the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

Great Basin Sun local, Fernley edition | Section A | Vol. 3 No. 19

$1.00 | The Week of November 6, 2026

Lyon County School Board Extends Superintendent's Contract

By Rachel Dahl

The Lyon County School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously Oct. 27 to extend Superintendent Tim Logan's employment contract for two additional years, keeping him in charge of the district through June 30, 2029.

The extension, approved during the board's meeting in Silver Springs, maintains Logan's current annual salary of $235,000 and leaves the other terms of his contract unchanged.

Logan, who has spent his entire 28-year education career with Lyon County School District, is nearing the end of his initial three-year contract as superintendent. That agreement expires June 30, 2027. The new contract begins July 1, 2027, and runs through June 30, 2029.

Logan told trustees he was not seeking a salary increase, despite inflation and cost-of-living adjustments granted to other district employees.

"I'm truly not asking for any more salary," Logan said. He explained that the proposed extension would allow him to continue work already underway in the district without reopening negotiations over compensation and other contract provisions.



Superintendent Tim Logan recognizing Karen Sikora in March. Photo courtesy of Lyon County School District.

Continued on PAGE 5 - SUPERINTENDENT...

School Transfer Rules to Expand Choices for Families

By Rachel Dahl

Parents in Lyon County could have greater flexibility in choosing which public school their children attend under a major revision of the school district's student transfer policy.

The Lyon County School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the first reading of a revised open enrollment policy Oct. 27, bringing district rules into alignment with legislation passed by the Nevada Legislature in 2025.

The changes would replace much of the district's traditional student variance process with a system that allows families to request enrollment at schools outside their assigned attendance zones, subject to available classroom space and established enrollment priorities.

Deputy Superintendent Stacey Cooper told trustees the proposed policy represents a significant change in how the district handles school transfers.

"It is essentially a policy overhaul," Cooper said, explaining that the district worked with other Nevada school districts and the Nevada Department of Education to develop the revisions.

Under the new system, families could apply to send their children to another school within Lyon County, including schools in other communities, without having to demonstrate the unusual hardship previously associated with variance requests.

For example, a Silver Stage High School student interested in a career and technical education program offered at Fernley High School could seek permission to attend Fernley instead.

Trustee Darin Farr raised that possibility during the discussion, noting that students in smaller communities may want access to programs unavailable at their assigned schools.

The transfer would depend on space being available, and families would generally be responsible for providing transportation.

How the new system would work

The proposed policy establishes an annual application period from June 1 through June 25, with families notified of their placement by July 1.

The district would be required to publish school and grade-level enrollment capacities at least 90 days before the application period begins and update information about available space quarterly.

When applications exceed available openings, students would be selected according to a priority system.

Students seeking to transfer from schools rated one or two stars under the Nevada School Performance Framework would receive the highest transfer priority. Siblings already at-

Continued on PAGE 2 - SCHOOL TRANSFER...

Water Plant Offline – City Urges Residents to Conserve Water

By Rachel Dahl

The City of Fernley issued an emergency water conservation notice Tuesday, Nov. 3, after a computer control system failure shut down the city's Drinking Water Treatment Facility, interrupting production of treated drinking water.

An emergency notification also issued through the Lyon County Sheriff's Office app distributed shortly before noon described a "critical water supply shortage" and directed residents to immediately stop outdoor watering and reduce indoor consumption.

The initial announcement offered little explanation for the emergency, prompting questions from residents about the city's water supply.

A subsequent press release attributed the problem to a failure within the treatment facility's computer control systems.

City Councilman Ryan Hanan provided additional information Tuesday afternoon, explaining that the plant's primary computer control system and its redundant backup system were both offline.

The facility relies on automated controls to operate and cannot simply switch to manual operation to resume treating water, Hanan said.

He described the problem as a network issue affecting the systems responsible for operating the plant. Technicians were working to restore the systems and resume production.

The city stated that there was no evidence of a cyberattack.

Despite the interruption, officials emphasized that the water currently being supplied to residents remains safe for normal consumption at this time. The city has not issued a boil-water notice.

"The drinking water is safe and re-

Continued on PAGE 4 - CONSERVE WATER...

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IN THIS EDITION

Captain's Log.....2
Features.....3
Announcements.....4
Local Government.....7
Business.....8
Law & Order.....10
Inside Veer.....11
Pet O' the Week.....12

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the Fernley reporter
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Captain's Log – A Break'll Do You Good

By Rachel Dahl

I ran away this weekend.

As they say in the movies… R – U – N – N – O – F – T. Bonus if you can name the movie.

My number two sister texted about 3 p.m. Friday and said she knew me to be busy but just in case I could flee and join her and her husband at their cabin in the woods for the weekend that would be just the thing to do.

Because I had mentioned early Friday morning to my son the need for a ticket to a desert island, a cabin in the woods sounded like the next best thing. So I fled.

The extra special treat about this really wonderful opportunity was that there is no cell service at the cabin in the woods. NONE. Which for a girl like me who routinely carries four potentially connectable devices: laptops, iPad, and phones, the concept of no cell service is frankly, frightening.

But to a girl like me who arguably is still in possession of half a brain, the potential of having NO cell service sounded like a little slice of heaven.

And man, was it.

We slept in these big, fluffy Three Bears beds – just right, and sat in front of a great big fireplace for coffee talk, and we ate lovely food we cooked together working in the kitchen like we did when we were kids, finishing each other's thoughts and sentences.

It rained nearly the whole weekend until it snowed, but for about an hour Saturday afternoon the drizzle took a break and we ventured out through woods, down a fabulous little trail, across a burbling creek and down to glorious hot springs. Then we headed back through a verdant meadow and only had to hike up two hills.

My sister has a pet bird who lives in one of the sugar pines surrounding the cabin – a Steller's jay named LeeLee. As soon as you step outside, LeeLee starts talking, flies over to where you stand, and tips her little head to look at you. It's impossible not to think that she is assessing deep in your soul and in some way approving, at least enough to want to hop in your hand to gobble up the sunflower seeds.

On a day like today when it's all hands on deck for production and we hustle to meet our 2 p.m. press deadline, as we hop from meetings at the City of Fallon and then the irrigation district and then in Winnemucca, when the City of Fernley has a water system failure of some sort, the train in Ely wants to buy an ad, and the police have been requested to attend the commission meeting in Lovelock tomorrow, the memory of my rest at the cabin in the woods grows further and further away.

But what a lovely, refreshing respite.

So, while I dream of losing the laptop and the phone and running off again soon to the woods, we'll always be right here…

… Keeping you Posted.
Rach

Continued from FRONT - SCHOOL TRANSFER...

tending a requested school would receive the next preference, followed by other applicants through a lottery.

Students residing within a school's attendance boundaries would continue to have priority for enrollment at their assigned school.

The proposed rules also limit the factors districts may consider when evaluating transfer requests. Academic performance, athletic ability, disability status and participation in extracurricular activities cannot be used to deny access. Certain serious disciplinary histories remain exceptions.

Once a transfer is approved and the student enrolls, the family would no longer need to apply for a variance each year.

Instead, the student could remain at the approved school through its highest grade level. A new application would be required when transferring to another school.

Existing approved transfers would also remain in effect.

Superintendent Tim Logan emphasized that families whose children already attend schools under approved variances would not lose those placements.

Changes for district employees

The new rules would also affect teachers and other district employees who have traditionally been permitted to enroll their children at the schools where they work.

Under the proposed system, those employees would generally participate in the same application and lottery process as other families rather than receiving automatic preference.

Logan acknowledged that this could complicate recruiting teachers from outside the district, particularly those who want their children to attend school where they teach.

However, previously approved employee variances would remain valid.

Transportation remains a family responsibility

One of the most important considerations for families will be transportation.

The district would not be required to establish or modify bus routes to accommodate students attending schools outside their assigned zones.

Parents would ordinarily be responsible for getting their children to and from school each day, although transportation protections required under federal and state law would remain in place for qualifying students.

Cooper said the district expects implementation challenges, particularly where schools are already approaching classroom capacity.

She indicated that many elementary schools have little additional room, while some high schools may have openings.

The district already has an online variance application available in multiple languages and is preparing for the new enrollment procedures.

Families whose applications are denied would have an opportunity to appeal to the superintendent or a designee.

Trustee Kallie Day suggested the district develop a flowchart to help families understand the new procedures and deadlines.

Cooper acknowledged that questions will arise as the district begins implementing the changes.

"We're going to find holes as we navigate this," she said, adding that the district would work through those issues as the process develops.

The board approved the first reading of Policy JECBB, Student Open Enrollment/Variance, without opposition. The policy must complete the district's adoption process before becoming final.

Election Results Coming Next Week

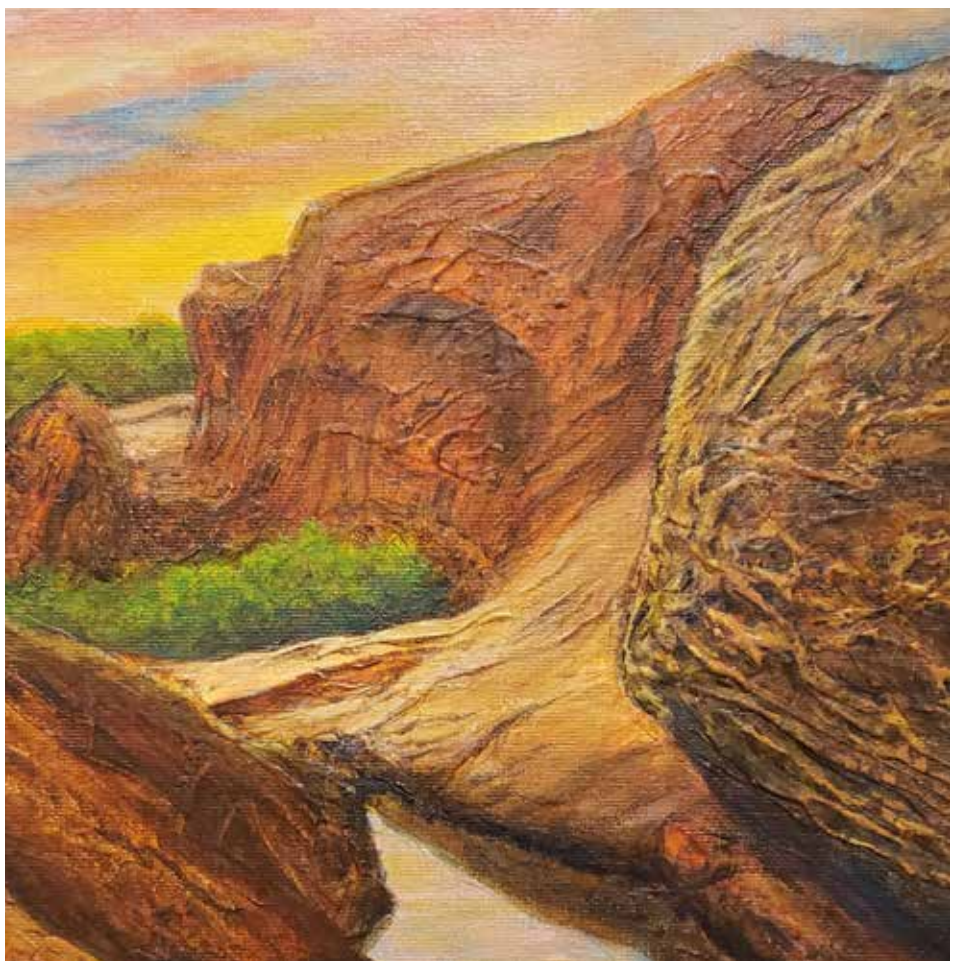
With Election Day falling on Tuesday, Nov. 3, and our newspapers going to press at 2 p.m. that afternoon, election results were not available in time for this week's print editions. We will bring readers complete election coverage, including local races, ballot questions and voter turnout, in our Nov. 13 editions.
Thank you for your patience as we work to provide accurate, verified results to the communities we serve.

FEATURES

Fernley Artist Finds Beauty in the Miniature



Ken Clarke, Fernley artist



Respite at Red Rock by Ken Clarke

By Nancy Hovis

Northern Nevada towns and cities have embraced big, bold and beautiful murals and sculptures, and Fernley's art shines among them. But within the region's artistic community, some artists specialize in works at the opposite end of the scale: miniatures.

Fernley resident Kenneth Clarke is one of those artists.

Recently, Clarke created several 5-by-7-inch paintings for the Latimer Art Club's 19th annual statewide miniature show at the Artists Co-op Gallery on Mill Street in Reno. The show, Tiny Treasures, runs through Nov. 7 and features more than 250 works measuring 36 square inches or less.

Clarke is also a member of the Nevada Artists Association and regularly exhibits both small and larger works at the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City. His paintings have also been included in shows hosted by the Sierra Arts Foundation.

Painting has not always been Clarke's full-time occupation. He began painting in high school and later attended an art college in Berkeley, California. But when it came time to support his growing family, he turned to a more practical career.

He chose to explore the then-emerging field of computer science.

For the next two decades, Clarke helped companies such as Blue Cross, Bechtel and Kaiser Permanente manage their growing databases, networks and constantly changing computer hardware needs.

At the forefront of computing operations, he worked with Bill Gates on one of the first local area networks in the San Francisco Bay Area. He was also frequently invited to speak at conferences around the country.

Eventually, Clarke and his wife, Nancy, decided to sell their computer consulting business and leave the Bay Area. They explored retirement possibilities in California, Oregon and Nevada.

During a visit to Fernley for a golf tournament, they looked at houses on the golf course. Although they did not settle on any of those properties, they did settle on Fernley. That was nearly 20 years ago.

During their first decade in Fernley, the Clarkes enjoyed golfing and became involved in a variety of community organizations and activities. Clarke continued occasional computer consulting, but painting remained on the back burner.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic.

Confined to quarters, along with everyone else, Clarke looked around for something to do. A friend from their golf group was selling all of her painting supplies. Clarke decided it was time to pick up a brush and return to painting, just as he had done as a teenager.

"It took at least 12 paintings for me to start to feel any confidence," Clarke recalled. He also enrolled in online courses through the Arizona Art Academy and studied with an artist in Australia.

As the pandemic continued, Clarke experimented with different styles, techniques and subjects.

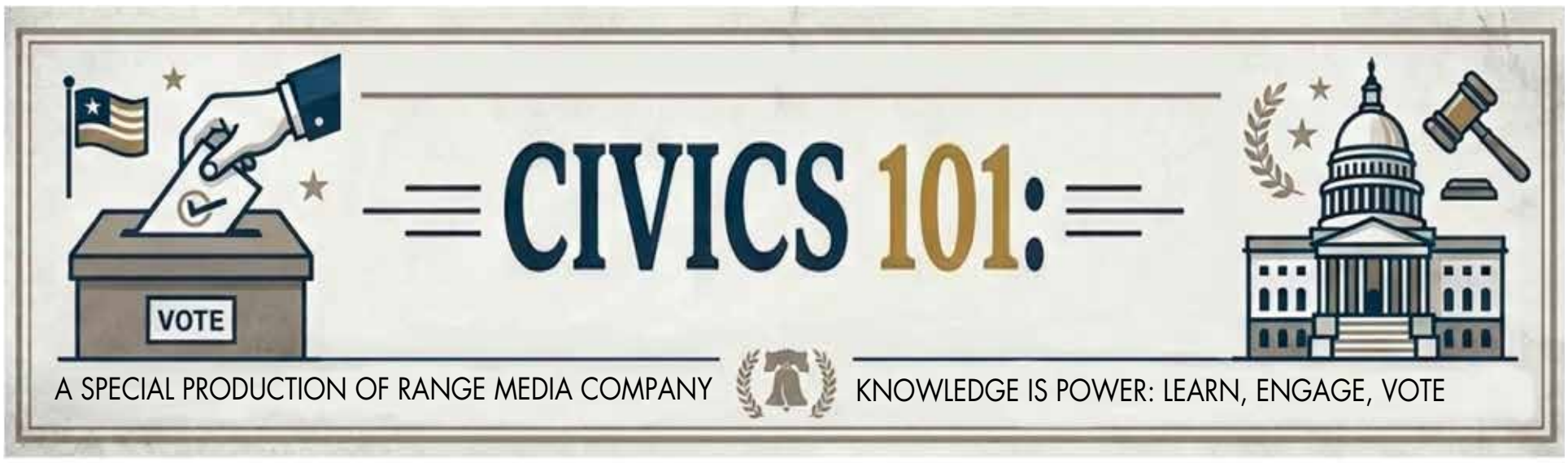
"I always liked landscapes. There's lots of room for personal expression," he said.

He is particularly fond of the desert. When traveling through Nevada

Continued on PAGE 7 - ARTIST ...



Got Any Treats by Ken Clarke



Civics 101: Who Takes Care of What We Share?

By Rachel Dahl

Put ten neighbors around one irrigation ditch, and you will discover that political philoso-phy is not confined to universities.

Who gets the water? Who cleans the ditch? What happens when somebody takes more than their share? And who gets to decide what a share ought to be?

Suddenly, we have ourselves a government.

I have been thinking about these questions as we report on the proposed water-right changes in Paradise Valley. Those applications deserve careful examination on their own facts. But they also raise an old question: How do free people take care of something they share?

There is a name for this: the commons.

A commons might be a pasture, a fishery, or a shared water source. The important feature is that what one person takes or does can affect what remains available to others.

That does not mean nobody owns anything. Individually held rights can exist within a phys-ically connected system. Owning a water right and sharing a water source can both be true.

Aristotle was wrestling with shared responsibility more than 2,000 years ago. In his "Poli-tics," he observed that people tend to give less attention to things held in common. Every-body assumes somebody else will handle it.

Apparently, Aristotle had attended a committee meeting.

But he also recognized that a community cannot have nothing in common. The challenge was deciding what should be private, what should be shared, and how the responsibilities should work.

Centuries later, John Locke, whose ideas helped shape American thinking about individual rights, defended private property. Yet he also recognized that land held in common by agreement could not simply be claimed by one person without the consent of the other commoners.

Shared rights were rights, too.

The founders confronted their own versions of this problem. In Federalist No. 7, Alexander Hamilton described western territory ceded to the United States as the "common property of the Union." He worried about competing claims and the potential for conflict without a common authority to resolve disputes.

Their challenge extended beyond land: How could states meet shared obligations while protecting their independence? How could government have enough authority to function without becoming a threat to liberty?

Those questions have not been retired.

In 1968, biologist Garrett Hardin gave the resource problem a memorable name: "The Trage-dy of the Commons."

Imagine a pasture open to everyone. Each herder benefits from adding another cow, while the cost of the additional grazing is spread among all the herders. Each has an incentive to add animals. Eventually, the pasture suffers and everybody loses.

Hardin's warning: a decision can benefit the person making it while imposing costs on eve-ryone else.

But political scientist Elinor Ostrom asked what happened when people actually organized to manage shared resources.

She studied communities managing water, forests, fisheries, and pastures. Some failed. Others maintained workable arrangements over generations. Her research helped earn her a share of the 2009 Nobel Prize in economics.

Successful arrangements generally had clear boundaries, rules suited to local conditions, participation by users, monitoring, consequences for violations, and practical ways to settle disputes.

In other words, people did more than hope everybody would behave.

They governed.

Ostrom demonstrated that central control and individual ownership were not the only pos-sibilities. People could build institutions to manage resources together. Courts and public authorities could also play supporting roles.

Hardin later acknowledged that his original argument needed an important qualifier: un-managed commons.

For those of us inclined to defend individual liberty, Ostrom offers a valuable reminder: People are capable of solving problems together. We should take that capacity seriously.

But liberty also requires accounting for other people's rights. The freedom to use what be-longs to us does not automatically include permission to damage what belongs to somebody else.

That brings us back to the ditch—and to the questions our water reporting must answer.

What changes are proposed? Who could be affected? What does the evidence show? Who bears the financial and societal costs? What protections apply?

We should ask those questions without assuming the applicants are wrong or the neigh-bors are unreasonable.

Self-government requires more than choosing sides. It requires learning how things work, respecting rights, and accepting responsibility.

Even when—especially when—somebody else was supposed to clean the ditch.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lau withdraws motion for clarification, files new lawsuit against City of Fernley

By Robert Perea

Expelled Fernley City Councilman Stan Lau has withdrawn a motion seeking clarification of a district court order regarding his expulsion from the city council and instead filed a new lawsuit against the City of Fernley, arguing the city is improperly treating an April corrective action as a permanent expulsion from office.

Attorney Jeff Dickerson, representing Lau, said the new lawsuit represents a change in legal strategy following months of litigation over the council's March 4 vote to remove Lau from office.

"It's taking the same fight through a different mechanism," Dickerson said.

Earlier this year, Third Judicial District Court Judge Leon Aberasturi ruled the council violated Nevada's Open Meeting Law when it voted to expel Lau on March 4. In response, the council approved corrective Action on April 15 intended to address the Open Meeting Lau violation.

Dickerson contends that corrective action was presented as a procedural fix and was not intended to remove Lau from office.

"All it was, was a corrective measure to keep the Attorney General off their back," Dickerson said.

Dickerson said the city is now taking the position that the April 15 action itself served as Lau's expulsion. He said that position became clear after receiving a letter from attorney Sean Lancaster, representing the city through POOL Pact.

"Their lawyer sent a letter to me saying if Stan comes to the next meeting, since we expelled him on April 15, he's going to be removed," Dickerson said.

The new complaint alleges the city's current interpretation contradicts representations made during earlier court proceedings. Dickerson said city attorneys previously told the court the April corrective action would not affect Lau's status on the council.

"They said, 'We're really doing this so we keep the attorney general off our back. It's not going to affect Lau in any way,'" Dickerson said.

The lawsuit alleges the city's current position lacks legal justification and constitutes continued retaliation against Lau. Dickerson said the complaint also references a separate civil rights lawsuit previously filed against the city alleging violations of Lau's free speech rights. Dickerson said he intends to ask the court to consolidate the new lawsuit with the civil rights case.

The attorney said he plans to seek emergency relief by asking Aberasturi to restore Lau to his council seat while the litigation proceeds. He said he plans to file a request for a temporary restraining order after the city is served with the lawsuit, which he expected to happen Tuesday, Nov. 3.

"Within the next few days, I'll be filing an application for emergency relief to reseat him to his position pending the outcome of this case," Dickerson said.

Dickerson said time is a factor because Lau's term expires once election results are canvassed by the city council. If the court grants emergency relief before then, Lau could return to the council for the remainder of his term. In addition to reinstatement and back pay, the lawsuit seeks damages for emotional distress, mental anguish and harm to Lau's reputation. Dickerson said those claims would ultimately be decided by a jury.

By filing a new lawsuit rather than continuing to litigate procedural disputes in the original Open Meeting Law case, Dickerson said he hopes to eliminate what he described as barriers raised by the city and focus the court's attention on whether Lau should be restored to office.

"It gets rid of all the procedural baggage they were leaning onto," Dickerson said. "We can go straight in to Aberasturi now and just say, reseat him."

Fernley City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen said Tuesday afternoon the city had not yet been served with the lawsuit and had no comment but reiterated that the city's position remains that Lau is expelled from the council.

"The corrective action still stands," Mouritsen said.

Continued from FRONT - CONSERVE WATER...

mains in compliance," the city's second announcement stated.

The conservation measures are intended to reduce demand on the city's existing treated-water supply while repairs are underway.

Residents have been directed to stop watering lawns and landscaping, washing vehicles at home and using hoses to clean driveways or sidewalks.

For indoor conservation, the city is asking residents to limit showers to less than five minutes, run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads, repair leaks and turn off faucets when water is not needed.

Hanan also recommended that households set aside a modest amount of drinking water, such as a gallon or two in clean containers, as a precaution should the situation continue.

He emphasized that residents should conserve rather than stockpile water.

As of Tuesday afternoon, officials had not announced when the treatment facility would resume production or when the conservation restrictions might be lifted.

The city's initial notification and subsequent explanation did not identify the specific equipment or software failure responsible for the shutdown.

Residents should continue following official city updates as conditions change.

Visible water leaks or water waste in public areas can be reported to the City of Fernley Utility Department at 775-784-9930.

The Fernley Reporter will continue following the incident and provide updates as additional information becomes available.

Meetings

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

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

Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
2nd Friday of even numbered months at 9:00 a.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting Dec. 11

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 Nov. 19

Lyon County Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting Nov. 10

Lyon County Library Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.
Locations rotate between the 5 county libraries
Next meeting Nov. 24

Lyon County School District Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
Locations rotate between each attendance area
Next meeting Nov. 24

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees
2nd Thursday of the month
195 E. Main St.
Next meeting Nov. 12

Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District
3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.
300 Cottonwood Lane
Next meeting Nov 17

Letters to the Editor

SEND YOURS TO RACHEL@RANGEMEDIACO.COM

Fernley Community Events

NOV 6

Fern 45 - POKER RUN
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
live music, Texas Hold 'Em, cornhole, auctions, raffles, and more
Reno Fernley Raceway
1965 S Hwy 95a
theFern45.com

NOV 7

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

Fern 45 - POKER RUN
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
live music, Texas Hold 'Em, cornhole, auctions, raffles, and more
Reno Fernley Raceway
1965 S Hwy 95a
theFern45.com

NOV 10

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

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

NOV 11

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

NOV 12

COMPUTER CLASSES
2:00 p.m. - 3:o0 p.m.
Fernley Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd

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

NOV 14

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

NOV 17

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

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

the Fernley reporter
FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

COMMUNITY

They Were Still Boys

By Suzanne Prouty

My dad was 18 when he joined the Navy during World War II.

He had wanted to go sooner. He was 16 when Pearl Harbor was attacked, but his mother would not sign the papers that would let him enlist early. He would have to wait.

As soon as he turned 18, he and some friends traveled south from Greenville, Pennsylvania, to Pittsburgh to sign up.

Then they celebrated by going to an upper floor of their hotel and dropping water balloons on people below.

The police came upstairs. When the boys explained that they had just enlisted, Dad recalled, the officers told them to knock it off, sent them downstairs, and congratulated them.

They were headed to war. But they were still boys.

For years, I asked my dad about his service aboard the USS Florence Nightingale. He would not talk about much of it. Instead, he told me about winning money from the other sailors playing craps.

Or he told the watermelon story.

While in Algeria waiting to ship out, he and two friends stole a watermelon from a farmer's field. According to Dad, the farmer came out with a blunderbuss—an old-style gun—and fired at them as they ran down the road carrying their prize.

Those were the stories he chose to share: boys getting into trouble, far from home.

I wanted to know more. But those were the memories he offered, and they are the ones I carry now.

November 11 began as Armistice Day, marking the halt to fighting in World War I in 1918. The first observance came a year later. In 1954, after World War II and the Korean War, the name changed to Veterans Day to honor all who served.

Each generation has its own memories of leaving home, making friends, and facing what came next.

My cousin Rick Martin and I have birthdays three days apart. Mine is July 2; his is July 5. When we were five or six, he announced, "I'm older than you because five is more than two."

We still laugh about it. Oh, yes, Rick is older than me.

He also swears I always got him into trouble. I deny it, but it is absolutely true.

That is the cousin I grew up with. Years later, he was an A-6 pilot. His service brought him to Fallon on many detachments, and he told me he loved every visit. He thought the area was beautiful. His navy call sign was Fang... enough said.

When I asked Rick about the hardest part of his service during Desert Storm and the war in Iraq, he took me back to his first mission.

He thought, no, he was sure, he would be shot down. He said "I thought I was going to leave my children fatherless".

He went anyway. I imagine there are many like him. 'I'm in mortal danger, but I am going anyway.' Thank you to all of you for your bravery, and your service.

The cousin who argued birthday arithmetic with me became a man who climbed into an A6 aircraft knowing he might not come back.

I think about that alongside my father's stories. I knew Daddy as my father and Rick as my best cousin. Asking about their service meant trying to understand parts of their lives I had never seen.

Even then, I could know only what they chose to share.

This Veterans Day, we might ask a neighbor how old they were when they enlisted. What do they remember about leaving home? Who became their closest friend? What would they like us to understand?

Then give them time to answer, or room to leave some things unsaid.

Rick told me that on Veterans Day, he gets up and remembers his friends, including those who gave their lives for this country.

"I just remember them and bring them home," he said.

I keep coming back to those words.

Here in Fernley, we may know a veteran through work, a community meeting, or a familiar table at a restaurant without knowing much about their service. A phone call, a visit, or an invitation to sit awhile can open a conversation.

I cannot ask my father again. I can remember the 18-year-old who went to Pittsburgh with his friends, signed his name, and then got into trouble with water balloons.

And I can listen to my 'older' cousin Rick.

This November 11, perhaps we can each make time to listen to someone who served—and help carry a memory forward.

Continued from FRONT - SUPERINTENDENT...

He also explained why he was requesting two years rather than a longer agreement.

"My intention is after two years, I will have my 30 years in," Logan said, referring to his years of service. He added that he would consider requesting another extension if things were going well at that point.

The board packet emphasized the value of leadership continuity, noting that 12 of Nevada's 17 county school districts have appointed new superintendents since October 2023.

Before becoming superintendent, Logan served six years as deputy superintendent and three years as the district's human resources director.

The district's contract materials also included salary comparisons from the American Association of School Administrators' 2025-26 Superintendent Salary & Benefits Study. The report lists a national median salary of $227,000 for superintendents in districts serving 5,000 to 9,999 students, with the 75th percentile at $260,000.

Lyon County currently enrolls approximately 8,500 students.

Trustee Kallie Day said she had compared Logan's compensation with that of superintendents in Douglas and Churchill counties, as well as national figures. She said his salary was reasonable considering his experience and the size of the district.

Board President Tom Hendrix also praised Logan's performance, saying the superintendent had accomplished seven of eight goals established by the board.

"We've turned this ship around, or we've at least stopped it from declining," Hendrix said.

The contract extension was not without public comment.

Vince Spoon, who identified himself as a candidate for the school board's District 6 seat, questioned the timing of the decision with the Nov. 3 election approaching.

Spoon noted that Logan still had approximately eight months remaining on his existing contract and argued that the board should wait until after the election before committing to an extension.

"I think voters deserve a voice in the matter," Spoon told trustees, adding that the decision would affect the district for years.

Trustees proceeded with the extension.

Trustee Elmer Bull made the motion to approve the contract, with Trustee Darin Farr seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Under the agreement, Logan will continue receiving his $235,000 annu-



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COMMUNITY

School Board Withdraws Student Leadership Policy

By Rachel Dahl

The Lyon County School District Board of Trustees covered a wide range of business during its Oct. 27 meeting in Silver Springs, which lasted nearly five hours.

Trustees spent considerable time discussing a proposed districtwide policy governing student leadership classes and elections.

Trustee Darin Farr introduced the proposal after raising concerns about transparency in the selection process for Fernley High School's leadership program.

Farr said students and parents should know application deadlines, qualifications and selection criteria before applying. He also questioned whether students should be required to complete leadership classes before becoming eligible to run for elected student government offices.

Teachers, administrators and students from Fernley and Silver Stage high schools spoke against the proposed policy, arguing that their programs need flexibility to establish qualifications based on each school's size and responsibilities.

Fernley High School leadership teacher Jackie Kingston explained that student officers organize school events, lead committees and represent their schools at regional and state conferences.

Several students also addressed trustees, describing the responsibilities and training involved in student leadership.

Following the discussion, Farr agreed to withdraw the proposal, saying the debate had brought attention to existing policies governing transparency and student participation.

The board unanimously approved withdrawing the proposed policy.

One of the evening's longest discussions centered on whether students should be allowed to participate in the Nevada School Climate/Social Emotional Learning Survey unless their parents specifically decline permission.

The board voted 4-3 to change the district's policy from requiring parents to opt in to allowing parents to opt out. Trustees Tom Hendrix, Sherry Parsons and Dawn Carson opposed the change.

Deputy Superintendent Stacey Griffin-Cooper explained that the survey measures students' perceptions of school safety, relationships with teachers, belonging and other aspects of school climate.

Under the previous policy, parents had to return a permission form before their children could participate. District officials said only about 28% of students participated last year, limiting the usefulness of the results.

Supporters argued that greater participation would provide schools with better information about student needs and improve planning for counseling, behavioral support and other services.

They also noted that survey results could affect the district's performance rating under a developing state accountability system.

Opponents raised concerns about parental authority and questions involving gender identity. Hendrix and Parsons argued that parents should provide affirmative permission before their children participate.

District officials emphasized that parents would continue receiving advance notice and access to the questions, and that students could decline participation or skip individual questions.

The discussion became heated at times, with trustees and members of

Continued on PAGE 8 - LEADERSHIP...

Silver Stage School Principals Report to LCSD

By Rachel Dahl

The three Silver Stage schools are working together to strengthen academic performance, expand career education and create more opportunities for students, with results ranging from significant improvements at the high school to continuing challenges with attendance and achievement at the middle school.

Principals from Silver Stage Elementary, Middle and High schools presented their annual progress reports to the Lyon County School District Board of Trustees during its Oct. 27 meeting in Silver Springs.

The presentations highlighted accomplishments from the 2025-26 school year, along with goals and programs underway this fall.

Silver Stage High School Principal Amber Cross reported that the school earned a four-star rating under the Nevada School Performance Framework, one of the district's significant academic accomplishments this year.

The school earned 70 points in the state's rating system, with improvements in graduation rates, attendance and career preparation.

The graduation rate increased from 89.5% to 93.9%, exceeding the school's goal of 92.5%.

Chronic absenteeism, which measures students missing a significant portion of the school year, dropped from 49.3% in 2024-25 to 35% in 2025-26.

Cross said the school has also expanded opportunities for students to explore careers and gain practical experience before graduation.



High school earns four-star rating as elementary and middle schools focus on improving student achievement and attendance. Photo courtesy Homes.com

Work-based learning opportunities increased from 18 to 30, with student participation growing from approximately 650 to 1,100. These programs connect students with employers, career fields and hands-on learning experiences.

Among the school's other accomplishments, 74% of students in its Building Trades in Construction Technology program passed their end-of-program assessment, while 85% passed in Teaching and Training. Sixteen students earned MultiCraft Core Curriculum certifications.

The school also reported that 11% of its 2026 graduates earned associate degrees and 27% graduated with advanced diplomas.

Not every academic measure improved. The percentage of ninth- and 10th-grade students meeting individual growth goals declined in both mathematics and English language arts.

In mathematics, 40.6% met their growth goals, compared with 42% the previous year. In English language arts, the figure declined from 51.5% to 38.5%.

Cross said improving those results remains a priority.

The principal also praised the Silver Springs community for supporting its schools, sharing the story of the school's recent homecoming football game.

Because Silver Stage High School does not have permanent stadium lights, students rarely have the opportunity to play Friday night football under the lights.

Steve Pearson of EquipmentShare helped change that for homecoming by providing portable lighting equipment and remaining on-site with his crew throughout the game.

Cross said the evening brought students, families, teachers and community members together for a memorable event.

Silver Stage Middle School is taking a new approach to eighth-grade education with the introduction of STAR Academy, a state-funded, hands-on learning program designed to increase student engagement, academic achievement and career readiness.

Principal Jed Marciniak told trustees the approximately $1 million program emphasizes project-based learning, critical thinking and practical applications of classroom instruction.

Teachers are adapting to a new curriculum and a less traditional instructional approach that gives them more flexibility to develop engaging lessons.

Marciniak said the program is intended to help address the school's ac-

Continued on PAGE 7 - SILVER STAGE...

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



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fernley Looks Toward 2050

By Rachel Dahl

What should Fernley look like in 2050? Where should new neighborhoods be built? How much land should be reserved for industry and commercial development? What should the city do to protect open space, provide parks and accommodate a growing population?

Those are among the questions the City of Fernley is asking residents as it updates its Comprehensive Master Plan through an initiative called Fernley Forward.

Residents attending the Master Plan open house held October 27, 2026, reviewed maps, population data, proposed land-use concepts and three draft vision statements describing what Fernley could become over the next 25 years.

Representatives from Matrix Design Group, the consulting firm assisting the city with the update, were available to answer questions and discuss the planning process.

The meeting was the second of three planned public open houses, providing residents an opportunity to offer feedback before the city develops a draft of its updated master plan.

The Comprehensive Master Plan is intended to guide Fernley's long-term development, including land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, economic development and community amenities.

Displays at the open house illustrated how the updated plan will draw upon existing city planning efforts, including the 2018 Master Plan, the North, Southwest and South area plans, transportation planning, downtown revitalization, parks, water resources and sewer infrastructure.



Treston Rodriguez, planning director for the City of Fernley discusses the masterplan process with members of the public at the second community open house held on October 27. Photo by Rachel Dahl

Rather than treating those efforts as separate documents, the Fernley Forward 2050 Plan is intended to connect them into a coordinated vision for the city's future.

One display showed the city's existing boundaries, while another outlined potential future land uses across the community.

The land-use map identified areas designated for residential neighborhoods, commercial development, industrial uses, mixed employment, public facilities and open space.

It also distinguished the city's North, Southwest and South area planning areas, illustrating the extensive territory involved in Fernley's future development decisions.

The proposed land-use concepts are part of the planning discussion and should not be confused with approvals for specific development projects.

Population and housing statistics presented at the open house offered a picture of Fernley's changing community.

According to the displays, Fernley's estimated median age in 2024 was 36.4 years, below the Nevada average of 39.1 years.

The city's median household income was estimated at $89,517, compared with $78,260 statewide.

Fernley also averaged 2.76 people per household, compared with a statewide average of 2.62.

The demographic comparisons included Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Elko, Mesquite and Winnemucca, providing context for how Fernley compares with other Nevada communities.

The information is intended to help planners evaluate future housing needs, public facilities, infrastructure, and economic opportunities.

Another display presented three draft vision statements for residents to consider.

The first describes Fernley as a vibrant, safe, friendly and family-oriented community where people of all ages can thrive, supported by a strong economy, abundant amenities and financially stable local government.

The second emphasizes a prosperous and welcoming community that grows with purpose, balancing new opportunities with water conservation, compatible development and Fernley's distinctive character.

The third envisions a connected, resilient and distinctly local community, emphasizing safe neighborhoods, economic opportunity, stable city finances and protection of water resources.

Each offers a slightly different emphasis on how Fernley might balance growth, quality of life, environmental resources and public services.

The statements remain drafts intended to help shape the discussion.

During the open house, a Matrix Design Group representative said the

Continued on Page 10 - MASTER PLAN...

Continued from PAGE 6 - SILVER STAGE...

ademic and attendance challenges.

The middle school dropped to a one-star rating this year, with chronic absenteeism increasing from 24% to 36%.

During the 2025-26 school year, 58% of students met or exceeded their individual typical growth goals in reading, while 43% met those goals in mathematics.

The school is expanding academic interventions and providing additional support for struggling students during enrichment periods.

Career and technical education opportunities are also growing. Students are being introduced to digital design, hospitality, woodworking and agriculture, with career exploration now reaching fifth- and sixth-graders.

Marciniak said STAR Academy offers an opportunity to change how students experience school and improve their engagement with learning.

Trustee Darin Farr asked the district to track STAR Academy's eighth-grade results separately from overall school performance so trustees can determine whether the program is making a measurable difference.

The school also continues its efforts to connect families with community resources and educational activities.

Its fall festival attracted 1,339 participants, including 917 students and 422 adults, along with 40 vendors.

Additional activities include family STEM nights, career fairs, student-led conferences and work-based learning projects.

Silver Stage Elementary School Principal Erin Korf reported improvements in student achievement, including a 10% increase in English language arts proficiency and a 7% increase in mathematics proficiency on state assessments.

The school's i-Ready results also showed progress.

The percentage of students performing at early, middle or above-grade level increased from 16% to 32% in reading and from 8% to 42% in mathematics.

The school maintained its two-star rating, although Korf explained that changes in the school's English learner population affected its overall score.

Because the school no longer had enough English learners to qualify for that portion of the state assessment, it lost the opportunity to earn points in that category despite improvements in other measures.

Korf said the school gained seven points in academic growth and two points in closing achievement gaps.

The school has also expanded its early childhood program to three pre-kindergarten classrooms, each serving 13 children.

Six foster grandparents volunteer at the school, helping students with reading, small-group instruction and other activities.

Fourth-grade students are taking on leadership responsibilities, welcoming classmates in the morning, helping younger students and giving tours to new arrivals.

The school also received a Diamond Level MTSS Implementation Award from the Nevada Association for Positive Behavior Support network, recognizing its systems for supporting student learning and behavior.

Attendance remains a priority, with the school using family outreach, incentives and individual support to encourage regular attendance.

A recurring theme in the principals' presentations was cooperation among the three schools.

Elementary students participate in a program called "Rent a Nighthawk," allowing them to use positive-behavior reward points to spend time with high school students during lunch, recess or reading activities.

High school students also help with activities at the elementary and middle schools, while the schools coordinate community events, career education and student leadership opportunities.

Cross emphasized that the high school's success is not the work of one campus alone.

She described helping a student over several years, beginning in elementary school and continuing through middle and high school, eventually watching that student develop the skills needed to graduate.

For Cross, it illustrated the importance of educators working together from the earliest grades through graduation.

The three principals will continue monitoring academic performance, attendance and student engagement as they carry out their school improvement plans during the 2026-27 school year.

Continued from PAGE 3 - ARTIST...

and the Southwest, Clarke takes photographs of the landscape, building a collection of images that inspire his paintings.

Sometimes, his inspiration comes from other people's experiences. One of his most popular works, featuring a donkey, was inspired by friends visiting Beatty, Nevada. While there, they were photographing and feeding wild donkeys when one of the animals stuck its large head through their vehicle window.

Clarke turned the photograph into a painting that makes most people smile.

"It was the fastest I ever sold," he said. "It was in the gallery less than one day."

Prints and coffee mugs featuring the painting have also proved popular.

Another of Clarke's paintings, Hope – The Caldor Fire, was inspired by a photograph taken on a friend's property of a lone pine tree struggling to survive among the ashes of the Caldor Fire.

Clarke eventually produced 10 copies of the heartwarming image and presented one to each of the 10 fire departments that fought the blaze, including Lyon County fire departments.

Through his paintings, small and large, Clarke has found a way to share the beauty of the Nevada landscape and recognize the people who help protect it.

His work can be viewed through the Nevada Artists Association website at nevadaartists.org.



BUSINESS

New Owners Bring Family Focus to Fernley Grocery Outlet

Staff Report

Kyle and Cassie Hayden are introducing themselves to Fernley shoppers as the new owners of the city's Grocery Outlet, fulfilling a goal the husband-and-wife team say they have worked hard to reach.

The Haydens, who have two young daughters, announced their new role in a social media message welcoming customers and sharing their excitement about the next chapter for their family.

"Becoming store owners has been a goal we've worked hard toward, and we're thrilled to share it with this community," they wrote.

For the couple, the business also connects with a familiar household concern: keeping groceries within the family budget.

"As a family, we know how much it matters to find great groceries at prices that fit your budget," they wrote.

The Haydens said they look forward to bringing shoppers deals, getting to know their customers and working alongside the store's team to make each visit welcoming.

They are encouraging shoppers to stop and introduce themselves when they visit — and to share what they enjoy finding on the shelves.

"Next time you're shopping, please stop and say hello!" they wrote. "We'd love to meet you and hear what you love finding in the store."

The couple closed their introduction by thanking customers for supporting their family and the locally owned Fernley store.



Kyle and Cassie Hayden are introducing themselves to Fernley shoppers as the new owners of the city's Grocery Outlet. Photo by

Continued from PAGE 6 - LEADERSHIP...

the public expressing sharply different views about parental consent and the value of the survey.

Trustee James Whisler apologized during the meeting for an earlier outburst.

The approved change applies to the school climate survey, not the separate Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which already operates under different consent requirements.

Enrollment decline raises financial questions

The district's enrollment report showed 8,488 students, a decline of 485 over the past two years.

In written responses to trustee questions, district officials said declining enrollment is occurring across much of Nevada, citing lower birth rates, changing family relocation patterns and families choosing other educational options.

The district reported that approximately 85% of its expenditures support staffing.

Administrators said they have already adjusted certain stipends and positions while continuing to monitor enrollment and projected revenues.

Despite the decline, district officials described the district's financial position as stable.

Special education contracts reviewed

Trustee Whisler questioned the district's use of contracted special education providers after learning that a previously advertised full-time position had been withdrawn and replaced with contracted services.

Executive Director of Special Services Rachel Stewart and Human Resources Director BillieJo Hogan explained that staffing requirements change as students enter or leave the district and individual education plans are revised.

They said contracted providers allow the district to meet specialized needs without committing to full-time positions when the required service hours do not justify them.

The discussion also addressed the use of virtual specialists, particularly for services that would otherwise require travel between schools across the county.

No additional action was taken.

Educator evaluations show strong ratings

The board reviewed the district's annual Nevada Educator Performance Framework report.

Of 412 teachers included in the 2026 evaluation data, 173 were rated highly effective, 157 effective and 82 exempt from evaluation following consecutive highly effective ratings.

No teachers were rated developing or ineffective.

Among 40 administrators, 19 were rated highly effective, 13 effective and eight exempt.

Trustees praised the results and unanimously accepted the report.

The board accepted several donations, including $10,000 from a Northern Nevada electrical labor-management fund for Fernley High School wrestling, $2,500 from the Gillespie family for Fernley High School football and $2,500 from Carson City Toyota for district school supplies. Wild Island and Fly High Adventure Park also donated attendance incentives to Fernley Intermediate School.

Trustees approved first readings of updated employee disability and drug- and alcohol-free workplace policies, along with final readings of policies covering employee records, employment verification and employee dating.

The board's next scheduled meeting is Nov. 17 at Yerington Intermediate School, with reports expected from Smith Valley school administrators and additional discussion of staffing and recruitment.



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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.

LAW & ORDER

Arrest report

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

Oct. 26 – Nov. 1, 2026

MARIO IBARRA—Area: Fernley, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st)
KOREY MAZZONI—Area: Fernley, Bail: $67,530, Charges: Possess Schedule I, II controlled substance less than 14 grams, (1st or 2nd); Own/possess gun by prohibited person; Possess Schedule III-V controlled substance less than 28 grams, (1st or 2nd); DUI, (1st); Use/possess drug-paraphernalia; Fail to maintain lane/improper lane change/use signal; Display fictitious vehicle registration/plate/title
RANDALL HOLMES—Area: Dayton, Bail: $20,395, Charges: DUI, (3rd)-Enhanced/work zone; Fail to drive on right half of road
MICHAEL EDWARDS—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $1,000, Charges: Convicted person fail to register with law enforcement within 48 hours
DARLA SCIARANI—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $31,140, Charges: DUI, (1st); Duty to stop at scene of accident involving death or personal injury
CHASE BAKER—Area: Dayton, Bail: $1,140, Charges: DUI, (1st); Felony arrest for violation of probation/condition of suspended sentence
CLAUDE PURBAUGH—Area: Dayton, Bail: $3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, (1st)
ALLEN STIERS—Area: Dayton, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st)
NANCY BECK—Area: Dayton, Bail: $25,000, Charges: Assault with deadly weapon
HECTOR AGUILERA—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $440, Charges: Assist other agency--hold
TAYLOR REED—Area: Mason Valley, Bail: $6,000, Charges: Fraudulent use of credit/debit card with intent to defraud; Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
DOUGLAS HOLLOWAY—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $5,000, Charges: Violation of sex offender registration, (1st)
DERYLLE TEEGARDEN—Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,140, Charges: Drive with revoked driver's license for DUI
MALCOLM STRICKLAND—Area: LYSO, Bail: $0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime
DOMINICK MATHESON—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $1,780, Charges: Drive with revoked driver's license; Dispose of garbage/sewage, (1st)
JOSHUA GOLDSTEIN—Area: Fernley, Bail: $0, Charges: Misdemeanor civil custody for alcohol abuse endangering self/others
ASHLEY YOUNG—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $390, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime
JEFFERY MARTIN—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of probation/condition of suspended sentence
JOHN JAMESON—Area: LYSO, Bail: $3,730, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation (2 counts)
JUSTIN PACE—Area: Dayton, Bail: $1,220, Charges: Assist other agency--hold
JEVON WARD—Area: Fernley, Bail: $1,250, Charges: Assist other agency--hold
MARCO MERINO—Area: Fernley, Bail: $90, Charges: Intoxicated pedestrian/animal rider on road
BRADLY MYERS—Area: Fernley, Bail: $0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of probation/condition of suspended sentence
DARTAGNAN WEBB—Area: Silver Springs, Bail: $150,000, Charges: Child abuse/neglect, with substantial bodily harm; Child abuse or neglect, (1st)

Continued from Page 5 - MASTER PLAN...

city's online community survey had received more than 250 responses.

The survey includes approximately 20 questions, along with visual examples allowing residents to express preferences about different types of residential, multifamily and commercial development.

The representative said the survey was nearing completion but could remain available for another couple of weeks while planners begin incorporating public feedback into the updated plan.

A preliminary draft could be ready for staff review within the next several months, followed by another opportunity for public presentation and comment.

The city is planning a third public open house as the process continues.

For residents who cannot attend meetings, the survey provides an opportunity to participate from home, using the QR code below.

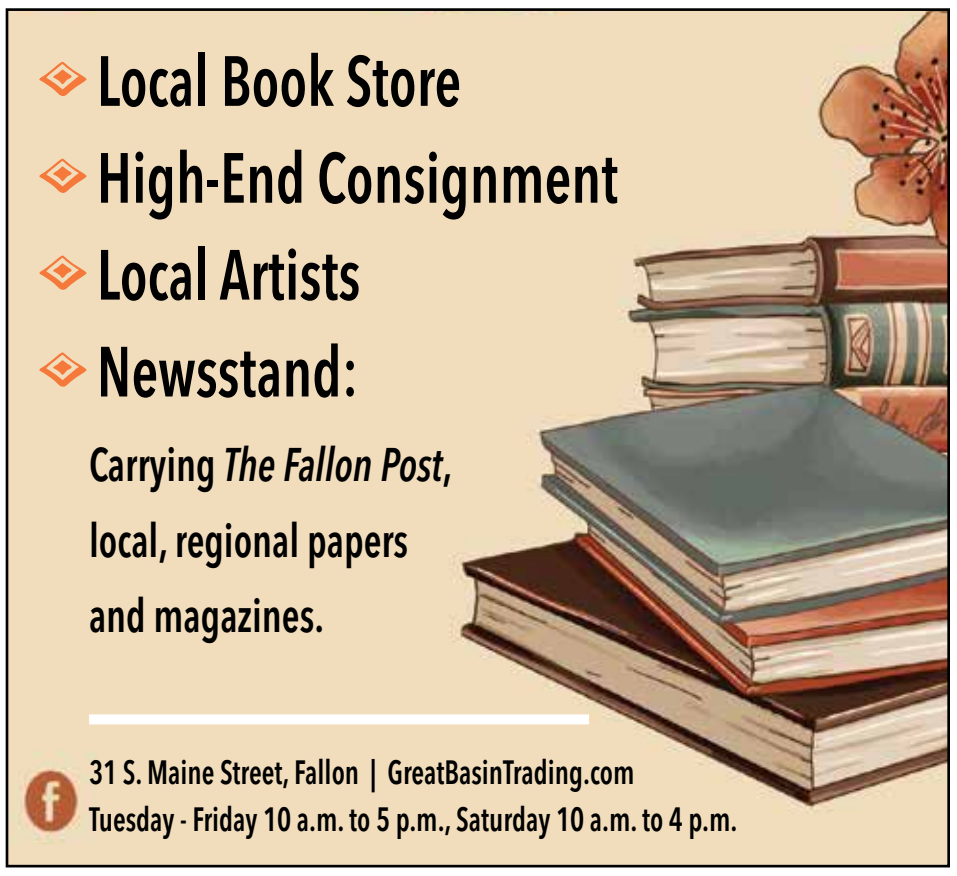
The decisions made through Fernley's comprehensive planning process will help guide the community's development for decades, affecting everything from where people live and work to the roads, utilities, parks and public services they rely upon.

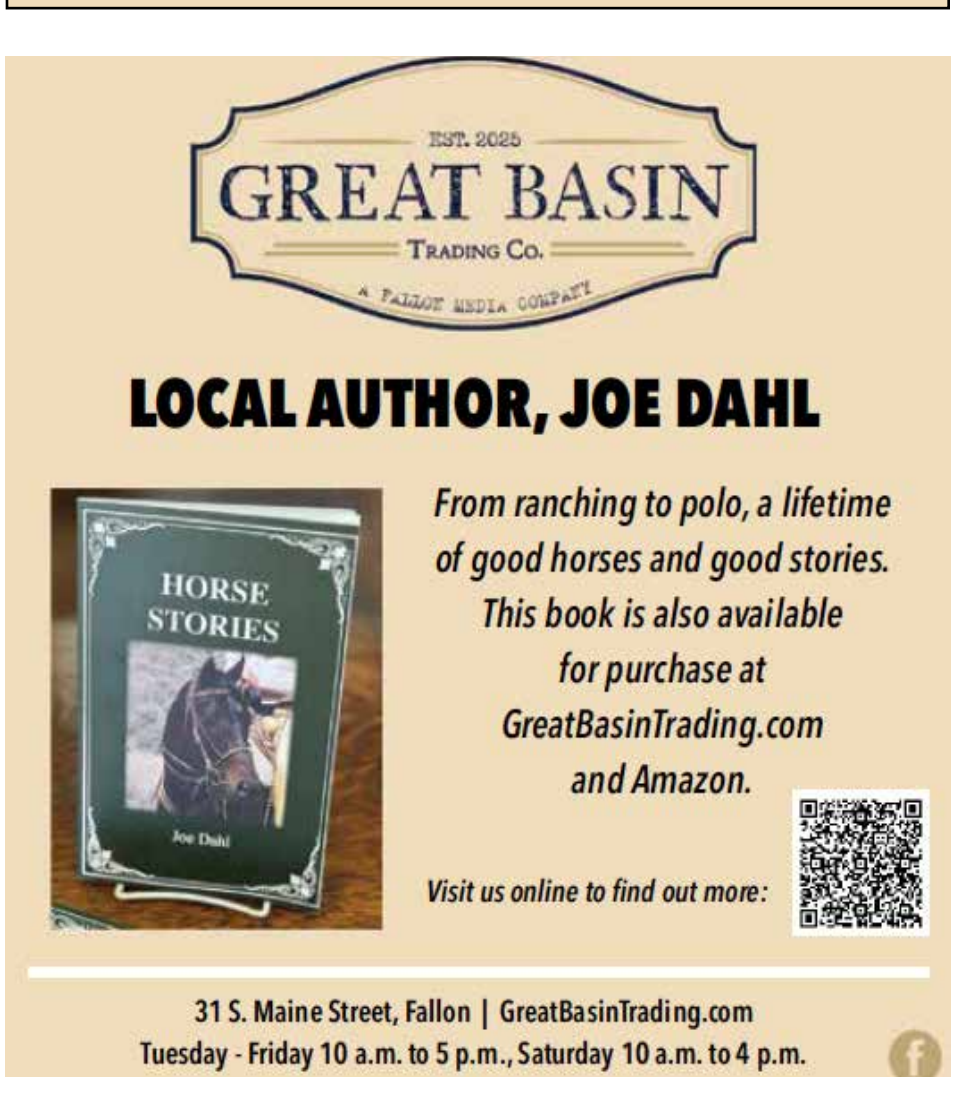
And while the planning horizon extends to 2050, the opportunity for residents to help shape those decisions is now.

Use your cell phone camera to scan the QR code that will take you directly to the online survey:









THE INSIDE VEER

Unfinished Business

By Robert Perea

Pablo Picasso once famously said that you should only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone. It's a beautiful sentiment, but let's be honest, for most of us that isn't why procrastination kills our momentum.

I'm not, and doubt that many others are either, terrified of dying overnight with a half-finished project. What I have found to be inevitable is that whenever I leave something undone until morning, it will get buried in the inevitable avalanche of new things that need to get done.

In my world, weekly newspaper deadlines on Tuesday almost always leave me with the decision on Monday night to either keep working past bedtime or get some sleep and finish in the morning.

Putting something off until tomorrow always feels like a wild, naïve gamble that tomorrow will bring a blank slate, but it rarely does.

Tomorrow is never the calm, empty slate it looks like at bedtime the night before. It seems like every time I do that, I wake up to find three separate new crises that require immediate attention. Suddenly that one quick thing I left for the morning is buried under a mountain of fresh chaos. Or worse, the one thing that I wanted to put some time into with a rested mind now has to be rushed because of all of the other things that suddenly pop up to do.

That usually means I stay up way past bedtime on Monday night.

And I know this isn't just a newspaper problem. Anyone who works in an office, runs a business, or manages a household knows exactly how this goes. We all bargain with the clock. We convince ourselves that morning light will bring interrupted peace where we can easily tie up loose ends, but that's when life smacks us in the face.

Even though I know tomorrow is a trap, I still find myself playing chicken with the clock every single week. Most of us do the same thing every single week, no matter what our jobs are. While we're asleep, the emails and voicemails pile up, and new tasks greet us before we're even ready.

Picasso's grand warnings about the grave might make for great art, but most of us aren't worried about dying before we finish, we're just trying to get today's work out of the way before tomorrow morning runs us over.

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

Senior Sense: Golden Years Castle Home of Fernley

By Sonia Hedrick

If you have lived in town for a while, you may warmly remember Beehive Homes, an assisted living community on Farm District Road. Over the years, many Fernley residents took comfort in knowing that their loved ones, whose care needs exceeded the family's capabilities, had a safe place to live out their golden years.

When Beehive sold around 10 years ago, there was, of course, some concern. Would our town's elders enjoy the same level of care under new ownership? Emphatically, YES!

At the turn of the 21st century, the U.S. Census warned that by 2020, 55.8 million baby boomers would reach age 65 and beyond. While many adult children are more than willing to care for aging parents, the time and resources just aren't always available. Today's economy often demands that everyone work outside the home, including women, the traditional caregivers.

Beehive was purchased by Golden Years Castle Homes, a network of residential care and senior assisted living facilities. To the new owners, "family" is not just a warm and fuzzy way to convey a sentiment. It's an action word.

Golden Years Castle Homes was founded in 2003 by Jose and Joseline Castillo and is still owned, operated and managed entirely by the Castillos and their family members. Of Filipino descent, the American Castillo family embraces values that strongly reflect their heritage. Woven into their culture is a deep-seated respect for elders and a sense of obligation to ensure compassionate care for them as they age.



Golden Years Castle Homes was founded in 2003 by Jose and Joseline Castillo and is still owned, operated and managed entirely by the Castillos and their family members. Photo courtesy of the Castillo family.

Over the years, the Castillos have clung tightly to the values that initiated their venture into assisted living operations. The business has grown to include seven sites in Reno and the surrounding area. Each site strives to maintain an intimate, warm and welcoming homelike setting for fewer than 20 residents per facility. In so doing, caregivers become familiar allies who are well acquainted with each resident's needs, interests and family.

Jose and Joseline Castillo successfully passed down their dedication to senior care and strong work ethic to their children. Each child pursued a formal education with the intention of bringing that expertise to the company. Oldest son Jay majored in business, middle son Joseph studied accounting, and daughter Jennifer studied marketing. Most significantly, each of these young leaders was raised learning the practical, day-to-day skills necessary to provide optimal care to elders.

Today, all three own and manage one or more of Golden Years Castle Homes' facilities.

Golden Years Castle Home of Fernley, managed by Joseph Castillo, has two main sections. The older building serves as a memory care unit. The current 13 residents of this building receive 24-hour supervision along with access to activities appropriate to their abilities. Some of the caregivers live on-site, ensuring immediate availability and a quick response should a concern arise. Certified nursing assistant-trained staff are always on the property.

On Oct. 1, 2026, the organization announced the grand opening of Golden Years Castle Home of Fernley 2.

The newly constructed building offers a homelike atmosphere and is designed to accommodate 13 to 16 residents in need of various levels of assistance. Well-appointed shared or private rooms are available, each featuring a half-bath. New residents who prefer to bring their own furniture are welcome to do so.

Shared rooms start at $4,500 a month, while private rooms begin at $5,500. Guided by a licensed nutritionist, home-cooked meals are included, along with housekeeping, assistance with dressing, eating, hygiene and mobility, laundry service, medication management and entertainment options such as game nights and special events. If care needs increase, assessments determine any additional costs.

For individuals requiring close supervision and attentive assistance, Golden Years Castle Home of Fernley 2 offers another local assisted living option. The facility is also reported to be among the few in Lyon County approved to accept Medicaid.

For information or to arrange a tour, call 775-742-9978.

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

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PET OF THE WEEK

The Lyon County Animal Shelter is FULL!

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

Donate. Volunteer. Adopt. Make a difference.



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