

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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\$1.00 | The Week of July 31, 2026

Youth volunteers beautify Picetti Park

By Rachel Dahl

Picetti Park received a fresh round of improvements this week as members of the Comstock Youth Group joined city employees and retired Fernley City Councilwoman Fran McKay for the city's annual park beautification project.

The volunteers spent the morning planting roses, native grasses and other landscaping, pulling weeds, refreshing planting beds with mulch and staining the park's existing split-rail fence.

The work was part of an ongoing partnership between the city of Fernley and the Comstock Youth Group, bringing young volunteers together with city staff and community leaders to improve a public space used by Fernley families.

McKay, who participated in the project, praised the young people for their work ethic and willingness to serve the community. She later reported enthusiastically during the Fernley Rotary meeting about the group's efforts and the amount of work they completed during the project.

City officials said the annual project is intended not only to improve the park, but also to give young people an opportunity to take part in meaningful community service.

After the morning's work, the volunteers gathered for a barbecue lunch sponsored by the city as a thank-you for their time and effort.

The improvements included both



Comstock Youth Works joins city employees and former councilwoman for annual service project. Photo courtesy City of Fernley.

Continued on PAGE 10 - PICETTI PARK...

DNA, forensic genealogy resolves Fernley missing person case

By Robert Perea

What Lyon County sheriff's detectives initially thought were two separate investigations turned out to be the same case when DNA testing proved that unidentified remains found in January 2025 belonged to a local man who had been missing since 2022.

Advanced forensic genealogy determined that skeletal remains found Jan. 7, 2025, by a person walking on a nature trail in a wooded area south of Farm District Road were those of Ronald John Littley, who disappeared from his Dixie Lane home in September 2022. The remains were found about a half mile west of the intersection of Farm District Road and U.S. 50A.

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office announced July 22 that it had positively identified the remains as Littley, who was last seen at his home Sept. 19, 2022.

On Sept. 22, 2022, LCSO deputies conducted a welfare check at his home after concerns were raised about his well-being. His personal belongings, including his vehicles, were at the home, leading investigators to believe he had left the area on foot.

Because of concerns related to Littley's medical and mental health history, he was entered into the National



The Lyon County Sheriff's Office announced July 22 that skeletal remains found in 2025 had been identified as those of missing Fernley resident Ronald Littley. Photo courtesy of the Lyon County Sheriff's Office

Crime Information Center as an endangered missing person. Deputies and detectives conducted follow-up

Continued on PAGE 12 - MISSING...

Lyon County to take public input on proposed data center rules

By Rachel Dahl

Lyon County commissioners will hold a public workshop Aug. 3 to review a proposed ordinance that would set development standards for future data centers in the county.

The workshop begins at 9 a.m. at the Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St. in Yerington. Residents may also participate by Zoom.

The proposal comes as counties across Nevada and the West are trying to get ahead of the rapid growth of data centers, which can bring investment and jobs but also raise difficult questions about water use, power demand, noise, traffic, emergency response and long-term impacts on nearby communities.

Lyon County's draft ordinance attempts to address those concerns before projects are approved.

Among its major provisions, the ordinance would prohibit water-consuming cooling systems unless reclaimed water or treated effluent is used under limited circumstances. It would also encourage on-site renewable energy or renewable power agreements designed to offset electricity use and reduce impacts on existing utility customers.

The draft includes standards for

noise, lighting, setbacks, landscaping, fencing and screening. Applicants would also be required to submit emergency response plans developed with local fire agencies and Lyon County Emergency Management.

The proposed rules would require developers to provide detailed studies of traffic, utilities, water, wastewater, electricity and fiscal impacts so the county can evaluate how a project might affect roads, public services, infrastructure and neighboring properties before construction begins.

The ordinance also includes decommissioning requirements and financial assurances intended to ensure a site can be safely restored when a data center reaches the end of its useful life.

County officials said the goal is not to block development, but to establish clear expectations before proposals arrive.

As the communities across the west are faced with the shift from ordinary industrial projects to data centers, the Lyon County is actively working to address the issues of round-the-clock operations, large electricity use, and potential water usage in addition to the regular economic impacts from larger developments of demands on fire pro-

Continued on PAGE 2 - DATA CENTERS...

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the Fernley reporter

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Captain’s Log – The Long Game

I’ve made a lot of mistakes over the past seven years trying to figure out how to make a local newspaper work. Refusing to believe it cannot be done, we press on, continually and humbly relying on the old on-the-job training method, learning in the oldest classroom there is — learning as we go because we have to make it work.

We are building this plane as we learn to fly it.

This past month has been lesson after excruciating lesson, and when I use the word “humbly,” I do so with great weight.

While talking with The Intern the other day, trying to solve yet another self-inflicted situation and reaching a level of intense discouragement, I received a

profound life lesson for which I am deeply grateful.

Riggin is our intern, and we’ve had the pleasure of his company, his help, his sense of humor, and the opportunity to cheer for his many life successes over the past two years. We are better for having known him. We’ve also tried to give him a real job title several times, but the joy on his face when he introduces himself at meetings and events as “The Intern” is simply one of life’s great pleasures.

We were trying to solve a computer problem, and I was apologizing for slowing his progress on a task because of my lack of technical ability and generally causing the situation we were trying to fix.

He said to me, “Listen, you’re

running a successful newspaper conglomerate and have a lot going on.”

To which I snorted coffee out my nose and said, “This is hardly a success.”

That young man, in all the naïveté of youth and optimism, just shrugged and said, “It’s the long game, Rachel.”

Indeed. Some days longer than others.

So while we enjoy these last couple of weeks with The Intern as he readies to leave the nest and head off to college, we’ll always be right here, hoping one day he’ll come back to us as our corporate lawyer, and of course we’ll be...

...Keeping you Posted.

Rachel

Continued from FRONT - DATA CENTERS...

tection, roads and other public infrastructure.

The county says the proposed ordinance is intended to protect public health and safety, conserve natural resources and give commissioners a more complete picture of a project’s potential benefits and costs.

Commissioners and Community Development Director Gavin Henderson also participated in the National Association of Counties Rural Ener-

gy Academy, where local government officials from around the country discussed energy development, new technologies and ways to balance economic opportunity with local priorities.

The data center proposal follows the county’s recent adoption of updated regulations for renewable energy facilities. Together, the efforts are part of a broader update to Lyon County’s development code as new industries and technologies move into rural communities.

No final action is expected at the workshop. Commissioners will review

the draft, hear public comments and discuss possible revisions before the ordinance returns for formal consideration.

The complete agenda and supporting materials are available through the county’s online Agenda Center at lyon-county.org.

Residents who want to participate virtually may join the Zoom meeting using Meeting ID 833 6868 6463 and passcode 896135, or by calling 1-253-215-8782 or 1-346-248-7799.

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FEATURES

Fernley educators honored with statewide CTE awards

By Robert Perea

Fernley High School Principal Ryan Cross and health science teacher Heather Kuntz were honored at the Nevada Association for Career and Technical Education Conference, held July 14-16 at Lake Tahoe.

Cross was named the NACTE Administrator of the Year, an award recognizing administrators who expand and strengthen career and technical education opportunities for students.

Kuntz, who is also an affiliate faculty member at Western Nevada College, was honored as the 2026 New Teacher of the Year. Since starting at Fernley in 2020, Kuntz has built innovative health science programs that include emergency medical technician and community health pathways, expanded dual-credit opportunities through WNC and developed work-based learning experiences with North Lyon Fire.

Under her leadership, students have achieved a 100% pass rate on



Heather Kuntz was honored as the 2026 New Teacher of the Year at the Nevada Association for Career and Technical Education Conference, held July 14-16 at Lake Tahoe. Photo courtesy of Steven Kuntz

both the National Registry EMT certification exam and the Certified Community Health Worker credential, while program enrollment has grown by nearly 30%.

Kuntz, a former X-ray technologist at St. Mary's Hospital, began teaching in 2020 after earning her master's degree in education. She taught English for two years before moving into health science, then earned her EMT certification and instructor credentials to launch Fernley's EMT program. She later added a dual-credit public health course in partnership with Western Nevada College.

Kuntz said she modeled the EMT program after one created by Elaine Adams, a teacher in Fallon who earned her certification during the COVID-19 pandemic to bring the course to her school.

"When I found out the health science teacher had brought an EMT program there, I said, 'I could do that,'" she said. "I went to the administration and asked if it was something I could do, and they said absolutely. I've been really fortunate because the Lyon County School District has been very supportive."

The EMT program is now entering its fourth year, and the public health program is entering its third. Both allow students to graduate with industry-recognized certifications that qualify them for immediate employment in medical or community health settings.

Kuntz said the programs also help students determine whether the medical field is right for them.

"Every year I have one kid who gets halfway through and realizes this is absolutely not what they want to do," she said. "And that's great — I'm glad they figured it out now and didn't pay for an EMT course outside of high school."

Cross nominated Kuntz for the award and wrote a letter of recommendation detailing her accomplishments, but said he does not know



Ryan Cross accepts the Administrator of the Year award at the Nevada Association for Career and Technical Education Conference, held July 14-16 at Lake Tahoe. Photo courtesy of the Lyon County School District

who nominated him.

"Honestly, I wanted to recognize her for all the hard work she did to get the EMT program off the ground," he said.

Cross said he was especially surprised to win when he saw the list of nominees. He was one of seven statewide nominees, including principals from CTE-focused high schools and the College of Southern Nevada. Fernley High School was the only traditional high school represented.

The selection committee noted Fernley High School's broad CTE catalog, which now includes 14 programs. Under Cross's leadership, work-based learning participation grew from 63 to 436 students, and credential attainment reached 437 students.

His development of "Career Trees," expanded dual-credit options and efforts to build a K-12 career pipeline were cited as examples of high-impact CTE practices.

"I didn't set out to make CTE my thing," Cross said. "What I did set out to do is try to make education rele-

vant and practical, so students see why they're here and understand the value in it."

Cross said Kuntz's work reflects the district's goal of giving students practical, relevant pathways.

"She had to get additional certifications and become an EMT instructor, which is not an easy task," he said. "She built those programs from the ground up."

Kuntz said she did not know she had won the award, or what the award was, until she received a text from Cross while on vacation.

"I was honored, very surprised. It was totally unexpected," she said. "And the longer I sat on it, the more I realized this was a Nevada recognition. I think that's pretty special. Very honored."

Silver Stage High School counselor Paige Walker was presented with the Counseling and Career Development Professional Award. Windi Altemeyer, who leads the certified nursing assistant program at Fernley, Dayton, Yerington and Silver Stage high schools, was also nominated.

Nevada Veterans Coalition conducts monthly unaccompanied services

By Robert Perea

The Nevada Veterans Coalition conducts unaccompanied services on the fourth Thursday of each month to ensure every veteran interred at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery receives the same honors as those buried with relatives in attendance. The next ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 27.

The ceremonies include a chaplain-led service, a three-volley rifle salute, the folding of the flag, the playing of taps and "Amazing Grace," and an escort to the interment site. The Patriot Guard Riders parade the colors from the columbarium wall to the pavilion to begin each service.

The Veterans Coalition honored 10 veterans during the July 23 unaccompanied service. They were (U.S. Army) Michael Anderson, PV1; Walter Baker (rank not listed); Paul Burke, SP4; Alan Hobeck, SP4; (U.S.

Navy) Richard Cotter, CS3; Raymond Baldwin, ME3; Thomas Taylor, SMT2; (U.S. Marine Corps) Dell Moon, CPL; Ronnie Thrash, PFC; and (U.S. Air Force) Donald Lindstrom, SSGT.

The coalition created the unaccompanied program in 2008 to stand in for families who are unable to attend or who were never notified of a veteran's death. The cemetery regularly receives cremated remains from across the country, often sent by distant relatives contacted by mortuaries seeking a final resting place.

The Nevada Veterans Coalition Honor Guard is made up of volunteer veterans and nonveterans who provide military-style services for all interments at the cemetery. For unaccompanied veterans, the coalition asks community members to attend and serve as family.



A representative of the U.S. Department of Defense presents the flag to American Legion Department Service Officer Sandy Schneeberger during an unaccompanied service July 24, 2025, at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Photo courtesy of the Nevada Veterans Coalition

Letters to the Editor

SEND YOURS TO RACH@RANGEMEDIACO.COM

COMMUNITY

Lyon County Sheriff’s Office offers summer heat safety reminder

Staff Report

With high summer temperatures continuing across Northern Nevada, the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office is encouraging residents to take precautions to stay safe in the heat.

In a recent Message of the Week, Sheriff Brad Pope shared several reminders to help prevent heat-related illnesses, encouraging everyone to

drink water throughout the day, even before feeling thirsty, and to avoid alcohol, sugary drinks, and excessive caffeine when spending extended time outdoors.

The Sheriff’s Office also recommends wearing lightweight, light-colored clothing, taking cool showers or baths when needed, and seeking shade or air-conditioned spaces during the hottest parts of the

day. Outdoor work and exercise are best scheduled for the early morning or evening hours, and residents should wear sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat when spending time in the sun.

Pet owners are reminded that hot pavement can quickly burn animals’ paws, while everyone is urged never to leave a child, adult, or pet unattended inside a parked vehicle, even

for a short time. The Sheriff’s Office also encourages residents to check on older family members and neighbors twice a day during periods of extreme heat.

As summer activities continue throughout the region, the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office encourages residents to follow these simple precautions and enjoy the season safely.

Fernley MomCo to hold yard sale fundraiser ahead of fall launch

By Amber Hardin

Local families will have a chance to find bargains while supporting a new ministry for mothers during the Fernley MomCo Community Yard Sale on Saturday.

The fundraiser will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Summit Church Fernley’s Base Camp, 150 E. Main St., with proceeds helping fund childcare for the organization’s upcoming

meetings.

Fernley MomCo is a new Christ-centered ministry launching this fall through Summit Church Fernley. The group is designed to provide friendship, encouragement, and support for mothers in every season of motherhood through meaningful relationships, mentorship, and opportunities to grow in faith together.

Organizers said the yard sale will

feature donated items from local families and community members, with all proceeds going toward making the program more accessible by helping cover the cost of quality childcare during meetings. Community members who would like to support the effort are also welcome to donate items for the sale.

The fundraiser is being coordinated by Victoria Olivier and Abigail Knudsen, along with the Fernley

MomCo leadership team and volunteers from Summit Church.

Registration is now open for moms interested in joining the new group. Organizers say mothers of all ages and stages are welcome, whether they are raising newborns, school-age children, or teenagers.

For more information about Fernley MomCo or to register, visit summitnv.org/fernley.

NAMI golf tournament to raise support for mental health services

Staff Report

NAMI Western Nevada will host its 2026 “Drive Fore Mental Health” golf tournament Saturday, Aug. 1, at The Ranch at Desert Lakes in Fernley.

The tournament begins at 8 a.m. at 50 Desert Lakes Drive and will bring together golfers, supporters and mental health advocates for a day of competition, prizes and fundraising.

Participants can expect team play, on-course contests, raffles, giveaways and lunch, along with opportunities to connect with others who support mental health education, advocacy and community services.

Proceeds from the tournament will help NAMI Western Nevada continue providing programs and resources for individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Organizers said the event is open to both experienced golfers and those who simply want to support the cause.

Registration is now open. More information is available at namiwesternnevada.org.



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Fernley Community Events

JULY 31

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

AUG 1

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

SUMMER READING PROGRAM PARTY with Smokey the Bear Games - Pinata - Prizes
11:30 a.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

LIVE COMEDY (\$17)
Doors @ 6:00 p.m.
Show @ 7:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.

AUG 4

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
FREE Hot Dogs - Demos - Vendors - Music
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Out of Town Park

TRIVIA NIGHT

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

AUG 6

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

AUG 7

FOUNDATION FRIDAYS
Vendors, music, food trucks
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Polaris Plaza
675 E Main St

AUG 8

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

AUG 11

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

AUG 13

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

AUG 15

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

CANAL NIGHTS - CRUISE IN Car Show - Music - Vendors - Food Trucks - Drinks
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
The Meadows
1032 Inglewood Dr Ste 110.

AUG 21

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

COMMUNITY

Ageless Dreams

Fernley Estates resident relives childhood farm days with ATV ride

By Robert Perea

Stacy Tomassetti spent her childhood surrounded by “lots of dirt” and farming in rural Ohio with her parents and sisters, Lisa and Sara. Now a resident of Fernley Estates Senior Living, Tomassetti was able to reconnect with those roots July 25. She and several other Fernley Estates residents took turns riding in an all-terrain vehicle as part of Ageless Dreams, a program similar to Make-A-Wish that is designed to fulfill lifelong wishes for seniors.

“We went fast,” Tomassetti said after being helped out of a Polaris RZR in the community’s parking lot at 1130 Chisholm Trail. “It was fun.”

Rochelle MacLean, Fernley Estates director of life enrichment, said the program grants wishes for residents who have something they have always wanted to do but never have, or, in Tomassetti’s case, something they want to do one more time.

Tomassetti’s dream involved reconnecting with the kind of farm life she grew up around. She fondly recalled a pony named Lightning, who had a fluffy mane that stood straight up instead of lying flat, and riding in farm vehicles through the dirt and fields.

“We had to do it because we were baling hay and stuff like that,” she said.



Stacy Tomassetti, center, with Fernley Estates staff members Tris Martin and Rochelle MacLean. Photo by Robert Perea

“I’d rather do that than anything else.” About 20 of the community’s 67 residents, including some in memory care, took at least one ride. When a visitor remarked on the joy on one resident’s face after a loop, Tomassetti said she was happy the other residents were having fun.

The event was made possible by the company’s leadership team, volunteer drivers David and Alex Russell, and powersports dealership Ridezilla, which donated the RZR for the occasion.

“We’re blessed that we can play a major part in doing this,” MacLean said. She said the Ageless Dreams pro-

gram is rooted in the organization’s mission, values and principles, which she called its MVPs: caring people performing acts of kindness and ensuring residents are respected, served and cared for.

After her last ride, Tomassetti sat in the shade and talked about her life, her pony and how beautiful the desert is while a few of her neighbors took one last loop.

When MacLean asked whether she wanted to go on one more ride or was ready for lunch, Tomassetti shook her visitor’s hand and stood up to head inside. Her dream had been fulfilled, and now a hamburger was waiting for her.



Stacy Tomassetti talks with driver David Russell as they prepare to take off on a loop through the desert. Photo by Robert Perea

Volunteers sought for Fernley community garden project

Staff Report

The City of Fernley is looking for residents, nonprofit organizations and local businesses to help turn a property at 2310 Farm District Road into a community garden.

Work is already underway at the site through a partnership with the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office. An inmate work crew recently helped remove non-native elm trees, pick up trash, clear weeds and complete other cleanup projects.

City officials said the work is helping prepare the property for its next phase.

Future goals include continuing the cleanup, bringing water service to

the site and beginning construction of a community garden that residents can enjoy for years to come.

Volunteers can help in several ways, including donating time, providing materials or equipment, or offering professional expertise.

Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact Jessica Murdock at jmurdock@cityoffernley.org for more information.

The city hopes the project will do more than improve the property.

By bringing residents, businesses and community organizations together, organizers say the garden can become a shared space that strengthens community connections while creating something lasting for Fernley.



Working alongside the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office, an inmate work crew recently joined city staff to remove nonnative elm trees, clear weeds, pick up trash and complete other cleanup efforts at the 11-acre property at 2310 Farm District Road. Photo courtesy of the City of Fernley.

Fernley Church Directory

Summit Church
Silverland Middle School

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

Fernley First Baptist Church
485 E. Main Street

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
290 N. West Street

Living Faith Church
110 Center Street

Crosswinds Assembly of God
3015 Farm District Road

Calvary Chapel
875 Fremont Street

Joy! Alliance Fellowship
www.facebook.com/JOYchurchFernley

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church
625 Desert Shadows Lane

Fernley Free Methodist Church
100 N. West Street

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

Living Stones Church
868 Cottonwood Lane

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BUSINESS

The ingredient that builds Northern Nevada

Nevada Cement’s Fernley-area plant supplies roads, bridges, mines and development while supporting approximately 120 local jobs

By Rachel Dahl

Most people have driven past Nevada Cement’s plant west of Fernley without giving much thought to what happens behind its silos, conveyors and towering kilns.

Yet much of Northern Nevada’s growth begins with the powder made there.

Cement from the plant is used in concrete for roads, bridges, industrial buildings, homes and mining operations across Nevada and the surrounding region. The facility employs approximately 120 people and supports truck drivers, mechanics, contractors, equipment suppliers and other businesses needed to keep a major industrial plant operating around the clock.

Jared Kupcak, Nevada Cement’s project manager, recently spoke to members of a local Rotary club, said one of the first things people misunderstand is the difference between cement and concrete.

Nevada Cement does not manufacture the sidewalks, bridge decks or foundations residents see across the region. It produces the fine powder that binds those structures together.

“We just make the glue powder,” he said.

Cement is an ingredient in concrete, much as flour is an ingredient in a cookie. Ready-mix companies combine cement with water, sand, rock and other additives to create concrete designed for a particular use.

A residential sidewalk may require



Photo courtesy of Nevada Cement Company

a different mixture than a bridge, highway or industrial foundation. The cement is the binding ingredient that allows the mixture to harden into an artificial stone capable of carrying enormous loads and enduring years of traffic and weather.

The Nevada Cement plant began operating in 1964 and is now a subsidiary of Dallas-based Eagle Materials.

The plant was originally part of Centex Materials, a name longtime Fernley residents may remember. More than six decades later, the facility remains an established part of the local economy, but it is also an aging industrial plant facing questions about its future.

The plant operates 24 hours a day for most of the year. Shutting it down is neither quick nor inexpensive. Its enormous kilns can take about a day to reach operating temperature and another day

to cool.

“It doesn’t close for Christmas,” Kupcak said.

Planned shutdowns generally occur only for major maintenance.

The operation includes employees who handle incoming materials, monitor production, maintain mechanical and electrical systems, manage quality control, oversee safety and environmental compliance and handle sales, finance and administration.

Approximately seven employees work each operating shift, while maintenance, electrical, management and support employees generally work during the day.

The work can be hot, dusty, noisy and physically demanding. Employees work around extreme temperatures, heavy equipment and powerful mechanical systems. Kupcak said safety is discussed

daily, with the company reviewing injuries, unusual work and incidents to determine how they can be prevented.

“You can’t have a good plant if people are getting hurt all the time,” he said.

Cement production begins with limestone, which supplies roughly 80% of the raw material used in the process.

Nevada Cement historically mined limestone from hills south of the plant. As that source has been depleted, the company has increasingly relied on other Nevada deposits, including mining areas near Interstate 80 and U.S. Highway 95 and in the Relief Canyon area near Lovelock.

Limestone alone is not enough. The plant must carefully combine sources of calcium, silica, alumina and iron while limiting unwanted concentrations of magnesium, sulfur and alkalis.

Clay comes from the Flanagan area north of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. Silica-bearing material is mined south of Fernley, and gypsum used near the end of production comes from the Empire area. Kupcak said nearly all of the plant’s raw materials, with the exception of iron, come from Nevada.

The raw material is crushed into pieces smaller than an inch and placed in a ball mill, a large rotating cylinder filled with steel balls. As the cylinder turns, the balls tumble and grind the material into an extremely fine powder.

That powder enters one of the plant’s rotary kilns. Each kiln is approximately

Continued on PAGE 8 - NEVADA CEMENT..

Nursery King owner shares dos and don’ts of synthetic lawns

By Amber Hardin

As more Northern Nevada homeowners consider replacing traditional lawns with synthetic turf, one local business owner is encouraging residents to look beyond the grass itself and pay close attention to its installation.

Kelly Brye, owner of Nursery King & Gifts LLC in Fernley, recently shared tips on selecting and installing synthetic turf, noting that proper preparation beneath the surface is one of the biggest factors in how long an artificial lawn will last.

According to Brye, a quality installation begins with excavating several inches of existing soil before adding compacted base rock and decomposed granite to create a stable, well-draining foundation. Skipping those steps, he said, can lead to poor drainage, uneven settling, and premature deterioration of the turf.

Brye also encouraged homeowners to consider the quality of the turf itself.

Higher face-weight products generally contain more fibers, making them softer underfoot and more durable over time, though they typically come at a higher cost.

Another common mistake, he said, is improper seaming. Because synthetic turf is manufactured in wide rolls with the fibers running in a single direction, sections must be installed consistently. Rotating one piece can create noticeable color differences, even when the material is identical. Factory edges should also be trimmed before joining sections to produce cleaner seams.

For pet owners, Brye said specialized infill products can help reduce odors, while cooling infills are available for homeowners concerned about hot summer temperatures. Regular brushing with a power broom helps keep the blades standing upright and redistributes the infill for a more natural appearance.

Nursery King & Gifts carries a variety of synthetic turf products for res-



Kelly Brye, owner of Nursery King & Gifts. Photo courtesy Nursery King & Gifts.

idential landscaping, pet areas, and backyard putting greens. Brye said the business also continues to offer natural sod options for homeowners who prefer living grass.

For more information on installa-

tion or product advice, contact Nursery King & Gifts LLC at (775) 835-4095 or visit the business at 785 U.S. Highway 95A South in Fernley. Regular product and educational updates are also posted on the company’s Facebook page.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Walker River Paiute Member Seeks Federal Intervention in Monarch Data Center Project

By Amber Hardin

A former vice chair and sovereign member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe is asking federal agencies to intervene in the proposed Monarch Data Center project, arguing that required government-to-government tribal consultation has not occurred and expressing concerns over potential impacts to tribal water rights.

The request comes as the proposed Monarch Data Center continues moving through Lyon County’s approval process. In July, the Lyon County Planning Commission voted 4-3 to recommend approval of zoning and land use requests associated with the approximately 505-acre development near Yerington. Final consideration now rests with the Lyon County Board of Commissioners, which is scheduled to consider the proposal Aug. 6.

Stacy Hicks recently submitted a formal request for intervention to the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Environment and Natural Resources Division, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In her request, Hicks asked the agencies to halt water allocations, construction permitting, and environmental approvals related to the Monarch Data Center until formal government-to-government tribal consultation is completed and additional hydrologic studies are conducted.

The request follows several weeks

of public comments, records requests, and correspondence Hicks submitted to Lyon County and various state and federal agencies regarding the proposed development.

The Walker River Paiute Tribal Council also formally opposed the project in June through Resolution No. WR-53-2026, “No to Proposed Data Center.” The resolution cites concerns including potential impacts to the Walker River watershed, regional water resources, electricity demand, and the Tribe’s responsibility to protect natural resources for future generations. According to Hicks, the resolution was presented during the county’s public review process before the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval.

Questions surrounding tribal consultation became a significant topic during the July 14 Planning Commission meeting after project representatives described outreach efforts to tribal governments, while tribal representatives disputed whether formal government-to-government consultation had occurred.

Representatives from both the Walker River Paiute and Yerington Paiute communities addressed the commission, raising concerns regarding government-to-government consultation between the developer and tribal governments.

Following public comment, Planning Commissioner Wendy Loomis addressed the discussion, explaining that

formal government-to-government consultation is initiated by the project applicant rather than by the tribes themselves. Loomis encouraged the developer to ensure consultation occurred in accordance with tribal protocols and offered assistance in identifying the appropriate tribal contacts if needed.

Hicks said her request for federal intervention was motivated by what she believes is a failure to complete formal government-to-government tribal consultation with affected tribes, along with concerns over regional water resources and potential impacts to federally reserved senior tribal water rights.

Correspondence provided to The Fernley Reporter shows Hicks also submitted multiple public comments to Lyon County, requested project records, contacted the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority regarding regional water concerns, and sought assistance from several state and federal agencies.

The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority responded that while it adopted a policy statement regarding data centers earlier this year, it does not have the authority to require local-

Continued on PAGE 10 -MONARCH DATA..

LEGAL NOTICES

Cardin Realty, acting as authorized agent for **3C Storage**, located at **1775 Hwy 50 E, Fernley, NV 89408**, will conduct a **public sale of personal property** on:

Date of Sale: August 14th , 2026
Location: 3C Storage – 1775 Hwy 50 E, Fernley, NV 89403

The following storage units are **in default** and will be sold **to satisfy the owner’s lien** for unpaid rent and associated charges, pursuant to **NRS 108.475–108.500**:

Unit 112 – Tamara Curts
Unit 106 – Darlene Countyman
Unit 12 – Bradly Barstow
Unit 57 – Jason Creiglow

The sale will consist of the **contents of each unit, sold as-is, where-is, and with no warranties expressed or implied**. Cardin Realty and 3C Storage reserve the right to **withdraw any unit from the sale or cancel the sale** at any time.

Published by: Cardin Realty
Date of Publication: 7/31/2026 #7652

Legal No 7499

JOB NOTICE-DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PERSHING COUNTY
Pershing County is seeking a hard-working enthusiastic attorney to serve as the Deputy District Attorney. This position is under the general supervision and at the pleasure of the District Attorney, this is an unclassified position which assists the District Attorney in fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of his or her office. The primary assignment of the Deputy District Attorney shall be the criminal prosecution and child support functions in the office. However, this position may require the person to prepare and try criminal and civil cases, furnish legal advice to the County departments, agencies, boards, and commissioners, and perform other duties as assigned. Starting salary is \$143,000.00 with PERS retirement benefits, medical, dental and vision insurance.

QUALIFICATIONS:
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1. Must have membership in good standing with the Nevada State Bar or eligibility for a limited practice certification.
2. Ability to pass a background investigation.
3. Must possess a valid State of Nevada Driver’s License.
4. Ability to work discreetly and confidentially with issues concerning personal information.
5. Ability to maintain composure under difficult circumstances.
6. Must possess and/or develop a positive working relationship with other County offices, employees, and the public.



the
Fernley
reporter
FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

Truckee-Carson Irrigation District has an immediate opening for a **Full-Time Equipment Operator**. Salary dependent on experience. Health insurance, enrollment in NV State Retirement, vacation and sick leave. Responsibilities include operating excavator, motor grader, bulldozer, backhoe, loader and heavy trucks. Valid Nevada driver’s license, documentation to work in the US, and ability to pass drug test required. Applications, job description and wage scale available at www.tcid.org or 2666 Harrigan Road, Fallon, Nevada. EOE.

Ad #2615

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

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*Published in the Fernley Reporter
July 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2026
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Truckee-Carson Irrigation District has an immediate opening for a **Full-Time Mechanic II (Automotive and Heavy Equipment Maintenance)**. Salary dependent on experience. Health insurance, enrollment in NV State Retirement, vacation and sick leave. Responsibilities include diagnosing and repairing mechanical and electrical issues related to equipment and fleet. Valid Nevada driver’s license, documentation to work in the US, and ability to pass drug test required. Applications, job description and wage scale available at www.tcid.org or 2666 Harrigan Road, Fallon, Nevada. EOE.

Meetings

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

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

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

Lyon County Commission
1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting August 6

Lyon County Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting August 11

Lyon County Library Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.
Locations rotate between the 5 county libraries
Next meeting August 25

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 August 25

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees
2nd Thursday of the month 195 E. Main St.
Next meeting August 13

Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District
3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
300 Cottonwood Lane
Next meeting August 18



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SPORTS

Fernley Juniors go 1-3 in West Region Softball Tournament

By Robert Perea

The Fernley Softball Little League Juniors battled 107-degree heat, long delays and tough competition in the West Region Junior Girls Softball in Tucson, Ariz. last weekend, going 1-3 overall.

Fernley lost its first game 16-3 to Magnolia Little League from Seattle, Wash. on July 24.

The biggest moment for the team came the next day, when Fernley bounced back to beat Blue Mountain LL from Heppner, Ore., 12-2.

Blue Mountain had defeated Fernley 17-1 at last year's regional, and after Saturday's loss to Fernley, went on to win the consolation bracket.

"That was a huge victory for us," manager Sarah Parale said. "They played at the top of the game and to be able to beat that team was really good."

The game against Oregon started an hour-and-a-half late because the previous game went long. After winning that game, Fernley had a two-hour break before playing Hawaii's Gold Coast LL from Waimea/Kamuela, where they lost 14-11.

"Coming back after that win to do it again physically, was pretty hard," Parale said. "They pushed through, but that definitely was one of our toughest days there."

After Hawaii scored five runs in the top of the first inning, Fernley answered with seven in the bottom half, then added two more in the second inning and led 9-5. Hawaii scored a run in the fourth and six in the fifth to take a 12-9 lead. Fernley rallied for two runs to get within 12-11, before coming up short.



The Fernley Softball Little League Juniors competed in the West Region Tournament in Tucson, Ariz. last week. Pictured are (back row) Emma Collins, AnnaLynn Young, Katiejo Bishop, Bella Pope, Kendall Sanchez, Rayne Wardleigh, (middle) Jocelyn Escartin, Ella Parale, coach Sarah Parale, Nevaeh Leija, Jasey Hutchinson, Devlynn Guthrie, coach Diane Chapin, coach Lance Wardleigh (bottom) Jaelyn Smythe and Lilly Nicholas. Photo courtesy of Sarah Parale

"We were close, we were ahead the whole entire time," Parale said. "Just couldn't hang on there at the end. But that day was physically and mentally tough."

In the consolation bracket, Fernley was eliminated with a 10-7 loss to Abbott-O-Rabbit LL from Anchorage, Alaska on July 26.

Alaska put Fernley on its heels from the outset, scoring seven runs in the first inning. Fernley chipped away at the lead with two runs in the second and fourth innings and three in the fifth, to get within 9-7.

"That was rough, and I've got to say even though we lost that game, the way they handled that to come

back was super amazing," Parale said.

The tournament also offered experiences beyond the field. Opening ceremonies allowed players to meet teams from other states. They attended a dinner, listened to a guest speaker who had played Little League softball in Arizona, played Division I softball, and is now a coach, traded pins with players from other teams, and ended the night with a dance party where Hawaiian players taught dances to the Nevada team.

"It's a huge boost of confidence for them to look around and say, 'We were the 13 players from Nevada,'" Parale said.

Fall sports practices begin this week

By Robert Perea

Under the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association's practice calendar, football is the first fall sport allowed to begin practice.

Football teams were permitted a two-day heat-acclimation period July 27 and 28, during which players practiced in shorts and helmets. Three non-contact practice days were allowed July 29-31, with contact practices in pads allowed to begin Aug. 1.

All other fall sports were allowed to begin practice Aug. 1. The soccer and volleyball teams are scheduled to begin tryouts Monday, Aug. 3.

The first possible day for football scrimmages is Aug. 6, and the first possible day for games is Aug. 13. Players must participate in 10 practices before becoming eligible to play in games.

Fernley is scheduled to participate in a football scrimmage at Bishop Manogue on Aug. 7 and open the season against Coral Academy of Science-Reno on Aug. 14 at Damonte Ranch High School.

The Vaqueros' first four games are on the road, with trips to Bishop, California, on Aug. 21; Elko on Aug. 28; and Sparks on Sept. 4. Fernley will play its home opener against South Tahoe on Sept. 11.

The boys and girls soccer teams also begin their seasons Aug. 14 at a tournament in South Lake Tahoe.

Full schedules for Fernley's other fall sports teams have not yet been posted.

Continued from FRONT - PICETTI PARK...

immediate cleanup and longer-term maintenance. New plantings added color and drought-conscious landscaping, while fresh mulch will help retain moisture and reduce weeds. Staining the split-rail fence will help preserve it and improve the park's appearance.

The city thanked the Comstock Youth Group, McKay and city employees who volunteered for the project, pointing out that projects like the Picetti Park cleanup show what can happen when public employees, volunteers and local organizations work together on a practical goal.

By the end of the day, the results were visible: cleaner planting beds, new landscaping, a restored fence and a public park better prepared for residents to enjoy.



Comstock Youth Group joins city employees and former councilwoman for annual service project. Photo courtesy City of Fernley.

We'd love to hear from you.

admin@fallonmediallc.com

Have a story?

Continued from PAGE 9 -MONARCH DATA..

ized hydrologic modeling or mandate the additional disclosures Hicks requested.

Hicks said she has received acknowledgments from agencies, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Nevada Attorney General's Office, regarding various correspondence. The Attorney General's Office advised that emailed allegations are not processed as formal complaints and directed Hicks to its official complaint process. Hicks said she has not received any indication that federal agencies have tak-

en substantive action regarding her request for intervention.

Lyon County was contacted Tuesday morning seeking comment on the Walker River Paiute Tribal Council's resolution, the status of tribal consultation, and whether the county has received any communication from federal agencies regarding Hicks' request. At press time, county officials said they were formulating a response. The Fernley Reporter will publish any response received in its Aug. 7 edition.

The Lyon County Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider the Monarch Data Center proposal during its Aug. 6 meeting.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Fernley’s next chapter depends on the people who build it

By Owen Truesdale

The drive along Interstate 80 from Fernley to Reno has been completely transformed in the last 15 years. New industrial buildings dot the landscape alongside the sagebrush. The Tahoe Reno Industrial Center at USA Parkway has brought global companies — and a traffic nightmare. Here in Fernley, the Victory Project’s build-out has created more than 1.8 million square feet of advanced manufacturing, logistics and industrial space, with more planned through the end of the decade.

It’s easy to talk about growth in terms of square footage, tax revenue for the city or corporate investment. But growth like this can’t be growth for growth’s sake alone. It only works if it’s built on something more durable: people. Specifically, the people who already live here. That’s where the true opportunity of the Victory Project lies for the city of Fernley.

Consider this: Roughly 9,000 Fernley residents currently commute outside the city for work, many of them in

manufacturing, trade and transportation jobs that increasingly exist right here at home. That’s not a statistic to shrug off. It’s a sign of enormous, untapped potential. If even a fraction of those commuters could trade a long drive for a job here in Fernley, the ripple effects for local families and the city as a whole would be significant.

That’s exactly why the workforce development partnership between Victory and Western Nevada College matters so much. Known as the Center of Excellence, the initiative is designed to build a direct pipeline between local training and the jobs being created in Fernley, including work in mechanical and electrical systems, industrial trades, logistics technology and materials handling.

Rather than hoping the right skills show up, the region is investing in developing them here, with curriculum shaped around what employers need. The first class offered as part of the partnership will take place this fall, with classes held at the Victory Project.

This kind of partnership addresses

a real gap. Employers across Northern Nevada have pointed to a tight labor market for skilled technical roles as one of the biggest constraints on growth. A community college pipeline aligned with local industry is one of the most effective ways to close that gap — not by importing talent from somewhere else, but by equipping Fernley residents, including recent graduates and career changers, with credentials and skills that lead directly to good, stable jobs.

And the jobs themselves are worth having. Fernley’s cost of living gives local wages real purchasing power, with regional pay for positions such as machine operators, forklift operators and warehouse supervisors competing with pay in larger markets such as Reno, Las Vegas and Salt Lake City.

Combined with a workforce that already has a strong concentration of production, equipment operation and mechanical skills, Fernley isn’t starting from scratch. It’s building on genuine strengths.

There’s also a broader point about what kind of community we want to be.

Population growth in Northern Nevada is projected to exceed 11% over the next five years. That growth is coming whether we plan for it or not. The question is whether the people already living here get the first opportunity to benefit from the jobs they create, or whether we watch good jobs go to workers commuting in from elsewhere while our neighbors keep driving out.

Workforce development isn’t a side issue in economic development. It is economic development — the part that determines whether a boom benefits the town or simply passes through it.

The Center of Excellence partnership with Western Nevada College is a meaningful step toward making sure Fernley’s growth translates into real opportunity for Fernley families. That’s worth paying attention to and worth supporting.

Fernley’s success will be home-grown.

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The Victory Project: Investing in Fernley’s Future



Silver Spike Ceremony

Fernley, you’re invited to celebrate this milestone in Victory’s development—the completion of Victory’s Industrial rail spur connecting the 4,300-acre master-planned industrial district to the national rail network.

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RSVP to:
Evie Katz Palka
evie.katz.palka@pdbgrou.com



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

LAW & ORDER

Arrest report

All information for the arrest report is provided by the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office and is considered by law to be public information.
All subjects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

July 20 – 26, 2026

JUSTIN JOHNSON – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$0, Charges: Traffic Schedule I, II controlled substance, flunitrazepam/ GHB, 400+ grams
JONATHAN DIONNE – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: Convicted person registration and fingerprint required
CASSANDRA SHULTS – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$2,500, Charges: Assault on protected person
CHRISTOPHER SHOEMAKER – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$5,000, Charges: Prohibited act violating sex offender registration, 1st; Felony arrest for violation of conditions of parole
CODY SHULTS – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$11,140, Charges: Intimidate public officer/others with threat of force, 1st; Resist public officer
THOMAS FATIGATE – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$3,500, Charges: Battery on protected person, resulting in substantial bodily harm; Resist public officer
KIMBERLY STARR – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$5,010, Charges: Operate vehicle with expired registration/plates; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd
JIMMY CURRIER – Area: Silver Springs, Bail: \$93,680, Charges: Burglary of a business, 1st; Buy/possess/receive stolen property,

\$1,200 but less than \$5,000 (2 counts); Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Use/possess stun gun/device by felon/fugitive; Possess marijuana more than 1 oz/less than 50 lb; Possess concentrates cannabis more than 1/8 oz/less than 1 lb; Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd; Conspiracy to commit grand larceny (2 counts); Petit larceny; Buy/possess/receive stolen property less than \$1,200; Use/possess drug paraphernalia
MELANIE KETCHEM – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
AMY MORENO – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$910, Charges: Drive without driver’s license; Failure to appear on traffic citation
EDWARD GILBERT – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$5,000, Charges: Prohibited act violating sex offender registration, 1st
SEBASTIAN ESCOBAR RIOS – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$61,705, Charges: Driver disobey peace officer, endangering persons/property; DUI, 1st; Open alcohol container in vehicle; Basic speed 21–30 mph over posted limit
NICHOLIS RODRIGUEZ – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,500, Charges: Assist other agency – hold
BULMARO ALCALA – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$124,280, Charges: Residential

burglary, 1st; Attempt home invasion; Destroy/injure real/personal property of another; Duty upon damaging unattended vehicle/property; Stalking, 1st
HUNTER WALTERS – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$8,560, Charges: Report false information regarding traffic laws; DUI, 2nd; Drive with revoked driver license for DUI; Driver/passenger fail to report unattended vehicle/property accident; False statement to/obstruct public officer
ELVIS GARCIA – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$46,140, Charges: Grand larceny of motor vehicle, 1st; Destroy/conceal evidence; Resist public officer; Battery on protected person
EHZAREHA CLOSE – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$1,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
ALVARO ROSAS RIVERA – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: DUI, 1st
OLIVIA PLUMMER – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$0, Charges: Court commitment
ALEXIS MARTINEZ QUINONES – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$2,075, Charges: DUI, 1st; Overtake on left side/left turn in prohibited zone; Owner proof of insurance required
TALINA HICKS – Area: LYSO, Bail: \$1,000, Charges: Assist other agency – hold
HURUY BAHTA – Area: Mason Valley,

Bail: \$1,370, Charges: DUI, 1st; Basic speeding violation 11–20 mph over limit; Possess/consume marijuana in public place/marijuana store/vehicle
TREVOR PURKEY – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$395, Charges: Assist other agency – hold
JACOB MCCUSKER – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$1,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
GABRIEL OROZCO ORTIZ – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$1,460, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi; Owner proof of insurance required
WILLIAM RAY – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$4,310, Charges: DUI, 1st; Civil - failure to maintain lane/improper lane change/failure to use signal
ISAIAH MUTTE – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$28,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st; Assault domestic violence, with use of deadly weapon
MAICON PEREZ VASQUEZ – Area: Fernley, Bail: \$0.00, Charges: Felony arrest, fugitive from other state/complaint/warrant
MICHAEL CHRISTENSEN – Area: Mason Valley, Bail: \$1,140, Charges: Resist public officer
CHRISTINE TOSTI – Area: Dayton, Bail: \$1,275, Charges: DUI, 1st; Fail to maintain lane/improper lane change/ use signal

Overdose call highlights Nevada’s Good Samaritan protections

By Robert Perea

Lyon County sheriff’s deputies briefly blocked the entrance to Love’s Travel Stop on Commerce Drive on the afternoon of July 23 to allow a medical helicopter to land following a life-threatening drug overdose.
Deputies closed the road to create a safe landing zone for the incoming aircraft. After flight paramedics stabilized the patient and airlifted the person to a hospital for emergency treatment, deputies left without taking further law enforcement action, Lyon County Sheriff’s Office Chief Deputy Mitch Brantingham said.
Brantingham said the response was consistent with Nevada’s Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act, which was enacted to encourage people to seek medical help during an overdose without fear of being arrested or prosecuted for certain lower-level offenses.
Under NRS 453C.150, a person who seeks medical assistance in good faith for someone experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose – or who seeks assistance for himself or herself – is protected from arrest, prosecution or

other penalties for certain offenses involving drug possession, drug use and drug paraphernalia when the evidence supporting those offenses was obtained as a result of the request for medical assistance.
The protection also applies to the person experiencing the overdose when someone else seeks help on that person’s behalf.
The law does not provide immunity for possession of drugs intended for sale or for other serious crimes, including drug trafficking, distribution or violent offenses.
“It was put in place to suggest people call for help without fear of criminal charges,” Brantingham said.
Overdose deaths in Nevada have declined 2.2% since last year, according to a report released July 13 by the Southern Nevada Health District, compared with a 15.9% decline nationally.
The report also cited a survey of 69 people at risk of overdose in Clark County. Sixty percent of respondents said they were aware of Nevada’s Good Samaritan law, but only 52% said they trusted the law.



Infographic courtesy of University of Reno

Continued from FRONT - MISSING...
checks, canvassed the neighborhood and coordinated with family members and other agencies. Despite those efforts, no confirmed sightings or leads were developed.
In January 2026, LCSO issued a statement saying it was still actively investigating Little’s disappearance. When the skeletal remains were found in January 2025, and again when the agency issued its statement in January 2026, detectives said they did not believe the remains were those of Little.
At the time, LCSO said the remains were believed to be those of a man be-

tween 5 feet, 6 inches and 5 feet, 10 inches tall and younger than 70. The person was wearing sweatpants, a medium-size Starter jacket, a dark blue extra-large, long-sleeved Faded Glory shirt, a knit beanie and a blue extra-large George jacket, along with khaki Dickies pants and brown tennis shoes.
When Little disappeared, he was described as a white man born Sept. 10, 1969, approximately 6 feet, 1 inch tall and weighing 185 pounds.
In January 2026, LCSO Chief Deputy Mitch Brantingham said detectives were using DNA testing to try to identify the remains, but the case was on

a waiting list because active criminal cases took priority. He said the medical examiner had determined that the death appeared to be from natural causes.
Brantingham said detectives began reconsidering the possible identification earlier this spring as DNA results came in.
“As they kept working it, they found some DNA and things that changed that,” he said. “His physical description had altered a lot.”
In its July 22 announcement, LCSO said it partnered with the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner’s Office, Wolf Pack DNA and Bode Tech-

nology to use investigative genetic genealogy to identify the remains.
DNA from the remains was analyzed by Bode Technology, which developed a genetic profile suitable for investigative genetic genealogy. Wolf Pack DNA then conducted extensive genealogical research that identified Little as the likely individual. The identification was subsequently confirmed through traditional forensic identification methods.
Anyone with information that may assist investigators is encouraged to contact the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office Investigations Division at 775-463-6600.

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THE INSIDE VEER

Community support makes regional tournament trip possible for Fernley softball team

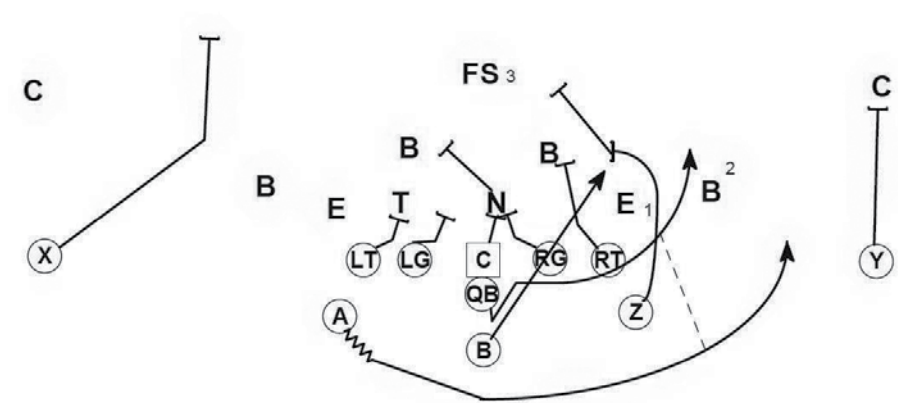
By Robert Perea

The Fernley Softball Little League Juniors earned the right to play in the Junior League Softball West Region Tournament in Tucson, Ariz. with their play on the field, but how they got there was as much of a community effort as it was a softball story.

The team had less than two weeks to prepare after winning the state tournament in Battle Mountain, leaving families scrambling for travel plans, uniforms, fundraising and logistics. The community stepped in immediately.

“We asked for sponsorships, and the girls did a lemonade fundraiser for a couple of days,” manager Sarah Parale said. “We had people we don’t know stopping by and donating money just to help the families and the girls come down here and play.”

Businesses contributed. The city contributed. Individuals donated without being asked. Parale said every time



she checked social media, she saw messages from Fernley wishing the team luck.

“We wouldn’t have been able to make this trip without the people who donated,” she said. “It takes a lot.”

The team also needed new uniforms to represent Nevada at regionals. With almost no time to spare, they connected with a vendor in Las Vegas who had made shirts for the state tournament the previous year. She produced the uniforms quickly enough for the team to pick them up on the drive south.

“It’s a big puzzle piece to put together,” Parale said.

Most families traveled by car, forming an informal convoy down the highway. Only one family flew. The rest made the long drive in the July heat.

Parale said she tries to make sure the players understand what the community did for them.

“That’s one thing I keep trying to

instill in the girls, realizing what the community has done so they can actually come down here and do this,” she said.

The support didn’t stop once the team arrived. Parents endured triple digit temperatures, long delays and extended days at the field.

“It was a struggle for our fans just sitting in that heat,” Parale said.

To make the trip possible, Fernley showed up for its kids financially, emotionally, and physically. And the players noticed.

In a tournament defined by heat, delays and tough competition, Fernley’s biggest advantage may have been the people back home.

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.

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Hear today, gone tomorrow

By Sonia Hedrick

You’re in a crowded room. Perhaps with a group of friends that you have often enjoyed in the past. You can’t help the mild irritation you feel growing. What happened to your buddy Fred? His jokes were spot on and sure to elicit a chuckle. But now those jokes are literally falling on your deaf ears. Well, maybe not totally deaf but you increasingly notice how hard it is to follow normal conversation let alone funny Fred’s jokes. You’re missing words, you’re missing phrases. Hell... you’re missing the point.

About 68% of seniors age 70 plus struggle with hearing loss. Years of blasting Led Zepplin along with exposure to cigarettes smoke, household chemicals, and who knows what other kinds of pollutants and

contaminants have taken their toll on those sound wave-carrying tiny hairs in the ear canal. And of course, there’s age and genetics to consider. Many seniors seek medical help and manage just fine using hearing aids. But there are a significant number of people who just get mad and fumble along pretending they can hear just fine. These are the folks we need to worry about.

The consequences of untreated hearing loss run deep. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health “found that older adults with greater severity of hearing loss were more likely to have dementia, but the likelihood of dementia was lower among hearing aid users compared to non-users.” And they are not alone. Studies conducted by the Mayo Clinic and National Institute of Health (NIH) revealed comparable findings.

Amanda Cuevas, a social work-

er serving seniors in Washoe and Lyon County, concurs. According to Ms. Cuevas, “Studies have suggested and my observations have supported that hearing loss may accelerate the onset of cognitive dysfunction, particularly Alzheimer’s disease. Mental stimulation supplied by verbal exchanges seems to be key to encouraging continued brain health. It is imperative that as we age, we get our hearing checked regularly.”

So, all is not lost if one addresses this annoying complication head on. After auditory impairment is confirmed by a professional, there are simple interventions that could profoundly impact your future. Get that hearing aid that you have been resisting. Can’t afford one of those fancy prescribed models? Check with the pharmacist. There may be an over-the-counter model that would work for you until your insurance or

other funding is freed up. Avoid high noise activities or if you must cheer at the big game, take noise breaks periodically. Keep doing those things that we all know are good for us. Exercise, eat right and spend time with loved ones. There’s still a lot of life to be present for and a lot of people in the world that want to enjoy it with YOU!

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

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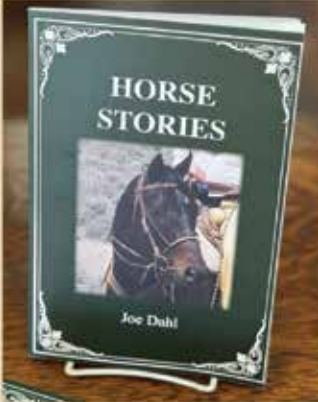


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PETS OF THE WEEK

SURVIVORS

These kittens were abandoned in a field at approx. 3 weeks old in 90+ degree heat with 11 other very small kittens. They were fed with a bottle but are eating on their own now and doing great!! Loving, playful and friendly - these kittens are ready to go to their furrever homes. They are fixed, vaccinated and microchipped. If you are interested in setting up an appointment to meet one of them, please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will call you back asap! 775-575-0950 * this number does not accept texts.*



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

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Rolly...



Rolly is still just a puppy. The world can be a scary place for him, and he's a little wary of strangers. What he needs most is a patient family willing to show him that people can be kind and that home is a safe place. With love, time, and understanding, Rolly has so much potential to become an incredible companion.



Contact the Lyon County Shelter at 775-577-5005 for more information or to schedule a meet and greet!

Lyon County Animal Shelter
3705 Highway 50 West in Silver Springs, NV 89429
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To submit an obituary send via email to: admin@FallonMediaLLC.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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- **The Golf Club at Fernley**
- **Fernley City Hall Clerk's Office**
- **State Farm – Dan Glass Agency**
- **REMAX at the Golf Course**
- **The Parlor Barbershop**
- **Boys & Girls Club**