometown.

And this work goes beyond simply putting more providers in

rural communities. The latest round of RHTP awards includes practical, innovative solutions that can make a difference in people's daily lives – from mobile care pods and expanded tele-behavioral health services to home-visit chronic disease care, maternal health case management, community health worker training, and early childhood developmental and behavioral health services. Together, these investments will expand access to care, reduce wait times, strengthen early detection and intervention, and support healthier outcomes for Nevadans in some of the state's most remote communities.

No one knows more about the demand for this critical funding than the people who call these communities their home. Rural providers and hospitals requested nearly \$42 million for recruitment and retention alone, a sign that our rural healthcare leaders are ready to build and they simply need a partner in Carson City willing to deliver. My administration is that partner.

As Governor, rural Nevada isn't an afterthought in this state, it's the backbone of it. The mines, farms, ranches, and small businesses of our rural counties power our economy, and the families who live there deserve healthcare that's close to home, high quality, and affordable. That's my commitment as Governor, and these investments are proof we're keeping that promise.

The work isn't finished. But with these awards, we're not just filling vacancies – we're building a rural healthcare workforce that's grown in Nevada, trained in Nevada, and here to stay.



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.

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COMMUNITY

Wolf Pack offers free tickets to firefighters, first responders

Staff Report

Nevada Football will honor Northern Nevada firefighters and first responders during the Wolf Pack's home opener Saturday, Sept. 5, against Western Kentucky at Mackay Stadium.

As a thank-you to those who helped protect communities during the recent wildfires across Northern Nevada, the Wolf Pack is offering

complimentary tickets to firefighters and first responders.

Kickoff against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

"Along with many in our community, members of our staff and student-athletes were impacted by the recent fires," Nevada Football head coach Jeff Choate said. "Our firefighters and first responders demonstrated the utmost courage, heroism and

dedication fighting these fires which threatened our community, and we want to express our heartfelt thanks."

Choate said the university looks forward to recognizing the responding agencies and personnel during Saturday's game.

Firefighters and first responders can claim complimentary tickets at nevadawolfpack.eventue.net/promotions/RESPONDER using the promo code RESPONDER.

Continued from PAGE 3 - REDCROSS...

food, batteries, first aid supplies and hygiene products can be purchased gradually, while secondhand stores may provide inexpensive backpacks, blankets, rain gear and extra clothing.

The Red Cross recommends preparing two types of kits.

A "go-kit" should contain at least three days of supplies that can be grabbed quickly during an evacuation. A stay-at-home kit should contain enough food and water for about two weeks and, when possible, a month's supply of needed medications.

Basic emergency supplies should include drinking water, nonperishable food, flashlights, first aid supplies, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, batteries, phone chargers, hygiene items, copies of important documents and emergency contact information.

Families should tailor those supplies to their own needs. Parents of young children may need diapers and formula. Pet owners should include food, medications, leashes, carriers and bowls. Anyone dependent on medical equipment should consider how that equipment will operate during an extended power outage.

Some of the most important preparation, however, costs nothing.

Families should decide where they will meet if they become separated and identify somewhere outside their immediate neighborhood where they could go during an evacuation. They should know how everyone will get there and make plans for pets before an emergency occurs.

Residents should also sign up for local emergency alerts and keep important telephone numbers written down.

The Red Cross says preparedness is especially important in Nevada, where residents can face wildfires,

earthquakes, floods, winter storms, power outages and house fires.

Last year, Northern Nevada Red Cross disaster workers responded to 85 home fires and assisted 271 people. Through Sept. 1 this year, volunteers have responded to 78 home fires and helped 233 people, according to the organization.

The organization also offers free smoke alarm installations and home fire safety information to Northern Nevada residents through its Home Fire Campaign.

The free Red Cross Emergency app provides weather alerts, preparedness information, maps and information about open Red Cross shelters.

More information and emergency preparedness checklists are available at RedCross.org/prepare. Northern Nevada residents can request a free smoke alarm installation at SoundTheAlarm.org/Nevada.

Meetings

Fernley City Council
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting Sept 16

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting Sept. 9

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 Sept. 15

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 Sept. 8

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 Sept. 22

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 Sept. 22

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees
2nd Thursday of the month 195 E. Main St.
Next meeting Sept. 10

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fernley library packs September with programs, movies and more

Staff Report

The Fernley Branch Library is celebrating Library Card Sign-up Month in September with a full schedule of activities for children, families and adults.

Anyone signing up for a library card for the first time during September will be entered into a drawing for a free bowling pass at the Frontier Fun Center. The library is also reminding residents that a library card provides access not only to books, but technology, research databases and other resources.

Weekly activities include a Fiber Arts Meetup from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, with participants focusing on learning crochet during September. Board Games and Legos are offered from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, and table tennis is available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. All three programs are open to all ages.

Computer classes will be offered at 2 p.m. Sept. 3 and 17 for residents interested in learning more about using tablets, smartphones and computers. Genealogy classes for beginners through advanced researchers are

scheduled for 2 p.m. Sept. 10 and 24.

For younger children, the library will host Play Day at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 4 for children ages 5 and younger, along with Storytime at 10:30 a.m. Sept. 11 and 18. A Family Craft activity will be offered from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 18, with families welcome to make the craft at the library or take materials home.

Friday afternoon movies are also back this month. Movies will be shown at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 4, 11 and 25, with popcorn provided. September's scheduled films are "Hoppers," "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" and "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie."

The library's English Book Club will meet at 2 p.m. Sept. 22 to discuss "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society" by Annie Barrows. The Spanish Book Club meets at 4 p.m. Sept. 24 and will discuss "En Agosto Nos Vemos" by Gabriel García Márquez.

Residents can also schedule a one-on-one "Book a Librarian" appointment for assistance with computer skills, research or finding something new to read.

The Fernley Branch Library can be reached at 775-575-3366.

School Board approves recording in substitute teacher classrooms

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County School District Board of Trustees has approved a new policy requiring classroom video cameras to record continuously whenever a substitute teacher is in charge of a class, creating an exception to the district's existing photography and recording rules.

The policy was first presented at the Trustees' July 28 meeting. The Board approved the first reading after requesting language specifying that recordings may be viewed only through a formal IT request initiated by district-level administration.

The policy applies to both short-term substitutes and long-term substitute teachers hired to fill licensed positions the district has been



Photo courtesy of Lyon County School District.

unable to staff. It also covers intern teachers serving in the same role.

Under the policy, cameras in substitute-taught classrooms must

record throughout the school day during the regular school year and during extended school year services for students with disabilities. Board Policy IN1 currently allows classroom staff to control when cameras are recording; the new rule removes that discretion when a substitute is present.

Notices will be posted at school entrances where cameras are installed, and cameras must be positioned to capture the classroom to the extent feasible without recording restrooms or areas used for changing clothes.

Recordings may be monitored when incidents are reported and will be stored at the district level.

Continued on PAGE 8 - SCHOOL BOARD...



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BUSINESS

Walsh joins Fernley Chamber board

Staff Report

The Fernley Chamber of Commerce has welcomed Shari Walsh as its newest board member, bringing years of experience in mortgage lending, small business ownership, fundraising and community events.

Walsh has worked as a mortgage lender for 11 years and previously spent more than 25 years as a manicurist and salon owner. She said helping people purchase their first home has become one of the most rewarding parts of her career.

“I absolutely love my job,” Walsh said, noting that she now shares an office with her daughter, Kayleigh Capone, who is also a loan officer.

Walsh is also co-founder of the Fern 45, an annual event that raises

money for veterans organizations. What began as a way to introduce people to area trails has grown into a fundraiser that Walsh said now generates more than \$100,000 annually for veterans causes.

As sponsor director for the event, Walsh said the role has strengthened her experience in networking, fundraising and community outreach.

“I look forward to becoming a Chamber board member,” Walsh said. “I hope I can add to that success with some of my marketing and fundraising ideas.”

Walsh grew up in Sparks and graduated from Reed High School in 1989. She said she is looking forward to contributing to the Chamber’s work and supporting Fernley’s business community.



The Fernley Chamber of Commerce has welcomed Shari Walsh as its newest board member. Photo courtesy of Fern 45.

Continued from PAGE 7 - SCHOOL BOARD...

Administrators seeking footage for an investigation must follow district IT procedures to obtain access. All recordings will be kept for at least 60 days unless a longer retention period is required by law.

The policy states that recordings are confidential and may be disclosed only in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or under a court order, subpoena or other applicable law.

Video from substitute-taught classrooms may be used for disciplinary purposes, including dismissal of substitute staff. Recordings may also be used in student discipline cases under LCSD Board Policy JG.

The policy takes effect immediately.

The Trustees also approved first readings of a pair of policies that prompted robust debate among Board members.

After debating a proposal by Trustee Kallie Day regarding evaluations of the superintendent and Board operating procedures at the July meeting, the Trustees ultimately requested that the proposal be separated into two policies.

At the Aug. 25 meeting, the Trustees voted 4-3 to approve a revision to Policy BK: Evaluation of Board Operation Procedure. Trustees argued, at times strenuously, over the proposed self-evaluation system.

Most of the disagreement centered on a Board Governance Stakeholder Survey. Trustee Sherry Parsons criticized the proposed survey as a box-checking exercise and said the Trustees should focus on students rather than themselves.

Other Trustees argued that a survey is the only way to get accurate feedback from the community because people who are unhappy with the district often come to meetings and express their opinions, while people who are satisfied are less likely to attend meetings simply to say so.

Trustees Darin Farr, Kallie Day, Elmer Bull and James Whisler voted in favor, while Parsons, Dawn Carson and Tom Hendrix voted no.

The Trustees also voted 5-2 to approve revisions to Policy BCD: Board Superintendent Relationship. In that policy, Day proposed requiring Trustees to provide more specific feedback when they rate the superintendent as either not meeting or exceeding expectations.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Data centers are coming. The question is what communities get in return.

By Rachel Dahl

The debate over data centers in Nevada is becoming increasingly polarized.

To hear one side tell it, they are economic salvation: billions of dollars in investment, badly needed tax revenue and infrastructure development.

To hear the other, they are resource-hungry industrial projects that consume enormous amounts of power and water while leaving communities to deal with the consequences.

Boulder City Mayor Joe Hardy offered a more useful way to look at the question during a recent appearance on Nevada Newsmakers.

Don't start with whether data centers are good or bad. Start with the deal.

Boulder City finds itself in an unusual position. According to Hardy, roughly one-third of the city's budget is supported by revenue from solar-field leases. The city has historically preferred leasing land rather than selling it, using those payments to fund municipal operations.

And now data centers have entered the conversation.

Hardy said a company associated with Townsite Solar 2 originally held an option to lease Boulder City land for additional solar generation and battery storage. As interest in data centers grew, the company began exploring whether one could be developed there instead.

At the same time, the company had

separately sought federal approval for a data center on Bureau of Land Management property within Boulder City's boundaries.

That is where things became complicated.

Hardy said the BLM ultimately approved the use based on an environmental review originally conducted for solar generation and battery storage.

Boulder City is now suing the agency, arguing that a data center requires a different environmental review. Hardy's objection is also financial: because the land is federally owned, Boulder City could be responsible for police, fire and other services without receiving the lease revenue it would collect from a project built on city land.

Hardy is not arguing that Boulder City should reject data centers. In fact, he believes a properly structured project could help solve looming city budget shortfalls.

His position is essentially this: if a community is going to accommodate a major industrial development, the community should receive a measurable benefit in return.

Hardy said a November ballot question will ask residents whether the city should consider energy-related development in Eldorado Valley, potentially including a data center.

The interview also addressed the three concerns now following nearly every Nevada data center proposal: power, water and noise.

On power, Hardy said Boulder City's

municipal utility gives the city leverage other jurisdictions may not have. Any data center would need a power purchase agreement establishing where its electricity will come from.

More importantly, Hardy said the city could structure an agreement so some of the revenue generated by the project helps offset residents' power costs.

That is a much different proposition than simply adding a massive new electrical customer and hoping existing ratepayers are not affected.

On water, Hardy was equally direct: a closed-loop cooling system would be mandatory from his perspective.

On noise, he dismissed much of the concern surrounding newer facilities, arguing that modern data centers are different from earlier generations.

Hardy's larger point was that the debate does not have to be reduced to simply supporting or opposing data centers.

He pointed to criteria developed by the Sierra Club as an example of how communities could set conditions for acceptable projects. In Boulder City, Hardy said that would mean requiring a closed-loop water system, requiring the developer to secure its own power through a power purchase agreement and structuring the deal so the city receives a direct financial benefit.

For Boulder City, the financial piece is especially important. Hardy said the city is anticipating budget shortfalls within the next five to 10 years, and revenue from a properly structured

land lease could help fill those gaps while allowing the city to maintain current services.

His argument was not that every data center is a good deal, but that one meeting strict requirements on water, power and environmental impacts could be.

That is a useful distinction as more Nevada communities are asked to consider these projects.

Large industrial developments can transform a tax base, but they can also strain infrastructure and consume scarce resources if agreements are poorly structured. The real question is not simply whether a data center is coming, but what conditions a community puts in place before it says yes and whether the benefits are substantial enough to justify the demands the project will place on local resources and services.

Hardy's approach offers a useful framework: require a project to prove its value. Protect the water. Protect existing ratepayers. Account for public-service costs. Require environmental review appropriate to the project being built.

That puts communities in a stronger position to negotiate with a clear understanding of the value of their land, water, power and infrastructure.

State leaders may welcome data centers, but it will fall largely to local officials to make sure their communities and ultimately Nevada, benefit from them.

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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.

Aug. 24-30, 2026

ERIC VENABLE – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$25,000, Charges: Assault with a deadly weapon
HENRY KOSKY – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
STEVEN OLIGNEY – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$850, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
MARC BASILE – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$3,755, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance less than 14 grams (1st or 2nd offense); Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Operate vehicle with expired registration/plates
LUCAS ST. CLAIR – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$23,640, Charges: Assault with a deadly weapon; Draw deadly weapon in threatening manner; Aim gun at person
KASSIEANN MOHLER – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,395, Charges: DUI (1st); Basic speed 11–15 mph over posted limit; Fail to maintain lane/

improper lane change/use signal
KENNETH MCKINNON – Area:
Fernley, Bail: \$2,745, Charges:
Assist other agency—Hold; Use/
possess drug paraphernalia; Possess/
consume marijuana in public place/
marijuana store/vehicle; Owner
proof of insurance required
JONATHAN FINICUM – Area:
Mound House, Bail: \$1,065, Charges:
Drive with suspended driver's
license; Failure to appear on traffic
citation
ROBERT BUSH – Area: Fernley,
Bail: \$15,955, Charges: Possession
of Schedule I/II controlled
substance less than 14 grams (1st
or 2nd offense); Use/possess drug
paraphernalia; Drive with revoked
driver's license; Operate unregistered
vehicle/trailer/semi; Owner proof of
insurance required
ANDREW TROOLINES – Area:
Dayton, Bail: \$3,420, Charges: Use or
be under the influence of a controlled

substance; DUI (1st); Possess less than 10 oz marijuana
LEVI HANCOCK – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$6,195, Charges: Criminal contempt; Display fictitious vehicle registration/plate/title; DUI (2nd); Drive with revoked driver's license; Owner proof of insurance required
RYAN ALLPHIN – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence
RYAN SWEELY – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: DUI (1st)
FAUST DAVANZO – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: DUI (1st)
SERGIO MONTES – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$1,980, Charges: DUI (1st); Reckless driving w/disregard for person/property safety (1st)
JUAN CORTEZ BOJORQUEZ – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: Drive with revoked driver's license for DUI
DANIEL CONTRERAS – Area:

LCSO says report of gun on school bus turned out to be a pen

By Robert Perea

A report of a gun on a school bus Aug. 27 turned out to be a novelty pen shaped like a rifle, the Lyon County Sheriff's Office said.

The Sheriff's Office said it received information at about 8:33 a.m. that a student had a gun on a school bus heading to Fernley Intermediate School. Deputies located the bus and determined the student had a pen shaped like an AR-15-style rifle.

Another student saw the pen and re-

ported it to a parent, who notified the school. The school then contacted the Sheriff's Office.

LCSO said deputies determined there were no firearms on the bus and no threat to students or school staff.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Deputy Zmak at 775-463-6600.

The Sheriff's Office also encouraged students to speak up in similar situations and to report anything suspicious.

"Early reporting, response and intervention saves lives," LCSO said.





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ET #9 starts 8:30 a.m.

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King of the Track 3 p.m.



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A colorful flyer for "Our Second Home" daycare and preschool. The top section is blue with the text "NEW CENTER NOW OPEN-COME CHECK US OUT!" in white. Below this is a white background featuring a line drawing of a house with a chimney, and four stick figures holding hands in front of it. The text "Our Second Home" is written in a cursive font. A pink banner contains the text "DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL". The middle section is yellow with the text "We have a few spots left open in: Infant | 1-Year | 3/4-Year". Below this, the text "Waitlist: Pre-K and 2-Year" is displayed. The bottom section is pink with the contact information: "775-302-3131 | oshdaycareandpreschool@gmail.com" and "1040 Inglewood Drive, Fernley NV 89408". There are also small illustrations of a car, a flower, and a rocket.

THE INSIDE VEER

Widening the playing field

By Robert Perea

I had mixed feelings when I first talked with Tony Erquiaga back in July about possibly doing a combined sports section for all of our Range Media newspapers.

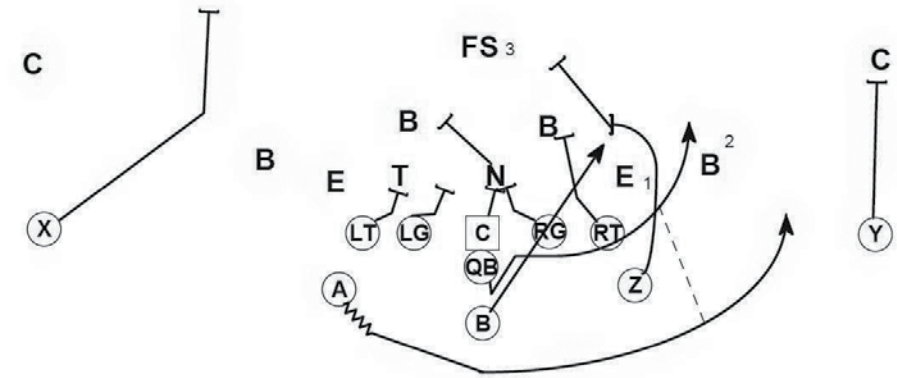
My feelings are mixed no longer.

In community journalism, “hyper-local” is the golden rule. Because our papers are hyper-local in focus, I wondered at first whether some of our readers might be alienated by seeing a front-page sports story spread dedicated to a team from not just another town, but from a rival team from another town.

I wondered if it meant the individual papers might be losing a piece of their local identities.

Then I looked at what our first edition looked like, and all of my fears were gone.

Unlike news which often can, high school sports doesn’t exist in a vacuum. The fans, parents and players aren’t just invested in their own scoreboard. They often have friends or relatives in other schools, and sometimes



they just want to know how they stack up against the teams they are going to compete with, or how the teams they have already competed with have done since then.

Whenever a Fernley fan has asked me something like “How does Fallon look?” it proved that community sports are naturally interconnected. So why shouldn’t we cover them that way?

In the three weeks since we’ve started, I think it’s obvious that a

combined section doesn’t dilute local coverage. In fact, I think we’ve done just the opposite. We are still covering each team in each community the exact same way we always have, but together we’re able to provide it in context.

A reader in Fernley, Fallon or Winnemucca is now getting high-quality insights into the entire league. Same for readers in Battle Mountain or Lovelock.

Hyper-local news works because

the issues that happen locally are the ones that directly shape our lives. When a national story breaks, it might dominate the evening news, but it rarely changes what happens at your kitchen table. Local news is the people in your neighborhood that you talk to every day and wave at, or flip off, if that’s the case, every time they drive by.

High School sports works the same way, except the neighborhood is much bigger.

This new format ensures that while our focus remains fiercely local, our sports readers will always have the best seat in the house for the entire regional playground.

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.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Fascinating Fernley:

Meet your neighbors at Living Faith Food Pantry

By Sonia Hedrick

At this divisive time in our national history, small-town America often shines brightly. Lots of folks in Fernley, for example, take the counsel to love their neighbor personally. Whether by making a run to the pharmacy for a sick neighbor or, in a more organized fashion, by volunteering with a local nonprofit, Fernley residents step up.

Since becoming pastor of Living Faith Christian Fellowship in 1991, Matt McCreary and his energetic wife, Regina, have followed their calling to serve others in need of assistance. Often that help included rescue from hunger. In the early days, it was not at all unusual for people to appear at the McCreary family’s doorstep a couple of times a week seeking food.

Fernley did not escape the wrath of the Great Recession. Between 2007 and 2009, businesses folded and residents lost their jobs. It was during that period that the congregation, a group of private donors and dedicated community volunteers joined forces with the McCrearys to formally launch Living Faith Food Pantry as a ministry extension of Living Faith Christian Fellowship.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Living Faith Food Pantry was able to partner with other private and governmental organizations.

The Food Bank of Northern Nevada, which acts as a grocery clearinghouse for vendors that want to contribute



A local food pantry volunteer. Photo by Sonia Hedrick

food, is an active and much-appreciated partner. Its support helps provide groceries for more than 250 families that visit the pantry each week. Raley’s, Walmart, Grocery Outlet, Trader Joe’s and other area businesses also donate.

But sadly, it just isn’t enough.

As it is for all of us, expenses keep going up. Gas to fuel the group’s 2010 refrigerated truck has almost doubled. Rent is an ever-present expense. Insurance costs rise. No matter how good or necessary a charity is, it costs money to operate.

And here’s the big one: meat.

There has been little to none donated for more than a month. Many of the volunteers express concern for pantry recipients, especially the elderly, whose protein needs may be less than those of other adults but are of equal

importance. Roughly 40% of those served are seniors living on very fixed incomes.

Denise Conley, a volunteer for about 10 years, spends time on Mondays putting together senior boxes. The boxes are then distributed to seniors who visit the pantry or delivered to people who are homebound because of illness or the frailty of age.

“As I understand it,” Conley said, “the original idea was to supplement the grocery costs for lower-income residents. But things have gotten so expensive. The pantry has become the only source of food available to them.”

There are no paid staff members operating Living Faith Food Pantry. The effort is, and has always been, a labor of love. About 35 volunteers keep things humming.

Pam Irick has been a leading and reliable volunteer since 2010.

“Me and most of the other volunteers are seniors ourselves,” Irick said. “A number of us are in our 80s! Unloading trucks is becoming a real challenge.”

In short, Living Faith Food Pantry needs help.

Those with time to give can consider volunteering. Those who are unable to volunteer can consider making a financial contribution. A regular monthly gift of as little as \$10 from 500 Fernley residents would provide additional resources to help support the roughly 250 families served each week.

Donations may be tax-deductible. Donors should consult their tax adviser for details.

Due to FDA and Health Department regulations, the pantry is unable to accept donations of meat and other perishable foods. Cash donations, however, can allow the group to partner with local stores and purchase meat products directly, potentially at a discount.

For details on how to help, email living_faith@sbcglobal.net or call 775-750-0613.

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

Letters to the Editor

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