

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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Silver Stage students honor friend, teammate at candlelight vigil

By Robert Perea

Holding a framed poster-sized photo of her brother Alex, Audrey Espinoza looked up at a golden sunset, then at a crowd of about 200 people milling around on the Silver Stage High School football field last Wednesday evening. For a moment, the sorrow in her voice was drowned out by pride.

"It shows how many lives my brother has touched, you know?" Espinoza said.

In the photo, Alex Espinoza jogs off the baseball field, glove tucked under his left arm, a sweatshirt under his uniform with the hood over his cap on an obviously chilly day, and a smile on his face.

That smile was the first thing his teammates, coaches, teachers and friends mentioned when asked to describe him.

"He was the goofiest, nonserious person you could ever meet," Audrey Espinoza said. "He lit up every room, honestly. He had a smile on his face in the hardest times and if something was bothering him, you never could really tell."

Silver Stage students, alums, teachers and members of the community gathered on Aug. 27 for a candlelight vigil to honor Alex, who drowned in Lahontan Reservoir on Aug. 9. The Vigil was organized by Jamie Lowe and Sonia Rodriguez, the moms of two of Alex's friends.

"We figured the next best thing we could do was hold something on the football field, which was another thing

he loved," Lowe said. "I don't think that kid ever knew a stranger or had a single kid dislike him. The love he gave out and the love that was returned to him was unmeasurable."

Mateo Garcia, who said he and Alex have been best friends since second grade, said that smile and his love of football were the two things that best described Alex.

"Everyone could have a bad mood, but Alex would walk into the room with a smile and it's all better," Garcia said. "He just had a way to brighten up the mood, walk in with that big smile on his face."

Garcia described Alex as the kind of person who would give his last dollar to a stranger in need.

"Me and him were in Reno and there was homeless people out there," Garcia said. "He's got 30 bucks to his name. He goes in and buys them In-n-Out. His last dollar."

Alex was the sixth of eight siblings and wore No. 8 in football, the number his older brother Michael wore for the Nighthawks. In what would have been his senior season, it's instead Alex's younger brother Eagle, a freshman, sporting the No. 8 jersey.

"Alex was so excited to be playing with him," Audrey Espinoza said.

Several of the players, including Garcia and senior quarterback Blayne Baratti Butler, admitted that they were unsure they even wanted to play football after losing Alex. But the players gathered for a voluntary practice the Tuesday after Alex's accident and decided to continue.



Audrey Espinoza holds a framed photo of her brother Alex during a candlelight vigil at Silver Stage High School on Aug. 27. Photo by Robert Perea

"They kept saying we need to do this not just for us, but for Alex and his family," coach Mason Fuller said.

Alex and Garcia met on the football field in second grade and played together every year since. Garcia said they were looking forward to this season when they would both have younger brothers on the team.

"All Alex talked about was two Garcias, me and my little brother, and two Espinozas, him and his little brother," Garcia said.

The Nighthawks went winless last season. But in their first game this season on Aug. 23, they beat the Coral Academy JV team 20-15 for their

first win since beating North Tahoe 32-26 in 2023. Playing without their seniors because it was a JV opponent, the Nighthawks only had 15 players available. Instead, Garcia and his fellow seniors supported their younger teammates from the sideline.

Late in the fourth quarter, Coral Academy drove deep into Silver Stage territory, but on the last play of the game, a Coral Academy runner was tackled in bounds, and the clock ran out.

"His little brother and my little brother, seeing them out there doing

Continued on page 6 - VIGIL...

Trustees approve plan to proceed with single-point entries at 5 schools

By Robert Perea

At its Aug. 26 meeting, the Lyon County School District Board of Trustees approved a plan to move forward with a project to implement a single point of entry at five schools using bond funds.

The project will be to install single-point entries for Fernley High, Dayton High, Silver Stage High, Yerington High Schools, and Silverland Middle School, and to remodel space for a culinary lab and JROTC classrooms at Fernley High. Construction should take place during the summer break of 2026.

The district received an opinion of probable cost of \$1,468,174.84 by Paul Cavin Architect LLC for the single point entry projects but the actual

costs will depend on the bids received for the projects. Under a state law changed by the legislature in 2023, each project will be bid separately. The district will issue general obligation bonds to pay for the projects.

The district plans to issue two separate bond sales of \$15 million each over the next two years for maintenance and upgrades, including the single point of entry projects.

The district will choose a construction manager at-risk (CMAR) to manage the projects at Fernley High School and Dayton High School and will solicit bids for the other projects.

Harman Bains, the district's executive director of operations, said a law changed by the legislature only allows school districts in counties with popu-

lations of less than 100,000 to utilize a CMAR for two projects a year.

Under the CMAR process, the district would choose a contractor to function as the CMAR, and that contractor would give the district a guaranteed maximum price for the project. The CMAR then oversees all the subcontractors on the project and is responsible for any additional costs. A general contractor is hired after the design process is complete, while a CMAR is involved in the design process.

"The biggest advantage is a guaranteed maximum price, so a CMAR is responsible for any changes within the project once it's gone out to bid unless we request something that is not within the project," Bains said. "We

do want to leverage CMARs for our big projects."

For Yerington and Silver Stage high schools and Silverland Middle School, the district will be required to hire a general contractor. Unlike a CMAR project, state law requires the district to accept the lowest bid in a general contractor project. Bains said the projects at Yerington and Silver Stage will each require two general contractors, one to focus on the construction and the second to focus on the storefront and doors.

"Storefront and doors we want separated, because that is a specialty," Bains said. "We don't want a general contractor that doesn't do that to win the lowest bid and then try to piece-meal the work together."

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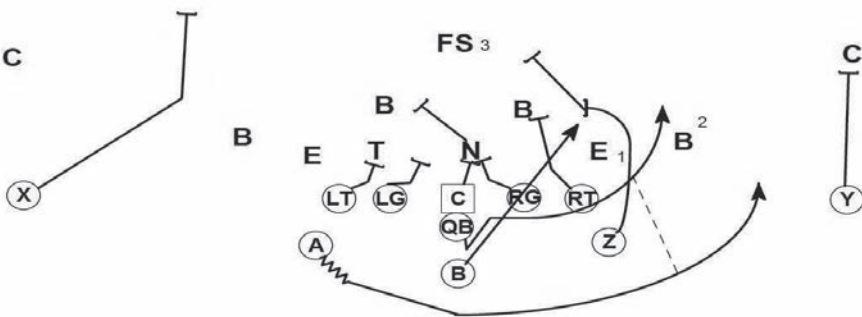
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



Joseph Maino’s lasting focus

I was making good progress with my to-do list Sunday evening—the website updated, a handful of short stories finished, notes for a couple of other stories transcribed. Then I opened Facebook to check the time for next week’s 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, expecting logistics. Instead, the top notification on my feed was a post announcing the death of my friend Joseph Maino.

A lot of great things have happened to me in the years since I started the Fernley Reporter online in 2016, but one of the best was meeting Joseph.

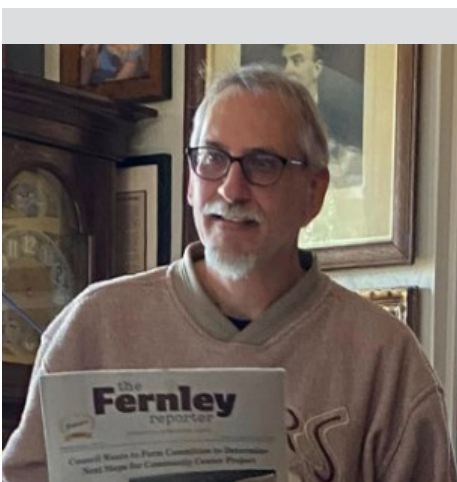
I had only been publishing for a couple of months when he emailed me offering his services as a photographer. We met a few days later at Starbucks and connected right away. My first conversation with him felt like a resumption, not the beginning, of a friendship.

Before coming to Fernley, Josphe was the Chief of Optometry at the Kansas City VA Medical Center, and during that time he had gotten into photography and became a regular contributor to the Kansas City Star.

As he told it, photography was a natural hobby for an optometrist, but it seemed much more than that to me. He had the eye of an artist, and the photos to prove it. The walls in his home in Fernley were adorned with all sorts of beautiful shots – bridges, landscapes, portraits and action shots.

He invited me over once to help me with an issue I was having with my camera and appalled at the cheap equipment I was working with, gave me an old Canon D50.

Over the next few years, he con-



ROBERT PEREA

tributed numerous photos and a few stories to the website, each time asking for constructive criticism on his writing.

We talked and emailed often during the first couple of years, he teaching me technical things like how to open the aperture to blur the background of a photo or how to get a decent shot even in low light. When he complimented me on some photos I took during the 4th of July, me offering tips on phrases, tempo and other aspects of writing.

That fall in 2016 Joseph went with K and I to the Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor and I’m still amazed at the panoramic shot he took of Lake Tahoe.

The following February I had to go to the University of Utah medical center for an operation, and the day after we got home, Joseph showed up at my house with a pot of pasta and a Shepherd’s pie that fed us for a week. Turns out he was as good of a cook as he was a photographer.

During his time in Fernley, Joseph was one of the original members of the Board of Directors of the Fernley Community Foundation and he served on the Lyon County Library Board.

When Joseph moved to the Bay area a few years ago to be nearer his son and daughter and “grand littles” as he called them, I was sad for me but happy for him.

He stayed in touch even after he moved, often sending me photos of activities in the senior living community he moved into, or of his family.

Seeing the notification of his death was a punch to the stomach.

He had many close friends in Fernley, much closer even than he and I were, and I feel confident in saying his loss is a blow to a lot of people.

Joseph didn’t just take great photos, he saw people. I’ve missed him since he moved away, but I’ll miss him even more now.

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Fernley Women’s
Golf Club

August 26

Game: 4 Clubs & Putter

Log gross: Patty Liljeberg, 102

Low net:
Bonnie MacQuarrie, 65

Low Putts: Jana Garner, 30

Closest to hole #7:
Kathy Kennedy, 15’

Closest to hole #11:
Jana Garner, 32’

No birdies or chip-ins

FEATURES

Mac's long ride: At 91, a classic car and a life full of friends

By Robert Perea

Richard “Mac” McDonald doesn’t just drive a 1950 Ford convertible – he drives memory. At 91, the retired Navy veteran and LAPD sergeant is a fixture around town. He can often be seen holding court with a circle of friends at a local casino or the Canal Wine Lounge, or with the top down and his dog Millie beside him in that 1950 Ford convertible that itself represents memories.

"I bought it because it's the same year I graduated high school," Mac said.

Born in Santa Barbara, Mac was 16 years old when his family moved to the San Fernando Valley. He graduated in 1950 from North Hollywood High School, joined the Navy and served four years, including two in Korea.

In 1954 he met Judy, his future wife, at the Enlisted Men's Club in Portsmouth, Va.

"She was a Navy brat, the daughter of a lieutenant commander," Mac said. "That's why she had access to the EM Club."

They married in 1955 and spent 63 years together before her passing in 2016.

"They were beautiful years, I know that," Mac said. "She raised a beautiful family."

Mac and Judy moved to Fernley in 2003 from Lake Isabella, Calif., in the mountains above Bakersfield. They came to help their son Brian move and decided to stay themselves.

"She wanted to get closer to family, which was fine with me," Mac said. "Wherever she wanted to go was good."

After the Navy, Mac worked in road construction for a couple of years before joining the Los Angeles Police Department. In his 18-year career, Mac worked patrol, Hollywood vice and traffic, and retired as a sergeant working in the chief's office. He was forced to retire in 1975 after a serious office



Richard "Mac" McDonald show off his 1950 Ford convertible.
Photo by Robert Perea

accident that crushed his neck.

"I didn't want to retire, but they said 'Mac, you can't shake your head yes, you can't shake your head no. You've got to go,'" Mac said. "So, I took the pension, and I've outlived them."

After leaving the LAPD, Mac worked a variety of jobs, including driving a school bus, selling real estate, working in security, and owning a sandwich shop.

"At age 65 I said that's it, I retired and haven't worked since," Mac said.

In 2016, Mac was chosen to participate in Honor Flight Nevada, where veterans are flown to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials. There, he was chosen to lay the wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"That was the greatest honor, other than my marriage, that could have been bestowed upon me," he said.

Even at 91, Mac is adept at using a cell phone and a computer. He said he talks once a week with his brothers Bruce, who lives in an assisted living home in Henderson, and Doug, who lives in Port Hueneme, Calif., as well as his sons Rick in Minnesota and Kenny in Henderson. He still lives in the same neighborhood as his son Brian. Mac also has two granddaughters and three great-grandsons.

These days, McDonald drives a 2019 Mitsubishi when the weather turns, but the Ford remains his pride. He was honored to be asked to carry Mrs. Nevada 2025, Ruth Wayrynen, during the 4th of July parade.

"Owning a car like this isn't about speed," he said. "It's about the journey."

That journey includes friendships forged at local casinos, neighborhood gatherings and the Canal Lounge,

where he celebrated his 91st birthday last December with more than 75 guests.

Mac's easy manner and outgoing personality allow him to make friends easily. In recent months, though, Mac said he's lost 11 friends.

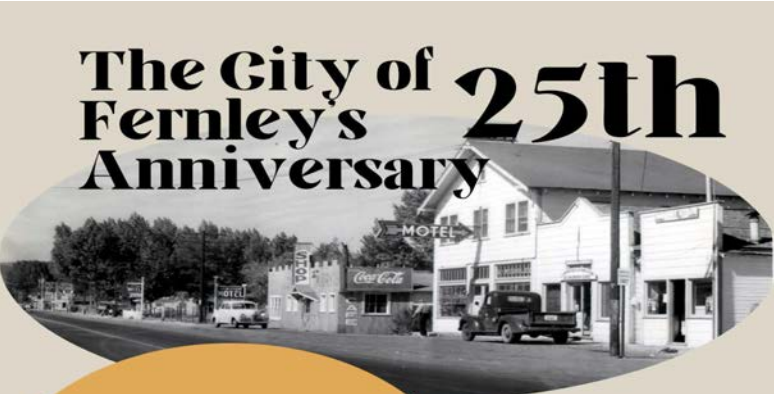
"That humbles me," he said. "I keep asking why I'm still here. I believe God has left me here for 91 years for a reason."

While he doesn't know the answer, he has a theory.

"I've never met anybody here that I don't like, and they all seem to know my name," he said. "Maybe that's why God left me here."

And maybe it's because, when Mac rolls up with the top down, he reminds everyone that the road, like life, is best traveled with good company and a little style.



The City of Fernley's 25th Anniversary



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		BINGO		10X POINTS	CATCH 21
		1pm-5pm		7pm-11pm	7pm-11pm

MAYOR'S

CLEAN SWEEP & RECYCLE DAY

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2025

MAYOR'S CLEAN SWEEP & RECYCLE DAY

Saturday, September 13th

Team up with family, co-workers, and friends!

Do you or anyone you know have any unwanted, appliances, tires, bicycles, paint, cell batteries, laptops, cardboard, or green waste? Well, you're in luck! City of Fernley has teamed up with Redwood Materials, Hero Environmental and Waste Management to help you get rid of these items at no cost!

Location: Out of Town Park (behind the rodeo grounds)

Time: 8am-noon or until bins are full

Date: Saturday, September 13th

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony to be held at Out of Town Park

Staff Report

The Nevada Veterans Coalition along with the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office, North Lyon County Fire Department and City of Fernley will host the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 at the Out of Town Park.

The 24th annual ceremony will honor the law enforcement officers and firefighters who died in New York City and at the Pentagon.

The observance will also remember the passengers on United Flight 93 who wrestled the controls of the jet from hijackers, only to have the plane crash in a field in western Pennsylvania, killing all aboard, as well as the thousands of innocent lives lost in New York City and Washington D.C.

The ceremony also includes the annual presentation of the Fernley Patriot of the Year Award.

Staff Report

Melissa Clement, executive director of Nevada Right to Life, will be the guest speaker for the Sept. 16 meeting of the Fernley Republican Women.

The meeting will be at the Fernley Senior Center. A light meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the meeting will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. The public is always invited to attend.

Clement’s topic for her presentation will be “Your Return on Investment in

Life.”

Combining a lifetime passion for politics with a deeply imbued need to stand for the littlest among us, Clement fights for the unborn and the elderly in the legislature, school boards, and in the community. She holds a Bachelor of Science in marketing and a Master of Arts in political science from the University of Nevada. She represents Nevada on the Board of Directors of the National Right to Life Committee.

Overnight I-80 lane closures to affect Fernley commuters starting Sept. 7

Staff Report

If you drive between Fernley and Sparks on Interstate 80, be ready for overnight delays starting next week. The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) will begin closing lanes between Vista Boulevard and USA Parkway on Sept. 7. The closures, which are expected to continue through December, are part of early work on a long-planned project to widen the busy corridor.

Westbound lanes will be reduced from 8 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., while eastbound lanes will close from 7:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. Crews will shift the closures to different two-mile sections of the freeway as work progresses.

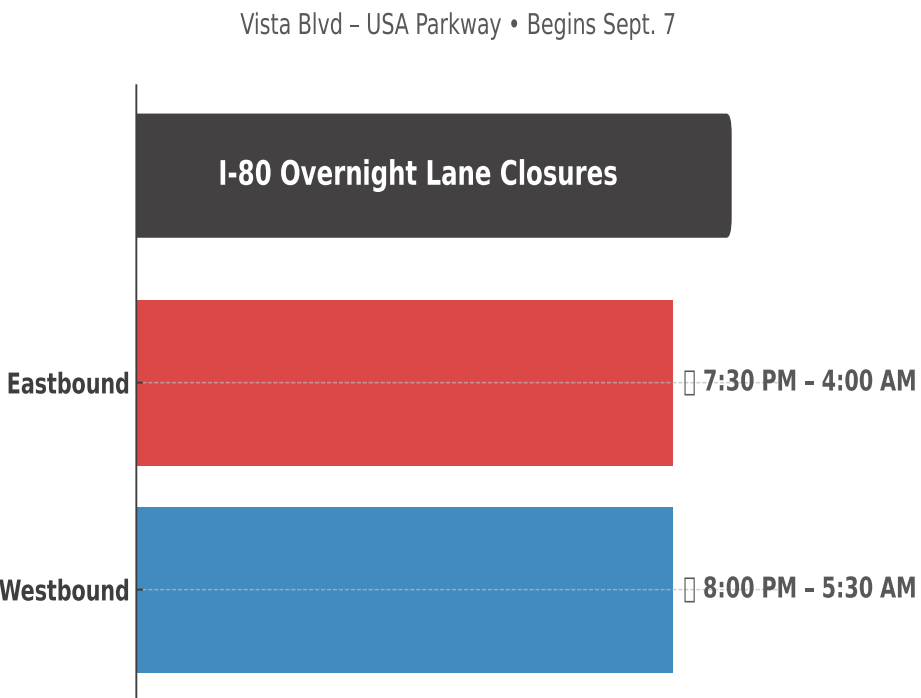
NDOT says the overnight schedule is meant to ease impacts on the nearly 50,000 drivers who use I-80 daily, especially commuters to and from the

Tahoe Reno Industrial Center. Still, the agency is urging motorists to allow extra time and be prepared for possible delays.

The immediate work has two purposes: engineers will drill and survey the slopes and rock formations along the highway to guide design for the widening project, which could begin as soon as 2027. At the same time, NDOT crews will be clearing roadside litter.

Traffic through this stretch of I-80 has increased more than 70 percent in the past decade, making the widening project one of NDOT’s top safety priorities. Officials estimate that expanding the freeway could reduce crashes by about 20 percent.

Drivers can find real-time updates on NDOT’s social media channels @nevadadot, including the Reno-specific account @nevadadotreno on X.



Mayor’s Clean Sweep & Recycling event coming up Sept. 13

Staff Report

The City of Fernley is hosting the Mayor’s Clean Sweep event on Sept. 13, and this time it includes a free residential recycle collection day.

The City of Fernley has teamed up with Redwood Materials, Hero Environmental and Waste Management to help get residents get rid of unwanted items at no cost.

The Mayor’s Clean Sweep & Recycle Day will be held Saturday Sept. 13 at the Out of Town Park. Volunteers will meet at the gazebo at 7:30 a.m. to help clean up around the city. The location for recycling items at the Out of Town Park will be behind the rodeo grounds, from 8 a.m. to noon, or until the bins are full.

They will be accepting large trash

and debris (no more than one truck bed size limit); one large appliance per household (refrigerators, washer/dryer, etc.); household hazardous materials including paint or oil (3 feet by 3 feet); bicycles; electronics and batteries; old computers; tires (four total per household); batteries (laptop, cell phones, power tools, etc.); car batteries; and green waste such as leaves or branches.

Items that will not be accepted include CRT TVs (tube TVs), asbestos or related items, radioactive smoke detectors or mercury.

Volunteers and donations ae needed for the event. To volunteer or make a donation, contact April Homme in the city manager’s office at ahomme@cityoffernley.org or (775) 784-9858.



Mayor’s Clean Sweep from 2022 - volunteers gather before work gets started. Photo courtesy City of Fernley.



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Monday, Sept. 8	Tuesday, Sept. 9	Wednesday, Sept. 10	Thursday, Sept. 11	Friday, Sept. 12
Salisbury Steak	Chili Relleno	Lasagna	Honey Garlic Shrimp	BBQ Chicken
Mashed Potatoes	Casserole	Chopped Spinach	Brown Rice	Roasted Vegetables
Brown Gravy	Mexican Street Corn	Garlic Bread	Peas	Broccoli Salad
WW Roll	Refried Beans	Fresh Orange	Carrots	Cracked Wheat Bread
Cauliflower-Applesauce	Spanish Rice		Pears	Smart Balance
	Mango			Strawberries

COMMUNITY

CareSource explains Medicaid changes for rural Nevada

By Christy Lattin

CareSource representatives visited the Out of Egypt food bank in Fallon on Aug. 29 as part of a statewide “Rural Roadshow” to share information about upcoming changes to Nevada Medicaid.

Staff from the Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy were also on hand to explain the upcoming changes to Nevada managed care and provide additional information to residents.

During the 82nd legislative session, the Division received approval to fund the expansion of the Medicaid managed care program to all counties in Nevada, which should result in a 10% increase in recipients being served by a managed care program. Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, the state will expand its Medicaid managed care program beyond Washoe and Clark counties to all 17 counties in the state. The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, recently awarded contracts to CareSource and SilverSummit Healthplan to implement the expansion.

CareSource, the only nonprofit managed care organization operating in Nevada, will serve Medicaid members across the state and offer qualified health plans through Nevada Health Link, the state’s health insurance marketplace.

Under managed care, the state contracts with private insurance companies, called Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), to deliver services to Medicaid members. Instead of paying providers directly for each visit or procedure, Nevada Medicaid will pay MCOs a fixed amount per member. The MCOs then manage networks of doctors and hospitals. State officials say the system is designed to control costs, improve access, and increase accountability for the quality of care provided.

Dr. Tracey Green, chief medical officer for CareSource, said rural residents currently covered by Medicaid

will be automatically assigned to either CareSource or SilverSummit based on their zip codes. Beneficiaries will have the opportunity to select their plan, but must do so by Dec. 26, 2025. Notices explaining the changes will be mailed to Medicaid members in October, and officials urge residents to update their mailing address to ensure they receive information on enrollment.

Green said managed care plans will bring several new benefits to rural Nevada. Those include focusing on preventive care by offering incentives for screenings, being held accountable for timely appointment scheduling, recruiting more doctors and providers to rural communities, and offering free extra benefits beyond the standard Medicaid package.

To prepare for the expansion, CareSource plans to hire about 200 employees in Nevada, including rural liaisons to work directly with communities outside the state’s two largest counties. The organization currently has an office in Las Vegas and plans to open another in rural Nevada, though a specific location has not been finalized.

The Rural Roadshow is designed to help residents learn about managed care and what the changes will mean for them. CareSource representatives are stopping in communities across the state to meet with residents, often at local food banks and community centers. Towns on the schedule include Gardnerville, Minden, Yerington, Fallon, Virginia City, Incline Village, Ely, Elko, Winnemucca, Battle Mountain, Lovelock, Pahrump, Tonopah, Beatty, Caliente, Mesquite, and Las Vegas.

CareSource officials emphasized that while change can be confusing, the shift to managed care is meant to improve health care delivery and ensure that Nevada’s rural residents receive the same services already available in Washoe and Clark counties.

More information is available at dhcfp.nv.gov/Providers/Statewide_Managed_Care/ or by downloading the Nevada Medicaid app at mdp.medicaid.nv.gov.



Team members from the Nevada Division of Health Care Financing & Policy joined CareSource at its Rural Roadshow in Fallon on Aug. 29. Pictured above, from left, are Jonathan Figuero, Patty Beck-Weaver, Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles, and Erica McAllister. Photo by Christy Lattin.



Dr. Tracey Green, Chief Medical Officer with CareSource, was on hand to help introduce the CareSource managed care organization. The CareSource team brought insulated grocery bags for food bank clients, and invited Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck to the event and covered the cost. Photo by Christy Lattin

Fernley Church Directory

Summit Church
Silverland Middle School

Grace Baptist Church
460 W. Main Street, Suite 108
gbcfernley.org

Fernley First Baptist Church
485 E. Main Street

Gift of Grace Lutheran Church
290 N. West Street

Living Faith Church
110 Center Street

Crosswinds Assembly of God
3015 Farm District Road

Calvary Chapel
875 Fremont Street

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BUSINESS

RNDC offers low-interest loans to rural businesses

Story and photo by Christy Lattin

The Rural Nevada Development Corporation (RNDC) has spent more than three decades helping small businesses in Nevada’s rural counties secure financing when traditional banks could not. Mary Kerner, chief executive officer of RNDC, spoke recently at the Fallon Chamber of Commerce luncheon and explained how her agency can help small businesses around the state.

Founded in 1992 as a private non-profit, RNDC began as a “lender of last resort,” Kerner said. Today, it operates as an “alternative lender,” providing low-interest loans to entrepreneurs and business owners across 15 rural counties. Headquartered in Ely with an office in Elko, RNDC has lent more than \$55 million and helped create or retain more than 2,000 jobs.

As one of only four Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) in Nevada, RNDC plays a key role in providing loans under the State Small Business Credit Initiative program. Funding partners include traditional banks, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Economic Development Administration, and the USDA.

Loans can be used for a wide range of needs, including business purchases or startups, expansion, modernization, debt consolidation, equipment, or working capital. The organization also has more flexibility than most banks when it comes to collateral. Past examples have included homes, vehicles, trailers, and even livestock.

Applications for RNDC loans are not available online. Instead, applicants must submit paperwork directly to the nonprofit. A volunteer board reviews applications and takes a close look at each business owner’s financial history. That review includes credit scores, bankruptcies, and personal circumstances behind those financial challenges. Once approved, it typically takes about 30 days for funding to be released.

Along with small business lending, the RNDC has additional programs including down payment assistance, a weatherization program, homeowner rehabilitation, multi-family projects, and the I-80 Fund to support businesses along the Nevada Interstate-80 corridor.

For more information, check the Rural Nevada Development Corporation website at rndcnv.org or call 866-404-5204.



Mary Kerner, chief executive officer of the Rural Nevada Development Corporation, spoke at the recent Chamber of Commerce luncheon about the RNDC lending program. Kerner, left, is pictured above with Lucy Carnahan, executive director of the Fallon Chamber. Photo by Christy Lattin.

Continued from front - VIGIL...

their thing and finally getting that win, made me tear up a little bit,” Garcia said.

Everyone on the sidelines swarmed to the middle of the field, jumping up and down to celebrate the win.

“It was very emotional,” Baratti Butler said. “We know we won because Alex was there with us that day. Once I got home, I got to thinking about it, and it broke my heart knowing that he wasn’t there with us to witness that in person. But he definitely was there in the sky witnessing it.”

As darkness descended Wednesday night, those who gathered to remember Alex huddled close to keep the breeze from blowing out their candles. But Garcia said nothing will extinguish

the love they all share for Alex.

“Every night it actually haunts me, but it had a purpose, and it brought everyone together,” he said. “I hate that he can’t be here to see it himself, but if feels good that we have that, and he was a very big part of that.”

Audrey Espinoza said the outpouring of love for her brother was heartwarming.

“I think that shows what kind of person he was,” she said. “It just shows how much he was loved and I’m so grateful for that. I just hope he knows how much we all loved him.”

Silver Stage High School students gathered for a candlelight vigil on Aug. 27 in honor of Alex Espinoza, who drowned in Lahontan Reservoir on Aug. 9. Photo by Ashlee Cross



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GOVERNMENT

Titus announces reelection bid for state senate seat

By Christy Lattin

Dr. Robin Titus has announced her campaign for re-election to the Nevada State Senate where she represents District 17. The district spans Churchill, Douglas, Esmeralda, Lyon, Mineral and Nye counties. Titus is seeking her second term as a state senator.

A physician by trade, Titus was first elected in 2014 to the Nevada Assembly, where she served for four legislative sessions. She won a seat in the Nevada Senate in 2022 and was named Senate Minority Leader in 2024.

“While others seek new political paths, I remain fully committed to fighting for our rural way of life. As a family practice physician for 40 years and your Senate Minority Leader, I’ve dedicated my career to serving Nevada – in the exam room and in Carson City.”

A graduate of Smith Valley High School, Titus earned her medical degree from the University of Nevada, Reno and its School of Medicine. She

is currently the chief of staff at South Lyon Medical Center.

In the 83rd legislative session, Titus served on the Education, Finance, and Health and Human Services committees. She sponsored legislation to expand Nevada’s social workers workforce and to launch nursing apprenticeship programs, though both bills failed to advance.

Titus has also worked to reduce Nevada’s reliance on California for fuel. While her bill to create a task force on the issue did not pass, she has been pursuing solutions, including meeting with the governor and other leaders during the legislative interim.

In her re-election announcement, Titus said she is “standing firm in the Capitol to defend our conservative values.” She emphasized her commitment to protecting Second Amendment rights, pushing back against rising fuel costs, supporting military communities including NAS Fallon, and strengthening rural economies and infrastructure.



State responds to network security incident affecting online services

Staff Report

The Nevada Office of Emergency Management/Homeland Security (EOM) has created a temporary Nevada State website for public information regarding the recovery status after a cyberattack disrupted some Nevada state government websites and online services.

According to the website at <https://www.oem.nv.gov/en/recovery/>, in the early morning of Sunday, Aug. 24, the State of Nevada identified a ransomware-based cyber incident and immediately activated its cyber response plan, engaging in 24/7 recovery efforts. To contain the threat, teams isolated and took some systems offline

while restoring others safely in stages.

The incident remains under active state and federal investigation in coordination with CISA and the FBI. A forensic review confirms that some data was exfiltrated (moved outside the state network). Investigators are determining the scope, and if personal information is confirmed, the State says it will notify affected individuals consistent with law.

The incident continues to impact the availability of certain state technology systems. Some websites or phone lines may be slow or temporarily unavailable during recovery.

The website says that the Office of the Governor and the Governor’s Technology Office (GTO) are working

continuously with state, local and federal partners to restore services safely. Services will be brought back in phases after they pass security checks, with priority on public-facing and critical services.

Some county systems that are maintained by the state were also affected. Lyon County Sheriff Brad Pope said the server for the sheriff’s office’s report management system was shut down. The program is used to dispatch law enforcement, fire and EMS services throughout the county. While radios are still working, all logs are being done by hand while the system is down.

Pope said every division of the sheriff’s office is dependent on the report



management system to operate. Services that are provided at the substation are on hold until the state is back online and the system is operational.

Meetings

Fernley City Council
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting September 17

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday of the Month at 5 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting September 10

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

Lyon County Commission
1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 9 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex
27 S. Main St. Yerington
Next meeting September 18

Lyon County Planning Commission
2nd Tuesday of the Month at 9 a.m.
Lyon County Administrative Complex
27 S. Main St. Yerington
Next meeting September 9

Lyon County Library Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the Month, 9:30 a.m.
Locations rotate between the 5 county libraries
Next meeting September 23

Lyon County School District Board of Trustees
4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
Locations rotate between each attendance area
Next meeting September 23

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

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LAW AND ORDER

Man charged with possession of 1.4 pounds of meth

By Robert Perea

A man was arrested early Saturday morning and charged with possession of nearly a pound-and-a-half of methamphetamine.

The Lyon County Sheriff’s Office said the man was arrested after running from deputies who had initially stopped to help him after he fell off a motorcycle.

Justin Johnson, 35, was arrested on multiple charges including trafficking a controlled substance. LCSO said deputies saw Johnson trying to ride a

motorcycle at 12:53 a.m. Saturday in the 1000 block of Rimfield Drive. They said he fell off the bike with the bike on top of him while he was trying to get onto it.

LCSO said Johnson was not cooperative with the deputies who stopped to help him. The deputies said Johnson appeared to be intoxicated and he smelled of marijuana. As they questioned him, Johnson fled on foot, with deputies in pursuit.

The sheriff’s office also charges that Johnson did not stop when given several warnings, and they deployed a

Taser as he was trying to jump a fence. During a search of Johnson, deputies said they found marijuana in his pocket, along with a large of amount of methamphetamine. Johnson was transported to the Lyon County Jail and booked without further incident.

The marijuana was weighed and found to be 31.7 grams. The methamphetamine was tested and weighed and found to be 1.49 pounds and tested positive for methamphetamine.

Johnson was being held on \$103,430 bail.



Justin Johnson booking photo , courtesy Lyon County Sheriff.

Three arrested after road rage incident leads to stabbing

Staff Report

Three people were arrested on assault and battery charges after a road rage incident where one person was stabbed and a vehicle crashed into the handicapped ramp at the Community Response and Resource Center on Aug. 25.

The Lyon Cunty Sheriff’s Office said deputies responded to a reported traffic accident at 4:50 p.m. on Aug. 25 at the CRRC. They arrived to find an injured man, later identified as Ricky Fields, who was being treated by North Lyon County Fire Department personnel.

Deputies said their investigation determined that incident began as a road rage dispute and escalated when

bystanders became involved. During the altercation, multiple individuals brandished weapons, a vehicle was damaged, and Fields sustained injuries that required hospitalization.

As a result of the investigation, deputies arrested Fields on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon, robbery and reckless driving. His bail was set at \$81,890.00. They also arrested Joseph Cantrell and Christopher Cantrell on charges of battery with a deadly weapon and obstructing/false statements. Bail for each of them was set at \$41,140.00

Anyone with information related to this incident is asked to contact the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office at (775) 463-6600 and request to speak with Deputy Reyes.



A van crashed into the handicapped ramp at the Community Response and Resource Center during a road rage incident that led to the arrests of three people on Aug. 20. Photo by John Mueller

Teen riding dirt bike killed in Stagecoach crash



Staff Report

A teenage boy riding a dirt bike was killed when he was hit by a van while trying to cross U.S. 50 near Scenic Avenue in Stagecoach Sunday afternoon.

According to the Nevada Highway Patrol, the van was traveling eastbound on U.S. 50 approaching Scenic Avenue when it hit the dirt bike. The rider was attempting to enter U.S. 50 from Scenic Avenue.

The rider of the dirt bike was pronounced dead on scene by medical personnel. NHP did not release the name of the teen.

Pershing County Sheriff’s Office investigating homicide at Burning Man

By Robert Perea

The Pershing County Sheriff’s Office is investigating a homicide at the Burning Man Festival.

On Aug. 30 at approximately 9:14 p.m., while the ‘Man’ was beginning to burn, a PCSO deputy was flagged down by an event participant who reported there was a man lying in a pool of blood.

Deputies and Bureau of Land Management rangers responded to the campsite and found the man dead on the ground. Investigators interviewed several people in the immediate area cordoned off the perimeter in the area where the body was found. The identity of the man was not immediately known, the sheriff’s office said.

The body was transported to the Washoe County Medical Examiner’s Office.

No other information was released.

Inmate dies in Lyon County jail

By Robert Perea

An inmate in the Lyon County Jail in Yerington died after being found unresponsive in his cell on Thursday.

Lyon County Sheriff Brad Pope said 70-year old Theodore Hamel was transported to South Lyon Medical Center after being found unresponsive in his cell. Lifesaving efforts were performed in the jail and at South Lyon Medical Center before Hamel was pronounced dead.

Pope said initial investigation indicates the death was medically related and there were no signs of foul play or suicide.

Investigations are being conducted by the Nevada Division of Investigations and the Carson City Sheriff’s Office Coroner.

Hamel was arrested Aug. 10 on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.



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This page is brought to the community through a partnership between Fallon Media Co. and Victory Logistics District, and is aimed at informing Fernley residents about local government, community development, and economic growth. Each week, we provide in-depth coverage of key issues shaping the city's future, fostering transparency, and encouraging engagement.

COLUMNS

My family folktales - branding

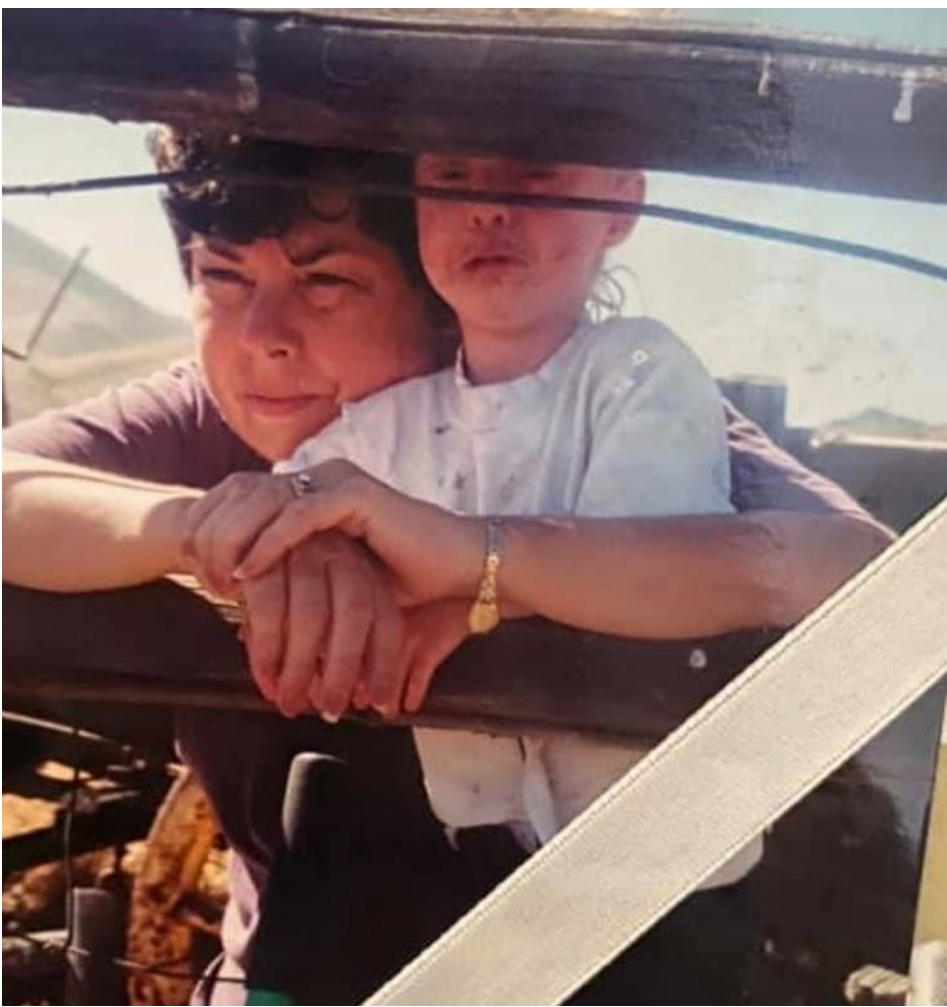
By Shelbie Condie

I am a sixth-generation Nevadan. Both sides of my family came over to the United States from Europe and traveled west like many pioneers. They journeyed across an arid alkaline desert ... and decided to stay. My roots were planted in a place where grit and grace are necessary, and I'm thankful for that.

I'm also thankful for where I was raised, in the not-so-small-anymore town of Fernley. My sets of grandparents grew up here and raised their families here. Specifically, my maternal ones, Stan and Judy Ceresola graduated from FHS in 1964, lived here for 50+ years, and became pivotal members of Fernley. Unfortunately, they are no longer with us, but I hope to keep my grandparents' legacy alive by bringing their classic stories to life. So many tales were spun around the kitchen table with laughter and tears, and I want to share these gems with the community they loved.

Stan and Judy lived and worked on the family ranch for more than 40 years, known simply as "The Ranch" to us grandkids. It was on the outskirts of Wadsworth, a cute double-wide trailer against a backdrop of picturesque countryside, cozied up alongside the Truckee River. We'd play in the sheds and stalls and haystacks for hours... even when we weren't technically supposed to, but that's another story for another time. The funnest part about going down to The Ranch was when grandpa spread the word that all hands on deck were needed.

Branding was a key part of my family's life. There was nothing too fancy about the way we stamped the 'Walk-



A young Shelbie Condie cries as she watches calves being branded on her family's ranch. Photo courtesy of Shelbie Condie

ing T' on cattle herds every season: no deluxe chutes and no ATVs, just some folks on horses in a wooden corral that was usually infested with Mormon crickets during the summer. All of the cousins, grandkids, and a couple ranch hands gathered together for a weekend of hard work and legendary memories. Some of the best stories feature a branding outing of some sort. Through

the years, they've blended together in my mind and it is hard to focus on just one in particular. The majority of them, quite frankly, shouldn't bear repeating in a public article because I did not inherit the suave talk of my grandpa, who could relay an incident so pure that it didn't occur to the listener that these days that happenstance might have some moral or ethical implica-

tions. For instance, a dog was accidentally yanked through the campground fire, being tethered to the tailgate of a pickup barreling across the campsite, and ended up 'fine as heck' ... I just wouldn't do it justice trying to illustrate Stan's poignant perspective.

Overall, the branding scenes reminded me of something from a reality show- something that wasn't entirely scripted and yet unequivocally entertaining on its own. I took for granted those authentic and chaotic days as I got older and naively assumed The Ranch would always be there. The reality is, nothing is permanent in this cycle of life, and those days are now cherished nostalgic moments. Through the ups and downs (like the bouncing of that pup along the pickup truck), my grandparents taught me to always be there for the folks you care about the most, no matter the obstacle, and always have a sense of humor.

I get married next month, and I admit that it's hard to not be sad that my grandparents won't physically be present. How I wish my soon-to-be husband could hear these tales himself with my grandpa's booming voice and my grandma's charming smile. Their wedding picture from 1965 will stand on the memorial shelf, alongside other loved ones, and we know they'll be watching from above. Stan and Judy together through and through.

And though they are still deeply missed and we love them dearly, thankfully, there are so many stories to still share! If you have a story you'd like to contribute about Stan and Judy Ceresola, please contact us at robert@fernleyreporter.com to help me with a possible future submission.

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SPORTS

Elko hands Vaqueros first loss

By Robert Perea

After tasting success in the first two weeks of the season, the Fernley High School football team got it's first taste of defeat last Friday.

Elko dominated the second half to hand the Vaqueros a 26-15 loss in the first league game for both teams last Friday night.

"We're going to learn from it, we're going to move on and we're going to be better because of it," coach Anfernee Sloan said.

Elko scored on four straight possessions in the second half to turn Fernley's 7-0 halftime lead into a 26-7 Elko advantage. An unsuccessful onside kick after a late Fernley touchdown foiled any comeback hopes the Vaqueros had.

"They didn't change anything they did, we just didn't make the plays," Sloan said. "They scored on three third downs that were third and longs. That tells me we're just not making the plays there, and then offensively we're not doing our assignments."

The Vaqueros controlled the first half on both sides of the ball, and took a 7-0 lead to halftime courtesy of a 37-yard touchdown pass from Bryce

Stephens to Riley McCullar with 9:50 left in the second quarter.

But the Vaqueros had trouble sustaining offense in the second half and were confused by Elko's pre-snap shifts by the defensive line. The Indians' defensive tackles shifted positions several times, often causing the Vaqueros confusion on who to block.

"I think they let all the shifting and all the stuff kind of get to them," Sloan said.

Elko took the opening drive of the second half 71 yards in seven plays and scored on a 6-yard run by quarterback Ethan Kraitnz. The next time the Indians got the ball, they drove 53 yards in eight plays and cashed it in with a 22-yard touchdown pass from Kraitnz to Gabe Flores. Elko added a 38-yard touchdown pass from Kraitnz to Co Jones and a 2-yard run by Kraitnz to take complete control of the game.

Elko managed just 234 total yards of offense, but almost all of them came on their four scoring drives. The Vaqueros gained 351 yards, but lost a fumble on their opening drive, had a fumbled snap thwart a 4th-and-1 conversion attempt when they were down 12-7 and converted just twice on six third down attempts in the second half.



Fernley's Riley McCullar takes on three tacklers as he finishes a run during lastFriday's loss to Elko.
Photo by Leanne Cruz, Cruz Down Memory Lane Photography LLC

"I think fatigue kicked in there, and I'm a firm believer that fatigue makes cowards of us all," Sloan said. "And what I mean by cowards of us all, what it means is we're going to be more likely to make mistakes." going to practice all five days and we're going to go and get the job done like we're supposed to."

Lady Vaquero Soccer wins three in a row

By Robert Perea

After a rough start to the season in tournament play in South Tahoe, the Fernley High School girls soccer team is off to a great start in the regular season, with three consecutive wins.

The Vaqueros traveled to Wooster on Aug. 19 to kick off their season and came away with a 12-0 win over the Colts. Seven of the team's starters scored goals, including the coveted "hat trick" by Brylee Harry and Sabrina Portillo, scoring three goals each

during the match. Harry added two assists, Bronwynn Garrett scored two goals and had one assist, Sophie Mossner and Tillie Gillespie each scored one and had one assist and both Reese Johnson and Angel Pochop scored one goal.

In their home opener against the Debbie Smith CTE Academy on Aug. 21, the Vaqueros got a hat trick from Mossner, two goals from Sabrina Portillo, two goals and an assist from Garrett, one goal and one assist from Harry, a goal from Melissa Yokoi and

an assist from Pochop in a 9-1 win.

Goalkeeper Lilly Perez got in on the action with an assist and had two saves.

On Aug. 28, the Vaqueros continued their hard work with a 9-0 win over Sparks. Yokoi started the scoring with one goal, which was followed with two from Johnson, a hat trick by Garrett (with one assist) as well as Mossner. Gillespie added an assist to the mix as did the lone senior on the team, McKenzie Marsh.

Head coach Tammy Valentine is pleased with the performance, saying

"The team is off to a great start." Assistant coach Kent Kreller is excited about the number of players scoring already this season. "We lost a lot of talent last year, but this young group is working hard to live up to the expectations," he said.

This week the Vaqueros were schedule to host Incline on Tuesday and play at South Tahoe Thursday.

The boys varsity team was scheduled to play at Incline Tuesday and host South Tahoe Friday night. JV plays at 3 p.m. with the varsity starting 5 p.m.

Fernley volleyball tops Truckee in home opener

Staff Report

The Fernley High School volleyball team won a tense battle over Truckee in its first home match of the season on Aug. 26.

Trista Menesini led an active Vaquero attack with 11 kills. Justice Artiaga added nine kills as the Vaqueros collected 29 kills for the match. The Vaqueros also had six blocks, three by Lillianna Young and two by Grace

Chapin.

Artiaga also led the team with 18 digs and Emma Masters had 13 assists.

The Vaqueros entered this week with a 12-4 record, with four matches on the schedule. They were scheduled to play at the Debbie Smith CTE Academy Tuesday, host Wooster Wednesday, play at Sparks at 6 p.m. Friday and host Tonopah at 1 p.m. Saturday. They also play at Incline next Wednesday.



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PETS OF THE WEEK

Meet Charming and Snow



Charming**Snow**

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