the GREAT BASIN SUN

Looking Beyond Local

GreatBasinSun.com

The Week of July 10, 2026

Prison-trained mustangs wrangle $80,700 at Carson City adoption



Inmate trainers present saddle-started wild horses and burros before the June 27 adoption at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City. Fifteen horses and two burros were adopted for a combined $80,700. *Courtesy BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program*

By Rachel Dahl

A wild horse adoption at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center brought some of the program's strongest bids yet June 27, with 15 saddle-started horses and two burros finding new homes for a combined $80,700.

Thirty-five qualified bidders attended the competitive auction in Carson City, including adopters from across the country. The horses averaged $4,247 each, despite bidding opening at $150.

The top bid of the day was $9,500 for Jaro, a 3-year-old, 15.1-hand buckskin gelding from Nevada's Grant Range Herd Management Area. Ace and Honey Badger each brought $8,000, while Bucky was adopted for $7,000 and Brave for $6,500.

Two burros also found homes. Cletus, a 3-year-old jack, was adopted for $1,100, while Shaggy, also a 3-year-old jack, brought $800.

The animals came from Bureau of Land Management herd management areas in Nevada and Oregon and had spent approximately four months in the correctional center's inmate training program. During that time, inmates taught the horses to accept a saddle and rider, respond to a lead rope and perform other basic skills needed for handling and riding.

The animals leave the program saddle-started, but the BLM cautions that they are still considered green-broke and need continued daily training by experienced handlers. The Northern Nevada Correctional Center program trains and places roughly 60 to 80 wild horses and burros each year through three or four public adoption events.

"The weather was nice and the turnout by the public was great for this event," said Ruth Thompson, BLM Nevada Wild Horse and Burro lead. "To see what the inmates and the animals accomplished ensures that the horses and burro are going to good homes where they will be able to use their training for any job they are asked to do."

The Carson City training program began in 2000 as a partnership between the Nevada Department of Corrections' Silver State Industries and the Nevada Department of Agriculture. The BLM joined the effort in 2004, and inmates now train wild horses and burros removed from BLM-managed public lands.

The events are officially adoptions rather than outright sales. Successful bidders must provide proper care for the animal for one year before they may apply to receive title from the federal government. Prospective adopters must also complete a BLM application and demonstrate that they have suitable facilities before receiving a bidder card.

The BLM uses adoption as one of its principal methods for placing wild horses and burros into private care after animals are removed from overpopulated herds. The agency reports that more than 313,000 wild horses and burros have been placed into private care since 1971.

The next competitive-bid adoption at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center is scheduled for Oct. 24.

Catalogs showing the available animals are generally posted by the BLM before each event.

State Engineer Cacioppo prefers local decisions on water use before curtailment

Staff Report

Nevada lawmakers received a broad update on water management, wildfire preparation, conservation funding and possible changes to state water law during the fifth meeting of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources held on June 24. Much of the discussion focused on how state agencies plan to improve communication, reduce permitting delays and prepare for increasing pressure on Nevada's limited water supplies.

Vinson Guthreau, the newly appointed director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, told lawmakers he is emphasizing public engagement, transparency and customer service across the department's eight divisions and four standalone programs.

Guthreau said the department employs more than 1,000 full-time and seasonal workers statewide, but continues to struggle with recruiting and retaining engineers, hydrologists, biologists and other specialized employees.

He said the department must also respond to growing threats from catastrophic wildfire, invasive species and drought while managing increased demand created by population growth and new industries.

Guthreau pointed to wildfire-prevention work as one of the department's recent successes. Through coordination with federal, tribal and local partners, Nevada agencies have treated more acres than have burned in four of the past five years. Since 2020 or 2021, shared stewardship projects have treated more than 538,000 acres, including about 344,000 acres during the past two years, he said.

The state has also helped secure more than $100 million in federal funding for landscape-scale wildfire mitigation projects covering approximately 3.5 million acres along the Sierra and Elko fronts.

State Engineer Joe Cacioppo told lawmakers the Division of Water Resources is working to modernize its records and permitting system.

The division is scanning more than 122,000 permits and 145,000 maps and is developing a permit-tracking system that will initially be used internally. Cacioppo said the system could eventually allow applicants to see where their water-right applications are in the review process. The division receives about 1,000 water-right applications and 4,000 extension requests each year. He said that the average processing time for extensions from 136 days to about 78 days since January.

Cacioppo also addressed Nevada's shift toward conjunctive management, which recognizes the connection between surface water and groundwater.

He said curtailment remains one of the state's limited tools for addressing overuse, but he would prefer locally developed solutions that reduce water use before the state is forced to curtail existing rights.

"The last thing we want to do is curtail anybody," he said, adding that communities often understand their water systems better than anyone and should help develop solutions.

Lawmakers also heard from the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, which asked the Legislature to increase base funding for Nevada's 28 conservation districts and support a statewide soil health program.

Executive Director Kevin Piper said each district currently receives about $5,500 annually from the state, provided it remains in good standing. Nevada has historically ranked near the bottom nationally in state funding for conservation districts.

The districts are local political subdivisions governed by volunteer boards.

Continue reading on page 2

Public lands panel hears calls for local control, faster federal action

Staff Report

Nevada lawmakers heard a recurring message during a meeting of the Legislature's Interim Public Lands Committee: Local governments want a stronger voice in how federal land is used, transferred and developed.

Meeting in Fernley, the committee received updates from Lyon County, Washoe County, Carson City and the U.S. Forest Service on land conveyances, housing, energy projects, wildfire prevention, recreation and public access.

Officials said public-land decisions affect nearly every part of local government, from roads and sewer systems to fire protection, housing and economic development.

Lyon County plans new lands bill

Lyon County Manager Andrew Haskin, Commissioner Tammy Hendrix and Emergency Management Director Taylor Allison said about 75% of the county is publicly owned, with most of that land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Reclamation.

The county uses public land for mining, livestock grazing, recreation, off-highway vehicle events and other activities that contribute to the local economy. Officials said the county also works with federal agencies on wildfire prevention, stormwater projects, illegal dumping, wildlife management and land-use planning.

But major energy and development projects are creating new challenges. Lyon County has received applications or proposals for solar projects, battery storage facilities, data centers and transmission lines. Officials said local governments are often brought into the federal environmental-review process too late, after important decisions about location and infrastructure have been made.

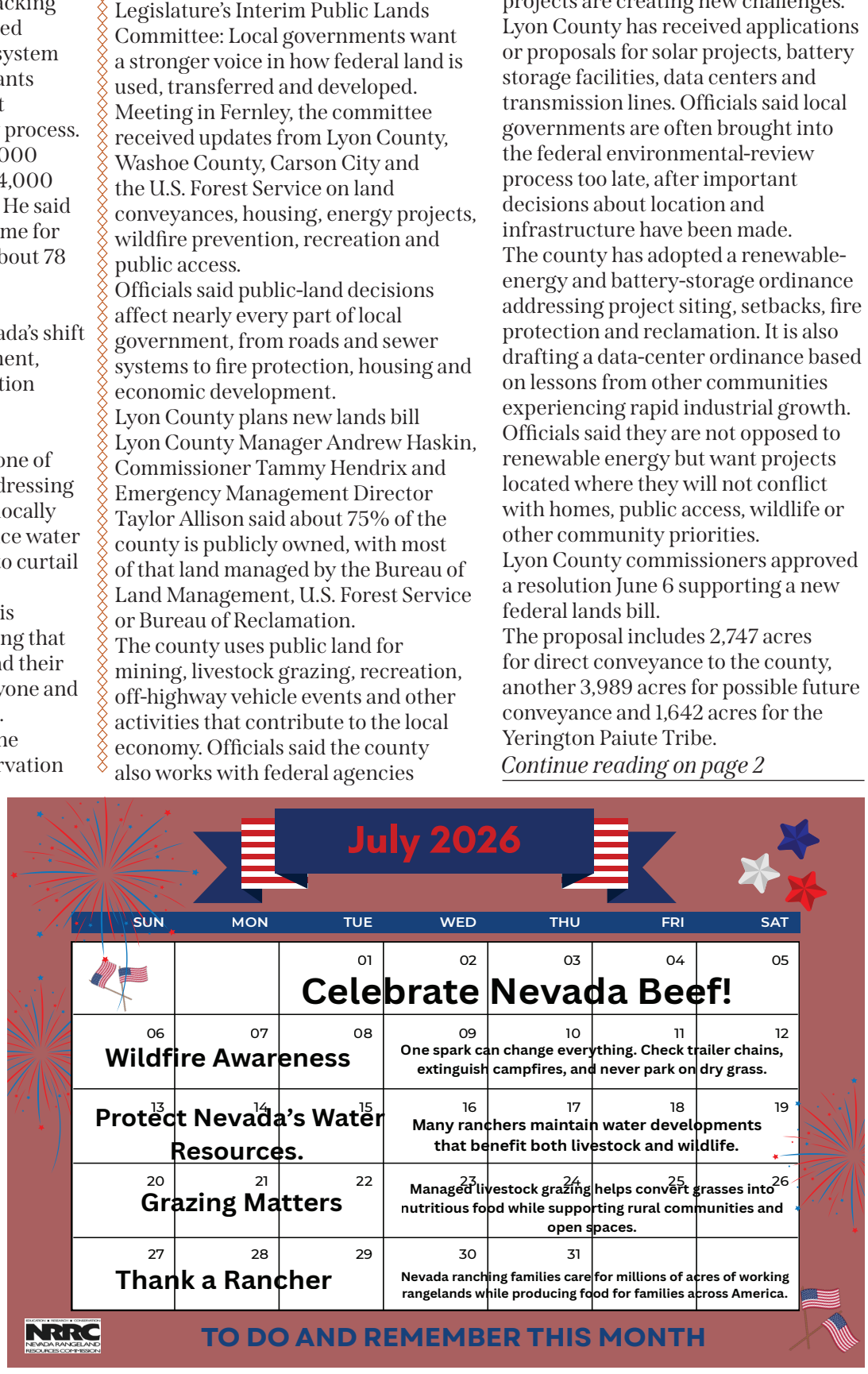
The county has adopted a renewable-energy and battery-storage ordinance addressing project siting, setbacks, fire protection and reclamation. It is also drafting a data-center ordinance based on lessons from other communities experiencing rapid industrial growth.

Officials said they are not opposed to renewable energy but want projects located where they will not conflict with homes, public access, wildlife or other community priorities.

Lyon County commissioners approved a resolution June 6 supporting a new federal lands bill.

The proposal includes 2,747 acres for direct conveyance to the county, another 3,989 acres for possible future conveyance and 1,642 acres for the Yerington Paiute Tribe.

Continue reading on page 2



Deadline nears for comments on proposed BLM grazing rule changes

Staff Report

Public-land ranchers, local government and others who want a say in proposed changes to federal grazing regulations have until Monday, July 13, to submit comments to the Bureau of Land Management.

The proposal would make wide-ranging changes to the way the BLM administers livestock grazing permits, evaluates land health and handles appeals of grazing decisions. Comments received after July 13 do not have to be considered as the agencies prepare a final rule.

As of this week, about 230 comments had been submitted through the online federal docket, where members of the public can also read comments filed by other individuals and organizations.

Comments may be submitted online at Regulations.gov by searching for docket BLM-2026-0001 and following the submission instructions. Comments may also be mailed or delivered to the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C.

The proposed rule represents the first substantial effort in years to rewrite the federal regulations governing grazing on BLM land. The agency administers nearly 18,000 permits authorizing about 12.3 million animal unit months of grazing each year on approximately 155 million acres of public land. The regulations now in force largely date to 1995 after a later set of revisions adopted in 2006 was blocked by federal courts.

One of the most significant changes would expand BLM land health standards beyond livestock grazing and apply them to other programs and uses administered by the agency.

Under the current system, grazing permittees can bear much of the responsibility when an allotment does not meet rangeland health standards, even when wildfire, invasive species, wildlife populations, recreation, mineral development or other factors may have contributed to the conditions.

The proposal would require the BLM to identify the factors substantially contributing to poor land health and take action on causes within the agency's control. The BLM says the change is intended to create a broader view of the landscape rather than assuming livestock grazing is responsible for every failure to meet standards.

The rule would also allow more flexibility within grazing permits. With BLM approval, permittees could graze livestock as many as 21 days before or after the dates listed in a permit to respond to weather, forage availability and other changing conditions. It would also revise temporary nonuse rules and allow some permits to include flexible terms that could be used without seeking separate approval for every operational adjustment.

Another major provision would change what happens when a grazing decision is appealed.

Under the proposed rule, filing an appeal would generally suspend the BLM decision while the appeal is considered. The current rules generally allow a decision to take effect unless the permittee separately requests and receives a stay. The BLM could still put a decision into immediate effect when necessary to protect rangeland resources.

Other proposed changes include limiting new grazing permits to production-oriented livestock operations, expanding opportunities for beginning ranchers who are not the children of existing permittees, revising rules for transfers of grazing preference and requiring more formal documentation of unauthorized grazing.

The proposal would also reduce some mandatory consultation requirements involving the broader "interested public" and resource advisory councils during certain allotment and permit decisions. Public participation would continue through environmental reviews, proposed decisions, protests and appeals, but some preliminary consultation would be limited to affected permittees and states.

The BLM is asking for comments on all parts of the rule, including how land health should be measured, how causal factors should be identified, how much flexibility permittees should receive and how appeals should affect grazing decisions.

Comments are most useful when they identify a specific section of the proposed regulations and explain how it would affect an operation, community, resource or public-land user. Commenters may include examples, operational records, monitoring information, economic estimates or recommended changes to the proposed language.

The full proposal, supporting documents and public comments can be found by searching BLM-2026-0001 at Regulations.gov. Comments can be summitted at this site as well: publiclandscouncil.org/get-involved/comment-now.

The comment period closes July 13.

Foreign Regulations Shouldn't Drive Up Costs on Nevadans

by Miranda Hoover

Pulling into your neighborhood convenience store is something most of us do regularly without a second thought. But behind fueling up your car or truck with gas and grabbing a snack there is a vast and intricate network of suppliers, distributors and workers that make it all possible. Fuel retailers and convenience stores are a critical part of Nevada's economy, with more than 1200 stores statewide, located in every county, employing over 18,000 people. These local businesses keep our state moving and support the steady flow of visitors that power our tourism economy.

That's why a sweeping new European Union regulation, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CS3D), deserves closer attention here at home. While CS3D aims to promote corporate accountability, its broad and far-reaching requirements impose unnecessary costs and obstacles for U.S. companies, with real consequences for states like Nevada.

The directive requires many large companies, even those that are located here in the United States and complying with US laws, to identify and report on their environmental and human rights impacts across all of their operations and suppliers. For industries like fuel distribution and retail, that creates a real challenge. Most convenience stores are small, family-owned businesses that have wide supply chains involving production, refining, transportation, and storage of gasoline and delivery of packaged goods across multiple entities.

Yet CS3D could subject them to extensive new paperwork requiring them to track and report on activities across many of their suppliers. A recent Hudson Institute analysis underscores the scale of what's at stake globally, estimating that between 680,000 and 865,000 American jobs could be at risk and nearly $1 trillion drained from the U.S. economy due to compliance costs and supply chain disruptions.

When you look at the local level, the impact is even more alarming. The research projects that the implementation of CS3D could cost Nevada nearly 5,000 jobs and trigger total losses to Nevada worker pay exceeding $400 million. The one-time costs of complying with CS3D are expected to approach $3.5 billion for our state alone. With over 59,000 Nevada small businesses operating in the industries most vulnerable to these regulations, absorbing these complicated new rules simply will not be financially viable for many local operators.

These costs will only get passed down to consumers in the form of higher prices at gas stations and other local businesses in the state of Nevada. In a state like Nevada, where tourism, logistics, and travel are central to the economy, those ripple effects can hit especially hard. Higher fuel and operating costs can influence travel decisions, increase prices for visitors, and put additional pressure on local businesses that depend on steady traffic.

None of this is to suggest that businesses should not operate responsibly. American companies already follow strong federal and state environmental and labor standards, and many go beyond them. But there is a clear difference between common-sense accountability and a sweeping foreign mandate that attempts to govern complex global supply chains from afar.

Policies like CS3D risk creating obligations that are difficult to implement in practice, particularly for industries like ours. They add cost without improving outcomes and shift decision-making away from local communities that are most affected.

This is why we need our leaders in Washington to step up. The Protect USA Act, which would prohibit American companies from having to comply with CS3D, could receive a committee hearing this summer. Senator Jacky Rosen from her position on the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto are in a prime position to stand strongly behind this legislation and defend Nevada's economy. The rules that shape our markets should be written by the people we elect, not regulators an ocean away.

Fuel retailers keep people moving, goods flowing, and communities connected. If we want to protect that role, and the thousands of Nevada jobs that come with it, we need to make sure our policies support businesses, not burden them.

At a time when businesses are focused on managing costs and consumers are watching prices closely, adding new layers of regulatory burden is not a small decision. At the end of the day, something as simple as filling up your tank shouldn't come with costs driven by decisions made half a world away.

Miranda Hoover is Executive Director of the Energy & Convenience Association of Nevada

Continued from page 1, WATER USE

They work on wildfire recovery, watershed restoration, invasive weeds, irrigation efficiency, soil health, wildlife habitat and conservation education.

Piper said stronger and more predictable funding would allow districts to hire staff, pursue grants and expand on-the-ground projects. Many districts are operated almost entirely by volunteers, making it difficult to compete for federal and private funding.

The association also wants Nevada to revisit legislation to create a statewide soil health program. Seven other Western states have already adopted soil health laws, Piper said.

Groundwater-dependent ecosystems were another major topic.

Laurel Saito, Nevada water strategy director for The Nature Conservancy, said more than one-third of the groundwater wells examined in a recent analysis showed significant declines over several decades.

The group estimates that about 20% of Nevada's 256 groundwater basins are pumped beyond their perennial yield and that at least 40% of several types of groundwater-dependent ecosystems face risks from overpumping.

Saito said Nevada needs policies that encourage reduced groundwater use, prevent unsustainable future withdrawals and consider water availability when approving major development projects such as mines, energy facilities and data centers.

She also pointed to the state's voluntary groundwater-right retirement program. A pilot funded with $25 million in federal recovery money retired more than 20,000 acre-feet of groundwater rights, but demand exceeded the available funding.

A water-law stakeholder group presented eight possible concepts for an omnibus water bill in the 2027 legislative session.

The proposals include increasing the state's bonding authority for water projects from $125 million to $200 million, creating a long-term funding source for voluntary water-right retirement, allowing agricultural land to retain favorable tax treatment after water rights are retired, and giving counties the option to create local groundwater boards.

The group is also considering changes to county participation in monitoring, management and mitigation plans, commonly called 3M plans, and greater transparency in the collection and use of groundwater basin assessment fees.

Jeff Fontaine, speaking for the stakeholder group, said members representing agriculture, cities, mining, rural communities and environmental interests have been working toward consensus while trying to avoid creating new costs for state agencies.

The committee ended with a briefing on the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, which narrowed the federal definition of wetlands protected under the Clean Water Act.

Presenters from the National Conference of State Legislatures, Tom Klein and Nicole Ezeh, said states are responding in different ways. Colorado and New Mexico have moved to create their own state permitting systems for wetlands and surface waters no longer covered by federal law, while North Carolina and Tennessee have aligned their regulations more closely with the narrower federal standard.

The committee's final interim meeting is scheduled for Aug. 12.

Continued from page 1, PUBLIC LANDS

The county also wants 1,181 acres along the Carson River protected from most development and mining activity.

Officials said the conveyed land could support roads, water and wastewater systems, communications, workforce housing and economic development.

The county hopes to have the proposal ready for the next Congress in January.

Forest Service emphasizes fire prevention

Matt Zumstein, district ranger for the Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, described the agency's work along the Sierra Front.

The district covers more than 400,000 acres from Loyalton to Topaz and serves an area near hundreds of thousands of residents.

Zumstein said wildfire suppression remains a priority because of the homes, roads, power lines and other infrastructure near Forest Service land.

Unlike more remote forests, where fire may sometimes be managed for resource benefits, crews along the Sierra Front generally try to suppress fires quickly before they threaten communities.

The district also uses mechanical thinning, prescribed fire, hand crews and targeted sheep grazing to reduce fuels before a fire starts.

Zumstein said the district has treated about 6,000 acres so far this year and generally completes around 10,000 acres annually.

He cited the Davis Fire as an example of the value of previous fuels work.

Although severe weather conditions developed as forecast, treated areas helped slow the fire and gave crews more time to protect homes.

The district also participates in Nevada's shared-stewardship program, coordinating federal, state, local, tribal and private projects across jurisdictional boundaries. Zumstein said the Carson Ranger District and its partners treated nearly 16,000 acres last year.

Targeted grazing drew particular interest from lawmakers.

Zumstein said sheep have been used for more than a decade in some areas to reduce cheatgrass and other fine fuels. The district is also working with the University of Nevada, Reno to determine the most effective seasons and conditions for grazing.

He said the approach is not appropriate everywhere, but where it works, it can provide a relatively low-cost way to reduce fire danger.

Access remains a central concern

Public access ran through nearly every presentation.

Committee members questioned counties about historic RS 2477 roads and whether required road maps had been filed with the Nevada Department of Transportation.

Sen. Ira Hansen said those maps are increasingly important as solar developments, transmission lines and other projects change access across public land.

Lawmakers also discussed shoreline access at Lake Tahoe, where Nevada law allows some beaches to remain privately controlled. Several committee members said limited access puts too much pressure on a small number of popular sites.

County representatives said any broader change to shoreline-access law would need to come from the Legislature, not local governments.

The committee is expected to use testimony from the meeting as it develops recommendations and possible bill draft requests for the 2027 legislative session.

SSIR Finals Crown Champions

Staff Report

Event: JH BULL RIDING
1. UT- MILLER, KOLT (J)

JH CHUTE DOGGING
1. ID- COLEMAN, CADE 2.900 -
2. UT- MAXFIELD, NASH (J) 7.820
3. ID- COLEMAN, CASH 9.2400
4. OR- RUSSELL, RAYNES 14.170
5. ID COLEMAN, CASH 20.320

Event: JH SADDLE BRONC RIDE
1. CA- VAN NEST, DALLAS 48.0
2. OR- MOORE, TREYVON 44.0

Event: BULL RIDING
No qualified rides

Event: BAREBACK
1. CA- TAYLOR, CALEB (J) 59

Event: JH POLE BENDING
1. CA- MCGREW, EMERY (J) 21.339
2. ID- BERQUIST, HALLE 21.487
3. ID- THOMPSON, LEXIE (J) 21.684
4. ID- 10 KOPLIN, GRACIE 21.968
5. ID- 11 SCHUKNECHT, AUSTYN (J) /22.020

Event: POLE BENDING
1. CA- GOMES, SHAYNA, 20.444
2. ID- MILLER, MCKINLEY, 21.111
3. ID- MCBRIDE, TYNLEE, 21.558
4. ID- ROBINSON, BAILEY, 21.642
5. ID- ROCHE, MACKIE, 21.717

Event: GOAT TYING
1. WA- SULLIVAN, PAIGE (J) 7.940
2. CA- HEIN, MADELYN (J) 8.290
3. ID- CHADWICK, TYLEE (J) 8.360
4. ID- WOODLAND, HAZIE (J) 8.00
5. CA- THIEL, RICKI (J) 9.46

Event: JH TEAM ROPING
1. AZ- TOPOL, BRADLEY (1) 15.640
NV- MARVEL, AMIGO (2) 15.640
2. CA- CHAVES, JAYCEE (1) (J) 24.150
CA- CHAVES, CHETT (2) (J) 24.150
3. NV- BACKLUND, BRAYTON (1) 25.760
NV- ROBLES, LUIS (2) 25.760

Event: TEAM ROPING
1. OR- ERTZ, DALLY (1) 6.2709
CA- JOSEPH, BRANSTAN (2) 6.2709
2. ID- COHN, MAX (1) 9.900
CA- BULLIVANT, WYATT (2) 9.900
3. NV- OSTERHOUDT, LEEAH (1) 11.270
BLISS, SWAYNER (2) 11.270
4. CA- PEREZ, JULIANNA (1) 15.690
CA- VANSTAVERN, BRETT (2) 15.690
5. NV- DANNELLY, TRYAN (1) 15.980
NV- WHITAKER, LANE (2) 15.980

Event: JH GIRLS GOAT TYING
1. CA- HEIN, KYLIE (J) 7.140
2. ID- THOMPSON, MILLIE (J) 8.080
3. OR- GREGG, EMMA (J) 8.300

Event: JH BOYS GOAT TYING
1. ID- THOMPSON, DEKER (J) 11.200
2. OR- GREGG, HENRY (J) 12.030
3. ID- SWAN, WHIT (J) 13.440
4. ID- CARSON, REESE 13.630
5. NV- BARTO, JACE 13.670

Event: JH BOYS GOAT TYING
1. ID- CARSON, REESE (J) 34.890
2. NV- BARTO, JACE 37.680
3. ID- SWAN, WHIT (J) 37.990
4. OR- GREGG, HENRY (J) 38.120

Event: STEER WRESTLING
1. UT- ANDERSEN, MAXWELL 6.320
2. ID- PAVKOV, JOE 38.070

Event: JH RIBBON ROPING
1. AZ- TOPOL, BRADLEY (1)
UT- SCOTT, MCKINLEE RAE 2) 19.810
2. CA- EARLEY, CLINTON (1) 9.810
CA- MCGREW, EMERY (2) 11.340
3. ID- CARSON, COLBY (1) 11.340
ID- SWAN, BRADEE (2) 13.250 -
4. NV - BARTO, JACE (1)13.250
NV- LACEY, KAYDEE (2) 14.110

Event: BARREL RACING
1. ID- WILLIAMS, MAKAYDEE17.929
2. CA- LEPAGE, PEYTON (J) 18.005
3. ID- CHADWICK, TYLEE 18.018
4. UT- KOSOFF, KWINCEE 18.123
5. NV- MACHADO, ELLIE (J) 18.186

Event: JH BARREL RACING
1. ID- BERQUIST, HALLE 17.74
2. UT- BEESLEY, TAYZLEE (J)17.79
3. ID- THOMPSON, LEXIE (J) 17.80
4. ID- SCHUKNECHT, AUSTYN (J) 17.89
5. CA- HUNT, DALLY SUE (J)18.00

Event: JH GIRLS BREAKAWAY
1. OR- ROGERS, REMMY (J) 3.060
2. CA- CHAVES, JAYCEE (J) 3.130
3. ID- CARSON, CADEE (J) 3.510 -
4. ID- THOMPSON, MILLIE (J) 3.750

Event: BREAKAWAY ROPING
1. CA- THIEL, RICKI (J) 2.380
2. NV- BUCHANAN, SCARLETT (J) 3.080
3. NV- MILLER, MCKINLEY 3.720
4. CA- VELASCO, KYLIE 4.670
5. CA- PEREZ, JULIANNA (J) 5.760

EVENT: TIE DOWN ROPING
1. CA- COHN, MAX 11.130
2. ID- SWAN, PORTER (J) 11.490
3. OR- HOLLY, COOPER 12.540
4. ID- METCALF, HUNTER (J) 13.210
5. UT- BLOOMFIELD, BRIGGS (J) 14.040

EVENT: JH TIE DOWN ROPING
1. ID- POPE, JACKSON 19.510

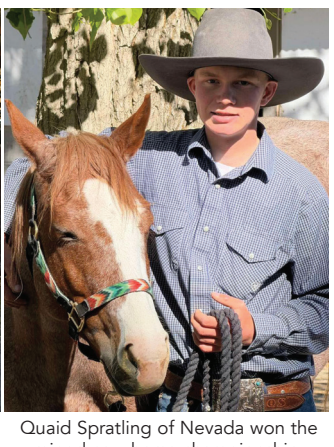
Event: JH BOYS BREAKAWAY
1. ID- CARSON, COLBY (J) 2.700
2. ID- THOMPSON, DEKER 4.710
3. ID- COBB, COYLE (J) 4.950
4. ID- SEVERE, QUINCY 5.150
5. ID- POPE, SLACK (J) 13.250



Statlen Hughes, left, of Utah and Logan Marshall of Nevada finished first and second, respectively. Photo courtesy of the Silver State International Rodeo.



Jordyn Process of Nevada competes with Roxys Four One One during the girls cutting finals. Photo courtesy of Bill Process.



Quaid Spratling of Nevada won the reined cow horse championship. Photo courtesy of Quaid Spratling.

Reno Rodeo Association takes over management of Nevada State Fairgrounds

Staff Report

The Reno Rodeo Association is now managing events and facilities at the Nevada State Fairgrounds under a new agreement with the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

The change took effect June 1 and includes the Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center. Anyone interested in booking an event or using the fairgrounds will now work directly with the Reno Rodeo Association.

The management shift follows the passage of Assembly Bill 333, which returned oversight of the Nevada State Fairgrounds to the Department of Agriculture. The state originally endowed the property for agricultural purposes in 1867.

Before the transition, the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority operated the property under a lease held by Washoe County.

The Reno Rodeo Association already has a long history at the fairgrounds and has invested in the property over the years, making it a logical choice to handle day-to-day event and facility management.

"The Reno Rodeo has demonstrated its ability to manage the Nevada State Fairgrounds through its longstanding presence and investment in the property," Nevada Department of Agriculture Director J.J. Goicoechea said. "We look forward to working together to support the continued success at the facility and the events it hosts."

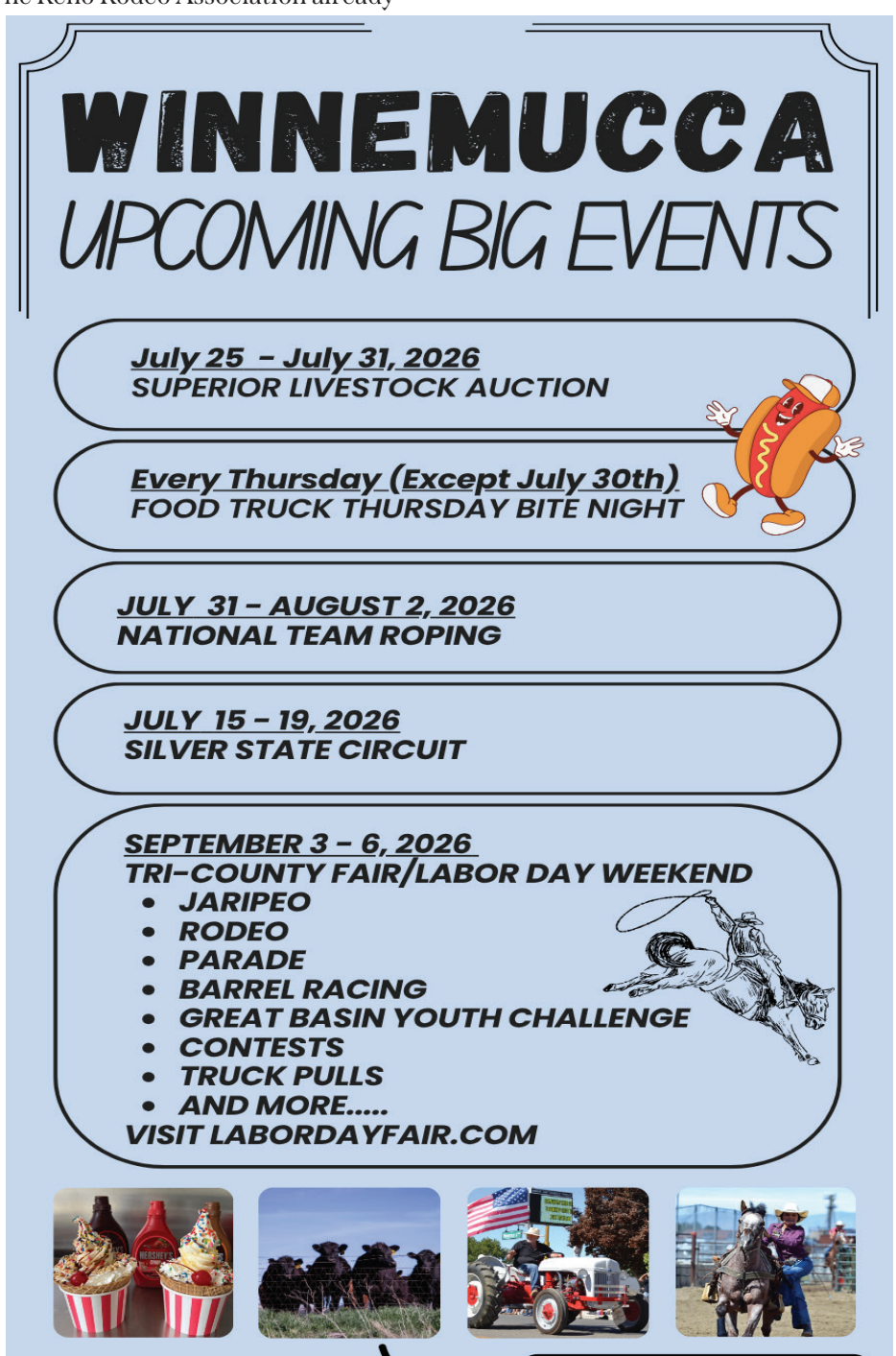
The fairgrounds remain one of Northern Nevada's primary venues for livestock shows, rodeos, agricultural events and other large public gatherings.

For event bookings or information about using the Nevada State Fairgrounds, contact the Reno Rodeo Association at 775-329-3877.



Queen contestants gather during the 41st Silver State International Rodeo in Winnemucca. Congratulations to Queen Liv Thurgood, Utah.
From left are Blakely Jensen of Idaho, Kelly Cordill of Washington, Lilly Lefanto of Nevada, Liv Thurgood of Utah, and Liberty Vrska of Idaho. Photo courtesy of the Silver State International Rodeo.





NIAA Executive Director Timothy Jackson announces resignation



Tim Jackson (right) presents an award to Wells athletic director Myles Baldwin in 2024. Photo courtesy Wells combined school

By Tony Erquiaga

The Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association will be looking for its third executive director since 2024, as Timothy Jackson, submitted his resignation last week as executive director, effective Aug. 1.

He previously served as the director of athletics for Clark County School District (CCSD) and athletic director at Durango High School.

It was a rough 2025-26 school year for Jackson and the NIAA, as the realignment battle in football raged for much of the year, mostly in southern Nevada and Clark County.

The new playoff format was flawed and brackets for the 5A Open and 5A had to be redone twice.

Recently all the large public schools in Clark County decided to play as independent in football in oppose to facing Bishop Gorman. That charge was led by Cimarron-Memorial principal Colin McNaught and other principals.

As of now, private schools in the Las Vegas area will compete for a state title. The schools that went independent, will play in their own playoff system that will not be recognized by the NIAA. However, they still have to abide by NIAA bylaws. There are 30 4A and 5A schools that made that decision to play independent.

In a release from the NIAA, the organization stated that he led the association through a period of significant legislative change and administrative modernization, and Jackson will step down to pursue new opportunities.

"It has been an honor to serve Nevada's member schools and student-athletes," said Jackson. "I am proud of the strides we have made in professionalizing our operations, expanding opportunities for students, and strengthening our relationships with state leaders."

Earlier in 2026 at one of the NIAA board meetings, McNaught and many Clark County principals voiced concerns about granting a three-year extension to Jackson's contract. They felt that Jackson and the NIAA are not treating the school district fairly and not listening to their concerns.

During his tenure, Jackson prioritized the professional development of Nevada's athletic administrators, and the NIAA achieved large increases in coaches' education and educational programs.

He was key in launching the inaugural Nevada Athletics Summer Institute, a statewide professional learning event providing free training to hundreds of administrators. To further support school staff, Jackson developed a comprehensive digital NIAA Video Library, offering on-demand guidance on eligibility, scheduling, and compliance.

Jackson was a steadfast advocate for the Association at the state level. He worked closely with the Nevada Legislature to navigate the complexities of Assembly Bill 184, ensuring that transfer regulations remained equitable and transparent.

He was instrumental in securing a formal Legislative Liaison position on the Board of Control to foster direct communication with lawmakers.

Jackson's term saw the historic sanctioning and implementation of Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse and girls wrestling as a standalone state championship sport.

Furthermore, Jackson oversaw the modernization of the association's internal policies, including the first major update to the NIAA Policy Manual in over a decade and the transition to cost-saving digital activity cards.

"The Board of Control thanks Mr. Jackson for his dedicated service and his commitment to the students of Nevada," said Pamela Sloan, President of the NIAA Board of Control.

The NIAA Board of Control will meet in the coming weeks to discuss the transition plan and the search for a new executive director. Bartt Davis, an assistant director with the NIAA could not confirm if a new executive director would be in place for the 2026-27 school, saying that will be determined by the NIAA Board of Control.

Davis also did not comment when asked if this decision will affect the independent status of the Clark County schools. He added that is a board decision as well.

Mining Night crowd shares Greater Nevada Field with Charlie Brown giveaway

By Robert Perea

Heavy machinery and Charlie Brown bobbleheads shared the spotlight at Greater Nevada Field on June 27 as the Reno Aces hosted Mining Night and Peanuts Night and defeated the Oklahoma City Comets 9-4.

On the field, the Aces built an early lead entirely through two-out rallies. Five consecutive batters reached base during a four-run rally in the first inning after the first two batters were retired. In the bottom of the third, Christian Cerda hit his second double of the game to drive in two more runs, stretching the Aces' lead to 7-2.

The stands filled quickly as more than 1,000 Nevada miners, their families and other fans took advantage of discounted tickets to witness the collision of industrial grit and classic comic-strip nostalgia. Mining Night is an annual celebration of the industry's role in Northern Nevada. The event was sponsored by the Nevada Mining Association.

The evening highlighted the state's mining workforce and included several features on and off the field. Evette Nevarez, winner of the Nevada Mining Association's America 250 Art Contest, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Empire Cat displayed equipment outside the stadium, and a personal protective equipment race underscored the importance of safety in mining.

Angelique Martinez of the Nevada Mining Association won the balloon pop contest, while interactive booths from KGHM and AngloGold Ashanti Nevada Projects offered demonstrations showing how mining supports everyday life.

The Aces offered discounted tickets for the event, which has become one of the team's larger themed nights of the season.



NVMA staff, from Left to Right: Drew McGregor, Nikki Bailey-Lundahl, Daisia Shedd, Angelique Martinez, Becky Hall, and Amanda Hilton



The America 250 art contest winner, Evette Nevarez (center) with her mother, Adrianna Nevarez on the left & Becky Hall from the NVMA on the right -- photo courtesy Nevada Mining Association

STAY CONNECTED WITH RURAL NEVADA

THE FALLON POST

the Fernley reporter
FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

The Humboldt Sun

Lovelock Review-Miner

The Battle Mountain Bugle

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Mountain West launches new MW+ streaming platform

Staff Report

Nevada Wolf Pack fans will have a new way to watch games this season after the Mountain West Conference announced the launch of MW+, a new subscription streaming platform.

MW+ will carry all Nevada home events that are not selected for television, including conference and nonconference games, along with Mountain West championship events.

More than 1,000 live events from across the conference are expected to be available each year.

The service will cost $79.99 annually or $10.99 per month. Fans who purchase an annual subscription in July, August or September can receive a discounted rate of $67.99.

A majority of the money from subscriptions purchased through Nevada's dedicated MW+ page will go directly to Wolf Pack athletics.

Fans who subscribe through the Mountain West website or the MW+ app will need to select Nevada during registration to make sure their subscription supports the Wolf Pack.

Nevada football will have two games shown exclusively on MW+ this fall. The Wolf Pack will host San José State on Oct. 24 and Northern Illinois on Nov. 14.

The platform will also carry Nevada women's soccer and volleyball games, although the full nonconference home schedules have not yet been announced. Both teams are scheduled to begin Mountain West play Sept. 24.

In addition to live games, subscribers will have access to replays, press conferences, coaches shows, highlights, conference football and basketball media days and original features on Nevada athletes and programs.

Nevada Athletics Director Stephanie Rempe said the platform will give fans more access to Wolf Pack teams and student-athletes.

"Wolf Pack Athletics is embarking on an exciting next chapter with the Mountain West, and MW+ will be a transformative platform for connecting our fans more deeply with our programs," Rempe said.

Nevada has also built a new central control room inside Lawlor Events Center to prepare for the increased number of broadcasts.

The upgraded facility includes new instant replay equipment, graphics systems and a production switcher used to change camera angles and add effects during broadcasts.

The control room will also create more opportunities for University of Nevada students and student-athletes interested in broadcasting and production.

MW+ will be available through web browsers, iPhone and Android devices, Apple TV.