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Looking Beyond Local
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The Week of August 7, 2026

Inside Robinson Mine

White Pine County's Largest Employer Moves Millions of Tons of Rock, Supports Generations of Mining Families and Produces a Metal Increasingly Central to the Nation's Economy



1,600 tons of product at the Robinson copper mine is worth nearly $3.8 million. Photo by Bridgette Menist.

By Rachel Dahl

From a small office overlooking the Robinson Mine, a dispatcher watches the entire operation unfold across eight computer screens.

The system tracks haul trucks, electric shovels, drills and other equipment moving through the sprawling open-pit copper mine west of Ely. Each time a truck finishes dumping a load, an algorithm assigns its next destination based on where equipment is available, what kind of material is being moved and how the fleet can operate most efficiently.

A truck may be directed to one shovel for ore or another for waste rock. As one truck is loaded, the next is positioned and waiting. Dispatchers monitor delays, blasting schedules, maintenance needs and equipment breakdowns, stepping in when the computerized system needs a human decision.

It is a long way from the pick-and-shovel image many people still associate with mining.

During a July 29 media tour hosted by the Nevada Mining Association, KGHM and Robinson Mine, reporters were given a behind-the-scenes look at an operation where enormous machinery, computer modeling, geological science and strict safety systems come together to produce more than 100 million pounds of payable copper each year.

Robinson processes about 16 million tons of ore annually and employs roughly 650 people, along with approximately 30 regular contractors. It is the largest employer in White Pine County and pays an estimated $75.4 million in wages each year, according to mine officials.

Before visitors were allowed anywhere near the pits, shovels or processing plant, they spent nearly an hour in mandatory safety training.

Mining is regulated by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration, commonly known as MSHA. New miners must complete at least 24 hours of training before beginning work, followed by eight hours of refresher training each year.

The scale of Robinson is difficult to understand until standing beside it.

From an overlook, haul trucks appeared small against the benches and walls of the pit, though each can carry approximately 240 tons. An electric shovel can fill one in about three bucket loads.

The mine's computer dispatch system continually adjusts where trucks are sent. When too few trucks are available, dispatchers shorten haul distances to improve productivity. When loading equipment is limited, they prioritize keeping the shovels operating.

Every movement is measured in tons, minutes and distance.

Neil Jensen, general manager at Robinson, said the mine burns roughly 1 million gallons of diesel each month and spends approximately $1 million a day to operate.

That makes even small changes significant.

Waste rock from active mining can sometimes be placed into an older, exhausted pit rather than hauled to a more distant waste-storage area. The practice shortens truck routes, lowers fuel use and reduces operating costs. It can also provide environmental benefits by preventing pit lakes and limiting potential water infiltration.

Robinson is currently mining in the Ruth, Liberty and Veteran areas. At one active pit, crews are removing waste rock years before reaching the ore body below.

Jensen said they do not expect ore from that area until approximately mid-2028.

That long timeline is typical of modern mining. Before metal can be recovered, companies may spend years drilling, testing, modeling, permitting and removing material above the deposit.

Exploration continues while the mine operates.

During the tour, officials pointed to a drilling program designed to learn more about rock formations beyond the current mining area. Core drilling removes narrow cylinders of rock from deep underground, allowing geologists to study the composition and determine where additional exploration may be warranted.

The first holes did not reveal notable mineralization, Jensen said, but did contain sulfides and other geological indicators that will help guide future drilling.

Mining began in the Robinson district in the late 1860s, after deposits were discovered in 1867. The property has been mined in different forms since the early 1900s, with periods of closure tied to ownership changes, commodity prices and the economics of processing lower-grade ore.

The current operation has run continuously since 2004.

Modern processing has made it possible to recover copper from material previous generations could not mine economically.

The resulting copper concentrate must still be shipped elsewhere for smelting and refining.

Jensen said approximately 80% of Robinson's production remains in North America during the next stage of processing, including material shipped to facilities in Canada and Mexico. Robinson accounts for an estimated 4% of U.S. copper production, according to information provided by the mine.

A domestic smelter closer to Nevada could reduce transportation costs and strengthen the nation's copper supply chain, officials said. But building such a facility would require enormous capital investment and enough sustained production to make it economical.

Copper was added to the U.S. Geological Survey's critical-minerals list in November 2025. Demand is being driven by electrical transmission, vehicles, renewable-energy systems, electronics, data centers, defense needs and expansion of the national power grid.

Nearly everything that uses or moves electricity depends on copper.

The broader concern is not simply whether copper exists in the ground. It is whether the United States has the mines, workforce, processing facilities, investment climate and permitting systems needed to produce it domestically.

Careers without a four-year degree

The mine's role in White Pine County extends well beyond copper production.

Mining provides some of the highest wages available in rural Nevada. Nevada Mining Association representatives said the industry's average annual compensation reached approximately $137,000 in 2025, though wages vary widely by job, experience and schedule.

Robinson employs mechanics, electricians, equipment operators, engineers, geologists, surveyors, environmental specialists, safety personnel, business analysts, laboratory workers and human-resources professionals.

Many employees work rotating schedules of 10 to 12-hour shifts, allowing them to work approximately 14 days each month.

The mine also offers entry-level positions and career paths for people without previous mining experience.

Robinson works with Great Basin College to support vocational scholarships in welding, diesel technology, electrical work and millwright programs. Students may receive assistance with school and work at the mine during the summer, but they are not obligated to accept a Robinson job after graduation.

Drew McGregor, communications manager with the Nevada Mining Association, said the goal is to build the industry's workforce, even when a graduate ultimately works somewhere else. Existing employees can also receive training to move into different trades or technical roles. A motivated entry-level worker can progress through multiple skill and pay levels within about five years.

Power Dispute Sparks NV Energy Lawsuit

By Sydney Trainor

On July 24, 2026, NV Energy filed a lawsuit against Tract and Reno Power over how electrical service should be provided to Tract's proposed data center campus at the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center.

According to NVEnergy, Tract wants enormous amounts of electricity reserved for its project, and providing that would require major infrastructure investments and additional power resources. These projects include the Peru Shelf and South Valley communities, which are projected to need over 2 gigawatts of power combined.

However, the complaint is not about whether these projects should receive power or not. Rather, NV Energy wants to see this issue brought before the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN), rather than through a private arbitration.

Earlier this year, on June 16, Tract and Reno Power filed a Demand for Arbitration, which is a formal way to solve a disagreement without going to court. Instead of going before state utility regulators, Tract turned to a private arbitrator. NVEnergy argues that an arbitrator cannot decide matters that Nevada law gives exclusively to the PUCN.

Because of this, NV Energy is asking the court to issue an injunction that would prevent the arbitration from advancing.

According to Nevada law, the PUCN has authority over utility rates, electric service, long-term resource planning, and the terms and conditions under which public utilities provide service to customers. In this case, the arbitrator would have to decide how much electricity NV Energy must provide, how much new generation should be built or purchased, who pays for serving the project, what prices should apply, and when electricity must be available. Due to these issues already being before the PUCN, NV Energy "argues" against the arbitration.

NV Energy also cites customer concerns many times in the complaint. According to the lawsuit, "Most data center developers pursuing projects in Nevada recognize and accept this basic rule: If a project creates new utility costs, the project should pay them." The utility notes that the commission, not private arbitrators, are responsible for protecting all ratepayers.

"Large-load customers should bear the costs required to serve their projects and should not shift those costs onto Nevada families, small businesses, and other existing customers," the lawsuit states.

If the court will not stop the arbitration, NV Energy is asking that it be put on hold until the Public Utilities Commission finishes reviewing their 2026 Integrated Resource Plan. This long-term plan filed with the PUCN describes future demand, future generation, transmission planning, and energy purchases. According to the lawsuit, Tract and Fleet Data Centers have already intervened in that regulatory proceeding.

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ACROSS RURAL NEVADA

Investor Bans Won't Make Nevada Homes More Affordable

By Brian Bonnenfant

Nevada used to be a beacon of hope for families seeking economic opportunities and affordable homes. Now, Nevada is the symbol of America's struggle with high costs. Families are being squeezed by high mortgage rates, property taxes, and limited housing supply. Lawmakers across the country are debating legislation seeking to make housing more affordable and attainable.

Amid these housing debates, a familiar topic in Nevada's politics emerges: calls to ban institutional investment in single-family homes. These proposals are a seemingly quick fix to a decade of surging home prices that have made homeownership unattainable for many families. However, banning professional housing providers from buying single-family homes would have no meaningful effect on home prices and would most likely reduce housing supply.

Rural Nevada would be specifically harmed by such a policy. Imagine if a mining company, which is a corporation, needed to build housing for its workers in Winnemucca or Mina or Ely. Rural Nevada's housing market was never designed to support large employers on its own, given the state's vast geography and widely dispersed population. That's precisely why investors — both large and small — who finance, build, rehabilitate, and then manage much-needed housing have become essential to keeping these communities and their economies running. When the local market can't supply what workers need, these housing providers step in to fill the gap, funding new construction, bringing vacant properties back into use, and creating rental options that simply wouldn't exist otherwise.

It's troubling that legislators in Carson City would handicap these solutions.

Implementing an investor ban would also require a complex new bureaucracy to determine who actually owns homes across the state. Officials would need to cross-reference tax records, business registrations, and property databases to determine whether a buyer is an individual or a business entity. This process would be costly, time-consuming, and imprecise, creating significant administrative burdens while doing nothing to build new homes.

Nevada's business formation laws would make enforcement even more difficult. The state allows unlimited creation of limited liability companies (LLCs), and these entities are not required to disclose their true ownership. Regulators would likely spend countless hours attempting to connect incomplete records across multiple databases that lack the necessary information. The result would be an expensive system that is difficult to enforce and unlikely to meaningfully reduce investor participation.

In Nevada, home purchases are tracked at the county level. The County Recorder and the Assessor only have access to information within their jurisdiction and not across the state. Thus, there would have to be a new system created to track home purchases in different counties.

Beyond being nearly impossible to enforce, such a ban would also have major economic consequences. Business formation generates significant revenue for Nevada — about $218 million for the state in 2025 alone. If policymakers change LLC disclosure requirements—a key reason Nevada has long been attractive for business—they risk undermining a system that has benefited Nevada for years.

Professional housing providers bring new homes to the market by targeting the lower end of the housing market, including homes that need significant repairs or rehabilitation. By investing in these properties, investors help revive neglected houses and stabilize struggling neighborhoods. Often, individual buyers are unable or unwilling to purchase and renovate such homes. In this way, these housing providers recirculate more units onto the market that otherwise would sit vacant.

Most importantly, policymakers may be arriving too late to the institutional homeownership debate. Investor interest in single-family homes soared during the years of rapid price increases in hopes of receiving strong returns. In the Reno-Sparks area, home prices rose by an average of 11% per year from 2012 to 2020 and jumped to 22% annual growth during the pandemic. But that boom is over. From late 2022 to late 2025, appreciation slowed to just 3.8%. In other markets, such as Las Vegas, prices have been flat or even declining in recent years.

If policymakers want to increase housing supply, they're focusing on the wrong culprit. Restricting investors from buying single-family homes would make the housing market less appealing for providers and slow down housing construction, development, and investment. Projects like these increase housing supply, even if the homes aren't owner-occupied, because some Nevadans aren't yet able to buy or choose not to.

New regulations would make it harder to finance and complete such developments, resulting in fewer homes being built when Nevadans need them most.

Brian Bonnenfant is the Project Manager for the Center for Regional Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he has conducted mapping and housing analysis since 1994.

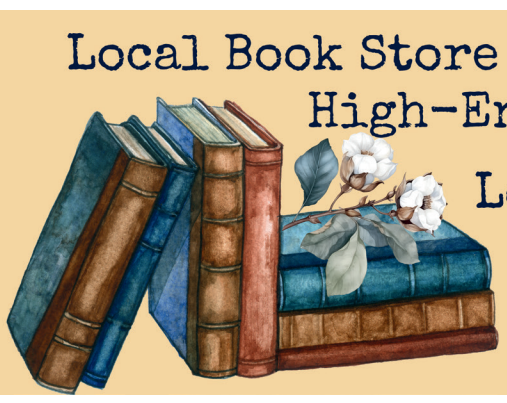
Continued from Page 1 - NV Energy

Tract responded to the lawsuit by calling the complaint a public attack and denying that they want to shift costs onto locals.

According to a statement made by Tract, "NV Energy's suggestion that the dispute should not be arbitrated is a complete contradiction of NV Energy's own contracts. Rather than addressing those commitments in the manner dictated by their own contract language, NV Energy launched a public attack that appears designed to shape headlines rather than resolve a legal dispute."

According to Tract President Graham Williams, "We have never asked or expected for our costs to be subsidized by others; to the contrary, we have spent over $50 million, and have committed to spend nearly $1 billion, to support NV Energy's infrastructure." He said, "We have never sought or received any special treatment, and we remain committed to creating jobs and supporting economic growth in the state. We just want NV Energy to live up to the commitments it made to us."




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EVENTS

tea, travel & tourism

By Dana Lee Fruend
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July 31, 2026

Hello, dear travelers.

Let's have a cup of tea and explore our beautiful rural Nevada.

You can call me Miss Dana, and I am going to be your travel/tour guide. In this space, I am going to share each week attractions, food and fun events.

This week, I am taking you to Lincoln County, Nevada, located approximately 150 miles north of Las Vegas on Highway 93. The towns are Alamo, Hiko, Rachel, Caliente, Panaca, Pioche and Eagle Valley.

This year is the 58th anniversary of the Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo on Aug. 5 through 8, held at the Panaca Fairgrounds.

Everything you think about for a traditional county fair and rodeo is here. I pause now, as your tour guide, to explain to newcomers that this is a whole world of strange words, events and activities that some of you may have never experienced. It's all absolutely fantastic and worth attending.

The patriotic opening night ceremonies make you so proud to be an American, with the official grand entrance of our Rodeo Queen. Not just a pretty face, these girls can ride, rope and more.

On Aug. 7, my personal favorite begins – the dog trials. These are real working ranch dogs. With precision, they herd sheep and cows into specific spaces.

In my humble opinion, they are stealthy, agile, ankle-nipping, furry Velociraptors. Their owner/trainer is called a handler or stock dog handler; in traditional settings, a shepherd or stockman.

A must-see to believe how their handler whistles, chirps and gives commands to get their talented dog to move stubborn livestock from point A to B. Prepare to be amazed.

Up next for your enjoyment is mutton bustin', miniature bull riding, Jr. Rodeo with steer riding, goat tying, chute dogging, breakaway roping, poles, flags, single stake and barrels.

But wait, there is more: amateur rodeo, jackpot team roping, wild cow milking, bronc riding and, oh my, it's heart-pounding fun.

You can also peruse the many kinds of displays and vendors at the fair.

And since we're here, let's take a scenic drive…

Lincoln County has six unique and beautiful state parks with mountain biking, hiking trails, petroglyphs, trilobite hunting and sky watching (standard, falling stars and aliens).

Hungry? You can eat at the fair or get fast food at the Panaca Grocery Store, taco truck, and McCrosky Y Service. If you're feeling a bit hot, take a picnic and dip in the Panaca Natural Warm Springs.

OK, back on my imaginary bus and heading north on Highway 93 to the historic mining town of Pioche. There are amenities here and many historic attractions, including the Boot Hill Cemetery. On Main Street, there are several saloons, the historic Overland Saloon and Hotel (Yep. Haunted), the Thompson Opera House, Gem Theater, Pioche Museum and a lovely thrift store called Molly's.

My favorite bistro is Gunslingers, a small, rustic, mining-shack-themed place with great food.

Next, we turn around, heading south on 93 toward Caliente.

Caliente is a railroad town established in 1901 and was an important railroad stop between L.A. and Salt Lake. A must-see is the historic 1923 Railroad Depot and Box Car Museum.

The depot houses City Hall, a visitors' center, library and several art exhibits.

Hungry still? There is the outstanding Shamrock Pub's Deli-Licious Deli, pizza at Sidetrack, steaks at the Knotty Pine, fast food, and, very importantly, ice cream at J and J's, a must-stop to enjoy.

After a good munching, we drive two miles up through Rainbow Canyon to the exceptional Kershaw-Ryan State Park. This park features monthly activities, a wading pool, play area, picnic spots, hiking and mountain bike trails, and a calming koi fish pond.

Back on the bus, we will now take a detour into stranger things on State Route 318 to visit the Alien Research Center and the famous Little A'Le'Inn restaurant and RV park. (The food is good here, and there are souvenirs galore.) If all goes well and we are not beamed up, we drive on to Alamo, pick up picnic supplies and end our tour at the Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge. Whew, it's tea time. See you next week.

Information: https://lincolncountynevada.com/
State parks: https://parks.nv.gov/parks/kershaw-ryan

Miss Dana is an author, writer, photographer and Tea Mistress in Caliente, Nevada.



Hot August Nights



Sydney Gray takes home First Presidents Award of Hot August Nights 2026 for her 1970 Ford Mustang

By Sydney Trainor

The rumble of vintage engines has returned to northern Nevada as Hot August Nights celebrates its 40th anniversary with 10 days of classic cars, live entertainment and nostalgic fun across Virginia City, Reno and Sparks. The annual event, which continues through Aug. 9, brings together thousands of participants and spectators to celebrate America's automotive culture.

The celebration got off to a successful start in Virginia City, where hundreds of classic cars filled historic C Street for two days of Show-n-Shines, cruising and entertainment.

Classic cars remain the centerpiece of Hot August Nights. Throughout the week, visitors can stroll through dozens of Show-n-Shines featuring everything from meticulously restored originals to custom hot rods, muscle cars and vintage trucks. Daily activities also include poker walks, swap meets, craft fairs, collector car auctions, automotive vendors, open cruises, nightly free concerts, and more.

One of the week's biggest attractions is the Hot August Nights Drag Races, presented by AMSOIL at the Nugget Casino in Sparks. Fans can watch from the grandstands or enjoy the Burnout Bar VIP Experience overlooking the action. Saturday night's Burnout Competition returns with $1,000 in prize money as competitors battle for bragging rights while giving spectators "the thrill of street racing gone legal." The drag races conclude Saturday with the Grand Final Race-off.

The weekend ends with some of the event's biggest traditions. Saturday features the Celebrity Choice Show-n-Shines and the Hot August Nights Foundation Youth Automotive Challenge and the Event Series Awards, while Sunday wraps up the celebration with the Parade of Champions and the official Grand Finale Parade through downtown Reno beneath the iconic Reno Arch.

Jarbidge Days: Small Town With a Big Good Time!



Photo Courtesy Jarbidge Community Association, Inc.

By Doris Rodriguez

Some places work hard to feel special, but Jarbidge simply is, so get ready for fun! Jarbidge Days returns Saturday, Aug. 8, in one of the most remote towns in the Lower 48. Only about 20 people live there year-round, deep in a canyon in northeastern Nevada near the Idaho border.

Jarbidge Days began in the mid-1990s for a simple reason: August was a quiet month in town. Locals decided to fill it with a gathering that gradually grew into the parade, poker crawl, and beer crawl that now define the traditional day.

This celebration perfectly captures the spirit of a place with deep gold rush roots (the last major rush in the West and the site of the country's final stagecoach robbery) but it's also a lively, modern event that warmly welcomes everyone into the little canyon community.

Getting to Jarbidge is part of the adventure, and the roads are long and in large part gravel. Be sure to remember that snow can close the passes early, so it's wise to check conditions before hitting the road. Jarbidge still gives off the charming vibe of a timeless gold-rush camp; peaceful, welcoming, and nestled in the beautiful Nevada wilderness.

The day begins with the Jarbidge Arts Council Quilt Show at 11:30 a.m. at the Historic Nevada Hotel. The Jarbidge Community Association Beer Crawl runs from 12:30 to 5 p.m. at the Community Hall, and the Poker Crawl takes place from 12:30 to 4 p.m., also at the Community Hall.

Both crawls allow visitors to go through town and stop at the classic sagebrush saloons: the Red Dog and the Outdoor Inn. The parade still moves down the main street, simple and genuine, with space for anyone who wants to join in and walk along.

Most of the events are free, with the quilt show and parade not costing anything for all to enjoy. The beer crawl costs $25, while the poker crawl is $5 per hand. Both events are for ages 21 and up, and you'll find delicious food and refreshing drinks available at the saloons and trading posts.

For the latest details and road updates, check online at visitjarbidge.org.



SPORTS

Nevada Women's Basketball 2026-27 season tickets now on sale and non-conference schedule announced



Winnemucca native and Lowry High School graduate Britain Backus plays for the University of Nevada in a game against Boise State at Lawlor Events Center.

By Tony Erquiaga

After suffering through a 20-loss season a year ago, the University of Nevada women's basketball team is heading in a new direction with first-year head coach Kelly Sopak. Sopak has no previous college coaching experience and takes over for Amanda Levens.

Nevada, released its 2026-27 non-conference schedule and will host nine non-conference games, including the return of The Nugget Classic in late November.

The Wolf Pack begins the season on the road at Loyola Marymount on Nov. 2. Nevada will host its first home game of the season on Nov. 7 against Sacramento State.

Three days later, William Jessup visits Reno, before the Nevada hits the road again to face Utah Valley on Nov. 13.

Nevada will then have five consecutive home games, starting with Pepperdine on Nov. 17 and followed by Idaho on Nov. 20. The Nugget Classic will begin Nov. 27 with New Mexico State before Nevada faces Troy on Nov. 29.

The Wolf Pack will round out its homestand with Washington State on Dec. 1. December opponents will include Texas State Dec. 6 and Denver Dec. 9, both on the road.

Nevada will see Saint Mary's at home on Dec. 12, Pacific in Stockton on Dec. 18 and LMU for a second time to close out the preseason schedule on Dec. 22 at home.

The Wolf Pack return of nine players, including Lowry High School graduate Britain Backus. Backus, who won a pair of 3A state championships at Lowry High School, played in 31 games last year. She scored 93 points, making 13, 3-point field goals.

A trio of seniors in Izzy Sullivan, Amelia Raidaveta and Imbie Jones also return. Nevada also added seven new talented players in the offseason, three freshmen and four transfers.

Nevada features local talent in Taua Puloka from Reed High School and Elle Motherway from Bishop Manogue.

<u>Nevada non-conference schedule</u>

Nov. 2: at Loyola Marymount
Nov. 7: vs. Sacramento State
Nov. 10: vs. William Jessup
Nov. 13: at Utah Valley
Nov. 17: vs. Pepperdine
Nov. 20: vs. Idaho
Nov. 27: vs. New Mexico State (Nugget Classic)
Nov. 29: vs. Troy (Nugget Classic)
Dec. 1: vs. Washington State
Dec. 6: at Texas State
Dec. 9: at Denver
Dec. 12: vs. Saint Mary›s
Dec. 18: at Pacific
Dec. 22: vs. Loyola Marymount





Pictured Left: Elle Motherway, Pictured Right: Taua Puloka. Photo Courtesy Nevada Wolfpack Athletics

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That opportunity has helped make mining a multigenerational occupation. During the tour, reporters met members of a family in which a father and three of his children work at Robinson in different roles.

Growth constrained by housing

Robinson's workforce needs are substantial, but finding employees is only part of the challenge. Finding them somewhere to live can be just as difficult.

White Pine County has older homes and some rental housing, but Jensen said the region lacks the supply of newer, move-in-ready houses many workers expect. Apartments are limited, and newcomers without local connections may struggle to learn about available rentals.

The problem is familiar across rural Nevada. Lovelock, Eureka, Battle Mountain and other mining communities face similar shortages. Employers may have good-paying jobs available but no easy place for workers and their families to settle.

A community cannot capture the full benefit of high-wage employment when workers must commute long distances, live elsewhere or turn down jobs because housing is unavailable.

Preserving rural communities

Without mining wages, taxes and economic activity, McGregor said, many rural communities would struggle to support local businesses and public services at their current level.

The mine is not the community's only employer. The hospital, state agencies, schools and Ely State Prison also support significant numbers of workers. Other residents commute to mines near Eureka or elsewhere in eastern Nevada.

Robinson remains the county's largest economic anchor, but that role comes with contradictions.

The mine needs more workers, but the community needs more housing. The country needs more copper, but new mines and processing facilities can take years to permit and finance. Modern mining depends on automation and advanced technology, but it still depends equally on skilled people willing to live and raise families in rural places.

Everything in the operation is planned around what lies beneath the ground. Its future, however, will depend just as much on what can be built above it.

Sean FitzSimons named NIAA interim Executive Director



Photo Courtesy NIAA- Sean FitzSimons

By Tony Erquiaga

Sean FitzSimons has been appointed interim Executive Director of the Nevada

Interscholastic Activities Association, effective Aug. 1.

FitzSimons, a former athletic director at Lincoln County High School, currently serves as an Assistant Director of the association, overseeing coaches education, compliance and postseason events.

"I'm looking forward to keeping the organization moving in a positive direction," FitzSimons said in a release by the NIAA. "I appreciate the trust the Board of Control has put in our staff."

Timothy Jackson, who in 2024 became the association's sixth Executive Director, is resigning at the end of July. FitzSimons will serve as interim Executive Director while the NIAA searches for a full-time leader.

FitzSimons enters his second year working for the NIAA as an assistant director overseeing coaches education, compliance and postseason events.

Before joining the NIAA, FitzSimons was a teacher and coach at Virgin Valley High School for 16 years. FitzSimons, from 2017-2025, was the athletic director, administrator and teacher at Lincoln County while also serving as a liaison to the board of control.

The board chose FitzSimons over Emilio Estevez Jr., who had no previous experience in high school athletics. Cimarron-Memorial principal Colin McNaught was the lone board member who did not vote to approve FitzSimons as the interim.

"I will defer to the comments I made during the meeting outlining my thought process," McNaught told Great Basin Sun in an email. "I respect and support the decision of my fellow board members and look forward to working with Mr. FitzSimons."

The NIAA is conducting a national search, with the hopes of have a new director in place at the start of November. The board will interview potential candidates during the Sept. 22-23 meeting.



