

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

Great Basin Sun local, Fernley edition | Section A | Vol. 3 No. 11

\$1.00 | The Week of September 11, 2026

Fernley to mark 25th anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks

Staff Report

North Lyon County Fire Protection District will join the Nevada Veterans Coalition and Lyon County Sheriff's Office on Sept. 11 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The community is invited to attend the remembrance ceremony from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at North Lyon Fire Station 61, 195 E. Main St. in Fernley.

The ceremony will honor those who were killed on Sept. 11, 2001, along with the first responders who died in the line of duty and the many acts of courage and selflessness that followed the attacks.

This week, as our community



Small U.S. flags stand in formation during the 20th anniversary 9/11 remembrance ceremony in 2021. This year's 25th anniversary memorial event will take place this Friday at the North Lyon Fire station 61 on main St. Photo By Robert Perea

marks 25 years since that morning, The Fernley Reporter also dedicates this issue to the families whose lives were forever changed by the attacks, to the first responders who ran toward danger, and to those from across the country who answered the call to help in the days, weeks and months that followed.

For many Americans, Sept. 11 remains more than a date in history. It is a reminder of lives lost, families altered forever, extraordinary acts of courage and the responsibility to remember what happened and those who served.

Twenty-five years later, we remember. We honor. And we will not forget.

Fernley moves toward regulating short-term rentals

Proposed ordinance would require permits, business licenses and lodging taxes for Airbnb-style rentals

By Rachel Dahl

Fernley is moving toward establishing its first specific regulations for short-term rentals, including homes and rooms advertised through services such as Airbnb and Vrbo.

The Fernley City Council conducted the first reading, Sept. 2, of Bill 383, an ordinance that would add short-term rentals to the city's Development Code and establish standards governing where and how

they may operate.

Under the proposed ordinance, a short-term rental would be defined as a residential dwelling, portion of a dwelling, bedroom or accessory dwelling unit rented to a guest or group of guests for fewer than 30 consecutive days.

City staff said the changes are intended to provide a framework for regulating a type of lodging that is already occurring within Fernley.

Short-term rentals would be

treated as a conditional use, meaning an owner would need to obtain a Conditional Use Permit reviewed by the Fernley Planning Commission. The City Council would hear an appeal of a Planning Commission decision.

Owners would also be required to obtain a city business license and pay transient lodging taxes while operating the rental.

The proposed regulations establish standards for occupancy, park-

ing, trash service and fire safety.

The Planning Commission amended staff's original proposal to allow up to three people per legal bedroom, plus two additional people per rental unit, and to allow parking along the street frontage within the perimeter of the short-term rental. The commission voted 7-0 Aug. 12 to recommend approval of the ordinance with those changes.

Continued on PAGE 2 - RENTALS..

Fire board approves 18-month contract, \$50,000 salary increase for fire chief

By Robert Perea

The North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Directors voted Aug. 27 to approve a new 18-month contract for Fire Chief Brian Bunn that includes a \$50,000 salary increase.

The decision finalized several months of contract discussions that were delayed by unexpected increases in workers' compensation costs.

Director Paul Murphy said he and Director Christine Sullivan met with

Bunn earlier this year to renegotiate the contract, but talks were put on hold in late March after the closure of an insurance carrier threatened to increase the district's workers' compensation costs by as much as \$175,000. On March 30, the board voted to extend Bunn's existing contract for 90 days.

"Chief Bunn decided to delay the contract and extend it and come back to it when we know what finances look like," Murphy said.

The new agreement includes a ret-

roactive salary increase to \$200,000 effective April 15, 2026, which drew questions from Director Debbie Skinner.

Skinner said the board had kept the contract unchanged while waiting for greater financial clarity and asked why the increase would be applied retroactively. She also raised concerns about language added to the compensation-study section and said future salary comparisons should be limited to districts similar in size and region.

Skinner also questioned changes to provisions governing remote work and holiday pay, saying the revised paragraph "is expanded but is missing quite a few words from the original contract."

Murphy said the intent was to clarify that Bunn would not lose pay if he had to work remotely because of hazardous conditions or travel issues.

Murphy said the proposed salary

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The Fernley Reporter
P.O. Box 126
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FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Captain's Log – All the Icky Things

Sitting in church on Sunday, my mind wandered down a rabbit hole of contemplation about things we could and should do but absolutely don't want to.

It feels like a ridiculous amount of life comes down to that place between the drudgery of the icky things and avoiding them or growing up and just getting them done.

True confessions – I'm an idea gal. I'll generate ideas, see possibilities, start new things all day long, but when it comes to details and the tedious monotony of real life, the uncomfortable, emotionally loaded jobs, I just make up some new fun things to do and move on.

Denial has been a lovely place for many years.

It's a personality flaw for sure,

but mostly I haven't cared. I like doing fun things, being happy, and enjoying myself.

Maybe it's this getting old thing, but the idea of just doing the icky stuff has started to actually enter my consciousness. It's not really forcing myself to do the things I don't like so much as becoming aware that I do this. And then realizing I can just do the icky thing and get over it. Get it over with.

The results have been gratifying. Icky things lose their sting – their power.

Maybe our grammas were right; we really should forgive people, speak up, clean the garage, make the dump run. Clear the gunked-up spaces for the good stuff.

I feel like I'm not the only one who does this kind of stuff.

Communities and institutions have "icky things" too. Deferred maintenance, bad employees nobody confronts, budgets nobody wants to look at. Relationships that need repairing. Decisions postponed until someone else makes them for us.

Maybe adulting isn't becoming the kind of person who suddenly loves doing hard things, but figuring out you don't have to like it; you just have to get it done.

So while we enjoy all this newspapering – all the parades and covering the meetings and meeting all the cool people, we'll still be right here, filing and taking out the trash, and as always...

...Keeping you Posted.
- Rach

Continued from FRONT - RENTALS...

Weekly trash collection would be required, and functioning smoke detectors would have to meet current fire-code requirements. The proposed regulations would apply throughout the city.

Special events would not be permitted at short-term rentals. The ordinance lists weddings, receptions, anniversaries, private parties, fundraisers and business seminars as examples of prohibited special events.

Short-term rentals could operate in permanent residential dwellings, including accessory dwelling units. Recreational vehicles, trailers and other structures not classified as permanent residential dwellings

could not be used as short-term rentals.

The city could also deny a short-term rental or impose additional conditions based on factors including inadequate parking or substantial negative impacts on surrounding properties.

The issue has previously come before the Planning Commission as city staff worked through how to regulate an industry that has largely operated without specific local standards.

At previous Planning Commission discussions, staff said the city did not have an exact count of short-term rentals operating in Fernley because they were not specifically regulated. A search of

Airbnb at the time showed roughly 10 listings.

Staff also cited complaints associated with short-term rentals during Burning Man, including one property where tents had reportedly been set up in the front yard and another involving a live band.

Bill 383 received only its first reading at the Sept. 2 City Council meeting. Associate Planner Lisa Warner told council members she was available to answer questions, but there was no substantive council discussion of the ordinance before the meeting moved to the next item.

The ordinance would have to return to the council before becoming law.

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FEATURES

Fernley anniversary statue placed at Main Street Art Park

Staff Report

A commemorative statue created for Fernley’s 25th anniversary has been placed in its temporary home at the Main Street Art Park.

The piece includes several symbols representing Fernley and Nevada, including a horse, cowboy hat, the shape of the state, three F’s for Fernley, an eagle and a bighorn sheep. The sculpture also incorporates pieces of steel connected to longtime Fernley residents who have died, adding a personal piece of community history to the work.

City officials highlighted the installation during the Sept. 2 Fernley City Council meeting.

Councilman Ryan Hanan said the sculpture’s final destination will be in the center of the new roundabout

once that project is completed. For now, residents can see it at the Art Park.

Mayor Neal McIntyre described the piece as “absolutely beautiful” and thanked Twisted Steel and Art of Bronze for creating it. He also recognized HG Construction for donating time and equipment to help with the installation, along with city staff who worked on the project.

The project was made possible through the work of Twisted Steel, HG Construction LLC, the 25th Anniversary Committee, Art of Bronze and the City of Fernley Parks Department.

The statue is one of several efforts tied to Fernley’s 25th anniversary and is intended to reflect the city’s history, identity and connection to the broader Nevada landscape.



The owners of Twisted Steel Michelle Ebert-Moffitt and Jim Moffitt gathered with City of Fernley’s April Homme, Neal E. McIntyre and Albert Torres at the Main Street Art Park after the new statue installation. Photo by Rick Roznos.



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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: LEARN, ENGAGE, VOTE

CIVICS 101 – Representative Government

By Rachel Dahl

“Shouldn’t the community have some say in this before it’s just decided for us?”

I saw that question in a comment this week and have been thinking about it ever since.

Because yes. Of course, the community should have a say. But maybe not quite in the way we have come to think.

Somewhere along the line, a whole bunch of us got the idea that democracy means everybody gets to vote on everything. That if a city council, county commission, school board or legislature makes a decision without first asking the whole community what it thinks, then somehow the people have been left out of the process.

Except that isn’t really how our government was built.

We have representative government. Which means we vote for people and then, for better or worse, those people make decisions. That is their job.

It is why we have city councilmen and county commissioners and school board trustees and legislators and congressmen instead of dragging the whole town down to City Hall every Tuesday night to vote on sewer lines and copier contracts and whether the public works department needs a new pickup.

Although, depending on the week, that might be entertaining. The idea is much older than our local government meetings, of course. The Declaration of Independence says governments get their “just powers from the consent of the governed,” and that is the most important part.

Government does not get its authority from the king. Or the governor. Or the mayor. Or some guy with a title and a nameplate. It gets its authority from us.

But that has become the difficult part.

How exactly do a bunch of free people govern themselves without making an absolute mess of it? The Founders spent a great deal of time on that question. They did not particularly trust government. They also did not particularly trust us.

Which, when you think about it, was probably wise.

James Madison gets into this in Federalist No. 10, which is my favorite of the Federalist Papers and one I keep coming back to. Madison was worried about factions. Basically, people.

Groups of people with strong opinions and interests who might get enough power to run over everybody else.

Madison understood that you could not get rid of factions because you would have to get rid of liberty to do it. As long as people are free, they are going to disagree.

I feel like Madison would have taken one look at Facebook and felt terribly vindicated.

His concern was what happens when one faction gets enough power to impose its will on everyone else. And that includes the majority. We toss around “majority rules” as though that is the whole American system. If 51 percent of us could do absolutely anything we wanted to the other 49 percent, we would have a pretty lousy system of liberty.

One of my professors during undergrad was always reminding us that a majority can, quite literally,

vote itself out of a democracy. So, the Founders built in layers.

Representation. Two houses of Congress. Separate branches of government. Checks and balances. Federal and state power. Elections. A Constitution that limits what government can do even when a whole lot of people would very much like it to do something.

It is maddeningly inefficient. On purpose.

Representative government is one of those layers. We elect people to listen, study, argue, deliberate and make decisions on our behalf. Sometimes they make decisions we like and sometimes they make decisions that leave us wondering what on earth they were thinking. That does not necessarily mean the public was denied a voice.

Our voice came earlier when we elected them and sent them off to handle what truck to buy.

We also have a voice while they serve – we can call them, write them, show up at meetings, read the agendas, ask questions, request records, stand at the podium during public comment, raise a fuss and organize our neighbors. And when election time comes around, we can fire them. That is an awfully big say.

The more useful question, then, may not be, “Why didn’t they ask us first?”

It may be: Did they actually have the authority to make that decision? Did they follow the law? Was the decision made in public when it was supposed to be? Did the public get proper notice? Did they listen before they voted? Did they explain themselves? And are we still willing to trust them with that authority?

Those questions, though, require us to know something about how our government actually works. Which, inconveniently, is where civics comes in. A class our parents had, but many of us did not. That’s a whole other column.

Federalist No. 10 is a good place to start if you want to understand why the Founders chose a republic instead of direct democracy. Federalist No. 51 is another.

That is the one where Madison writes, “If men were angels, no government would be necessary.”

I love that line, it tells you almost everything you need to know.

The system was not designed with the assumption that politicians would always behave beautifully. Or that voters would always be wise. Or that everybody would agree.

It was designed around the knowledge that human beings are human beings.

Which brings me back to that comment. “Shouldn’t the community have some say in this before it’s just decided for us?”

Yes, we should and we do. The trick is knowing where that say takes place, when we exercise it and what we have already entrusted our representatives to do.

Which, it turns out, requires knowing how the government works.

Before she started local community newspapers, Rachel Dahl studied political theory at the University of Nevada, worked on political campaigns and served on the Fallon City Council. She also taught government and civics as a discussion leader for Western Traditions at the University of Nevada and at Western Nevada College.

Letters to the Editor

SEND YOURS TO [RACHEL@RANGEMEDIACO.COM](mailto:rachel@rangemediaco.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fernley Republican Women to meet

Staff Report

The Fernley Republican Women (FRW) will hold the next meeting at the Fernley Senior Center, 105 Lois Lane, Fernley, on September 15, 2026. A light meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. The public is always invited to attend but we ask that you RSVP to Katie at the email below.

Election season is well under way, and the primary election has decided who will be on the November ballot. Those Republican candidates who will be running against each other for mayor are Timothy Bickerton and Neil McIntyre and for city council,

ward 1 are Ryan Hanan and Deborah Skinner. Ryan Cross has a non-Partisan opponent for city council, Ward 3. Republican candidates for school board trustee are Peter Chapin and Michael Moore, District 2, and Vince Spoon, District 6. We invite you to submit questions for the candidates in writing or via email prior to the meeting.

The FRW's Caring for America Program collects non-perishable foods for the Fernley Food Bank, and the Armed Forces/Homeland Security Program collects food, personal care items and cleaning supplies along with donations of funds for the Veterans Guest House in Reno.

All contributions for these important programs will be greatly appreciated. Financial contributions can be sent to the FRW at P. O. Box 412, Fernley, Nevada 89408.

Fernley Republican Women is a group of women (and men as associate members) who share similar conservative values and ideals, and who are dedicated to increasing the influence and effectiveness of women in the cause of good government through political education and active political participation.

For more information, please contact Katie Baker at katierbaker25@gmail.com or check the FRW website fernleyrepublicanwomen.com.

Fernley health fair set for Sept. 12

Staff Report

Pinnacle Medical Group, in partnership with Prominence Health, will host the Fernley “Fuel Your Health” Health Fair and Community Wellness Event on Saturday, Sept. 12.

The free event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 805 E. Main St. in Fernley.

Activities will include free health screenings, opportunities to meet local health care providers, insurance and Medicare information, community vendors, wellness resources and health education.

The event will also feature family-friendly activities and giveaways.

Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

We'd love to hear from you.

rachel@rangemediaco.com

Have a story?

Fernley Community Events

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

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Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

SEP 19

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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.

SEP 25

MOVIE - THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE
2:30 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

SEP 26

Live COMEDY (21+)
8:00 p.m.
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Tuesday, Sept 15

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Baked Beans
Carrots
Pineapple Chunks

Wednesday, Sept 16

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Gravy
Whole Wheat Bread
Broccoli
Banana
100% Juice

Thursday, Sept 17

Shrimp Scampi Bake
Penne Pasta
Whole Wheat Roll
Peas
Olive Garden Copycat Salad
Dressing
100% Juice

Friday, Sept 18

Beef Enchiladas
Zucchini & Tomato Salad
Colorful Salad
Garlic French Dressing
Fruit Cocktail

COMMUNITY

Fernley working group to begin review of Title 16

Staff Report

The City of Fernley will begin a working-group review of its Title 16 code enforcement regulations on Sept. 10.

Building Official Charity Birkle told the Fernley City Council that staff has already reviewed and redlined the code internally and plans to work through the proposed changes during approximately three to four meetings.

The working group includes six Fernley residents, city code enforcement staff and Birkle. Birkle said the review is expected to be completed within several meetings, after which the proposed revisions will

return to the City Council for discussion. She did not respond to a request for the list of names of the six community members serving on the working group.

Continued on PAGE 5 - FIRE CHIEF..

brings Bunn closer to regional parity. Bunn currently earns \$150,000, while parity in Northern Nevada, excluding Smith Valley and Mason Valley because they are volunteer departments, was calculated at \$238,000. “We have gone under what parity looks like and the intent is to explore what parity looks like come next year,” Murphy said.

The board also discussed insurance coverage. Skinner noted the contract includes 80 percent dependent coverage for the chief, while employees receive 100 percent coverage. Bunn said he has no dependents and uses his wife’s insurance to save the district money. Skinner initially opposed the 18-month term, saying the district has historically used one-year contracts and that a longer term could complicate succession planning. She said

she was concerned the district could be left without a chief if Bunn chose to leave at the end of the contract without additional notice. Bunn said the timing aligns better with budgeting and labor negotiations. When asked whether he planned to stay past October 2027, Bunn said he was “50/50.” Murphy said the board should plan for that date as Bunn’s potential departure. When Bunn was hired as interim

chief in April 2024, he told the district he intended to stay until his wife retires. Skinner moved to approve the contract from April 15, 2026, through Oct. 31, 2027. The motion passed 4-0, with Sullivan absent. Murphy thanked Bunn “for putting in the time and deferring for as long as he has,” and Bunn noted that two employees still need raises once their compensation study is completed.

Fernley Church Directory

Summit Church
Silverland Middle School

Living Faith Church
110 Center Street

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
625 Desert Shadows Lane

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

Crosswinds Assembly of God
3015 Farm District Road

Fernley Free Methodist Church
100 N. West Street

Fernley First Baptist Church
485 E. Main Street

Calvary Chapel
875 Fremont Street

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

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
290 N. West Street

Joy! Alliance Fellowship
www.facebook.com/JOYchurchFernley

Living Stones Church
868 Cottonwood Lane



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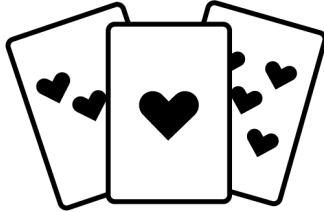
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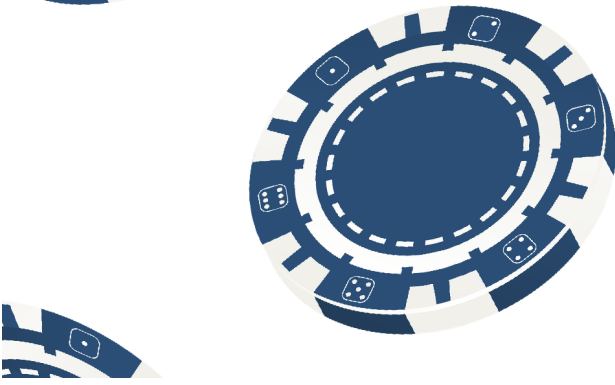
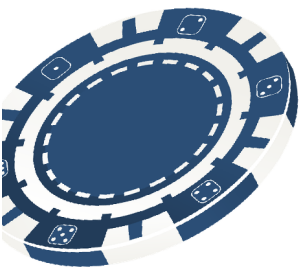


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COMMUNITY

The City of Fernley recognizes September as Suicide Prevention Month

By Rachel Dahl

Fernley Mayor Neal McIntyre proclaimed September as Suicide Prevention Month during the Sept. 2 City Council meeting, sharing a deeply personal reason the issue matters to him.

After reading the proclamation, McIntyre told those gathered that his father died by suicide when McIntyre was 16 years old.

“I wish they had programs like this when I was a kid,” McIntyre said.

He said he was one of five brothers and recalled the impact his father’s death had on their family. McIntyre said the support now available to families who lose someone to suicide, as well as programs aimed at helping people considering suicide,

can make an important difference.

“I would really hope that people would recognize the importance” of the people doing sui-cide prevention work, he said.

The proclamation recognizes suicide as a serious public health concern affecting people of every age and background and emphasizes that prevention can include recognizing warning signs, having compassionate conversations, reducing stigma and connecting people with help.

It also recognizes the work of schools, health care providers, first responders, behavioral health professionals, community and faith organizations, families and others who provide suicide prevention and support to people affected by suicide.

Misty Vaughan Allen, Nevada’s statewide suicide prevention coordinator, and Taylor Morgan, suicide prevention training and outreach facilitator for Northern Nevada, accepted the proc-lamation. Both work with the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention.

September is recognized nationally as Suicide Prevention Month, with organizations across the country using the month to increase awareness of suicide prevention and available support.

The proclamation also calls attention to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Nevada residents can call or text 988, or use the 988 online chat, to reach trained crisis counselors 24 hours a day for emotional distress, suicidal thoughts, substance-use

concerns or other behavioral health crises. Nevada officials describe 988 as a resource people can use before a situation reaches an emergency.

McIntyre encouraged Fernley residents to check on one another, listen without judgment and learn how to recognize and respond when someone may be struggling.

The City Council proclamation declares September 2026 Suicide Prevention Month in Fern-ley and encourages residents to promote “hope, compassion and connection” throughout the community.

If you or someone you know is struggling, call or text 988 or visit the 988 Suicide & Crisis Life-line online for confidential, 24-hour support. If there is an immediate danger, call 911.

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

Staff Report

Fernley has been awarded a \$6,500 grant from the Microsoft Northern Nevada Community Fund to continue improvements at Polaris Plaza near Main Street and Lois Lane.

The grant will support additional shade and landscaping at the plaza, along with improvements intended to create more usable space for community activities such as vendor events and cornhole tournaments.

The new funding builds on nearly \$100,000 in private contributions already raised and invested in the area.

Polaris Plaza is being developed

as a gateway to Fernley’s Community Campus, which includes the Fernley Senior Center and the Community Response and Resource Center, home to the local Boys & Girls Club.

Project organizers said the latest grant will help continue efforts to make the area more welcoming and functional for community gatherings and events.

The grant was awarded through the Microsoft Northern Nevada Community Fund, with funding administered through ChangeX.

Organizers said work at the plaza will continue as additional improvements are planned.



The Fernley Community Foundation hosted the first Foundation Fridays, free concert at Polaris Plaza on July 3, 2026. Photo by Rick Roznos.

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Meetings

Fernley City Council

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.

Next meeting Sept 16

Fernley Planning Commission

2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.

Next meeting Oct. 14

Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

2nd Friday of even numbered months at 9:00 a.m.

City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.

Next meeting Oct. 9

Lyon County Commission

1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington

Next meeting 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 Oct. 13

Lyon County Library Board of Trustees

4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.

Locations rotate between the 5 county libraries

Next meeting 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 Oct, 15

Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District

3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

300 Cottonwood Lane

Next meeting Sept. 15

the **Fernley** reporter

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LCSO says new radar trailers will help target problem speeding areas

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County Sheriff’s Office expects to have two new radar trailers in use around Fernley by mid-October, Chief Deputy Mitch Brantingham said during his report at the Sept. 2 City Council meeting. Brantingham said the City of Fernley purchased the trailers, and the sheriff’s office is completing minor upfitting before putting them into service. Mayor Neal McIntyre asked whether the trailers would be used

like automated ticket cameras, photographing drivers or license plates and issuing citations. Brantingham said they will not. “We cannot issue a citation based off a photograph in the state of Nevada,” Brantingham said. “I know they do that in a lot of surrounding places, but in Nevada we can’t.” He said the trailers do not photograph vehicles, drivers or license plates, but they do record the date, time and speed of passing vehicles. Brantingham said that information

can help deputies identify problem areas and times of day. “For instance, if we have a vehicle that speeds through the same location every day at the same time, we could get that data and then do targeted enforcement on that one vehicle,” he said. Brantingham said the sheriff’s office recently used a similar trailer on Six-Mile Canyon Road in Dayton to track traffic volume, average speeds and whether the trailer was having an effect. Over one week, he said, speeds in that area dropped by

about 68 percent. He said the data gives deputies a way to focus patrols where they are most needed rather than using the trailer itself as an enforcement tool. “If we see a recurring problem or we don’t see that reduction in speed that we’re looking to see, we now have a targeted time as well as the number of vehicles going through that area,” he said. “So we can put an effective enforcement package out there to try and do the speed enforcement that we need to in those regions.”

Council questions how Fernley reviews service capacity for new development

Staff explains agency review process as 49-home subdivision wins approval

By Rachel Dahl

A discussion over a 49-home subdivision Sept. 2 turned into a broader explanation of how the City of Fernley evaluates whether schools, fire protection, law enforcement and other public services are available to serve new development. The City Council ultimately approved a tentative subdivision map for the final phase of Nelson Meadows, a proposed 49-lot single-family development on approximately 32.44 acres east of Browne Lane, south of Highway 50A and west of Nevada Pacific Parkway. Councilman Joe Mendoza questioned a finding in the city staff report stating that public services such as schools, police and fire protection, transportation, recreation facilities and parks are available to serve the development. He asked whether separate studies are conducted to determine whether those agencies have enough capacity to accommodate the additional residents. City staff explained that subdivision applications are distributed to the agencies responsible for providing those services and that those agencies are asked to review the proposal and submit comments or concerns. “The school was notified that this subdivision — that’s one of the people that we send the project to,” staff told the council. “We have a distribution list that is quite lengthy, especially for subdivisions.” Staff said projects are also sent to utilities, fire and the sheriff’s office, and any comments received are taken

into consideration as part of the city’s review. Chief Development Officer Michelle Rambo said the city relies on each agency to determine whether a project creates a concern within the service it provides. “If we don’t get any comments from them, we assume that they’re okay with it,” Rambo said. “If they have an issue, we usually hear from them.” Mayor Neal McIntyre, who previously served on the Lyon County School District Board of Trustees, said the school district regularly receives development proposals from the city. He said the school board and superintendent reviewed those reports during his time on the board and generally did not comment if a development was not expected to overcrowd schools or disrupt school-bus routes. “We right now rely on those individual entities to do their own studies and know what they can and cannot support,” Rambo said. The written staff report for the subdivision identifies the schools that would serve students in the development — East Valley Elementary School, Fernley Intermediate School and Fernley High School — and states that the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office and North Lyon County Fire Protection District already serve the surrounding area. The report states that the main fire station is 3.2 miles west of the project and another station on Red Rock Road is 2.2 miles east. It also identifies Autumn Winds Park, Ponderosa Park and Out of Town Park as nearby recreational facilities. The project is an infill development,

meaning it would be built within an area already served by city infrastructure rather than extending city services into a new area. The applicant’s materials state the development would contribute to the local tax base without expanding existing service areas. The staff report also says utilities serving the area were designed to accommodate this final phase when earlier portions of Nelson Meadows were permitted. The developer has secured the required water rights and will dedicate 1.12 acre-feet of water per lot to the city. A traffic impact letter was also included with the application. Staff said surrounding streets were built recently to current city standards and substantial traffic impacts are not anticipated because of the project’s moderate size. Mendoza said his concern was the cumulative impact of multiple developments rather than the 49 homes alone. “I’ve seen multiple subdivisions that come with the 100 houses, 50 houses, you know, 200 lots, 300 lots,” he said. “The 200 lot adds up to the 300 lot that adds up to the 150 lot.” He asked whether developers should be required to provide broader capacity studies addressing schools, fire, law enforcement and other services. Rambo said Fernley does require developers to conduct studies directly related to the impacts of their projects, including traffic and drainage studies. “There are some studies that we do require the developers to do,” Rambo said. “They’re more the traffic studies, the drainage studies, the things that

their project are going to impact.” She said the city does not currently have a project-size threshold that would require a developer to conduct a capacity study on behalf of an independent agency such as the school district. Instead, those agencies evaluate projects based on their own operations and capacity. Councilman Ryan Hanan said that distinction is important because the city does not govern agencies such as the school district, sheriff’s office or North Lyon County Fire Protection District. “When we send out a request to an agency like the school district, the sheriff’s department, the fire department, we depend on them to do their job to know what their capabilities are,” Hanan said. Hanan said it would be outside the city council’s role to independently determine whether those agencies are meeting their own service obligations. Mendoza said the city still has responsibility for services it directly provides, including parks and streets, and said council members should consider whether growth increases demands on those facilities. City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen cautioned the council that while the broader discussion was worthwhile, members needed to remain focused on the specific subdivision before them to comply with Nevada Open Meeting Law. The council then approved the tentative subdivision map on a 2-1 vote with Hanan and councilman Albert Torres in support and Mendoza opposed.

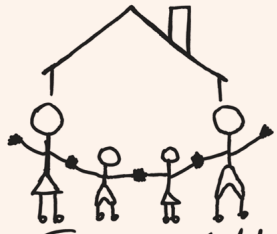
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BUSINESS

Anthony: Fernley growth puts I-80, rural funding in focus

By Robert Perea

Lt. Gov. Stavros Anthony told Fernley residents last week that the city’s growth, increasing freight traffic and nearby industrial development are putting more pressure on state transportation planning, including the widening of Interstate 80 and changes to busy intersections in town.

Speaking at the Fernley Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Luncheon on Sept. 2 at the Community Response and Resource Center, Anthony said the Nevada Department of Transportation is designing a project to add two lanes to I-80 between Sparks and USA Parkway. He said that stretch is one of NDOT’s top priorities, but the work will take several years because engineers must work within a narrow corridor bordered by the Truckee River on one side and mountains on the other.

Anthony said the added lanes are needed as Fernley and the rest of Lyon County continue to grow.

In response to a question from an audience member, he acknowledged that the entire corridor from Sparks to Fernley will eventually need to be expanded and said the stretch between USA Parkway and Fernley is on NDOT’s long-range list for future widening.

Anthony said truck traffic through Fernley is expected to decrease once the inland Port of Nevada east of the city begins operating.

“This is absolutely phenomenal,” Anthony said.

He said cargo containers that are now unloaded in Oakland and trucked across I-80 would instead be transferred by rail to the inland port near Fernley and shipped east, reducing heavy truck traffic through the city and along the interstate.

“I-80 is going to see a significant de-

crease in truck activity because of this inland port, so that’s a good thing for all of you and I-80,” he said.

When one resident said a traffic light is needed at the intersection of U.S. 95A and Cottonwood Lane, Anthony deferred to Mayor Neal McIntyre, who said NDOT originally designed a mini roundabout for the location and is now redesigning it as a full-size roundabout after local objections.

“I kind of supported the roundabout, but not knowing it was a mini roundabout,” McIntyre said.

The mayor also told Anthony that the current roundabout at Main Street, Farm District Road and U.S. 50A is too small. He said a large transport trying to get through the roundabout that morning became stuck, backing up traffic to I-80.

“I appreciate you bringing that up,” Anthony said. “I’ll talk to NDOT about how we can redesign that.”

Anthony also pointed to Fernley’s role in northern Nevada’s economic growth. As a member of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development board, he said the state is trying to attract more companies outside the gaming industry, including industrial and technology employers.

He cited Tesla’s two major manufacturing projects as examples of companies that used tax abatements to expand in the region, but said most businesses receiving abatements are much smaller, with 50 employees or fewer.

When asked about tax abatements for companies moving to Nevada, Anthony said the state has accepted some loss of tax revenue in exchange for expanding the local tax base. He said cities and counties can benefit more directly from industrial growth through additional revenue that can help fund



Lt. Gov. Stavros Anthony speaks at Fernley Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Luncheon on Sept. 2. Photo by Robert Perea

services.

“Then they can use that to fund their police or fire and everything else,” Anthony said. “Tax abatements actually have maybe a negative impact on the state, but they have a much better impact on local government, because they’re getting more of an income to pay for the resources that they do.”

Other residents raised concerns about disparities in tax revenue between Storey County and neighboring counties, saying Fernley and Lyon County absorb much of the population growth tied to Storey County’s industrial development but do not receive the same level of revenue.

Anthony said cities and counties must continue improving licensing and permitting systems if they want to at-

tract employers and build their own tax bases. He said any effort to divide industrial revenue among counties would have to go through the Nevada Legislature.

“That would have to be a legislative fight between the counties,” Anthony said. “And I’ll tell you, there will be a big fight between counties because Storey County’s not going to like something like that.”

Anthony said rural Nevada must be treated as equal to Las Vegas and Reno when the state allocates resources.

“I love being in rural Nevada, love being in Fernley,” he said, adding that housing, workforce development and access to medical care remain statewide challenges as northern Nevada continues to grow.

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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. 31-Sept. 6, 2026

DYLAN STANFIELD – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$90, Charges: Intoxicated pedestrian/animal rider on road
 SHAWN WEIGLE – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: DUI, (1st)
 ELIZABETH DAVIS – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$3,180, Charges: DUI, (1st); Failure to wear safety belt/shoulder harness; Display fictitious vehicle registration/plate/title; Open alcohol container in vehicle; Drive with revoked driver's license; Owner proof of insurance required
 ROBBIE WENDT – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$690, Charges: Criminal contempt
 JOSHUA DINI – Area: Mound House, Bail: \$6,400, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime; Failure to appear on traffic citation
 JERRY ANDERSON – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$2,725, Charges: Stop/stand/park vehicle in prohibited place; Display fictitious vehicle registration/plate/title; DUI, (1st); Drive with suspended driver's license; Owner proof of insurance required
 SHANE GRAMANZ – Area: Fernley,

Bail: \$3,000, Charges: Assist other agency—hold
CODY COLE — Area: Fernley, Bail: \$740, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
SHANE BERGERET — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime
CHRISTOPHER SHORT — Area: Fernley, Bail: \$5,000, Charges: Prohibited act violation sex offender registration, (1st); Felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence
EULALIO HIPOLITO — Area: Dayton, Bail: \$2,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime; Criminal contempt
PATRICIA DARK — Area: Fernley, Bail: \$7,235, Charges: Allow child abuse/neglect (endanger), (1st); Failure to provide for confined animal, (1st); Animal noise/nuisance
ANDREW KUHA — Area: Dayton/Mason Valley, Bail: \$17,920, Charges: Possess to sell Schedule I/II, flunitrazepam/GHB, (1st); Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Failure to possess/

surrender driver license; Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime; Failure to appear on traffic citation
JOLENA EUBANKS – Area: Silver City, Bail: \$22,500, Charges: Manufacture/import/possess/use dangerous weapon, (1st); Own/possess gun by prohibited person
CHRISTOPHER SERRATO – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$178,780, Charges: Discharge gun within structure/vehicle within prohibited area; Assault with deadly weapon; Discharge gun/other weapon where person might be endangered; Disturbing the peace; Unlawful discharge of firearm
TARA WEED – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$0, Charges: Court commitment
RICHARD WEST – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$18,640, Charges: Possess to sell Schedule I/II, flunitrazepam/GHB, (2nd); Possess burglary tools; Manufacture/import/possess/use dangerous weapon, (1st); Possess dangerous drug without prescription, (1st/2nd); Use/possess drug paraphernalia
KRYSTLE HOLM – Area: Fernley,

Bail: \$6,780, Charges: Use/possess stun gun/device by felon/fugitive; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Drive with suspended driver's license
JOZIAH LEYVA — Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: DUI, (1st)
JERRY WILKERSON — Area: Fernley, Bail: \$26,140, Charges: Possess Schedule I/II controlled substance 14 grams but less than 28 grams; Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence
JOSHUA HERMAN — Area: Fernley, Bail: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, (1st)
JESSE FITCH — Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,255, Charges: DUI, (1st); Failure to yield right of way from private way
MARTIN GROOMS Area: Dayton, Bail: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, (1st)
PENISIMANI TUIPULOTU — Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: Resist public officer; Felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence

Man arrested after armed threats, gunfire near convenience store

By Robert Perea

A Fernley man accused of making armed threats and firing multiple gunshots near a convenience store was arrested Sept. 1.

Lyon County Sheriff's deputies responded at about 11:45 p.m. Aug. 31 to the 7-Eleven on East Main Street for a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. Witnesses told deputies a man had threatened

to shoot others and himself. As the suspect left the scene in a vehicle, several gunshots were fired near the store and nearby gas pumps.

LCSO Chief Deputy Mitch Brantingham told the Fernley City Council that deputies found evidence at the scene and reviewed surveillance video. They identified a suspect and, after investigating and searching for him, located him just before 10 p.m. Sept. 1 at Lowe's.

The suspect, identified as Fernley resident Christopher Tyson Serrato, was arrested on charges of assault with a deadly weapon, discharging a firearm from a vehicle in a prohibited or populated area, discharging a firearm where persons may be endangered, breach of peace and unlawful discharge of a firearm. Serrato's total bond was set at \$53,780.



*Christopher Tyson Serrato, photo
courtesy of LCSO.*



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Gates 7 a.m. • ET #10 starts 8:30 a.m.
King of the Track 3 p.m.



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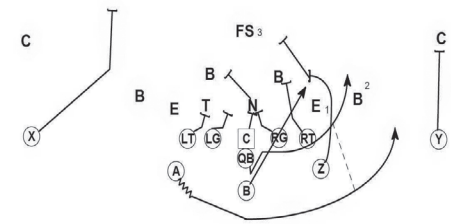
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Friday	All Day Kiosk Scratcher 1pm - 5pm BINGO 7pm - 11pm BONUS BUCKS
Saturday	All Day 10x Points 7pm - 11pm CATCH 21

THE INSIDE VEER

The frozen cursor and unfrozen mind



By Robert Perea

There's always a moment when you first realize something is wrong that stops you dead in your tracks. It usually starts as a subtle disconnect. First, you notice something that might not even register consciously, and then instantly your brain starts spinning in a dozen different directions at once. That's what happened to me right in the middle of writing a story Tuesday morning. I had two separate Word documents open, one with my transcribed notes and the other with the story. When I went to copy a line from

my notes and paste it into the story, my cursor froze. Since I was in a hurry, trying to get the story finished before anyone could ask me for it, my instinctive reaction was to start sliding the wireless mouse back and forth across the mouse pad. But the cursor still wouldn't move. Everything that could have been wrong suddenly rushed through my mind at once. Did my laptop just crash? Did the Wi-Fi go out? Did some malware just take over my laptop? What am I going to do now? I'd already been having trouble with that mouse lately. Sometimes when I click and drag the cursor across text to highlight it, it won't select, or it will unselect what I've highlighted when I release the button. That knowledge was somewhere in a dark corner of the back of my mind, not a conscious thought exactly, just the kind of thing that sits there and fires right along with the synapses, subconsciously shaping the panic that follows.

It didn't point me toward the right answer, or even any answer at all, until I stopped to think it through. Maybe my battery is dead? Using the touchpad, I noticed the cursor worked just fine, so I tapped the Bluetooth icon on the screen, which said the battery had 53% remaining. No dead battery, so maybe the mouse itself had died. Nope. When I turned it off and back on, the red light on the bottom came on, but again, it still wouldn't move the cursor. Taking the battery out and putting it back in didn't solve the problem, and neither did trying a new battery. Maybe the Bluetooth disconnected? But that couldn't be, because the laptop still said it was connected when I checked the battery strength. The mouse had power and was connected to Bluetooth, but the cursor remained stubbornly – mockingly, even – frozen in place. So here I sit with a mouse that doesn't work, trying to finish my writing.

A few minutes later, just as I was finishing the story, I instinctively grabbed the mouse when it was time to save the file. Lo and behold, it worked. I still have no idea what happened. Maybe my laptop, like a good dog, can smell deadline panic and just decided to pull a prank. As I clicked save, I was struck by a frustrating realization: Why doesn't the relief of things turning out okay ever equal the weight of the initial panic? But that's another thought for another day, because now the story is done, the file is saved and the deadline is met. Robert Perea has covered news and sports in Northern Nevada since 1993. He has published The Fernley Reporter online since 2016, loves music, is a sucker for the pets who have adopted him, and is thrilled to be printing the Reporter.

Senior Sense: Nootropics – science of the mind

By Sonia Hedrick

Notoriously, the aging brain is apt to become a little more forgetful. Just ask any senior. Even the most vibrant among us may misplace car keys more often, forget names or have a little trouble retrieving a word. So far, traditional medicine has not focused much attention on preventing typical age-related memory decline. Instead, health care professionals generally encourage older patients not to become overly concerned unless there is a significant decline in memory or cognitive function. Doctors suggest the usual: exercise, enjoy a Mediterranean-style diet, socialize and continue learning new skills. No magic. No miracle pills. Just common-sense interventions. For many seniors, though, those occasional slips are feared to be harbingers of the unthinkable – pardon the expression. The prospect of a diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's disease can be frightening. But while these conditions are devastating, there is reason to take heart. Modern medicine continues to make significant strides in diagnosis and treatment. Prior to advances in modern brain imaging and diagnostic testing, suspected Alzheimer's disease or dementia was diagnosed largely through observation and cognitive evaluation, with Alzheimer's disease historically confirmed through postmortem exam-

ination of the brain. Over time, cognitive evaluation protocols improved, allowing physicians greater insight into the presence and progression of disease. Advances in positron emission tomography, or PET scanning, have also allowed researchers and physicians to detect amyloid plaques in living brains. Amyloid plaques are associated with Alzheimer's disease and are believed to interfere with communication between brain cells. PET scans and other advances have also helped researchers distinguish among different types and causes of dementia. More recently, blood tests designed to detect biomarkers associated with Alzheimer's disease have emerged as another tool that may help physicians evaluate patients and support a diagnosis. The discovery of biomarkers such as amyloid plaques has not only aided earlier detection but also encouraged pharmaceutical research. While a cure continues to elude science, treatments intended to slow the progression of some neurodegenerative diseases are developing rapidly. Along with symptom management, there is now greater hope for slowing neurological decline in some patients. It is important to note that prescription drugs undergo extensive study before they reach the market. Clinical trials are conducted over a period of years and are reviewed by the Food

and Drug Administration. Researchers evaluate effectiveness, side effects, risks and benefits, and the results are subject to scientific scrutiny. When all is said and done, if regulators determine that a drug's benefits outweigh its risks for the intended use, it may be approved for the market. This same approval process does not apply to manufacturers of vitamins and dietary supplements, including products marketed as nootropics. Under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, dietary supplements are regulated differently from prescription drugs. Manufacturers are required to follow federal manufacturing and labeling rules, but they generally do not have to prove a supplement is effective before it is sold to consumers. Like most packaged foods, supplements must carry a Supplement Facts panel identifying their ingredients. Some supplement manufacturers conduct their own studies, whether out of genuine concern for effectiveness or as part of their marketing efforts. Critics argue that in-house studies may be susceptible to bias, particularly when they are small, unpublished or not independently reviewed. There is also concern that some supplement studies may rely on relatively small groups of participants or present results in percentages without clearly showing the number of people studied.

While some larger companies conduct double-blind or independently reviewed research, many smaller companies rely heavily on customer testimonials and marketing claims to establish credibility. Ultimately, consumers should be cautious when evaluating claims about nootropics. A significant number of people say they experience benefits, while others are less impressed. Many manufacturers also advise users that any benefits may not be immediate and could take several weeks to become noticeable. Whether the investment in nootropics is worthwhile remains an individual decision. It is prudent to consult a health care professional before starting any new supplement, particularly for people who take prescription medications or have existing medical conditions. Thank you for taking this journey with me. May you enjoy the best of health, mentally and physically. If there is a topic you would like to explore, please let me know. Email me at shedrickfernley@gmail.com. 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: shedrickfernley@gmail.com

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PETUNIA(f), LILY(f), & RUDY(m) are between 8 and 10 weeks old. These kittens are very loving, playful and social. They are looking for a lot of cuddles and a warm lap to lay in. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet them, please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will get back to you asap!! 775-575-0950 This number does not accept texts*



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

PET OF THE WEEK

His name is Dutton!

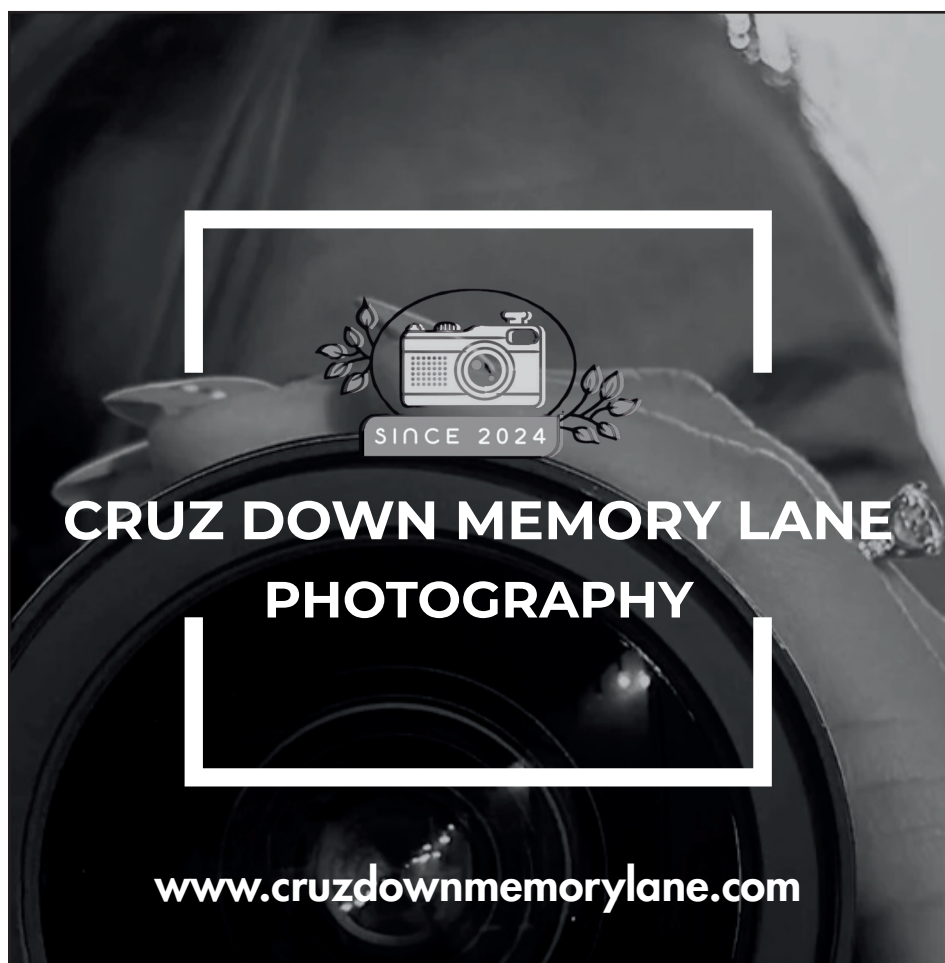


Dutton sure has a lot of personality for such a young guy. If not reclaimed he will be up for adoption Saturday September 12th. Keep watching for more pictures and videos of this silly boy. To meet Dutton or one of the other dogs seeking a forever home, please contact the Lyon County Shelter at 775-577-5005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

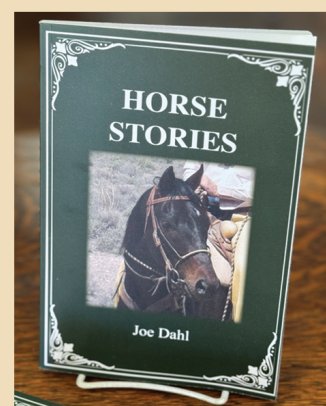


Lyon County Animal Shelter
3705 Highway 50 West in Silver Springs, NV 89429
775-577-5005

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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.



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