

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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Council debates public safety needs during budget talks

By Robert Perea

A one time \$110,000 donation to the North Lyon County Fire Protection District, included in the City of Fernley's proposed tentative budget, opened the door to a far broader and more urgent discussion during a City Council budget meeting on April 2, as council members and staff debated how the city can legally support public safety services and what long term solutions may be needed as Fernley continues to grow.

Although the donation, intended to fund protective gear and hazmat equipment, was only a single line in the budget, it quickly became the catalyst for a sweeping conversation about state accounting rules, the city's own revenues, the fire district's staffing challenges, and whether the city should pursue a comprehensive study to evaluate future public safety needs.

During public comment before the council discussion, North Lyon Fire Battalion Chief Bill Snyder said the district responded to 331 calls in the past 30 days, including four working structure fires. He warned that Fernley's rapid growth, includ-



A North Lyon County Fire Protection District firefighter sprays water on a fire. The fire district is requesting financial help from the city of Fernley to address public safety. Photo courtesy of North Lyon Firefighters Local 4547

ing thousands of potential new jobs in the Victory Logistics District, is outpacing the district's ability to respond.

"We really need you to have the conversations with us about public safety," Snyder said.

After Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski said she would like the city to include a line item or a separate

fund for public safety in its budget, Finance Director Robert Carson said that because Fernley does not operate police or fire services, state law does not allow the city to classify any spending as a public safety function. He said any contribution to the fire district must be treated as a donation or community support, not an operational line item.

Carson also said that in meetings with Fire Chief Brian Bunn, city officials have stated that they don't have the capacity to fund fire district positions.

"Anything we provide to them is considered a donation, because we're supporting an outside agency that provides a service we don't," he said.

Zoberski said she isn't concerned about what a line item in the budget to fund public safety might be called, as long as the city has one.

"Public safety is not optional," she said. "We're outgrowing our fire department, and they're struggling."

During a report to the fire district's Board of Directors on March 19, North Lyon Fire Battalion Chief Joe Mendoza, who is also the president of North Lyon Firefighters Local 4547 and a City Councilman, made an impassioned plea to the board as he described the strain on the firefighters and the consequences of the district's chronic understaffing. He grew emotional as he recounted a recent fatal fire where the district's initial response consisted of a single firefighter because no one else was

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Council forms working group to evaluate financing for proposed power district

By Kerry Lyman

After a wide-ranging discussion at its April 1 meeting, the Fernley City Council unanimously approved the formation of a four-member working group to evaluate financing options for Mark IV Capital's proposed gas-fired power plant to serve the Victory Logistics industrial area.

Mark IV proposed a three-member working group to determine what it will cost to get the district up and running, what it will cost to operate over time, and how those costs would be paid for, said Bob Sweetin, energy counsel for Mark IV.

"In general terms, the (power) district is self-funded. It's funded by the community inside the district," Mark IV Capital Senior Vice President Rick Nelson.

Mark IV requested the working group be made up of a city representative with some electrical background, who cannot be a council member, an energy representative and a Mark IV representative. Councilman Joe Mendoza suggested adding a fire department representative as well "since it is a major infrastructure upgrade and there are the potential for hazards that need to be discussed with the fire district."

Nelson said Mark IV would be fine with adding a fire district representative to the group. Councilman Albert Torres suggested Barry Williams, the city's public works director, be appointed as the city representative on the board.

By the end of this month, the working group is expected to produce a narrative report that explains its financial

findings, along with a supporting financial document, Sweetin said.

He said Mark IV plans to bring the working group report to the council for the first reading of an ordinance creating the power district on May 6.

"Then, because of the unique nature of forming one of these districts, there's a four-week publishing period for the ordinance," Sweetin said, adding that it is intended that the creation ordinance would be adopted sometime in June.

A separate ordinance to rezone the proposed power plant site from rural to industrial also advanced on April 1 and is scheduled for a second reading later this month.

Sweetin touted the benefits to the city of the power district, saying "because of the particularly large (electrical) loads we are dealing with here, the city has the opportunity through both

building permit fees and franchise fees to bring in revenues that really aren't feasible in any other industry, including gaming," he said.

Sweetin said revenue numbers from similar projects in southern Nevada "dwarf gaming substantially."

Mendoza asked whether the power district would be completely separate and off the NV Energy grid.

Sweetin said it will not be connected to Nevada Power initially, but it will be at some point in the future when all the necessary infrastructure is built out.

Due to extremely high demand for new power, the cost to expand power capabilities and the regulatory environment, "we expect Nevada Energy to eventually be prepared to bring power up, but eventually is five years, eight

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the Fernley reporter

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



President / Editor
Robert Perea
robert@fernleyreporter.com

Publisher
Rachel Dahl
rachel@fallonmediallc.com

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

Ad Design
Christine Bryner
christine@studio509llc.com

Office Manager
Amber Hardin

Logistics Manager
Denice Pinder

Graphic Design
Allyson Ahlert
Allyson@fallonmediallc.com

Contributors

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

Volunteers

Tammy Dittman

Mail

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

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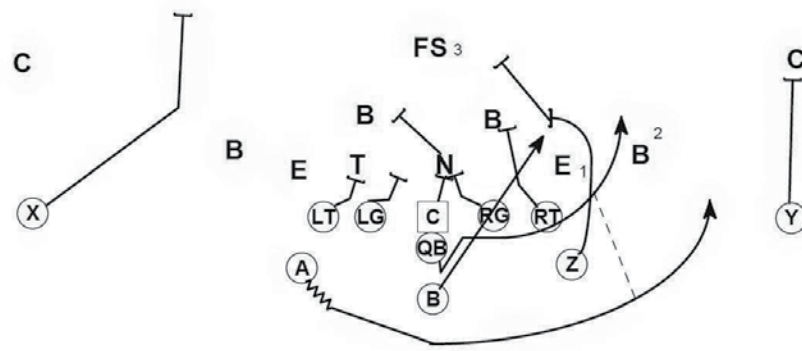
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



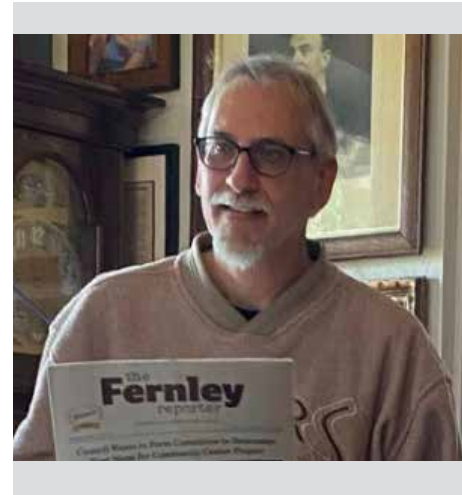
What a difference a year makes

There was a strange quiet in Fernley's budget talks this spring. Not silence, because no city budget discussion is ever silent, but a noticeable absence of the friction that defined last year's process. If you were around for that one, you remember it. The council voted to eliminate the city manager position, the mayor vetoed it, tempers flared, and the whole thing ended with the city manager resigning. That sequence later led to a council member being censured and eventually expelled and a community taking sides in a debate that's still not settled and leaving almost every who witnessed it angry or embarrassed.

That's not to say there is no disagreement this year. There always is, particularly the debate over whether, or how, the city should help the fire department with its shortage of money and firefighters that leaves the city unprotected for several hours every day.

But even that discussion, as serious and emotional as it is, unfolded without the sharp edges and personal tension that defined last spring. The questions were pointed and the concerns are real, but the tone stayed grounded in problem-solving rather than political combat.

I've always believed disagreement is a good thing. Disagreement means people are thinking, not just nodding along. The issue last year wasn't that people disagreed; it was how they disagreed. The process broke down, which broke trust among both the council and the public. And once that happens, even the smallest decision becomes a battle-



ROBERT PEREA

field. Fernley has seen that up close and personal for the last 12 months.

While the final budget won't be approved until next month, and there's still plenty of debate to be had over many important issues, the way the council worked through those debates last week feels markedly different. There were questions that didn't come across as challenges and disagreements that didn't detonate the process.

While a functional process doesn't guarantee good outcomes, it does make good outcomes possible.

That's why I've always believed process matters more than outcome. Outcomes often are determined by factors that are either unknown or aren't even present during the process, so judging a process by the outcome is folly. A good process can lead to a disappointing result, but a bad process only produces a good result if it luckily stumbles into it.

What matters is how people work through the decision itself; whether

they listen, ask honest questions and make decisions based on information instead of emotion.

That seemed to be the case last week for the city council, and that was encouraging. This city is being faced with many weighty decisions in the coming year, and no matter what those decisions are, there will be plenty of people who like them and plenty of others who don't.

One civil budget meeting can't reverse the damage to the city's image the past year has created, but it was a good step in the right direction. Now let's hope it becomes a pattern.

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.

NEW CENTER NOW OPEN—COME CHECK US OUT!

Fernley Women's Golf Club Results, Mar. 31

Game: Odds or Evens (Odds selected)

- 1st: Val Montgomery, 33
- 2nd: Nancy Newton, 35
- 3rd: Shane Miller, 37
- 4th: Loretta Bradley, 38
- Birdies: Val Montgomery, #4; Nancy Newton, #14
- Low Putts: Nancy Newton, 29
- Closest to Hole #7: Loretta Bradley, 23'0"
- Closest to Hole #14: Nancy Newton, 26'0"
- Chip-In: Paula Reed, #17

FERNLEY NEWS MINUTE

Get the latest in City of Fernley and Lyon County news every weekday at 6am, 9am, 1pm, & again at 4pm with the Fernley News Minute. sponsored by The Fernley Reporter and presented by 101.3 fm My Biggest Little Radio



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FEATURES

Commission, Sheriff and DA candidates speak at Fernley forum

By Robert Perea

Candidates for Lyon County Commission Districts 2 and 5, Lyon County District Attorney and Sheriff participated in community forum on March 26 at Calvary Chapel in Fernley.

Each speaker was given four minutes to present their platform with no rebuttals or audience questions. Gregory Barrett, a candidate for the Fernley City Council who organized and hosted the event, opened the forum by explaining the format and encouraging residents to meet with candidates afterward or leave written questions in boxes designated for each candidate. Each candidate was provided table space to meet with voters following the presentations.

County Commission District 2

Scott Keller, the incumbent District 2 commissioner and current chair of the Lyon County Commission, emphasized his experience at the local, state and national levels. Keller highlighted his background in the building trades and real estate, along with years of service on local advisory boards, parks and recreation, and water company leadership. He pointed to his roles with the Nevada Association of Counties, including serving as vice president and president elect, and his work on national rural policy committees, where he said he has helped secure federal funding for county projects. Keller said his focus remains responsible growth, protecting rural communities and ensuring Lyon County has a strong voice in state and federal policy decisions.

Davy Stix, the first mayor of Fernley, said he is running for the District 2 commission seat because he wants to represent the community, not because he needs the job. Stix emphasized his family's long running ranching business and said that success gives him the flexibility to devote time to county issues. He criticized what he described as bullying behavior by the current commission to-



District Attorney candidates, Mark Krueger and Mario Walther.

ward a landowner in Mason Valley and said elected officials must treat residents respectfully. Stix acknowledged he has not regularly attended commission meetings due to running his ranch but said he would be fully committed to the role and represent residents faithfully if elected.

County Commission District 5

Mark Jones, vice chair of the Lyon County Planning Commission, said he is running for the District 5 seat after gaining experience on advisory boards and planning bodies that he believes prepared him for the role. Jones said he previously considered running but decided he wasn't ready, and said serving on the Planning Commission has given him insight into the land use and development issues the county faces. He highlighted his 55 year career in senior management across multiple industries including gaming, hospitality, construction, financial services and manufacturing. He said cities need to be run at the speed of business, not at the speed of government. Jones said Lyon County needs to be more welcoming to new businesses while preparing infrastructure for incoming development, particularly power and

water needs. He emphasized leadership through experience and said he is now ready to serve.

Cole Mortensen, a fifth generation Nevadan and longtime Fernley resident, highlighted his 20 plus years with the Nevada Department of Transportation, where he rose from structural engineer to executive deputy director overseeing project management, planning, finance, human resources and communications. Mortensen said that experience gives him a deep understanding of how public funds can and cannot be used, as well as how to navigate state processes to secure grants and move major projects forward. He said the county needs to have a strategic plan to deal with the explosive growth, especially in Fernley, and must be transparent and get community involvement and engagement.

Mark Phillips, a retired agricultural business professional, said he is running for the District 5 seat to continue the service of outgoing Commissioner Dave Hockaday. Phillips highlighted his 40 year career working directly with farmers to solve problems and said he would bring that same practical, customer fo-

cused approach to county government. He noted his involvement in local boards and community groups and encouraged voters to learn more about his background on his campaign website.

Micah Triplett, also a lifelong Lyon County resident with 18 years of experience in fire service, emphasized public safety, economic diversification and long term planning. Triplett highlighted his background as a hazardous materials technician and paramedic, along with degrees in financial economics and fire science, saying that combination gives him both operational and fiscal insight. He pointed to his work as president of the Yerington Chamber of Commerce, where he helped coordinate the Main Street Committee, the city and local businesses on shared development goals, and said he wants to bring that same collaborative approach to the county. Triplett said he is committed to transparency, community engagement and creating opportunities for future generations.

District Attorney Candidates

Mark Krueger, a career prosecutor and former chief deputy district attorney in Lyon County, highlighted his experience handling more than 40 jury trials and securing the longest sentence in county history, 375 years to life, in a child abuse case. He said he has worked extensively on both the criminal and civil sides of the DA's office and emphasized his strong relationship with the sheriff's office. Krueger said he currently serves as a chief deputy attorney general in the Bureau of Consumer Protection, where he has helped secure multimillion dollar settlements in opioid and social media litigation.

Mario Walther, a Lyon County resident and attorney, said he is running for district attorney because he believes deeply in the county and its future. Walther said he has spent the past decade working on criminal and civil litigation.

Continued on Page 4 - FERNLEY FORUM..

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Embark on a flavorful journey around the globe while supporting Fernley's Boys & Girls Club! Savor authentic dishes from four incredible countries and enjoy signature cocktails crafted for the party. Enjoy live music, bid on exciting auction packages, and explore all food stations for a chance to win a grand prize. Don't miss this first-class experience for a great cause!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boys & Girls Club to hold groundbreaking ceremony for ELC April 14

Staff Reports

The Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Serving Fernley is scheduled to host a groundbreaking ceremony for the Early Learning Center at the Community Response and Resource Center at 9:30 a.m. next Tuesday, April 14.

The ELC is the second phase of the CRRC and is being funded entirely through the Boys & Girls Club's own fundraising, with roughly \$4 million to build and equip the facility.

It will provide childcare and pre-K services for children from six weeks to five years old and is expected to be completed in time to open this

Continued from FRONT-POWER PLANT...

years away. There's really no one who can put a thumb on when it's going to happen," Nelson said.

He added that the proposed power district can give large customers something they can't get for five to seven years, which he said will create revenue for the city through property taxes, franchise fees and sales taxes, predicated on the ability of large businesses to come to Fernley.

"They're coming here because of the ability to gain power years ahead of the public utility," Nelson said. "I think it's a great windfall for the City of Fernley to take advantage of this."

Councilman Albert Torres asked how the district will meet the state law requiring a certain amount of green energy as part of the overall energy being produced.

"That's being planned into the process and will be part of subsequent discussions we'll bring to this council," Sweetin said.

Nelson said gas for the plant will come from the Great Basin Gas Transmission Company, a subsidiary of the Southwest Gas Company, a gas line that is already in the city but is being upgraded to give Mark IV the power it will need. He said it will take eight to 10 months to complete the gas line upgrade, but it should be in service by mid-2028.

Once the power district is developed, Nelson said there would be a separate three-member board governing the power district consisting of a member of the development community, a member from the power community and a city member that would report its activities periodically to the city. In response to a question from Councilwoman Felicity Zoberiski, Nelson also said they were open to adding a fourth person to that board representing public safety.

The council voted unanimously to approve the working group, consisting of a member from the fire district, the city, Mark IV and the power community, with the board not to exceed four members.

Zoning change for proposed power plant site advances without comment

By Kerry Lyman

An ordinance to rezone a parcel along Interstate 80 for a proposed gas fired power plant to serve large energy users in the Victory Logistics District received its first reading before the Fernley City Council on April 1, with no discussion from the council.

The proposed zone change would change the zoning from General Rural, 20-acre minimum lot size (GR20) to Industrial (I).

The 108-acre triangular-shaped power plant parcel is located directly adjacent to I-80 on the west, Bureau of Land Reclamation land to the east and City of Fernley land containing the Victory Logistics Planned Development to the south. The parcel was annexed into the city in mid-December by a unanimous vote of the city council.

In earlier comments about the proposed power plant, Scott Barnes, Mark IV Capital's vice president of entitlement, indicated the power plant would serve large power users like data centers in the Victory Logistics district and would eventually rival the power now generated for all of Washoe County.

The zoning request is one of several steps underway for the proposed power district, including a working group the council also approved April 1 to evaluate financing options.

FRW hosting candidate forum at April 21 meeting

Staff Report

Election season has begun and the Fernley Republican Women (FRW) will be hosting a series of candidate forums during its regular monthly meetings. This month they will host Republican candidates for Lyon County Commission Districts 2 and 5, and School Board Trustee Districts 2, 4

and 6. Attendees are invited to submit questions for candidates in writing or via email prior to the meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Fernley Senior Center on April 21. A light meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend but RSVPs are requested by emailing katiebaker25@gmail.com.

Continued from FRONT-PUBLIC SAFETY...

available, with mutual-aid units arriving several minutes later to assist.

"We can't just let this be the status quo," he told the Fire Board. "I need somebody to get angry about it like I am."

Councilman Ryan Hanan said he supports one time assistance but said the city needs a comprehensive study before funding another entity's general fund. He pointed to Washoe County's recent EMS study, which identified ways to expand service without raising taxes. He also said constituents have told him they believe the fire department, swimming pool and police services should "all be under one roof."

"I'm more interested in long term solutions than Band Aid fixes," Hanan said. "We have to understand, are they going to be able to survive on their own two feet in 10 or 20 years or is that a function if they're asking for the city's help, the city needs to take over that entire responsibility."

Councilman Albert Torres noted the discussions in Washoe County to consolidate its fire departments into a regional fire district because costs are so high for the cities of Reno and Sparks.

"We do not have the availability

for current funds to pave our own streets, fix our own parks and to spend the money to even start our own fire department," he said. "Why would we start going down the road to have our own entities when it's been shown to not work, time and time again? We have to find a way that we can help each other and build a team between the city, the fire district, and the sheriff's office."

Carson said the city is exploring tools such as impact fees, special assessment districts and interlocal agreements, but said the city may be able to have a deeper conversation after it catches up with projects that had been put on hold for years.

"I just think we're getting ourselves to a good point, and trying to help out another agency when you're not in a good position, and not able to provide the services that you're required to do is somewhat irresponsible," Carson said. "So as we get to that point, and we're caught up, and we're in a good place, those are conversations that are absolutely acceptable to have, and I think we'll have better, better available resources to do so."

No decisions were made during the tentative budget hearing, but the council will take up the issues raised again before it adopts its final budget in May.

Continued from Page 3 - FERNLEY FORUM...

tion, water rights, public lands issues and open meeting law. He emphasized that the job is fundamentally about protecting people, ensuring victims are heard and strengthening cases through collaboration, accountability and attention to detail. Walther said he has seen where the system breaks down and believes Lyon County "can do better."

Sheriff
Sheriff Brad Pope, sworn in as Lyon County Sheriff in 2023, said his two decades of experience in the agency and his background in business management have guided his efforts to modernize the department and improve public safety. Pope said he has worked every

assignment in the sheriff's office and emphasized major reductions in Fernley response times since taking office, including cutting priority one response times from 23 minutes in 2022 to 5 minutes and 45 seconds in 2025. Pope said the department has adopted a proactive enforcement strategy, resulting in sharp increases in traffic stops, arrests and drug related cases, and corresponding decreases in burglaries and larcenies. He said the sheriff's office has eliminated grace periods for sex offender registration and has strengthened community trust through visibility, transparency and participation in local events. Pope said the department is committed to being responsive, accountable and engaged with residents.

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee launches fan drive to help seniors beat summer heat

Staff Report

The Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee has kicked off a community fan drive to help local seniors stay safe as temperatures climb heading into summer.

The committee began accepting

donations of new, unopened fans on March 1. Fans can be dropped off at the City Clerk's Office, and monetary donations are also being accepted to allow the committee to purchase additional units.

All fans will be stored at City Hall and distributed directly to

seniors at two events this spring and summer. The first distribution is scheduled for April 18 from 1-4 p.m., and the second will be held June 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. The June event will take place at the clock on the corner of Main Street and Silver Lace.

No application is required. Seniors can simply show up to either event to receive a fan.

For more information or to donate, residents can contact the Fernley City Clerk's Office.

FERNLEY SENIOR CENTER MENU

105 LOIS LANE, FERNLEY, NEVADA | 775-575-3370

Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Prices: 60+ \$2 donation, for those under 60 \$7 fee.

Monday, Apr. 13	Tuesday, Apr. 14	Wednesday, Apr. 15	Thursday, Apr. 16	Friday, Apr. 17
<p>Popcorn Chicken Bowl (Chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, gravy) Biscuit Coleslaw Peaches 100% Juice</p>	<p>Meatloaf Mashed Potatoes Gravy Whole Wheat Roll Tossed Calico Vegetable Salad Peas 100% Juice</p>	<p>Honey Apricot Chicken Seasoned Zucchini Baked Yam Spinach Salad Honeydew 7 Grain Bread</p>	<p>Garlic Parmesan Fish Whole Wheat Pesto pasta Garlic Bread Lima Beans Apple Crisp 100% Juice</p>	<p>Chicken Pasta Herbed Vegetable Medley Spiced Applesauce Whole Wheat Roll Chopped Fresh Spinach Honey Dressing</p>

COMMUNITY

Fernley Public Works requests funding for athletic field rehab, lighting and security

By Kerry Lyman

Fernley's Out-of-Town Park could receive significant improvements to its athletic fields, including nighttime lighting, if the Fernley City Council approves proposals presented to it on March 26 in the city's first budget planning session for fiscal 2026-2027.

At that strategic planning work session, in which department heads presented their wish lists for next fiscal year, Public Works Director Barry Williams requested \$600,000 for athletic field improvements and \$80,000 for sports field lighting to the Out-of-Town Park from the city's general fund.

Williams said the planned athletic field improvements would include all the ball fields and some improvements to the soccer field.

The requested athletic field improvements should help alleviate some of the concerns expressed at a late-January city council meeting where local sports enthusiasts pleaded with the council for improvements to the city's many athletic fields.

To correct compacted, uneven and nutrient-deficient soil, resulting in poor grass, drainage issues and increased maintenance at the fields, the proposal would remove and replace existing soil and turf to allow for proper grading, improved soil composition and the establishment of healthy, resilient grass, according to a staff report.

However, even with these improvements, the city would probably only get five to 10 years of useful life before the fields would need to be rehabilitated



Bare spots and holes in the outfield of a softball field illustrate some of the improvements needed at the Out of Town Park. Photo by Kerry Lyman

again, Williams said.

When asked if the turf would be artificial or natural, Williams said it would be natural turf because artificial turf is cost prohibitive, probably costing \$300,000 to \$350,000 per field. In addition, he said, with natural grass, it is expected all athletic fields at the park could be rehabbed in about a year, whereas if they used artificial turf, it probably would only be possible to do one field a year.

Most of the athletic field lighting costs will be paid for by a grant from a local industry leader. "I believe it's Trex," Williams said, indicating the

\$80,000 for lighting being requested from the city will only pay for any costs not covered by the grant.

The lighting would allow increased evening use, especially during the fall and spring when daylight hours are shorter, allowing increased access as well as supporting local athletic leagues and special events, Williams said.

In a related public works department request, Williams also asked the council for \$121,000 from the general fund to install security cameras at In Town, Out-of-Town, Green Valley and Autumn Winds Parks.

The cameras are intended to help

reduce vandalism at the parks that includes broken equipment and graffiti eradication, costing the city thousands of dollars every year. Williams said the city spent about \$15,000 because of vandalism last year at Out-of-Town Park, about \$7,000 at the In Town Park and another \$7,000 at Green Valley Park.

Public works department requests for city hall improvements include new carpet at \$80,000, another \$250,000 to slurry seal and re-stripe the parking lot, \$35,000 to remodel the public restrooms, \$250,000 for a new HVAC system and \$300,000 for a commercial backup generator, with all funds to come from the general fund.

Williams also requested \$500,000 from the general fund for another commercial backup generator for the Community Response and Resource Center (CRRC), which is more expensive than the city hall generator due to the size of the facility, he said.

The backup generator at the CRRC is needed because the CRRC is also intended as a refuge in the event of a national emergency or a disaster, Williams said.

Wrapping up budget requests from the public works department, Williams also asked for \$40,000 for two storage buildings to house equipment, tools, etc. currently stored outdoors, \$200,000 to replace two pickup trucks with service bodies, and \$70,000 for a large vehicle lift to replace transmissions, large pumps, and other items that now have to be sent outside for service.

Big turnout at the 4th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt, at Out of Town Park



Children from infants up to teenagers scooped up baskets and bags full of plastic eggs filled with candy at last Saturday's Community Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Biggest Little Radio at the Out of Town Park. Photos by Robert Perea

Fernley Community Events

APR. 10

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

KARAOKE PARTY (21+)
8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

APR. 11

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

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

APR. 12

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

APR. 15

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

DAR BINGO NIGHT (\$5 - 3 for \$10)
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

APR. 16

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

FAMILY FUN OUTDOOR EVENT (\$10)
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Vendors, Music, Games, Kid's Zone
Wigwam
775-301-7065

APR. 18

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

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

5th Annual Spring CRAFTS & DRAFTS *2 days
Vendors, live music, food trucks & kids fun zone
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

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

APR. 19

5th Annual Spring CRAFTS & DRAFTS *2 days
Vendors, live music, food trucks & kids fun zone
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

APR. 24

KARAOKE PARTY (21+)
8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

APR. 25

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

BUSINESS

Nevada Pacific Parkway completion projected for late 2028 or early 2029

By Kerry Lyman

The Nevada Pacific Parkway connection to U.S. Highway 50A will not be completed until late 2028 or early 2029, according to remarks made by Mark IV Capital Senior Vice President Rick Nelson at the April 1 council meeting.

The matter came up during a discussion of a related matter, setting up a working group to discuss financing issues for the gas-fired power plant Mark IV plans to add to the Victory Logistics development.

During that discussion, Councilman Albert Torres questioned whether it was “getting ahead of ourselves” by concentrating on the power plant when Nevada Pacific Parkway is still not completed.

“I’d like to see the Nevada Pacific Parkway done before we start building something else out there this big,” he said.

Nelson said both projects are being pushed forward simultaneously and the parkway project is going as fast as it can.

“Being sequential is not going to help us, being simultaneous is,” he said. “We’d like to move quicker but we have four different review cycles for everything we do and unfortunately, everyone gets a say, and that say has to be addressed. That just takes time.”

Nelson said the parkway plans are now 60 percent complete, aiming to reach 90 percent in May and 100 percent by July, at which time, Mark IV



A rendering shows what the Nevada Pacific Parkway overpass may look like, courtesy of the City of Fernley.

will come to the council for a proposed assessment district with the Victory Logistics district to pay for the road, with construction beginning shortly thereafter.

The council adopted a petition last July from Mark IV Capital for the city’s first private property special assessment district to link Nevada Pacific Parkway between I-80 exit 50 and U.S. 50A at an estimated construction cost of \$114.75 million. Under the guidelines of that petition, only the property owners within the district who benefit from the improvements pay for the bonds issued under the SAD, with annual assessments being proportional based on each property owner’s benefit from the improvements.

Nelson said last August the project will be built without using the mon-

ey from the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant the city was awarded in 2022.

“It’s hard for people to understand. They think the grant provides us free money,” Nelson said in August. “It does not. It is a funding mechanism that has a lot of bureaucracy with it. And so, to utilize the grant actually costs the contract more money.”

Nelson said the overpass is the longest portion of the project, estimating it will take about 18 months to build.

“We have to build it, it’s got to settle, and then we have to close down the UP main line periodically to put the piers over it,” he said.

If everything goes smoothly, he predicted the parkway will be completed and open by late 2028 or early 2029.

Meetings

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

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting May 13

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

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

Lyon County Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex, 27 S. Main St., Yerington
Next meeting April 14

Lyon County Library Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the Month at 9:30 a.m.
Locations rotate between the 5 county libraries
Next meeting April 28

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

North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees
2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month
195 E. Main St.
Next meeting May 14

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

Proposed ordinance would set buffering standards for higher-density development adjacent to rural properties

By Kerry Lyman

A proposed ordinance intended to reduce conflicts between rural residential property owners and smaller-lot residential subdivisions being proposed adjacent to them was introduced for its first reading at the April 1 Fernley City Council meeting.

The new adjacency standards are “intended to ensure compatibility between different types of development, particularly where high density and more intense uses are located next to lower density residential areas,” Senior Planner Treston Rodriguez said.

“The city’s current standards have proven to be unclear, difficult to apply and at times have resulted in inconsistent outcomes for the applicants and the neighboring property owners,” he said.

The new adjacency standards would apply to any application for a tentative map, parcel map, final map or other subdivision approval that creates new single-family residential lots where any portion of the subdivision’s exterior boundary shares a common boundary with an adjacent rural parcel, according to the ordinance.

An adjacent rural parcel is defined

as any parcel zoned General Rural, 20-acre minimum lot size (GR20), Rural Residential, five-acre minimum lot size (RR5), Rural Residential, one-acre minimum lot size (RRI) and Rural Residential, ½ acre minimum lot size (RRI/2).

Buffering conditions in the proposal must be met unless an existing barrier such as a ridgeline, river, open space, right-of-way or a natural terrain change adequately buffers the existing built environment or platted lots from the new development, according to the

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GOVERNMENT

Mayor, council salaries would align with county commission pay under proposed ordinance

By Kerry Lyman

With little discussion, the Fernley City Council on April 1 approved the first reading of an ordinance that would raise the salaries of the mayor and council members, but would not affect the current mayor or council members unless they are still in office after the November 2028 election.

Earlier this year, Councilman Albert Torres requested a council agenda item to consider that council salaries be tied to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 245.043, as amended by Senate Bill (SB)116 in the 2025 legislative session,

according to a city staff report.

SB 116 sets the salaries in fiscal year 2025-26 for various county commissioners and other county positions, with the salary for Lyon County commissioners set at \$39,000 annually.

Fernley's proposed mayor and council salary ordinance, Bill #382, would follow the provisions of SB 116 by setting the mayor's salary to be the same as a Lyon County commissioner and council members' salaries at 80 percent of the mayor's salary, the staff report said.

Currently, the mayor earns \$30,409 annually and council members earn

\$15,204, according to City Treasurer Robert Carson. Under the proposal, the mayor serving after November 2028 would receive a raise of \$8,591, while future council member salaries would more than double to \$31,200 a year.

After the current fiscal year, under SB 116, annual county commissioner salaries will rise by 3 percent a year through 2030-31, but apparently will level off in fiscal 2030-31, indicating "for each year thereafter, each county commission is entitled to the salary that was in effect for that county commission during fiscal year 2030-31."

It is assumed annual cost of living raises for Fernley's future mayor and council will also be limited by the provisions of SB 116 since Fernley's salary ordinance states "The annual salary of the office of mayor shall be equal to that of a Lyon County Commissioner as set forth in NRS 245.043" which was amended by SB 116.

The proposed ordinance would take effect the Monday following the November 2028 general election in November 2028.

A public hearing on the second reading of the ordinance is expected at the council's April 15 meeting.

Council probes details of proposal to replace city manager position with two new executive roles

By Robert Perea

The Fernley City Council spent about 40 minutes at its tentative budget meeting on April 2 questioning and discussing a key portion of the city's proposed reorganization that would eliminate the city manager and deputy city manager positions and replace them with a chief operations officer and a chief development officer. The discussion focused on how responsibilities would shift, how the new roles would function, and whether the changes would reduce outsourcing and improve oversight.

No decisions were made, but the council indicated a willingness to explore the matter further with more details during its final budget process.

Fernley has been without a city manager since last May, when Ben Marchant resigned during budget discussions. At that meeting, the council voted 3-2 to defund the city manager position, a decision Mayor Neal McIntyre later vetoed before Marchant offered his resignation.

The council interviewed two city manager candidates in January but did not select either one. Since then, Mayor Neal McIntyre proposed the reorganization without a city manager, and at the April 2 meeting, Finance Director Robert Carson presented the plan to gauge the council's interest.

"So if you guys agree to this tonight in principle, we will start working on the job descriptions, how everything maps out, the policies, what you're going to be included on, how the mayor's going to work with you, how it's going to flow through everything," Carson said. "I don't think all those details have been worked out just yet."

Councilman Ryan Hanan asked whether the two new chief officer positions would be appointed the same way as the city manager by the mayor with council confirmation. City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen said the council could require confirmation but recommended against it, saying the roles are intended to be executive branch functions selected by the mayor. He said council oversight would still occur through annual public evaluations and through budget authority. Requiring confirmation, he said, "muddies the waters" between the branches.

Councilman Albert Torres said he was on board with the idea he compared to two chiefs of staff and splitting up the span of control. He also advocated for keeping mandatory council involvement in evaluations, saying earlier attempts to raise concerns about the former city manager were blocked at six and twelve months, contributing to the problems that emerged later.

The reorganization proposal also includes new positions for a grant administrator and a public information officer. Torres also suggested the city consider contracting out public information work, saying the grants administrator will be fully occupied with major projects and that outsourcing PIO duties could save money.

"And there's a lot of PR firms out there that would love our business," he said.

Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski said she initially believed the grants administrator could handle both grants and public information, but changed her view after considering the workload. He said a full time grants administrator should be searching for grants

"day in, day out," and a dedicated PIO should be fully engaged in social media, news outreach, and community groups. Carson said the intent behind the PIO position was to expand communication capacity the city currently lacks and provide consistent outreach to nonprofits, the Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations.

Carson added that the PIO was proposed because the city does not currently have the staffing capacity to push out the amount of information residents expect. He said the role would be forward facing with community groups and responsible for press releases, social media, and outreach the city cannot currently sustain.

Carson said the reorganization also includes creating a parks and recreation superintendent to supervise four dedicated parks employees and help the chief operations officer with maintenance and other planning. The goal, he said, is to prevent deferred maintenance and avoid large cost outputs to get parks back in working order.

Zoberski asked whether supervisory staff would have the expertise to create departmental plans, such as a parks or cemetery master plan, without hiring outside consultants. Public Works Director Barry Williams said planning would be a coordinated effort, such as between supervisory staff and the chief operations officer. Some outsourcing would still be needed, he said, but the new structure would reduce it.

Zoberski said he would feel more confident in adding leadership positions if the city could handle more work in house. Carson said recent hires including engineers, a SCADA specialist, and an electrician have already reduced

outsourcing costs, and dedicating supervisory staff to specific areas would give them the capacity to take on more planning and technical work internally.

Carson walked the council through the proposed organizational chart, noting that appointed positions remain unchanged. The chief development officer would oversee planning, building, and the city engineer. The chief operations officer would oversee public works, utilities, and the new parks superintendent. He also outlined how utilities and parks staffing would be organized under the new structure.

During public comment, resident Alisa Rhyno asked whether the city would use a recruiter to fill the new chief officer positions or consider internal candidates. Mayor Neal McIntyre said no decisions have been made and that internal promotion is possible, but discussions would not occur unless the reorganization is approved.

"If this passes, then we'll sit down and talk about those positions," he said.

Carson told the Council he didn't have answers for many of their questions because the purpose of the discussion was to determine whether they wanted to move forward. Without committing either way, council members indicated they were interested in hearing more details before making their decision.

"That's why we're having this conversation tonight in an open meeting," Carson said. "The mayor will solicit your information and your input and talk to you about this. It's not like we're just going to come do it and come to a decision and then present it to you. It will be done in coordination with you all."

Continued from Page 6 - RESIDENTIAL...

proposed ordinance.

In addition to new buffering conditions, the proposal requires lights to be directed away from adjacent properties, limiting noise makers such as heating and air conditioning units away from lower intensity uses and requires parking, loading and service areas to be located away from shared property lines.

In addition, windows in new developments must avoid direct lines of sight into the windows of adjoining developments and upper level balconies and other outdoor living spaces must be oriented away from shared proper-

ty lines to the extent practicable, according to the proposal.

The new buffering standards would require transitional edge lots of at least a half-acre in size along any common boundary line unless a 30-foot buffer zone is created that contains at least two of the following improvements:

1. A paved or unpaved path or trail with appropriate access control, wayfinding and safety features required by the city.
2. An open channel, swale, naturalized drainageway or similar facility, including stabilized slopes and erosion control.
3. A continuous landscape screen using drought-tolerant and/or native plantings, with irrigation to en-

sure establishment and long-term viability.

4. Berming or grade changes designed to provide visual screening and/or physical separation; may be combined with landscaping and fencing.
5. Park space, common open space, community garden or similar subdivision amenity designed to serve as a separation area and not merely as residual land.
6. A wall or fence designed to provide privacy and separation; when used, it shall be combined with either landscaping or berming.

The provision also requires buffering zones to be placed in common ownership such as a homeowners' as-

sociation or a landscape maintenance district approved by the city, to ensure perpetual maintenance.

It also requires the buffer zone to be recorded in covenants, conditions, easements, map notes or similar instruments prohibiting encroachments inconsistent with buffering and requiring maintenance in perpetuity.

Other requirements regarding rear yard setbacks, height compatibility and minimum lot sizes are also included in the proposed ordinance, which was unanimously recommended for approval by the planning commission in March.

The second reading and public hearing for the ordinance is scheduled for the council's April 15 meeting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send yours to Robert@FernleyReporter.com

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LAW AND ORDER

Arrest report

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

March 30 – April 5, 2026

SANDRA CURTIS – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$4,280, Charges: Possession of schedule I/II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; use/possess drug paraphernalia; driving with suspended driver license

WHITNEY RUTHERFORD SANTOS – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: \$7,500, Charges: Possession of schedule I/II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; civil basic speeding 21–30 mph over limit; resist public officer; use/possess drug paraphernalia; destroy/conceal evidence
MICHAEL FASSETT – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: \$31,140, Charges: Harbor/conceal/aid felony offender; possess/receive/transfer stolen vehicle; resist public officer; possess/receive/transfer stolen vehicle

TONY CHAMBERS – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: \$1,075, Charges: Criminal contempt

SCOTT SORRELL – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: \$2,500, Charges: Criminal contempt – failure to obey court order

JOEY GARCIA – Area: LYSO, Bail amount: \$48,960, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime (2 counts); failure to appear after bail on gross misdemeanor crime (3 counts); prohibited act - violation of sex offender registration, 1st; violation of domestic violence TPO

DARON WILDERMUTH – Area: LYSO, Bail amount: \$0, Charges: Court commitment

JAELYN MARTINEZ – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: \$50,000, Charges: Domestic battery by strangulation; battery domestic violence with sub-

stantial bodily harm; theft \$1,200–\$5,000; buy/possess/receive stolen property \$1,200–\$5,000

TWYLA DEFOND – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$0, Charges: Criminal contempt; felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence

ADAM WILSON – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: \$75,000, Charges: Child abuse or neglect, 1st

KEVIN CAMYN – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$1,000, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime

JOHN TAYLOR – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: \$8,775, Charges: Possession of schedule I/II controlled substance less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; own/possess gun by illegal alien/mentally ill person; use/possess drug paraphernalia; civil fail to maintain lane/improper lane change/fail to use signal

TONI MARRIETTA – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$1,155, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation

DESMOND MITCHELL – Area: LYSO, Bail amount: \$0, Charges: Court commitment

JULIA GROSSMUELLER – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: \$10,000, Charges: Harbor/conceal/aid felony offender

PRISCILLA RIOS – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: \$3,445, Charges: Criminal contempt – failure to obey court order

JOSE SILVA – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: \$1,835, Charges: Basic speed 21–30 mph over limit; DUI, 1st; open alcohol container in vehicle

JOSE VILLANUEVA – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$3,244, Charges: DUI,

1st; operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi;

JOHN LINVILLE – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: \$15,000, Charges: Domestic battery by strangulation; domestic battery, 2nd

ISAAC LUNA – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: \$890, Charges: Reckless driving w/disregard person/property safety, 2nd

DIANE RUSSELL – Area: Dayton, Bail amount: \$28,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st; assault with a deadly weapon

JOANNE STEVENS – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: \$500, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime

LORENA MONTES WUNGNEMA – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: \$2,280, Charges: Driving with revoked driver license for DUI; possess/consume marijuana in public place/marijuana store/vehicle

CASANDRA MCCABE – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$2,280, Charges: DUI, 1st; Duty to stop at accident with attended vehicle/property damage

SERAE COLLINS – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st

DENNIS HOLLIBAUGH – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: \$415, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation

RACHELLE JOHNSON – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$1,255, Charges: DUI, 1st; fail to obey stop sign at controlled intersection

JOSH GEPHART – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: \$2,110, Charges: Convicted person registration and fingerprint requirement; fail to wear

safety belt; owner proof of insurance required; operate unregistered vehicle/trailer/semi

BRIAN JOHNSON – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: \$0, Charges: Court commitment

DEMARIO ANTHONY – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$4,635, Charges: DUI, 1st; domestic battery, 1st; open alcohol container in vehicle

TIMOTHY ROBERTS – Area: Mason Valley, Bail amount: \$1,140, Charges: DUI, 1st

OSCAR GONZALEZ HERNANDEZ – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$2,405, Charges: DUI, 1st; possess gun under influence of alcohol/drugs; open alcohol container in vehicle; fail to maintain lane/improper lane change/use signal; basic speed 11–15 mph over limit

DION BRAWLEY – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$5,000, Charges: Prohibited act; violation of sex offender registration, 1st

KENNETH BRONCHO – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$1,275, Charges: DUI, 1st; fail to drive on right half of road

KATIE KISSEL – Area: Silver Springs, Bail amount: \$1,140, Charges: DUI, 1st

EDUAR ANGULO ARIZA – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$2,275, Charges: DUI, 1st; fail to maintain lane/improper lane change/use signal;

DEVEN THOMPSON – Area: Fernley, Bail amount: \$2,955, Charges: DUI, 1st; possess/consume marijuana in public place/marijuana store/vehicle; reside with non Nevada driver license; basic speed 1–10 mph over limit; operate vehicle without Nevada registration; operate vehicle with expired registration/plates

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SPORTS

Fernley boys and girls turn in strong performances at Big George Invitational

By Robert Perea

Fernley's boys and girls track teams posted some of their best results of the season at last Saturday's Big George Invitational at Douglas High School, combining for multiple event wins, relay victories and a long list of personal bests.

Keeshawn Love led the boys team with a win in the 100 meters in 11.55 and a fourth place finish in the 300 hurdles. Love also anchored two Fernley relay victories, teaming with Michael Fitzgerald, Bryce Dunagan Stephens and Jayden Esparza to win both the 4x100 (44.06) and 4x200 (1:32.62).

Dunagan Stephens added an individual win in the 200 meters in 23.17. Elijah Perez placed second in the 400 in 53.40, and Andrew Peterson ran a personal best 54.07 for fifth.

In the distances, Joe Perkins ran a season best 2:00.13 to finish third in the 800, while Cael Wilson placed eighth in the 1600 and fourth in the 3200. Dominick Dietrich and Alex Mergell followed close behind in both races, giving Fernley three runners in the top six of the 3200.

Esparza ran a personal best 16.80 to take second in the 110 hurdles, while

Fitzgerald and Bodie Parsons finished second and third in the 300 hurdles.

In the boys field events, Kole Miller placed second in the shot put, and Parsons added a third place finish in the discus, followed by Wyatt McGinnis in fifth. Levi Johnson cleared 9 0 for seventh in the pole vault, and Cole Reynolds placed fourth in the triple jump.

The boys also had a runner up finish in the 4x400, as Perez, Peterson, Parsons and Perkins ran 3:35.77.

On the girls side, Nakyla John led the sprinters with an eighth place finish in the 100 meters (13.74) and seventh in the 200 (27.77). Melissa Yokoi added personal bests in both events, and Nina Bruchon also placed in the top 20 in the sprints.

Alyssa Gromelski ran a personal best 2:42.20 to finish 12th in the 800, while Corbyn Gillespie added a season best in the 1600. Bronwynn Garrett placed 12th in the 1600 and anchored the girls' 4x400 relay, which finished fourth in 4:31.95 with Gromelski, Kinley Behrendt and Asia Christopher.

In the hurdles, Christopher placed ninth in the 100 hurdles, and Mia Rocha posted personal bests in both hurdle races. Reese Johnson placed 13th in the



Fernley's Bodie Parsons carries the baton for his leg of the 4x400 relay last Saturday at the Big George Invitational. Photo by Ron Perkins

300 hurdles.

The girls also excelled in the field events. Angel Pochop won the discus with a throw of 103 7 and finished second in the shot put. Myleigh Lentz and Peyton Benson added top 20 finishes in both throws. Johnson cleared 8 0 for fifth in the pole vault and placed fourth in the triple jump.

Fernley won the boys team title with 138 points, finishing ahead of South Tahoe's 112. The girls team finished ninth with 35 points.

The Vaqueros are off for Spring Break this week and return to action on April 18 with split squads in the Northwest Invite at McQueen and the Yerington Lions Invitational.

Fernley softball takes 2 of 3 in Elko

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School softball team pulled into a three-way tie for second place in the Northern 3A East Division by winning two of three games last weekend in Elko.

The Vaqueros defeated Elko 7-1 on Friday and 9-6 in the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday, before Elko avoided the sweep with a 12-9 win in the finale.

Taylor Tollestrup hit two home runs and the Vaqueros played good defense behind pitcher Janessa Robinson to open the series in Friday's win.

"Friday we played great," coach Diane Chapin said. "Janessa threw very well only allowing four hits, defense was solid with no mistakes. Taylor led the game off we a home run, and we kept getting good plate appearances and adding runs, including a second home run from Taylor."

The top of the batting order keyed the attack, with Tollestrup and Emma Masters reaching base six times and scoring five of Fernley's runs.

With Fernley leading 1-0 after Tollestrup's first-inning homer, the Vaqueros scored twice in the third inning. Tollestrup walked and stole second, then scored after an error on a bunt single by Masters, who later scored on a fielder's choice on a ground ball by Emma Collins.

The Vaqueros scored three more

times in the fourth inning, with the runs coming on an error, a ground out and Tollestrup's second home run.

Robinson struck out five and walked one in seven innings, allowing just one run.

In the first game of Saturday's doubleheader, the Vaqueros scored five runs in the fourth inning after trailing 4-2. Robinson drove in one run with a single, and after two runs scored on an error and a ground out, Masters capped the rally with a two-run double to put Fernley ahead 7-4.

Fernley stretched the lead to 9-4 in the top of the sixth when Tollestrup singled in a run and later scored on an error.

Masters went 2-for-4 and drove in three runs, while Tollestrup and Grave Chapin each had two hits. Lauren Smith scored three runs and Chapin and Tollestrup both scored twice.

Robinson relieved Masters in the pitcher's circle with Elko leading 3-2 in the third. The first batter she faced hit a sacrifice fly to make it 4-2, but she escaped the jam with no other damage, giving the Vaqueros the chance to rally.

In the third game, the Vaqueros committed five errors leading to four unearned runs in the 12-8 loss.

Fernley's only lead of the game was 4-3 in the top of the third, when a home run by Grace Chapin capped a 4-run rally, but Elko struck right back in the bottom of the third to take a 7-4 lead.

Tollestrup hit a 3-run homer in the top of the fourth to tie the game at 7-7, but Elko scored three in the bottom of the fourth and two in the fifth. In the top of the seventh, Collins doubled in one run and Grace Chapin singled in another, but the rally came up short.

"Saturday we still hit good and had home runs from both Taylor and Grace, we just weren't as sharp on defense and allowed too many extra bases, especially in the last game," Diane

Chapin said.

The Vaqueros came out of the weekend with a 12-5 overall record and 3-3 in the Northern 3A East, tied for second with Elko and Fallon. Lowry leads the league at 5-1 after sweeping Spring Creek last weekend.

This weekend the Vaqueros host Spring Creek, with a single game Friday at 3 p.m. and a doubleheader Saturday starting at 11 a.m.



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SPORTS

Vaqueros keep pace with league leaders by sweeping South Tahoe

By Robert Perea

The good news for the Fernley High School baseball team is that it has continued its strong play in the past month, with 11 wins in the last 12 games. The bad news is that the teams above them in the Northern 3A East standings have all nearly matched that.

But the best news is that the Vaqueros control their own destiny for a chance at a top playoff seed.

With a three-game sweep in South Tahoe last weekend, the Vaqueros are in fourth place with an 11-4 record in league play. They have a two-game lead over Wooster for fourth place and are one game behind Dayton for third. Elko leads the league at 14-1, Spring Creek is second at 13-2 and Dayton is third at 14-3.

All four of the top teams will be playing each other in the final three weeks of the season. Elko has Fallon, Dayton and Fernley left on the schedule, who have compiled a combined record of 31-14.

Spring Creek faces Truckee, Fernley and Dayton, who are 30-15

combined. Dayton still has to face Elko and Spring Creek who are a combined 27-3, and Lowry, which is 0-15, while Fernley Sparks, which is also 0-15, followed by Spring Creek and Elko.

Each team in that group has the opportunity to play their way either into the top of the standings, or out of the top four altogether.

The Vaqueros are scheduled to play at Sparks this weekend, with a single game at 3 p.m. Friday and a double-header Saturday. In addition to being 0-15 in league play, the Railroaders have been outscored 252-8 in those games and been shut out in 10 of their 15 league losses.

The Vaqueros kept pace with the top of the league last week by sweeping South Tahoe, winning 13-7 on Friday and 8-1 and 18-15 on Saturday.

"We played pretty good overall on the weekend," coach Thomas Chapin said. "I was happy with our approach and competitiveness at the plate. We had great at bats all week."

Riley McCullar went 4-for-5 in Friday's game, driving in four runs and scoring three, Vance Swindlehurst was

2-3 and with two runs and two RBI and Maverick Parks also drove in two runs.

The Vaqueros led 8-2 before South Tahoe scored four runs in the fifth inning. It was 8-7 until the Vaqueros scored five runs in the top of the seventh, keyed by a 2-run double by McCullar and a two-run single by Parks.

In the first game of Saturday's doubleheader, Jayse Jones made sure there were no similar tense moments, allowing just 1 run in six innings while Nikko Pryor had a huge game at the plate, driving in five runs with a triple and a grand slam.

Pryor's triple in the first inning scored McCullar to make it 1-0. Swindlehurst and McCullar both doubled in runs in the fifth inning to put Fernley up 4-1 and Pryor punctuated the game with his grand slam in the top of the seventh.

"Jayse Jones did a great job on the bump for us on Saturday morning, and really our pitching seems solid for most of the time, they just had a good number of solid hits," Chapin said. "Nikko Pryor and Riley McCullar were

hot at the plate and really propelled the offense. Vance Swindlehurst did a good job at the dish as well."

In Saturday's second game, Fernley put up 18 runs on 17 hits, 14 of them singles, with Swindlehurst and Nikko Pryor both driving in four runs. South Tahoe scored its 15 runs on 14 hits, 13 of them singles. Fernley also made eight errors and the Vikings made four.

The Vaqueros appeared to take control with an 8-run fifth inning that gave them a 13-4 lead, but South Tahoe had an 8-run inning of its own in the bottom of the sixth to get within 17-14.

"Game 3 got a little ugly, but it showed how the guys are able to battle adversity and pull out a win," Chapin said.

Now the Vaqueros need to avoid a stumble this weekend against Sparks, then they'll have the chance in the final two weeks to state their case for a top playoff seed.

"Our focus is to keep preparing like we're playing the best team in the league each week and getting better every day," Chapin said.

Food for Thought

Salsa Vaquero Rojo

By Justin Miller

Salsa Vaquero Rojo is a tangy, wood-smoked sauce that works just as well on street tacos as it does on scrambled eggs. Named in honor of the Fernley Vaqueros, this sauce brings the heat and is destined to be a hometown favorite.

What starts as a simple can of \$0.50 cent tomato sauce, spices, and vinegar is magically transformed by the oldest trick in the book: cast iron, smoke, and flame. It's like having a bottle of the Old West right in your refrigerator.

Beyond flavor, this recipe is as frugal as the old Vaqueros were resourceful. While a premium smoked sauce at the store might run you \$5, this batch costs less than \$0.75 cents. By making Salsa Vaquero Rojo at home, the average household saves about \$100 a year. That's almost half the cost of a pass to Night in the Country - just by swapping a barcode for a BBQ grill.

Ingredients

- 1 blender or stick blender (emulsifier)
- 1 cast iron pan
- 1 grill (charcoal or gas)
- Mesquite chips (for smoking)
- 1 8oz can tomato sauce
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar

- 1/4 cup water
- 1.5 tsp cumin
- 1.5 tsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 3/4 tsp garlic powder
- 3/4 tsp onion powder
- 3/4 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1 can whole kernel corn (drained)
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1/2 tsp dried marjoram
- 1/4 tsp ground pepper (adjust to taste)
- 1 tsp salt

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in iron pan and blend with stick blender. If using countertop blender: blend and transfer back to pan.
2. Place wood chips in metal smokebox or foil "bag" and place on grill. When smoke beings, place pan of sauce on top rack on opposite side of lit burner.
3. Let sauce cook, approximately 20-30 minutes, stirring half-way through,
4. Remove from heat and let cool. Once cool, blend a final time.
5. Transfer to squeeze bottle (new from store or recycled). Makes about 10 oz.



If you enjoyed this recipe let us know with comments or photos at: robert@fernleyreporter.com

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PET OF THE WEEK

Introducing... Chickpea!

Meet Chickpea, a sweet loving kitty. Chickpea is a female and is approximately 13 weeks old. She fixed, vaccinated and micro chipped. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet her please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will get back to you asap! 775-575-0950 (this phone number does not accept texts).



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PET OF THE WEEK

Werner is seeking a good and stable home!

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



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