

Business closures highlight Fernley’s expanding enforcement reach

By Rachel Dahl

The recent temporary closures of two prominent Fernley businesses have brought renewed attention to the city’s growing code-enforcement workload and an ongoing effort to rewrite its enforcement rules.

The Wigwam restaurant was closed after a portion of its ceiling collapsed because of water damage, according to Fernley Building Official Charity Birkel.

Birkel said the Nevada State Health Department made the initial decision to close the restaurant. The city then closed the entire establishment to prevent employees or customers from entering the kitchen beneath the damaged ceiling.

“The ceiling had some significant water damage, and it was a safety issue having people walk under it,” Birkel said in an email to the Fernley Reporter.

A contractor quickly obtained a building permit, completed the repairs and received approval from the city to remove the red tags, she said.

McDonald’s was also temporarily



The state department of health and the City of Fernley shut down the Wigwam last week because of water damage in the restaurant ceiling .Photo by Rachel Dahl.

closed by the Nevada State Health Department. Birkel said the restaurant responded immediately and was apparently reopened within about four hours, although she referred questions about the exact timeline to state health officials.

Neither closure was initially ordered through Fernley’s regular complaint-based code-enforcement process. Still, the highly visible incidents come as the city reports a sharp increase in

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Fernley restructures City Hall under strong-mayor model

By Rachel Dahl

Fernley is reorganizing City Hall around two senior executives after eliminating the city manager and deputy city manager positions earlier this year, a change Mayor Neal McIntyre said will divide responsibility among leaders with more focused areas of oversight.

The City Council approved the restructuring May 20 as part of an effort to align municipal operations more closely with Fernley’s strong-mayor form of government.

Under the new structure, a chief

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Fernley begins writing rules for data centers

Draft regulations address water, power, noise and emergency response

By Rachel Dahl

Fernley officials have begun developing regulations for data centers before formal applications reach City Hall, but questions remain about how restrictive the rules should be and whether they would apply to the city’s largest industrial development.

The Fernley Planning Commission reviewed two preliminary versions of a proposed data-center ordinance during its July 8 meeting. No ordinance was approved, and commissioners did not choose between the two versions.

Planning Director Michelle Rambo emphasized that the drafts are only a starting point in a longer process that will include additional research, meetings with industry representatives and regulators, and opportunities for public participation.

“We are not here tonight to approve anything,” Rambo said. “This is

a very preliminary rough draft.”

Rambo said city officials know data-center developers are looking at Fernley, although the city has not yet received a formal application.

“We have several that are on the horizon,” she said. “However, we do not actually have any submitted applications yet.”

The city is attempting to establish its requirements before those applications arrive rather than revisiting its development code after projects are already underway. Rambo said staff hopes to have an ordinance ready for possible approval by the end of the year but does not intend to rush the process.

The two drafts contain many of the same operating and development standards but differ in where data centers could be considered.

Under the first version, a data center could be proposed on industrially zoned property through a conditional use permit and development agreement.

The second would create a data-center overlay district. A developer would first have to obtain a zoning-map amendment placing the overlay on the property before seeking a conditional use permit and development agreement.

The overlay process would give the City Council an additional opportunity to decide whether a particular property is appropriate for a data center, rather than allowing the use to be considered throughout the city’s industrial zones.

Rambo said that distinction may be important because Fernley has industrially zoned land near downtown and the railroad tracks that may not be suitable for a large data center.

The preliminary ordinance would apply to data centers with a total electrical design capacity greater than 20 megawatts or water use exceeding 50 gallons per minute on an annualized basis at full buildout.

A covered project would be re-

quired to submit detailed information about its water demand, electrical needs, backup power, noise, lighting, utilities, grading, landscaping and emergency-response plans.

The draft proposes at least 1,000 feet between a data center and residentially zoned property, but Chairwoman Tessa Garvin and Vice Chair Jenni McCullar both called for a greater separation.

Garvin said the setback should at least match standards applied to casinos near residential property and that data centers should be located “as far away as possible.” McCullar said the distance should be pushed “as far as humanly possible” to protect residents.

Commissioners also called for broader public notification. Garvin said information about proposed data centers should be distributed city-

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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Captain’s Log – Finding Peace

The smell of rain permeated my sleep last night and the soft pitter patter on the metal roof lulled me into a sweet, relaxing, greatly needed rest.

This morning as I worked in the dark early morning, vaguely aware of the world slowly glowing to life, that smell of rain and sagebrush flowed through the open windows, soothing my soul with peace. How is a smell so peaceful?

It couldn’t be helped, the front porch was calling as the sky glowed rosy gold and I stepped out into the cool morning surrounded with the essence of the desert – clean and sharp and strong, almost tinged with a vague turpentine from the greasewood. Walking over to feed the goats, I noticed the tamaracks had bloomed when I wasn’t looking. Their puffy, silvery branches full of flowers and pollen, adding to the serenity.

The goats were so excited for breakfast in their damp, curly new coats. They were sheared recently

and have grown out long enough that their new curls were affected by the humidity, springing into beautiful silky loops like mine does at the ocean. Black, red, and a pretty soft white, they were so pretty I couldn’t help but imagine what sweaters would look like made from each one of them.

What a blessing to have this distraction in the midst of what has been an incredibly difficult little stretch of growing pains with the papers and magazines and, and, and...

Lately I’ve begun to wonder why in the world I have all these animals when I need to be focused on business. Between the rabbits in their new fancy pens and the chickens who won’t quit hatching new babies and the goats and the emus, honestly what have I done. I used to be able to do chores in about seven minutes – now its easily 20 or more depending on what kind of dilly dallying I do and who looks like they may want some attention.

One of my friends said once that women have pets because we need something to need us. My hair bristled at that silliness when I heard it and my very nature resisted what I thought was a stupid notion.

This morning that thought came back to me as I wandered around the Boyer Bunny Ranch in awe of nature, of all the pretty plants and the pretty animals and the shockingly beautiful smell that made everything so much more – enhanced and enchanted. It struck me that I have pets because they’re beautiful and they bring me great joy and they bring me back from this crazy, tumultuous business we’re building to basics. To the things that are real and I love them.

So while we work our fingers to the bone and enjoy all the little pieces of life along the way, we’ll always be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.
Rach

Continued from FRONT - CLOSURES...

complaints and continues debating how broadly its enforcement authority should reach.

During a July 8 presentation to the Fernley Builders Association, Birkel said the city received 132 code-enforcement complaints in June alone.

Since January, Fernley has logged 618 cases. Birkel said the city previously received approximately 660 complaints during an entire 12-month period.

That means the city has already received nearly a typical year’s worth of complaints during the first half of 2026.

Birkel said one resident filed approximately 27 complaints involving properties with similar alleged violations after the city acted on a separate complaint.

The volume raises questions about whether the rise reflects worsening property conditions, increased public awareness or a system that can be driven by repeated complaints from a small number of residents.

City officials have also held four public workshops on a proposed re-

write of Fernley’s code-enforcement rules. The proposal reportedly runs 47 pages and has drawn significant opposition from residents concerned about property rights, enforcement discretion and the potential reach of the new rules.

Birkel told builders the city has also received support for the proposal, although some supporters have been reluctant to speak publicly.

“Unfortunately, because of the mob mentality with the negative comments, people are afraid to speak up,” Birkel said.

The remark highlighted the increasingly tense debate over the proposed ordinance. Critics have questioned whether the city is attempting to regulate too much private-property activity, while city officials have argued that clearer rules are needed to address unsafe and neglected properties consistently.

Birkel said she had been directed to review the proposal and remove provisions already covered elsewhere in city code. A revised version is expected to return for additional public discussion.

The building department’s workload extends beyond complaint investigations. In June, the city received 51 build-

ing applications and issued 45 permits, collecting approximately \$49,000 in fees.

The department also completed 628 inspections, including six business-license inspections, and reported no disaster-assessment callouts during the month.

Those numbers show a department handling both routine development activity and a rapidly increasing enforcement caseload.

The distinction matters in the cases involving the Wigwam and McDonald’s. Both closures involved immediate health or safety concerns, and both businesses were allowed to reopen after the problems were corrected.

The broader code-enforcement debate involves something different: how the city responds to complaints about private property, how much discretion officers should have and how far local regulations should extend beyond clear threats to public health and safety.

As the revised ordinance moves forward, the central question will be whether Fernley can address genuinely dangerous conditions without creating an enforcement system that is overly broad, complaint-driven or burdensome for residents and businesses.

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FEATURES

Rotary Club of Northwest Nevada Honors Perea

By Rachel Dahl

The Rotary Club of Northwest Nevada officially became a chartered Rotary International club in November of last year, and recently recognized several individuals who helped establish the club and support its mission of "Service Above Self."

Among those honored was Fernley Reporter Editor Robert Perea, who was named an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Northwest Nevada in recognition of his ongoing service to the community.

Perea also received the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow recognition, one of Rotary International's highest honors.

The recognition was presented through a contribution made by club founder and chair Suzanne Prouty, who used her accumulated Paul Harris recognition points to honor Perea.

"When you give, you are credited with points," Prouty explained. "One



Robert Perea is honored at the NW Nevada Rotary Club by Suzanne Prouty, receiving the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Photo courtesy NW Nevada Rotary.

thousand dollars equals 1,000 points. I can then use my points to honor someone else as a Fellow. He does so much for the community."

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition is named for Rotary founder Paul Harris and is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to their communities or who are honored through contributions to The Rotary Foundation, which supports humanitarian, educational and peace-building projects around the world.

Rotary clubs bring together business and community leaders to address local needs through volunteer service, scholarships, youth leadership programs and international humanitarian efforts.

The newly chartered Rotary Club of Northwest Nevada plans to focus on service projects benefiting communities throughout the region while joining Rotary's worldwide network of more than 1.4 million members. They meet at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Ranch House inside the Silverado casino.

Continued from FRONT - Data Center...

wide rather than only to property owners within the mailed-notice radius. Commissioner Julianne White suggested allowing residents outside the immediate area to sign up to receive mailed notices because not everyone relies on social media for city information.

The ordinance could require closed-loop cooling or another water-efficient cooling system. It could also require noise-dampening equipment, landscaping and screening, and the placement of taller buildings toward the center of a site.

White said the city should not write the ordinance so narrowly that it prevents developers from using a future technology that is more efficient than today's closed-loop systems.

White also asked the city to consider noise and air-quality standards for backup generators. She said developers should be responsible for specialized emergency-response training if a project creates hazards that Fernley firefighters are not currently equipped to handle, such as fires involving large battery systems.

Commissioner Robert Flores asked staff to examine how many permanent jobs data centers create after construction is complete and how their economic contribution compares with warehouses or other industrial development.

Data centers can occupy substantial amounts of industrial land, Flores said, and the city should understand what it receives in return.

He also raised questions about whether the buildings could be converted to other uses if changing technology makes a data center obsolete.

Commissioner Cody Wagner called the issue one of the most significant matters to come before the commission during his tenure.

Wagner suggested requiring annual reports showing each facility's actual water and power use, noise levels, emissions, wastewater impacts and chemical use. He also questioned whether a developer could avoid the ordinance by splitting one large project into several facilities falling below the proposed power or water thresholds.

Other ideas raised during the discussion included requiring dedicated power generation, limiting the amount of data-center capacity approved in a single year, capturing waste heat for other uses, requiring renewable-energy systems, prohibiting private wells and establishing a community-benefit fund.

Rambo said many of those ideas will require additional legal and technical research.

During public comment before the discussion began, Scott Barnes, vice president for entitlements for Mark IV Capital and the Victory Logistics project, told commissioners that the proposed ordinance would not apply to Victory.

Barnes said the project has vested rights under a development agreement and planned-development handbook approved by the city in April 2024.

He also said the preliminary drafts

errors and urged the city to conduct further review and public outreach before advancing an ordinance.

During the commission's later discussion, Rambo confirmed that Victory has its own development agreement and planned-development handbook containing project-specific standards.

"They have their own zoning code, basically," she said.

Rambo said Victory is the city's only existing industrial planned development that could potentially accommodate a data center under its current handbook.

That means Fernley could adopt a detailed ordinance governing future data-center applications while a data-center within Victory may be evaluated under standards negotiated before the new ordinance was written.

Commissioners expressed concern about that possibility and asked whether the city could expect Victory and other future data centers to meet similar requirements, including providing their own power supplies.

Rambo said additional research is needed to determine what the city can require.

The draft ordinance itself does not address how its provisions would interact with previously approved development agreements.

Amanda Berry-Jones, director of business development for the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, urged the city to protect water resources and residents' quality of life without making Fernley less competitive than surrounding communities.

She said newer data centers may use considerably less water than older facilities and encouraged the city to require demonstrated water efficiency rather than mandate one particular cooling technology.

Berry-Jones also said Nevada's large-load electrical requirements are intended to prevent the costs of serving major power users from being shifted to existing ratepayers.

She recommended that the city hold a dedicated workshop involving NV Energy, water providers, data-center operators, environmental regulators and other stakeholders before selecting one of the two regulatory approaches. EDAWN offered to help organize the workshop.

Fernley resident Justina Yellowhair urged the commission to independently investigate potential health and environmental impacts, including chemicals, air emissions and contamination risks. She said financial benefits should not outweigh protections for residents and natural resources.

Rambo said she expects to meet with Storey County representatives and data-center operators in August and tour an operating facility. She also plans separate discussions with regulators and others involved in overseeing the industry.

Commissioners gave staff numerous issues to research but did not formally endorse either the industrial-zone approach or the overlay district.

The drafts will return for additional review after staff completes more research and incorporates direction previously provided by the City Council.

WHAT FERNLEY MAY REQUIRE OF DATA CENTERS

Fernley's proposed data-center regulations are still in the preliminary drafting stage. No ordinance has been approved, and the requirements may change as city staff conducts additional research and gathers public input.

WATER

Applicants may be required to submit a study calculating the facility's water demand at full buildout and demonstrating that sufficient water is available.

The preliminary drafts call for closed-loop cooling or another water-efficient cooling system. Commissioners also discussed requiring municipal water rather than allowing private wells.

Development agreements could require continued monitoring and reporting of actual water consumption.

NOISE

Developers may have to submit a professional noise study showing anticipated sound levels at property lines and nearby homes or other sensitive areas.

Facilities could be required to install and maintain noise-dampening equipment. Ongoing noise monitoring could also be required after operations begin, including measurements associated with backup generators.

Setbacks and screening

The preliminary drafts propose:

- A 200-foot setback from property lines.
- At least 1,000 feet between a data center and residentially zoned property.
- Landscaping and visual screening along roads and public viewpoints.
- Taller buildings toward the center of the property and shorter buildings near its perimeter.
- Underground power lines when technically feasible.
- A detailed lighting plan designed to limit spillover onto neighboring properties.

POWER

Applicants may be required to provide written confirmation from the electrical provider showing that adequate power and transmission capacity are available.

Developers would also have to identify the number, size, fuel source and expected use of backup generators or temporary power systems.

Commissioners asked staff to explore additional requirements, including dedicated power generation, renewable energy, protection for existing ratepayers and limits on the amount of new data-center electrical demand approved each year.

Emergency response

Applicants may be required to prepare an emergency-response plan in coordination with the fire department and other public-safety agencies.

Commissioners said developers should pay for specialized training or equipment if a facility creates hazards local responders are not currently prepared to address, including fires involving large battery-storage systems.

REPORTING AND MONITORING

Commissioners discussed requiring annual reports showing each facility's actual water consumption, electricity use, noise levels, air emissions, wastewater impacts, chemical and fuel storage, and compliance with emergency and environmental requirements. Those reports could allow the city to compare each developer's original projections with the facility's actual operations.

Construction and road damage

A development agreement could require the developer to repair roads damaged during construction.

Applicants may also have to submit grading, utility, landscaping and lighting plans showing the entire project at full buildout, even when construction is proposed in phases.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The preliminary drafts would require mailed notices to property owners within 1,000 feet of a proposed data center and a developer-hosted public meeting before the Planning Commission hearing.

Commissioners also discussed broader citywide notification through the city's website, social media and other public channels.

CLOSURE AND REUSE

Developers may be required to submit a decommissioning plan explaining how a closed facility would be dismantled, secured or repurposed.

Commissioners also asked the city to consider whether data-center buildings should be designed for conversion to other industrial uses if technology changes or the facility becomes obsolete.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wilson appointed to North Lyon fire board

Staff Report

Aaron Wilson has been appointed to the North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Directors, filling a vacant seat until voters decide who will hold the position in the November election.

Wilson was sworn in last week during the regular board meeting and said he plans to continue campaigning for the seat.

“This appointment does not replace the election, and I will continue campaigning to earn your vote this November,” Wilson said in a statement. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to

begin serving our community immediately while the voters ultimately decide who will hold the seat moving forward.”

Wilson said he is approaching the position with humility and a commitment to listen, learn and make informed decisions on behalf of firefighters, taxpayers and the community.

“I don’t take this opportunity lightly, and I look forward to getting to work,” he said.

The district’s board also includes Chairman Paul Murphy, Vice Chairman Debbie Skinner, Treasurer/Secretary Alyssa Roemer and Director Christine Sullivan.



Aaron Wilson

North Lyon Fire District recruiting firefighters

The North Lyon County Fire Protection District is seeking applicants for several full-time firefighter positions as the department continues to recruit the next generation of first responders.

The district is accepting applications on a continuous basis for entry-level and lateral candidates in the following classifications:

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Firefighter/Advanced EMT
- Firefighter/Paramedic

According to the district, annual salaries begin at approximately \$60,541 for EMTs, with Firefighter/AEMT positions ranging from \$71,131 to \$87,330 and Firefighter/Paramedic positions ranging from \$78,724 to \$96,652, depending on qualifications and experience.

Applicants must hold a current National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certification or a Nevada EMS license.

Testing is scheduled for Aug. 1-2 and Oct. 3-4, with additional testing dates to be announced. The district also offers flexible testing dates upon request.

Fire district officials encourage individuals interested in public service and emergency response to apply.

More information and application materials are available through the North Lyon County Fire Protection District’s online application portal by scanning the QR code.



North Lyon Fire places new ALS ambulance into service

Staff Report

North Lyon Fire has added a new Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance to its emergency response fleet.

The unit, built by Braun Northwest Inc. on a Ford F 450 chassis, includes a Braun Northwest patient module, advanced safety systems, modern EMS equipment and improved ergonomics for firefighters and paramedics. District officials said the upgrades are intended to support emergency medical response in the Fernley area and surrounding communities, where call vol-

umes continue to rise.

“Our crews respond to thousands of medical emergencies each year, and having modern, dependable equipment directly improves the care we can provide to our patients,” the district said in a statement.

In the past year, the district averaged about 11 calls per day, with about 90 percent of those calls involving emergency medical services.

Lyon County allocated \$300,000 to the district toward the purchase using federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. Congress approved the \$1.9

trillion ARPA package in 2021 to help communities recover from the COVID 19 pandemic. Lyon County received about \$11.17 million, and North Lyon Fire used its allocation for part of the ambulance cost. The district covered the remaining amount through its own revenues after several years of planning.

North Lyon Fire acknowledged the Lyon County Board of Commissioners for the ARPA allocation and noted that the district’s board and staff managed the remaining funding needed to complete the purchase.



The North Lyon County Fire Protection District announced its new Advanced Life Support ambulance is now in service. Photo courtesy of North Lyon Fire

Letters to the Editor

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Monday, July 20

Ravioli with
Marinara Sauce
Whole Wheat Bread
Lima Beans
Fruit Cocktail
100% Juice

Tuesday, July 21

Pepper Steak
Brown Rice Pilaf
Salad
Whole Wheat Roll
Mixed Berry Cup

Wednesday, July 22

Health & Wellness Fair
Chicken Pasta
Herbed Vegetable
Medley
Spinach Salad
Creamy Italian Drsg.
Spiced Applesauce

Thursday, July 23

Parmesan Garlic Fish
Whole Wheat Penne
with Pesto
Cauliflower
Peas
Pears

Friday, July 24

Birthday Lunch
Pizza Casserole
Whole Wheat Roll
Roasted Veggies
Green Salad & Ranch Dressing
Peaches
Berry Poke Cake

OBITUARY

Eleanor Joan Johnson

July 8, 1930- July 2, 2026

Eleanor Joan Johnson, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and cherished friend, passed away peacefully on July 2nd, leaving a legacy of love, faith, and service.

Born on July 8, 1930, in Gary, Indiana, to Roy and Evelyn Ranger, Eleanor spent her childhood in Millersville, Tennessee, and later in Highland, California, where she grew into the woman whose life would be defined by her devotion to God, her family, and serving others.

On July 25, 1952, she married Charles Richard Johnson. Together they shared nearly 74 years of marriage—a remarkable testament to enduring love, unwavering commitment, and faithful partnership.

Eleanor enjoyed a successful 22-year career as a top-performing sales associate in the JCPenney Jewelry Department. She was admired not only for her professionalism and work ethic but also for her warm smile, gracious spirit, and genuine care for everyone she met.

Gifted with many talents, Eleanor

found great joy in creating things with her hands and sharing them with those she loved. She was an accomplished seamstress who lovingly made countless outfits for her family and a gifted cross-stitch artist who created more than 200 beautiful personalized bookmarks for family, friends, and even strangers in need. She was also a dedicated puzzler and a master baker whose beautiful desserts became a highlight of church gatherings, family celebrations, and visits with friends.

Eleanor loved cooking, traveling, and singing in the church choir. One of her greatest joys was gathering her family around the table after church on Sundays to enjoy one of her home-cooked meals, always followed by one of her unforgettable desserts. Whether through a home-cooked meal, a handmade gift, a beautiful dessert, or a kind word of encouragement, Eleanor had a remarkable gift for making everyone feel loved, welcomed, and valued.

In 2006, Eleanor and Charles moved from Reno to Fernley, Nevada, where they became active members of

Fernley First Baptist Church. Eleanor faithfully served her church family by co-leading the choir and organizing numerous fellowship and social events. She was always willing to lend a helping hand, and her joyful spirit, servant's heart, and steadfast faith left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

Eleanor is survived by her devoted husband, Charles Richard Johnson; her daughters, Jeanette Holt, Vivian Bowman, and Gwendolyn Johnson; her sister, Phyllis Summerville; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren, all of whom will forever cherish her love, guidance, and example.

While her family grieves her passing, they also celebrate a life beautifully lived and the faith that sustained her throughout her 95 years. Her kindness, generosity, and quiet strength will continue to inspire those who were blessed to know and love her.

A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, July 15, at 4:00 p.m. at Fernley First Baptist Church, 485 E. Main Street, Fernley, Nevada.



Fernley Community Events

JULY 18

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

KARAOKE (21+)
8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

JULY 19

LINE DANCING - hosted by Ambria Duncan
5:30 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.

JULY 21

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

JULY 22

ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Hosted by the Fernley Senior Citizens Advisory Committee & Steve's Ice Cream
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
105 Lois Ln.

JULY 23

SUMMER READING CLUB
LEGO DINOSAUR BUILDERS
11:30 a.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

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

JULY 25

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

LOW COST MICROCHIP CLINIC
\$15 per pet or donate a 10 lb bag of unopened, unexpired pet food to support our Fernley Pet Pantry
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
595 Silver Lace Blvd

FOOD TRUCKS BREWS & TUNES
TO SUPPORT THE FERNLEY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

JULY 28

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

JULY 29

PAINT AND SIPS - \$45 (21+)
Bloom and Resin Craft
6:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

JULY 30

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



Fernley Church Directory

Summit Church
Silverland Middle School

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

Fernley First Baptist Church
485 E. Main Street

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
290 N. West Street

Living Faith Church
110 Center Street

Crosswinds Assembly of God
3015 Farm District Road

Calvary Chapel
875 Fremont Street

Joy! Alliance Fellowship
www.facebook.com/JOYchurchFernley

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
625 Desert Shadows Lane

Fernley Free Methodist Church
100 N. West Street

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

Living Stones Church
868 Cottonwood Lane

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BUSINESS

Fernley housing market remains tight as builders turn attention to infrastructure

By Rachel Dahl

Fernley home prices continued to rise through June while homes sold quickly and available inventory remained limited, according to a market update presented to the Fernley Builders Association on July 8.

Michelle Barney, who also serves as the president of the Fernley Chamber, presented data from the Northern Nevada Regional Multiple Listing Service, said the median sales price for a single-family home in Fernley was \$425,000 in June, up 2.4% from June 2025 but down 1.6% from May.

The market recorded 38 closed sales during the month, a 2.7% increase from a year earlier and a 35.7% jump from May.

Homes reached contract in a median of 10 days, compared with a considerably longer period a year ago. Sellers received a median of 100.2% of their list price, while the median sale price per square foot reached \$258.

Fernley had 54 active listings at the end of June, representing about 1.4 months of housing supply.

The figures point to a market that remains competitive despite higher interest rates and affordability concerns. Barney cautioned, however, that the list-price figures do not capture all of the concessions builders or sellers may provide to complete a sale.

Those incentives can include interest-rate assistance, appliances, landscaping and other buyer-specific concessions.

Barney said the MLS does not currently provide a reliable way to measure those incentives and asked builders to consider sharing information that could be included in future market reports.

“We’re getting very close to the price,” Barney said of the relationship between list prices and sale prices, while acknowledging that concessions may affect the true economics of the transaction.

Year-to-date figures showed a median Fernley sales price of \$419,900 through June, up 5% from \$399,900 during the same period in 2025.

There were 197 closed sales during the first half of the year, down 4.8%

from 207 a year earlier. The year-to-date median time to contract fell from 28 days to 12 days.

The median price per square foot increased from \$243 to \$251, while new listings declined 17.3%, from 284 during the first half of 2025 to 235 this year.

Barney also offered preliminary figures on newly built homes, saying county records appeared to show 41 new homes sold between Jan. 1 and June 30. Those homes had an average sale price of approximately \$523,000 and averaged about 2,122 square feet.

She cautioned that the new-construction report was still being developed and asked builders to help verify the numbers.

Members also discussed growing interest in attached single-family homes, duplexes and multifamily housing and asked whether those categories could be tracked separately in future reports.

Continued on PAGE 11 - HOUSING...

Fernley housing by the numbers June 2026

- Median sales price: \$425,000
- Closed sales: 38
- Median days to contract: 10
- Median list price received: 100.2%

Median sale price per square foot: \$258

- New listings: 46
- Active inventory: 54
- Months of inventory: 1.4

Year to date

- Median sales price: \$419,900
- Closed sales: 197
- Median days to contract: 12
- Median list price received: 99.8%
- Median sale price per square foot: \$251
- New listings: 235

WINGERS gives Fernley a first taste during successful soft opening

Staff Report

Fernley residents got their first taste of WINGERS Restaurant & Alehouse during a special “Sneak Peek” soft opening held on July 13, 2026, giving the community an opportunity to experience the restaurant before its official public opening.

The exclusive lunch service served as a final training event for the restaurant’s management and staff, who spent weeks preparing for the grand opening. In a message shared ahead of the event, WINGERS thanked the community for its warm welcome, saying, “Thank you, Fernley, for welcoming us into your community.”

Guests who attended the Sneak Peek enjoyed complimentary meals in exchange for providing honest feedback to help the team fine-tune its operations. While the food was provided at no cost, diners were encouraged to

leave tips, with 100 percent of the gratuities donated to a local charity, an effort embraced by the entire WINGERS staff.

Because the event was part of the restaurant’s training program, guests were asked to be patient and understanding as the team gained valuable real-world experience. The community responded with kindness and enthusiasm, helping make the event a success.

Located at 1330 Highway 95A North, in the former Red’s Bar & Grill building, WINGERS Restaurant & Alehouse is known for its signature Original Amazing Sauce, award-winning wings, burgers, sandwiches, fresh salads, and family-friendly atmosphere. The restaurant’s opening adds another popular dining destination to Fernley’s growing restaurant scene while creating new jobs and investment in the community.



The WINGERS staff was joined by the mayor on July 13 for a ribbon cutting ceremony. Photo by Shania Brown.

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GOVERNMENT

Continued from FRONT - CITY HALL...

operating officer will oversee Public Works, Parks and Utilities, while a chief development officer will oversee Planning, Building and Engineering.

Former Public Works Director Barry Williams has been promoted to chief operating officer. The chief development officer position remains open after an initial round of interviews did not result in a selection.

Speaking to the Fernley Builders Association on July 8, McIntyre asked residents and members of the business community to be patient while the city fills open positions and puts the new organizational structure into place.

“There’s going to be a lot of changes,” McIntyre said. “I ask you to be patient with it until we get these positions filled and we get the full staff.”

McIntyre said he expects the structure to work well once the two leadership positions and other vacancies are filled.

Williams will oversee Public Works, Utilities and the newly organized Parks and Recreation Department. McIntyre said the city plans to staff Parks and Recreation with five employees who will focus more directly on maintaining and improving Fernley’s parks.

The chief development officer will supervise the Planning, Building and Engineering departments, placing the city’s major development functions under one executive.

McIntyre said the city interviewed candidates for the position in June but did not select anyone. Additional applications have since been received and

are being reviewed.

The city’s approved organizational chart places the mayor and City Council at the top of the organization. The chief operating officer and chief development officer report within the administration, while the city attorney, city clerk-treasurer and other independently defined offices remain in their respective roles.

City officials said eliminating the city manager and deputy city manager positions and redistributing their responsibilities is expected to save between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually.

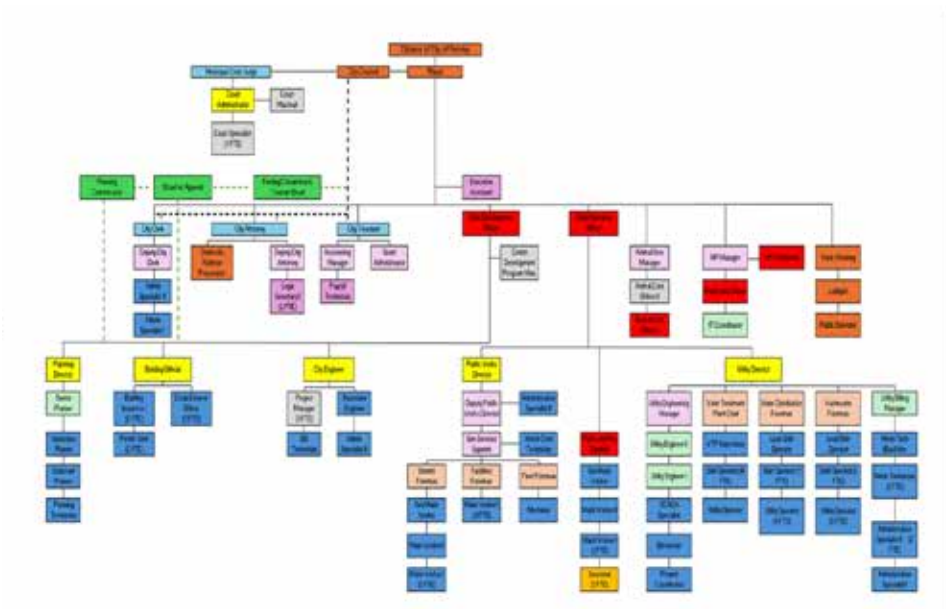
“The City believes these organizational changes will strengthen operations, improve efficiency and position the organization for continued success while providing high-quality services to the community,” assistant to the mayor, April Homme, said in a written statement provided to the Fernley Reporter.

The change also places more direct administrative authority with the mayor. Fernley operates under a strong-mayor form of government, in which the elected mayor serves as the city’s chief executive rather than relying on a city manager to run day-to-day operations.

McIntyre described the two new executives as separate leaders responsible for distinct groups of departments, rather than co-city managers, saying at the builders’ meeting that each officer would instead be responsible for three specific departments.

The restructuring comes as the city works to fill several other vacancies.

McIntyre said Fernley is recruiting for positions including public works director, associate engineer, deputy city



The new organizational structure was approved by City Council on May 20th, 2020. Photo courtesy of the City of Fernley.

attorney, administrative staff and utility employees. The city also recently hired employees for several planning, utility, maintenance and project-management positions.

The deputy city attorney recruitment is intended to allow time for training before Brandi Jensen’s expected retirement in December, McIntyre said.

The city is also recruiting a public information officer who will serve as the primary contact for media inquiries and help communicate city information to the public.

McIntyre said the city received approximately 30 applications for the public information officer position, including several strong candidates.

He said the new employee will work

with Community Development Program Manager Jessica Murdock to improve how the city informs residents about projects, services and other municipal activity.

The city has not announced a timeline for filling the public information officer or chief development officer positions.

McIntyre said the transition is progressing well but acknowledged that the full effect of the restructuring will not be clear until vacancies are filled and the new executives settle into their roles.

“So far, it’s gone really smoothly,” he said. “I hope that will continue as all these positions are filled and they really see the role that I want them to play.”

Meetings

Fernley City Council

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

Fernley Planning Commission

2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting August 12

Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

2nd Friday of even numbered months at 9:00 a.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting August 14

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 August 6

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 August 11

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 July 28

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 July 28

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees

2nd Thursday of the month
195 E. Main St.
Next meeting August 13

Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District

3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
300 Cottonwood Lane
Next meeting July 21

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal No 7499

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PERSHING COUNTY
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5. Ability to maintain composure under difficult circumstances.
6. Must possess and/or develop a positive working relationship with other County offices, employees, and the public.

Applications and a complete job description are available at the Pershing County District Attorney's Office, Pershing County Courthouse, 400 Main Street, NV, between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, or by calling (775) 273-2613 for more information. Applications are also available on the County's website pershingcountynv.gov and click on the Employment Opportunities link. Position open until filled.

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*Published in the Fernley Reporter
July 10, 17, 21 & 29, 2026
(Lyon)*

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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.

July 6 – July 12, 2026

KARITA KENNEDY – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$640, Charges: Criminal contempt
BENTON BOND – Area: Silver Springs, Bail: \$10,920, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of conditions of parole; Resist public officer; Criminal contempt (Failure to obey court order)
MICKEY LAUGHLIN – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$6,400, Charges: Basic speed 11–20 mph over limit; Drive w/suspended driver’s license; Violation of ignition interlock conditions
JENNIFER MACE – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$3,865, Charges: DUI (2nd); Drive w/canceled driver’s license; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi; Possess/consume marijuana in public/store/vehicle;
SARAH WOOD – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$940, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
NICOLE RANDOLPH – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$10,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail (misdemeanor crime); Criminal contempt
SARAH THOMAS – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$12,000, Charges: Obtain/use personal ID of another to avoid/delay prosecution; Assist other agency–hold
STEPHANIE REEVES – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$4,280, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g (1st or 2nd); Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Drive w/suspended driver’s license
ILENE CHRISTY – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$21,140, Charges: Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Use/possess drug paraphernalia
JERRY COVEAU – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$10,000, Charges: Domestic battery by strangulation
JASON SELESKI – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery (1st)
KIMBERLEY RADAI – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$2,030, Charges: DUI (1st); Reckless driving–disregard person/property safety (1st)
CHARLES RODRIGUEZ – Area: Silver Springs, Bail: \$6,140, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g

(3rd+ offense); Use/possess drug paraphernalia
RYAN SMITH – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$1,630, Charges: Failure to appear after bail (misdemeanor crime); Assist other agency–hold
AMANDA MCINTOSH – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$7,500, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g (1st or 2nd)
ZACKERY STANDEN – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$3,035, Charges: Possess/consume marijuana in public/store/vehicle; DUI (1st); Minor in possession of alcohol; Possess ≤10 oz marijuana
AUSTIN BAKER – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$0, Charges: Court commitment
MARLA MANNING – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$3,755, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence; Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g (1st or 2nd); Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi
ANDREW KUIHA – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$4,135, Charges: Handicap parking placard violation; DUI (2nd); Resist public officer
MICHAEL FARLEY – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$0, Charges: Court commitment
DENNIS MILICH – Area: Silver Springs, Bail: \$6,140, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g (1st or 2nd); (2 counts) Use/possess drug paraphernalia
BARBARA GODOY – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$1,555, Charges: DUI (1st); Fail to yield at stop/yield sign or controlled intersection
ADRIAN FRETTER – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,780, Charges: Drive w/revoked driver’s license; DUI (1st)
JAMES JOHNSON – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,335, Charges: DUI (1st); Basic speed 11–20 mph over limit
BRADY BETHEL – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$23,390, Charges: Window tint violation; DUI (1st); Drive w/revoked driver’s license; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Open alcohol container in vehicle; Own/possess gun by prohibited person

CLAY DIEMERT – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$3,775, Charges: DUI (1st); Fail to maintain lane/improper lane change; Allow child abuse/neglect (endangerment, 1st)
BRANDON SILVA – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$38,640, Charges: Grand larceny of motor vehicle (1st); Possess/receive/transfer stolen vehicle; Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g (1st or 2nd); Use/possess drug paraphernalia
MANDI LANGLEY – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$240, Charges: Assist other agency–hold
DARIEL SOTO – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$1,780, Charges: Drive w/suspended driver’s license; DUI (1st)
BRANT MOVIUS – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$3,640, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g (1st or 2nd); Use/possess drug paraphernalia
JANELLE PIERCE – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$500, Charges: Failure to appear after bail (misdemeanor crime)
JASON DEVINE – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail (felony crime)
KATELYN TAGGE – Area: Silver Springs, Bail: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery (1st)
JASON ESTEP – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$4,140, Charges: Domestic battery (1st)
MICHAEL THURMAN – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery (1st)
KRYSTAL JUDD – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$23,140, Charges: Domestic battery (1st); Child abuse or neglect (1st)
YAHAIRA LOMELI REYNAGA – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$1,555, Charges: DUI (1st); Overtake on left side/left turn in prohibited zone
RODRIGO MORENO CABRERA – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$670, Charges: Assist other agency–hold; Drive w/o driver’s license; Display fictitious registration/plate/title
ZACHARIAH WRIGHT – Area: Silver Springs, Bail: \$640, Charges: Felony arrest–fugitive from other state/warrant; As-

sist other agency–hold
SAMMY PLASCH – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$0, Charges: Felony arrest–fugitive from other state/warrant
JOLINE EYSTER – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$2,225, Charges: DUI (1st); Fail to decrease speed/use due care; Reckless driving–disregard person/property safety (1st)
MACK MIESSNER – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$5,135, Charges: Possession of Schedule I/II controlled substance <14g (1st or 2nd); Nonresident driving privilege suspended/revoked/canceled; Owner–proof of insurance required; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Operate vehicle w/expired registration/plates
MARY HAWES – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$0, Charges: Court commitment
ANDRES BLANCO FUENTES – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$14,960, Charges: Reckless driving (1st); DUI (1st); Driver disobey peace officer; Open alcohol container in vehicle; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Possess/consume marijuana in public/store/vehicle
PATRICK BALL – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: DUI (1st)
CODY PERRIS – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$3,000, Charges: DUI (1st); Fail to change name/address on driver’s license; Operate vehicle w/o Nevada registration; Open alcohol container in vehicle; Operate vehicle w/expired registration/plates; Basic speed 31–35 mph over limit
MARK SANDERS – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: DUI (1st)
CORTNEY BEAR – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$2,750, Charges: DUI (1st); Drive w/suspended driver’s license; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi; Owner–proof of insurance required; Basic speeding 30–40 mph over limit (Enhanced/Work zone)
STEFAN BENALLY – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$890, Charges: Assist other agency–hold
ANGELA TROUSDALE – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,190, Charges: Fail to yield at stop/yield sign or controlled intersection; DUI (1st)

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SPORTS

Fernley Softball Little League Juniors win second consecutive state championship

By Robert Perea

Twice, the Fernley Little League Juniors softball team took the lead in last Sunday’s state championship game, only to see Sparks Centennial come back both times.

The third time was the charm, as Fernley won its second consecutive state championship and will advance to the West Regionals July 23-29 in Tucson, Ariz.

“It was definitely fun,” coach Sarah Parale said. “We lost one, but we were able to come back and beat them in the championship. So that worked out.”

The final was tight from the start. Ella Parale, the first batter of the

game, led off with a home run, and Fernley added another run to take a 2-0 lead in the first inning, only to see Centennial answer with a two-run home run of its own in the second.

“It was back and forth the whole time,” Sarah Parale said. “They were a good team. The girls had to fight, for sure.”

Fernley went ahead again, 3-2, in the fourth inning, but Centennial answered an inning later with three runs. Trailing 5-3, Fernley’s last rally put the team ahead by two, and the dugout erupted, but only briefly because Centennial was the home team.

“They were going crazy, but we were all on edge,” Parale said. “We had three outs to go, and that was when

we were all on the edge of our seats. That inning was crazy for sure.”

Parale said the emotional swings were constant.

“Emotions were high, and we had to ride the roller coaster,” she said. “They did so well doing that. Just kept it strong the whole time.”

Fernley opened the tournament with a 7-4 win over Moapa Valley on July 9. Nevaeh Leija drove in three runs with a double in the sixth inning that put Fernley ahead 7-3. Smythe drove in two runs in the first inning to stake Fernley to an early lead.

In its second game on July 10, Fernley lost 6-0 to Centennial, but the team bounced back on July 11 to beat Moapa Valley again, 9-3, to earn the rematch with Centennial for the championship.

The difference between Friday’s loss and Sunday’s win, Parale said,

came down to belief.

“I don’t know that everybody’s confidence was there in the game we lost,” she said. “But yesterday, everybody’s confidence was there. They kept their composure and kept believing they could win. It was definitely a team effort.”

For the players who were part of last year’s run, Sunday’s win means a return trip to Arizona for the regional tournament. Parale said the excitement started immediately, and so did the logistics. The team now has only a short window to organize travel and raise money to get all 12 players and as many families as possible to Arizona.

“The girls are all super excited,” she said Monday. “This morning has already started with getting down to the details of how we’re going to get everybody there.”



Bella Pope attempts to bunt during the game against Moapa Valley on July 9. Photo by Tony Erquiaga



First baseman Jaelyn Smythe in defensive position during the game against Moapa Valley on July 9. Photo by Tony Erquiaga



From left to right, Fernley softball players Nevaeh Leija, Katiejo Bishop, Jaelyn Smythe and Rayne Wardleigh confer during their game against Moapa Valley on July 9. Photo by Tony Erquiaga



Rayne Wardleigh prepares to throw after fielding a ground ball during the game against Moapa Valley on July 9. Photo by Tony Erquiaga



Catcher Ella Parale puts her mask back on after a play against Moapa Valley on July 9. Photo by Tony Erquiaga

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Fernley Women’s Golf Club Results, July 7th

Game:

Monthly Stroke Play

Red Tees

1st Gross: Patty Liljeberg, 92
2nd Gross: Jana Garner, 97
1st Net: Rita Hanifen, 72
2nd Net: Linda Garrett, 74

Purple Tees

1st Gross: Verl Ely, 92
1st Net: Karen Holcher, 89

Birdies: Verl Ely, #15

Closest to Hole #7: Patty Liljeberg, 7’8”
Low Putts: Verl Ely & Rita Hanifen, 32
Chip-Ins: Meris Lowe, #7; Verl Ely, #15

THE INSIDE VEER

Regaining focus after a vacation reset

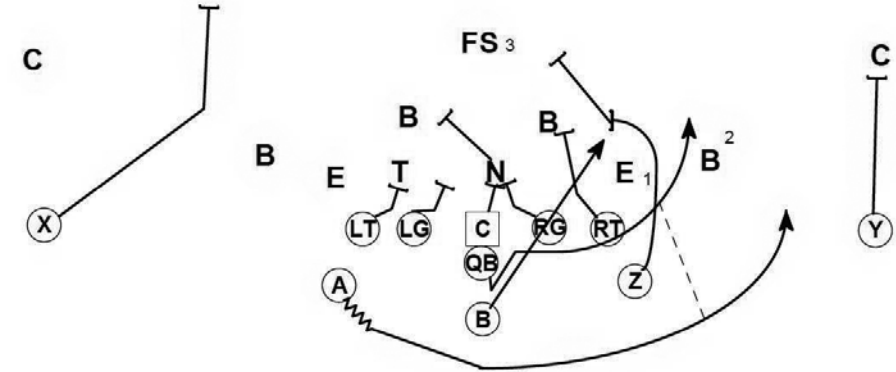
By Robert Perea

We talk often about the anticipation of leaving for vacation, but rarely about the strange, untethered vertigo of returning. You unlock the front door, drop your bags and instantly feel like a ghost in your own life.

As a creature of routine, it always amazed me how quickly I feel disconnected whenever my routine is disrupted. It makes me realize how much of my normal life seems to run on muscle memory and how much more difficult it is to regain it than it is to lose it.

My mind keeps drifting back to a basketball game in Winnemucca a couple of years ago. It was one of those classic, high-stakes matchups between the Fernley and Lowry girls. Fernley boys coach Cade Knutson joined Big Mike and me at the top row of the bleachers for a haltime radio interview during the girls game. When the buzzer sounded for the second half, the stands were so packed that Cade was literally trapped and had to wait until a timeout to just to find a path to the floor.

While he was stranded up there with us, a technical foul was called against



Lowry and a Fernley player who was a very good free throw shooter stepped up to the line.

Shooting technical free throws is a psychological anomaly in basketball. It is usually the only time a player is completely alone on the floor, in a game where everything revolves around navigating physical bodies.

On the air, I commented that for many players, shooting technical foul shots is much more difficult than normal free throws, because it’s so far out of the natural flow of the game. Cade disagreed, arguing that he loved the feeling of going to the free throw line by

himself on the road and shutting up the crowd by hitting two shots.

But sure enough, the shooter missed both shots.

Because a technical foul also means the shooting team gets possession, Fernley got the ball back and the same player was fouled on the next play. This time, with players lining the lane for the free throws, she sank both shots.

That’s a pretty long-winded way of describing how getting out of routine can affect concentration, confidence, and performance.

I’m dealing with some sense of that after coming back from vacation last

week, coupled with the fact that I’m not stepping back into the same routine, but working to create a new one.

The good thing is, the vacation served as a mental reset, not just an escape. I took my brother on a fishing charter, and the catching was actually as good as the fishing. Between us, we caught 10 trout and three bass, watched a bald eagle cut through the sky and spotted a doe and two fawns tracking us from the shore while our guide spun tales about the lake and the history of the area.

It was a great disconnection from the daily grind, and it happened just in time.

Believe it or not, we’re only two weeks away from the beginning of official practices for fall high school sports, and games begin only two weeks after that. I thought I was ready for all of that before. Now I know I am.

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.

REGIONAL NEWS

Senior Sense with Sonia Hedrick

What? Pneumonia?

By Sonia Hedrick

It started on a Sunday night with a sharp, gouging pain just under my left armpit. I shook my head in disgust. How did I pull a muscle under my left armpit? I am such a klutz!

The next morning, I leaped out of bed, pain forgotten. Showered, dressed and morning chores complete, I was ready for a great day at work. But two hours in, I was seized by bone-crushing exhaustion.

“Ridiculous.” I slept well. Fueled by stubbornness and an old-school work ethic, I downed a cup of black coffee, sucked up a 5-hour Energy drink and slogged through the day.

Actually, I slogged through the week. Lunch hour became a longed-for oasis. I slept. After work, I dropped into bed like a sack of overcooked potatoes. But ever optimistic, I just knew revitalization was right around the corner. But none came.

My co-workers were apparently watching my decline with some dismay. The Lord blessed me with en-

thusiasm for just about everything, but at that time my enthusiasm was limited to naps. Usually, I am happily buzzing about the place. Rarely do I sit. But now, chairs beckoned me. Gingerly, I would take a seat in each one I passed and hope no one would catch me nodding off. But they did.

My boss’s concern scared me into visiting urgent care. The tests for COVID-19 and flu, along with the EKG, showed a perfectly healthy woman. But the lung X-ray? It seemed that the pesky pain under my armpit was caused by my left lung filling with infection.

You could have dropped me with a feather when I was told I had pneumonia! I had none of the symptoms one associates with a lung condition. No cold, no cough, no real shortness of breath. If I had a fever, I didn’t recognize it. I was only starting to get a tad winded by the time I got to urgent care.

Treated with a heavy round of antibiotics, I quickly rallied. But not everyone does.

As a practitioner of the “know your enemy” philosophy, I immediately started researching pneumonia. Here’s what I learned: In general, pneumonia is a leading cause of death from infectious disease for people over 60. Atypical pneumonia, the kind I seem to have had, is often less severe than other types but can lead to serious complications, particularly among immunocompromised seniors.

It may present an array of oddball symptoms that look nothing like what one might expect from pneumonia. A sufferer may or may not experience headaches, muscle aches, joint stiffness, loss of appetite and my favorite possible symptom, confusion. Go ahead. Add insult to injury.

Many folks over 60 are of hearty stock. We have spent lifetimes muscling through “inconveniences” like perceived minor health concerns. While the increasing vulnerabilities presented by getting older are annoying, avoiding peril is possible.

Maybe we can’t stop Father Time, but we can combat the old coot’s disturbing assaults by exercising humility when confronted by some new limitation. If it feels wrong, face it: It’s wrong.

By acknowledging suspicious symptoms, we could be sparing ourselves and, just as importantly, our loved ones, an avoidable calamity. If I’ve learned nothing else from atypical pneumonia, there’s no shame in yelling uncle and visiting a health care professional when things feel off.

Sonia Hedrick and her husband Jerry arrived in Nevada just over a year ago. A South Florida native, Sonia is captivated by the landscape, climate, history and overall “vibe” of Lyon County and specifically, Fernley. Sonia truly enjoys meeting people and has found some of the most interesting people she has ever met right here in our area. She looks forward to introducing readers to their neighbors in her upcoming contributions to the Fernley Reporter.

Continued from PAGE 6 - HOUSING...

Following the market report, Fernley Builders Association Vice President Derek Kirkland outlined several priorities being followed by the association’s Government Affairs Committee.

Kirkland said the association is working toward a formal partnership with the Builders Association of Northern Nevada. The groups are discussing a memorandum of understanding that would define how they could work together and what each organization would receive from the partnership.

He said the larger association could give Fernley builders more influence at the state level and provide experience addressing development problems already encountered in Reno and Sparks.

Kirkland identified sewer, water, transportation and electrical capacity as the most pressing barriers facing new development in Fernley.

“Almost every project I know that I’ve worked on has had some sort of infrastructure issue,” he said.

Those problems can require multimillion-dollar improvements, delay projects and ultimately contribute to higher housing costs, Kirkland said. The city does not have enough money to independently correct every deficiency, making cooperation among government agencies, developers and builders necessary.

The association plans to become more involved in the city’s infrastructure planning, participate in public meetings and support grant applications and lobbying efforts for priority projects.

Kirkland said the immediate need is for builders and developers to review new plans, submit comments and take part in public hearings.

He also said the association is watching whether limited fire district resources could begin delaying or preventing development approvals.

Kirkland described similar problems in the Reno area, where projects were sometimes burdened with expensive conditions intended to address fire-service concerns. He said such conditions can slow development and add costs, particularly when requirements are not practical or legally enforceable.

The association also plans to follow upcoming elections, potentially interview candidates and work with the Fernley Chamber of Commerce on candidate events.

Members were encouraged to submit questions and issues they want the Government Affairs Committee to raise with candidates.

Building Official Charity Birkel reported that the city received 51 building applications in June and issued 45 permits, collecting about \$49,000 in permit fees.

The department completed 628 inspections, including six business-license inspections, and had no disas-

ter-assessment callouts during the month.

Birkel said code enforcement has become an increasingly large part of the department’s workload.

The city received 132 complaints in June and had logged 618 cases since the beginning of January. In previous years, she said, the city received about 660 complaints over an entire 12-month period.

A revised version is expected to return for further public discussion.

Mayor Neal McIntyre briefly updated builders on recent changes at City Hall.

He said Barry Williams has been named chief operating officer and will oversee city operations. The city is continuing its search for a chief development officer who would oversee planning, building and engineering functions.

McIntyre said dividing responsibility between senior officials could provide more focused oversight than relying on one city manager to supervise all city departments.

He also noted that Ward 3 remains without representation while litigation involving the vacant council seat continues.

Kirkland said the builders association expects to become more active in city planning and infrastructure discussions over the next six months to a year. “We’re at a critical time,” he said. “This group is going to become more and more involved and play a much bigger role in some of these issues.”

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PETS OF THE WEEK

MORE KITTENS!

Meet Tormund (m), Arya (f), Brienne (f) and Theon (m). These kittens are about 10 weeks young. These playful, loving little fur babies are seeking their forever homes. All kittens are fixed, vaccinated and microchipped before adoption. If you would like to meet these kittens please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will get back to you asap!

775-575-0950

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PET OF THE WEEK



Oswald is one of the longest shelter residents!

Oswald has been at the shelter since June 4, 2025, making him one of our longest Fernley residents. On his one-year anniversary post, he received over 60,000 views, yet he is still waiting. This handsome Pit Bull mix is patiently waiting for his chance to shine. He gets along well with female dog friends at the shelter and would love nothing more than a family to finally call his own.

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

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- The Golf Club at Fernley
- Fernley City Hall Clerk's Office
- State Farm – Dan Glass Agency
- REMAX at the Golf Course
- The Parlor Barbershop
- Boys & Girls Club