the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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$1.00 | The Week of October 2, 2026

Board approves $13.5 million in school upgrades; Fernley projects top $6 million

By Rachel Dahl

More than $6 million in major heating, cooling and electrical upgrades are planned for Fernley schools next summer as part of a $13.46 million package of facility improvements approved by the Lyon County School District Board of Trustees.

The board voted unanimously Sept. 22 to approve $13,462,189 in projects planned for summer 2027, including new boilers at Fernley High School and HVAC, boiler and electrical improvements at Fernley Intermediate School. The two Fernley projects have a combined estimated cost of $6,016,829.

The package also includes a $641,120 HVAC project at Cottonwood Elementary School, $914,110 in boiler work at the Silver Stage Elementary/Middle School dining hall and $4,514,620 in HVAC and boiler improvements at Smith Valley schools.



Plastic ridge vents would be replaced as part of a proposed roofing project at Fernley Intermediate School. Photo courtesy of LCSD

The projects are part of the district's ongoing five-year capital improvement plan. Executive Director of Operations Harman Bains told trustees the district is seeking approval well ahead of next summer because of lengthy lead times for major mechanical equipment.

According to the district's report, current estimated lead times include about 14 weeks for chillers and air handling units, 16 weeks for boilers and pumps and 20 weeks for electrical switchgear.

Bains told trustees those estimates may represent a best-case scenario and said large data center projects under

Continued on PAGE 2 - School Upgrades...

Fernley schools have room to grow

By Rachel Dahl

Fernley's schools currently have room for additional students, even as thousands of homes have been approved for future development and city officials continue to question how quickly school capacity can keep up with growth.

Lyon County School District Superintendent Tim Logan told the Fernley City Council Sept. 16 that Fernley remains the district's largest attendance area, serving roughly 46 percent of Lyon County students, but enrollment has declined this year.

Fernley's six schools currently enroll about 4,000 students. Logan said enrollment is down approximately 107 students, or 2.6 percent, compared with last year.

Fernley High School is down about 47 students, Fernley Intermediate School about 36, Cottonwood Elementary about 20 and Fernley Elementary about 13. Silverland Middle School is up eight students and East Valley Elementary is up one.

The decline comes at the same time Fernley continues approving new housing, prompting council members to ask whether the district is prepared for future growth.

Logan said there is currently capacity in every Fernley school.

East Valley is at about 78.5 percent capacity, Cottonwood 76 percent, Fernley Elementary 70 percent, Fernley Intermediate 87 percent, Silverland Middle 89 percent and Fernley High about 91 percent.

Although 91 percent can create pressure, particularly for special education, English-language services and other programs requiring dedicated space, Logan said the district still has room.

"If we have kids coming, we're going to educate them and we've got a place for them," he said.

Councilman Joe Mendoza pressed Logan on whether the district evaluates development proposals individually or looks at the cumulative number of approved homes citywide.

Mendoza said Fernley has approximately 4,000 approved housing units and questioned whether the district could handle all of those homes if they were built quickly.

Logan said a district growth study completed within the past few years includes a student-generation formula based on housing and development patterns, although he did not have the exact number available during the meeting. He agreed to provide the study to council.

He also said the district currently has approximately 791 unused student seats in Fernley schools.

The discussion briefly became confused when a student-generation figure was misheard as roughly three students per household rather than approximately 0.3. Logan repeatedly cautioned that he wanted to verify the number before relying on it.

City Chief Development Officer Michelle Rambo later clarified that while approximately 3,500 to 4,000 residential units have been approved, not all are expected to be built.

Some subdivision maps have expired and others face infrastructure constraints. Rambo estimated perhaps 500 to 600 of those units are likely to be constructed during the next couple of years.

The larger issue raised during the discussion was how school construction actually keeps pace with growth.

Councilman Ryan Hanan asked whether the district has a capacity "trigger," similar to those used by cities for water and sewer infrastructure.

Logan explained that school construction is often more reactive than municipal infrastructure planning because school districts generally do not receive the funding needed for a new facility until students actually arrive.

"Most of the time the kids come and then the building gets built," Logan said.

He said that can create an uncomfortable period when enrollment rises faster than permanent facilities can be constructed. The district may use portable classrooms, rezone attendance boundaries or adjust classroom space while planning larger improvements.

The district does maintain a five-year capital improvement plan and has bond capacity available if a new school becomes necessary.

Logan said the district also owns property next to Silverland Middle School that was originally intended for an elementary school. Infrastructure and older plans already exist for the site, meaning the district could move relatively quickly if enrollment demands it.

For now, however, Logan said declining enrollment does not justify building another Fernley school.

He said the district's challenge is balancing preparation for growth with the risk of constructing facilities before they are needed.

The district has instead continued investing in existing Fernley schools, including security improvements, HVAC and boiler work, roofing and classroom upgrades.

The conversation ended with broad agreement that communication between the city and school district needs to continue as Fernley grows.



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Captain's Log – Important work

By Rachel Dahl

Saturday, sitting at the Nevada Press Association Hall of Fame lunch, looking around the room, I quickly grabbed my phone and made a note.

"Captain. People who are really good at what they do. Sitting in a whole room full of them."

It was pretty inspiring to be surrounded by the people in the Nevada media industry who have been doing this, together, for so long. I was overcome just a little bit, realizing that we were sitting there with them, listening to their stories and their teasing, getting just a little taste of what they've lived.

It seemed like something worth writing about, something worth noting.

And then the real life of a rural Nevada newspaper publisher intruded on my best-laid plans.

Here we are — 56 minutes from our deadline — now 42 minutes, because I had to stop and record a quick meeting, and then have my handy computer tools transcribe it. I'm late, late, late because yesterday during production I had to drop everything and go get my dad's truck and then go all the way out to the Boyer Bunny Ranch and get a sick goat and load him in the back of the truck in a huge dog crate just in case he felt good enough to jump out of the back of the truck and haul him over to the vet's office so they could work their magic with slimy stuff in a tube down his throat.

Then back to newspapering when other people go home or to the gym and then driving home in the dark again, watching the waning moon and thinking how beautiful it is this time of year.

This morning Duane the errant goat was again ailing, so I did my chores and administered mineral oil down his gullet in between editing stories for Lovelock and researching the depths of the funding maze for the North Lyon County Fire Department in Fernley. As I walked to my car, clean and tidy in my Johnny Cash black outfit, I noticed Duane still in distress.

It was time to try the baking soda, so sleeves rolled up and straddling a hugely swollen, mohair-clad Angora goat trying his best to gore me with a healthy set of horns, I managed to administer a couple tubes of baking soda solution and, after an honest effort, heard my first-ever goat burp.

I don't know why the Hall of Fame lunch flashed through my head at that moment, and the thought of all those fancy people, but I started laughing as I considered the plight of a small-town publisher. It made me think of Mike Mackedon, an elegant, intellectual giant of a man if ever there was one, who used to refer to himself as a "small town lawyer who hung a shingle."

If I ever manage to live up to the example he set, a humble man doing small, daily things of great impact to his clients and his community, it will be a life well lived, a job well done, and those important people in the press association, I will continue to admire from afar.

So, as we laugh at the whatever that is dried on my pant leg and hope like heck the goat is on the mend, we'll always be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.
Rach

Continued from FRONT - School Upgrades...

development in the area are adding pressure to the supply chain.

"Our nice data center factories that are being put up, up on the hill, also take a lot of our equipment for HVAC and is delaying the process," Bains said. "So, the sooner we can get these procured and coming, the better off we are."

The district plans to begin procurement immediately, with contractors generally responsible for receiving and securing equipment until it is ready for installation. Bains said the district will not pay for equipment until contractors demonstrate that it has been received.

The 2027 work follows extensive improvements completed at Fernley schools this summer. Those included HVAC and boiler upgrades in the Fernley High School math building, HVAC upgrades in the high school's CTE building and a new roof on the fifth- and sixth-grade wings at Fernley Intermediate School. Fernley High also received new flooring throughout the school, while the Fernley Intermediate multipurpose room received an epoxy bathroom renovation.

Additional Fernley projects are planned for summer 2027 beyond the $13.46 million package approved Sept. 22. The district plans to seek bids for a roofing project at Fernley Intermediate School and continue its rotating flooring and restroom improvement program. Restroom epoxy work is planned at Fernley High School, Fernley Intermediate and Fernley Elementary School.

The district plans to finance the work through another school improvement bond issue.

Immediately after approving the facility projects, trustees considered the next phase of the district's bonding plan. Bains said the Lyon County Debt Management Commission previously authorized the district to issue up to $30 million in general obligation bonds, with $15 million issued previously and another series of up to $15 million planned for 2026.

Marty Johnson of JNA Consulting Group, the district's financial consultant, told trustees approximately $15 million a year is currently flowing into the district's debt-service fund. He projected annual debt payments of approximately $8 million to $12 million over the next five years as older bonds are retired.

Johnson emphasized that debt-service revenues are separate from money used for the district's day-to-day operations.

Bains said the district intends to seek the full $15 million authorization even though the projects approved Sept. 22 total about $13.46 million. The remaining proceeds would help pay for the additional roofing projects as well as flooring, epoxy, doors, windows and other capital work.

The district's written report says it currently has capacity to issue approximately $15 million to $20 million in bonds annually over each of the next two years, with an estimated $75 million in additional bonding capacity becoming available around 2029-30 as existing debt is retired.



FEATURES

From water-ski showgirl to water adventurer

Fernley Estates resident Ginger proves that a lifelong love of the water never really goes away.





Ginger water-skiing when she was younger and riding a personal watercraft during a recent Fernley Estates outing. Photos courtesy of Dawn Slagle, Mission Senior Living

By Dawn Slagle
Mission Senior Living

A recent Fernley Estates Senior Living outing to Topaz Lake brought residents together for a day on the water — and for Ginger, it brought a lifetime of memories rushing back.

Fernley Estates took a group of residents to Topaz Lake for a day of riding personal watercraft, giving them the chance to get outside, enjoy an adventure and make new memories together. Several residents joined in the fun, but Ginger's story made the day especially meaningful.

The outing also included a picnic lunch provided by Minden Meat and Deli, helping make the day even more special for residents. The local support was a perfect addition to an afternoon centered on fun, friendship and making memories together.

Ginger's connection to the water began when she was a teenager in Fresno, California. At 17, she was a member of her high school diving team. After graduation, she turned that love of the water into something even more adventurous, performing as a demonstration water-skier and showgirl at events promoting Mercury Motors along the West Coast.

After marriage, Ginger continued enjoying the water with her family, including vacations to Puerto Vallarta with her husband and daughter. Through every chapter of her life, the water remained a place of joy and freedom.

"I love the feel and buoyancy of the waves," she said. "It makes me feel alive!"

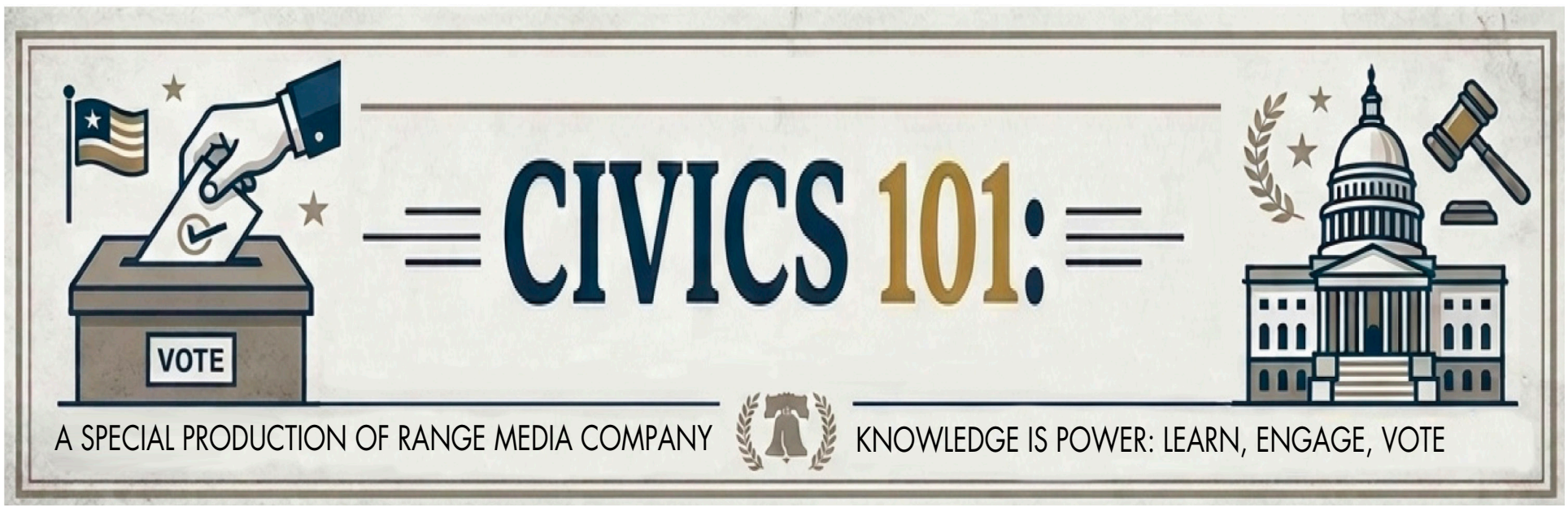
That same spirit was easy to see on the water. Decades after her water-skiing days, Ginger was back where she has always felt most alive — smiling and enjoying the ride.

Ginger has called Fernley Estates home for two years. She is outgoing, active in community outings, quick to build friendships with other residents and almost always has a smile on her face.

The outing was about more than one resident or one afternoon. It was an opportunity for residents to keep trying things, revisiting old passions and enjoying life together — whether that means a familiar experience from years ago or an entirely new adventure.

At Fernley Estates, that is the goal: to create opportunities for residents to stay connected to the things that make them feel most like themselves.

For Ginger, that just happens to include a little speed, a lot of water and one very big smile.



The First Amendment cannot cover the meeting

By Rachel Dahl

We recently came home from the Nevada Press Foundation Awards of Excellence with an armload of plaques and certificates—a testament to a year's worth of hard work.

We took just a minute to be proud of them, and then it's back at work on another story list, because apparently plaques will not sit through a school board meeting and these stories won't write themselves.

Awards recognize the work. They do not give us permission to do it.

That permission is protected by the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." Those few words keep government from deciding what newspapers may publish, which opinions are acceptable, or who is allowed to criticize public officials.

The amendment originally restrained the federal government. Through the Fourteenth Amendment, its protections also apply to state and local governments.

The government does not hand out constitutional press cards to only the big, impressive papers. A tiny weekly newspaper in a rural town stands under the same First Amendment as The New York Times. So does an independent writer, a citizen with a newsletter, or anyone else doing the work of gathering information and publishing it.

But freedom of the press is only the beginning.

The First Amendment can protect a newspaper from government censorship. It cannot hire a reporter. It cannot drive her to the meeting, make her read the 591-page agenda packet, or keep her awake while the board discusses something important in language apparently designed to send ordinary people into a coma.

That part requires a newspaper.

Look at our story lists this week. Reporters are covering candidate nights and sample ballots, teacher retention and declining enrollment, planning commissions, library boards, county boards, courts, water levels, and federal decisions about wild horses on public land.

Most of those stories will never appear on a national newscast. Still, they are the stories most likely to explain why your child's classroom changed, why a road project moved, why a tax appeared on the ballot, or what a government agency is doing just over the hill.

Some of that information can be found in agendas, minutes, and agency news releases. Those records are important, and the public can access them and dig through them for themselves. But they are not the same thing as reporting.

An agenda tells you what officials planned to discuss. Minutes may tell you what motion passed. A reporter watches the discussion, asks questions, checks the numbers, and tells you what changed. Sometimes the most important part never made it into the news release.

Our story this week about the Bureau of Land Management's Jackson Mountains wild horse gather is a good example. The agency posted information in several places. Bridgette gathered it into one account: the estimated herd population, the government's target, the number of horses removed, the trapping method, and the reported deaths. She put the facts where readers could see them together and decide what questions remain.

That is what local newspapers do all week, usually without much ceremony. We sit through the meetings, read the documents, and create a public record that is easier to find than a three-hour video buried on a government website.

National Newspaper Week begins Oct. 4. This year's theme is "Rooted in Community, Committed to Truth." That is a pretty good description of the job. Local reporting works because the reporter knows the places, people, and history behind the agenda item. The commitment to truth is what keeps that knowledge from becoming favoritism.

Our awards give us a lovely reason to celebrate heading into Newspaper Week. More importantly, they remind us that careful journalism can be produced in small communities and that the work is worth doing well.

Next week, we will talk about the Fourth Estate and why the press became an unofficial institution watching the official ones, as we recognize the important job little local community papers are doing across this country.

Plaques are really quite lovely, and we love ours, but tomorrow is City Council, and Wednesday is County Commission, and someone has to go cover them.

So while the First Amendment can keep government from silencing a newspaper, it cannot guarantee that a reporter will be in the room. Only a community can keep that work alive.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

North Lyon Fire helps welcome baby boy

Staff Report

North Lyon Fire personnel had an especially memorable call Sept. 21 when they helped welcome one of the community's newest residents into the world.

Crews were called shortly after midnight for a mother in active labor. Not long after firefighters arrived, a healthy baby boy made his entrance.

North Lyon Fire personnel cared for the mother and baby before they were transported for additional evaluation and care. The department reported that the baby arrived healthy.

"For our personnel, there are few things more rewarding than being there for a family during such an important moment," the department said.

North Lyon Fire wished the new baby and his family a lifetime of health, happiness and wonderful memories.

And for the firefighters on duty that night, it was one call they are unlikely to forget.



Brooke Shaw, Advanced EMT and Advanced Certified Phlebotomy Technician. Photo courtesy of the North Lyon Fire Department.

Volunteers sought for Fernley Swales cleanup

Staff Report

Volunteers are invited to help preserve a piece of local history during the annual California Emigrant Trail Fernley Swales Cleanup on Saturday, Oct. 3.

The cleanup will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at the historic Fernley Swales. Volunteers will meet on Truck Inn Way, just north of the Flying J Truck Stop.

The swales are remnants of the California Emigrant Trail, where the passage of thousands of emigrant wagons and livestock left depressions in the landscape that remain visible to-day.

Volunteers should bring work gloves, sturdy shoes or boots, water, a hat and sunscreen. Those who have a trash grabber are encouraged to bring it. Trash bags and additional cleanup supplies will be provided.

The annual cleanup helps keep the historic trail area clean and accessible while preserving the swales for future generations.

ARGONN plans bingo night, online auction

Staff Report

The Animal Rescue Group of Northern Nevada will host two October fundraisers to help animals in need.

ARGONN Family Bingo Night will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Fernley Senior Center, 105 Lois Lane.

The family-friendly evening will feature bingo, raffle prizes, chili dogs and nachos, with proceeds benefiting ARGONN's work helping cats and kittens.

The organization will follow the event with its monthly online auction Saturday, Oct. 10. The auction is held on the second Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and features a variety of items available for bidding, with proceeds supporting animals in ARGONN's care.

Information about the online auction and available items will be posted on ARGONN's Facebook page.

Fernley Community Events

OCT 3

SWALES CLEAN UP
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Meet up North of the
Flying J truck stop

MAGIC SHOW
1:00 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

BINGO NIGHT
hosted by ARGONN
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Fernley Senior Center
105 Lois Lane

OCT 6

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

OCT 7

LIONS CLUB BINGO NIGHT
6:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

OCT 8

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

AI SCAMS: KEEP YOURSELF SAFE
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
9:00 a.m.
Black Bear Diner

OCT 13

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

OCT 15

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

OCT 17

FAMILY BINGO
2:00 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

OCT 24

MONSTER SLIME
Make your own slime.
2:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
575 Silver Lace Blvd



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. 5	Tuesday, Oct. 6	Wednesday, Oct. 7	Thursday, Oct. 8	Friday, Oct. 9
Salisbury Steak	*Chicken Noodle*	*Teriyaki Chicken Burger Whole*	*Breaded Fish Square with*	*Fried Rice with*
Mashed Potatoes	*Soup Turkey Salad*	*Wheat Bun*	*Cheese on*	*Almonds Mini Chicken*
Gravy	*Sandwich Cucumber*	*Sesame Roasted Green Beans*	*Whole Wheat Bun*	*Egg Roll*
Peas & Carrots	*Tomato Salad*	*Bang Bang Pineapple Slaw*	*Corn, Southern Style Lima*	*Orange Spinach Salad*
Pears	*Fresh Orange*	*(cabbage, pineapple, cilantro,*	*Beans, & Tartar Sauce*	*Cranberry Apple*
100% Juice		*sweet chili sauce)*	*Pears*	
		Garbanzo Bean Salad	*100% Juice*	

CRIME WATCH

Four arrested for sex offender registration violations

By Rachel Dahl

Four registered sex offenders in Lyon County, including two Fernley residents, were arrest-ed within an eight-day period for allegedly failing to comply with Nevada registration or veri-fication requirements, according to the Lyon County Sheriff's Office.

The arrests were announced in two separate releases issued by the Sheriff's Office Sept. 24 and Sept. 28.

Michael Corral, 55, of Fernley, a Tier II registered sex offender, was arrested Sept. 24 after al-legedly failing to complete a required verification by the date required under Nevada law.

According to the Sheriff's Office, Corral was contacted at the agency's Fernley substation and arrested on suspicion of a felony violation of NRS 179D.550. He was booked into the Lyon County Jail.

The following day, Northern Command deputies arrested Stephen Lafever of Fernley. The Sheriff's Office identified Lafever as a Tier III registered sex offender and said he failed to complete his required registration.

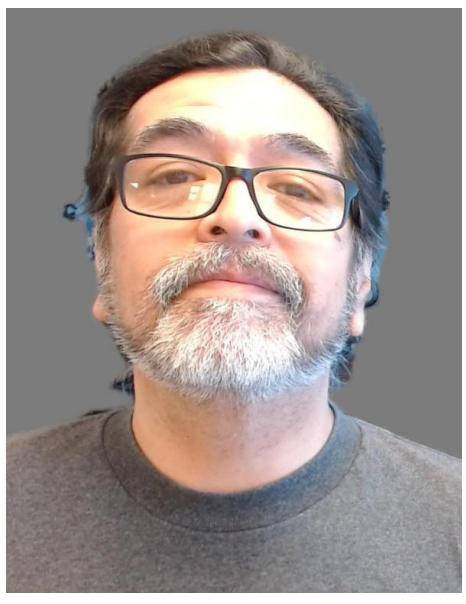
Lafever was also arrested on suspicion of violating NRS 179D.550 and booked into the Lyon County Jail.

Two Dayton residents were arrested during the same period.

Edward Russell, 63, of Dayton, was arrested Sept. 18 by Western Command deputies. The Sheriff's Office identified Russell as a Tier III registered sex offender and said he failed to complete a required verification by the required date.

Richard Baker of Dayton was arrested Sept. 25. Baker was identified as a Tier III registered sex offender who allegedly failed to complete his required registration.

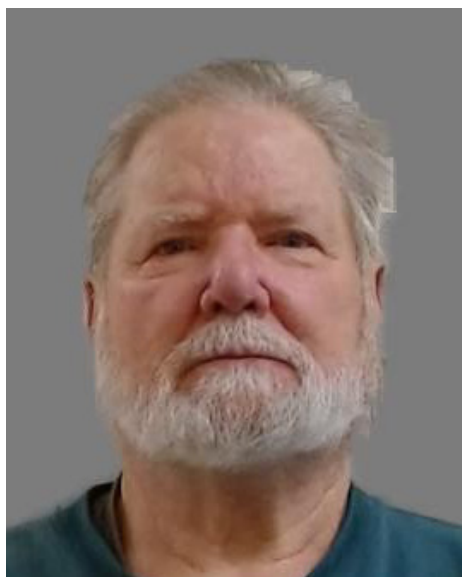
Both men were arrested on suspicion of felony violations of NRS 179D.550 and booked into the Lyon County Jail.



Micheal Corral



Stephen Lafever



Richard Baker



Edward Russell

Photos courtesy of LCSO.

The Sheriff's Office issued its first release Sept. 24 following the Russell and Corral arrests. Four days later, the agency announced the arrests of Baker and Lafever, describing them as "two additional arrests" of registered sex offenders for failing to comply with statutory regis-tration requirements.

LCSO Commander Jeff Miller said Sheriff Brad Pope has established a zero-tolerance policy regarding violations of Nevada's sex offender registration requirements. When patrol deputies identify a registration violation and probable cause exists for an arrest, enforcement ac-tion is taken consistent with that policy. But Miller said the four arrests on Sept. 24 and Sept. 28 those releases were separate patrol enforcement actions under that policy and were not the result of a specific Sex Offender Task Force operation or coordinated SOTF compliance effort.

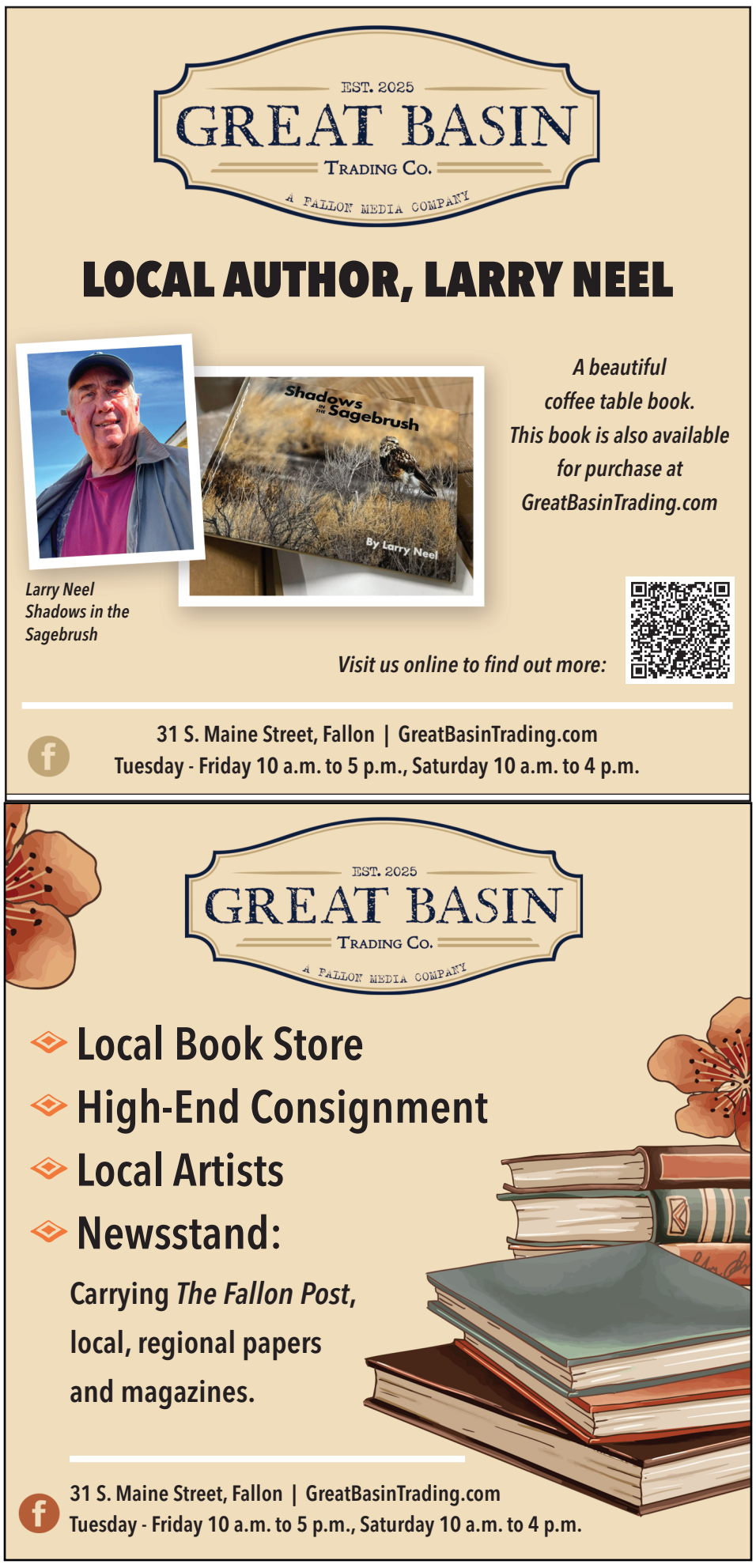
Miller said LCSO currently monitors 266 registered sex offenders countywide. The Sex Offender Task Force conducts compliance checks on an ongoing basis throughout the county. These checks are generally unannounced so that offenders do not know in advance when a compliance check will occur, as advance notice would defeat the purpose of verify-ing compliance under normal circumstances. These checks are conducted in addition to registered offenders reporting to the Sheriff's Office and its substations to complete their mandatory registration verifications.

The Sheriff's Office said registered sex offenders are responsible for complying with regis-tration and verification requirements under Nevada law and that it will continue enforce-ment when violations are identified.

Nevada classifies registered sex offenders into three tiers under NRS Chapter 179D. Since Nevada adopted the federal Adam Walsh Act standards, offenders are classified primarily based on the offense of conviction rather than a subjective risk assessment.

Members of the public with information about a registered sex offender who may not be complying with registration requirements can contact the Lyon County Sheriff's Office Sex Offender Task Force at SOTF@lyon-county.org.





COMMUNITY

The Fernley Swales and the Paiute homeland

By Suzanne Prouty



. The Fernley Swales cleanup is scheduled for Oct. 3. File photo.

On Oct. 3, the Oregon-California Trails Association holds its annual Fernley Swales cleanup, helping preserve a piece of history visible in the sand.

What are the swales? They are long depressions worn into the land by thousands of emigrant wagons and oxen traveling the California Trail in the 19th century.

Standing there, it is easy to imagine families moving their belongings and hopes westward. It takes another moment to imagine watching those wagons arrive.

For the Northern Paiute people, this was home. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe traces its presence here through thousands of years. Generations understood the lake, river and surrounding country through the foods they provided and the seasons that governed their availability. Fishing and gathering depended on knowledge of where to go, when to harvest and how to live with what the land could sustain.

The wagons crossed that living landscape. What travelers needed along the way was already essential to someone else.

As migration and settlement increased, pressure on those resources grew. The silver discoveries of 1859 brought another rush of newcomers. The National Park Service describes prospectors claiming water, feed and land without regard for Paiute rights. Even Pony Express stations occupied water sources on which Native people depended.

For newcomers, these were opportunities and improvements. For Paiute families, they could mean losing access to food and water. The balance that supported their lives was being disrupted by people who often treated the country as theirs to claim.

Violence accompanied that expansion. One account brings its human cost painfully close.

In her 1883 book, Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims, Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins describes two Paiute girls, about 12 years old, who went out to gather roots and disappeared. Their families searched. Tracks led to the Williams brothers' trading station on the Carson River, but the men denied knowing where the children were.

Winnemucca recounts how a visiting Paiute man eventually heard the children's voices. Relatives returned and demanded their release. Beneath a trapdoor, their father found the girls with their mouths bound with rags. He brought them out. The rescuers killed the brothers and burned the building.

Historical accounts differ in details. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's war timeline also records the rescue of two young Paiute captives at Williams Station. Their captivity belongs in any explanation of the attack. Beginning with the deaths of white men leaves readers without the events that preceded them.

The violence widened into the Pyramid Lake War of 1860. Volunteers led by William Ormsby marched toward Pyramid Lake. On May 12, Paiute warriors defeated them near present-day Nixon. A larger force of volunteers and regular Army troops returned in June. Nevada's historical marker describes Paiute warriors holding back that force while women, children and elders escaped.

The marker remembers Numaga as a leader who wanted peace and fought to defend his people. They were defending their homeland.

Fort Churchill followed. Construction began beside the Carson River in July 1860. The Army remained until 1869.

The fort provided practical benefits to the growing settlements. Soldiers guarded travelers and communication routes, protected the Pony Express and telegraph, and intervened in miners' disputes. During the Civil War, the post helped maintain federal authority in the region.

Those services also supported the expansion that was transforming Paiute lives. Troops fought Native people, and the fort strengthened the government's ability to suppress Indigenous resistance and assert control over their homeland. Its promise of security meant different things depending on which side of that expanding authority a family stood.

As regent of DAR's Fort Churchill Chapter and state historian, I work from a simple premise: We need to hear all stories, all histories. Preserving our past means making room for accounts that have been overlooked, including those of the Paiute people whose homeland surrounded the fort.

Our chapter and the Rotary Club of NW Nevada, both based in Fernley, have collaborated on educational library displays to bring local history into view. Maureen at the Pyramid Lake Museum recommended including Winnemucca's book and Ferol Egan's Sand in a Whirlwind: The Paiute Indian War of 1860. They offer readers places to begin exploring beyond the familiar outlines.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitors Center in Nixon offers another beginning. Paiute people are our neighbors, carrying their history forward through families, cultural knowledge and the continuing care of their homeland. Their perspective belongs in the story we tell about this place.

The swales preserve the passage of the wagons. Fort Churchill preserves evidence of the military power that followed. Between them lies a history of hope, intrusion, violence and survival that deserves to be understood together.

When we look at those tracks in the sand, we can remember the families who passed through. We can also remember the families who were already home.

Meetings

Fernley City Council
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting Oct. 2

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting Oct. 14

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

Lyon County Commission
1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting Oct. 8

Lyon County Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting Oct. 13

Lyon County Library Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.
Locations rotate between the 5 county libraries
Next meeting Oct. 27

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 Oct. 27

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees
2nd Thursday of the month
195 E. Main St.
Next meeting Oct, 15

Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District
3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
300 Cottonwood Lane
Next meeting Oct 20

Fernley Church Directory

Summit Church
Silverland Middle School

Living Faith Church
110 Center Street

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
625 Desert Shadows Lane

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

Crosswinds Assembly of God
3015 Farm District Road

Fernley Free Methodist Church
100 N. West Street

Fernley First Baptist Church
485 E. Main Street

Calvary Chapel
875 Fremont Street

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

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
290 N. West Street

Joy! Alliance Fellowship
www.facebook.com/JOYchurchFernley

Living Stones Church
868 Cottonwood Lane

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fernley principals report progress

By Rachel Dahl

Fernley schools reported improvements in student attendance, academic growth and career preparation during an annual update to the Lyon County School District Board of Trustees on Sept. 22, although trustees asked Fernley High School administrators for additional data that was not included in their presentation.

Principals from Fernley-area schools presented trustees with results from the 2025-26 school year and goals for the current year during the board's meeting at Silverland Middle School.

One of the largest changes came at Fernley Elementary School, where chronic absenteeism dropped from 47% to 29.5% in one year.

The school also reported 60% growth in reading and 56% growth in math. Behavior referrals declined from 321 to 288.

Fernley Intermediate School reported a similar improvement in attendance, with chronic absenteeism dropping from approximately 45-46% to 28%.

The school also identified student behavior toward staff as an area for improvement during the current school year. According to the school's presentation, 53% of staff members responding to a climate survey reported that student verbal abuse of teachers occurred often. The school has set a goal of reducing that figure to below 40%.

Fernley High School administrators highlighted gains in academics and career and technical education.

The high school reported a 97% staff retention rate and said 18 students earned associate degrees during the 2025-26 school year, twice the number from the previous year.

Another 137 students earned Career and Technical Education certificates, while 238 earned industry-recognized credentials and 126 earned dual credits.

Students in the school's certified nursing assistant, emergency medical technician and community health programs achieved 100% pass rates, according to the presentation.

Members of Fernley High School's graduating class also received more than $1 million in scholarships.

Fernley High improved to a three-star rating under Nevada's school performance framework, with its index score increasing from 49.5 to 56.

Trustee Darin Farr, however, questioned why several other measures were not included in the high school's presentation.

Farr asked for previous ninth- and 10th-grade performance data, graduation figures and chronic absenteeism numbers. Board President Tom Hendrix also said he wanted to see the additional information.

Assistant Principal Cory Sanford told trustees he would obtain the figures from Principal Ryan Cross.

The annual presentations give trustees an opportunity to review individual schools' progress from the previous year and hear their goals and areas of focus for the new school year.

LCSD adds 'instigation' to discipline plan

By Rachel Dahl

Students who deliberately encourage or escalate conflicts at school can now face discipli-nary action for "instigation" under revisions to the Lyon County School District's restorative discipline plan.

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the district's 2026-27 restorative discipline plan Sept. 22, adding instigation as a subcategory under violations of school rules. The change was requested by middle school administrators who told the district they were see-ing behavior that could fuel conflicts without necessarily meeting the definitions of bullying or physical aggression.

Deputy Superintendent Stacey Cooper told trustees the district's restorative discipline plan is reviewed annually with input from students, families, staff, administrators and communi-ty members. More than 150 stakeholders participated in this year's review.

Cooper said middle school principals and assistant principals identified situations in which students were verbally fueling or escalating conflicts between other students.

"Kids can — they're not engaging in bullying — but they're perpetuating or fueling a situa-tion verbally to escalate emotion," Cooper told the board.

The district defines instigation as a student intentionally engaging in actions that promote or perpetuate an emotional or physical act without premeditation or intent to harm. Admin-istrators said documenting such incidents could also help schools identify patterns of be-havior before they escalate into more serious problems.

Cooper cited social media challenges as one example. Students may encourage classmates to participate in dares or other behavior that does not rise to the level of a physical alterca-tion or major school disruption but still warrants intervention, she said.

Trustee Kallie Day questioned how administrators would determine when a student's be-havior meets the definition of instigation.

"I don't doubt that this happens," Day said. "It just seems that evaluating that situation could be subjective."

Day also asked whether students or parents could appeal an administrator's determination that a student had instigated an incident.

Cooper said disciplinary decisions under the district's policy can be appealed and reviewed by parents and administrators. She also emphasized that the restorative discipline plan provides administrators with guidelines rather than mandatory punishments.

For an instigation offense, the plan lists detention among the possible consequences, but administrators can instead use restorative practices depending on the circumstances.

Those alternatives can include mediation, counseling, restorative circles, conferences with administrators or school resource officers and referrals to the district's multi-tiered system of supports.

"The restorative discipline plan is designed to be a menu that gives principals some consid-erations," Cooper said.

District officials said consequences can also vary depending on the severity of an incident, with administrators retaining discretion over how individual cases are handled.

Trustee Darin Farr supported adding the category, saying administrators can spend signifi-cant time investigating complaints that begin with rumors or students deliberately creating conflicts between others.

Farr said those situations can draw in teachers and parents and spread onto social media before administrators determine that the conduct does not meet the district's definition of bullying. He said schools still need a mechanism to address that behavior.

The instigation provision was one of several revisions approved as part of the district's an-nual discipline-plan review.

The district also separated cell phone violations from other technology violations, reflect-ing what Cooper described as the increasing number and variety of technology-related issues in schools.

Dress code consequences were adjusted so a first offense results in a warning, with parent contact occurring on a second offense.

The district also revised its approach to trespassing. The plan provides escalating conse-quences ranging from one to three days of in-school suspension or contact with law en-forcement for a first offense to three to seven days of in-school suspension and law en-forcement contact for a third offense.

Physical-aggression language for high school students was also revised to more closely match the graduated approach used at middle schools.

Cooper said the goal of the revisions is to give administrators across the district more con-sistent guidance while preserving their ability to consider the circumstances surrounding an individual student's behavior.

She said students participated in the stakeholder process and supported addressing be-havior that may not yet qualify as bullying but can serve as an early warning sign of escalat-ing conflict.

The Board of Trustees approved the revised restorative discipline plan unanimously.

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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.





BUSINESS

Where the classroom has four legs

Fernley High agriculture students learn livestock skills, responsibility and confidence through hands-on CTE program

By Rachel Dahl

Behind East Valley Elementary School, some of Fernley High School's most unusual teachers are waiting in a pasture.

There are five cows, six calves and a bull, along with four goats whose job includes keeping weeds and other vegetation under control. Nearby, an eight-stall barn gives high school students a place to turn classroom lessons into hands-on experience.

It is all part of Fernley High School's Agriculture Career and Technical Education program, where teacher Sydney Botts is helping students understand just how much agriculture touches their lives — whether they eventually choose a career in the industry or not.

"If you live in a house, you wear clothes, you eat food, you consume agriculture," Botts tells students on their first day of agriculture class.



A barn outside of East Valley Elementary was built specifically for the Fernley High's agriculture program. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

For many students, she said, that comes as a surprise.

Botts said even students who have no intention of pursuing an agricultural career leave the program with a better understanding of where everyday products come from and the role agriculture plays in their lives.

For others, the program can become the beginning of a career.

Students have gone on to pursue welding, construction and other agriculture-related fields. Botts said she enjoys watching students discover something that interests them and begin turning that interest into a plan for life after high school.

The program's barn and pasture are an important part of that process.

The barn was built specifically for the Fernley agriculture program with eight stalls, each capable of accommodating several animals. A separate steer pen can hold two steers.

The cattle herd currently includes five cows and six calves born in July and August. Students are also getting an education in the full livestock cycle as the cows are bred for next year's calves.

Continued on PAGE 10 - CTE...

Mortgage rates rise after Fed increases benchmark rate

By Richard Roznos

Mortgage rates have climbed rapidly in recent days, adding to borrowing costs for prospective homebuyers in Fernley after the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate for the first time since 2023.

The Federal Open Market Committee voted Sept. 16 to raise the federal funds target range by a quarter percentage point, to 3.75% to 4%. The Fed cited continued inflation as a reason for the increase.

"Inflation remains elevated. Today's policy action will support a timelier return to the Committee's 2 percent goal," the committee said in its statement announcing the decision. "The Committee will deliver price stability."

Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh was similarly direct during his press conference.

"The plain fact is that inflation is too high and has been for too long," Warsh said.

The increase comes during a broader rise in mortgage rates. Mortgage News Daily reported the average 30-year FHA mortgage rate at 6.81% on Sept. 21. By Sept. 24, its daily rate had increased to 7.05%.

For Fernley homebuyers, even a relatively small change can have a noticeable effect on a monthly payment. On a $400,000, 30-year mortgage, principal and interest at 6% would be approximately $2,398 per month. At 6.81%, the payment would be approximately $2,603 per month — about $205 more each month, or nearly $2,500 per year.

Those figures are examples of principal and interest only and do not include property taxes, homeowners insurance, mortgage insurance or other costs. The interest rate available to an individual borrower can also vary based on credit, down payment, loan characteristics, points and lender.

While the Fed announcement and the recent increase in mortgage rates occurred at roughly the same time, the two rates are not the same.

The federal funds rate is a short-term interest rate. The Federal Reserve does not directly set the interest rate on a 30-year mortgage. Mortgage rates are influenced by longer-term bond markets, including Treasury securities and mortgage-backed securities, along with expectations about inflation and economic conditions.

Warsh addressed rising long-term bond yields during his Sept. 16 press conference. He described the 10-year Treasury as "the risk-free asset upon which every price of virtually every asset in the world … is related to."

Warsh identified three factors contributing to higher long-term Treasury yields in 2026: a strengthening economy, increased competition for capital and geopolitical conditions.

Mortgage rates had also begun moving higher before the Federal Reserve announced its decision. That is important because financial markets often anticipate Fed actions and adjust before an official announcement.

During the press conference, a reporter noted that markets had priced in a 90% chance of a rate increase before the vote. Warsh said the Fed observes market prices but makes its decisions based on its own assessment of employment, the economy and other conditions.

For Fernley's housing market, the distinction is important. A quarter-point increase in the federal funds rate does not automatically translate into a quarter-point increase in mortgage rates.

Instead, the Fed's actions, inflation expectations, Treasury yields and other movements in financial markets all contribute to the borrowing environment facing homebuyers. Those factors will help determine how mortgage costs develop in the months ahead.

Richard Roznos (Lic. S.197449) has been a licensed realtor since 2022, serving Reno, Sparks, Fernley, Lovelock, and Fallon. Drawing on experience in project management and land acquisitions since 2018, he works with residential and commercial clients, including first-time buyers, sellers, and investors.

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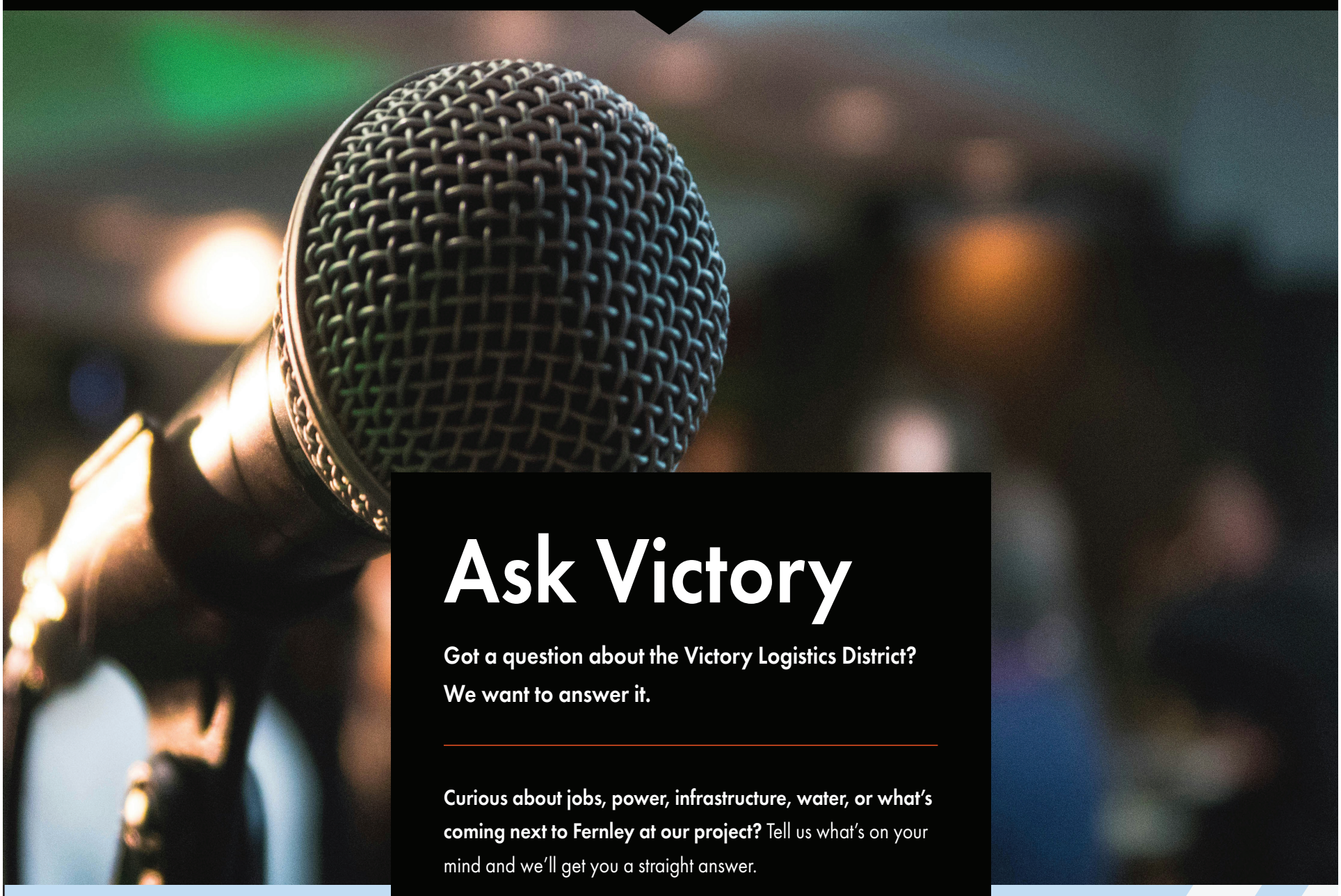
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The Victory Project: Investing in Fernley's Future

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.

Sept. 21 - Sept. 27, 2026

MITCHELL REGAS — Area: LCSO, Bail: $1,055, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
JESSE BRINKLEY — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $0, Charges: Court commitment
KATELYN HEARNE-STOLTZ — Area: Fernley, Bail: $7,500, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime; Possession of Schedule I or II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense
MICHAEL CORRAL — Area: Fernley Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, 1st offense.
JESSE RUMMINGER — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Possession of Schedule I or II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; Possession of dangerous drug without prescription, 1st or 2nd offense
RAMONJOSEPH LOPEZ — Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,495, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
GERALD ELLIOT — Area: Fernley, Bail: $100,000, Charges: Assault with a deadly weapon, enhance/violation of protection order; Attempted home invasion while in possession of a firearm or deadly weapon; Attempted burglary with a deadly weapon
JAMES POND — Area: Stagecoach Bail: $3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st offense
SUSAN HUNT — Area: Dayton, Bail: $1,555, Charges: DUI, 1st offense; Failure to maintain lane/improper lane change/use signal
FERNANDO SILIS-MONRROY — Area: Dayton, Bail: $0, Charges: Assist other agency - hold; Felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence
RICHARD BAKER — Area: Dayton, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, 1st offense
EULALIO HIPOLITO — Area: Dayton, Bail: $10,000, Charges: Driving with revoked driver's license; Felony arrest for violation of conditions of release
AUSTIN VENTRESS — Area: Fernley, Bail: $3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st offense
ANDREW REYES — Area: LYSO, Bail: $5,110, Charges: DUI, 1st offense; Failure to decrease speed or use due care; Open alcohol container in vehicle
MICHAEL VERNACCHIO — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of conditions of parole; Failure to appear after bail, felony crime
PATRICK GLEASON — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $34,280, Charges: Assault with a deadly weapon, enhance/violation of protection order; Domestic battery, 1st offense
STEPHEN LAFEVER — Area: Fernley Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, 1st offense
KEVIN POTTER — Area: Fernley, Bail: $6,140, Charges: Possession of Schedule I or II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; Destroy/conceal evidence; Use/possession of drug paraphernalia
ANDREA GRIFFIS — Area: Dayton, Bail: $20,640, Charges: Grand larceny of a motor vehicle, 1st offense; Driving with suspended driver's license
GREG BINGHAM — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $47,500, Charges: Assault with a deadly weapon, enhance/violation of protection order; Possession of a firearm with altered/removed serial number; Possess/sell/transfer/receive firearm without serial number, 1st offense
NICHOLE GALLIAN — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $4,780, Charges: Use/possession of drug paraphernalia; Possession of Schedule I or II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense
ERIC PRYER — Area: Dayton, Bail: $27,220, Charges: Driving with suspended driver's license; Use/possession of drug paraphernalia; Open alcohol container in vehicle; Possess/consume marijuana in public place/marijuana store/vehicle; DUI, 3rd offense; Assist other agency - hold
EDUARDO SERVIN — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $1,140, Charges: Reckless driving, disregard person/property safety, 1st offense
EDWARD ST ANDREWS — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of conditions of parole
TRACY SMITH — Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime
MARCELO LOPEZ-VILLANUEVA — Area: Fernley, Bail: $2,835, Charges: Stop/stand/park vehicle in prohibited place; DUI, 2nd offense
BARBIE COLLINS — Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,140, Charges: DUI, 1st offense
ALEXA ONTIVEROS — Area: Dayton, Bail: $4,280, Charges: DUI, 2nd offense; Duty upon damaging unattended vehicle/property; Assist other agency - hold
MARCEL BARLOW — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Court commitment; Assist other agency - hold
JESSE STARR — Area: Fernley, Bail: $44,700, Charges: Battery on a protected person; Assault on a protected person; Resisting a public officer; False statement to/obstructing a public officer; Minor in possession of alcoholic beverage in public; Petit larceny; Destruction of property of another, $25–$250
SONDRA WAGNER — Area: Fernley, Bail: $3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st offense
MARVIN RAX-CRUZ — Area: Dayton, Bail: $2,500, Charges: Assist other agency - hold
JUAN AGUILA CRUZ — Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $1,140, Charges: DUI, 1st offense

Murder trial in Anna Scott case moved to April 2027

By Robert Perea

The federal trial of a man charged with the murder of Anna Scott, which had been scheduled to begin Sept. 29, has been postponed until April 2027.

The defendant, Delshay Astor, filed a motion Sept. 1 to replace his attorney. His new attorneys subsequently requested a continuance, saying they would not have enough time to research the case and prepare for trial.

Astor was originally indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of second-degree murder in May 2026, but a superseding indictment filed July 23 upgraded the charge to first-degree murder within Indian Country. The superseding indictment also charged a second person, Joel Christy, with accessory after the fact and aiding and abetting.

The charges are connected to the February 2022 killing of Anna Scott.

Scott, 23, a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, was shot and killed, and her body was placed in her car, which was then set on fire. Her body was found inside the burned vehicle on southbound Interstate 580 the following day. The Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office later ruled her death a homicide.

According to the order continuing the trial until April 2027, Astor remains in custody and consented to the req uest from his new attorneys, Robert Draskovich and William Brown. Christy is out of custody and also consented to the request for a continuance.



Anna Marie Scott, photo courtesy of the WCSO.

Continued from PAGE 8 - CTE...

Four goats housed at the barn serve a practical purpose as well, helping keep vegetation eaten down around the property.

For the students, however, the animals teach lessons that go well beyond feeding and livestock care.

Fernley FFA President Arianna Walker, a member of the livestock team, said having cattle available gives students an opportunity to learn by doing.

"Just having these cows here is a great way to have hands-on learning on how to take care of stock," Walker said.

The program has also helped her develop confidence away from the pasture.

Walker said she was once afraid to speak in front of people and uncomfortable getting up in front of a class or starting conversations.

"This has really helped me open up my speaking skills and level of comfort with speaking in front of people," she said.

Ainsley Blackorby said working with animals has taught her responsibility, patience and understanding — skills she can also use when working with other people.

She said the agriculture program exposes students to the business side of the industry as well.

For Dylan Viehland, the program is preparation for the future. Viehland said he joined because he hopes to pursue a career in agriculture and wanted to learn the fundamentals.

The hands-on work has also taught him skills that aren't necessarily found in a textbook.

"Being able to work hands-on gives you not only skills, but it gives you mental skills," Viehland said. "It makes you patient with yourself and with others and animals."

He said he hopes to continue in agriculture after high school.

The agriculture program is one of several CTE opportunities available at Fernley High School. Students can also pursue programs including welding and woodshop, giving them opportunities to learn practical skills while exploring possible careers.

For Botts, the agriculture program works whether a student eventually raises cattle, becomes a welder, enters construction or chooses a career that has nothing directly to do with agriculture.

They still leave knowing something about the system that feeds, clothes and supports them.

And the students' advice to classmates considering CTE is simple.

"Absolutely," one student said. "We have so many amazing programs. Even if it's not ag, we have welding, we have woodshop, we have all of these great opportunities."

Then came perhaps the best advice of all:

"Don't waste it being scared."

THE INSIDE VEER

Telling a lifetime in a single line

By Robert Perea

I was scrolling through my phone last week when I fell headfirst into an algorithmic trap on Facebook. The post was simple, designed to harvest thousands of comments from bored strangers: "What is the greatest one-line lyric in a song ever?"

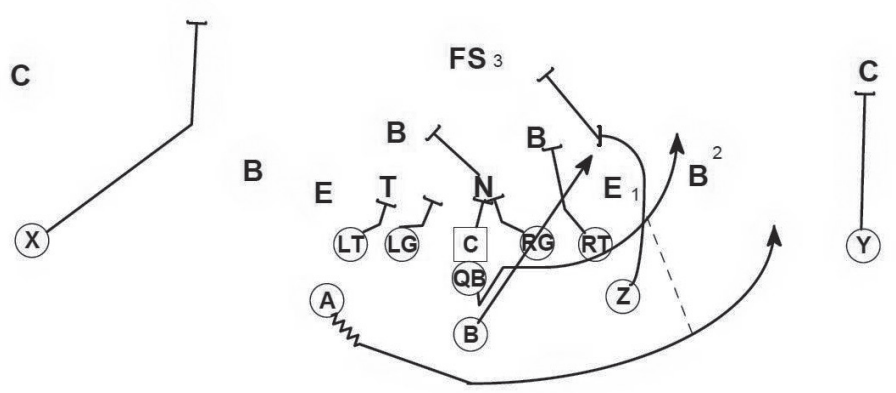
Usually, I skip past these things. But this one made me stop because it's right up my alley.

We live in a world of endless noise, listening to podcasts at 1.5x speed, 24-hour news cycles and text threads that never sleep. Some people have a knack for saying in a couple hundred words what six could have accomplished, and I'll freely admit to being one of them. I'm obviously not a songwriter, but I know a masterpiece when I hear it.

Music is full of great lines that stick in your head. Others hit you right where you're at in the moment and sink in so deeply that they become part of your own history.

Those are the lines that flash through your mind anytime something relatable happens. The best ones become a part of who you are.

My favorite lines, of course, are the ones that mean much more than



the few words say. In conversation, hearing a few compelling words almost always leaves us wanting to hear the rest of the story.

Music allows those words to tell the story, with your own mind filling in the blanks.

Take "He Stopped Loving Her Today." It's widely considered the greatest country song ever written, but I consider it one of the greatest things ever written in any form. The writers of that song, Bobby Braddock and Curly Putman, pack a massive, devastating lifetime of a story into just a few words, and then it's performed perfectly by George Jones.

That song is brilliant because it tells you just enough to get the point across, and yet the things it doesn't say basically tell you the man's whole life story. The only things I'm left wondering after listening are what the man did for a living and what his favorite flavor of ice cream was.

So many musical one-liners carry such heavy weight, with or without the context of the rest of the song. Paul
Simon's haunting observation from "The Boxer" — "A man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest" — is a universal lament of just about every woman I've ever known. Janis Joplin's "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose," written by Kris Kristofferson, breaks life down into a heartbreaking simplicity.

Some lyrics motivate you, some express what you feel and can't say, and others are just a nuisance, attaching themselves to your brain like a lamprey until you're desperately trying to get that annoying jingle out of your head.

The ones that matter, though, are like a time machine, and the beauty is that they can mean a different thing to every person who hears them.

My favorite lyrics change by the moment, sometimes to the most recent one I listened to. But "Many times I've wondered how much there is to know" sums up my whole life in 10 words.

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.

Fascinating Fernley — Meet Your Neighbors:
Jerry & Claudia Porter

By Sonia Hedrick

Claudia and Jerry Porter are farmers, artisans, businesspeople and animal lovers. They are intriguing and spirited souls whose energy seems utterly boundless. The couple is living proof that with determination and the willingness to learn and grow, anything is possible. Fueled by a desire to link a retirement activity to their passion for animals, the couple went on to build a tremendously successful business.

Jerry grew up locally, and as he neared retirement, he longed to come back to Lyon County. After a successful career as a director of international electronics sales, he was looking forward to a less populated place. Claudia, a country girl born and raised, welcomed the pace and lifestyle Fernley offers. Little did they know at the time that they were about to embark on a second career.

The couple settled into a nice little house in town, but it wasn't long before Claudia started to get itchy. Jerry was still working. Claudia was ready for an adventure of some kind, but a plan for that adventure didn't crystallize until they came upon the property they now call home. A large house with a five-car garage and 40 acres of land was the perfect spot for their new project. While Jerry busied himself mostly with his full-time job, Claudia would become an alpaca farmer.

And so, the adventure began.

Through affiliations with the Alpaca Owners Association, both Claudia and Jerry learned everything they could about the care and keeping of these gentle animals and the harvesting of their fiber. With the purchase of Johnny Cash, their star, prize-winning stud, Black Rock Mountain Alpacas



Jerry and Claudia Porter have been recognised by the Alpaca Owners Association (AOA) and awarded 5 First Place Ribbons, 3 Second Place Ribbons and 1 Third Place Ribbon for their yarn and felt. Photo courtesy of Jerry and Claudia Porter.

was born. Johnny Cash promptly sired A Boy Named Sioux. With the help of these randy fellows, the herd flourished, producing hundreds of pounds of high-quality fiber. English Angora rabbits, which also produce a highly sought-after fiber, were added to the farm.

But there was an unexpected complication: The couple discovered that there simply weren't enough mills operating to process their product in a timely manner. To address this, the industrious pair opened a mill of their own.

With their usual and admirable resolve, the couple investigated the milling process. Finding Belfast Mini Mill equipment to be among the most reliable and well-crafted in the industry, the Porters chose it for their operation. Jerry and Claudia trained extensively with the manufacturer. Before long, they were experts in operating the machines needed to take fiber from its raw state to yarn and felt. By 2019, Black Rock Mountain Alpacas/Fiber Mill was firmly established as a full-service mill.

Jerry has since fully retired from his career in electronics to collaborate



Claudia Porter holding an English Angora rabbit. Photo courtesy of Jerry and Claudia Porter.

equally in the milling process. He starts the process by managing the skirting, picking and scouring, all terms that translate into removing dirt and debris from the raw material. Claudia takes over with the carding process, which blends the fiber in preparation for turning it into useful yarn or felt.

The couple processes fiber from alpacas, llamas, Angora goats, yaks and bison and serves customers from across the West, including Hawaii. A large shipping container occupies the view from the fiber factory, now located in the home's five-car garage. That container is filled with orders.

With many awards earned by the now-named Black Rock Mountain Angoras/Fiber Works, eager customers are happy to wait as long as necessary for their fiber to be transformed into their desired materials.

Although their alpacas have been rehomed, the mill remains the Porters' passion. When discussing this stage of their lives, the couple exudes enthusiasm. When asked about her work, Claudia's joy is palpable as she reminisces about the beloved animals that helped bring the Porters' business to life.

Black Rock Mountain Angoras/Fiber Works is truly a shining star in Fernley's pantheon of success stories.

To learn more, visit **www.brmalpacas.com**.

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



PETS OF THE WEEK

MORE KITTENS!

These kitties are very social, lovable little furbabies. They enjoy playing and cuddling too! 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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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.

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