the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

fernleyreporter.com | Vol. 2 No. 23

$1.00 | The Week of April 3, 2026

Candidates outline priorities at Fernley community forum

By Robert Perea

Candidates for mayor, city council, county commission, district attorney and sheriff took turns outlining their priorities Thursday night during a fast-paced community forum at Calvary Chapel, where each speaker had four minutes to present their platform with no rebuttals or audience questions.

Ward 1 City Council candidate Gregory Barrett, who organized and hosted the event, opened the forum by explaining the format and encouraging residents to meet with candidates afterward or leave written questions in boxes designated for each candidate. Each candidate was provided table space to meet with voters following the presentations.

Candidates John Kenneth Barchie, Tim Bickerton, Alexis Colosi and Neal McIntyre. Photos by Robert Perea.

Mayoral candidates

John Kenneth Barchie, who moved to Fernley in 2021, said he is running for mayor because he believes the city is beginning to experience the same problems he saw in California and wants to prevent Fernley from following that path. Barchie said the city is "leaving money on the table" and argued that Fernley needs greater financial transparency, including clearer public information about water resources, development impacts and long-term planning. He criticized what he described as a lack of accessible data on the city's website and said residents deserve to know how decisions are being made. Barchie also said Fernley should negotiate more aggressively with large corporations locating in the region, arguing that the city's infrastructure needs far exceed current revenue. He said he wants to preserve Fernley's character and ensure the city does not repeat the mistakes he witnessed in Silicon Valley.

Tim Bickerton, said he had a short career as a Reno police officer and retired from Waste Management, said he is running for mayor because he believes Fernley is at a pivotal moment as major industrial projects and regional growth accelerate. Bickerton, who is known locally for his community volunteer work and for administering the "Fernley Rant and Rave" social media page, said the city's recent controversies have damaged its reputation and created a perception of dysfunction that could deter future investment. He said Fernley must present a united front, restore professionalism on the council and actively pursue both large and small businesses. Bickerton said he would work to bring opportunities to the council's agenda, reduce internal conflict and help Fernley shed its "laughingstock" image as it prepares for significant growth in the coming years.

Alexis Colosi, a nurse, veteran and mother who moved to Fernley about a year and a half ago, said she is running for mayor to address the strain rapid growth has placed on the city's emergency services, healthcare access and community resources. Colosi said her work in healthcare has shown her the real world consequences of Fernley lacking an emergency room, hospi-

Continued on Page 4 - CANDIDATES....

School Board approves up to $2.2 million in cuts due to declining enrollment

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County School Board voted 6–1 on Tuesday to approve up to $2.2 million in budget reductions for the 2026–27 fiscal year, responding to continued enrollment declines that have created a multimillion dollar shortfall in state per pupil funding.

Executive Director of Operations Harmon Bains told trustees the district's enrollment began the year 125 students below projections and has continued to fall by roughly 30 students per quarter, leaving the district 185 students under budgeted expectations as of March 6. Under Nevada's Pupil Centered Funding Plan (PCFP), he said, that shortfall represents an estimated $4 million impact over the biennium.

Bains said the district is not attempting to cut the full amount in a single year but must take proactive steps to protect the general fund. He estimated that the reductions he presented total between $1.8 to $2.2 million.

The proposal presented to the trustees included reducing 22.5 interventionist positions funded through the College and Career Readiness program to 17.5 positions, with the program ending in 2027; eliminating the English Language Implementation Specialist, a district office position that has remained vacant; ending teacher leader and administrative leader stipends, which were created with federal pandemic relief funding through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) program, which cost about $650,000 annually; and eliminating summer custodial and groundskeeping positions, which Bains described as helpful but nonessential.

Trustee Darin Farr said he appreciated that the only eliminated position is one that has been vacant, meaning no employee loses a job. He described the reductions as trimming "luxuries" rather than cutting essential services and said other counties are facing far more severe cuts.

"We're making the least possible cuts we can in order to stay afloat," he said.

Trustee Elmer Bull asked how much the teacher leader and administrative leader stipends cost. Bains said teacher leader stipends are $10,000 and administrative leader stipends $12,000, totaling about $650,000 annually.

Bull said the district's enrollment decline mirrors a statewide trend and raised concerns about students leaving for charter, private and home school options. He said the issue is "serious" and may warrant a future agenda item.

"We can't keep going the direction we're going," he said. "It's unsustainable."

Trustee Kallie Day asked whether the district is actively pursuing grants. Bains said the grants team constantly searches for opportunities and recently secured a $500,000 pre K grant, adding that the district will continue seeking outside funding to support programs affected by reductions.

Trustee Sherry Parsons expressed concern that eliminating teacher leader stipends could shift uncompensated work onto teachers, particularly in special education. Superintendent Tim Logan said substitute teachers are licensed and allowed to assist with IEP processes, and that special education teachers will continue to be compensated for writing IEPs outside contract time. He said the loss of stipends removes expectations, not teaching positions, and that many teachers will likely continue mentoring colleagues voluntarily.

Bains added that non teacher leader staff already assist with IEPs and are paid for extra duty hours, a long standing practice that will continue.

Trustee Tom Hendrix noted that

Continued on Page 7 - BUDGET CUTS....

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
LAS VEGAS, NV
PERMIT NO. 707

IN THIS EDITION

Inside Veer 2
Features 3
Announcements 4
Community 5
Business 6
Government 7
Law and Order 8
Sports 10
Food for Thought 11
Pet O' the Week 12

The Fernley Reporter
P.O. Box 126
Fernley, Nevada 89408

the Fernley reporter

Don't miss a single word.

Subscribe Today!

For print or online: robert@fernleyreporter.com

A special thank you to all our subscribers.

the Fernley reporter
FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

President / Editor
Robert Perea
robert@fernleyreporter.com

Publisher
Rachel Dahl
rachel@fallonmediallc.com

Advertising
For advertising contact:
775-481-3582, or email
Advertising@fallonmediallc.com

Ad Design
Christine Bryner
christine@studio509llc.com

Office Manager
Amber Hardin

Logistics Manager
Denice Pinder

Graphic Design
Allyson Ahlert
Allyson@fallonmediallc.com

Contributors
Jenny Bench
Kelly Brye
Nancy Chapman
Phil Christian
Jaimie Daniels
Christy Lattin
Leanna Lehman
Kerry Lyman
Matt McCreary
Justin Miller
Mike Moresi
John Poundstone
Dan Ravetto
Shana Rhinehart
Mary Sorensen
Davy Stix
Dana Uhlhorn

Volunteers
Tammy Dittman

Mail
P.O. Box 126
Fernley, Nevada 89408
admin@FallonMediaLLC.com
775-376-3219

The Fernley Reporter
is published weekly, on Friday,
by Fallon Media Co.,
in Fernley, Nevada 89408
Copyright © 2025

TO SUBMIT A LEGAL NOTICE
please email:
Robert@fernleyreporter.com

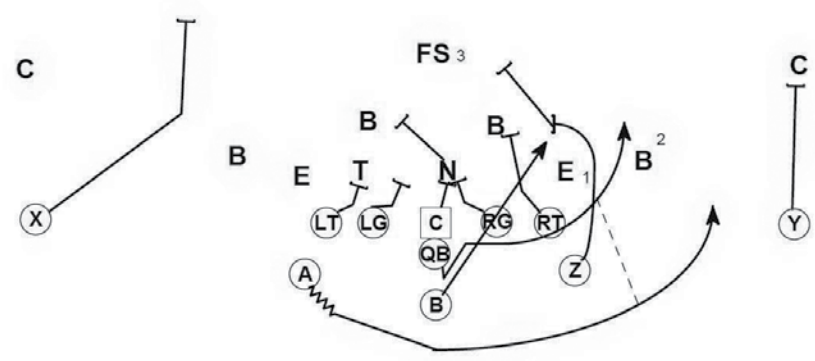
TO SUBMIT AN OBITUARY
Send via email to:
admin@fallonmediallc.com
Please attach a photo to the email.
Obituary text must be sent
in Word document format,
or in the body of an email,
no images or pictures of text please.

SUBSCRIPTIONS OR
ADDRESS CHANGE
Can be sent to:
P.O. Box 126
Fernley, Nevada 89408
or by phone: 775-376-3219
Single copies may be
purchased for $1
at local merchants

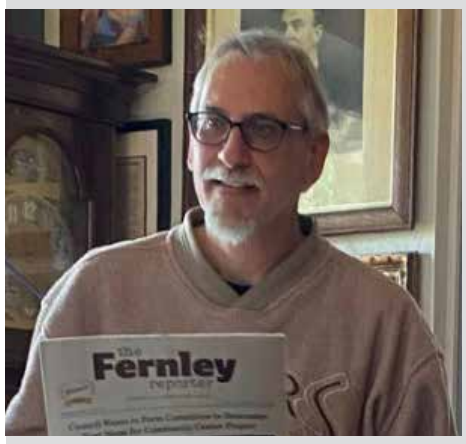
Subscription rate is $9.95 monthly,
or $119.49 annually.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



Two glimpses of Fernley's present and its possibility



ROBERT PEREA

In two very different ways, Fernley residents got a glimpse last Saturday of what this community is and what it can be, through the Open House hosted by Mark IV Capital at the Victory Logistics District and the InFERNo Festival at Reno-Fernley Raceway.

You couldn't script two more opposite scenes. At Victory Logistics District, the scale alone tells the story. Plans for rail, power, roads and industry in various stages of development signal that Fernley is no longer a town waiting for something to happen. People who may not have realized the scale of the project got a first-hand look at what Mark IV Capital has planned.

Even though nothing like this had ever happened here before, InFERNo, on the other hand, was Fernley in its most familiar form. The creativity of a dedicated bunch of doers came to life at the racetrack with music blasting through the desert, fire lighting up the night sky and hundreds of people enjoying every minute of it.

Put the two together and you get a snapshot of Fernley's crossroads. One path is built on long term planning, private investment and the promise of jobs that could reshape the city's economy. The other is built on the volunteers and donors who don't need a groundbreaking ceremony to feel connected to where they live.

Both of those matter and both showed up this week.

Whether you're new here or been here all your life, the question Fernley keeps circling is whether the city can grow into the future without losing the parts of itself that make it feel like home. Whether the big projects can coexist with the small moments and whether the scale of what's coming can still leave room for the people who built the place long before anyone talked about logistics districts.

If you were paying attention, this week offered a hint. Fernley showed it can look forward and look inward at the same time. It can walk through a billion dollar development and a festival that started with a "what if" on the same day. It can imagine what's next without forgetting what's already here.

That balance is Fernley right now. And if the city can hold onto it, the future might look a lot like what we saw this week, full of big plans, local roots, and a community that shows up for both.

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.

Fernley Women's Golf Club Results, Mar. 24

Game: EFNO

1st: Verl-Lee Ely, 41
2nd: Terry Richter, 43
3rd: Val Montgomery, 44
4th: Jana Garner, 44
5th: Loretta Bradley, 44
Low Puts: Patty Liljeberg, 27
Closest to Hole #7:
Jana Garner, 32'3"
Closest To Hole #11:
Linda Garrett, 15'3"
Closest to hole #14:
Kathy Kennedy, 8'8"
Birdies: Ava Case, #2;
Jana Garner, #7
Chip-Ins: Ava Case;
Shane Miller; & Linda Garrett

FEATURES

Testimony given to tragic details in Miller murder case

By Leanna Lehman

In the case of Adam Elijah Miller, Canal Township Justice Court Judge Lori Matheus entered 70 evidentiary exhibits into the record and heard extensive preliminary hearing testimony on March 5, 2026. After an hour and a half of testimony, the defense waived the remainder of the preliminary hearing despite the hearing having been allotted two full days on the calendar. The case was then bound over to Lyon County's Second Judicial District Court.

It is during these types of hearings that much of the evidence leading to an arrest warrant is presented. This evidence is rarely addressed again in open court unless the defendant pleads not guilty and the case proceeds to trial. These details can shed light on less publicized aspects of a case and provide insight into what victims, defendants, and responding law enforcement officers experienced.

Based solely on evidence presented, judges consider two primary factors: whether a crime was committed and whether the defendant likely committed that crime.

Adam Miller was 19 when he was arrested for the alleged fatal stabbing of his father, Lance, and the near-fatal stabbing of his mother, Elizabeth, on Dec. 18, 2024, in Fernley. The hearing consisted largely of testimony from Elizabeth, who was present during the incident and sustained injuries herself.

Additionally, a deputy with the Lyon County Sheriff's Office testified regarding the response to the scene and events that followed.

Miller is charged with Open Murder with the Use of a Deadly Weapon, a Category A Felony punishable by death, life in prison, 20 years to life, or 50 years with parole eligibility after 20 years; Attempted Murder; Battery with a Deadly Weapon with Substantial Bodily Harm to a Victim 60 Years of Age or Older; and a misdemeanor charge of Destroying or Concealing Evidence.

Elizabeth testified that she and her husband had lived in the Farm District Road home for 22 years. Their only son, Miller, also lived on the property in a separate apartment space.

She provided the most direct account of what occurred inside the home, though she repeatedly told the court her memory of the incident is fragmented.

"I remember very little about that time," Elizabeth said. "It's gone. It's gone."

She testified law enforcement had been called to the home multiple times in December 2024, describing the Dec. 18 incident as the fourth contact that month.

On the morning in question, she and Lance were in their home office when events unfolded rapidly. "I didn't understand what was happening," she testified. "I just remember Lance falling… and he was saying call 911," which she said were her husband's final words.

Elizabeth said she did not initially recognize what was happening as an attack. "I didn't get it until Lance was falling down," she said. "I didn't understand because… it was just ordinary morning."

She testified that her recollection begins only after her husband was already collapsing. She recalled addressing Miller during the incident. "I said, you're hurting us… and it was as if something went off in his head and he just stopped everything… and dialed 911."

Elizabeth testified she does not remember seeing a weapon. "I don't remember seeing a knife," she said. "I think I just supposed there was one."

She described the scene as chaotic. "There was so much blood," she said. "I knew from his face that I was losing him."

Elizabeth, who has experience as an ER nurse, attempted lifesaving measures. "I was just doing everything I could."

She sustained injuries to her neck, shoulder, and wrist, but said she does not remember how they occurred. "They said I was on the ground. I don't remember being on the ground."

Elizabeth testified she spent three days in the ICU and four days hospitalized for psychological trauma. "I was told after the fact … I was saying it should have been me."

She described Dec. 18 as "the worst day of my life," and said her memory of the weeks following is limited. "I don't remember that first… month," she testified. "I think I was going through the motions… I just don't remember even being alive."

Adam Miller, photo courtesy of LCSO.

Throughout her testimony, she emphasized that her understanding is incomplete. "I didn't know what I was seeing," she said. "I had to piece things together."

When asked directly whether she saw Miller attack her husband, she said, "I can't answer that yes or no."

During cross-examination, Elizabeth acknowledged escalating tensions in the home leading up to the incident. "I always loved my son, but this was getting… out of hand," she said. "We were scared." She described his behavior as deteriorating. "He was unraveling before our eyes and we didn't get it."

She also acknowledged making threatening statements during prior conflicts. "I don't remember," she said, adding, "I could have said something like that."

Elizabeth confirmed writing notes to Miller, including "do not come upstairs" and "the answer is no," explaining, "That is mommy trying to take control."

Deputy Arsenio Reyes of the Lyon County Sheriff's Office testified he was the first responding officer.

He said the initial dispatch reported "a female that sustained… a cut on her neck," but was updated while he was en route. "It was confirmed [as] a stabbing."

He said the update changed his approach. "More vigilant… more aware of possible dangers in the house," Reyes said.

Reyes also testified he was familiar with the residence. "I responded there… two or three times for domestic disturbance," he said, noting prior involvement with the family through juvenile probation.

He described the initial information as limited. "It was vague," he said, before confirming it was upgraded to a stabbing prior to arrival.

The court also heard two 911 calls placed immediately after the incident, including one from someone who is believed to be Miller, in which the caller said, "My mom's bleeding currently… she's bleeding from her neck," and moments later: "She's been stabbed! She's been stabbed!"

Following a short break, Miller's attorney, Christopher Robert Day, announced, "After consultation with my client, … it's his desire to waive the remainder of his preliminary hearing." Miller also requested a transcript of the testimony already provided.

The case was waived up to District Court, where Miller is to be arraigned on April 13. He remains in custody at the Lyon County Jail on a no-bail hold.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter egg hunts return to Fernley and Fallon first weekend of April

Staff Report

Residents of Fernley and Fallon will have several opportunities to celebrate Easter this year, with community egg hunts and family activities scheduled in both cities in early April.

In Fernley, The Biggest Little Radio 101.3 FM will host its 4th annual community Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 4, at Out of Town Park. The event is scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m. and will include egg hunts for different age groups, as well as a special-needs hunt later in the afternoon. Participants are encouraged to bring their own baskets.

Also on April 4, Living Stones Church will host a free community egg hunt at Green Valley Park from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will include activities for children and families in addition to the egg hunt.

In Fallon, the Fallon Lions Club plans to hold its annual Easter egg hunt on Sunday, April 5, at Laura Mills Park. The long-running event typically draws large crowds and features hundreds of eggs for children to collect. The hunt is expected to begin at about 1 p.m.

3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 2025. Photo courtesy of the Biggest Little Radio 101.3 FM.

The Churchill County Aquatic Center will also host its popular underwater Easter egg hunt on Friday, April 3. The event allows children to collect plastic eggs from the swimming pool, with different sessions organized by age group and swimming ability.

Additional small egg hunts hosted by churches, schools, and community organizations are also expected throughout the week leading up to Easter.

Easter Sunday will be observed on April 5 this year.

Community Egg Hunts

Friday, April 3

Underwater Easter Egg Hunt
3:45 p.m. (sessions by age group)
Churchill County Aquatic Center, Fallon
Hosted by Churchill County Parks and Recreation.

Saturday, April 4

Living Stones Community Egg Hunt
10:00 a.m. – noon
Green Valley Park
1395 Ricci Lane, Fernley
Hosted by Living Stones Church.

4th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Out of Town Park, Fernley
Annual city egg hunt with multiple age groups and a special-needs hunt.

Sunday, April 5

Fallon Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt
1:00 p.m.
Laura Mills Park, Fallon
Annual community egg hunt hosted by the Fallon Lions Club.
Children should arrive early.

Continued from FRONT - CANDIDATE...

real world consequences of Fernley lacking an emergency room, hospital and adequate primary care, forcing families to travel to Reno for basic services. She said the city's expanding population is increasing demands on police, fire and EMS, and that response times can mean "the difference between life and death." Colosi said she would prioritize strengthening public safety staffing and resources, improving access to healthcare by recruiting providers and expanding local services, and supporting strong schools and family-oriented amenities. She said her background as a veteran and nurse has prepared her to lead with accountability, service and compassion.

Mayor Neal McIntyre, a 66-year Fernley resident, said he is seeking a second term because he cares deeply about the community he has watched grow from 500 people in 1960 to more than 26,000 today. McIntyre highlighted his long record of public service, including 14 years on the Lyon County School Board before being elected mayor, and said Fernley's location, with access to I 80, U.S. 50, U.S. 95 and the rail line, continues to attract major national and international companies. With growth expected to push the population to 40,000–45,000 within the next decade, he said the city must stay ahead on infrastructure. McIntyre outlined planned road and utility projects in the upcoming budget, including work on Cedar Street, the streets behind 7 Eleven and streets in the industrial area, paired with water and sewer upgrades. He also began to address a proposed reorganization that would eliminate the city manager and deputy city manager positions, but ran out of time before he could finish.

City Council candidates stress growth, infrastructure and community leadership

City Council Ward 1

Gregory Barrett, who said he spent his career managing maintenance budgets and compliance under pressure, said he is running for the Ward 1 seat to address Fernley's long standing road conditions and the strain rapid growth has placed on infrastructure. Barrett said more than 2,700 new homes have been approved or are in the pipeline, yet many neighborhoods, including his own, have gone more than a decade without meaningful road repairs. He outlined a five point road maintenance plan built around Fernley's existing Pavement Condition Index system, calling for annual public updates, an interactive online dashboard, and strict prioritization of streets scoring below 60. Barrett said the city must fix the worst problems first, ensure new development pays its fair share through appropriate impact fees, and tie PCI based priorities directly into the capital improvement plan to accelerate funding by two to three years. He also criticized the proposed Title 16 nuisance ordinance as granting too much unchecked authority to a single official.

Incumbent Councilman Ryan Hanan highlighted his involvement in regional and local initiatives since taking office, emphasizing his work representing Fernley at state, regional and economic development meetings. Hanan said that shortly after being elected, he was assigned to meet with the Nevada Department of Transportation in Carson City to address "dozens of items" needing attention in Fernley, and he said all of those issues were resolved. Hanan said he has regularly attended events hosted by the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada and the Northern Nevada Development Authority, as well as the annual State of the County addresses, to ensure Fernley has a voice in regional planning and economic discussions. Hanan said he has been involved in workshops and planning sessions for the Nevada Pacific Parkway overpass rehabilitation and has made a point of attending Chamber of Commerce events, ribbon cuttings, and meetings to support local businesses and community groups. He said he stands by his record and asked voters to evaluate him based on what he has accomplished during his time in office

Debbie Skinner, a lifelong Lyon County resident raised in Fernley, said she is running for the Ward 1 seat to bring practical experience, fiscal responsibility and community focused leadership to the council. Skinner has owned the Desert Rose RV Park for 26 years and said her work in hospitality has taught her how to solve problems, work with people and understand community needs. She noted her local roots as a contractor's daughter who grew up doing hands-on work. Skinner highlighted her service on the Lyon County Room Tax Board, which helps fund community events, and her past work on the City of Fernley's Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. She is in her second term as a director for the North Lyon Fire Protection District and said strong relationships between local agencies are essential as Fernley grows. She said she is concerned about overspending, the lack of infrastructure and the need for additional amenities

City Council Ward 3

Ryan Cross, a 26-year Fernley resident and principal of Fernley High School, said his nearly three decades in public service have shaped his belief in collaborative, mission focused leadership. A former U.S. Army commissioned officer, Cross said his career in education has allowed him to work closely with families, public safety agencies and community partners to expand opportunities for local youth. He highlighted his role in bringing an emergency medical training program to the high school, creating a pathway for students interested in careers in fire and EMS while helping meet workforce needs in the region. Cross said he believes good leadership means listening first, working collaboratively and focusing on solutions rather than personalities. He said his priorities if elected would be responsible growth, strong public safety and reliable infrastructure.

Roy Edgington Jr., a former mayor and longtime Fernley resident, said he is running to restore civility and professionalism to the council. Edgington, who previously served four years on the council and eight years as mayor, said he first ran for office after seeing a council member repeatedly admit he had not read staff reports. He said the level of conflict on the current council is "unacceptable" and that Fernley needs elected officials who are prepared, respectful and able to conduct meetings with decorum. A retired Reno Tahoe Airport firefighter with 29 years of service, Edgington said Fernley has strong potential but must be realistic about what the city can and cannot do, noting that businesses such as restaurants and hospitals will only come if the market supports them. He said he supports improving medical access but cautioned that a full hospital is unlikely without significant population and financial backing.

Editor's Note: A separate story on the county commission, district attorney and sheriff candidates who took part in the forum will run next week.

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, Apr. 6

Salisbury Steak
Mashed Potatoes
Brown Gravy
Peas
Applesauce
100% Juice

Tuesday, Apr. 7

Black Bean Soup
Chicken Salad Sandwich
Cucumbers in Sour Cream
Tropical Fruit Cup

Wednesday, Apr. 8

Honey Lemon Chicken
Garlic and Red Pepper Penne
Cracked Wheat bread
Brussels Sprouts
Garden Salad
Creamy Italian Dressing
Peaches

Thursday, Apr. 9

Fish Square with cheese on Whole Wheat Bun
French Fries
Lima Beans
Mandarins
100% Juice

Friday, Apr. 10

*****Birthday Lunch*****
Buddha Bowl (Sweet Potato, Chicken, Brown Rice, Avocado, Peanut Sesame Dressing)
Fruit Cocktail
100% Juice
Confetti Cake

COMMUNITY

FIS principal named as new Churchill County superintendent

Fernley Intermediate School principal Blake Cooper has been named the next Churchill County School District superintendent. Photo courtesy of Blake Cooper

By Sydney Trainor

The Churchill County School Board voted 4–3 on March 26 to select Fernley Intermediate School Principal Blake Cooper as its superintendent after interviewing four finalists during a special meeting.

The board conducted interviews with Levi Collins, Natalie Burgess, Cooper, and Mike Walker, scheduling 10 minute breaks between each session. After the interviews, trustees ranked the candidates on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being the top pick. Rankings were then converted to points, with first place earning four points, second place three, and so on. Cooper and Burgess tied for the top score with 23 points each, followed by Walker with 13 points and Collins with 11.

During his interview, Collins discussed his experience in a rural district and emphasized communication, visibility, teacher support, and priorities in reading and math. Burgess focused on collaboration, trust, and retention, noting that district goals aligned with her own. Cooper highlighted the need for cabinet meetings, weekly alignment, and timely communication, as well as his ties to Fallon and his rural experience as a principal. Walker stressed the importance of clear, consistent communication across the district and the need to build relationships with staff, students, and the community early on.

Board discussion reflected a divide between prioritizing experience and long term potential. Trustees said Burgess brought strong experience, a clear communication style, and a detailed, goal oriented vision for the district. Several noted that she provided specific benchmarks tied to district priorities, including improving school star ratings and increasing attendance. Concerns were raised about her background in charter schools and whether transitioning to a traditional public school in a rural community could pose challenges. Some also questioned whether not being local would affect community fit.

Cooper's local ties were seen as a strength, with trustees pointing to his Fallon background and the fact that he has children in the district. Board

Continued on Page 7 - SUPERINTENDENT...

Council asked to set aside $500,000 in next year's budget for mayor's fishing pond

By Kerry Lyman

Aiming for completion of Phase I by next spring, the Fernley City Council was asked at its March 26 Strategic Planning Meeting to set aside $500,000 in next year's budget for the mayor's proposed fishing pond park.

The funding would pay for Phase I of the project, "with Phase I being the pond, walkways to get to the pond, parking and restrooms," according to Planning Director Michele Rambo.

The council allocated $100,000 for the park's design in this year's budget, but the contract came in at just $28,000, she said. The roughly $72,000 in savings could be shifted to help fund the Phase I improvements.

In addition, there is the possibility of a $100,000 grant for the project from the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the construction community will be volunteering time, materials and equipment, lowering costs, Rambo said.

A staff report indicated if funding is approved, the Phase I design should be completed before July 1, with construction bidding planned to follow shortly after, and completion of the Phase I improvements planned by spring of 2027.

Responding to a question from Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski, Rambo broke down the Phase I components, which total $650,000, "not counting anything donated or any grants," she said.

Estimated Phase I costs are $300,000 for the pond, $200,000 for the parking lot, $130,000 for the partial walkways leading to the pond and $20,000 for the restrooms, she said.

Mayor Neal McIntyre said he also would like to see a monument sign in the Phase I improvements, recognizing the donations made by various individuals or companies to the effort, like he had seen in other local fishing pond parks.

Councilman Ryan Hanan expressed conflicting feelings about the park, saying his constituents complain there is not enough for kids to do in town, but also that funding for the new park should come solely from grants because the public has urged him to concentrate on upgrading the city's existing parks.

In the public works department's earlier presentation to the council for the planning work session, $680,000 was requested to rehabilitate the athletic fields and provide nighttime lighting for fields at the Out-of-Town Park.

Councilman Albert Torres expressed concern about unknown maintenance costs for the fishing pond park. Public Works Director Barry Williams said it costs the city between $6,000 and $10,000 a year in maintenance for each of the city's athletic fields, but "it is hard to put a number on" maintenance costs for the fishing pond park.

Finalizing the planning department's requests for funding in next year's budget, Rambo asked the council to roll over unspent funds of $1.25 million in this year's budget to continue long-range planning efforts.

Those planning efforts include the CIP/Impact Fee Study, the Infrastructure Plan and the South Area Plan, all expected to be completed by December, and the Master Plan update, expected to be completed by the third or fourth quarter of 2027, according to a staff report.

roc
reno orthopedic center

Our Physicians are now seeing patients at our Fernley Campus.

Expert Orthopedic Care
Now you can access the trusted orthopedic expertise of ROC right here in Fernley.

Joint Replacement
Hand & Upper Extremity
Sports Medicine
Trauma & Fracture

Call today
775.786.3040
and request our Fernley location.

1034 Inglewood Drive
Fernley, Nevada 89408

Monday - Friday 9am to 5:30pm
www.renoortho.com

We are hiring physical therapists, if you are interested, visit renoortho.com and see "careers" in the top right corner of our website.

BUSINESS

Open House gives residents look inside Victory Logistics District

By Robert Perea

Rick Nelson speaking with local residents at the public open house on March 28, 2026. Photo by Allyson Ahlert.

Mark IV Capital drew more than 200 people to its first public open house last Saturday at the Victory Logistics District, giving residents a detailed look at the rail, power, road and workforce development projects now taking shape. Mark IV Vice President Rick Nelson said the turnout exceeded his expectations and confirmed what the company has been hearing for months: many residents simply don't know what's happening behind the fences.

"People drive by and think nothing is going on," Nelson said. "Now they realize there's a lot going on."

He said the open house was the first in a planned series of public events designed to offer tours, answer questions and gather community input. Attendees were encouraged to leave written comments, and Nelson said Mark IV will compile those comments and deliver them to the City of Fernley as it prepares its North Fernley Master Plan.

Nelson said most visitors were surprised not only by the amount of work already completed but by the scale of what is coming next. The rail spur, he said, is now 60 percent complete, with ballast in place and crews welding track. The line is expected to be operational by September, a milestone he called critical for attracting advanced manufacturing. Two companies are evaluating sites because rail served property is scarce in northern Nevada.

Jack Roznos and Hannah Roznos exploring the workforce training development plan. Photo by Allyson Ahlert.

He also highlighted progress on the proposed Fernley Power District, which he said is nearing 90 percent design completion. Mark IV is working with the city to finalize the structure, and Nelson emphasized that the district would operate outside NV Energy's service area.

"It doesn't touch any of the ratepayers," he said. "It's insulated."

Nelson said the district would operate under a city approved franchise, generating franchise fee revenue for Fernley. Nelson said the model creates a self contained economic engine where franchise fees boost the city budget, new businesses expand the tax base, workforce demand grows, and property and sales taxes increase.

"We built a mechanism that benefits the city without costing the citizens," he said.

Nelson said the two concerns he hears most often from residents are that data centers use too much water and that the project will strain the region's power supply or raise electric bills. He said both concerns are based on outdated assumptions.

"Microsoft has already applied to the city for their campus at just over nine acre-feet per year," Nelson said. "That's less than seven houses. The City of Fernley has given out permits for new housing over 100. When you compare that to what we're building, we're vastly underneath it."

On power, he reiterated that the Victory project's power district is separate from NV Energy and therefore has no impact on local rates. Instead, he said, it creates a new revenue stream for the city from a franchise fee and makes the district more attractive to advanced manufacturers.

Workforce development is also beginning to take shape. Western Nevada College President J. Kyle Dalpe attended the open house, and Nelson said several companies are working with WNC to train electricians, welders, HVAC technicians and, eventually, more specialized trades.

"Workforce development provides job opportunities ad infinitum," he said.

Residents were able to view maps showing future road alignments, the Nevada Pacific Parkway connection and the broader North Fernley development plan. Nelson said future open houses will continue to show where roads will go and how infrastructure ties together.

"Most people are pleasantly surprised at the progress," he said. "They're very surprised at the amount of future progress that's in place, and they're extremely happy that there's some level of revenue generation that can go to the city."

Nelson said many components of the project are on schedule and on budget, but progress cannot move faster than the pace of required reviews and approvals.

"Can we go faster?" Nelson asked. "I don't think so. "We have to go at the speed of review and approval."

He said Mark IV is navigating approvals from the city, state agencies, federal agencies, Union Pacific, NDOT and other regulatory bodies.

"Everyone gets to put their fingerprints on everything," he said. "Every review and every comment has to be reconciled. All of that consumes time and effort. But we're moving through it."

Meetings

Fernley City Council
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting April 15

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting April 8

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

Lyon County Commission
1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting April 16

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 April 14

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 April 28

Lyon County School District Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
Locations rotate between each attendance area
Next meeting April 28

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees
2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month
195 E. Main St.
Next meeting April 9

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

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ELLEN TUDOR
Broker-Manager | NRED: BS.146720
Ellen.Tudor@cbselectre.com
www.HomeOfYourHeart.com
COLDWELL BANKER SELECT REAL ESTATE
Locally Serving all of Northern Nevada.
775-813-2046
330 E. MAIN ST, SUITE A, FERNLEY NV 89408

EST. 2025 GREAT BASIN TRADING CO. A FALLON MEDIA COMPANY
Local Book Store · High-EndConsignment · Local Artists · Newsstand
Carrying the Fallon Media Co. newspapers, local artists, local authors, and *RANGE* magazine.
31 S. Maine St., Fallon | GreatBasinTrading.com | Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 10a.m. to 4 p.m.

PACK-IT PARK-IT STOR-IT
MINI STORAGE
www.fernleyministorage.com
1900 US Hwy 50E
Fernley, NV 89408
tel (775) 835-6464
fax (775) 835-6411

You're Invited!
MONDAYS @ NOON
ALL POINTS GRILL
790 EAST MAIN ST
Rotary Club of Fernley
Committed to Connection and Community
Interested, call 775-815-5190

NURSERY KING & GIFTS
COMING SOON!

the Fernley reporter
Get the word out every week online and in print with an ad in the Business Directory.
advertising@FallonMediaLLC.com
Discount for annual commitment
Our best value: online & print for every week for $100 a month.

Wigwam
RESTAURANT & CASINO
breakfast & lunch
255 Main Street, Fernley | 775-575-2573

StateFarm
Dan Glass, Agent
79 7th Street
Fernley, NV 89408
Bus: 775-575-6800
dan@protectnevada.com
Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®
State Farm, Bloomington, IL

Doing Real Estate Right Since 1906
Locally Serving all of Northern Nevada.
COLDWELL BANKER SELECT REAL ESTATE
775-575-2400
330 E. MAIN ST, SUITE A, FERNLEY NV 89408

GOVERNMENT

City proposes three major road and utility projects for next fiscal year

By Kerry Lyman

Three major road reconstruction projects that include utility upgrades were proposed for next fiscal year during a City Council strategic planning session on March 26.

The first project, reconstruction of roads in the 43-year-old Good Earth Subdivision, located south of the 7-Eleven mini-mart on Main Street, will take about three years to complete, with $4.6 million in funding being requested for next fiscal year, according to a staff report.

Funding being requested for next fiscal year would come from several sources, with $1 million to come from the general fund, $621,290 from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), $1.5 million from the water fund and the same amount from the city's sewer fund, the staff report noted.

Another $4.2 million in RTC funds will be needed through fiscal 2027-2028 to complete the project, according to the staff report.

Roads in the subdivision, consisting of B Street through G Street, including 6th and 7th Street and Good Earth Circle, are in "very bad condition" according to City Engineer Salvador Pleitez, and the project is being phased because the utility budget alone to replace water and sewer lines under the streets is about $3 million, he said.

Acting City Manager Lydia Altick said doing water and sewer upgrades at the same time as the road reconstruction "maximizes efficiency. It's a greater use of our resources," she said.

The second road and utility rehabilitation project requested for next year is Cedar Street at an estimated cost of $4.5 million, with $3.5 million coming from the RTC and $1 million coming from the city's water fund.

Utilities in this area have not been updated in more than 20 years and there are currently "extensive areas with missing curb, gutter and sidewalk," as well as "significant drainage issues," according to a staff report.

"I'm really happy to see older parts of Fernley starting to take shape with curb, gutter and sidewalks," said Mayor Neal McIntyre.

Design of the project is almost complete, and it is tentatively scheduled to go to bid this fiscal year and be completed in the 2026-2027 fiscal year, the staff report said.

The third road project is the Fernley Industrial Park Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project along Lyon Drive, Industrial Drive, Salvadore Drive and Resource Drive, which is scheduled to go out to bid this year and be completed next fiscal year, according to a staff report.

The Cedar Street and industrial park projects "have both been approved by the RTC board to be funded through RTC funds. So there's no impact to the city's budget because they're done on a reimbursement basis," City Treasurer Robert Carson said.

"We're asking for $5.5 million, but I'm reading that the RTC only funded $4.9 million," Councilman Joe Mendoza said.

Carson said those were initial projections. "The design and construction management on these two projects are being funded out of the general fund," which had already been budgeted for this fiscal year, Carson said.

Continued from FRONT - BUDGET CUTS....

staffing reductions do not always align neatly with enrollment loss because students leave across multiple grades and schools.

"I recognize that's difficult, because if we lose five students across six different grades, we're not going to lose a teacher," he said. "If we lose all of those 30 students within one grade level, then we would have a reduction of one teacher there."

Bains said staffing allocations are determined by board approved formulas and monitored by the human resources department, but acknowledged it is "not a perfect science." He said it is within the board's purview to scrutinize positions if needed, though he does not believe the district is at that point.

Bains said the district will present its full 2026–27 budget next month, incorporating the reductions approved Tuesday. He said enrollment will continue to be monitored and that the district intends to remain proactive rather than wait for deeper cuts to become unavoidable.

The motion by Trustee Dawn Carson to approve the proposed changes passed 6–1, with Trustee Sherry Parsons opposed.

Acting city manager requests new animal control position and two vehicles

By Kerry Lyman

As the city begins shaping next year's budget, Acting City Manager Lydia Altick asked the City Council to fund a new animal control position and two new animal control vehicles. Altick made the request during the council's March 26 strategic planning meeting.

The animal control (AC) department currently consists of two employees: one AC program manager, an exempt salaried position with no overtime pay, and one AC officer, a non-exempt hourly position that does receive overtime pay, according to a staff report.

The added position would be an AC Officer I, a non-exempt role that would bring the department to three employees, the report noted.

Both existing AC employees respond to service calls during the regular workday and are in the office six days a week, while providing 24/7/365 standby support to the community, the sheriff's office and the North Lyon County Fire Department, the report said.

Standby emergency AC support covers calls after hours and on holidays for activities such as protective custody impounds, severely injured animals, aggressive dogs at large, dog bites, warrant service and other emergencies, the report added.

Both current AC employees rotate standby weeks to reduce burnout, which is a common problem among, Altick said, because many AC employees are drawn to the job out of a love for animals.

"Exposure to intentional and malicious animal cruelty is difficult to process," she said, and although it seems the job would mostly involve contact with animals, it actually revolves around contact with people, many of whom suffer from mental health issues and can be combative, so down time is imperative for the mental health of AC officers, Altick said.

One current AC employee has been with the city about six and a half years, while the other has been with the city about two and a half years. Prior AC officers for the city have lasted two years or less due to burnout, Altick said.

Illustrating that Fernley's AC program is currently understaffed, Altick said Lyon County has four full time AC officers to respond outside of Fernley, roughly serving a population of about 25,000 people, leaving each AC officer to deal with a population of about 6,250 people.

In Fernley, with a population of about 26,000, there are only two AC officers, meaning they each have to cover about 13,000 people, Altick said.

Hiring a new AC officer would free the program manager to provide field support rather than acting as a first responder, enabling the manager to meet with community groups and schools, attend community events, possibly conduct dog training clinics and assist with pet spay and neutering efforts, Altick said.

Councilman Joe Mendoza asked if AC officers are required to live in the city and was told they are not, though one

Acting City Manager, Lydia Altick

does live in the city and the other lives in Silver Springs. Mendoza said he thought it prudent to require AC officers to live in Fernley because if the sheriff's office or fire department is waiting on an AC officer, it may tie up their resources.

"If we have an aggressive dog, I'm sure that dog's going to be shot before somebody comes out there to respond" if AC officers are not local, Mendoza said. Altick said a local living requirement could be imposed if the council desired.

Altick also requested funding for a three-quarter ton, four-wheel drive AC transport truck for $130,000 to replace an existing vehicle that is beyond its mileage and age life; and one SUV with two kennels for $60,000 for the program manager, so that each AC officer has a vehicle to operate.

the Fernley reporter

Don't miss a single word.

Subscribe today!

Can be sent by mail to:
P.O. Box 126
Fernley, Nevada 89408
or by phone: 775-376-3219

Continued from Page 5 - SUPERINTENDENT...

members described him as coachable, ambitious, and capable, and noted his humility and straightforward communication style. Some concerns centered on his lack of district level and superintendent experience, and whether he was ready to step into the role without additional time or development.

Two members of the public spoke during the meeting. One supported Cooper for his local background and involvement in the district. The second speaker, Matt Hyde, thanked the board for its work and emphasized the importance of supporting whichever candidate is selected.

After discussion, Trustee Joe McFadden moved to select Cooper as superintendent, and Celestia Blakey seconded. The motion was amended to direct the board president and district attorney, with support from consultants, to negotiate a contract and return it for approval. The motion passed 4–3.

City's Utilities Department requests funding for major water upgrades, with possible federal aid

By Kerry Lyman

The City of Fernley's Utilities Department requested funding for two water projects next fiscal year during a City Council Strategic Planning Meeting on March 26 and found the federal government may pay for half the costs.

One of the projects would extend a water main along U.S. Highway 50A from Nevada Pacific Boulevard to Julia Lane at the golf course in the Desert Lakes Subdivision. All development east of the Nevada Pacific Parkway is currently served by a water main on Farm District Road, according to a staff report.

The Farm District Road water main is considered a "dead end" main, which means water can only go one way with no circulation. This could cause water quality problems with water stagnating in the line if it is not consumed rapidly enough, the staff report noted.

The lines can be flushed to dispose of stagnant water, bringing fresh water into the main. However, such flushing is "a costly expense of labor and wasted water." In addition, if a dead end water main needs to be shut down for repairs, then users downstream from the repairs will not have water service until the main is repaired and put back online, the staff report said.

The additional water main along Highway 50A will provide a secondary source of water for the golf course community and other developments served by the water main on Farm District Road, at a cost of $3.5 million next fiscal year and another $2.6 million in the 2027-2028 fiscal year, according to the staff report.

The proposed project will "improve water circulation, maintain water quality, increase reliability, reduce the need for frequent flushing and lower operational costs," said Utilities Director Seong Kim.

The other water project requested for next year by the Utilities Department is a new water tank, at a cost of $4 million, also to be paid for from the city's water fund like the U.S. 50A water main, according to a staff report.

The new water tank would "increase system capacity, improve water pressure and reliability" and provide operational flexibility during emergencies. The Utilities Department considers this "the most significant project in the coming year," Kim said.

Councilman Albert Torres said a recent trip he and Mayor Neal McIntyre made to Washington D. C. to speak with Nevada's representatives may have paid off for both of the requested utility projects because Congressman Mark Amodei's office called to say they would seek federal funding for them.

"So we should at least be able to get half of these paid for" by the federal government, Torres said.

"It was an expensive trip for us but in the end, I think it was well worth it," McIntyre said.

the Fernley reporter

To place a notice in the paper please email your request to

Robert@fernleyreporter.com

LAW AND ORDER

Arrest report

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

Mar. 16 – Mar. 22 , 2026

JIMMY KEITH – Area: LYSO, Bail amount: $0, Charges: Court commitment
LEIGHA GRIFFITHS – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: $6,255, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance, less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; Destroy/conceal evidence; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi
FRANCISCO PEREZ – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: $3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
HUNTER ZENOR – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: $33,645, Charges: Duty to stop at scene of accident involving damage to property or injury; DUI, (1st); Resist public officer; Civil fail to maintain lane/improper lane change/fail to use signal; False statement to/obstruct public officer; Fail to change name/address on driver's license
TRACY DIAZ – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: $540, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation
JACOB SALVO – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: $6,280, Charges: Assault on protected person; False statement to/obstruct public officer; Resist public officer; Assist other agency–hold
MIKEAL ROGERS – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: $17,500, Charges: Allow child abuse/neglect (endanger), (1st); Battery by strangulation
JASMINE BENGOCHIA – Area: (not listed) Bail amount: $380, Charges: Tribal charge
THOMAS FLYNN – Area: (not listed) Bail amount: $10,095, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime; Operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi
JOSEPH KENDALL – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: $755, Charges: Display fictitious vehicle registration/plate/title; Drive w/suspended driver's license
ABIGAIL PITTS – Area: (not listed) Bail amount: $0, Charges: Assist other agency–hold
RONALD CAYWOOD – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: $1,485, Charges: Assist other agency–hold (2 counts)
STEVEN WHITE – Area: LYSO, Bail amount: $10,355, Charges: Conspire to commit grand larceny; Possess burglary tools; Trespass, not amounting to burglary
JURNIE PEPION – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $7,640, Charges: Domestic battery, 2nd (2 counts)
DERRICK CASTILLO – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: $0, Charges: Court commitment
HENRY WITTPEN – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $1,140, Charges: DUI, (1st)
SHANNON SHRADER – Area: LYSO, Bail amount: $1,140, Charges: Criminal contempt – Fail to obey court order
JEFFREY WILLIS – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $5,640, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st; Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense
BRIAN JOHNSON – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: $10,000, Charges: Violate stalking/harassment Emergency Protective Order
DOMENIC GRIFFIN – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: $38,640, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance 42+ grams; Sell/transfer or attempt Schedule I or II controlled substance, 1st offense; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Destroy/conceal evidence
LOUIS ZAZUETA – Area: LYSO, Bail amount: $20,000, Charges: Obtain/use personal ID of another to avoid/delay prosecution
EVAN GRAY – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $1,365, Charges: DUI, (1st); Basic speed – 21–30 mph over posted limit
AUSTIN MCGUIGAN – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: $17,500, Charges: Allow child abuse/neglect (endanger), (1st); Battery by strangulation
JUAN VALENTIN – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: $1,410, Charges: DUI, (1st); Basic speed – 11–15 mph over posted limit; Fail to drive on right half of road
ELIANA LOPEZ CORONADO – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st
MICHAEL BARRIENTOS – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $10,000, Charges: Carry concealed weapon without permit
Beverly Ziemann – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $1,140, Charges: DUI, (1st)
SAMUEL RIVAS – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $1,640, Charges: DUI, (1st); Open alcohol container in vehicle; Basic speeding violation – 16–20 mph over limit enhanced/protected speed zone
THOMAS SMITH – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: $0, Charges: Misdemeanor civil custody for alcohol abuse endangering self/others
ABYGAYLE OLTMER – Area: LYSO, Bail amount: $55,920, Charges: Possess Schedule III–V controlled substance 200+ grams; Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Open alcohol container in vehicle; Possess dangerous drug without prescription, (1st/2nd); Possess/consume marijuana in pub place/marijuana store/vehicle; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense
BRANDON MCCOY Area: LYSO, Bail amount: $62,060, Charges: Possess Schedule III–V controlled substance 200+ grams; Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Prevent/dissuade report of crime/cause prosecution/arrest; Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; Possess dangerous drug without prescription (1st/2nd); Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; Possess/consume marijuana in public place/marijuana store/vehicle; Use/possess drug paraphernalia; Open alcohol container in vehicle

Lau granted temporary injunction blocking expulsion from Council until court hearing

By Robert Perea

A Third Judicial District Court judge has temporarily blocked the City of Fernley from enforcing the March 4 resolution approved by the City Council expelling Councilman Stan Lau, ruling that Lau showed a likelihood the action violated Nevada's Open Meeting Law.

Lau filed an emergency petition on March 24 seeking declaratory and injunctive relief, along with a temporary restraining order, arguing the council could not vote to expel him because the agenda item did not list expulsion as a possible action. The court agreed there was enough evidence to justify immediate intervention.

The agenda item for that March 4 meeting, requested by Councilman Albert Torres, read: "Discussion and Possible action to adopt Resolution number 26-004 and discuss the competency, character, and/or alleged misconduct of Councilman Lau including the results of the independent investigation conducted by Sutton Law and Consulting, with possible action, including but not limited to: censure, removal from boards or committees, adoption of resolution, request for resignation, etc."

Although the agenda item listed "Resolution number 26-004", the resolution, which was included in the agenda packet, was Resolution 26-002. That resolution stated that Lau was permanently expelled from the City Council effective immediately, citing NRS 266.240; declared the seat formerly held by Lau vacant as of March 4, 2026; and stated that the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with NRS 266.225, including an applicable appointment or special election requirements.

Fernley City Council members voted on the motion to expel Councilman Stan Lau during the March 4th City Council meeting. Photo by Robert Perea.

After discussion, the council voted 3-2 to adopt Resolution number 26-002.

In his order, Judge Leon Aberasturi found that Lau would face "immediate and irreparable injury, loss or damage" if the city moved ahead with declaring his seat vacant and filling it before the matter could be heard. The court also noted that Lau's verified complaint and supporting declaration showed a reasonable chance of success on the merits, pointing out that a later agenda item explicitly stated the council would consider expelling a different City Council member, which the item involving Lau did not.

That agenda item, requested by Councilman Ryan Hanan to discuss the character, conduct and competency of Torres, did specifically list expulsion among the possible actions, but the item was removed from the agenda by a 3-2 vote of the council.

The court ruled that the balance of hardships favored Lau and temporarily waived any bond requirement.

Under the order, the city and its officers are barred from enforcing Resolution 26 002, including the provisions declaring Lau's seat vacant and directing it to be filled at the next regular meeting. The Court ordered that the city has 10 days to show why a preliminary injunction should not be granted. Lau may file a reply once that response is submitted.

The temporary restraining order remains in effect until the preliminary injunction hearing, which is set for April 10 at 2 p.m. at the courthouse in Yerington. Each side will have 90 minutes to present evidence and argument.

The order was issued March 26 at 11:30 a.m.

Defense seeks change of venue for Richards murder trial

Robert Richards, photo courtesy of Third Judicial District Court.

By Leanna Lehman

Robert Richards appeared March on 30 with defense attorney Kale Mackenzie Brock in Lyon County's Third Judicial District Court before Judge Leon Aberasturi for a status hearing.

Richards is charged in connection with the March 2024 death of 25-year-old Sara Filiatraut after investigators with the Lyon and Churchill County sheriff's offices found her body in May in a remote desert pit about 30 miles east of Fallon.

The Washoe County Medical Examiner's Office ruled the death a homicide, believing Filiatraut was killed around March 23, 2024. Before she was reported missing, Richards had been arrested on April 8 in an unrelated case, released on his own recognizance on April 10, and later admitted to investigators that he had been with Filiatraut the night of March 22, claiming she left his trailer at the Desert Rose RV Park in Fernley.

On July 25, 2024, prosecutors concluded they had sufficient evidence and filed murder charges against Richards, leading to a multistate manhunt. Richards was extradited from Utah in November 2024, denied bail, and later evaluated and determined competent to stand trial. He pleaded not guilty on Feb. 9.

Judge Aberasturi said a criminal settlement conference is scheduled for July. At that time, both parties will present their cases to an out-of-district senior district court judge. If the matter is not resolved, the case is set for jury trial Oct. 27 through Nov. 6.

Brock told the court the defense intends to seek a change of venue, which would transfer the case to another county. Motions for change of venue must be filed in writing and include a supporting affidavit outlining the reasons for the request.

Aberasturi noted that changes of venue are rare and said it has been 12 years since he presided over such a hearing. He said any motion must be filed before the settlement conference, after which the court can schedule a change of venue hearing.

Richards remains in custody on a no-bail hold at the Lyon County Jail.

Fernley Community Events

APR. 4

LIVING STONES EGG HUNT
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Green Valley Park
1395 Ricci Lane

PHOTOS WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY EGG HUNT
101.3 FM KRNG
12:00 .pm. - 3:00 p.m.
DJ, food, pictures with the Easter Bunny & vendors
Out of Town Park

APR. 8

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

APR. 9

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

APR. 10

PUBLIC MARKET
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Fernley Senior Center
105 Lois Lane
775-575-3370 Ext.1

APR. 11

ONLINE AUCTION hosted by Animal Rescue Group of Northern Nevada - ARGONN
*Second Saturday of every Month
www.facebook.com/AnimalRescueGroupOfNorthernNevada

TABLE TENNIS
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

APR. 12

LET'S BE ARTFUL-GLOW PAINTING $35 – GUIDED PAINTING CLASS
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Yi Yi's Escape Room
25 E. Main St. Suite 1

APR. 15

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

APR. 16

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

APR. 18

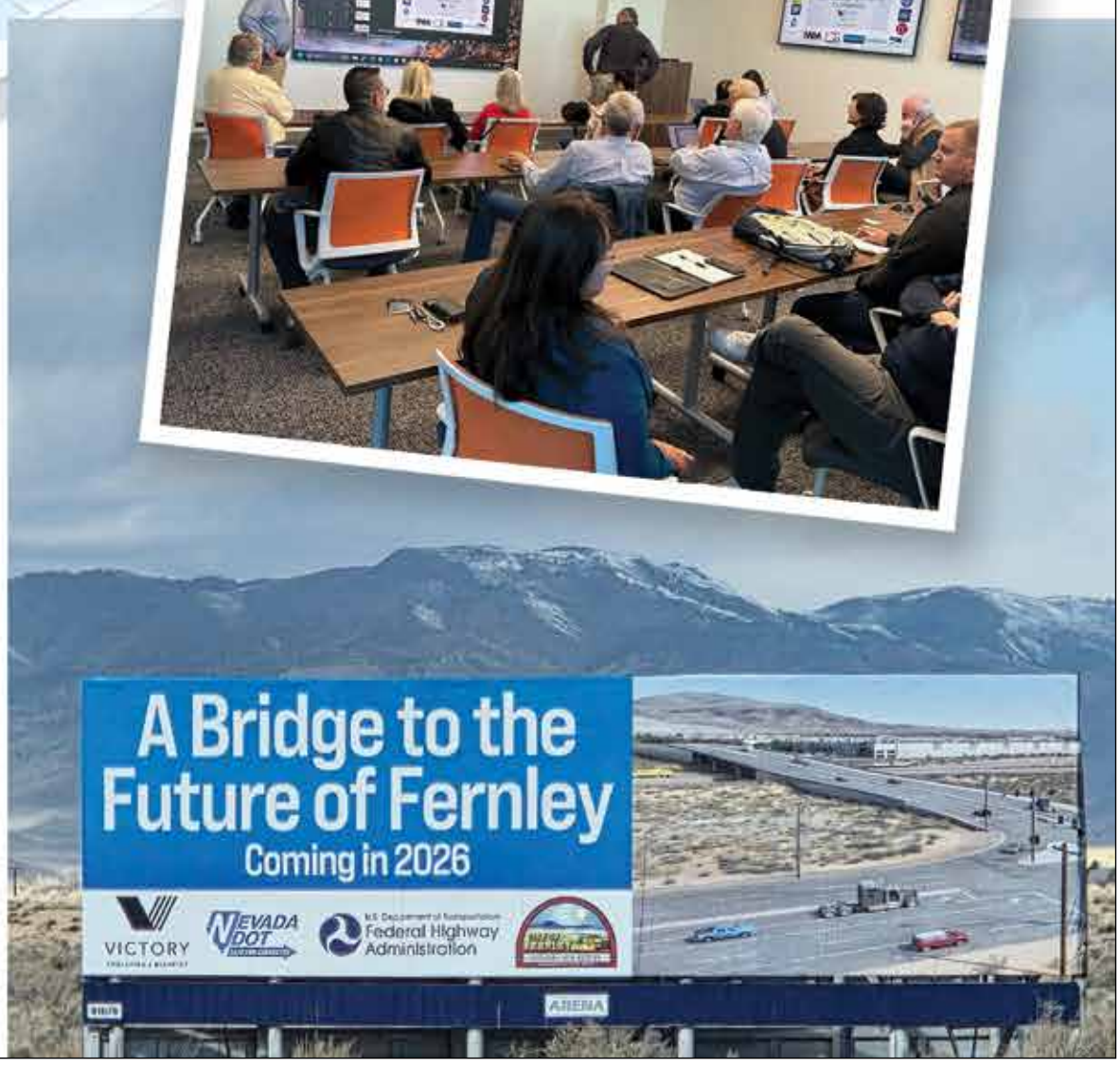
TABLE TENNIS
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

BINGO NIGHT hosted by Animal Rescue Group of Northern Nevada - ARGONN
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Fernley Senior Center
105 Lois Ln.

LIVE COMEDY - $20
Alan Bromwell
7:00 p.m.
Frontier Fun Center
480 W. Main St.
775-575-7529

APR. 25

PASSPORT TO PARTY (21+)
Music, food and auction
Boys and Girls Club
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fernley Community Response & Resource Center
695 E. Main Street



VICTORY
LOGISTICS | DISTRICT

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

SPORTS

Petersen, Esparza lead Fernley with event wins at Reed Invitational

By Robert Perea

Fernley came away with several top five finishes at the Reed Running Company Invitational last Friday and Saturday, highlighted by a pair of event wins in the frosh/soph division.

Zachary Petersen won the frosh/soph 3,200 meters in 10:59.13, while Jayden Esparza took the frosh/soph 110 meter hurdles in 16.09, with Eli Slaughter placing fourth in the same race.

In the varsity hurdles, Keeshawn Love placed second in the 300 hurdles in 41.04 and added a fifth place finish in the 110 hurdles in 15.44. Love also anchored Fernley's 4x100 relay team, which finished second in 44.22.

The Vaqueros added another top five relay finish in the distance medley, where the varsity squad placed fifth in 11:29.47.

In the field events, Bodie Parsons earned a fourth place finish in the varsity discus with a throw of 131 4, while Kole Miller placed fifth in the varsity shot put at 43-6½.

On the girls side, Justice Martell-Artiaga placed fourth in the varsity 300 hurdles in 48.44, and Fernley's 4x200 relay team finished fourth in 1:53.48. Angel Pochop added a third place finish in the varsity discus with a throw of 100-3.

This week the Vaqueros were scheduled to compete at Wooster on Tuesday, then split squads this weekend, with younger runners competing in Friday's Little George JV Invitational on Friday and the varsity in Saturday's Big George Invitational, both at Douglas.

Fernley's Justice Martell-Artiaga runs the 100 meters during last week's meet at Reed. Photo by Ron Perkins

Extra-inning win propels Vaqueros to sweep of Lowry

By Robert Perea

For the second straight game, the Fernley High School baseball team found itself facing some anxious moments in extra innings last Friday. But just like their win in the final game of the series against Fallon the week before, the Vaqueros came through when it mattered most.

Spencer Pryor scrambled home with the winning run on a squeeze bunt by Brock Boyd to give the Vaqueros a 7-6 win in the first game of a three-game series against Lowry last Friday. The Vaqueros then followed up with 12-0 and 12-6 wins on Saturday to complete the series sweep.

The Vaqueros were down to their last out trailing 6-4 in the seventh inning, when Spencer Pryor hit a double that scored Alex Juliot and Riley McCullar to tie the game.

"Huge hit from Spencer Pryor, but some great at-bats before that to get on base," coach Thomas Chapin said. "Riley leads the league in runs scored and it usually works out in our favor if that guy is on the basepaths at some point."

McCullar got on base three times Friday, with two hits and a walk, and scored each time. The three batters behind him in the lineup drove in six of Fernley's runs, three by Spencer Pryor, two by Nikko Pryor and another by Brody Jones.

"I don't want us to get used to playing extra-inning games like that," Chapin said. "The best thing about it is the competitiveness. But they're just being as competitive as possible, wanting to win when they have the chance."

No such dramatics were needed Saturday. Fernley scored five runs in the first inning, two in the third and five more in the fourth to end the game in five innings. Brody Jones had two hits and drove in three runs, Derek Boelter drove in two in the 12-0 win.

In the finale, Brody Jones, Nikko Pryor and Maverick Parks each drove in two runs to lead the 12-6 win.

"It's always nice when you get a sweep," Chapin said. "Those are the best things you can hope for."

The Vaqueros are now 8-4 in the Northern 3A, and have won eight of their last nine games since being swept by Dayton in the first league series. This week they're scheduled to play at South Tahoe, with a single game at 3 p.m. Friday and a doubleheader starting at 11 a.m. Saturday.

"I'm really happy with how we responded from our Dayton series," Chapin said. "They're just playing really good baseball right now."

We'd love to hear from you.
Have a story?
robert@fernleyreporter.com

Lowry takes two-of-three from Vaqueros in league-opening series

By Robert Perea

After seven straight shutout wins, the Fernley High School team discovered last weekend that dominance doesn't always equal preparation.

The Vaqueros had won their last seven games without allowing a run, but after losing two of three games to Lowry over the weekend in their first league series, coach Diane Chapin said those blowouts against weaker opponents didn't give her team the kind of tests they needed for a matchup of that caliber.

The Vaqueros got just seven hits in the two games in which they faced Lowry ace pitcher Makinley Hislop and committed 11 errors in the series, seven of those in the first game.

Lowry won the series opener 7-3 on Friday, then the teams split a doubleheader Saturday, with Fernley winning the first game 6-3 and Lowry taking the finale 9-1.

Coach Diane Chapin said the Vaqueros weren't ready to face a pitcher as good as Hislop and hadn't been forced to make many plays defensively during their winning streak.

"For the last month we hadn't had anybody make us play a whole lot of defense because our pitchers have been shutting everybody down," she said. "When you spend your last seven games shutting everybody down, it throws you off a little bit."

The Vaqueros found themselves trailing 7-0 Friday until Taylor Tollestrup worked a walk with the bases loaded in the top of the fifth. In the sixth, Emma Collins hit a triple that drove in Emma Masters and Grace Chapin, but Hislop retired the last four Fernley hitters to hold the lead.

In Saturday's first game, Tollestrup doubled to lead off the first inning and later scored, then she homered in the third and sixth innings. Masters and Grace Chapin both drove in runs in the third inning as the Vaqueros put six runs on the board.

After facing Lowry pitchers Maite Bengochea and Elisabeth George in the first game Saturday, they scored just once against Hislop in the nightcap, when Tollestrup was hit by a pitch, stole second, took third on a wild pitch and scored on a groundout by Bella Leija.

"Their second pitcher throws good speed, but doesn't move the ball as much, so we hit that pretty good, but I think she threw the third girl to see if she could really get our timing off, then turn around and throw her best pitcher at us," Diane Chapin said. "It was a good move on her part to mess up our timing, which it did."

The Vaqueros are now 10-4 overall and 1-2 in the Northern 3A East. This week the Vaqueros go to Elko, which won two of three against Dayton last week. Every league series in the opening weekend ended 2-1, and Chapin said that could indicate a balanced league.

"Early on in the league you're still kind of testing things out to see who's going to be that player that can get things done for you," she said.

The first game in Elko will be at 3 p.m. Friday, with a doubleheader Saturday starting at 11 a.m.

"They still have the same pitching from last year so we know what to expect pitching-wise," Diane Chapin said. "Our focus is going to be a lot of our game situations to make sure we know what to do. Just focus on good, competing at-bats."

FIRE FORNO
PIZZA·PASTA·SPIRITS

Tomato Cream Pasta

9' Pepperoni Pizza
Lunch Menu
Wednesdays - Fridays
11 am - 3 pm
CHOOSE 1 STARTER:
CAESAR OR HOUSE SALAD
CHOOSE 1 ENTREE:
ALFREDO OR TOMATO CREAM PASTA
PEPPERONI OR CHEESE PIZZA
CHOOSE 1 BEVERAGE:
SODA, UNSWEETENED TEA OR
MINUTE MAID LEMONADE
$16.99

Your Perfect Event Starts Here
RENT OUR VENUE!
Looking for the ideal space to host your next special event? Whether it's a wedding, corporate meeting, birthday celebration, or anything in between, McHoppers offers the perfect setting to bring your vision to life.

McHOPPERS BREW CO

Prime Location
Tailored Packages
Versatile Spaces
Contact Us! 530-966-7349 www.mchoppersbrew.com

COMMUNITY COLUMNS

Beyond the Ashes-A Reflection on InFERNo

By Lavonne Wagner and Jaimie Daniels

As the dust settles, the smoke clears, and the embers burn out, the Fernley ACES have had but a moment to reflect on this weekend's InFERNo Festival.

What happened out there was something we've been working toward for months. Thousands of hours, countless decisions, and more dollars than we care to discuss at this moment. To finally see it all come together, to see people show up, experience it, and be part of it… it was overwhelming in the best way.

This was a massive undertaking and one that was pretty risky for our small nonprofit organization. We took that risk because we believed in the idea, because we believed in what this community is capable of when it comes together, and because we believed in ourselves.

In the room where it happens, where the decisions are made, the plans laid out, and the impossible is undertaken, there are just a handful of people. Each person comes with their own ideas, visions, and passion for making things happen. Those few also spent days on end hauling things out to the Reno-Fernley Raceway, measuring, setting up cones and signage, collecting tumbleweeds, building the pyres, meeting with permitting agencies for inspections, making last-minute decisions and changes–and then undoing all of it once it was over.

InFERNo is an example of what is possible for Fernley, and we are incredibly proud of what we accomplished and massively appreciative of everyone that came out and believed in the ACES to pull this off.

As a first-year event, it was hard to convey the vision we had in our minds to the public since we lacked any media to show people what it would look like. It was a bit of an uphill battle to convince people that Drowning Pool, an internationally-known celebrity band, really would be playing for us in Fernley. We constantly battled the idea that this was somehow a mini-Burning Man; no hate to Burning Man, but it's not the same. In the end, the vision came to life, and the InFERNo festival burned bright.

Top left by Jaimie Daniels, top right by Kevin Waters of Magical Moments by Kevin, bottom left sculpture by Chad Rice, photo by Jaimie Daniels, bottom right photo by Jaimie Daniels

The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we are bursting with pride.

This wouldn't have been possible without the help of our many volunteers who showed up for the weekend to make things run. Sebastian Martinez, Fernley resident and festival volunteer said, "By the way, I have worked more events than I can count and I have never seen such a large event pulled off so professionally with so few staff members. You guys should be super proud of [yourselves]."

Seeing county officials, North Lyon County Fire personnel, Lyon County Sheriff deputies and other supporting crew out there, enjoying themselves and smiling through their work day was pretty great. Support and cooperation with those agencies and others made this all possible. In addition, the Reno-Fernley Raceway put in a lot of work to get the facility ready and to help us when we needed it. We owe them and the crew a huge thanks for making this possible. Scrap Metal Recycling donated three cars for people to smash, and the car smash was run by Reno Punk Rock Flea Market, with proceeds benefitting their nonprofit. Waste Management donated a dumpster for all the trash. Desert Pigs came in clutch with volunteers cleaning up and staying on top of emptying trash cans. Vet Mech Arms donated the flamethrower, autographed by Drowning Pool, that lit one set of fires, and which people will have a chance to win.

Truly, this massive undertaking wouldn't have happened without their support.

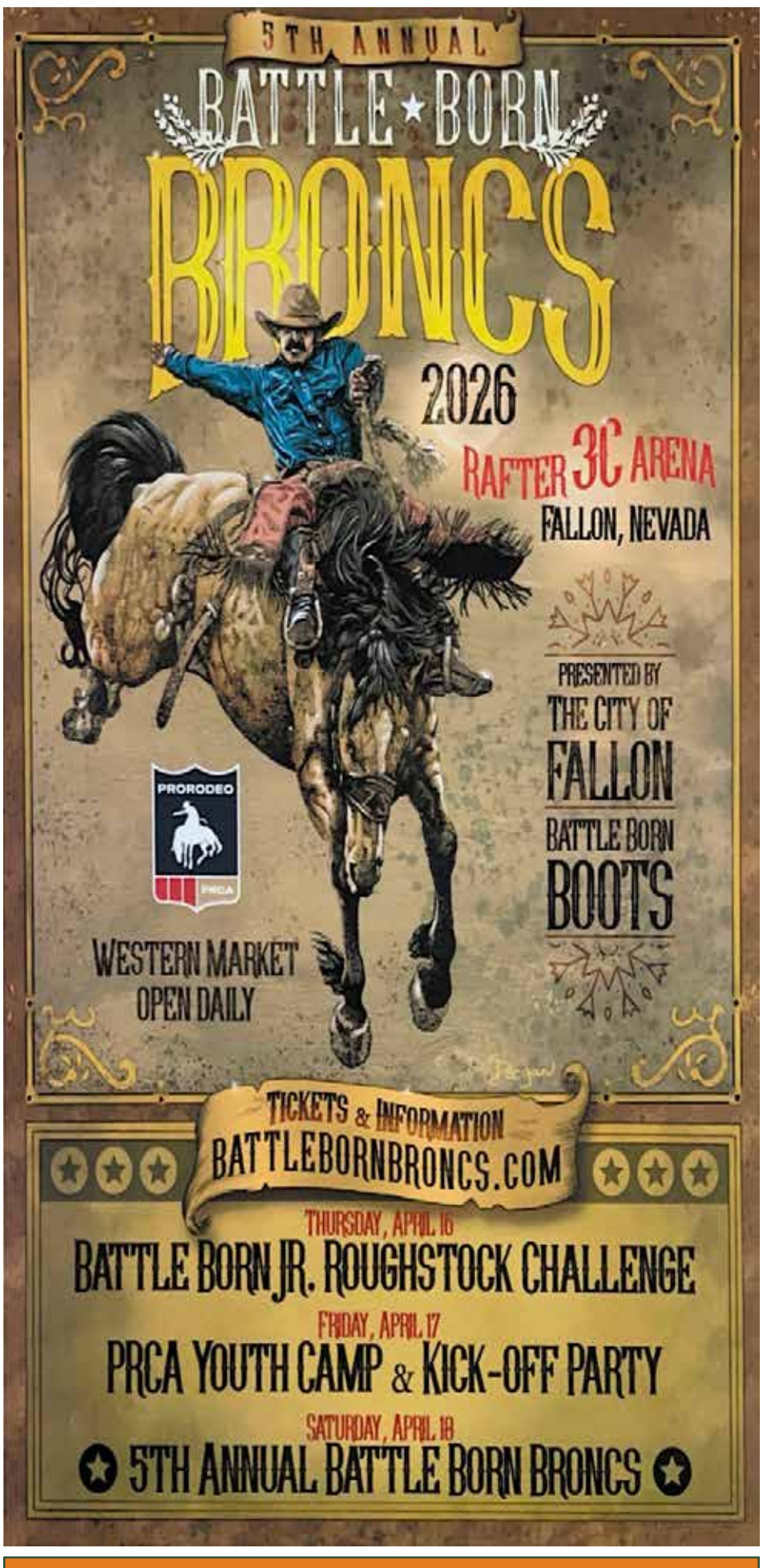
We would absolutely love to do this again, but we are going to need help.

Conversations have already begun about how we take this to the next level, how we build on what worked, and how we make next year even bigger and better. But the reality is, something like this takes a tremendous amount of resources.

If InFERNo meant something to you… if you felt that energy that was palpable , that chaos, that spark, and you want to see this grow into something even more incredible, this is where we ask you to be part of what comes next.

Support comes in many forms: showing up, spreading the word, volunteering, partnering, sponsoring. It all matters. It all adds up.

Because this wasn't just a one-time event. This was the beginning...InFERNo will rise from the ashes in the desert and burn once again.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send yours to Robert@FernleyReporter.com

Food for Thought

Corn-Sausage Chowder w/ Sage

By Sherry Perea and Justin Miller

This might be your last chance to enjoy a hearty rib sticking winter meal before spring comes. Not that you can't enjoy this one anytime you want - the ingredients are common and its dead simple to cook. Sage elevates the potatoes, sausage, and corn. It's a one-pot meal that I guarantee will earn a spot in your recipe box. It's wonderfully customizable too. White pepper and pimento? Check. Chopped bacon and cheddar? Absolutely. Use it as a base to make the most of whatever leftovers you might have on Sunday evening - you'll be saving time and money!

Ingredients

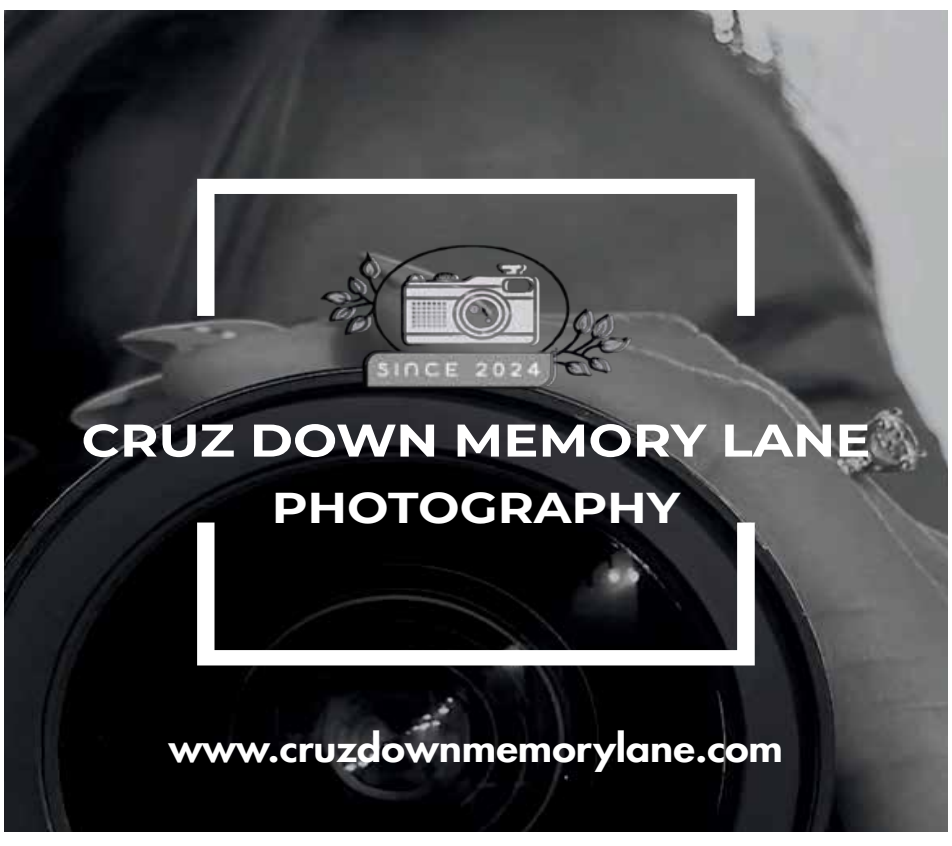
- 2 cups water
- 4 cups potatoes (peeled and chopped into morsels)
- 1lb ground pork sausage
- 1 cup yellow onion (chopped)
- 1 can cream style corn
- 1 can whole kernel corn (drained)
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1/2 tsp dried marjoram
- 1/4 tsp ground pepper (adjust to taste)

Directions:

1. Brown the sausage and onion in a large pot. Drain the fat (unless you want extra flavor or are exceptionally slim).
2. Add water, potatoes and spices. Bring to a boil, then lower temp and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes (cook time varies by potato type and personal taste).
3. Add the corn, cream corn, and evaporated milk. Stir thoroughly. Cover and cook on low an additional 10 minutes until warm.

Enjoy!

Sherry Perea has nearly 20 years' experience managing restaurants and creaing delicious menus. She enjoys sharing unique recipes with her family and friends and is excited to bring her love of food to the Fernley community.



PET OF THE WEEK

Introducing... Gabby!

Meet Gabby, a sweet loving kitty. Gabby is a female and is approximately 1 year old. Gabby gets along with other cats but does not do well with children and dogs. She fixed, vaccinated and micro chipped. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet her please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will get back to you asap! 775-575-0950 (this phone 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

Werner is seeking a good and stable home!

To our knowledge, Werner is around three years of age and good with female dogs. He is very sweet and friendly. Werner is a petite boy, weighing about 40 pounds, we believe him to be a herding type mix, but his exact breed is unknown. He absolutely loves his people and is a great fan of cuddles. His history with children and cats is unknown. If you are interested in providing Werner with his forever home, please contact the Lyon County Shelter directly at 775-577-5005.

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

A STEP AHEAD PRESCHOOL
EST. 2009

Give your child the best start with our Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten program—where curiosity, creativity, and confidence grow every day. Our enriched curriculum goes beyond the basics, inspiring a love for learning while building strong academic foundations for a smooth transition into elementary school. Led by passionate, certified educators, each classroom is a place where children are encouraged to explore, discover, and thrive in a supportive and engaging environment.

945 N. Clover Lane, Fernley
775-575-1122 | AStepAheadNV.com

✔ *Yes! I'd like to subscribe today!*

the Fernley reporter

Name _____
Date _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ email _____

☐ **Monthly Subscription**. Print edition of weekly paper $9.95 (every 31 days)
☐ **Yearly Subscription**. Print edition of weekly paper. $119.49 year

Credit / Debit (Call 775-376-3219)
Venmo (@FernleyReporter)
Paypal (The Fernley Reporter)

Mail to:
The Fernley Reporter
P.O. Box 126
Fernley, NV 89408

the Fernley reporter

Where to find your copy today!

- Fire Forno
- The Canal Wine Lounge
- Coldwell Banker
- Select Fernley
- Fernley Chamber of Commerce
- The Nest
- Carpet King Interiors/ Abbey Carpet & Floor
- Silver Spur Saloon
- Fernley Wigwam Restaurant
- Buddy Boys
- All Points Bar & Grill
- McHoppers Brew Co.
- Southern Charm
- Desert Rose RV
- Black Bear Diner
- The Office Shipping & Mailboxes
- The Golf Club at Fernley
- Fernley City Hall Clerk's Office
- Fernley Swimming Pool
- State Farm – Dan Glass Agency REMAX at the Golf Course
- The Parlor Barbershop
- Boys & Girls Club