the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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Manny Welsh honored as Youth of the Year

By Robert Perea

The Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Serving Fernley honored Manny Welsh as its Youth of the Year at its fifth annual Fernley Awards Banquet on Oct. 8 at the Community Response and Resource Center.

The Club also honored Members of the Year in four categories and presented the Distinguished Service Award to Jacob Haas and the Volunteer of the Year Award to Josh Keirn.

The Youth of the Year award is the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's signature effort to foster a new generation of leaders prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global and integrated world economy. It is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club youth can achieve.

Welsh is a junior at Fernley High School who has been a member of the Boys & Girls Club for the past four years. In his speech, Welsh detailed his battle to overcome depression, isolation and fear after being the victim of an assault.

"I lost a lot of trust in others. I became paranoid," Welsh said. "Whenever I left my house, I was constantly watching my back, wondering if someone was going to attack me."

Welsh described how he isolated himself because he was afraid of being injured again and of how people might react if he told them what he was going through.

"The Boys & Girls Club became one of the few places where I felt safe," he said. "For me, the Club became somewhere I felt myself again."

Welsh said he was nervous and scared when he started high school but decided he didn't want to disappoint his parents or, more importantly, him-

Continued on PAGE 3 - YOUTH OF THE YEAR...

Three Planning Commissioners Resign

Dispute over power-plant review spills into delay for unrelated development

By Rachel Dahl

Three Fernley planning commissioners resigned Oct. 14 following a dispute over the City Council's handling of a proposed power plant, leaving vacancies on the seven-member commission and exposing a breakdown between the two governing bodies.

Commissioner Cody Wagner, Vice Chair Jennie McCullar and Commissioner Angela Lewis announced their departures near the end of the meeting. They objected to the treatment of Wagner and the council's decision to hear and approve a power-plant permit that the commission had postponed.

Earlier in the meeting, that disagreement contributed to a delay for an unrelated project: Vaquero Outpost, a proposed 51-acre commercial and residential development across Highway 95A from Fernley High School.

Wagner said uncertainty about the commission's authority made him reluctant to proceed with that application.

By the end of the evening, he said he was no longer willing to serve.

"I think we're supposed to have a process where we can have different thoughts," Wagner said.

The dispute centers on CUP26005, a conditional use permit for a proposed 324-megawatt natural-gas-fired power plant at Victory Logistics District.

The applicant, M4 Victory Power

Continued on PAGE 2 -RESIGNATION...

From the Front Lines to Prevention:

Steve Kuntz's Vision for a Safer Fernley

By Robert Perea

Steve Kuntz knows some business owners worry when the fire marshal walks through the door—the person with the clipboard who might spot a violation or require changes.

As the North Lyon County Fire Protection District's newly appointed fire marshal, Kuntz is working to change that perception, one conversation and inspection at a time. He is building the district's business inspection program from the ground up, an initiative he says is vital for community safety and the protection of local crews.

"People fear the fire marshal coming into their business because [they] think they're going to shut them down," Kuntz said. "But there's so much benefit from having us come out and do inspections because it reduces risk and we see things that can be corrected."

For Kuntz, reducing that risk is personal. He has spent 16 years responding to emergencies with North Lyon County



New North Lyon Fire Marshal Steve Kuntz talks about fire safety and shows a fire truck to East Valley Elementary School students in Ms. Fellow's pre-K class on Oct. 6. Photo courtesy of North Lyon Fire

Fire.

Kuntz's career began in 2008 as a volunteer in Loomis, California, where he earned his basic EMT certification. He moved to Reno to attend paramedic school at REMSA, working shifts as an emergency room technician at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center to support his education.

By the time he graduated, the Great Recession was squeezing municipal budgets across the country, making full-time fire and EMS jobs scarce. Kuntz worked on ambulance crews at Banner Churchill Community Hospital in Fallon before an opportunity opened in Fernley.

He was hired as one of the district's first three civilian paramedics, starting in January 2010. Though hired exclusively for medical response, the district soon restructured the roles into dual firefighter-paramedic positions. Within a year, Kuntz earned his firefighter certifications through the department.

Over his 16 years with North Lyon County Fire, Kuntz has held a variety of roles. He took on supervisory responsibilities early as a lieutenant under Chief Darryl Cleveland, tested for and earned a fire captain position under Chief Scott Huntley in 2013, ran the district's wildland fire program and served as acting assistant chief during the COVID-19 pandemic under Chief Jason Nichol.

Continued on PAGE 6 - STEVE KUNTZ...



IN THIS EDITION

Captain's Log.....2
Features.....3
Announcements.....4
Community.....5
Business.....8
Law & Order.....10
Inside Veer.....11
Pet O' the Week.....12

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Captain's Log — A Little More Attention

By Rachel Dahl

I love fall.

I love fall in Northern Nevada especially well.

As I travel across the state to our newspaper communities, I'm just happy. The air is crisp and clean, the trees are starting to turn to gold, and as Ralphie says in "A Christmas Story," "All is right with the world, and my joy is at its zenith."

Maybe that's part of why I love these drives so much. Every town has something going on: a school project, a football game, somebody opening a business, or neighbors showing up to help. There's plenty to worry about, of course. We put that in the paper, too. But getting out and seeing people reminds me how much good there is to notice. Fall makes me want to roll down the window and pay a little more attention.

When I was little, fall was always a restart. School still started after Labor Day and brought with it the excitement of new beginnings, and that feeling is still associated with the softening of the seasons for me. Fresh and new and bursting with anticipation. The long, hot summer draws to a close, and it's time to enjoy all the fresh activities that come with the change.

There's also something magical about the moon this time of year. Every evening, as it moves across the southern sky in that perfect arc, brighter each evening, we get closer to cool nights and cozy weather. Even at half-full, the light beams a spotlight across the yard, and the bunnies play in their pen until way past bedtime.

So while we gear up for the holidays and enjoy these beautiful autumn days, we'll always be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.
Rach

Continued from FRONT -RESIGNATION...

QOZB LLC, proposes the facility on approximately 109 acres of industrial property. Developer representatives have described additional power as necessary to attract businesses and support development within the district.

The Planning Commission considered the application Sept. 9. Minutes included in the October agenda packet record presentations by city staff and the applicant covering the facility, noise controls, environmental studies, emergency planning and the need for power.

The commission voted 5–2 to table the item until its next meeting. It did not approve or deny the permit.

The City Council subsequently took up the application and approved it Oct. 7.

Before that council meeting, Wagner submitted a written objection arguing that the commission's postponement was not a final decision that could be appealed to council. He requested that council return the application to the commission or identify the legal authority allowing it to proceed.

The developer's position has been that the application required a fair hearing and that Wagner's public statements over the past year, raised concerns about his impartiality.

The disagreement therefore involves two distinct questions: whether Wagner was required to step aside, and whether council could take up the permit before the commission completed its consideration.

n Oct. 13, the Nevada Commission on Ethics issued an advisory opinion addressing Wagner's disclosure and abstention obligations under state ethics law.

Wagner sought the opinion after Douglas Thornley, an attorney representing Mark IV Capital, sent a July 27 letter demanding that Wagner recuse himself from proceedings involving the proposed power-generation facility, related permits and other project-specific applications within Victory Logistics District.

The letter cited Wagner's social-media posts and public comments as grounds for the demand.

The Ethics Commission concluded that previously expressing an opinion or position does not, by itself, prevent a public officer from participating or voting under Nevada's ethics law.

It found that Thornley's letter identified no applicable financial interest or private commitment requiring Wagner to disclose an interest or abstain.

Wagner read portions of the opinion into the record Oct. 14.

The opinion did not decide the separate question of council's authority to hear the postponed application. Nor did it resolve the developer's constitutional due-process argument about an impartial hearing. Its conclusions concerned Nevada's Ethics in Government Law and the facts considered by the commission.

The conflict affected consideration of Vaquero Outpost, a separate planned development proposed by Northern Nevada Development LLC at 1605 Highway 95A.

The proposal would establish development standards for approximately 51.1 acres on the west side of the highway, directly across from Fernley High School.

According to the staff report, the land-use plan includes 13.6 acres of mixed use, nine acres of general commercial, 6.3 acres of medium-density residential, 13.8 acres of high-density residential and approximately 8.4 acres of public right-of-way.

Wagner requested postponement, citing concerns about the commission's role following the council's handling of the Victory application.

He told the applicant's representative, John Krmpotic, that his objection was procedural rather than directed at the applicant.

Krmpotic questioned why the proposal was being delayed and whether concerns about a different development agreement were being applied to his application.

"I've done hundreds of these over my career. I've never seen anything like this," he said, adding that he would respect the decision.

Chief Development Officer Michele Rambo clarified that Vaquero Outpost was not a development agreement. It was a planned development, essentially a rezoning accompanied by a handbook establishing development standards.

Lewis apologized to the representative for the project being caught in the dispute and delayed.

The commission accepted public comments, including concerns about traffic near the high school, water service and the scale of future development. Substantive consideration was postponed to Nov. 10.

The commission did proceed with other business, unanimously recommending council approval of an extension through Dec. 31, 2028, for recording the final subdivision map for the 37-lot Wilson Landing project.

During commission comments, Wagner disputed portions of a written account of his public statements and interactions with city officials. He also objected to comments made during the council's consideration of the plant, which he interpreted as directed at him.

He characterized his treatment as bullying and said disagreement over whether the power plant would benefit Fernley was not his reason for leaving.

"If people think the power plant is going to be the greatest thing in the world for Fernley, that's fine," he said. "We can have logical discussions."

Wagner said his resignation would take effect at the end of the meeting.

McCullar followed, saying she objected to Wagner's treatment and believed the council's action created a precedent allowing developers to bypass the commission.

Lewis then announced her resignation.

"Our power has just been completely taken away from us," she said.

Mayor Neal McIntyre thanked all three for their service and said he was sorry to lose their experience. He also said he did not have authority to remove an item placed on the council's agenda by the council.

According to City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen, Pursuant to NRS 278.040, the mayor will appoint replacements to the commission with the approval of the City Council. The Clerk's Office is currently preparing a public request for applications. The mayor will review those applications and select candidates to bring forwards to fill those seats.

Mouritsen said the candidates will have to be approved in an open meeting. "We do not have a specific timeline as to when those seats will be filled. It depends on how quickly we receive qualified candidates," he said.

The Oct. 14 meeting included no new vote on the power-plant permit. Mouritsen explained that the item remained on the agenda for public-hearing purposes because of notice requirements and the timing of council's earlier action.

Planning staff said work was continuing on proposed data-center development regulations, with a workshop or open house anticipated.

The next commission meeting was announced for Tuesday, Nov. 10, because the usual Wednesday meeting date falls on Veterans Day.

FEATURES

Continued from FRONT - YOUTH OF THE YEAR...

self.

"Eventually I realized being alone might feel safe, but having a community gives you strength," he said. "The Club helped me discover that."

Welsh said that after he graduates from high school, he hopes to attend Truckee Meadows Community College and become a registered nurse.

"My dad had a heart attack and spent two weeks in the hospital," Welsh said. "That was difficult, but while he was there, he would tell us about the nurses who were caring for him and what they were doing to help him. I want to become the kind of nurse who makes people feel heard, supported and safe."

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Josh Keirn. He joined the Fernley Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors in 2025 and has volunteered with the Club, coaching basketball, Teeny Tots, Junior Giants and soccer.



Fernley Teen Center Coordinator Tae Phillips presents Manny Welsh with the Youth of the Year award at the annual Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Serving Fernley awards banquet on Oct. 8. Photo by Robert Perea

In 2023, he was honored with the Willie Mac Award through the Junior Giants program.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Jacob Haas. Over the years, he has donated more than $125,000 to the Boys & Girls Club, the University of Nevada, Reno, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Children's Cabinet and other organizations.

The Members of the Year awards were presented to:

Academic Success

- Kristian Martinez, Cottonwood Elementary School
- Bonnie Moynahan, Fernley Teen Center

Character and Leadership

- Dakota Robertson, East Valley Elementary School
- Isis Osborn, Fernley Teen Center

Healthy Lifestyles

- Addilyn Atkinson, Fernley Clubhouse
- Drostan Reno, Fernley Teen Center

Life & Workforce Readiness

- Rosie Benitez, Fernley Clubhouse
- Robert Lewis, Fernley Teen Center



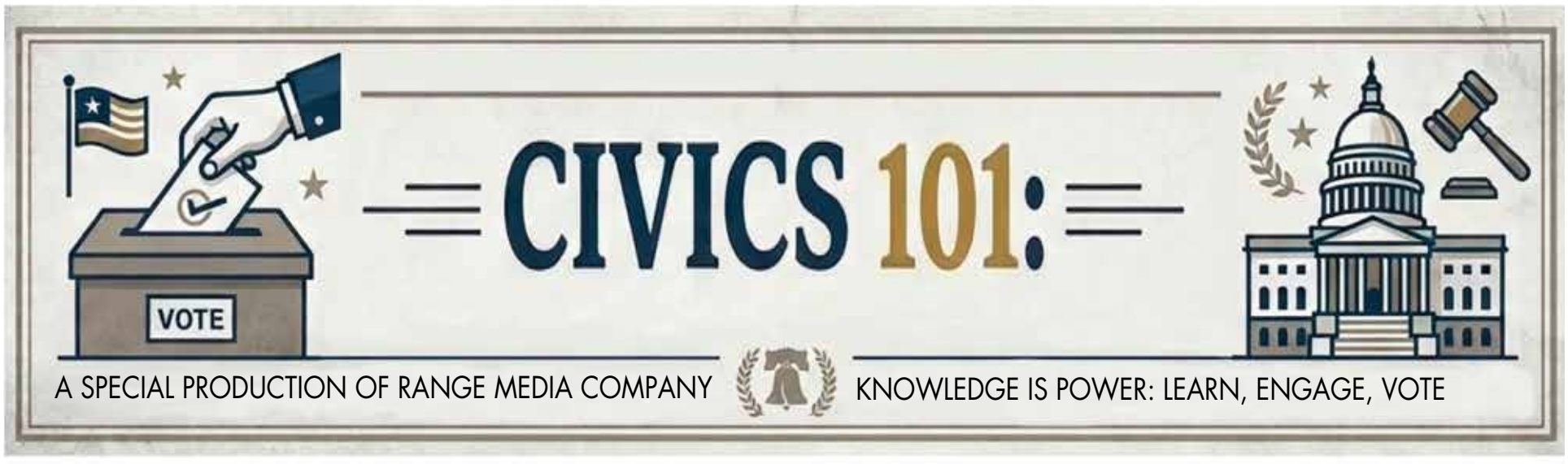
Jake Haas (left) receives the Distinguished Service Award presented by Rob Jacobson. Photo by Roert Perea



Area Director Oscar Aguilar presents the Volunteer of the Year award to Josh Keirn. Photo by Robert Perea



The Fernley Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club honored Mike Wurm, who is retiring as the CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows. Photo by Robert Perea



Civics 101: Have You Already Made Up Your Mind?

By Rachel Dahl

As our rural communities face serious decisions about rapid industrial growth, this week we're looking at something fundamental to our constitutional republic: due process.

Imagine spending two years preparing a development proposal, hiring engineers, completing studies and following the rules, only to discover the officials deciding your application have already made up their minds.

Is that a fair hearing, or just a formality?

Now turn it around.

You're a homeowner concerned about a development next door. You've taken time off work to attend the public hearing, only to find the officials seem determined to approve it regardless of what anyone says.

What good is a public hearing if nobody is really listening?

Philosophers and our founding fathers spent considerable time worrying about this question. In fact, Aristotle was thinking about it more than 2,300 years ago.

In his "Politics," Aristotle argued that government should be ruled by law rather than the personal desires of those in power. Even good people, he understood, can be influenced by friendships, anger, ambition, and self-interest.

His conclusion was that law should be reason, free from passion.

Which is a pretty good argument for having rules in the first place. We don't want the rules changing depending on who owns the property, who knows the mayor, or who happens to be sitting on the county commission this week.

Fast forward to the American founding.

John Adams helped write the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, which called for impartial interpretation of the law and established a principle fundamental to American government: "a government of laws, and not of men."

Seven years later, James Madison took up a related problem in "Federalist No. 10."

Madison understood that people naturally form factions, groups united by common interests, opinions, and prejudices. He wasn't particularly optimistic about eliminating those tendencies. Instead, he argued that representative government could help control them by choosing people whose judgment could rise above temporary passions and consider the public good.

Notice Madison wasn't suggesting representatives should have no opinions. We elect people because we want them to exercise judgment. But there's a difference between having an opinion and being unwilling to consider anything that might change it.

Which brings us to *due process*.

The Fifth Amendment protects against the federal government depriving people of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment extends that protection to state and local governments.

We usually associate due process with courtrooms and judges, but it can also apply when local governments make decisions affecting protected rights.

And here's where an important distinction comes in.

Sometimes elected and appointed officials are making laws and policies, acting in their *legislative* function.

When a city council debates zoning ordinances or a school board sets its budget, officials are expected to have opinions. That's their job. They can campaign on those positions, argue for them, and vote accordingly.

But when those same officials apply existing laws to a particular application or dispute, they may be performing a quasi-judicial function. That means they're acting something like a judge.

Instead of deciding what the rules ought to be, they're deciding whether a proposal meets the rules already established. Depending on the proceeding, that brings additional obligations to consider evidence fairly, follow procedures, and avoid disqualifying conflicts.

An unpopular proposal doesn't necessarily violate the law, and a developer spending millions of dollars isn't automatically entitled to approval.

The responsibility is to apply the law to the facts.

In 1991, the Nevada Supreme Court addressed due process in *Bing Construction Co. v. County of Douglas*, involving a gravel operation whose existing permit rights were affected by a county decision.

The court found the company had not received adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to respond before its rights were impaired. It also emphasized the importance of evidence supporting land-use decisions.

In other words, process matters, even when officials believe they're acting for good reasons, which we should remember at our city council, county commission, planning commission, and school board meetings.

The person behind the microphone may be our neighbor, our friend, or someone we've disagreed with for years. We don't have to agree with them, but we should understand what kind of decision they're making, what rules govern it, and whether everyone entitled to participate has been treated fairly.

A fair hearing doesn't guarantee you'll win. It doesn't mean every concern will persuade the board, or that officials must set aside the law because a roomful of people demand a particular result.

It means following the rules, considering the evidence, and keeping an open mind.

We don't elect people to public office because we expect them to agree with us on everything. We elect them because we trust them to exercise judgment.

Sometimes that means making an unpopular decision. Sometimes it means telling a friend no. And sometimes it means listening carefully to someone they fundamentally disagree with.

The founders understood government would always be made up of imperfect human beings, which is why they gave us something more important than the promise of good people; they gave us the rule of law.

And the rule of law only works when the people entrusted to administer it remember that the rules apply to them, too.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

City crews spruce up Fernley parks

Staff Report

Fernley Public Works crews have completed improvements at In-Town Park and begun cleanup work at Memorial Park, with additional upgrades planned.

At In-Town Park, crews removed equipment the city described as outdated and unsafe, added concrete to expand the skateboarding area and installed canopies over picnic tables.

At Memorial Park, workers cleared weeds around the park sign to improve visibility and removed truckloads of weeds throughout the park during an initial cleanup.

The city said more park improvements are planned.

For questions, contact Public Works Director Adrian Gonzalez-Avila at 775-784-9910 or aavila@cityoffernley.org.



Photo courtesy of the City of Fernley.

North Lyon Fire, Battle Born Medevac host open house Saturday

By Robert Perea

North Lyon Fire will host an open house at Station 61 in Fernley on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring a ribbon cutting for the new Battle Born Medevac helicopter base.

The ribbon cutting begins at 10 a.m., celebrating a partnership that brings firefighters and air medical professionals together at Station 61 to serve Fernley and the surrounding region.

Attendees can tour the station, try on firefighting gear and meet the crews. The event offers residents a closer look at local emergency services and the equipment crews use.

Families are welcome.

Jessica Murdock: Bringing Fernley Together

By Suzanne Prouty

Jessica Murdock is so much more than her job title.

She is Fernley's community development program manager, but talking with her reminds me of something I took away from Amy Tan's "The Joy Luck Club": we see people without seeing the lives that made them who they are.

The novel follows four Chinese immigrant mothers and their daughters. Women who might seem unremarkable to a stranger carry extraordinary histories of love, loss, courage and survival. Their stories reveal how little an outside impression can tell us.

We are all like that. We have stories nobody would guess from passing us on the street or reading our business cards. Yet people can be awfully judgey. We see a face, a uniform or a city job title and think we know the person. I catch myself doing it, too.

Jessica has her own stories, her own family and a life beyond City Hall. Even her job has more to it than those few words suggest.

Take her current project, Spooktacular.

It gives children a safe place to trick-or-treat while bringing residents, businesses and community organizations together. Someone has to turn that good idea into actual people showing up, setting up and handing out candy.

That is where Jessica comes in.

I invited her to speak to the Rotary Club of NW Nevada on Oct. 13. She told us about Spooktacular, scheduled for Halloween night, Oct. 31, from 4 to 7 p.m. at City Hall. They were still looking for people to help.

By the end of her visit, she had volunteers for two more tables handing out candy, plus a volunteer and truck for the city's Trunk-or-Treat area, thanks to Jeff at Freedom Plumbing.

Five or six more people were involved in a city program because Jessica came, explained the need and asked.

Community engagement can sound like something written into a planning document. That evening, it looked like neighbors agreeing to show up for children.

Job done. And a few friendships started along the way.

Why invite Jessica to our Rotary club? Because community development is something we care about, too.

I started this new club in November 2025 to bring more people from Fernley's growing businesses into Rotary, particularly manufacturing, the trades, construction, fire protection, health care and related fields.

Contractors, landscapers, plumbers, electricians, welders, firefighters, EMTs, health workers, manufacturers and suppliers are among the people literally building Fernley's future. We wanted to offer them a place to give back while making professional friendships with others doing that work.

Everyone who wants to contribute is welcome. Our newest member, Gay Parker, a retired air traffic controller, was voted in the evening Jessica visited. Our president-elect is Jared Kupcak of Nevada Cement, whom many readers know.

We are Fernley's second Rotary club, finding our own way to connect people through service.

Jessica fits that spirit beautifully. I asked her to join us in 2025, but she insisted on having a baby instead!

She and her husband now have a beautiful little girl. When we learned that her husband is a Navy veteran, the conversation opened another door. Around our tables were people with military experiences and family connections we might never have discovered from their current occupations.

An Air Force veteran is also a retired police officer. Another member was a Navy rescue swimmer. Others have spouses, parents or children who served. We have Army experience represented, too.

Gay told us about her years working at an airport where large military and Boeing aircraft practiced take-

Continued on PAGE 5 -MURDOCK...

ARGONN Thank You to the Community

Staff Report

To all that joined us for our fundraising event in Fernley on October 3rd.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for your incredible support and participation in making our fundraising event such a success! Your presence, enthusiasm, and generosity have made a significant impact, and we are truly humbled by your commitment to our cause.

We appreciate all the businesses that donated to our raffle/event:

Kiln-time Pottery Studio
Furr-Nley's pet spa
Tillie's and Crew Sourdough
All Points Bar & Grill
Puppy Clips and Pets
Papa Murphys
Wingers
Steve's Ice Cream
Las Palmas
Pizza Factory
Stella Jones

Thank you,
Nan Leija

Fernley Community Events

OCT 24

TABLE TENNIS
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

NORTH LYON COUNTY FIRE OPEN HOUSE
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
195 East Main St.

The Nest - 10TH ANNIVERSARY HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
11:00 a.m.
480 E Main St Ste 220

MONSTER SLIME
Make your own slime.
2:00 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

OCT 24

PAINT-YOUR-OWN POTTERY & COSTUME CONTEST
$30 per person
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Put on your favorite costume, bring your creativity, and join us for an afternoon of pottery, painting, and Halloween fun!
Frontier Fun Center
480 West Main Street

TRUNK OR TREAT AT THE TRACK - FREE
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Features drift demos, race track displays, food trucks, refreshments, and a best-decorated trunk contest.
1965 S Hwy 95A

OCT 27

FIBER ARTS MEET UP
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

TRIVIA NIGHT 21+
Free Billiards at 6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.

OCT 28

FAMILY BOARD GAMES AND LEGO TIME
4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

OCT 30

DINOSAUR-THEMED TRUNK OR TREAT - Free
4:00 p.m.
Fernley Estates
1130 Chisholm Trail

OCT 29

6TH ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT - FREE
Boys and Girls Club
5:00 p.m.
Presented by Walmart, featuring decorated trunks, tons of candy, food trucks, and the new "Mad Scientist Plaza".
695 East Main Street

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

COMMUNITY

Court voids March Lau expulsion

Order leaves April removal vote and grounds for expulsion unresolved

By Rachel Dahl

A district judge has declared the Fernley City Council's March 4 vote to expel Councilman Stan Lau void because the meeting agenda did not clearly notify the public that removal from office was a possible action.

The written order, filed Oct. 15 by Third Judicial District Judge Leon Aberasturi, also confirms that the council has authority to expel a member for cause. It does not decide whether the allegations against Lau justified removal or whether a second expulsion vote taken April 15 was valid.

That distinction leaves the ruling short of resolving the larger dispute over Lau's removal.

The order follows an Aug. 11 hearing in Lau's lawsuit against the city. Lau filed the action March 16, seeking declaratory and injunctive relief and court orders challenging the council's action.

Notice fell short

The March agenda item concerning Lau listed possible disciplinary actions, including censure, removal from boards or committees, adoption of a resolution and a request for resignation. It did not specifically list expulsion.

A separate item concerning possible discipline of Councilman Torres did expressly identify expulsion as a potential action.

Aberasturi found that difference significant in determining whether the public received adequate notice.

"The item failed to apprise the reader that the Respondent could expel the Petitioner," the order states.

Nevada's Open Meeting Law requires agendas to provide a clear and complete statement of the topics scheduled for consideration. Applying that requirement, the judge declared the March 4 expulsion void.

The order further states that the city has no basis to declare Lau's seat vacant based on that March vote.

April vote remains outside the ruling

The council voted again April 15 to expel Lau, after the lawsuit had begun.

Aberasturi said he could not determine the validity or effect of that vote because neither side amended its court pleadings to put the second action before him.

"This ruling neither invalidates nor validates that subsequent action," the order states.

The judge noted that state law allows public bodies to take corrective action addressing an alleged Open Meeting Law violation, with that action effective prospectively. He also reiterated that his earlier temporary restraining order did not prevent the council from taking statutorily permitted corrective action.

Whether the April vote accomplished a legally valid removal was not decided.

"Both Parties had ample time to amend their pleadings to place the issue before the Court," Aberasturi wrote.

The ruling therefore does not establish that voiding the March vote, by itself, restores Lau to the council.

Council has removal authority

Lau also challenged the procedures under which the city exercised its expulsion power, arguing that additional ordinances were needed to define cause and establish procedures.

The judge rejected that argument.

The order cites Nevada law authorizing a city council, with the concurrence of two-thirds of its members, to expel a member for cause. It also cites Fernley's municipal code, which provides for expulsion for cause as defined by resolution.

Aberasturi found that the council's resolution stated the grounds for Lau's expulsion and that the city had authority to exercise its removal power.

That finding addresses the council's authority and procedural framework. It does not establish that the stated allegations were sufficient grounds to remove Lau.

The judge expressly declined to decide that question.

Grounds for removal still disputed

In discussing the meaning of cause, the order cites legal authorities distinguishing substantial grounds related to an official's fitness or performance from removal merely at another official's discretion.

But Aberasturi made no finding that Lau's conduct met that standard.

Because the March action was void under the Open Meeting Law, the judge said the substantive arguments about grounds for removal were moot in this action. The order identifies a separate case, 26-CV-0295, in which those arguments have been raised.

The order does not report a disposition of that separate case.

Aberasturi allowed Lau to apply for additional relief available under the Open Meeting Law, including attorney's fees and costs.

Any fee request must be submitted separately within 14 days of entry of the order, unless the parties resolve it by stipulation. The city would have an opportunity to oppose the request.

The order itself awards no attorney's fees or costs and denies Lau's additional requests for relief.

According to City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen, Mr. Lau was, and remains, permanently expelled from the City Council under NRS 266.240.

"The City Council voted on March 4, 2026, to permanently expel Mr. Lau from the City Council, which resulted in a writ action by Mr. Lau. That vote has now been declared void due to an alleged open meeting law violation. The Judge however affirmed the City Council's ability to expel Council members for just cause. The City Council subsequently voted to permanently expel Mr. Lau again on April 15, 2026," he said.

Mouritsen said the April 15, 2026 expulsion vote was independently noticed, agendized, and voted upon. Judge Aberasturi's October 15, 2026 Order declared the March 4, 2026 expulsion vote void but did not void the vote on April 15, 2026. In fact, Judge Aberasturi stated that the April 15, 2026 vote "is not at issue in this action" and his ruling "neither invalidates nor validates that subsequent action." The April 15, 2026 vote is independently valid and, therefore, in effect.

"At this time, we consider the matter resolved."

A request to Lau's attorney, Jeff Dickerson had not been returned at press time.

Continued from PAGE 4 -MURDOCK...

offs and landings. We shared pieces of our lives until the Wigwam closed.

That is a big part of Rotary: do good in the community and make good friends as you do.

It is also what happens when we take time to look beyond a title. A speaker becomes someone we know. A request for volunteers becomes a shared project. People discover reasons to stay and talk.

So, some of us from the Rotary Club of NW Nevada will be helping at Spooktacular this year.

Community development includes the visible changes around us: housing, infrastructure and planning for growth. It also includes helping people feel connected to the place where they live.

Jessica's work gives us opportunities to make those connections.

I think about that when I hear criticism directed at people serving our community. As an elected, unpaid swimming pool district trustee, I get some unusual flak when I post about pool repairs. City employees receive plenty themselves.

Questions and disagreements come with public service. Still, we can ask questions, expect answers and remember there is a person on the receiving end. Most people who contact me as a trustee offer appreciation and gratitude. Their kindness helps make the difficult days bearable.

We can also say thank you when someone makes our town a better place to live. Better yet, we can help. Bring the candy. Volunteer the truck. Staff a table. Be the neighbor who adds something good.

Jessica gave our Rotary club that opportunity, and we took it. We had something to contribute, and she made the connection.

At Spooktacular, children will arrive dressed as someone else for an evening. The rest of us might try seeing one another a little more clearly. Who is the person behind the title?

There is a lot of community building in that bag of candy.

Jessica is already doing her part: bringing Fernley together, one invitation, one conversation and one delighted trick-or-treater at a time.



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, Oct. 26	Tuesday, Oct. 27	Wednesday, Oct. 28	Thursday, Oct. 29	Friday, Oct. 30
Breaded Chicken Patty on Whole Wheat Bun Lettuce, tomatoe, mayo Vegetable of the Day Mediterranean Bean Salad Applesauce 100% Juice	Chicken in Orange Sauce Mashed Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Garden Salad French Dressing 7 GrainBread Smart Balance Peach Yogurt Peaches	Meatloaf Stuffing Gravy Mixed Vegetable Lima Beans Fruit of the Day 100% Juice	Lemon Baked Fish Broccoli Stuffed Potato Steamed Carrots Whole Wheat Bread Smart Balance Honeydew Melon	Nevada Day -CLOSED-



COMMUNITY

New Dayton food hub to expand pantry capacity across Lyon County

By Robert Perea

A new 4,000-square-foot food hub in Dayton will help the Healthy Communities Coalition of Lyon and Storey Counties receive, store and distribute more food to pantries serving residents throughout Lyon County.

Community members, volunteers and partner organizations celebrated the expansion Oct. 16 with a grand opening and ribbon cutting at the coalition's campus, 209 Dayton Valley Road.

The building will serve as both an expanded Dayton Food Pantry and a regional distribution hub supporting the coalition's pantries in Silver Springs and Yerington.

HCC Deputy Director Noel Chounet said the additional space will allow the coalition to purchase and receive food in bulk, then distribute it to the other pantries.

"The primary goal of this project is to increase our overall capacity for supporting Lyon County residents needing food supports across the county," Chounet said.

According to the coalition, demand for food assistance at its three pantries has risen steadily.

The project enclosed and expanded an existing pavilion at HCC's Dayton campus. Funding came through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, administered through the Nevada Department of Agriculture's Division of Food and Nutrition. The award also funded four insulated sheds for additional food storage and a paved parking area beside the building.



Friends, family, volunteers and community partners gathered Oct. 16 for the Dayton Food Pantry's grand-opening celebration and ribbon cutting. Photo by Robert Perea.

Inside, the new facility includes walk-in freezers and refrigerators, expanded shelving and larger client-choice shopping areas. It also provides private office space and additional room for community partners offering assistance related to SNAP, veterans' services, WIC and Medicare.

HCC Executive Director Wendy Madson described the facility as more than a building.

"It represents an investment in people—and a commitment to hope, help, and compassion," Madson said. "It will help build hope, strengthen our community, and create a welcoming space for connections."

She credited donors, volunteers and community partners with helping bring the project to life.

The grand-opening celebration, called "Pantry Palooza and Fill the Pantry," included a ribbon cutting, remarks from coalition leadership and food prepared by volunteers and Reno chef Jonathan Chapin.

Chapin donated his time and prepared an assortment of dishes, including pulled pork sliders, smoked chicken thighs, pasta salads and vegetarian options. The event also featured a cake designed by Dayton High School culinary students and lumpia and other treats provided by volunteer Lolita Lynn.

In a message following the celebration, the coalition thanked the community partners, volunteers, business owners, donors, staff, board members, educators, farmers and neighbors who attended.

Food pantries offer more than groceries, the coalition noted. They also provide connections, companionship, referrals to other services and a sense of belonging.

More information about Healthy Communities Coalition is available at healthycomm.org.

Fernley pool awaits state inspection

Staff Report

The Fernley swimming pool has taken another step toward reopening, with its pump, filtration, chemical-feed and heating systems back in operation, according to an update shared by Suzanne Prouty, chair of the pool district's board of trustees.

Pool manager Patrick reported that the systems appear to be operating correctly, although some functions still need to be fully verified.

The pump is circulating and filtering water, chemicals are beginning to feed into the system, and the water is being heated.

Patrick also reported a change in the water's color after the systems restarted. He attributed it to accumulated debris returning from the piping to the main pool and said he expected normal filtration and chemical treatment to clear it. Additional treatment may be needed if rust residue is involved.

State health officials have been notified that the pool is ready for inspection, but an inspection date had not been confirmed at the time of the update.

No reopening date was provided.

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More information about Healthy Communities Coalition is available at healthycomm.org.

Continued from FRONT - STEVE KUNTZ...

"I'm never a big one on position time," Kuntz said of his changing titles. "I'm a loyal employee and I just want to do the best job I can. Whatever role or capacity, I'm always going to do that."

Throughout his time on the line, Kuntz continued his education, a standard he encourages new firefighters to follow.

"I always tell the new firefighters, 'You've got to continue your education. You've got to get at least one certificate a year.'"

When longtime Fire Prevention Lead Tim Myers retired in January, Kuntz saw an opportunity to change directions. After years of overtime and extended wildland fire assignments, family took priority. With his children now teenagers, the fire marshal role offered regular office hours and more time at home.

"I didn't want to look back and say, 'Man, I really wish I had spent more time out there,'" Kuntz said. "This position affords me a good work-life balance while still allowing me to be deeply a part of the community."

Kuntz handled the interim fire prevention workload before his promotion to full-time fire marshal became official Sept. 21.

Today, he runs the Fire Prevention Division on his own, handling public education, code enforcement, construction plan reviews, permitting and business inspections. Current projects include a new culinary arts center at Fernley High School, an aerosol plant, industrial developments and fire-suppression hood systems for the new fire station.

Kuntz is also preparing for additional training in sprinkler plan review and arson investigation.

Moving from emergency response into a regulatory role meant adjusting to a different kind of pressure: conflict.

"Early on, that was tough, because the first couple weeks I was on my own, I'm like, 'This is great. I get to go talk to people and people like me,'" Kuntz recalled. "But then when I go, 'Oh, I think we need to explore this or change this,' I was like, 'Oh man, I hope they don't feel I'm trying to be a pest or flex.'"

As Fernley grows, Kuntz grounds his decisions in the codes adopted by the district.

"I don't like to enforce my position. I enforce the codes," Kuntz said. "I can't issue the permit until you do that. I don't want to hold the project up, but we need to address these issues. When I relate that decision back to safety, people are super understanding."

That work brings Kuntz together with Fernley's planning, building and public utilities departments to address safety before construction begins.

When Kuntz enters a facility, he checks items such as exit lights while also gathering information that could help crews during an emergency. He develops detailed pre-incident plans using a software program called First Due, mapping building layouts, recording after-hours contacts and uploading safety data sheets outlining hazardous chemical risks.

Responders can access that information through mobile data terminals in emergency vehicles.

"If a warehouse has a hidden room in the back, our crews will know to check it," Kuntz said.

Preplanning is particularly important as south and southwest Fernley and Victory Logistics District develop. Kuntz is identifying response needs in areas lacking infrastructure.

"We already have plans for the south area because there are no fire hydrants on the south side of the canal currently," Kuntz said. "We know we have to take water tankers down Truckee Lane. Our responders need to have that knowledge in order to do their jobs efficiently."

He also brings emergency-access concerns to city planning, including traffic around school zones. On Hardie Lane, vehicles lining both sides of the road during drop-off and pickup at Fernley Elementary School can make access difficult.

"What do we do if we had an incident on your property and it's drop-off time? How do we get our engine to where it needs to be? The more we can pre-plan and identify those things, the safer our responders are," Kuntz said.

Although his work now focuses on prevention, Kuntz has not put away his turnout gear. If an emergency call comes in and a station is short-staffed, he may join an engine crew.

Shortly after taking the prevention role, Kuntz responded to a fatal structure fire off Scott Drive near Green Valley after hearing that the initial engine had only one person aboard.

Even during a commercial inspection, he said, a life-threatening emergency would take priority.

"If it was someone's life, I would definitely choose to go," Kuntz said. "I would have my radio on, say, 'Hey, I gotta go, I'm sorry, we'll reschedule.' Because to me, life trumps everything. That's the most important part."

The move into prevention has changed how Kuntz sees his mission.

"When I was a young fireman, I didn't appreciate fire prevention," Kuntz said. "You enjoy doing that operational work because you're helping the community and doing hard physical work. I looked at fire prevention back then and thought, 'Well, if you prevent all fires, then what are firefighters for?'"

"But now I realize you can't eliminate the human factor entirely. Fires are still going to happen. But our goal is to minimize that risk together. The firefighters on the trucks might say, 'We want to go fight fires.' But the prevention guy is saying, 'I'm gonna do my best to keep those fires from happening so people don't get hurt.' Protecting property from fire loss reduces the ultimate economic hit to our community, ensuring our residents, visitors, and responders all make it home safe."

Send *The Fernley Reporter* your obituaries.

To submit an obituary send via email to: customers@rangemediaco.com

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

COMMUNITY

Comstock celebrates solar-panel recycling plant in Silver Springs

Facility designed to process 3.3 million panels annually

By Rachel Dahl

Comstock Metals celebrated its solar-panel recycling facility in Silver Springs on Oct. 16, marking the culmination of what company CEO Corrado De Gasperis described as a four-and-a-half-year journey from laboratory testing to industrial production.

The ribbon cutting brought together local officials, community members and company employees at the Lake Avenue facility, where a production line is designed to process approximately 3.3 million retired solar panels annually.

The celebration followed the company's September announcement that the plant had begun operating continuously. Comstock said its next priority was increasing the volume of panels processed. The annual capacity figure represents the system's design capability, not a reported production total.

For De Gasperis, the project represents both a business opportunity and a way to address what happens to solar panels after they stop producing electricity.

Speaking before the ribbon cutting, he said the company expects growing quantities of panels to require recycling as older installations are retired or replaced.

The Silver Springs operation is intended to recover usable materials rather than send discarded panels to landfills.

From mining to recycling

De Gasperis traced the company's investment in Silver Springs to its roots in the historic Comstock mining district.

He recalled initially knowing little about Silver Springs before local advocates encouraged him to consider investing there. As he learned more about its industrial land, transportation opportunities and community plans, the company began acquiring property.



Scott Keller, Commissioner Tammy Hendrix, Corrado De Gasperis, and Vida Keller along with Comstock employees, Lyon County employees, and supporters last week at the grand opening of Comstock Metals recycling operation in Silver Springs. Photo by Rachel Dahl

The recycling business emerged through another change in direction.

Comstock had explored lithium-ion battery recycling, De Gasperis said, but encountered difficulties separating valuable materials from plastics, adhesives and other contaminants.

That work brought him into contact with Fortunato Villamagna, now president of Comstock Metals. De Gasperis said Villamagna encouraged the company to consider solar panels instead.

The appeal was twofold: customers would pay to have retired panels processed, while the materials recovered could have value of their own.

De Gasperis said the team spent months evaluating the opportunity before committing to the new direction.

Recovering materials

At the ceremony, De Gasperis said the company had invested approximately $15 million in the production line. He described equipment capable of accepting a panel roughly every seven seconds.

The process separates aluminum, glass and a finer material containing silver and other metals, he said.

Comstock describes its operation as a zero-landfill recycling process. The company is also developing additional technology to extract metals from the material remaining after initial processing.

In an August update, Comstock distinguished between bringing its recycling system online and developing its downstream metals-recovery process, which included plans for a separate pilot system.

De Gasperis said he sees the potential for a network of recycling facilities to become a significant domestic source of recovered silver. That remains a company ambition rather than an established production result.

Building an operation in Silver Springs

De Gasperis described the work of converting the building, designing the equipment and obtaining state and county approvals as a lengthy process.

He credited Lyon County commissioners, planning commissioners, local business advocates and emergency-response agencies with asking questions and working through an unfamiliar industrial proposal.

The company also acquired nearby property to accommodate panel storage and future needs, he said.

Throughout his remarks, De Gasperis returned to the importance of local support and creating opportunities for residents to work close to home.

He said the region's growth should give young people a reason to return after school and build careers in their own community.

The project has also received state economic-development support. In February, Comstock announced approximately $900,000 in Nevada tax abatements tied to plans for at least 43 jobs and more than $12 million in capital investment during the first year of operation. Those figures were commitments associated with the abatement program, not a current employment count.

For the employees and supporters gathered Oct. 16, the ribbon cutting marked a visible milestone: equipment developed through years of testing was now operating inside a Silver Springs industrial building.

American Ready Mix Seeks Longer Operating Hours

Staff Report

American Ready Mix is seeking renewal and revisions to its air-quality operating permit for its Fernley facility at 345 Logan Lane, including longer operating hours.

The proposed changes would remove time-of-day restrictions and allow operation for up to 16 hours daily and 5,840 hours annually. The application also includes changes to processing equipment descriptions and pollution-control systems.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has made a preliminary determination to issue the renewed and revised Class II permit. According to the agency, the proposed changes would not cause or contribute to violations of federal or state air-quality standards.

The public comment period runs Oct. 22 through Nov. 21. Comments will be considered before a final permit decision.

The draft permit and supporting documents are available at ndep.nv.gov/posts/category/public-notices/air. Written comments or hearing requests may be emailed to aircomments@ndep.nv.gov or mailed to Tanya Soleta, NDEP Bureau of Air Pollution Control, 901 S. Stewart St., Suite 4001, Carson City, NV 89701.





BUSINESS

Brave New World

When you can't tell what's real from what's fake...

By Suzanne Prouty

Remember reading Aldous Huxley's Brave New World in high school? Babies were made in laboratories, and people were conditioned to do what they were told. Freedom was the price.

That was 1932. In 1999, "The Matrix" gave us another unsettling version: machines ran the world, and people didn't even know it. Scary, but we could leave the theater and tell ourselves it was just a movie.

Now you answer the phone, hear your grandchild's voice asking for help, and have to wonder whether it's really your grandchild. Someone can copy their voice. Yours, too. So how will you know?

That's why locals and City Councilman Albert Torres gathered at Black Bear Diner for a Senior Citizen Advisory Council workshop on AI scams. Tim Johnston of the Better Business Bureau walked us through what to watch for. Many thanks to council representatives Jackie La Voie, Sharon Holley and Jordan Hicks for this priceless event.

What do scammers want?

Your money and your identity. Tim's mantra: play good defense now. The first play? Slow down and check the story before you send a dime.

I used to spot scams easily. Misspelled words. Terrible grammar. Awkward phrasing like "can you please to send..." Not anymore. As Tim explained, AI can help even a slacker criminal sound convincing.

Here are five scams to watch for:

Investment scams. Pressure to act fast, a guaranteed high return, no risk at all? Slow down. Be especially wary of demands for cryptocurrency or transfers to unfamiliar accounts.

Employment scams. "Make a ton of money working from home! Just send us all your personal information so we can put you on payroll." Don't. Verify the employer before handing over sensitive information.

Shopping scams. You pay, and nothing shows up—or what arrives bears little resemblance to what you ordered. That bargain wasn't much of a bargain.

Romance scams. "I love you, baby. Send money so I can come visit." A friend of mine fell for this. "I can't come, my kid broke his leg and I used your money for that, but I still love you. Send more."

For three years.

Door-to-door "home improvement." Don't hand over money to someone who appears unexpectedly offering repairs. Ask for the business's city license number and call the city clerk to verify it, as Councilman Torres suggested. No license? Report them, too. Sorry, Kim! More work.

The pattern is clear: trust, urgency and a payment that's hard to undo.

"Grandma, I need help"

A familiar face or voice in an advertisement is no longer proof that the person endorsed it. Neither is a polished video promising miraculous weight loss. Search the claim with the word "scam," then check reliable sources.

More frightening is the call about your grandkids. An accident. An arrest. Your grandchild sounds terrified and needs money right now.

"Please don't tell Mom."

Of course you want to help. That's what the caller is counting on.

The Federal Trade Commission warns that scammers can clone a loved one's voice using a short audio clip, perhaps taken from something posted online. So hang up and call your grandchild at the number you already have. No answer? Check with another family member.

Agree on a family password now. Pick something that isn't on Facebook, so skip the dog's name and hometown. It adds another way to check, but don't let even a convincing answer replace an independent call.

And don't trust caller ID. A familiar name or number can be faked.

The faster they push, the slower you go.

Threats

Your "bank," Microsoft, Amazon or PayPal calls. Someone broke into your account, and you must move your savings to protect it. Or "Social Security" says your benefits are in danger or you face arrest.

The FTC says people reported losing $3.5 billion to impostor scams in 2025. That's reported losses alone.

The red flags: "Stay on the phone. Act now. Don't tell anyone."

Stop right there.

Hang up. Call your bank at the number on your card or statement, or contact the agency through its official website. Tell someone you trust.

Never move money because an unexpected caller says it needs "protecting." If anyone tells you to withdraw cash, buy gold, purchase gift cards or feed a Bitcoin machine, stop.

Already sent money? Act fast. Call your bank, card issuer or payment service and ask whether the payment can be stopped or reversed. Report the scam, too. Quick reporting may help, but recovery is not guaranteed.

"Let us fix your computer"

A warning fills your screen. Infected! Call this number! Click this link! Let me fix it from here.

STOP.

The FTC says legitimate security pop-up warnings won't ask you to call a phone number. Don't call, click or scan a code in the warning, and never let an unexpected caller take control of your computer. Contact a company you know and trust if you need help.

If you already gave someone remote access, disconnect from the internet, get trusted tech help and contact your bank from another device.

Holiday shopping

Before buying from an unfamiliar seller, search its name with "complaint," "reviews" or "scam." Don't tap links in texts you weren't expecting. Go to the retailer's website yourself.

That extra minute is cheaper than a missing package and an emptied account.

Protect your credit

Don't wait until your information is stolen. Consider freezing your credit with Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. You must contact each separately. It's free.

A freeze restricts access to your credit report, helping prevent someone from opening new credit accounts in your name. It does not protect existing accounts from fraudulent charges, so keep watching your statements.

Save your account information securely. If you need to apply for credit, ask the lender which bureau it uses and temporarily lift the freeze there.

Check your credit reports regularly. See accounts you never opened? Act immediately.

Defense now

Tim's advice in a nutshell: use different strong passwords, turn on multifactor authentication and keep devices updated.

You can also get an IRS Identity Protection PIN to help prevent someone from using your Social Security number to file a fraudulent federal income tax return. Start at IRS.gov.

Keep these reporting resources handy:

- Fraud: ReportFraud.ftc.gov
- Internet crime: IC3.gov
- Scams: BBB.org/ScamTracker
- Identity theft: IdentityTheft.gov

Want to talk first? The AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline offers free support at 877-908-3360.

Don't pay anyone who promises to recover your money for an upfront fee. That may be another scam.

And tell someone. Being fooled is painful enough without carrying it alone, and your story might save a neighbor.

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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Interested, call 775-815-5190

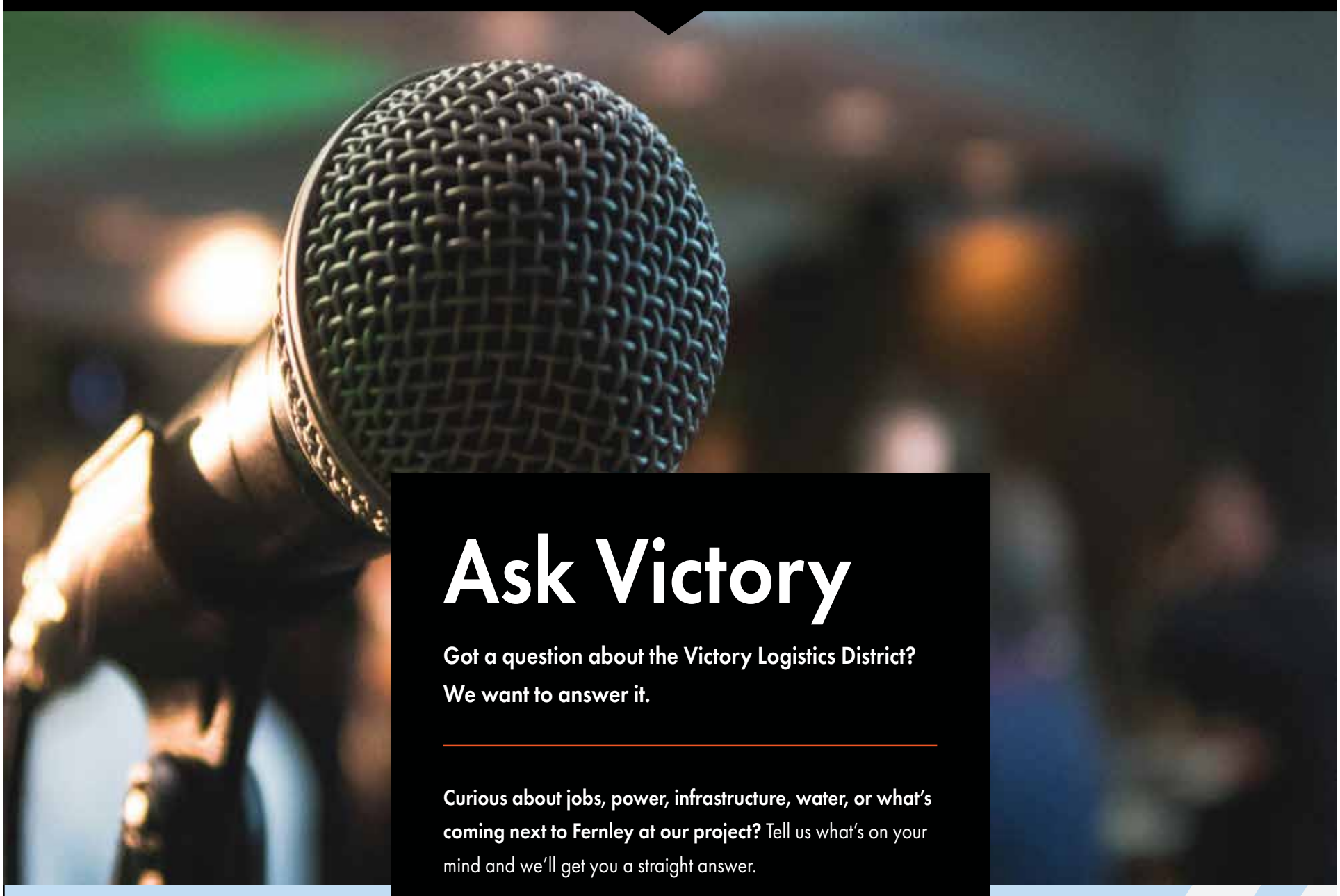
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The Victory Project: Investing in Fernley's Future

VICTORY
LOGISTICS | DISTRICT



Ask Victory

Got a question about the Victory Logistics District? We want to answer it.

Curious about jobs, power, infrastructure, water, or what's coming next to Fernley at our project? Tell us what's on your mind and we'll get you a straight answer.

You can email us directly at: AskVictoryProject@gmail.com or scan the QR code and submit your questions!

Stay in touch with us by following our Facebook page @VictoryLogisticsDistrict

Ask Victory and We'll Answer!

Over the past several years, the 4,300-acre Victory Logistics District has grown from open desert into one of Northern Nevada's largest industrial developments, bringing new construction and, understandably, new questions from the community.

That's why we're launching Ask Victory: a direct line between our project and the people of Fernley.

Starting this week, residents can submit any question about the Victory Logistics District: about traffic, water, power, jobs, timelines, tax revenue or project costs - or anything else you want to know - through an online portal or by email at AskVictoryProject@gmail.com. We'll respond directly to everyone who writes in, and we'll publish the most common questions and our answers, right here in the Fernley Reporter and on our Facebook page.

We're doing this because a project this size and community importance deserves real answers, not rumors. Victory is not a single building or a single decision. It's a multi-year, multi-phase development - from the buildings already open and operating today to the employers, infrastructure, and housing still to come. It will keep evolving as new needs and new opportunities emerge. That complexity is real, and so is our responsibility to be straightforward about it, even when the honest answer is "we're still working that out."

What isn't complicated is our goal. Victory is being built to bring lasting economic opportunity to Fernley: new employers, new career paths, new local business opportunities with our workforce partnership with Western Nevada College to help make sure local residents are first in line for the jobs this project creates. Alongside that growth, we're committed to investing in the kind of infrastructure and community benefits - roads, services, retail and green space - that make Fernley a better place to live.

None of that happens without trust, and trust starts with listening. So if you've ever wondered what's actually happening at Victory, or what it means for your street, your water bill, or your kids' future job prospects, now's the time to ask.

Submit your question by scanning the QR code above or email AskVictoryProject@gmail.com. We're listening, and we'll answer.

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.

Oct. 12 – Oct. 18, 2026

BENTON BOND — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $1,640, Charges: Resist public officer; Criminal contempt; Fail to appear after bail on gross misdemeanor crime; Felony arrest for violation of condition of parole; Resist public officer
DANNY SOBIERALSKI —Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $10,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st)
KAYLA HANSEN — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $2,310, Charges: Trespass, not amounting to burglary; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Resist public officer
DONALD WELLS — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $24,780, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, (1st or 2nd); Driver disobey peace officer, damage property; Resist public officer; Use/possess drug paraphernalia
WESLEY BLACKWELL — Area: Fernley, Bail: $3,640, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, (1st or 2nd); Use/possess drug paraphernalia
GEOFFREY MEUDT — Area: Mound House, Bail: $192,280, Charges: Burglary of a motor vehicle, (1st); Attempt burglary of a business, (1st); Possess burglary tools; Destroy property of another, $250 - $5k; Conspiracy to commit crime; Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Buy/possess/receive stolen property, $1200 but less than $5k; Possess/sell/transfer/receive firearm without serial number, (1st); Possess more than 1 ounce/less than 50 pounds marijuana/more than 1/8 ounce/less than 1 pound concentrated cannabis; Sell/transfer gun by unlicensed person without background check (1st); Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, (1st or 2nd); Burglary of a structure; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Convicted person fail to register with law enforcement within 48 hours
KEITH WATROUS — Area: Dayton, Bail: $1,695, Charges: Fail to appear on traffic citation
JIMMY CURRIER — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $0, Charges: Court commitment
EZEQUIEL MENDOZA AYALA — Area: Dayton, Bail: $640, Charges: Drive with revoked driver's license
THOMAS METZGER — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $0, Charges: Court commitment
DOMINICK GONZALEZ — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, (1st)
MICHAEL FOX — Area: Fernley, Bail: $200,000, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance 42+ grams; Conspiracy to violate Uniform Controlled Substances Act, (1st); Owner/possess gun by prohibited person; Use/possess drug paraphernalia
CHEYANN HATLER — Area: Fernley, Bail: $100,000, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance 42+ grams; Conspiracy to violate Uniform Controlled Substances Act, (1st)
STEVEN FREY— Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $7,500, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st) (2 counts)
ROBERT HEBERLE — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $1,560, Charges: Drive without driver's license; Owner - proof of insurance required; License plates improperly displayed
MICHAEL SANCHEZ — Area: Dayton, Bail: $18,640, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, (1st or 2nd); Burglary of a motor vehicle, (1st); Burglary of a structure; Use/possess drug paraphernalia
STEPHANIE HEBERLE — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $2,500, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, (1st or 2nd)
LENA YOUNG — Area: LCSO, Bail: $0, Charges: Court commitment
DESTINY MALSBURY — Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,140, Charges: Resist public officer
LEMUEL ROSIER — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $4,170, Charges: Fail to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
STEVEN FARWELL — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $13,640, Charges: Attempted forgery; Perjury, make false/unqualified statement in declaration; Unlawful act by person registering to vote; Resist public officer
MARIE ESTEEM — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $2,310, Charges: DUI, (1st); Open alcohol container in vehicle
TRISTAN MERROW — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $1,610,
Charges: DUI, (1st); Fail to maintain lane/improper lane change/use signal; Open alcohol container in vehicle
RICKY LO — Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,975, Charges: DUI, (2nd); Drive with revoked driver's license; Fail to decrease speed or use due care
DONALD SCHRAGL — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st)

Arrest Made in Fernley Arson Investigation

By Robert Perea

Authorities have arrested a suspect in connection with two suspicious fires in Fernley, according to North Lyon Fire.

Just after 1 a.m. Oct. 3, crews responded to an outdoor fire in the 1700 block of Oak Drive. Firefighters extinguished the blaze, and nearby residents provided home security footage that, according to the fire district, showed the fire had been intentionally set. The footage was forwarded to the Nevada State Fire Marshal's Office for investigation.

At about 12:38 a.m. Oct. 4, crews responded to another suspicious fire in the 100 block of Royal Oaks Drive, less than one-tenth of a mile from the first fire. Evidence at both scenes indicated the fires might be related.

North Lyon Fire and Lyon County Sheriff's Office personnel secured the second scene, and the Nevada State Fire Marshal's Office investigated.

On Oct. 5, North Lyon Fire was notified that an arrest had been made in connection with both fires. The district said no further information would be released because the criminal investigation remained ongoing.

North Lyon Fire thanked the sheriff's office, the state fire marshal's office and residents who provided surveillance video to assist investigators.





Letters to the Editor
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THE INSIDE VEER

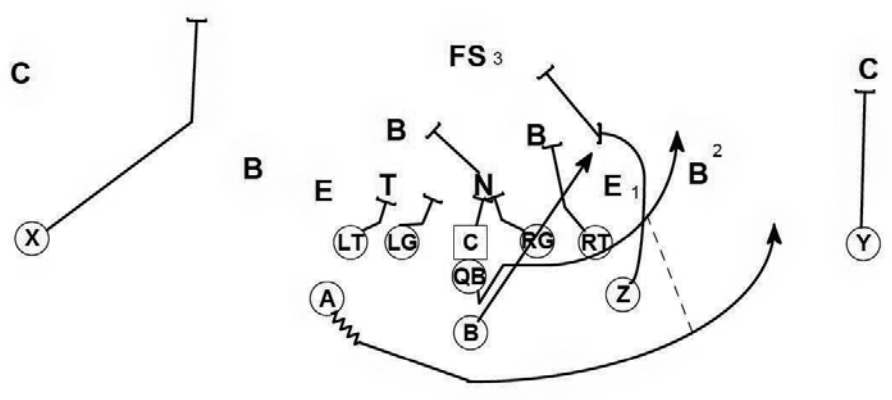
Bits and pieces

By Robert Perea

A quick weekend trip to Albuquerque for my cousin's funeral turned into a stark reminder that so much of what happens to us is entirely out of our hands. A long delay at the Las Vegas airport got me into New Mexico more than two hours later than scheduled. Another two-hour delay in Denver on the return trip gave me time to watch the second half of the Packers-Cowboys game, but it also meant I didn't get home until about 1:30 a.m. Monday, with a Tuesday deadline looming.

In between the travel chaos, I was able to honor my cousin by delivering the eulogy. Despite the somber occasion, it was great to spend time with family I hadn't seen in a few years. It reminded me that some trips are worth every single headache.

Going through the TSA security checkpoint at the Albuquerque Sunport for my return trip, I crossed paths with the UNLV women's soccer team, which was a fun highlight of the weekend. They had played New Mexico earlier Sunday, and even though they lost 5-1, they were a pretty jovial group of young ladies. They also seemed to thoroughly enjoy the moment when I told them to beat UNR this week.



Not so jovial was the Washington State men's basketball team, which lost an exhibition game to New Mexico, 92-64, that day. Those gentlemen were understandably quiet and somber, so even though they were on the same flight to Denver, I decided to give them their space and didn't try to strike up a conversation.

Back here at home, seeing the news that three Fernley planning commissioners resigned near the end of last week's meeting is another reminder that Fernley is at a critical crossroads, facing heavy-duty choices about its future.

Leaders having different ideas about how to get there is actually a good thing, provided they are all pulling toward the same destination. Robust debate over how to solve a problem pushes a city forward.

But whatever happens next depends on whether Fernley's leadership can pivot from procedural chaos to long-term vision. Thriving communities require people willing to do the heavy lifting of building partnerships and finding solutions, rather than getting bogged down in endless debate and infighting.

The playoff equation for Fernley football is as beautifully and brutally simple as it gets. Friday, the Vaqueros host cross-county rival Dayton at 7 p.m. The winner takes the final seed in the 3A Northern League playoffs, and the loser turns in its gear.

It doesn't get any more dramatic than that.

Robert Perea has covered news and sports in Northern Nevada since 1993. He has published The Fernley Reporter online since 2016, loves music, is a sucker for the pets who have adopted him, and is thrilled to be printing the Reporter.

Senior Sense— Independent and Assisted Living: An Alternative to Aging in Place

By Sonia Hedrick

In the last edition of Senior Sense, we considered staying in our family homes as we age. For many, adapting a home to changing needs presents too much work and expense.

Some older adults decide to sell their family home and put the proceeds toward a new lifestyle. Especially if longtime friends, neighbors and beloved family members have moved out of the area, this can be a desirable choice.

Independent living communities are popping up across the United States. Prices vary by location and community. Fernley has no independent living communities; in Reno and Carson City, monthly costs range widely, starting at around $3,500.

This could be an especially good choice for healthy older adults who are social by nature. Depending on the community, rent may include housekeeping, utilities, some meals and local transportation. Many also offer a full calendar of social activities to enjoy with new neighbors.

For those considering selling their home because they need help with daily activities, an assisted living community may be an option.

Fernley Estates is elegant, impeccably clean and, as the name suggests, right here in town. During my visit, the atmosphere was warm, welcoming and friendly, with kind, respectful and efficient staff ready to help. One resident described it as "like living on a cruise ship."

Residents range in age from 65 into their 90s. The community offers 50 units, including studios, deluxe studios, and one- and two-bedroom apartments. Each has a private bathroom and kitchenette. Residents bring their own furniture to create a familiar, comfortable apartment decorated to their taste.

Abby Ferguson's official title is sales and marketing director. She could easily be called Fernley Estates' goodwill ambassador. She clearly believes in the mission and cares deeply about the residents, their families and her coworkers.

During the tour, Ferguson proudly pointed out the community's amenities. She said the monthly apartment rate includes three meals a day with menu choices, utilities, housekeeping, laundry service, local transportation and a variety of entertainment options. Residents enjoy movie nights, card clubs, crafts, visiting musicians and entertainers, field trips, holiday events, discussion groups and more. Monthly apartment rates start at around $4,500.

Assistance with personal care carries an additional charge. According to Ferguson, Fernley Estates has eight levels of care, determined through a point system. Level One is for residents who need minimal assistance, with higher levels reflecting more extensive needs. Care costs increase accordingly.

Families should ask what services each level includes, how residents are reassessed and what circumstances could require a move to another care setting. The availability of additional assistance can provide reassurance, but it is important to understand the community's limits.

Fernley Estates also has a 16-bed memory care unit. For families of residents living with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia, having memory care on-site may provide an option if their loved one's needs change. Families should ask about availability, admission requirements and additional costs.

According to Ferguson, Fernley Estates does not accept Medicaid.

The monthly costs are substantial. Still, when comparing options, it helps to consider the expenses that may be replaced by the apartment rate: meals, utilities, home repairs and yard maintenance.

No need to replace that washer or dryer. And the roof? Not their problem.

For those who sell their homes, property taxes and homeowners insurance on that property also go away. Owning and maintaining a car may become optional.

That does not mean assisted living will cost the same as staying home. The comparison depends on current household expenses, the apartment selected and the amount of personal care needed.

Taking Social Security, pensions, savings and proceeds from a home sale into account may make a move possible. The important question is whether those resources can cover both today's costs and potential increases in care expenses.

If you are considering independent or assisted living, do your homework. Compare what is included in the monthly rate, what costs extra and how fees may change. Options in Reno and Carson City may also be worth exploring.

In the next installment of this series, we will look at Golden Years Castle Homes-Fernley and a variety of services available to Fernley's older adults.

Sonia Hedrick is interested in YOU! Like to share your unusual story with our neighbors? Or do you have an interesting topic you would like to explore in Senior Sense? Send Sonia an email at: shedrick-fernley@gmail.com

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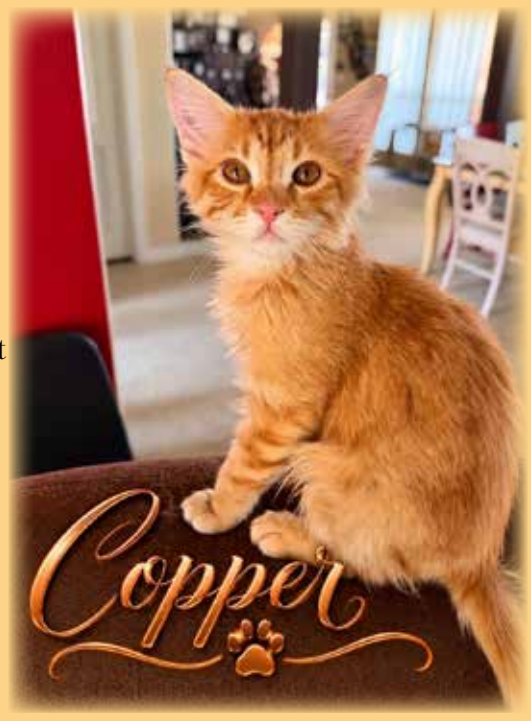

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PETS OF THE WEEK

MORE KITTENS!

Copper is a 12 week old male kitten. Copper will help you with your projects, paperwork and computer input! He is a kickback little guy looking for my furrever home/family to call his own. All adoptable cats are fixed, vaccinated and microchipped. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet one, please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will get back to you within 72 hours to do a phone questionnaire.

775-575-0950
*** this number does not accept texts.***



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

PET OF THE WEEK



The Lyon County Animal Shelter is FULL!

Meet just a few of the amazing Fernley dogs below, there are many more waiting for a second chance! Contact the Lyon County Shelter at 775-577-5005 for more information or to schedule a meet and greet.



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

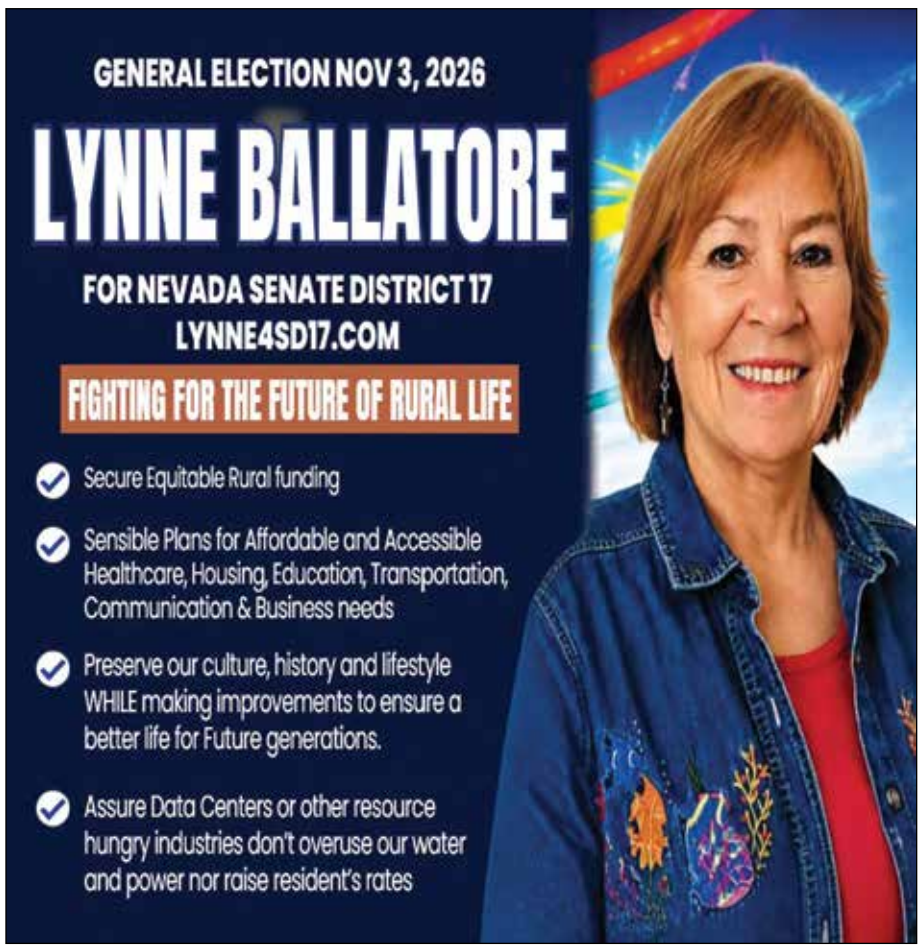


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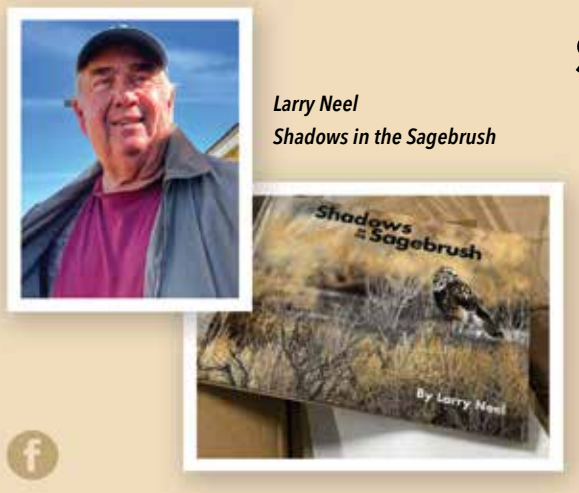
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