

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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FernStock debuts at new CRRC

By Robert Perea

While the ribbon cutting for the new Community Response and Resource Center wasn't scheduled until Wednesday, the facility's new lawn event space hosted its first public event last Saturday night.

The Fernley Community Foundation hosted its annual FernStock Dinner and Auction fundraiser in the Senior Center next door, then hosted its free outdoor concert in the lawn area of the CRRC.

"Having this new venue with ample parking will be a game-changer, not just for our event, but for many other events around the community," said Fernley Community Foundation Chairman Cody Wagner.

At the dinner, Ray and Tasha Lowery were honored as the Individual Donors of the Year, IBEW Local 401 was named the Business Donor of the Year and Alan LaVoie was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for their contributions and dedication to the Foundation.

"Without tremendous people and businesses like this in our community, we would not be able to continue our contributions in bettering Fernley," Wagner said.

In preparing to host the first FernStock in 2019, Wagner imagined it as something similar to what the Boys &



Ray and Tasha Lowery were honored as the Individual Donors of the Year during the FernStock dinner Saturday night. Photo by Robert Perea

Girls Club of Mason Valley has done with Night in the Country. Before it became the huge multi-day music festival it is today, the first Night in the Country was held in the rodeo arena at the Lyon County Fairgrounds, with a flatbed trailer for a stage.

The first FernStock in 2019 was held at the Fernley 95A Speedway on the same day as a race night, in hopes of capitalizing on the audience.

"Everything from finding sponsor-

ships to coordinating sound logistics and bands, to correctly marketing to get people there was challenging," Wagner said. "As I remember, the concert had to take place at 3 p.m. on a 95-degree August afternoon with minimal shade. Needless to say, the event wasn't exactly the hit that I had envisioned."

Continued on page 9 - CRRC ...

Mark IV to begin construction on rail spur and fire station

By Robert Perea

Mark IV Capital is moving forward with the construction of a rail spur into the Victory Logistics District and the new fire station to be built on Stanley Drive, between Lowe's and Sherwin Williams.

Rick Nelson, Senior Vice President of Mark IV Capital, said the company has aligned all the contracts, the permissions from Union Pacific and the approval of the company's investment board to move forward with the rail spur, which will extend from the current Union Pacific Main Line to Gavin Road. Along with that, Nelson said the company will also begin paving Gavin Road in September. Currently a gravel road, Gavin Road runs eastward from near the current terminus of Nevada Pacific Parkway between two parcels Mark IV currently calls Parcel 22 and Parcel 19.

"That's what we call Segment 1," Nelson said. "We're going to put that part in first and it will serve the future customers of that lot on 22. That lot is almost complete. With the rail on it

Continued on page 9 - MARK IV ...

LCSD to welcome students back Sept. 2

By Robert Perea

New Lyon County School District Deputy Superintendent Stacey Griffin-Cooper has been on the job since the end of the last school year in June and was a regular around the district for several weeks before that as she transitioned into her new role. But heading into the last weekend of summer break, her excitement is at its peak.

The Lyon County School District will welcome students back to class this Tuesday, Sept. 2. Griffin-Cooper said the start of a new school year is always exciting, but especially as a newcomer to the district this year.

"Early fall is my favorite time of year with the daily buzz of school buses driving our streets, student traffic to and from school with their backpacks and school supplies, Friday night football games, and the cooler temperatures," she said.

The district's new teachers gathered

for the district's New Teacher Academy on Aug. 22 and returning teachers began Aug. 26 in preparation for the new year. Most of the summer construction and maintenance projects around the district have been completed, Open House and Back to School Nights were held this week, and class schedules and other information for students and parents has been posted on Infinite Campus.

"As we prepare to welcome students back to school next week, our entire team has been focused on ensuring a smooth and successful start to the year," Superintendent Tim Logan said. "Our teachers and staff have been engaged in professional development; our buildings and classrooms are ready, and safety procedures are in place to support both learning and well-being."

One of the summer projects that isn't yet completed is the new single-point entry at Fernley High School.

Principal Ryan Cross said that will be finished by mid-October.

"Anyone arriving by personal vehicle or getting dropped off will only be able to enter campus by the main office," Cross said.

Because of the district's participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), all district students will be provided with free breakfast and lunch.

Under a new agreement with the district, The Lyon County Sheriff's Office will provide the school resource officers for all Lyon County schools. Previously, the Yerington Police Department provided the SRO for Yerington schools.

The LCSD Board of Trustees was also scheduled to revisit the district's cell phone policy at its meeting Aug. 26. Trustees had previously said the policy it enacted last year wasn't working as intended. Under the policy that took effect at the end of Winter Break

last January, cellphones and other electronic devices were required to be turned off during instructional time and kept out of sight unless approval is granted by the site administrator and teacher for specific learning purposes.

The Trustees are proposing an addendum to the policy that would prohibit the use of internet-enabled devices on school grounds during the school day other than in circumstances consistent with the district's policy.

For Logan and Griffin-Cooper, all of those issues take a back seat to the return of students to the classroom. "We are excited to partner with families and the community to provide our students with the best opportunities to grow, learn, and succeed," Logan said.

"This is always an energizing time of year, and we look forward to a strong start together."

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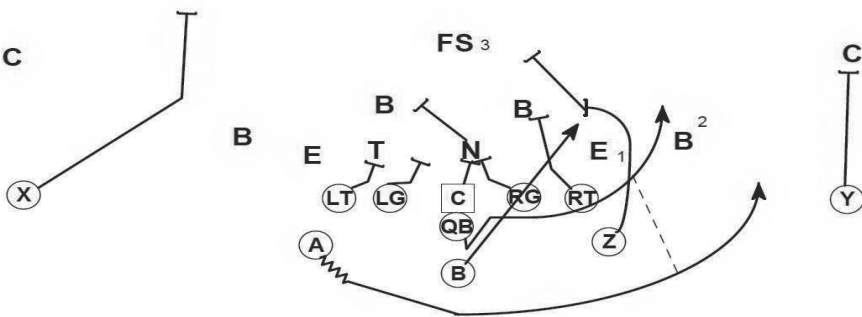
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



The clock in the corner

By Robert Perea

There's a clock on top of the bookshelf in the corner of my office.

On production days, or whenever I have somewhere to be at a specific time, I look at it frequently to gauge my progress in relation to my deadline or my readiness.

Other days, I rarely look at it at all.

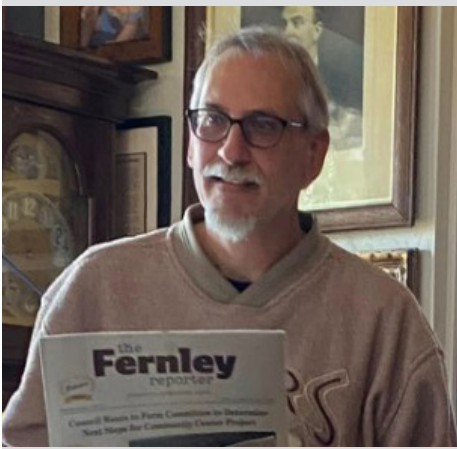
On deadline days, time is a taskmaster. I watch the clock like a scoreboard, measuring my progress. When I'm behind, each tick is a reminder to write faster, think sharper. On those rare occasions when I'm ahead, I hear my old basketball coach in the back of my head: "Keep the pedal down, don't let them back in the game."

Other days, the clock fades entirely into the background. On those days, time isn't measured in minutes, seconds or hours. It's measured by Harry.

Harry is 16 years old now, soon to be 17, a pit bull-Boston terrier mix with a grayed muzzle and a cautious gait. He doesn't bound anymore, he arrives. Slowly, deliberately, sometimes unsteadily.

He used to circle before lying down, making sure things were just right. Now he just sort of eases himself down wherever he stops.

Whenever I'm working at home and not on deadline, I measure



ROBERT PEREA

time not by productivity, but by his presence. Not by minutes, but by moments. The way he acts when he needs to go out, when he knows it's time to eat, when he knows I'm getting ready to leave.

Harry was born the same month by dad died and his life has coincided with some of the highest highs and lowest lows of my life. I got him and his brother when they were six weeks old. Harry was the runt of a litter of three male puppies, but turned out to be the alpha.

Gilmore died about two and a half years ago after going through what I can only describe as a canine form of dementia, so I watch Harry closely for similar symptoms. Sometimes I catch him staring into space and I wonder if he's simply resting or if he's somewhere else entirely. There's a softness to him

now, a quiet that was never there before.

But not every day moves like Harry does. The frantic weekly news cycle leaves me rushing to get to a meeting or event, hurrying to get things written. On those days, time is loud, restless and impatient. On those days, it's the clock that matters.

As I write this, Harry is asleep in his favorite spot on the floor behind me. The clock in the corner says deadline is only a few minutes away, but he doesn't care about that.

I finish the last sentence, save the file, and lean back in my chair. The clock says I made it. But Harry's snore reminds me I was already here.

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Fernley Women's Golf Club

August 19

Game: 9 Hole Eclectic- Front 9

1st: Cheryl Beye, 31

2nd: Jana Garner, 34

3rd: Linda Garrett, 36 (card-off)

Low Putts: Cheryl Beye, 33

Closest to hole #7: Juneil Key, 15'5"

Chip-In #7: Cheryl Wahlgren

FEATURES

Wagner brings an economic development background to his role as Chamber manager

By Robert Perea

Marcel Wagner wasn't looking for a job when he approached Fernley Chamber of Commerce President Shannon Ceresola earlier this year offering to help as a volunteer. But his background as an economic development executive and his ideas to help the Chamber grow turned out to be the perfect fit as the Chamber was looking to hire a new manager.

Now four months into the job, Wagner has more than gotten his feet wet; he's diving in head-first to help fortify Chamber membership and strengthen relationships with some of Fernley's larger industrial businesses.

Wagner started as Chamber manager in May and said he is enjoying his role representing the Chamber's dual functions of advocating for local businesses and serving as a window to the community for visitors.

Wagner and his wife Karen moved to Fernley in 2021 from Quincy, IL, where he served as the President of the Great River Economic Development Foundation. Before that, he served for 23 years as the President and CEO of the Allen Economic Development Group in Lima, OH. He had previously spent 15 years in manufacturing with Nationwide Industries in Philadelphia, PA.

"This is like my third retirement job," Wagner said. He retired for the first time in

2012 but got a call from a friend who said Quincy was looking for a person to reinvigorate their economic development organization on a three-year contract.

Three years became 10, before Wagner decided it was time to retire again. This time, he and Karen were visiting her family in Sparks, and while driving around the area, saw some nice homes under construction in Fernley and decided this was the place.

"One of the things we looked at was, is the community investing in itself?" Wagner said. "When you look at the In Town Park, the Out of Town Park, all those types of amenities are important. Having a community swimming pool. These are excellent things that make Fernley a good community."

They moved to Fernley in December 2021, but after a couple of months of settling in, Wagner decided he wanted a way to stay active and busy. He joined the Reno Corvette Club and joined the Hot August Nights Drag Race Committee, while Karen also volunteers with Hot August Nights and on the North Lyon Fire Rehab Team.

When he met with Ceresola about opportunities to volunteer with the Chamber, Wagner was working at International Paper, a manufacturer of packaging products in the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center. But when Ceresola said the Chamber needed a full-time administrator, Wagner figured his background and



Marcel Wagner brings more than 40 years of experience in economic development to his role as manager of the Fernley Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Robert Perea

skill set fit right in with what the Chamber needs.

"My impression and the impression I got from several other people I talked to, was the Chamber was focused on small businesses, which are critically important, but that it hadn't had the interaction with the larger industries in town, and to me that was important because you need that," he said.

In addition, the Chamber is also the place visitors come looking for information about the area, especially those participating in the Pony Express Passport Program.

"Every day we get people in here to get their passports signed, they have questions

about local businesses," Wagner said. "We get a ton of calls, and that's part of the chamber function, to promote local businesses. Whether it's a small business or a large business, they're all important to the community and they all have their place."

While he's focused on building relationships with Fernley businesses large and small, Wagner said he sees his role as setting things up for his eventual successor to keep the Chamber strong.

"What's been amazing to me is as basically a volunteer organization, how well they've done," he said. "It's really a testament to their desire to have this become a good organization."

The City of Fernley's 25th Anniversary

Want to volunteer?
Does your company want to participate?
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jmurdock@cityoffernley.org or 775-784-9850

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Saturday, September 13th

Team up with family, co-workers, and friends!

Do you or anyone you know have any unwanted, appliances, tires, bicycles, paint, cell batteries, laptops, cardboard, or green waste? Well, you're in luck! City of Fernley has teamed up with Redwood Materials, Hero Environmental and Waste Management to help you get rid of these items at no cost!

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Time: 8am-noon or until bins are full

Date: Saturday, September 13th

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

City looking for sponsors and volunteers for Spooktacular

Staff Report

With the Halloween season quickly approaching, the City of Fernley is looking for sponsors and volunteers for its annual Safe Trick or Treating Spooktacular.

This year's Spooktacular is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 31 from 4-7 p.m. at City Hall.

Businesses, organizations, and individuals can participate through monetary donations to purchase candy and small novelties to be passed out to children, donations of Halloween candy or novelties, volunteering to pass

out candy to trick-or-treaters during the event or decorating City Hall, or help decorate the hallway haunted house.

Names and business logos for sponsors and volunteers will be placed on all advertising material and banners that publicize Spooktacular, and volunteers can include advertisements for their businesses on their table to hand out candy.

For more information or to sign up, contact Jessica Murdock with the city manager's office at (775) 784-9850 or email jmurdock@cityoffernley.org.

Boys & Girls Club volunteers to fund ELC

By Kerry Lyman

Fernley has found a funding source for the construction of the Early Learning Center (ELC) adjacent to the Community Resource and Response Center (CRRC), courtesy of the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Serving Fernley.

In early July, the Fernley City Council approved having the TSK architectural firm, which was the architect for the CRRC, complete construction documents for the proposed ELC, noting at the time that the city did not have construction funding for the ELC but since there was funding remaining in the TSK contract, there was enough money to at least complete the construction documents for the ELC.

Then, at the Aug. 20 city council meeting, the Boys and Girls Club stepped up and volunteered to fund the design and construction of the ELC.

"Our intent would be to put this project squarely on our shoulders to raise the funds," said Mike Wurm, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Boys and Girls Club.

Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski asked about the proposed floor plan for the facility, which TSK had already completed. Wurm replied the same TSK floor plan would be used "and put out to contract for a design/build with the same exact functions required for the project but a little more affordable to build and maintain."

At the earlier July council meeting where the council authorized TSK to complete the construction documents, Deputy City Manager Lydia Altick had indicated if construction funds were available, it would probably take a little less than a year and a half to complete construction of the ELC.

However, the Boys and Girls Club must complete negotiations with the city, enter into an agreement with the city for the ELC and still find construction funds, so it may take a little longer for actual construction to be completed.

The council voted unanimously to enter into negotiations with the Boys and Girls Club for the design and construction of the ELC.

We'd love to hear from you.

robert@fernleyreporter.com

Have a story?

A Ride Worth Taking: Community Rallies for Cody Smith at Benefit Playday and Clinic

By Nancy Chapman

The Fifty Horse Ranch outside Fallon hosted a day of horse workshops and games to benefit a Fernley cowgirl who is battling a rare brain-stem tumor.

Clinician Vernon Lawrence, owner of Lawrence Performance Horses, put on a Ranch Riding clinic at the Fifty Horse Ranch. He was approached by Kirk Ferris and James Dexter, the owner of Fifty Horse Ranch, to hold the clinic for a good cause. The cause was a benefit play day, with proceeds going to Cody Smith, who is battling a rare, life-threatening condition.

This fundraising event brought together Kirk, James, and Monica Fairbanks, with James providing the facilities, Kirk leading the equine activities, including a Ranch Riding clinic, a reining seminar with Jenny Sherbo, and other horse-riding events, and Monica organizing vendors, food and drink trucks, and the silent auction and raffle.

"It was definitely their vision, and I came in to help make it bigger," said Monica, who helped expand the event. A chance meeting by an organizer also brought in professional entertainment

for the benefit. Levi Coby is a Christian and country singer-songwriter; just when Levi and his wife were looking to buy a newer car, an ad appeared online. That search led Levi to the team organizing the benefit. When he bought a car from Kirk's parents, they mentioned the fundraiser Kirk was organizing for Cody.

"I was 'in' the moment I found out she was a young lady dealing with some extremely serious health issues," Levi said. Kirk and James were starting to put together ideas for the benefit when Levi offered to be a part of it.

"God puts you where you are supposed to be." For him, it was purchasing a vehicle that forged the connection—which led to the fundraiser. He wrote '#Cody Strong,' which he plans to record in Nashville in hopes it goes viral, with proceeds to support Cody's care and treatment.

With the combined efforts of James, Kirk, Monica, Levi, and everyone who attended, the event raised more than \$10,000.

For more information, or to support Cody, please visit [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search Help Cody Smith Treat Her Inoperable Brain Tumor.



Cody Smith presenting the American flag for the National Anthem. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

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LETTERS

Respect the Generosity Meant for
Burning Man Guests

Dear Editor,

I'd like to extend sincere thanks to the Walmart here in Fernley for providing large dumpsters to support Burning Man participants. Many of these visitors come from out of state, spend a great deal of money in our local businesses, and contribute to Nevada's economy in meaningful ways. Their presence is a boon to our community, and gestures like Walmart's help make Fernley a welcoming stop on their journey.

However, I'm troubled by what I witnessed today: two local men unloading construction debris from a box truck and open trailer into the dumpsters clearly intended for Burning Man guests. These were not festival attendees—they were workmen taking advantage of a resource not meant for them. Upon further inspection, I observed all of the dumpsters filled with construction debris.

This kind of behavior is not only disrespectful to Walmart's generosity, but it also undermines the spirit of hospitality we should be showing to our visitors. Worse, it's often the same individuals who misuse public goodwill that are quickest to point fingers when things go wrong.

Fernley can, and should, do better. Let's hold ourselves to a higher standard and ensure that the support offered to our guests is used as intended. Gratitude and integrity go hand in hand.

Sincerely,
Ann Aernecke

Artificial Intelligence Is
Improving Client & Patient
Experiences

As the owner of an ultrasound prenatal imaging studio, I've seen remarkable advancements in the tools we use to capture pictures of babies in utero. From higher-resolution imaging, live streaming of ultrasound sessions (to anywhere in the world!) to facial enhancements, this is an exciting time to be in business, as long as you embrace the advancements that technology and artificial intelligence are providing.

One of the newest tools for our industry is facial enhancement, which allows us to take a 3D ultrasound image of a baby's face in utero and use AI to show what the baby may look like after birth. For families, this early glimpse is a moving moment, and AI is helping to make it all the more special.

Another great advancement, especially for pregnant moms in Fallon whose husband may be overseas, is the live streaming of ultrasound sessions to anywhere in the world. For a dad who is deployed, this is a great feature for them to see their baby.

Although we are a non-medical facility, our ultrasound technicians are medically trained and certified, which means we evaluate the mom and baby's health and flag any issues with their prenatal health provider.

What has been especially interesting for me is seeing how AI-powered ultrasound technologies are transforming the field of medicine as well. One example is AI-based software from BrightHeart, which has been shown to significantly improve clinicians' ability to detect congenital heart defects during routine prenatal ultrasounds—regardless of the clinician's

level of experience. It also increased diagnostic confidence and efficiency. Another system, called FUIVAL, uses deep learning to automatically extract fetal biometric measurements, such as head circumference, abdominal circumference, and femur length, from ultrasound videos. Its measurements match those of an experienced sonographer but take just seconds—versus the average six minutes. Tools like this are becoming essential for medical professionals monitoring fetal health.

Ultrasound is a key imaging modality within the field of radiology, and in doing research for my business, I am learning about how AI is being used in the whole field of radiology to help detect life-threatening conditions such as cancer with greater speed and precision. AI is especially promising in breast cancer detection - a cancer that is a major concern to my family, our customers, and women around the world - where earlier diagnosis often means the difference between life and death.

AI tools have shown real-world benefits, such as increasing breast cancer detection rates by 21% and reducing missed diagnoses of aggressive prostate cancer. Recently, the FDA approved the first AI tool in the U.S. to predict a woman's risk of breast cancer. That's a huge breakthrough—especially for Nevada, which has some of the nation's lowest breast cancer screening rates. When breast cancer is caught early, the five-year survival rate is 99%.

But here's the key: AI is a tool, not a replacement for a trained ultrasound technician, radiologist, or doctor. No matter how advanced it becomes, AI cannot replicate the judgment, experience, and instinct that humans

bring to the table. Every human body is different. Every case is unique. An ultrasound tech or radiologist does more than read images—they interpret, ask deeper questions, and look beyond what's obvious. AI can flag patterns, but it can't understand context in the same way. It doesn't know if a patient's back pain is a simple strain or a sign of something more complex. It doesn't hear the hesitation in a patient's voice or consider their medical history in the way a physician does.

That's why AI works best when it supports medical providers, not replaces them. It can help us see what we might otherwise miss, speed up diagnoses, and improve outcomes. But the human mind remains irreplaceable in medicine.

We are entering a new era - one where technology helps us deliver better care, faster. In Nevada and across the country, AI is becoming a vital ally in the fight against disease. But it's also exciting to see how AI will continue to enhance our ability to serve clients. But let's be clear: the future of healthcare still depends on the trained eyes, steady hands, and compassionate hearts of healthcare professionals.

Steve Trollope owns 3D Keepsake Imaging, a prenatal ultrasound studio in south Reno, founded in 2007. Visit 3DKeepsakeImaging.com to learn more.

OBITUARY

Clarence L. Shields

Clarence L Shields passed peacefully July 26, 2025. Clarence will be greatly missed and always loved. No services.

COMMUNITY

FHS Booster Club reaches
highest participation after
Membership BBQ

By Robert Perea

The seventh Fernley High School Booster Club Membership BBQ was the biggest one yet, and the group came out of it bigger than ever. As of the start of this week, the Booster Club has sold 233 memberships, its most ever.

The Booster Club raises money to support Fernley High School activities and programs and awards annual scholarships.

"Since taking over the FHS Booster Club, we've been able to give back more than \$100,000 to student programs and senior scholarships," Booster Club President Jackie Kingston said. "Our support extends across academics, activities, and athletics, helping Vaqueros thrive in every area." Kingston said the the Membership BBQ began in 2018 with the goal to create something that felt like a true community gathering, not just another school event.

"We wanted to bring together past, present, and future Vaqueros in one place," she said.

After the club joined the Fernley Chamber of Commerce, Kingston said Carpet King owner Kelly Brye became one of the club's biggest supporters and he immediately embraced the idea of hosting the Membership BBQ in the Carpet King parking lot. The event has

grown each year, as the Booster Club promotes it through social media and at Chamber breakfasts to spread the word.

They also created a membership program with levels ranging from individual supporters up to Vaquero sponsors, which included benefits like banners on the main fence, light post signage in the parking lot, and fresh new apparel each year. For our apparel, they partner with Cherie Carson of Solidity Graphics and Design, who brings their ideas to life.

Every year, they grill up 500 hamburgers and hotdogs, serving them along with chips and water free of charge to everyone who attends.

"Thanks to Cody Wagner from The Tap Wagon, we're also able to provide beverages for adults—his continued support, along with so many other local businesses, helps make this event possible," Kingston said. "Fernley truly is a special town, and it's the incredible support from our community that makes these events so meaningful year after year."

In addition to our Membership BBQ, the Booster Club also hosts an annual Crab Feed each March.

"This year, we're excited to share that crab will be back on the menu. We can't wait to see you there," Kingston said.



You are invited to our

BINGO

NIGHT

September 6, 2025

5:00 – 9:00 PM

Fernley Senior Center

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



BUSINESS

New business licenses

The Fernley City Council approved the following new business licenses at its August 20 meeting:

Walker's Window Cleaning, Fernley, Window cleaning services	Creative Recreational Systems, Inc., Gold River Calif., General engineering contractor
The SYGMA Network Inc., Dublin OH, Food service distributor	Gallagher Electric LLC, Sparks, Electrical Contractor
Taft Stettinius & Hollister, Indianapolis IN, Legal services	LandArt, Sparks, Landscape architect
iRy Consulting, LLC, Fernley (New owners of Buddy Boys Donuts)	Certified Groove, Fallon, Mobile DJ and karaoke
Casino Accounting Solutions LLC, Fernley, Bookkeeping services	NVending.com, Fernley, Vending machine operations
JE Moving Services LLC, Sparks, Moving services	Me-Shells, Fernley, Hobby/Crafter
MOPASSION, LLC, Fernley, Sales of bath and body products	JT Ranch and Farm, Fernley, Nonprofit equine and animal assistance
	Truckee Meadows Gourmet Express, Reno, Meat sales

The Broader Benefits of Chamber of Commerce Involvement and Membership

By Marcel Wagner

Think about the benefits of involvement and membership in your local Chamber of Commerce . . .do you only see it as an organized group of business owners and professionals networking, sharing idea's and discussing issues their businesses are facing?

All of that is true, but there are so many more benefits of Chamber membership. The collective power and partnerships led by the Chamber can have profound and far-reaching effects on local communities. The most basic impacts are enhanced economic development, social initiatives, and overall community well-being. Remember that the Chamber is a business organization primarily and the stimulus for social interaction of members second. The Chamber is a champion for economic growth in all business sectors and determined to position Fernley to face future challenges.

In today's business climate, and more specifically with the growth that

Fernley is experiencing and anticipating, two of the most critical factors are workforce attraction and the development of a well-educated and skilled workforce. How can your Chamber be a factor in addressing this critical need?

At the recent Chamber Quarterly Luncheon, we heard from Mark IV, developers of the Victory Logistics District, about their plans for a Center of Excellence to bring in the educational resources to provide the training and skills development required to keep our businesses competitive. The Chamber can be the conduit between our members and the resources that the Center of Excellence will provide to determine what types of training and skills development are most needed.

With that information the educational partners at the University of Nevada, Reno and Western Nevada College can structure programs that have the greatest benefit to the Fernley business community. Fernley is truly fortunate to have Mark IV as a driver of



this resource.

Another area where the Chamber can play an important role is in talent retention and talent attraction. The Lyon County Schools have a tremendous role in talent retention. The initiatives developed by the school district provide students with information about the employment opportunities right here at home.

The Chamber has the responsibility to provide the information that students can use when evaluating post-graduation future education and employment options. The Chamber partnership with Lyon County schools is just getting started and your membership in the Chamber provides the resources needed to make this initiative successful.

There are other benefits to your Chamber membership . . .stay tuned for additional articles to highlight those benefits.

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LAW AND ORDER

Fernley soccer coach arrested on theft charges

By Robert Perea

Fernley High School boys soccer coach Allen Villa was arrested on Aug. 21 on charges related to the theft of \$1,500 worth of pom poms from the school. According to the Lyon County Sheriff's Office, deputies responded to the high school at about 1 p.m. Aug. 13 for a report of the theft of a large bag of white cheerleading pom poms valued at approximately \$1,500. LCSO said surveillance footage revealed that on Aug. 4, a juvenile went into the locker room using school-issued keys and later left with a noticeably full trash bag. Deputies said additional footage showed the juvenile

and her mother concealing the bag of pom poms in a container and attempting to take them from the campus with assistance from Villa, who LCSO said was seen leaving the school grounds with the stolen property in his vehicle. A few days later, the surveillance footage was reviewed again, showing that Villa returned to campus and was spotted placing the stolen pom poms in another area of the school. LCSO said an inventory check conducted earlier that day verified that those items were absent before Villa's arrival. Deputies say that during the interrogation, Allen made multiple statements that suggested he possessed knowledge of specifics that only

someone involved would be aware of. Villa was arrested on charges of grand larceny, possession of stolen property, concealing evidence and conspiracy to commit burglary. The sheriff's office said the investigation is continuing and asked that anyone with information regarding this case contact Deputy Melody Holland or Sgt. Mark Kosak by calling (775) 463-6600. Fernley High School Principal Ryan Cross said girls soccer assistant coach Kent Kreller will serve as the interim coach for the boys team, with help from boys JV coach Angel Muniz.



Allen Villa booking photo, courtesy Lyon County Sheriff.

Lau issues statement on arrest

By Robert Perea

Fernley City Councilman Stan Lau issued a statement on Aug. 20 that stated he acted in self-defense in the incident for which he was arrested on Aug. 18. Lau was arrested on misdemeanor charges of battery and injury to other's property as a result of a request for a citizen's arrest following an altercation with a construction worker. The Lyon County Sheriff's Office said the construction worker told deputies Lau knocked the sunglasses off the worker's face and broke them, then punched the worker when he bent down to pick up the sunglasses. Online court records show that

an arraignment hearing is scheduled for Sept. 15 in Canal Township Justice Court, but a court clerk said the case won't be handled by the Canal Township court, but would instead be heard in Walker River Justice Court in Yerington. A Walker River Justice Court clerk said that court hasn't yet received an order referring the case. The full text of Lau's statement reads: FERNLEY, NV – August 20, 2025 – On Monday afternoon 64-year-old Fernley City Councilmember Stan Lau, who has faithfully served the City of Fernley for 12 years, was involved in an

unfortunate incident at a road construction site near Shadow Lane and U.S. 95 Alternate. Councilmember Lau was leaving a local gym when he encountered a construction zone blocking traffic without proper traffic control in place. Concerned for public safety and unable to leave safely, he exited his vehicle and asked the crew about the lack of a flagger and requested to speak with a supervisor. What began as a routine inquiry escalated when several workers responded aggressively. Councilmember Lau was confronted by multiple individuals in close proximity. To be clear no physical evidence of

a punch was found, and Councilmember Lau himself sustained no marks or injuries. Witness accounts confirm that the situation quickly became hostile, with multiple workers verbally antagonizing the Councilmember, surrounding him and escalating the confrontation. Councilmember Lau maintains that he acted only in self-defense and in the interest of public safety. Mr. Lau has served the City of Fernley for over a decade, with a strong record of public service and community achievement. He will fully cooperate with authorities and remains committed to transparency with the public.

Welfare check in Silver Springs results in arrests for child endangerment and sex offender violation

Staff Report

On August 19, deputies from the Lyon County Sheriff's Office Central Command Patrol Division responded to a residence on Tonopah Street in Silver Springs to conduct a welfare check involving juveniles reportedly living in poor conditions. Deputies contacted 44-year-old Leigha Griffiths, who allowed them inside the residence. Deputies reported the home was in disarray, with piles of dirty clothes, rotting food, dirty dishes, and animal feces. Drug paraphernalia was located in the bathroom containing the only working shower in the residence. During the investigation, members of the Sheriff's Office Sex Offender Task Force contacted 54-year-old Steven Frey, who was living in an RV in the backyard. Frey is a Tier III

registered sex offender and had failed to update his address as required by Nevada law. He admitted to the violation and was arrested for one felony count of failing to comply with sex offender registration requirements. Due to medical issues, Frey was later un-arrested and taken to a hospital for treatment. The case has been forwarded to the Lyon County District Attorney's Office. Three juveniles were removed from the residence by the Nevada Department of Child and Family Services. Griffiths was arrested and booked into the Lyon County Jail on the following charges: Abuse, Neglect, Endangerment of a Child (Felony) – 3 counts; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (Misdemeanor). Her bail was set at \$61,140. The Lyon County Sheriff's Office reports that the investigation is ongoing.



Left: Leigha Dawn Griffiths and Steven Ray Frey. Booking photos courtesy Lyon County Sheriff.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Third Judicial District Court, Lyon County, Nevada, Case number 25-CV-0835

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was filed in the above-entitled court requesting that the Court legally change applicant's name from Sergio Rajah Garcia to Enzo Alessio Valentino.

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

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

Dated this 19th day of July, 2025 /s/Sergio Rajah Garcia

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

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Continued from front - CRRC....

As disappointed as he was to put that much time and effort into something that didn't work, Wagner called that effort a learning experience. While there was no FernStock event in 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the opening of the new Fernley Senior Center in November 2020 provided a new location for the event in 2021.

That year's event was the first with a new format that involved a fundraising dinner followed by a concert from 7-10 p.m. that made the hot August sun much less of a factor.

"The downside was that we held the concert in an empty dirt lot behind the Senior Center while dreaming of hav-

ing an actual venue at which to hold this event in the near future," Wagner said. "This new format ended up being a much better concept compared to the original, as we were able to grow the event into what it now has become."

With the dinner at the Senior Center followed by the concert on the CRRC lawn event space, Wagner said this year's FernStock event finally brought it all together and he expects the facility to have a similar impact on other community events.

"We are looking forward to our Boys & Girls Club operating the area and plan to work closely with them to create monumental improvements in our community's out-of-school youth education and community gathering opportunities," Wagner said.



Continued from front - MARK IV...

come in and begin their business." Nelson said Mark IV has a customer for Lot 22 that will be constructing its own building, but is not ready to announce the name of the company.

Construction of the fire station is a requirement of Mark IV's development agreement with the city, which requires Mark IV to meet construction benchmarks within certain timelines in order to receive certificates of occupancy for other buildings within the Victory Logistics District.

"I'm bound by the signed devel-

opment agreement that the city put me under to meet my requirements," Nelson said. "Those are the plans right there," he said, pointing to documents on a counter. "I'm executing the plans." Each of those projects will begin Sept. 1, Nelson said.

"So those are really big moves and lots of money with the city and permitting," he said. "So, as we talk about advancing Victory, we continue to advance and meet our guidelines that lay these things out."

While Mark IV is ready to begin those projects, Nelson said the design of the extension of Nevada Pacific



Above: Alan Lavoie was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award during the FernStock dinner Saturday night. Below left: IBEW Local 401 Business Manager Jacob Haas accepted the award for the Business Donor of the Year during the FernStock dinner Saturday night. Below: Attendees listen to the Heidi Incident during the FernStock free concert on the event lawn at the Community Response and Resource Center Saturday night. Photos by Robert Perea.



Parkway is still on track. He said the design is 30 percent complete, will be 60 percent complete in September and is expected to be 100 percent complete in the first quarter of 2026.

Nelson also said the project will be built without using the money from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant the city was awarded in 2022.

"It's hard for people to understand. They think the grant provides us free money," Nelson said. "It does not. It is a funding mechanism that has a lot of bureaucracy with it. And so, to utilize the grant actually costs the contract

more money."

He said those bureaucratic requirements outweigh the value of the grant. "The bureaucracy to enable the grant to be obligated within the time period set by the Department of Transportation has a high probability of not being met," he said. "So instead of hoping that all these entities are going to do that, we are going to go ahead and just do it on our own, that way the city of Fernley will have their completed road much sooner than under the grant."

SPORTS

Chapin receives Mayor's Spotlight Award

By Robert Perea

Fernley Mayor Neal McIntyre presented Fernley High School softball coach Diane Chapin with the Mayor's Spotlight Award at the Aug. 20 City Council meeting.

McIntyre created the Mayor's Spotlight Award to recognize the outstanding efforts of Fernley residents. McIntyre honored Chapin for her 30 years of being a math teacher and 29 years as the varsity softball coach at Fernley High School. During that time, she has won seven state championships, including five of the last 13 and she has the most wins in state history with a 682-261-2 record. Chapin's seven state championships tie her for the second most in state history by a coach.

“Coach Chapin is a respected and hardworking, successful coach and ed-

ucator that inspires both athletes and students, as always, to do their best," McIntyre said. "She is a resourceful and passionate mentor and an adaptable and approachable style. She is committed to creating a championship culture for students and athletes."

Chapin has led Fernley to 19 appearances in the state tournament and reached the state championship game 12 times, most recently this past May when the Vaqueros beat Fallon for the 3A state title.

Chapin also volunteers as president of Fernley Youth Softball.

"Coach Chapin, myself, the council and the entire city of Fernley are so proud of you and the positive impact you have made on our community and the role model you are to our students and athletes," McIntyre said.



*Fernley Mayor Neal McIntyre presents the Mayor's Spotlight Award to Fernley High School softball coach Diane Chapin at the Aug. 20 meeting of the Fernley City Council.
Photo by Robert Perea*

Vaqueros dominate Bishop in home opener

By Robert Perea

It didn't take Anfernee Sloan long to come up with the right word to describe the Fernley Vaqueros' performance in their dominating 47-7 win over Bishop Union (Calif.) last Friday night.

"That was a very flawless football game for us, and that right there was executing to a T," Sloan said. "It was all business."

The Vaqueros scored touchdowns on seven of their nine possessions. On the other two, they let the clock expire to end the first half and took a knee to end the game. Five of those scores came in the first half, when the Vaqueros went to the locker room with a 34-0 lead.

“We’re in there at half time and we’re up by 34, but they’re like ‘Hey coach, we want 50,’” Sloan said. “And

quite frankly, if we wanted to, we could have probably put 50 on there. But I respect coach (Arnie) Palu."

Keeshawn Love ran the ball 19 times for 279 yards and two touchdowns, including an 85-yarder to punctuate the evening for the Vaqueros. Bryce Stephens ran for 70 yards and three scores, while Riley McCullar had 75 yards rushing and two touchdowns.

In all, the Vaqueros ran 43 times for 451 yards, while holding Bishop on 12 yards on 15 carries. Bishop quarterback Emory Dondero completed 11 of 19 passes for 131 yards, but was intercepted twice, both times by Brody Jones.

Bishop had beaten Fernley in four of the last five meetings, including 41-12 last year and reached the Division 5 Central Section semifinals last year. "I bet you those guys still win nine football games this year," Sloan said. "Like,

that's a good football team. Our guys just showed up and were physical, and they just did it."

The Vaqueros opened the game with a 64-yard drive for their first touchdown, a six-yard run by McCullar. A four-yard touchdown by Stephens and a 27-yard run by McCullar had Fernley up 21-0 at the end of the first quarter.

Stephens had an eight-yard score, and Love added a three-yard run in the second quarter for the 34-0 halftime lead.

It was 41-0 after a 38-yard touchdown run by Love before Bishop finally scored, on a two-yard run by Dondero on the last play of the third quarter. But on the first play of the fourth quarter, Love broke free from the pile and left everyone behind on an 85-yard touchdown run.

The Vaqueros are 2-0 for the first time

since 2019, and after losing their first game every year since, including and 0-2 start last year, Sloan said the difference this season is focus.

"It's the mission, it's the goal," he said. "We have a goal right now to go and win State, and to be regional champions, and to dethrone the mighty teams that have been giving us some fits these last couple years."

This week the Vaqueros open league play when they host Elko at 7 p.m. Friday night. Elko beat Douglas 21-0 last Friday in its opening game.

"We have to get back to work because we have a different beast coming in here," Sloan said. "We've got to show up, do what we do and play our style of football. They can't come in here and dictate what they want to do."

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SPORTS

Mayor recognizes state champion Little League softball team

By Robert Perea

At the Aug. 20 meeting of the Fernley City Council, Mayor Neal McIntyre honored the state champion Fernley Softball Little League with a proclamation in recognition of their accomplishments.

The team won the District 3 and Nevada State championships, then finished fourth in the Western Region Tournament in Tucson, AZ. The proclamation states that the team demonstrated exceptional skill, dedication and teamwork throughout the season, and also embodied the spirit of sportsmanship, perseverance and respect for their opponents, coaches and officials.

The proclamation recognized the players for their achievements and for being positive role models for the youth of the community.

“Therefore, I, Neal E. McIntyre, Mayor of the City of Fernley, along with the city council, do hereby recognize and enthusiastically congratulate these young athletes for their outstanding accomplishments,” McIntyre read.



Mayor Neal McIntyre issued a proclamation at the Aug. 20 City Council meeting in honor of the Fernley Softball Little League team that won the state championship and finished fourth in the Western Region Tournament. Photo by Robert Perea

Volleyball: Vaqueros reach semifinals of Yerington tournament

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School volleyball team won five consecutive matches in the Yerington Volleyball Tournament last weekend, before being knocked off in the semifinals by Spanish Springs.

The Vaqueros defeated Lovelock and Smith Valley on Friday in pool play. In bracket play on Saturday, they beat Reed, Portola and Eureka, all in two

sets, before losing two of three sets in the semifinals against Spanish Springs. “The girls played good both days, especially as the competition got tougher,” coach Diane Chapin said.

Justice Martell-Artiaga made seven kills against Lovelock and eight against Smith Valley on Friday, while Trista Menesini added six against Smith Valley. Menesini had six kills against Reed and Artiaga had nine against Portola.

Against Eureka, Artiaga had nine kills, Menesini had seven and Lillianna Young added five.

In the semifinals, the Vaqueros won the first set, but Chapin said they lost their momentum in the second and third sets. Artiaga had seven kills and Emma Masters added five.

“We continue to improve every set,” Chapin said.

The Vaqueros were scheduled to

host Truckee Tuesday evening, then they play four times next week, at the Debbie Smith Academy on Sept. 2, at home against Wooster Sept. 3, at Sparks Sept 5 and home against Tonopah Sept. 6. All of those matches are at 6 p.m., except Tonopah, which is 11 a.m.

RNDC Offers Low-Interest Loans to Rural Nevada Businesses

By Christy Lattin

The Rural Nevada Development Corporation (RNDC) has spent more than three decades helping small businesses in Nevada’s rural counties secure financing when traditional banks could not. Mary Kerner, chief executive officer of RNDC, spoke recently at the Fallon Chamber of Commerce luncheon and explained how her agency can help small businesses around the state.

Founded in 1992 as a private non-profit, RNDC began as a “lender of last resort,” Kerner said. Today, it operates as an “alternative lender,” providing low-interest loans to entrepreneurs and business owners across 15 rural counties. Headquartered in Ely with an office in Elko, RNDC has lent more than \$55 million and helped create or retain over 2,000 jobs.

As one of only four Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) in Nevada, RNDC plays a key role in providing loans under the State Small Business Credit Initiative program. Funding partners include traditional banks, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Economic

Development Administration, and the USDA.

Loans can be used for a wide range of needs, including business purchases or startups, expansion, modernization, debt consolidation, equipment, or working capital. The organization also has more flexibility than most banks when it comes to collateral. Past examples have included homes, vehicles, trailers, and even livestock.

Applications for RNDC loans are not available online. Instead, applicants must submit paperwork directly to the nonprofit. A volunteer board reviews applications and takes a close look at each business owner’s financial history. That review includes credit scores, bankruptcies, and personal circumstances behind those financial challenges. Once approved, it typically takes about 30 days for funding to be released.

Along with small business lending, the RNDC has additional programs including down payment assistance, a weatherization program, homeowner rehabilitation, multi-family projects, and the I-80 Fund to support businesses along the Nevada Interstate-80 corridor.



Mary Kerner, chief executive office of the Rural Nevada Development Corporation, spoke at the recent Chamber of Commerce luncheon about the RNDC lending program. Kerner, left, is pictured Mary Kerner, chief executive office of the Rural Nevada Development Corporation, spoke at the recent Chamber of Commerce luncheon about the RNDC lending program. Kerner, left, is pictured

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Charming

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