

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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\$1.00 | The Week of March 6, 2026

Mayor reveals hospital talks in State of the City address

By Robert Perea

Mayor Neal McIntyre used his State of the City address to highlight a year of major public service improvements, long term planning and private sector momentum, while outlining a slate of projects that will shape Fernley's growth through 2026 and beyond.

But the biggest surprise of the night came when he announced that Renown Health is actively exploring plans to build a hospital in Fernley.

McIntyre said he and Acting City Manager Lydia Altick recently met with Renown's CEO and president, who expressed strong interest in establishing a facility in the city. He said a follow-up meeting was scheduled this week to review potential sites along Interstate 80 and U.S. 50.

"Ever since I became mayor, I've been hit with 'Fernley needs a hospital,'" McIntyre said. "So I'm very excited about that and I'll keep everybody informed as far as where we are after our meeting next week."

McIntyre opened his address by pointing to one of the city's most visible accomplishments: the completion of the Community Response and Resource Building, now home to the Boys & Girls Club. The Boys & Girls Club has also secured private funding for its Early



Mayor Neal McIntyre delivered his State of the City address Feb. 26 at the Community Response and Resource Center. Photo by Robert Perea

Learning Center at no cost to taxpayers and expects to open in fall 2026.

"What a great service this will provide for our families," McIntyre said.

The mayor also emphasized the city's progress on the Fernley Lands Conveyance. In June, the Bureau of Land Management transferred eight parcels totaling 2,167 acres to the city, opening opportunities for recreation, public facilities and economic development. Phase 2, expected by 2027,

would add another 7,581 acres across the north, southwest and south area plans.

McIntyre encouraged residents to stay involved through local nonprofits, community cleanups, planting days and public meetings.

"Together, we can make our city a better place for everyone," he said.

City Departments

The mayor began his departmental updates with the City Clerk's Office,

which processed 304 new business licenses in 2025, nearly 30 more than the previous year, and handled 790 passport applications. The office generated more than \$3 million in General Fund revenue and navigated several legislative changes affecting elections and the Open Meeting Law.

The Building and Code Enforcement Departments saw a demanding year, logging 560 complaints and issuing 693 building permits, including 132 single family homes. Staff completed 8,574 building inspections and collected more than \$1 million in permit fees. Building Official Charity Birkel earned multiple ICC certifications, and the department digitized more than 3,000 files to make them more accessible to the public.

Animal Control expanded its services with monthly microchip clinics, and 73 animals were microchipped in four months. The pet food pantry has assisted more than 50 pets and distributed more than 650 pounds of dry food. The department responded to a record 561 calls for service and impounded 318 animals, including 54 cats despite having no place at the shelter to house them.

"This reinforces the clear need for

Continued on Page 7 - CITY ADDRESS...

Sheriff to request 6 new deputies in 2026-27 budget

By Robert Perea

Lyon County Sheriff Brad Pope has asked for six new deputy positions in the county's 2026-27 fiscal year budget to get ahead of expected population growth.

In his social media message of the week on Feb. 27, Pope cited U.S. Census Bureau estimates showing Lyon County's population increased from about 59,235 in 2020 to roughly 63,718 by mid-2024, representing about a 7.6% total increase over that period. Pope said some estimates put Lyon County's current population at more than 68,000.

"The Lyon County Sheriff's Office has been very tactical in allocating resources to ensure law enforcement can manage current population growth," Pope said. "Statistically, we've never operated better."

Pope said strategic planning, expanding partnerships in the region and intelligence-led policing have ensured that the Sheriff's Office is



In 2025, LCSO honored years of service milestones. 20 Years: Sheriff Brad Pope, Commander Jeff Miller, 15 Years: Sergeant Shaun Lee, Sergeant Peter Whitten. 5 Years: Deputy Brian Kharrl, Deputy Marc Lenihan, Deputy Cori Norman, Deputy Nicholas Walker, and Sergeant Brienne True. Photo Courtesy of LCSO.

well-positioned to protect the quality of life in Lyon County.

Pope said the new positions he is requesting will fill critical needs and gaps in the placement of Sheriff's Office personnel.

"The addition of six deputies would have positive effects in every city or town within Lyon County," he said.

Pope said population figures show growth in each part of the county, par-

ticularly in Fernley and Dayton, which he said are both growing at about 3% per year.

As of 2026, he said, Fernley's estimated population is 25,508, up about 10.78% since the 2020 Census, with an approximate 2.95% annual growth rate. Fernley accounts for nearly 40% of Lyon County's total population.

He said that growth in Fernley is tied to industrial and logistics develop-

ment, including the Victory Logistics District, which is adding significant commercial space and jobs.

Pope said the estimated population in Dayton is about 17,467, with an annual growth rate of 3.14%.

"While Dayton is smaller than Fernley, its growth rate is comparable and shows ongoing residential expansion – influenced by its positioning along Highway 50 and commuter access to nearby employment markets," Pope said.

Pope also cited figures showing Silver Springs has a population of 5,575 with an annual growth rate of 0.31%, while Yerington's population is about 3,247, growing at roughly 0.7 percent per year. The city of Yerington's population is only about a third of the total population in Mason Valley.

"Whether fast or slow, the County is growing, and the Sheriff's Office is finding, and will continue to find ways to adapt to whatever challenges await us in the future," Pope said.

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the Fernley reporter

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the Fernley reporter

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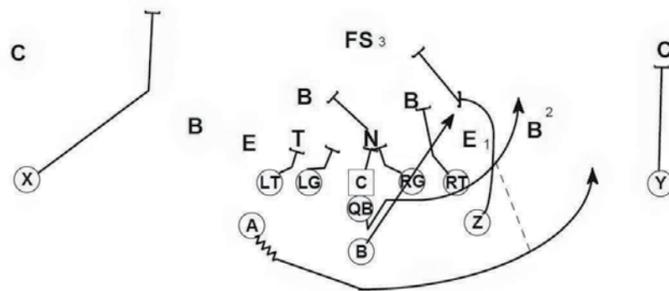
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



A city that never lacks for news

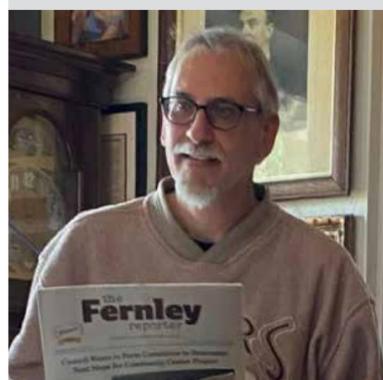
When I first started the Fernley Reporter online in 2016, someone asked me, "What is there to cover in Fernley?" It was asked honestly, not sarcastically, the kind of question people ask when they think news only happens in big cities, or because they don't know how much life fits inside a small one.

When Mayor Neal McIntyre took to the podium last Thursday for his third State of the City address, he went through a laundry list of things the city has done in the past year, and more that he believes will be coming up this year, including a surprise announcement that there might be a hospital coming to Fernley in the near future.

But that was only part of it. He focused on the positives, as well he should on a night like that, and to be fair, there were plenty to choose from.

But as most people who pay attention to the city know, the city right now is like a duck on a pond. Steady on the surface, legs kicking like crazy underneath.

The past year also brought conflict among the City Council members, including censure of one, and this week's meeting contained agenda items to discuss external investigations in-to the conduct of



ROBERT PEREA

two council members. There's also the matter of whether the city can find a city manager, or whether it will change its structure and proceed without one.

And that's all just part of what's happening at City Hall.

Elsewhere, the Nevada Pacific Parkway is either finally coming together or taking way too long, depending on your perspective, and the city is growing either way to fast, not fast enough, or in the wrong places with the wrong amenities,

There's no shortage of opinions on either side, and no shortage of things to have opinions about.

What is there to cover in

Fernley? I haven't even begun to list the half of what's going on. There are service clubs helping people in need, high school sports teams playing their hearts out, and starting this week, people running for election.

The truth is, Fernley has never lacked for news. And in 2026, there's more to notice than ever. That's the real state of the city.

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.



CODE ENFORCEMENT TUNE-UP!

Join the discussion!

Every Fernley resident has a stake in the City's appearance. Your Voice Matters!

Please join us on:
March 13th, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
March 14th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: City Hall Council Chambers @
595 Silverlace Blvd.

Code Enforcement exists to protect public health, safety, and quality of life by reducing environmental hazards and maintaining property standards. The city is updating the nuisance ordinance to help preserve property values and prevent neighborhood deterioration. We would love to hear input and have open conversations about the nuisance ordinance the city may adopt. To view the new Ordinances, please go to: <https://www.cityoffernley.org/DocumentCenter/View/30296/Clean---New-title-16--Fernley>

Questions: codeenforcement@cityoffernley.org (775) 784-9900

Discussion Topics:

- Code Update
- Code sections
- Definitions
- How will the change affect you?
- Your rights as a resident.
- Q&A with code enforcement staff.
- Learn what code enforcement is and what it isn't.

Key Components of Code Enforcement

- Public Safety & Health
- Neighborhood Preservation
- Fairness & Consistency
- Voluntary Compliance
- Service & Partnership

FEATURES

Fernley youth cheer teams honored for championship performances

By Robert Perea

The Fernley Pop Warner Football/Cheer League honored its Glow Squad for competing in the Pop Warner Cheer and Dance Nationals last December in Charlotte, NC and Sparkle Squad for winning its divi-

sion at the Jamz Cheer and Dance Youth Nationals on Jan. 23.

The teams were presented with championship rings at the league's Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 19 at the Fernley Senior Center.

The Fernley Glow Squad, led by coach Briana Biagi, was the first



The Fernley Youth Football/Cheer League presented championship rings on Feb. 19 to its Fernley Glow Squad, a team of 8-9 year olds that placed 10th in its division at the Pop Warner Cheer and Dance Nationals last December in Charlotte, NC. Photo by Robert Perea

The Fernley Youth Football/Cheer League Sparkle Squad took first place in their division at the Jamz Cheer and Dance Youth Nationals on Jan. 23. They received powder blue jackets for placing first and were presented with championship rings at the league's board meeting on Feb. 19. Photo by Robert Perea

Fernley team to go to Pop Warner Nationals and placed 10th in its division. Other Fernley teams had qualified for that competition in the past, but this was the first time the league was able to send its team.

The Fernley Sparkle Squad coached by Amber Wagner won

1st place in its division at the Jamz Cheer and Dance Youth Nationals on Jan. 23

Fernley also had several other squads perform and place.

The season for the teams begins in August and runs through the end of January or early February.

Fernley Women's Golf Club Results, Feb. 24

Game: S & T's

1st: Patty Liljeberg, 33

2nd (Card-Off): Susan Marinucci, 35

3rd: Val Montgomery, 35

Birdie: Loretta Bradley, #4

Chip-In: Patty Liljeberg, #13

Closest to Hole #7: Linda Garrett, 32'3"

Closest to Hole #16: Patty Liljeberg, 41'3"

Low Putts: Rita Hanifen, 33

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Krueger announces campaign for Lyon County District Attorney

Staff Report

Mark Krueger, former Chief Deputy District Attorney for Lyon County, has announced his candidacy for Lyon County District Attorney.

Krueger has practiced law in Northern Nevada for more than 25 years, including six years with the Lyon County District Attorney's Office as Chief Deputy District Attorney. During his tenure, he prosecuted a wide range of criminal cases, from serious drug offenses to homicide, as well as crimes against children and vulner-

able adults.

Over the course of his career, Krueger has tried more than 40 criminal jury trials. In one case, he secured a sentence of 375 years to life – the longest sentence in Lyon County history. He was also the first prosecutor in Nevada to obtain a conviction under the state law that makes it murder to supply drugs that result in a fatal overdose.

Krueger also has extensive civil law experience. He has advised the Lyon County Commission and other county officials on a wide range of legal

matters. He is currently Chief Deputy Attorney General in the Nevada Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Consumer Protection.

"I am running for Lyon County District Attorney because this office demands steady leadership, sound judgment, and real courtroom experience," Krueger said. "My priority will always be public safety – protecting victims, holding criminals accountable, and ensuring the District Attorney's Office operates with professionalism and integrity."



Mark Krueger, former Chief Deputy District Attorney for Lyon County



Free workshop scheduled to help seniors avoid falls

Staff Report

Lyon County Senior Services and the University of Nevada, Reno Sanford Center for Aging will be hosting a free workshop to help seniors avoid falls and help make their homes safer.

Healthy Steps for Older Adults (HSOA) is a free, small group workshop proven to reduce falls. The workshop also provides steps to make homes safer, manage medicines and learn how to improve strength, balance and overall fitness, along with

providing other resources to help prevent falls.

The workshop is scheduled from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursday, March 26 at the Silver Springs Senior Center. There will be a break from 1:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Workshops are facilitated by trained leaders and provide a safe and positive learning experience. Free snacks and light breakfast included.

To register, call (775) 784-4772, Option 2, or visit <https://bit.ly/SanfordSpring26Lyon>.



Photo courtesy of Lyon County Senior Services and University of Nevada

Fernley Community Events

MAR. 5

TRIVIA (21+)
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 7

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

CRAB FEED - \$80
Hosted By FHS Vaqueros
Booster Club
Opens at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Fernley Senior Center
105 Lois Lane
775-575-3370 ext.1

CREATE A DOOR HANGER - \$39
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Southern Charm & Let's Be Artful
25 East Main Street Suite # 5
775-302-1488

MAR. 7 (continued)

LIVE MUSIC (21+) - Great Highway
8:00 p.m. - midnight
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.
775-575-7529

MAR. 10

TRIVIA
Frontier Fun Center
7:00 P.M.
480 W. Main St.
775-575-7529

MAR. 11

FAMILY GAME NIGHT
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

MAR. 12

TRIVIA (21+)
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Mchoppers Brew Co.
396 Us Highway 95a North

MAR. 14

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

YOUTH CODING CLUB
(ages 8 - 12) bi-weekly
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

St. Ptruck's BINGO
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

MAR. 19

TRIVIA (21+)
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 20

FAMILY CRAFT
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

OPEN MIC NIGHT (21+)
6:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

MAR. 21

Video Game Club
1:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

MAR. 26

HEALTHY STEPS FOR OLDER ADULTS (HSOA) FREE WORKSHOP
9:30-3:00 P.M.
(Break 11:30-12:30)
Silver springs senior center
2945 Churchill road
(775) 784-4774



FERNLEY SENIOR CENTER MENU

105 LOIS LANE, FERNLEY, NEVADA | 775-575-3370

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

Monday, Mar. 9

South West BBQ
Chicken Burger
Whole Wheat Bun
Baked Beans
Carrots
Pineapple

Tuesday, Mar. 10

Zuppa Toscana Soup
Garlic Bread
Green Salad
Italian Dressing
Peaches
100% Juice

Wednesday, Mar. 11

Chicken w/Sherry
Mushroom Sauce
Whole Wheat Roll
White Bean & Veggie Salad
Banana
100% Juice

Thursday, Mar. 12

Lemon Baked Fish II
Cracked Wheat Bread
Brown Rice
Peas
Tossed Salad
Creamy Italian Dressing
Grapes

Friday, Mar. 13

Birthday Lunch
Veggie Stuffed Portobello
Mushrooms (Panko, Mozzarella,
Green Onions, Tomatoes, Spinach,
Bell Peppers)
Rice Pilaf, Whole Wheat Roll
Four Bean Salad, 100% Juice
Triple Chocolate Cake

EDUCATION

Council approves funding for water education partnership for local schools

Kerry Lyman

Fernley students will get a chance to learn how their city's water system works and explore careers tied to it under a partnership approved by the City Council on Feb. 18.

The Council approved funding for two Poseidon Education programs, aimed at fifth graders at Fernley Intermediate School, and 9th and 10th graders at Fernley High School, following a presentation by Poseidon Education Chief Executive Officer Patti Diaz-Zachary.

The programs have an internship component that "will allow students to add this program to their resumes and college applications. We also guide them into the workforce without having to go to a four-year college," Diaz-Zachary said.

"I do believe this is a really good program to get our kids really think-

ing about where our water comes from" and what a precious resource it is, said Mayor Neal McIntyre.

The Water Resource Leadership Program for fifth grade students will explore city water operations from source to treatment, distribution and use, using Fernley Intermediate School as the study site. Students will study the school's wastewater, storm-water, reclaimed water and irrigation components, Diaz-Zachary said.

In addition, students will perform taste tests of tap, bottled and filtered water "so they will understand they don't have to buy plastic water bottles," she said.

The goal for the fifth graders will be for them to develop a Water Resource Management Plan for their school and share the plan with the school and the city, Diaz-Zachary said.

The Water Works: Dig In Program for 9th and 10th grade high school stu-

dents will study planned upgrades to Fernley's East Wastewater Treatment Plant, examining how the city safely treats and discharges effluent into the Fernley Wildlife Management Area, she said.

Students will examine blueprint plans, go on a field trip to examine the city wastewater treatment plant and meet with professionals in the field such as the project manager, the construction manager and an equipment operator. The high school students will also present their findings to the fifth graders, she said.

The high school program "really gets into the nuts and bolts of career paths in the water industry," Diaz-Zachary said. The program provides "an opportunity to enter our young people into the workforce of construction, public works and wastewater treatment," according to Barry Williams, the city's public

works director.

They will learn what it takes to get a project from concept to completion, which could take three to four years of planning and two to three years of construction, Williams said.

The council approved \$33,500 for the two programs, to be funded from the city's Water Enterprise Fund.

Diaz-Zachary said the programs can begin in the schools this March and the teachers trained in the programs will be able to teach the curriculum in perpetuity.

Poseidon Education has been delivering school-based water education programs for 10 years in three states, with more than 100 completed programs teaching 3,500 students in California, Nevada and Hawaii. In Nevada, it has worked in Washoe, Lyon, Clark, Elko and Carson City Counties, Diaz-Zachary said.

LCSD reports strong Jump Start results as Trustees ask to promote program to younger students

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County School District reported strong academic results from the district's Jump Start and dual credit programs Tuesday night, and trustees said the next challenge is making sure families understand the pathway early enough for more students to take advantage of it.

Executive Director of Education Services Jim Giannotti told the Board of Trustees that 351 students were enrolled in college courses during the fall 2024 semester, including 104 in the Western Nevada College Jump Start program. Ninety three percent of those students earned passing grades

of A, B or C, and the district expects 49 students to graduate this spring with an associate degree.

"I can proudly say that Lyon County School District students continue to show their abilities to enroll and successfully complete college coursework while enrolled in our high schools," Giannotti said.

Trustees praised the results but said many families don't learn soon enough what it takes to qualify for the program. Trustee Darin Farr noted that the academic track often begins as early as seventh grade, when students must complete advanced math to stay on pace for algebra in eighth grade.

"I don't know if enough of the pub-

lic, or parents in this case, are aware that this starts back around seventh grade," he said.

Farr noted that the district is started to promote its Career and Technical Education opportunities to middle schoolers, but said the district needs to do a better job of promoting the Jump Start and other dual credit opportunities.

Giannotti agreed that the district could strengthen coordination between middle and high schools and explore sending information home to sixth grade families outlining the decisions that shape future eligibility.

"Those efforts are largely done at the site level but we can certainly make a more concerted effort to get the word out," Giannotti said.

Trustees also discussed using

current Jump Start students as ambassadors during middle school career fairs, similar to how high school CTE students help promote their programs.

Trustee Sherry Parsons noted that students have to have high enough test scores to qualify for the programs. Giannotti said if more parents were aware, they might put more emphasis on their students to perform better to qualify for those advanced courses.

"The opportunity is there for any student who truly wants to do it," Giannotti said. "The key is getting the word out to parents and students at an earlier age."

After discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the report on the fall 2025 Jump Start and dual enrollment results.

School Board approves State of the District report

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously at its Feb. 24 meeting to approve the 2026 State of the District report, clearing the way for the document to go to print and be distributed throughout the community.

Communications and Public Relations Officer Skyler Tremaine presented the report to the board, describing it as a snapshot of districtwide progress and key achievements over the past year. The report highlights several milestones, including a districtwide Special Olympics bowling event that brought together 93 students from schools across LCSD for an inclusive celebration at the Fernley Fun Center.

The district also recorded its highest number of Jump Start graduates, with 53 students earning associate degrees through Western Nevada College, a record Tremaine said reflects growing academic opportunity across LCSD.

Other features of the report include the launch of the LCSD Recognition Coin Award, created to honor exceptional staff, students and community members, and a summary of student athlete and academic team honors from the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association.

Tremaine also pointed trustees to a new community partnership page added to the back of the report. The page includes a QR code that allows businesses and organizations to sign up as district partners, giving them access to career fair information and helping connect students with local and regional career pathways.

Trustees praised the report's clarity and design. Trustee Dawn Carson said she was impressed with the work, while Trustee Darin Farr called the document "exemplary" and said it struck the right balance by focusing on meaningful highlights rather than overwhelming detail.

"I like that it's a list of highlights and not burying people in the minutiae of stuff that they really don't want to care or read about," he said.

Trustee Sherry Parsons commended the presentation but noted she missed the school by school test score breakdowns included in past reports, saying those comparisons helped families evaluate school performance.

"You do know which teachers are really doing the best when you look at them like that, because if they've got the highest test scores, you know they're doing the best," she said.

Tremaine said the report would be sent to print immediately following board approval.



LYON COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE

CALL TO CONVENTION

THE LYON COUNTY REPUBLICAN CONVENTION WILL BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M. ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026, AT THE SILVER STAGE HIGH SCHOOL IN SILVER SPRINGS. YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN TO ATTEND.

THE COST TO ATTEND IS \$25.00 WHICH CAN BE PAID AT THE DOOR. THE FUNDS HELP TO COVER THE COST TO PROVIDE A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES. PLEASE RSVP TO THE LYON COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE (LCRCC) CHAIR LORRIE NELSON AT: ln@fastmail.com. PLEASE, WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY PATRIOTS TO EXPECT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE LCRCC WEBSITE AT: <https://lyoncountygop.org/> AND FACEBOOK PAGE AT: www.facebook.com/LyonCountyRepublicansofNevada.

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LORRIE NELSON, CHAIR 775-544-6623 EMAIL: ln@fastmail.com

GUEST SPEAKER

TONY GRADY

Tony Grady is a retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, military test pilot, and businessman who has been active in Nevada politics. Tony served in the U.S. Air Force from 1977 to 1997. He is an experienced test pilot with over 5,000 flying hours in 40 different aircraft. He commanded the B-2 Stealth Bomber test squadron, where he managed complex problem-solving and budgeting for the stealth program.

Tony graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1977 with a B.S. in Astronautical Engineering. He also holds graduate degrees from the University of Southern California and Air University.

After retiring from the Air Force, Tony flew for FedEx for 20 years, retiring as an MD-11 Captain. He founded Synerbolics, a startup biotechnology firm focused on emerging technologies. Tony also served as the Director of Flight Operations for the National Championship Air Races in Reno, Nevada.

Tony identifies as a "constitutional conservative." His key campaign issues have included school choice, local control of education curriculum, and addressing inflation and crime.

We'd love to hear from you.

robert@fernleyreporter.com

Have a story?

COMMUNITY

New Rotary Club of NW Nevada grows quickly with service projects and trade focus

By Robert Perea

Less than four months after receiving its charter, the Rotary Club of NW Nevada has already carved out a distinct role in the community, launching service projects, supporting local students and building partnerships across Fernley and the region.

The club, chartered Nov. 10, 2025, is a satellite of the E Club of District 5190 and meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Ranch House inside the Silverado casino.

Founder and chair Suzanne Prouty, who had been the membership chair for the Rotary Club of Fernley, said she formed the club to reach people she felt weren't being served by the traditional Rotary Club, but she emphasized the new group isn't meant to compete with the long standing club.

"When I was membership chair, we didn't have the trades or construction or manufacturing people, and I really wanted to have a club that had those people in it," she said. "In a town the size of Fernley, it's easy to have two Rotary clubs."

Prouty initially approached the Fernley Rotary Club about sponsoring the new group, but concerns about overlap led her to the E Club, which began as a satellite club. She said Rotary International President Mário César Martins de Camargo's message at last year's district conference in Fallon, that satellite clubs don't hurt existing clubs and they bring in new members, helped solidify her decision.

The club has a dozen or so members so far but has moved quickly despite its size.

One of the club's first initiatives came from North Lyon Fire Chief Brian Bunn, who suggested delivering firewood from controlled cuts to families who need heat. The club coordinated with Tyrie Merrill, owner of Low Stump LLC, a tree service company.

"We've already delivered two loads of wood," Prouty said. "For such a small group, that's pretty remarkable."

Another early project focused on the Fernley High School swimming team, which did not have team brand-



Tyrie Merrill unloads wood from the back of his truck along with Teresa Gillit and Suzanne Prouty as part of the Rotary Club of NW Nevada's project to provide firewood to seniors. Photo courtesy of Suzanne Prouty

ed suits. The club came up with more than \$2,000 to provide each swimmer with a new swimsuit.

The club is also planning \$500 trade school scholarships for students entering construction, manufacturing and other local industries, complementing the Fernley Rotary Club's college focused scholarships.

"We want to support kids going into the industries we have right here," Prouty said.

The club is also exploring ways to support homeless students. Prouty said in Fernley, homeless students are usually "couch surfing" rather than living on the street. After discussions with school counselors, social service agencies and community volunteers, the club is considering purchasing activity cards so those students can attend school events.

"Then they can go to school events and school games and be warm and be with other kids," Prouty said.

Prouty emphasized that the new club is not trying to compete with or duplicate the long standing Fernley Rotary Club's work. She also serves as Area Governor for Area 10, overseeing both Fernley clubs as well as Fallon, Yerington, Smith Valley, Tonopah and the district's E Club.

"I'm their Area Governor, so I

want them to succeed," she said.

"We're going to have a little different focus in our group than they're going to have. And they do amazing food programs, the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter dinners, the weekend backpack food project," she said. "We're trying to do for kids and seniors in a different way than they're doing it, so we get a lot more covered."

Prouty said she and Rotary Club of Fernley President Sarah Braswell have had discussions about collaborating, and the two clubs are already planning joint service days, including a cemetery cleanup on April 18.

"If we go together as both clubs, then I think people will be less worried about having two clubs," Prouty said. "Because we're all Rotarians and I think that's the main emphasis. We're going to have a little different focus in our group."

The new club's first fundraiser is scheduled for March 14, an axe throwing session at McHoppers Brew Co. Prouty said the pace of progress has surprised even her.

"To get that all together is pretty unusual with this tiny little group of people," she said. "We're like the little engine that could. We just chug along and we're getting stuff done."

Meetings

Fernley City Council
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting March 18

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting March 11

Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
2nd Friday of even numbered months at 9:00 a.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting April 10

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 March 19

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 March 10

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 March 24

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 March 24

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees
2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month
195 E. Main St.
Next meeting March 19

Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District
3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
300 Cottonwood Lane
Next meeting March 21

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GOVERNMENT

Mendoza requests Commission consider establishing public safety working committee

By Robert Perea

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Battalion Chief Joe Mendoza has requested the Lyon County Commission consider forming a public safety working committee to coordinate regional fire service planning and other public safety issues.

During the Feb. 19 meeting of the County Commission, Mendoza requested an agenda item for a future Commission meeting to establish a committee comprised of representatives from all four fire districts in the county, the Lyon County Sheriff's office, and Lyon County leadership. He said he was also sending a written

request to County Manager Andrew Haskin.

Mendoza who is also the President of North Lyon Firefighters Local 4547 and the Fernley City Councilman for Ward 5, said he was making the request after going through Chapter 7 of the 2020 Lyon County Master Plan that was amended June 2, 2022.

"Policy FS 2.1 clearly states that ensuring the safety of citizens is an essential and high-priority function of Lyon County," Mendoza said.

Mendoza also cited the strategies listed in the Master Plan to promote adoption of minimum levels of service standards for law enforcement and fire services; develop evaluation

criteria and cost of service thresholds for development review; require land dedication or a fee in lieu of dedication to pay for the increased demand for public safety services to maintain adopted response time standards; recognize and support the important role of independent fire departments in ensuring the safety of citizens.

"In order to effectively implement and remain consistent with these strategies, a standing committee is necessary to coordinate regional fire service planning and service level standards, align development impact, evaluations with public safety capacity, establish sustainable funding mechanisms tied to growth, ensure

long term operational readiness and resource planning," Mendoza said.

He added that the continued growth within Lyon County requires structured collaboration between county and all fire districts to ensure public safety providers remain adequately staffed, equipped, prepared, to respond effectively to threats to individuals and the community at large.

"A permanent working committee will polarize cooperation, increase transparency, and ensure the county remains in full alignment with its adopted master plan commitments," Mendoza said.

Continued from FRONT - CITY ADDRESS...

an animal shelter in Fernley capable of housing both dogs and cats," McIntyre said.

Utilities and Public Works

Fernley's Utilities Department collected 423 drinking water samples with no positive coliform results and produced an average of 3.9 million gallons of potable water per day. Treatment performance remained well within regulatory limits. Major public works projects included Treated Water Reservoir No. 2, new gate valves along Fremont Street and the Shadow Lane reconstruction project. The department reported no major mechanical failures and zero employee injuries.

McIntyre said Public Works continued providing essential services across parks, facilities, fleet, streets, storm drains and cemetery operations. Staff supported community events, maintained 10 public parks and roughly 500 acres of city property, and assembled the city's 26 foot Christmas tree for the annual lighting ceremony. Vector Control treated 798 drainage inlets, fogged 132 square miles for mosquito abatement and deployed the city's first aerial drone for pest control.

Streets and Storm Drains crews focused on flood mitigation work in the Sage Ranch area, repaired drainage ditches and built a 600 foot rock wall to prevent recurring flooding. The department also reconstructed a city-maintained alley near First Street and collaborated on graffiti removal, utility inventory work and new speed feedback signs.

The Planning Department completed the North Area Plan and Southwest Area Plan, which McIntyre called key tools for managing anticipated growth and shaping future master planned communities with employment centers, commercial services and diverse housing.

Court Services, Legal, Finance and HR

McIntyre highlighted the partial consolidation of the Fernley Municipal Court and Canal Township Justice Court, approved in 2025. The remodel of the Justice Court facility is expected to be completed by April 2026, after which the Municipal Court will also move into the new building. The new space will include public kiosks for filing, payments and records searches, and the courts are moving toward electronic filing.

"It's about making sure our courts can respond fairly, efficiently and effectively, no matter how much our community expands," McIntyre said.

The Legal Department prosecuted 508 criminal cases in 2025, a 6.5% increase from the previous year, including 95 DUI cases.

The City Treasurer's Office earned the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 14th consecutive year. The fiscal year 2025 audit received a clean, unmodified opinion. The General Fund ended the year with a \$17.6 million balance, up \$2.7 million. The FY2026 budget includes one time investments to address deferred maintenance, replace aging equipment and accelerate planning for growth, McIntyre said.

The city now employs 92 full time staff members. From July 2025 to the present, Fernley hired 21 new employees and created seven new job classifications. Recruitment is underway for a city engineer, senior maintenance worker for facilities and parks, grant administrator and deputy city attor-

ney. McIntyre emphasized internal promotion as a priority, noting several advancements across departments.

The mayor also addressed the vacant city manager position, saying the council and staff are evaluating a new organizational chart that may or may not include a city manager position.

2026 Goals

McIntyre outlined several major goals for 2026, beginning with a 23 acre pond and park project planned for late 2026. Phase 1 will include a fishing pond, parking and pathways, with future amenities such as ballfields, playgrounds, volleyball, pickleball, tennis and archery. The city is pursuing funding through the Nevada Department of Wildlife and Brownfield grants.

McIntyre said the city will continue pursuing grants and federal Community Project Funding. Fernley will receive \$2 million for design work to integrate surface water from the TCID canal into the water treatment facility. The city is also seeking Economic Development Administration funding for improvements at the East Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Cedar Street Reconstruction Project is preparing to go out to bid, which includes addressing missing sidewalks, drainage issues and aging utilities. The project includes new water and sewer mains and nine new manholes.

McIntyre acknowledged community concerns about park conditions and athletic field capacity.

"To the community and kids, we want you to know we hear you," he said, noting that turf upgrades and field expansion planning are underway.

The city is also rewriting its enforcement code, with a new nuisance ordinance expected after public workshops on March 13 and 14.

The mayor also said Nevada Pacific Parkway is at 60 percent design, with a goal of reaching 90 percent before going to bid in fall 2026.

Additional projects and technology upgrades

McIntyre said construction of the new Fernley fire station on Duffy Road as part of a development agreement with Mark IV Capital is expected to begin this year, with completion in 12 to 18 months. The Fernley Industrial Park Reconstruction Project will also move forward, bringing pavement and storm drain improvements to four major industrial streets.

The city is undergoing a major technology upgrade through PacStates, which will provide co managed IT services, cybersecurity, disaster recovery and cloud integration. The city has also deployed Madison AI to support staff with research, drafting and administrative tasks.

McIntyre also noted the many new businesses that have opened in the past 12 months.

"The private sector has taken notice of this momentum and understands that Fernley is open for business," McIntyre said.

Closing message

McIntyre ended his address by emphasizing the city's commitment to enhancing parks, improving roads, expanding services and maintaining quality of life as Fernley grows.

"As we continue to grow, it is essential that we focus on upgrading our infrastructure to ensure a vibrant community for all," he said. "Together we can create a thriving city that meets the needs of its residents."

NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING

Case No. 26-PT-0556 Dept. No. 2

IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON

In the Matter of the Estate of JIMMIE GENE ALLEN, Deceased. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Verified Petition for Summary Administration of Estate, Appointment of Co-Administrators, Authority Under the Independent Administration of Estates Act (NRS Chapter 143), and Issuance of Letters of Administration has been set for hearing before the above-entitled Court as follows:

Date: March 9, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Third Judicial District Court
Lyon County Judge Leon A. Aberasturi

Department II

911 Harvey Way

Yerington, NV 89447

At said time and place, the Court will consider the Petition, including Petitioners' request for full authority under Nevada's Independent Administration of Estates Act (NRS 143.300-143.815). This will avoid the need to obtain court approval for many actions taken in connection with the estate. However, before taking certain actions, the personal representative or administrator will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action. Independent administration authority will be granted unless good cause is shown why it should not be.

Any person interested in the above-entitled estate may appear and be heard at the hearing, either in person or through counsel, and may file written opposition prior to the hearing in accordance with Nevada law and local rules.

This document does not contain the personal information of any person as defined by NRS 603A.040.

DATED February 6, 2026.

/s/ Hannah E. Winston, Attorneys for Petitioners

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Ad # 2605

City of Fernley
Notice of Offices that will be nominated at the
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March 13th, 2026,
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LAW AND 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.

Feb. 23 – Mar. 1, 2026

BENTON BOND – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$27,500, Charges: Destroy/conceal evidence; Intimidate public officer/others, w/Threat of force, (1st) felony; Arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence
BENJAMIN MILLS – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court Commitment
ELVIRA BROCKMAN – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$30,000, Charges: Assault with a deadly weapon (2 counts)
DEAN FOX – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$4,140, Charges: Violation of domestic violence TPO (2 counts)
RYAN ALVES – Area: Dayton,, Bail Amount: \$640, Charges: Drive with revoked driver's license
THOMAS ROSS – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$26,140, Charges: Battery; Possession to sell Schedule I/II, flunitrazepam/GHB, (1st)
ANTHONY ESPARZA – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$755, Charges: Drive with suspended driver's license; Display fictitious vehicle registration/plate/title

BRADLEY JORGENSEN – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$2,660, Charges: Drive with suspended driver's license; Assist other agency–Hold; Failure to appear on traffic citation
SAVARAN WURTHMANN – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$60,000, Charges: Criminal contempt – failure to obey court order; Criminal contempt
BILLY DOUGLAS – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
JEREMY DALPIAZ – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,390, Charges: Drive with suspended driver's license; Display fictitious vehicle registration/plate/title; Operator – proof of insurance required; Assist other agency–Hold
KENNETH KEMP – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$5,950, Charges: Contempt of court; Criminal contempt; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi; Drive with suspended driver's license; Operator – proof of insurance required
FARR RUST – Area: Mason Valley,

Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court Commitment
MICHAEL GULLEY – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$875, Charges: Criminal contempt
CHEYENNE PETERS – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
JOHN STEVENS – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$6,140, Charges: Prohibited act; Violation of sex offender registration, 1st; Resist public officer
DESMOND MITCHELL – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$1,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
CECILIA JONES – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Criminal contempt
Torin Gallo – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,255, Charges: DUI (1st); Fail to yield right-of-way from private way
JEFFREY BANTA – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime
CHARLES WOOTEN – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges:

Domestic battery, 1st
JASON HOLTSCLAW – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime; Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
Donavyn Cartwright – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,230, Charges: Intoxicated pedestrian/animal rider on roadway; Resist public officer
JACOB TILLERY – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court Commitment
MICHAEL WOOD – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$940, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
JORDAN JOHNSON – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,140, Charges: DUI (1st)
THOMAS GIPSON – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$2,920, Charges: Drive without driver's license; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi; Possession of dangerous drug without prescription (1st/2nd)
SETH OSBORNE – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$5,000, Charges: Criminal contempt – failure to obey court order (2 counts)

North Lyon Fire responds to serious motor vehicle crash with mutual aid support

Staff Report

North Lyon Fire assisted Washoe County agencies in rescuing three people from a heavily damaged vehicle following a crash on Interstate 80 on Feb. 26.

At approximately 10:35 p.m. that night, North Lyon Fire was alerted by Washoe County for mutual aid in response to a motor vehicle accident near the Wadsworth exit on Interstate 80.

North Lyon Fire, alongside Washoe County and Pyramid Lake Fire arrived to find the vehicle, which sustained significant damage, with two young adults and a toddler requiring extrication.

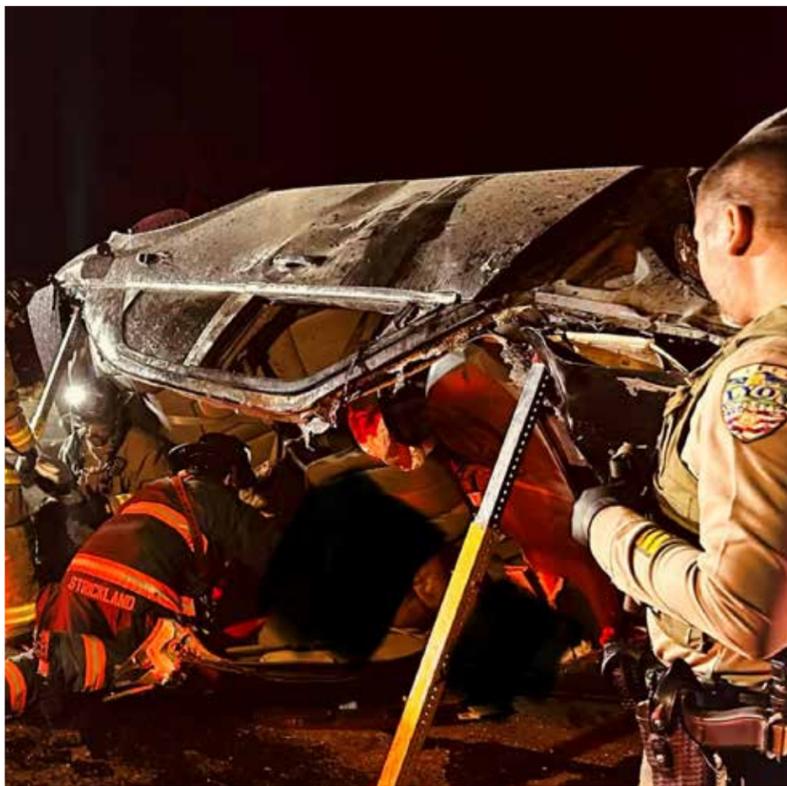
In alignment with the national standard of extrication time set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which recommends extrication within 10 minutes in such emergencies, North Lyon Fire successfully extricated the victims from the vehicle in 18 minutes.

"This response time reflects the challenges faced by our growing community and highlights the ongoing commitment of our fire personnel to deliver efficient and effective emergency services," North Lyon Fire Battalion Chief Bill Snyder said.

The two young adults and the infant were transported to Renown Regional Medical Center by ground and air ambulances for further medical evalua-

tion and treatment of serious injuries. "We are grateful for the collaborative efforts of our mutual aid partners and the rapid response," Snyder said. "Ensuring the safety and well-being

of those involved is our highest priority, and we take pride in our ability to provide timely extrication, even as we navigate the demands of our expanding community."



North Lyon Fire personnel extricated two adults and a toddler from a vehicle after a crash on Interstate 80 near the Wadsworth exit on Feb. 26. Photo courtesy of North Lyon Fire

Battery charge against Lau dismissed

By Robert Perea

The battery charge against Fernley City Councilman Stan Lau stemming from an altercation with a construction worker last August has been dismissed in Fernley Municipal Court.

A representative of the court confirmed Monday that the case has been dismissed with prejudice, which means the case is closed and charges cannot be refiled. A bench trial scheduled for March 13 in Fernley Municipal Court has been vacated.

The court representative said the dismissal documents have not yet been added to the case file.

Lau was arrested on Aug. 18 after a construction worker charged that Lau had grabbed the sunglasses off his face and punched him when he bent down to pick them up during a dispute over traffic control around the construction project in the area of Shadow Ln. and U.S. 95A.

Deputies who responded to the incident reported that they saw no physical evidence of a punch, but the construction worker requested a citizen's arrest.

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Mark IV Capital presented a \$2,500 donation to the Nevada Veterans Coalition on March 2. Pictured are Mark IV Capital Senior Vice President Rick Nelson along with Richard Carpenter, Nancy Rifkin, Fred Wilson, Carl Spurgeon, Rich Crombie, Sharon Serenko, Paul Hinen and Paul Loop. Photo courtesy of Mark IV Capital



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

SPORTS

Fernley boys dominate opening track meet; girls finish second

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School boys ran away with the team title at last week's Fernley Sticker Meet #1 to open the season, piling up 240.5 points to more than double runner up Fallon's 96. The Fernley girls finished second with 120 points, behind Lowry's 213.

The Vaquero boys won eight of the 18 events, led by Joe Perkins, who won the 800 meters with a time of 2:08.63 and the 3200 meters in 11:15.87.

Fernley also controlled the hurdles, with Keeshawn Love taking the 110s in 16.14 and Drostan Reno winning the 300 hurdles in 46.52.

Andrew Peterson won the 400

meters in 56.11, Alex Merell added a win in the 1600 at 5:07.82. The boys' 4x400 relay team of Elijah Perez, Robert Lewis, Larry Kipkorir and Bryce Dunagan Stephens won in 4:00.04.

In the field events, Kole Miller won the shot put at 41 10.5 and Jayden Esparza claimed the triple jump at 38 0.75.

For the girls, Fernley's 4x400 relay team of Bronwynn Garrett, Alyssa Gromelski, Laura Rosales and Kinley Behrendt earned a win in 4:41.97, and Reese Johnson took the triple jump with a mark of 30 11.

This week the Vaqueros will host Sticker Meet #2, with field events starting at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and track events starting at 9:30 a.m.



Fernley's Joe Perkins won the 800 meters and the 3200 meters in the first track meet of the season last Saturday. Photo by Ron Perkins

Fernley softball goes 3-2 in opening tournament

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School softball team opened its season by going 3-2 in the Colorado River Invitational Tournament in Needles, Ca. last weekend.

The Vaqueros beat Holbrook, AZ 12-3 and lost to Faith Lutheran (Las Vegas) 5-2 on Thursday, then beat Needles 7-4 and lost to Tolleson, AZ 6-4 on Friday, before finishing the tournament with a 9-0 win over Boulder City on Saturday.

The Vaqueros started the tournament hot, scoring six runs in each of the first two innings against Holbrook. In the first inning, Emma Masters singled in one run, Bella Leija singled in two more, Grace Chapin tripled home two and Lauren Smith finished the rally with a run-scoring double.

In the second inning, Maddison Hill hit a 2-run single and Smith singled in another as part of the 6-run rally.

Against Faith Lutheran, the Vaqueros fell behind 5-0 after two innings and their rally in the third produced two runs before the Crusaders escaped, then retired the Vaqueros in order in the fourth.

Fernley bounced back Friday with a 4-run fourth inning to break a 3-3 tie. Taylor Tollestrup gave the Vaqueros a lead with an RBI single and Smith followed with a 2-run single, then scored on an error.

In Friday's second game, the Vaqueros again fell behind early, with a 6-run inning by Tolleson in the top of the first. The Vaqueros got three back in the bottom of the first, on a double by Smith that drove in Tollestrup, a ground out that scored Smith and a run-scoring single by Leija.

In the fourth inning, Tollestrup singled home Chapin but the Vaqueros stranded runners on second and third. A two-out single in the fifth brought the tying run to the plate, but the Vaqueros

came up empty.

On Saturday, the Vaqueros broke open a close game with three runs in the fifth inning and four in the sixth. Leading 2-0 in the fifth, Ximena Rodriguez drove in a run with a triple and two others scored on ground outs. Then in the sixth, Masters singled in two runs, and a sacrifice fly and an error produced the final two.

Tollestrup led the Vaqueros by going 8-for-10 at the plate with four doubles, scoring six runs and driving in four. Smith drove in five runs and went 5-8 at the plate, while Masters and Leija each drove in three runs.

The Vaqueros used four pitchers in the tournament. Janessa Robinson pitched 10 1/3 innings, giving up six earned runs with five strikeouts.

This week the Vaqueros are scheduled to play at Sparks at 3 p.m. Friday in a Northern 3A crossover game.



Fernley's Taylor Tollestrup, last year's Most Valuable Player of the Northern 3A East, led the Vaqueros with eight hits in last week's season-opening tournament in Needles, CA. Photo by Robert Perea

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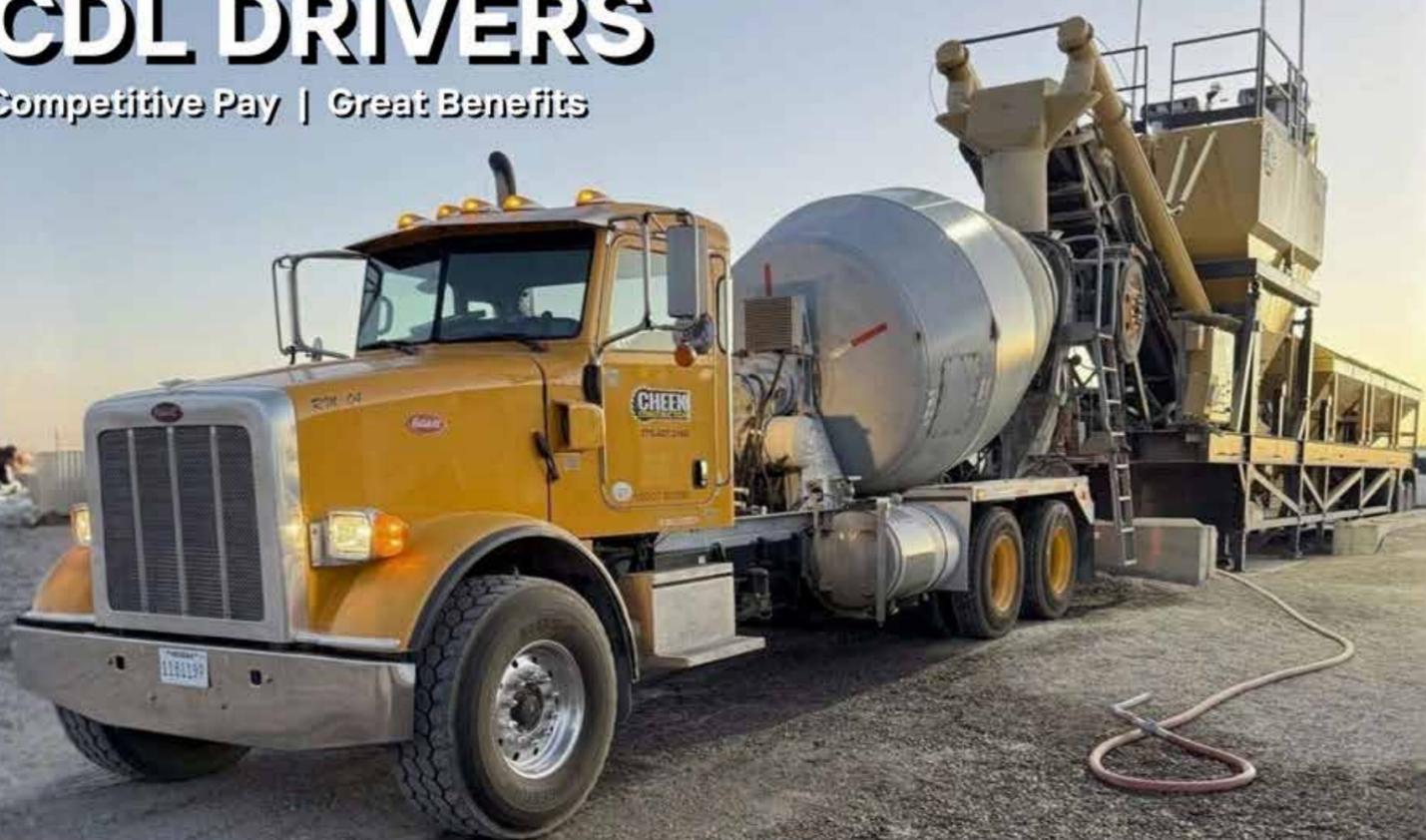
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SPORTS

Baseball: Vaqueros open league play after going 4-1 in Needles tournament

By Robert Perea

After going 4-1 to open the season last weekend in a tournament in Needles, CA, the Fernley High School baseball team dives right into league play this weekend with a three-game series in Dayton.

The Vaqueros won their first four games on the Bud Parker Invitational Tournament last weekend, beating Palo Verde Valley (Blythe, CA) 13-1, The Meadows 5-0, Parker (AZ) 8-5, and Mohave (Bullhead City, AZ) 12-0 before losing the finale 7-0 to Needles. It was a far cry from when they went 1-3-1 and got outscored 41-10 in the same tournament last season.

"I told the guys that too," coach Thomas Chapin said. "I'm like, this team right now is otherworldly compared to where we were at when we came down here last year."

More impressive is that the Vaqueros only got to practice twice on the field before going to Needles, because the weather the previous two weeks forced them to practice in the gym.

"And there's only so much you can get done with the sport like baseball in the indoors environment," Chapin said.

Despite that, Chapin said the Vaqueros showed they are capable of playing good defense. They committed nine errors in five games, but three of those came in the last game against Needles.

"That's one area I knew we were

going to need to be a lot better at this year and it seems to be that we will, and again, kind of a testament to maybe some of those days in the gym, just going back to the fundamentals and really hammering that," Chapin said.

Offensively, the Vaqueros mostly put the ball in play, striking out 29 times in 153 plate appearances in the five games, compared to 37 hits and 25 walks.

Riley McCullar picked up where he left off last season, going 7-for-15 at the plate and scoring nine runs. Sophomore Maverick Parks made his varsity debut going 5-10 with seven runs batted in. Vance Swindlehurst also had seven hits and Nikko Pryor had six, with two doubles and a triple.

"I had a good feeling that we were going to go down there and perform well because of some of the players that we have and what I've seen, they'll be capable of," Chapin said. "I think just up and down, any nine guys that we played, we saw a lot of good things out of them."

The Vaqueros also got strong pitching throughout the weekend. Nikko Pryor went 5 1/3 innings without allowing a run in the Vaqueros 5-0 win over The Meadows, while Jayse Jones, Swindlehurst and Matthew Bigrigg also had scoreless outings.

"I think our pitching was the best part of our week," Chapin said. "Those guys just went out there and they attacked the strike zone. We preached



Fernley's Riley McCullar, who was voted Most Valuable Player of the Northern 3A East last season, is one of several key players returning for the Vaqueros this season. Fernley went 4-1 in a tournament in Needles last week to open the season. Photo by Robert Perea

on strikes, we preached attacking the hitters, and that's all they did and it worked out for them."

This weekend the Vaqueros are scheduled to play a single at 3 p.m. Friday in Dayton, with a doubleheader Saturday starting at 11 a.m.

"We want to start off our league play well, because that's something we didn't do last year," Chapin said. "It took us a long time to get going in league play last year and it kind of hurt us when we got to the tournament, dealing with our seeding and having to battle through the play-in game."

With Hug and North Valleys moving up to the 4A this season, the Northern 3A has done away with the East and West Division for baseball and eliminated the first-round play-in game. The top eight of the 10 teams will qualify for the playoffs, with the winners of the four first-round three-game series moving on to a double-elimination tournament.

"I think that's kind of fun and kind of classic baseball," Chapin said. "You've got to win a series to get to the next round."

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PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Alora!



Meet our Fernley Reporter Pet of the Week Alora. Alora is a beautiful malamute mix with a shy but sweet heart. She's gentle and loving, always ready to give you quiet comfort. Once she warms up, she gets silly playful, and talkative - she loves a good conversation! Alora's favorite outdoor activity is to plop herself down in a kiddie pool; she's a total water dog! If you're looking for a loyal friend who's as soft-hearted as she is charming, Alora is the girl for you. You can contact the Lyon County Animal Services 775-577-5005.



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