

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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City Council votes to censure Lau

By Robert Perea

The Fernley City Council voted Sept. 17 to censure Councilman Stan Lau and remove him from his committee assignments representing the city.

The action came after contentious debate among the council about Lau's conduct in two separate budget meetings last April and May and his arrest on Aug. 18, as well as whether the council should even be discussing those matters while investigations are still pending.

Ultimately, the council voted 3-1-1 to censure, with Lau abstaining and Councilman Ryan Hanan opposed. Deputy City Attorney Brandi Jensen defined a censure as the equivalent of a public, verbal or a written reprimand that is a public record from that point forward.

The item was requested by Councilman Joe Mendoza, who opened the discussion by reading a statement apologizing to the community for the lack of a response by the city and its leadership regarding the recent arrest and outbursts during council meetings by Lau. Mendoza said he requested in an email to the city attorney for guidance on how the city could address the matter and said he considered what he received to be a hastily prepared and incomplete legal brief.

"To date, no further response has been provided to my inquiry, and our mayor has also failed to address this issue publicly," Mendoza said. "In my

opinion, the outbursts and the serious allegations concerning Councilman Lau are wholly unacceptable for anyone entrusted with public office."

Mendoza then asked Lau if he was willing to take responsibility for his actions and resign from his position, to which Lau said no.

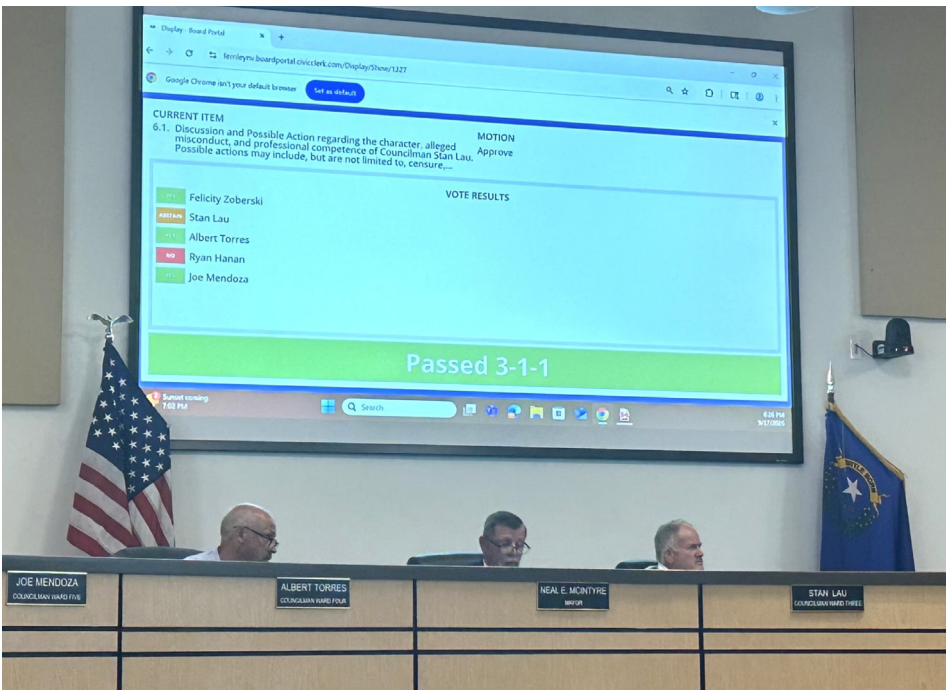
Mendoza said the Lau's actions do not represent or reflect the standards or values of the community.

"Our community deserves leaders who act with integrity today and not excuses about yesterday," he said.

Mendoza referenced the lessons he learned from his own arrest when he was 19 years old. "Speaking as someone who has made mistakes in the past, I understand the importance of accountability, growth and change," he said. "I can only hope Councilman Lau recognizes his own need to take responsibility and seek the help he needs."

Hanan had requested an item to discuss Mendoza's character, alleged misconduct and professional competence. He said he requested the item on the agenda and reached out to Mendoza offering to pull the item from the agenda if Mendoza would be willing to have a conversation about Mendoza's agenda item about Lau.

When Hanan began speaking about that item, Mendoza asked that the discussion about him be held under the other agenda item. When McIntyre asked for clarification, Jensen said it was up to the mayor whether the two items would be discussed separately



Mayor Neal McIntyre and City Councilmen Albert Torres (left) and Stan Lau (right) stand by as the outcome of the vote on a motion to censure Lau is displayed during the Sept. 17 council meeting. Photo by Robert Perea

or together. McIntyre said he would prefer to keep them separate.

Hanan made an impassioned plea for the council to wait on taking any action against Lau until his court case and the investigations into his conduct during those April and May meetings were completed.

"Councilman Lau has the right to due process," Hanan said. "Due process is that we don't take action arbitrarily because we heard rumors. Our Constitution and the laws of the land and due

process dictate that you're innocent until you are proven guilty. I've asked some of the folks up here to wait and let that process transpire."

Hanan then said Lau's arrest should not be part of the discussion since there has been no evidence presented.

Councilman Albert Torres said his understanding was that because due process has not been completed on Lau's battery charge, the agenda item

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Lyon County schools show gains in state star ratings

By Rachel Dahl

Sixteen of the 20 schools in the Lyon County School District (LCSD) maintained or improved their standing in Nevada's latest school star ratings, with several campuses posting double-digit growth and one school exiting federal improvement status.

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) released its 2024-25 Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF) results on Sept. 15. The system rates schools on a one- to five-star scale, based on academic achievement, student growth, attendance, and graduation rates.

In Fernley, Fernley Elementary School improved from one star to two stars, while Fernley Intermediate dropped from two stars to one. Silverland Middle School held at one star, and Fernley High School dropped from

three stars to two.

Elsewhere in Lyon County, Riverview Elementary, Cottonwood Elementary, Silver Stage Elementary, and Yerington Elementary all made gains, each climbing a star level compared to last year. Dayton Intermediate School marked a milestone by exiting Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) status after three years of focused work.

LCSD consists of 18 schools, but although Smith Valley is a K-12 school, it is graded separately for elementary, middle and high school.

"We are proud of the progress we've made, but even more excited about where we are going," said LCSD Superintendent Tim Logan. "These results reflect the hard work and resilience of our students and staff, and we are committed to providing every child with the tools and opportunities they

need to thrive."

According to the district, the improvements come after concentrated efforts in professional learning communities, literacy training, and data-driven curriculum planning across K-8 schools. At the high school level, the district is focusing on boosting performance on MAP and ACT assessments, increasing graduation rates, and expanding career readiness through programs such as WorkKeys.

Under the NSPF, schools earn points across multiple categories: proficiency and growth on English Language Arts and math assessments, science scores, graduation rates, chronic absenteeism, and school climate measures. Those points are combined into an index score of 1-100, which translates into a star rating. Schools with insufficient data or fewer than 10 students in a tested group may

be marked "Not Rated."

The system is designed to provide families, educators, and communities with a clear picture of how schools are performing. Improved ratings reflect gains in classroom learning, especially in statewide assessments.

For the third year in a row, Nevada students at every grade level improved in mathematics proficiency, according to NDE. All grade levels also improved in English Language Arts, with achievement gains across every student subgroup.

"We always have more work to do, but the widespread gains in achievement seen this year are rare and a clear indicator of progress," said Interim State Superintendent Dr. Steve Canavero.

Statewide, the share of five-star

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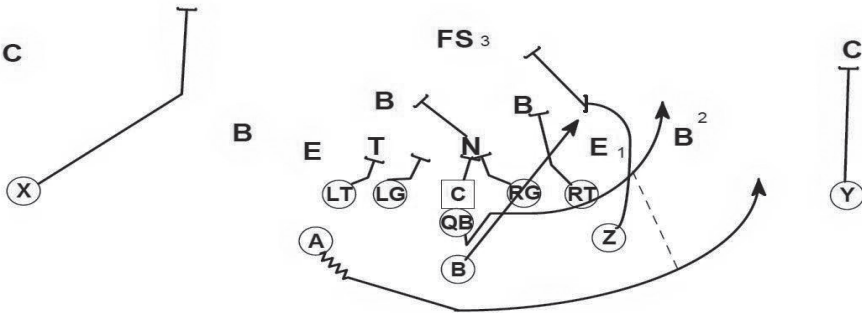
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



The sound of silence

I've always believed that the age old saying "Silence speaks louder than words" doesn't quite get it right. It comes right to the cusp of what we mean when we say it, but it doesn't quite get there.

It's like a song that's missing its final note.

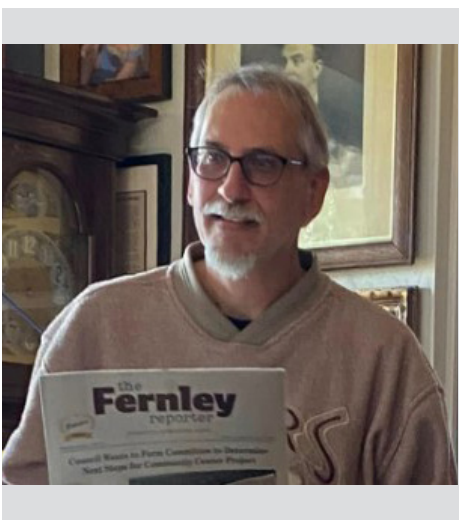
Sometimes silence is a hollow form of avoidance, but sometimes it's just a hum of restraint. But no matter the intent, what silence does is leave room for other noise to rush in and define the space.

That is what the silence by city of Fernley officials did in the wake of City Councilman Stan Lau's arrest last month and two previous incidents when he yelled at other councilmembers during budget hearings in April and May.

The public reaction to the first two incidents was only akin to a murmur from an audience, that murmur became a clamor after Lau was arrested on Aug. 18. Then the City's continued silence acted less like a shield and more like an amplifier. The lack of a response from the city didn't dampen the noise, it gave it room to echo.

It's entirely possible that a statement by the city would have done nothing to lessen the noise, but it might have at least changed the narrative.

There's a reason that when government jurisdictions or major corporations issue a statement after an arrest or a controversial act by an elected



ROBERT PEREA

official or high-ranking official, they usually say nothing more than that they are aware of the incident and will await the outcome before taking any action.

Those statements may say nothing, but they say it strategically. Of course, the public often sees through the vagueness. But the point isn't to satisfy curiosity or bloodlust, it's to maintain the appearance of procedural fairness. Especially in today's society, silence does just the opposite.

And that's the paradox at the heart of modern public communication. Silence doesn't sooth, it agitates. It doesn't preserve trust, it erodes it. When local leaders choose not to speak, they don't just leave questions unanswered, they leave narratives unchallenged.

In that vacuum, speculation runs rampant, frustration becomes fury and the public's appetite for accountability grows louder. And when the stakes involve elected officials and public trust, silence can speak volumes in all the wrong ways.

That's why the old saying "Silence speaks louder than words" still falls short. Because silence doesn't speak louder, it allows other voices to speak for you.

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.

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FEATURES

Mobile infantry battalion coming to Nevada
Transition means 300 more positions for state



Brig. Gen. Randy Lau, right front, Nevada land component commander, and Brig. Gen. James Packwood, left front, Idaho assistant adjutant general, Army, shake hands at the Office of the Adjutant General complex in Carson City with other members of Nevada and Idaho Army Guard leadership during a planning meeting on Aug. 27. National Guard Photo

By Capt. Emerson Marcus

The infantry is coming to Nevada. The Nevada Army National Guard has been selected as the U.S. Army’s next mobile infantry battalion, Brig. Gen. Randy Lau, Nevada Army National Guard land component commander, announced today. “This selection reflects our organization’s proven excellence in manning, versatility and combat readiness – significantly expanding our capabilities and reinforcing our strategic role in national defense,” Lau said. Under the Army Transformation Initiative, the Department of Defense seeks to reduce its Armored Brigade Combat Teams (ABCT) to 13 in total; from five to two in the National Guard. Among the brigades in the transition are the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team in Idaho with its downtrace units in Montana, Oregon, and Nevada. The 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry, of Las Vegas, represents Nevada’s soldiers in the brigade. “This means we are looking at gain-

ing a battalion along with one combat logistics company,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Bouse, Nevada Army National Guard force integration and readiness officer (FIRO). “It keeps Nevada relevant and in the forefront of largescale combat operations (LSCO), specifically for operations in the U.S. Indo-Pacific area of responsibility.” To do this, Nevada’s armored cavalry squadron will replace its tanks with infantry squad vehicles or ISVs and various other equipment for mobile infantry use. These agile vehicles are transportable by CH-47 Chinook designed to enhance mobility in infantry units. The nine-passenger ISV is based on the Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 platform under a GM contract. The transition could expand the Nevada Army National Guard with an additional 300 manning positions, Bouse said. This will likely not change the unit’s structure given the decision was largely made to include the recruiting pool available in Las Vegas with head-

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U.S. Economic Development Administration tour city
water, sewer facilities in need of upgrades

By Robert Perea

Faced with the need for tens of millions of dollars of upgrades to its wastewater and water treatment plants to accommodate future growth, the city of Fernley recently hosted representatives of the U.S. Economic Development Administration for a tour of the facilities. The visit was organized by the Western Nevada Development District, which presented the results of an analysis of the city’s sewer treatment facilities at the Aug. 20 City Council meeting. At that meeting, WNDD Executive

Director Christine Brandon outlined the upgrades and improvements needed to meet Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) requirements to reduce nitrogen levels. The city’s wastewater treatment plan treats about 1.5 million gallons of sewage a day and is capable of treating 3 million gallons a day, although Brandon said it can’t manage that much because of sand and nitrate issues. The upgrades and improvements needed, which are planned in two phases, would support a city population of about 65,000 residents when

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Fernley Utility Director Seong Kim and City Councilman Albert Torres discuss the city’s sewer system during a recent visit by representatives of the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Photo Courtesy of City of Fernley

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bestselling author to speak on career pathways at FHS

Staff Report

The Lyon County School District will host best-selling author Mark Perna for a presentation intended to guide students in their education and career journey.

The presentation is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 23 at Fernley High School. All parents and community members are invited to attend the free event.

Perna is an acclaimed speaker, author and CEO. He is the founder of Education with Purpose and Employment with Passion, to connect the pipelines between education, employment and economic development. His book,

“Answering Why: Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations” is a bestseller that has won eight national awards, including the Nautilus Book Award.

He is also a weekly contributor at Forbes.com, where he has written more than 300 articles, and is a frequent podcast, radio and TV guest.

In his presentation in Fernley, Perna will speak on how to spark meaningful conversations about your child’s life and career goals; help the build a personal competitive advantage that sets them up for success and inspire the next generation to think constructively about their future and take action with purpose.

Boys & Girls Club to honor members of the year at awards banquet Oct. 2

Staff Report

The Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Serving Fernley will honor its members of the year at its Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, Oct. 2 at the Community Response and Resource Center. The Club will also honor a community leader with its Distinguished Service Award and present its Volunteer of the Year Award.

The highlight of the banquet is the

presentations of the Youth of the Year Award. The Youth of the Year award is the Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s signature effort to foster a new generation of leaders, fully prepared to live and lead in a diverse, global and integrated world economy. It is the highest honor a Boys & Girls Club youth can achieve.

The event begins with cocktails at 5 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards presentations at 6 p.m.

City looking for sponsors and volunteers for Spooktacular

Staff Report

With Halloween season fast approaching, the City of Fernley is looking for sponsors and volunteers for its annual Safe Trick or Treating Spooktacular.

This year’s Spooktacular is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 31 from 4-7 p.m. at City Hall.

Businesses, organizations and individuals can participate through monetary donations to purchase candy and small novelties to be passed out to children, donations of Halloween candy or novelties, volunteering to pass

out candy to trick-or-treaters during the event or decorating City Hall or help decorate the hallway haunted house.

Names and business logos for sponsors and volunteers will be placed on all advertising material and banners that publicize Spooktacular, and volunteers can include advertisements for their businesses on their table to hand out candy.

For more information or to sign up, contact Jessica Murdock with the city manager’s office at (775) 784-9850 or email jmurdock@cityoffernley.org.

Gift of Grace hosting Fall Yard Sale

Staff Report

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting its Fall Yard Sale and Bake Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 4 at 190 S. West Street.

Some of the items for sale are children’s clothing, toys (My Little Pony, Barbie and more), books, small household appliances, dishes, puzzles and games, housewares, bedding, towels and linens, furniture and much more.

Vitalant will also be on site with their donation van conducting a blood drive.

Continued from page 3 - INFANTRY...

quarters at the Clark County Armory in North Las Vegas. It also provides more opportunities for training, which were restricted with armored cavalry.

The Nevada Army Guard will be given two years to stand up for the new mission and reclassify many soldiers for infantry operations.

During a meeting with Idaho Army National Guard leadership on Aug. 27, including Brig. Gen. James Packwood, Idaho’s assistant adjutant general, Army, both Idaho and Nevada mentioned the importance of keeping traditions and heraldry with the unit, including the “Wild Horse” call sign and designation as a cavalry brigade. The goal is to keep those traditions as both

states continue working toward the development of this two-state partnership, senior officers from both states said.

Lt. Gen. Jonathan Stubbs, director, Army National Guard, emphasized the importance of LSCOs in his “Minute-man Campaign Plan.”

“We must immediately and decisively train towards that threat,” Stubbs explained in his plan. He described LSCO an “extensive joint combat operations in terms of scope and size of forces committed, conducted as a campaign aimed at achieving operational and strategic objectives.”

During his speech in Reno at the 54th General Conference of the Enlisted Association National Guard of the United States, Command Sgt.

Maj. Christopher Prosser, 1st Army command sergeant major, echoed that sentiment when he said, “this is not about the equipment, it’s not about the platform; it’s about the concept and structure.”

“I want to extend my deepest appreciation to the troopers of the 1-221 Cavalry and our dedicated state staff,” Lau said. “Your tireless coordination, planning, and execution made this possible. This is a major milestone — not just for the unit, but for the entire Nevada Army National Guard.”

Capt. Emerson Marcus is the public affairs officer for the Nevada National Guard.

Continued from page 3 - WATER...

completed, but would cost between \$22.7 million and \$38.3 million.

In addition, upgrades to the water treatment plant to accommodate future growth and the introduction of surface water from the Truckee Canal are estimated to be about \$27 million.

At that Aug. 20 meeting, Brandon said her organization would look to the Economic Development Administration to help with funding for the wastewater treatment plant upgrades. She said federal assistance may be available through the Environmental Protection Agency because it’s the EPA’s regulations and mandates that require compliance with federal drinking water standards.

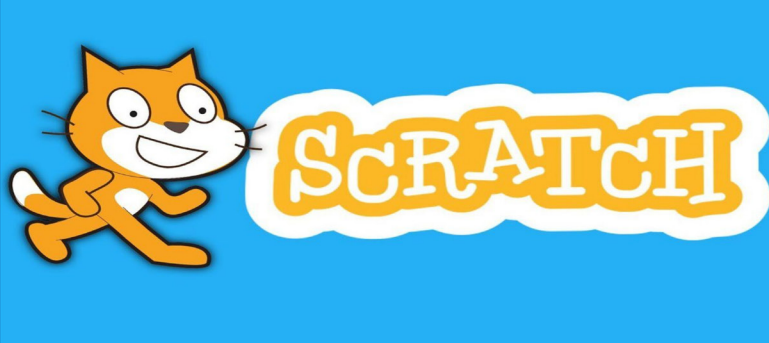
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COMMUNITY

Homecoming
King and Queen 2025



Xavier Phillips and Sophie Workman were voted this year’s Fernley High School Homecoming Queen and King. In addition to their Homecoming activities throughout the week, students and staff raised \$1,500 for the Fern 45. Photos by Leanne Cruz, Cruz Down Memory Lane Photography, LLC

Continued from front - STAR RATINGS.....

schools jumped to 17 percent, up from 11.2 percent last year. Four-star schools rose to 13.5 percent. At the other end of the spectrum, the number of one-star schools dropped sharply, from 27.1 percent in 2023–24 to 16.3 percent this year.

The Clark County School District gained 20 additional five-star campuses, while Washoe County added seven. The State Public Charter School Authority saw its number of five-star schools increase by 21.

Canavero credited “the hard work and dedication of our educators, administrators, staff, students, and families,” along with historic state investments in education and initiatives such as early literacy programs.

Due to a cybersecurity incident affecting state systems, NDE has not yet released the full set of test score reports on the Nevada Report Card website but expects to publish them later this year.



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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
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BUSINESS

New business licenses

The Fernley City Council approved the following new business licenses at its Sept. 17 meeting:

- Sater Electric, LLC, Sparks, Electrical/Solar contractor
- CFT NV Developments, LLC, Fernley Commercial property rentals
- Teklus Construction LLC, Reno, General contractor
- Kinfolk LLC, Fernley, Cleaning services
- Sierra Summit Solutions LLC, Fernley, Construction consulting services
- Bruno's Plumbing LLC, Dayton, Plumbing contractor
- American Steel Company, LLC, Sparks, Steel structure contractor
- Ted Bellard, Fernley, Commercial property rentals
- L & D Pilot Service LLC, Fernley, Oversize load escort services
- Aqua Guard LLC , Fernley, Pool services
- Higher Frequency Healing LLC, Fernley, Breathwork/crystals/Reiki
- JDSLE Inc. Benjamin Waxma, Miami FL, Software company
- United Rentals (North America), Inc., Stamford CT, Equipment Rentals
- Del Barrio Sabores Mexicanos, Fernley, Mobile food vendor
- Luther Towing - Las Vegas, LLC, Reno, Towing services
- New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC AT&T Mobility, Fernley, Telecommunication sales
- Innovative Communications Systems, Reno, Electrical contractor
- Sierra Coast Roofing & Siding LLC, Reno, Roofing contractor

Continued from front - CENSURE.....

was based on Lau's violent outbursts during the April and May budget hearings.

"Both of those events happened during a public council meeting with all the departments here as witnesses," Torres said, adding that there was audio and video recordings of the incidents. "However, with those recordings being part of public record, I believe that we can make a decision on those two items and totally not involved anything happening with the councilman and the gentleman from the public."

Rebecca Bruch, the attorney from Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool and the Public Agency Compensation Trust (POOL/PACT), initially said the investigations into complaints about Lau's outbursts in the April and May meetings were not complete and should not be discussed. When she later questioned whether Lau had been properly noticed about a discussion about that, Jensen read the notice, including the list of topics that were provided to Lau which specifically mentioned the City Council budget meeting on April 3, 2025.

"Okay, so there is at least a mention there that this discussion also could include the conduct at those meetings," Bruch said.

Hanan then continued his pleas to the council to hold off on taking any action until a future meeting and disagreed with Torres' description of those outbursts as violent.

"I'm not defending his actions, I'm defending his rights," Hanan said. "I would be cautioned to use the word violent when you yell out something."

"You would caution me that telling me to go outside and go to the parking lot is not violent? What would that be called?" Torres asked. "That is, by definition, a violent act towards another person in the performance of their duty as a public official."

Torres said the city has a statutory duty to protect its employees, which includes council and its citizens, from violent acts in the workplace.

"And they have not done that," he said.

Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski said the city not issuing a statement about Lau's actions made it seem like they were being swept under the rug.

"I just feel like a lot of this, and especially this battle, could have been avoided with a statement from our mayor that said we're aware that this has happened," she said. "Not saying anything says a lot."

McIntyre responded that he didn't make a statement because of the investigations.

Bruch reiterated that those investigations have not been completed, and no conclusions have been reached.

"Those investigations were put in place based on allegations that were reported to your insurance company by members, and I stepped into help respond properly," she said.

Hanan argued that not making a statement at the time the incidents happened was one reason the item was contentious now.

"When somebody up here does something that is nonprofessional or inappropriate, it is incumbent upon the city to address that at that time, not store three or four things," he said.

After all the councilmember's comments, Mendoza asked Lau for a second time to resign voluntarily before he made a motion. When Lau declined again, Mendoza read a resolution censuring Lau for conduct unbecoming of a Councilmember; removing him from all committee assignments; and directing him to refrain from any behavior that misrepresents, discredits or otherwise harms the City of Fernley, its residents or the integrity of the council.

Following the vote, Mendoza asked whether Hanan also should have recused himself from voting, or whether there is a conflict of interest or ethical violation because he posted bail in the amount of \$2,240 on behalf of Lau.

Bruch said that would be a determination made by the state Ethics Commission if a complaint was brought against Hanan.

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REGIONAL NEWS

Lyon County deputies thwart possible ambush in Smith Valley

By Robert Perea

Lyon County Sheriff’s deputies responding to a report of a broken down vehicle in the Desert Creek area of Smith Valley ended up thwarting what might have been an ambush attempt. Sheriff Brad Pope said during the

Sept. 21 Lyon County Commission meeting that on Sept. 20, deputies responded to a report of a broken down vehicle near Sweetwater Summit that had a sign saying, “Please call the police.” When the deputies got out of their vehicles, a man emerged from the tree

line with his hands up. Mono County, Calif. deputies responded to help with the call. Pope said the deputies searching the area found what appeared to be what he called a “shooter’s hide” approximately 80 yards or less from the highway. They also found a loaded shotgun and additional

ammunition and other items on the ground, leading the deputies to suspect the call was a possible ambush attempt. Pope said the man was placed under arrest and taken to a mental health facility. “It was something that could have went really wrong,” Pope said.

Commissioners vote to name Dayton government complex after Charlie Kirk

By Robert Perea

For several months, the Lyon County Commission has been seeking recommendations for a name for the new Dayton Government Complex. At their Sept. 18 meeting, the Commission voted to name the building for Charlie Kirk.

The building will be the future site of the Dayton Justice Court, District Attorney’s Dayton Office, Human Services Dayton Office, and Sheriff’s Office Dayton Substation. The building permit application for the facility has been submitted to the Community Development Department as well as Central Lyon County Fire Protection District.

A date for the groundbreaking of the facility has not yet been announced. On July 3, the commission approved a contract with Core Construction to serve as the construction manager-at risk for the project.

At the direction of the County Commission earlier this summer, County Manager Andrew Haskin sent an item to the Dayton, Silver City and Mound House Community Advisory Boards seeking recommendations for a name for the building.

Haskin said the Mound House CAB recommended something general like the Central Lyon County Government Complex. He said the Silver City CAB did not send a letter, but the consensus among those who attended the meeting was also in favor of a general name reflecting Central Lyon County.

The Dayton CAB submitted a letter of recommending it be named the “Walmsley Government Complex,” in honor of a prominent Dayton family.

Ray and May Walmsley were among the founders of the Dayton Museum and May Walmsley was from a pioneer Dayton family.

“My recommendation would be to go with Lyon County Dayton Government Complex,” Haskin said. “It describes what it is, it makes the focus on Lyon County and if the board chooses at a later date to assign a different name, then that leaves the door open.”

Commissioner Tammy Hendrix said in light of recent events, she would like to move to name it the “Charles J. Kirk Government Complex.” Chairman Scott Keller seconded the motion to allow for further comment.

Haskin read the guidelines in Lyon County Resolution 22-02 that describes the county policy to name facilities, parks, cemeteries open space and drainages based on neighborhood or geographical identification; a natural or geological feature; historical or cultural significance; a historical figure or individual (living or deceased) who has made significant land, monetary or civic contribution to the facilities, parks, cemeteries, open pace and drainages; gave their life while serving the United States of America in military service; gave their life while serving Lyon County as an employee or volunteer; or as required by purchase agreement or grant agreement.

Charlie Kirk was an American right-wing political activist, entrepreneur, and media personality who was a prominent voice in contemporary conservatism. He was shot to death while speaking at Utah Valley University on Sept. 10.

“If board chooses to move in that direction, I think we would proba-

bly need to change that policy first,” Haskin said.

Keller disagreed that the name would require a policy change.

“I think I can make a reasonable judgment that there is an impact from him in Lyon County, so I don’t think we’d have to change anything on that,” he said.

Keller then opened the discussion for public comment. Six speakers spoke in favor of naming the building

for Charlie Kirk, one proposed either the name Sutro, saying the building will be built near the Sutro Tunnel, or the Lyon County Government Complex. One speaker suggested naming it after former Lyon County Sheriff Sid Smith.

Keller then called for the vote on Hendrix’s motion, which was approved 5-0.

Peterson resigns from school board

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County School District Board of Trustees were scheduled to begin the process on Tuesday to fill a vacancy on the board following the resignation to District 6 Trustee Bridget Peterson.

Peterson resigned from the board effective Sept. 1. She did not respond to requests seeking comment and the district’s communication’s director said the district was unable to provide Peterson’s resignation letter. The Board memo for the Sept. 23 meeting said Peterson provided a resignation notice effective Sept. 1, but there was not a copy of that notice included in the agenda packet.

Peterson has served on the board for 11 years. She was appointed to the board in March of 2014 after the resignation of Theo McCormick, then she was re-elected in 2014, 2018 and 2022.

School board policies and Nevada

Revised Statutes allow the remaining trustees to appoint another person who lives in District 6 to fill the vacancy until the next election.



Lyon County School Board Trustee Bridget Peterson resigned effective Sept. 1. Photo courtesy of Lyon County

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council proposes ordinance to allow delivery of alcoholic beverages

By Kerry Lyman

The Fernley City Council will hold a public hearing next Wednesday to consider allowing Fernley restaurants with a liquor license to perform home delivery or take out of alcoholic beverages.

The proposed ordinance, which was received favorably by the council at the ordinance’s first reading last Wednesday, was prompted by the recent passage of Assembly Bill 375, which allows cities to authorize the sale of sealed alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption.

To take advantage of the proposed “cocktails to go” legislation, a Fernley business would need to hold a current

full bar liquor license or a beer and wine license. The city of Fernley currently has 22 food establishments that would qualify for this new provision, and it would provide a new revenue stream for those establishments, according to City Clerk Kim Swanson.

Restrictions on the sale of alcoholic beverages “to go” require the drink be placed in a container with a secure cap that provides a visible seal that if the the drink has been opened or tampered with, and, if the container has an opening for a straw or anything else, it also must be have a tamper resistant seal.

In addition, seals must be applied using materials like tape or glue. To-go cocktails are strictly intended for

home consumption. An open liquor container in a vehicle remains illegal, the staff report said.

“At this time, staff is recommending that alcoholic beverages only be delivered to a residential address, hotel rooms or mobile home or trailer parks. Staff is not recommending restricting delivery hours or number of drinks per delivery at this time,” according to the staff report.

Mayor Neal McIntyre asked what would be considered a sealed container. Swanson said it would be anything a delivery driver would not be able to open without damaging the seal.

The staff report on this item also noted that Uber, Door Dash and other third party delivery companies

require drivers who want to deliver alcohol to undergo rigorous training. As an example, the report noted drivers must verify the person accepting the delivery is the same person that ordered the alcohol, that they are at least 21 years of age and are not visibly intoxicated.

The delivery driver must also maintain detailed logs with order and delivery information, including time stamps and verification of the person’s age, the report said.

The legislation would also impose a surcharge of 50 cents per drink to help meet state DUI reduction goals by funding an expanded Ignition Interlock & DUI Reduction Program.

Fernley tightens screening, trash rules for new commercial development

By Kerry Lyman

Commercial development in Fernley will face more specific screening requirements for mechanical and electrical equipment, as well as new trash enclosure requirements, due to changes to the city’s development code adopted unanimously by the city council after a public hearing at its Sept. 17 meeting.

Former screening requirements for transformers, electrical and gas meters, air conditioning units and similar equipment indicated such items “shall be screened or located out of view from public roads, driveways and common public areas such as exterior entrances.”

In the new requirements, all the “out of view” text has been removed and now requires such ground-mounted equipment to be screened or “incorporated into the structure of the building,” with any screening required to be at least “one foot taller than the height of the electrical and mechanical equipment.”

New text also requires that any screening “shall meet manufacturer specifications to allow for proper air flow,” and slotted chain link fencing would only be allowed for screening in industrial zones. “Duct work” has also been added as an item that needs to be screened.

Old rooftop-mounted screening requirements indicated such equipment should be screened by a parapet compatible with the building’s architecture. New requirements would require the parapet to be compatible with the building’s architecture “and materials,”

and would prohibit chain link fencing to be used as a parapet.

Rooftop-mounted antennas or satellite dishes on commercial development must also be screened, said Assistant Planner Lisa Warner.

Former trash enclosure requirements said trash enclosure gates “shall be constructed of durable material that screens the trash enclosure.” The new rules would require trash enclosure gates to be “steel or other metal material,” while restricting chain link gates to industrial zones only.

Newly adopted trash enclosure requirements also include a concrete floor with a service apron that extends five feet beyond the gate, and require trash enclosures for restaurants to include a spill containment system to ensure that liquids remain in the enclosure.

Trash enclosure walls must also be opaque and must extend at least one foot taller than the trash bin(s) contained in the enclosure. The new trash screening requirements apply to all new industrial and commercial uses, as well as all new multi-family residential units with four or more units, according to a staff report on the item.

Warner said the new screening and trash enclosure requirements would only apply to new commercial development or an existing commercial use that wants to make significant changes.

City staff noted the changes were needed to the development code because old screening and trash enclosure requirements were “too vague and unclear.”

City Council adopts stricter rules for home-based businesses

By Kerry Lyman

Having received no opposition, the Fernley City Council voted unanimously at the Sept. 17 meeting to adopt proposed changes to the municipal code that clarify current regulations for home occupations in residential zones.

Existing home occupations with a city business license will not be required to comply with the new regulations. The new rules will only apply to new home occupations seeking a new business license, said Fernley Senior Planner Alisa Johansson.

While a city business license has always been required for home occupations, new application requirements have now been imposed.

Those new license requirements require the applicant to provide “a clear description of the proposed home occupation, including the days and hours of operation, a description of the services offered or goods sold or manufactured, whether the business is in-home or mobile, and, if requested, a utility plan, waste disposal plan or other supporting information as may be determined by the administrator.”

New limits on floor space in the code require home occupations to occupy no more than 25 percent of the floor area on the site, or 300 square feet, whichever is less. The new floor area limit also allows home occupations to be conducted in an accessory building as long as the total floor area limit is not exceeded.

No employees will be allowed except occupants of the home and no more than one vehicle and trailer associated with the home occupation are allowed on site, with the trailer not to exceed 25 feet in length. Such vehicles may not be parked on the street and no vehicle with a gross unladen weight of more than 10,000 pounds is allowed.

In addition, truck tractors will be required to be parked off-site in a location approved for freight or trucking uses, according to the new regulations.

Additional text to protect nearby residences has been added, noting that the previously allowed limit of up to five client visits and service deliveries to a home business a day “shall not result in adverse impacts to neighboring properties, including, but not limited to, blocked access or excessive noise.”

Exempted from the new home occupation rules are telecommuting, which is restricted to only the home’s residents, and educational activities including, but not limited to, music lessons, academic tutoring or religious instruction, provided no more than two students are present at one time.

Responding to a question from Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski, Johansson said in-home childcare would be allowed under the new regulations, and that new regulations for in-home childcare are now being drafted by city staff.

The new home occupation regulations also prohibit some home businesses, such as adult businesses; animal services (except dog grooming, mobile grooming or other off-site services); auto and truck repair (except for mobile repair services); any medical service uses that require client visits to the home; cosmetology services; and massage services (except call-out services).

Changes to the home occupation requirements were necessary “to ensure that the home occupation accessory use remains subordinate and incidental to the primary residential use” and “to enhance the compatibility of home occupations with their residential surroundings, reduce conflicts, streamline enforcement and simplify licensing,” according to a staff report on the item.

Council approves contract for South Area Plan

By Kerry Lyman

To advance planning for the city’s future growth, the Fernley City Council hired the Kimley-Horn consulting group last Wednesday to prepare a South Area Plan for the future development of roughly 10,000 acres of land south of the Truckee Canal and east of U.S. 95A.

Kimley-Horn is the same consultant that drew up the city’s North Area Plan, 5,400 acres generally north of I-80, and the Southwest Area Plan, 11,800 acres south of the Truckee Canal and west of U.S. 95A, both of which were adopted by the council earlier this year.

Acknowledging those plan adoptions, the staff report on the contract award states, “The Comprehensive Master Plan also identifies the need for a South Fernley Area Plan as the final major component of the city’s area planning program.”

“The South Area Plan will guide future land use, housing, transportation, utility and community service decisions in one of Fernley’s last major growth areas,” the report said.


“With Fernley’s population projected to double over the next 20 years, this plan will be critical for managing demand for housing, supporting economic development, and preserving the rural character along Farm District Road and Desert Shadows Lane,” the report added.

Anticipating all the future stakeholder meetings and planning efforts that go into such an undertaking, the Kimley-Horn proposal sets the fall of next year as the target for adoption of the South Area Plan.

According to the staff report, the \$173,200 contract “covers all tasks required for preparation of the South Area Plan, including data collection, analysis, community engagement, plan drafting, and adoption support. The plan will also provide fiscal impact and water capacity analysis to inform future infrastructure planning and capital investments.”


“Much of the long-term implementation cost is expected to be borne by developers through impact fees, required improvements and partnerships, reducing direct fiscal burden on the city,” the report concluded.

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SPORTS

Defense keys third straight win for Vaqueros

By Robert Perea

A Swiss Army Knife is an engineering wonder, a miniature toolbox all by itself. The iconic tool is as adaptable as it is enduring and has become a globally recognized symbol of everyday utility. Alex Juliot is Fernley’s Swiss Army Knife, the kind of player who seems to fit wherever his team needs him. So much so that his coaches call him “Swiss.”

While he’s a utility player who plays several different positions in baseball, in football he’s a cornerback who always seems to be in the vicinity whenever the Vaqueros make a big play defensively.

Juliot made two of those big plays to help the Vaqueros open a 21-0 lead on their way to a 38-14 win over Spring Creek on Homecoming last Friday night.

It was Fernley’s third consecutive win and improved the Vaqueros’ record to 5-1 overall and 3-1 in the Northern 3A, with a big matchup at Truckee at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Juliot returned an interception 77 yards for Fernley’s first touchdown and recovered a fumble in Fernley territory that ended another Spring Creek scoring chance, accounting for two of the four turnovers forced by the Vaqueros’ defense. Fernley also held a Spring Creek offense that was averaging more than 320 yards per game to just 240.

Meanwhile, Fernley’s offense did what it does best, running for 351 yards on 46 carries. Keeshawn Love led the Vaqueros with 147 yards on 21 carries,

Riley McCullar added 77 yards on eight carries and quarterback Bryce Stephens ran 13 times for 114 yards and completed all three of his passes for 85 yards and two touchdowns.

But before all that, Spring Creek was threatening to take the lead on the game’s opening drive, having marched from its own 20-yard line to the Fernley 27. That’s when, on second down-and-7, Juliot saw Spring Creek receiver Nolan Francis run a curl route in front of him and recognized the pass was coming before it was thrown. He cut in front of Francis, intercepted the pass at the Fernley 23-yard line and took it 77 yards the other way for a touchdown and a 7-0 Fernley lead.

Early in the second quarter, with the Vaqueros up 14-0, Spring Creek quarterback McCoy McArtor again tried to throw a pass to Francis. This time, on third-and-15 from his own 24-yard line, McArtor was forced to scramble away from pressure, and he heaved the ball from his own 20-yard line to Francis at the Fernley 35. Francis caught the ball over the outstretched arms of Brodie Jones, but he dropped it as he was being tackled by Fernley’s Nathan Pritchard.

Juliot, who was covering a different receiver on the opposite side of the field, raced across and arrived just in time to dive on the loose ball at the Fernley 27.

Three plays later, quarterback Bryce Stephens connected with Riley McCullar for a 25-yard touchdown to make it 21-0.

Spring Creek was able to get back



Fernley quarterback Bryce Stephens tries to get away from a Spring Creek tackler during last Friday’s game against the Spartans. Photo by Leanne Cruz, Cruz Down Memory Lane Photography, LLC

within 21-14 with two touchdown passes by McArtor, but after seeing their momentum evaporate, the Vaqueros grabbed it back with an 11-play drive that ate up almost 8 minutes off the clock to start the third quarter. Stephens’ 10-yard touchdown pass to McCullar made it 28-14.

The Vaqueros came up big defensively again to preserve the lead. Spring Creek drove to the Fernley 9-yard line, but on second and goal, McArtor thought he had Francis open on a crossing route at the goal line, but Isaid Solis came from the opposite direction to pick it off.

The Vaqueros then put together another long drive, this time going 71 yards in 13 plays to set up a 46-yard

field goal by Noah Spencer. “I think that was the final gut punch,” Sloan said. “That field goal right there was a big old stamp on that thing.” Now, after trying for five weeks not to think about the looming game against Truckee, the three-time defending league champion, the Vaqueros can turn their full attention to the Wolverines. “I love playing Truckee,” Sloan said. “I’ve been part of that whole history with those guys, and I’ve been part of some really good football teams here that went and did some pretty incredible things. It’s going to be a dogfight, and you know as well as I do, Truckee always gives you one.”

Fernley boys win Elko cross country meet



Joe Perkins and Cael Wilson each won medals at last week’s cross country meet hosted by Elko High School. Perkins finished second and Wilson was fifth. Photo courtesy of Ron Perkins

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School boys cross country team won the Run the Rubies Elko XC Invitational last Friday in Lam-oille Canyon, with Joe Perkins and Cael Wilson earning medals.

The Vaqueros had 46 team points, to beat Elko, which was second with 60, and Grantsville, UT, which was third with 89.

Perkins finished second individually with a time of 14:28.43 on the 4,999-meter course. Wilson came in fifth with a time of 15:24.31. South Tahoe’s Shamus Nealis won the meet with a time of 14:19.60.

Zachary Petersen finished 12th for the Vaqueros with a time of 16:05.82, Dominick Dietrich placed 16th with a time of 16:23.27 and Alex Mergell came in 17th with a time of 16:45.18.

Other Fernley runners were Skyler Ledesma-James with a time of 17:19.33 to place 24th, Daniel Hiles in 59th place with a time of 19:23.96, Addison Davis with a time of 21:56.97 in 79th place and Mason Varner 81st with a time of 22:03.42.

The girls didn’t have a full team with only four runners. The fastest finisher was Regan Scott, who placed 18th with a time of 20:20.87.

Jojo Cardinal finished 44th with a time of 24:46.02, Grace Schmidtlein came in 47th with a time of 25:28.52 and Reann Jones ran 59th in a time of 29:11.64.

This week’s meet is the Truckee Invitational, which will be run Saturday morning at the Ponderosa Golf Course. The meet begins with JV girls at 8:30 a.m., followed by JV boys, varsity girls and varsity boys.

Vaqueros roll Lowry to start league play

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School volleyball team started league play by picking up just where they left off in crossover play against the Northern 3A West. After going 5-0 against West Division opponents, the Vaqueros beat Lowry 25-15, 25-14, 25-18 in their first league match on Sept. 18.

The Vaqueros posted 37 kills by 10 different players with only seven attack errors. Trista Menesini was particularly dominant at the net, with 14 kills and three of Fernley’s five blocks. Lillianna Young added six kills and Grace Chapin had four for the Vaqueros.

Emma Masters made 11 digs from the back row and had seven assists, while Alauna Escartin had 12 assists. Jocelyn Escartin received 11 serves, Menisini handled eight and Tatiana Velazquez received seven.

The Vaqueros are now 17-4 overall and 1-0 in the Northern 3A East. They were scheduled to play at Fallon Wednesday. This weekend they host Elko at 6 p.m. Friday and Spring Creek at noon Saturday.

Soccer teams looking for first league win

Staff Report

The Fernley High School boys soccer team lost to Elko and tied West Wendover in its first two league games of the season last weekend.

The Vaqueros lost 3-1 to Elko on Friday. Leland Ketelaar scored Fernley’s goal. Saturday, the Vaqueros tied West Wendover 1-1. Aiden Mercado scored a

goal for Fernley.

The Vaqueros are now 0-7-3 for the season, and 0-1-1 in the Northern 3A West. They are scheduled to play at Spring Creek at 4:45 p.m. Friday and at Lowry at noon Saturday.

The girls soccer team lost its first league game of the season last Saturday, 2-0 at Lowry.

The Buckaroos scored one goal in

each half as both defenses were strong throughout. Lowry made 12 shots on goal, compared to Fernley’s four, but Lowry goaltender Riley Ball made saves on all four, including a penalty kick.

The Vaqueros are now 4-7 overall, 0-1 in the Northern 3A West. This week, they are scheduled to host Spring Creek at 5 p.m. Friday and Elko at noon Saturday.

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Jill



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