

the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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\$1.00 | The Week of February 13, 2026

FCTA calls for overhaul of city's Temporary Use Permit process

By Robert Perea

After a discussion that began as possible action to restrict future funding for a community organization until certain conditions were met, the Fernley Convention and Tourism Authority, which is comprised of the five members of the City Council, instead decided at a special meeting Feb. 4 that the city's Temporary Use Permit process needs to be streamlined and clarified.

The agenda item concerned whether to restrict future FCTA funding for the Fernley Arts & Culture Event Squad (ACES), which hosts events throughout the year, including the Music, Murals and Margaritas Festival, as well as the Halloween Haunted House.

City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen said the meeting was requested by FCTA Chairman Albert Torres to address concerns about compliance with city standards for Temporary Use Permits (TUPs).

Staff from the Planning, Public Works and Building departments said ACES did not obtain a permit for a



Crowds gathered at the annual Music, Murals and Margaritas Festival 2025. Photo courtesy of Fernley Arts & Culture Event Squad (ACES).

Backyard Beach Party event on Sept. 13, 2025; did not remove the buildings from the Christmas Village at the Main Street Art Park for a week after the TUP expired; and submitted inadequate plans for the Community Center building, which is being repaired after a fire in 2024.

Mouritsen said the original resolution passed by the City Council in 2010 that sets up the FCTA board includes no requirement that groups receiving FCTA funds obtain permits or comply with city ordinances and codes. He said it only has a section that outlines the allowable uses for those

funds but does not put any conditions on the individuals or organizations who receive the funds.

"It would be a requirement for those events to be held; however it is not a requirement for the disbursement of funds," he said.

Torres asked for a rundown on permits or plans the city asked for but did not receive from ACES.

Assistant Planner Lisa Warner said ACES did not apply for TUPs for two events that were advertised on Facebook, the Back Yard Beach Party and the construction of walls for the Haunted House. Later in the meeting, ACES Vice President Skye Long and board member Jaimie Daniels said those Facebook posts were reminders for the group's volunteers, not promotion of public events.

Asked whether there were formal communication by email or letter to ACES about those issues, Warner said she was fairly certain there had been, but she didn't have the documentation on hand.

Building Official Charity Birkel

Continued on Page 7 - ACES...

Effort to expel Lau from Council continued

By Robert Perea

An item on the agenda for the Feb. 4 Fernley City Council to consider the expulsion and permanent exclusion of Councilman Stan Lau from all future council meetings was rescheduled to the March 4 meeting.

City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen said the reason for the continuance was that Lau had not been properly notified as required by Nevada Revised Statutes Section 241 if there is to be a discussion of alleged misconduct.

"In this case, we were unable to locate Councilman Lau in order to serve him the 241 notices to be able to discuss alleged misconduct," Mouritsen said. "Therefore, the only other solution is to notify him by certified mail, which required 21 days."

The staff report in the agenda packet stated that Lau has "engaged in conduct that disrupted City Council meetings and interfered with the conduct of public business as determined by an outside and independent

investigation and is in violation of the City of Fernley's Personnel Policies and Procedures and Fair Employment Practices." The resolution that was proposed cited violations of Section 2.2 of the Personnel Policies and Procedures, Anti-Harassment; and Sections 2.2 Anti-Harassment, 2.3, Employee Bullying, 2.10 Prohibition of Workplace Violence and 2.12 Code of Ethical Standards of the Personnel Policies and Procedures.

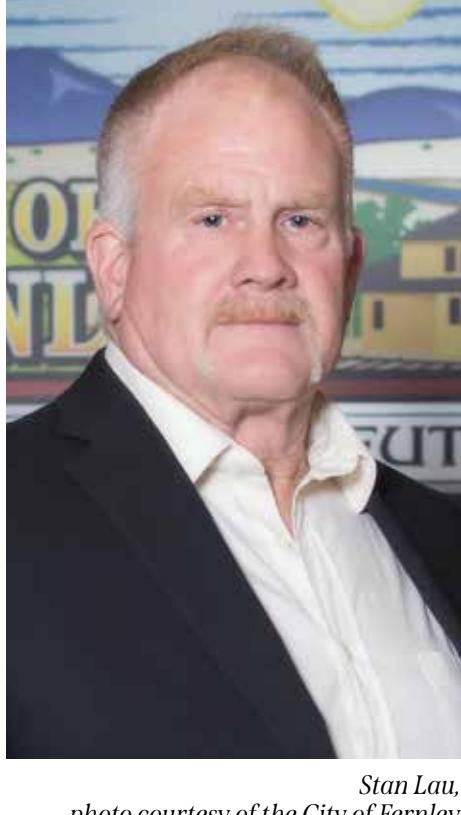
The packet did not contain a copy of the findings of the investigation.

Lau has been asked to leave council meetings by Mayor Neal McIntyre on at least two occasions after he was involved in verbal altercations, once shouting at Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski and another incident where he yelled at Councilman Albert Torres and told McIntyre to "shut up."

After a debate during the Sept. 17 City Council meeting over Lau's conduct in two separate budget meetings last April and May, the council voted 3-1-1, with Lau abstaining and

Councilman Ryan Hanan opposed, to censure Lau and remove him from his committee assignments representing the city. Deputy City Attorney Brandi Jensen defined a censure as the equivalent of a public, verbal or a written reprimand that is a public record from that point forward.

Lau was arrested Aug. 18 after an altercation in which a construction worker requested a citizen's arrest, charging that Lau knocked his glasses from his face and punched him. Lau has denied those charges and has not yet been arraigned in the matter. Because Justice of the Peace Lori Matheus is also a city employee as municipal court judge, the case was initially transferred from Fernley Municipal Court to Walker River Justice Court in Yerington due to a conflict of interest. But the Yerington court transferred the case back to Fernley Municipal Court, saying it was improperly transferred. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for Feb. 27 in Fernley Municipal Court.



Stan Lau, photo courtesy of the City of Fernley

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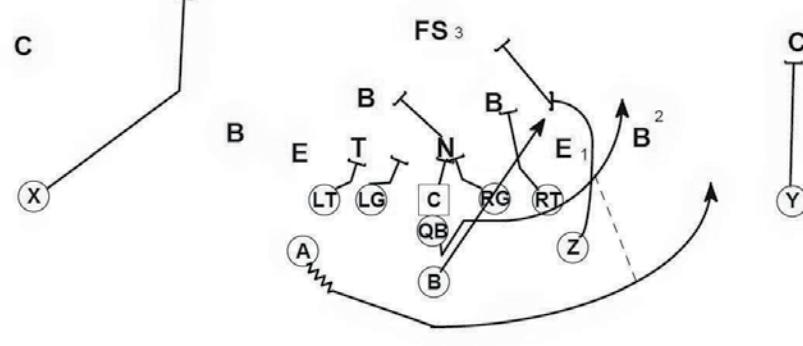
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



A brain in basketball mode

More than once this week, I felt like one of the hapless opponents swallowed up by the Fernley girls basketball team's devastating half-court traps, left with nowhere to go, no open passing lanes and no good decisions left.

Much like those poor guards, all I could do was pivot, protect the ball and pray someone cut to the middle before I turned it over.

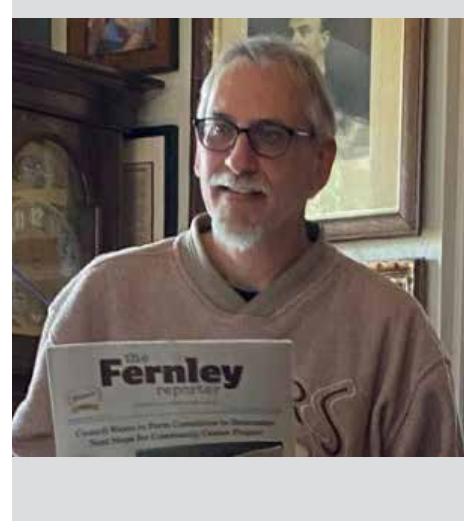
By midweek, even the simple stuff, the free throws of daily life, started clanging off the rim. By Thursday I was chasing rebounds I didn't even know I'd missed, scrambling after loose ends the way a point guard dives after a 50-50 ball.

At one point, I'm pretty sure I got called for a technical foul because I was out of timeouts.

And that was before the three-point shooting slump kicked in. Every idea I had all week hit the front of the rim.

Back in the days when I played ball every day, I used to tell opponents tossing up bricks, "You're going to hurt someone shooting like that."

This week, I felt like the one in danger. If bad shots were hazardous materials, I would've needed a permit. Even my good ideas rattled around the rim a couple times



ROBERT PEREA

before falling out. I could almost hear the whole gym groan.

By the time the week was over, I'd fully surrendered to basketball mode. Every errand felt like a road game. Every conversation sounded like a postgame interview. I even described a trip to the grocery store as "a good team effort."

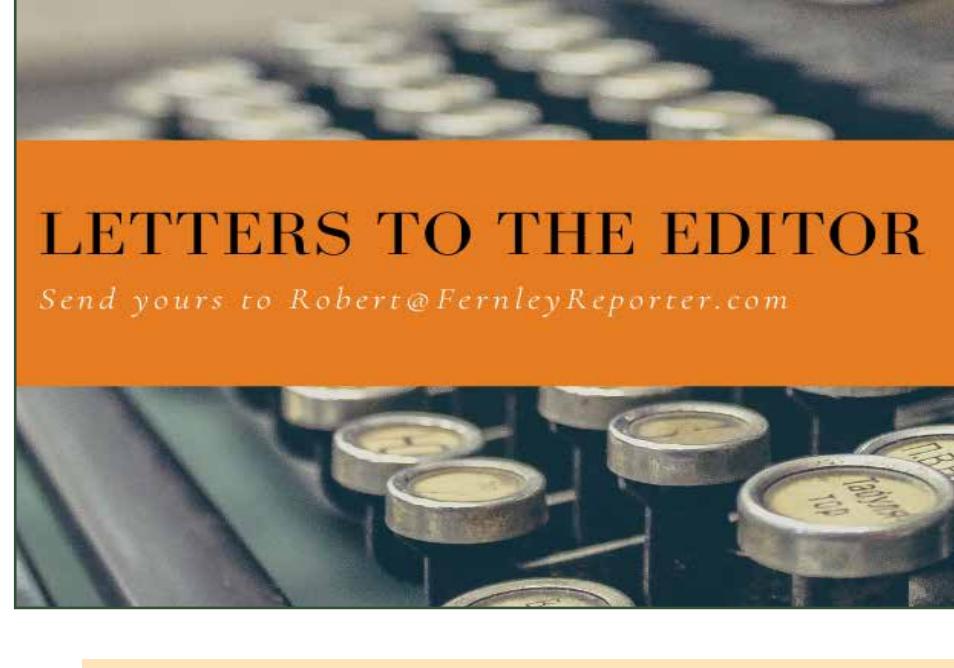
That's when I realized I might need to sit myself down and regroup, maybe draw up a new play on the white board, or take the air out of the ball and run some clock.

But like basketball, life has a shot clock, and mine hit zero before I even got a decent look at the rim.

The horn sounded, the possession ended, and that was that. But

the nice thing about this game is that there's always another one coming with a fresh clock, a clean inbound, and maybe, if I finally get my feet set, a swish.

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.



Fernley Women's Golf Club Results, Feb. 3

Game: Closest to Par

1st: Linda Garrett, 72 (0)

2nd: Juneil Key, 73 (+1)

3rd: Ava Case, 70 (-2)

Low Putts: Val Montgomery, 31

Closest to Hole #7: Shane Miller, 31'10"

Closest to hole #11: Patty Liljeberg, 17'10"

Chip-In: Linda Garrett, #4

FERNLEY NEWS MINUTE

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FEATURES

Strong numbers, real pressure in regional economy

By Rachel Dahl

Northern Nevada's economy is still growing, but the over-all environment is getting more complicated for families, employers, and local governments. That was the message from last week's State of the Economy presentation hosted by the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN) in Reno.

Brian Gordon, economist from Applied Analysis, opened with what he called the "Twitter version" of the regional outlook: population growth is recalibrating, consumer spending hasn't collapsed but is under strain, employers are struggling to find skilled workers, housing and land remain tight, and construction is shifting toward digital infrastructure like data centers.

Behind that summary is a sharp dis-



Taylor Adams, President and CEO of EDAWN, addressed a crowd of 1,600 last week at the annual economic update event. Photo courtesy EDAWN.

connect between the data and how people feel. On paper, the national economy is strong. Gross domestic product

and corporate profits are at or near record highs, and stock indexes have been breaking new ground. But con-

sumer sentiment is near historic lows, worse than during several past crises including the early 1990s recession and the dot-com bust. People report feeling worse about the economy today than they did during the Great Recession, even though the objective numbers are better.

Population and demographics are at the center of the shift. The birth rate has fallen significantly from mid-20th-century levels, household sizes have shrunk by roughly 30 percent, and America is aging. In Nevada, those trends are magnified by migration patterns. United Van Lines data presented at the meeting showed Nevada was among the top inbound states in 2025, but nearly 39 percent of new arrivals are 65 or older. Family, retirement, and

Continued on Page 6 - EDAWN...

LCSO reports no incidents in student protest

By Robert Perea

A student walkout in Fernley on Feb. 6, part of a growing wave of student protest against U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) taking place across the country, ended without any reported incidents of violence, according to the Lyon County Sheriff's Office.

Despite widespread criticism of the protest and fears of violence, both against students who participated and those who didn't, deputies monitoring the demonstration said they observed and received no reports of fights, weapons or violence, and reported only slowed traffic as students moved through the area.

The Sheriff's Office began preparing for the protest on Feb. 4 after learning that Fernley High School students were planning a walkout. In the two days before the event, LCSO received numerous calls, messages and online reports from residents warning of possible threats, including rumors of fights



Fernley High students carrying signs and flags on Main Street in protest of ICE. Photo courtesy of Rick Roznos.

and shootings. Deputies also discovered that students at Silverland Middle School intended to participate.

LCSO Chief Deputy Mitch Brantingham said those reports were investigated and found largely unsubstantiated, but the Sheriff's Office increased patrols throughout the city as a

precaution.

Students said the walkout was organized by a group of Fernley High School students and promoted through a series of Instagram posts that circulated earlier in the week.

"It was a few Hispanic girls at our school," Nunez said. "I don't know their

names.

Shortly before 10 a.m. on Friday, about 50 Fernley High students left campus carrying signs and flags and walked north on U.S. 95A before turning east on Main Street and gathering at the roundabout. Roughly 20 Silverland Middle School students walked along Farm District Road to meet them there. Deputies also noted a small group of counter protesters, who Brantingham said also appeared to be students, on the opposite side of the roundabout, but no confrontations occurred.

Students described the reaction from the public as mostly supportive, though a few passing drivers made negative gestures. Several students said they were grateful for the presence of deputies and Nevada Highway Patrol troopers. Many of them shouted "Thank you" to an LCSO deputy who was blocking traffic as the students crossed the intersection at 95A and

Continued on Page 5 - PROTEST...

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Battalion Chief says staffing shortages leave Fernley without emergency units for hours every day

By Kerry Lyman

Due to the number of 911 calls received each day and chronic understaffing at the North Lyon County Fire Protection District, Battalion Chief Bill Snyder told the city council late last month there were "about eight hours every day in 2025 that we had no available people to respond" to emergencies.

"It is always busy. I hate saying we're busy because I feel it's like beating a dead horse. But I think it's important that everybody understands how active it is here," Snyder said during remarks at the Jan. 21 City Council meeting summarizing fire department activity in Fernley during 2025.

Responding to 1,470 emergency

calls in 2025, Snyder said there are only four firefighters on duty on any given day, sometimes five, of whom only one or two are paramedics.

Combine that staffing level with an average of four times in each day that the department receives two or more 911 calls at the same time, and the lack of response becomes evident. As an example, Snyder said if they have two ambulances out on calls and there is another call for an ambulance, "that means we have no ambulances available."

Compounding the problem is the fact that of the 1,470 emergency calls received last year, 555 of them were instances where the fire department received three or more emergency calls at the same time, amounting to about 1.5 times a day that this occurs.

"So there are about five and a half calls a day on average that we don't have units available" to respond to emergencies, Snyder said. Translated into time, that amounts to "about eight hours every day," he said.

In later remarks outside the council meeting, Snyder said "as soon as there's two calls or more, we're not available. If there's three calls, another jurisdiction has to respond."

Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski asked how it impacts other jurisdictions when they have to respond to Fernley calls for aid because Fernley does not have enough people or equipment.

"With an average of 13 calls a day, we're having to have other people come out for over half of those. I can't imagine that's good for those com-

munities," Snyder said. "Anytime you're drawing an ambulance out of Stagecoach, Silver Springs or Pyramid Lake, those are long distances.

"So even if they come halfway and get turned around because we cancel them, you're taking a lot of time away from those communities," Snyder added.

Thanks to a strong relationship with the sheriff's department, deputies are sometimes able to assist, Snyder said, relating a recent instance when the interstate was shut down "as it does every day" due to traffic. In that situation, with nobody available to drive the ambulance to a helicopter pick up, LCSO Chief Deputy Mitch Brantingham volunteered to drive "because we had no manpower," Snyder said.

Campos to speak Feb. 17 at Fernley Republican Women meeting

Staff Report

Pastor Massey Campos of Revive Church in Stuart, Fla. will be the guest speaker for the next meeting of the Fernley Republican Women (FRW) on Tuesday, Feb. 17 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 invited to attend.

Campos is a first-generation American and a third-generation preacher. Both of his parents were born and raised in Mexico and immigrated to America as young adults.

While still in his teens, Campos began preaching to congregations, then in 2001, began speaking to audiences around the country in high schools, colleges, churches, and much more. His message focuses on encouraging Americans to understand the nations' Biblical heritage and historical influence on ideas of liberty. Campos currently resides in Port Saint Lucie, Fla., with his three boys and wife Cari.

He will be speaking about the biblical founding of America, identifying God's providential hand, real separation of church and state, knowing your fundamental rights, and why this is important to your life.



Pastor Massey Campos

Fernley Community Events

FEB 13

CUPID CREATES EVENT (\$15)
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Southern Charm & Fernley Create
25 East Main Street Suite # 5
775-302-1488

FEB 14

TABLE TENNIS
9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

YOUTH CODING CLUB
(ages 8 - 12) bi-weekly
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

FEB 18

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

FEB 19

TRIVIA (21+)
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

FEB. 20

FAMILY CRAFT
DIY Shamrock Banner
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

OPEN MIC NIGHT (21+)
6:30 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North

FEB 21

TABLE TENNIS
9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

4th ANNUAL 4th OF JULY SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

(\$20 Adult/\$15 Child)
Doors: 5:45 p.m. Dinner: 6:00 p.m. -
8:00 p.m.
Fernley Senior Center
105 Lois Lane
775-399-4796

FEB 25

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

FEB 26

MAYOR NEAL E. MCINTYRE'S 2026 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
6:00 p.m.
Community Resource Center
(the Boys & Girls Club)
695 E. Main Street

PUBLIC MARKET
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. (second and forth
Thursdays Jan-May)
Fernley Senior Center
105 Lois Lane
775-575-3370 Ext.1

TRIVIA (21+)
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
McHoppers Brew Co.
396 US Highway 95A North



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Presidents Day

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Hot dog Whole Wheat Bun
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Mac 'n' Cheese
Green Beans
Mandarins
100% Juice

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Roma Burger
Corn on the Cob
Baked Beans
Lettuce/Ketchup/Mayo
Cantaloupe

Thursday, Feb. 19

Frijoles Charros
"Cowboy Beans"
Pinto Beans with Ham,
Chorizo and Bacon
Strawberries
Mango
Corn

Friday, Feb. 20

Birthday Lunch
Blue Cheese Chicken
Blue Cheese Roasted Potatoes
Peas
Fruit Cocktail
100% Juice
Cranberry Cake

COMMUNITY

Main Street Fernley celebrates new crosswalk with ribbon cutting

Staff Report

Representatives of the Nevada Department of Transportation and Lt. Governor Stavros Anthony's office and Mayor Neal McIntyre joined members of the nonprofit Main Street Fernley for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the new crosswalk from Silverlace Blvd. to the Main Street Art Park.

The crosswalk installation was finished shortly before Christmas. It was funded by a \$16,844.43 grant from Nevada Main Street and matching funds of \$5,028.52 in cash or in-kind contributions from Main Street Fernley for a total cost of \$21,883.95.

Joe Harrington, communications director for NDOT, said the lines in the crosswalk are not paint but a material called "thermoplastic," which has to be heated to about 4,000 degrees before it's applied and lasts much longer than paint.



Main Street Fernley, Mayor Neal McIntyre and representatives from NDOT and the Lieutenant Governor's Office held a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 4 for the new crosswalk across Main Street at Silverlace Blvd. Photo by Kerry Lyman

Continued from Page 3 - PROTEST...

Cottonwood Lane.

"That makes us feel safe and secure that they're not actually letting all these people walk all over us," said Jennifer Ayala-Cruz. "They're actually trying to protect us and not being like other people who are not trying to protect us and trying to keep us down."

Daniel Nunez said the students who organized the walkout urged the participants to remain calm.

"If we show any violence, it's going to be used against us," he said.

Students said they walked out to show support for immigrant families and to speak out against ICE policies. The students chanted slogans including "Fight for what's right", "No ICE in America", and "Speaking for those who can't."

"We're all humans and we all have a

right to speak, and we all have a right to stay here," said Makaya Koszuth.

Nunez, the son of an immigrant, said his dad came to the U.S. at 18 and later earned his citizenship.

"I'm super happy to see people fighting to keep it that way where people can come into this country and have a better life," he said. "If you come to this country with good intentions, you should be able to stay in this country unless you are a criminal trying to escape from the law."

Concerns about student safety were shared by school administrators. FHS Principal Ryan Cross said administrators informed School Resource Officer Melody Holland as soon as they got word of the planned protest.

Cross and Holland addressed the issue Friday morning during the school's Winter Spirit Week assembly, according Nunez.

"They said they're going to have heavy patrol around the area, which they obviously do, just to keep us safe," Nunez said. "They can't stop us from exercising our First Amendment rights and they're going to let us do our thing unless it starts to turn into a riot, which I hope it doesn't."

Cross said the school already had a shortened day scheduled for staff development, with dismissal at 11 a.m. and lunches beginning at 9:55 a.m. He emphasized that the schedule had been set since the beginning of the school year, but emphasized that any student who left class before dismissal would be marked with an unexcused absence.

Cross said his primary concern was the safety of the students once they left the school grounds.

"I'm grateful for the sheriff's office and NHP for monitoring the situation," he said.



A Lyon County Sheriff's deputy stops traffic as Fernley High School students cross Cottonwood Lane during their walkout last Friday. Photo by Robert Perea



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BUSINESS

Council to consider relaxed standards for remote non-residential development

By Kerry Lyman

A public hearing will be held during the Feb. 18 City Council meeting to consider amendments to the city's development code to allow non-residential development under relaxed development standards on properties located at least a quarter mile from any city utility infrastructure and not located in any adopted area plan.

The update is "intended to add some flexibility for non-residential developments that are in remote portions of the city. We are hoping this will attract some new business types to the city's outer limits," said Senior Planner Alisa Johansson during the first reading of the proposed ordinance on Feb. 4.

The proposal would exempt

non-residential uses in these remote areas of the city, located in GR, or general rural, and RR, or rural residential, zoning areas from the requirement that they connect to city water and wastewater systems, allowing them to use water wells and septic tanks.

"Unserviced" areas would also be allowed relaxed requirements for landscaping, screening and street improvements, according to a staff report on the item.

Councilman Ryan Hanan questioned what happens to these remote properties when city development reaches these areas and they are no longer remote.

"We wrote the definition of unserviced areas to be a moving target," Johansson said. "So as the city grows, that infrastructure is also going to

expand. Eventually, those remote portions of the city will no longer meet the unserviced definition, so they would no longer be subject to the relaxed requirements."

When development reaches the formerly unserviced areas, uses permitted under the relaxed standards would then be considered non-conforming and they would be required to comply with traditional development standards if they want to redevelop the property or make any major changes, Johansson said.

The proposed definition for unserviced areas is "sites that are not mapped within an adopted Area Plan and that are more than one quarter mile from any public utility infrastructure."

The definition for xeriscaping in

the proposal is "the process of landscaping that significantly reduces or eliminates the need for irrigation," with the landscaping requirement for these remote sites to be xeriscaped to the "approval of the administrator, with native plants to be retained to the extent practicable."

Opaque screening would also be required along any street frontage and between non-residential and residential uses, and where use standards require screen fences or masonry walls, any opaque material acceptable to the administrator may be used.

Uses most likely to take advantage of the code amendment are those with low visitation and staffing levels, low utility needs and larger spatial needs, the staff report predicted.

New business licenses

The Fernley City Council approved the following new business licenses at its Feb. 4 meeting:

Enterprise Leasing Company dba/ Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Fernley, Automotive Sales
NJB Electric LLC, Sparks, Contractor
Three96 LLC dba/Jet Plumbing & Drain Services, Sparks, Plumbing/HVAC Contractor
Roland Ketelsen Architect, Sacramento, CA, Architect Design/Services
Spectrum Pacific West, LLC, St. Louis, MO, Telecommunication Service
Johnson Controls Building Solutions, Glendale, WI, HVAC Contractor
Battle Born Geckos LLC, Fernley, Reptile Breeding
Silver State Energy, Reno, Handyman
Guinn Consulting Engineers, LLC, Ormond Beach, FL, Civil Engineering and Consulting
Driven Off-Road NV LLC, Fernley, Vehicle repair
JNTC Vending, Fernley, Vending Machines
Fernley Newlands, LLC, Fernley, Property Management
Heart & Soul Builders LLC, Fernley, Carpentry Maintenance and Minor Repairs
Deadeye Dirtworks LLC, Fallon, General Engineering Contractor

Continued from Page 3 - EDAWN...

jobs are the leading reasons for moving to the state. That mix creates opportunities, especially in healthcare and services but also pressure on systems that support seniors and on workers who are expected to staff them.

Workforce issues are now more about skills than headcount. Nationally, more than two-thirds of employers in major sectors report talent shortages, with particularly high gaps in energy and utilities, transportation and logistics, information technology, and industrial and materials jobs. Even as some big-name firms have announced layoffs, Nevada's unemployment rate is roughly back to where it was before the pandemic. Older workers are staying on the job longer, new graduates are having a harder time landing that first job, and many employers are still trying to align the skills they need with the people they can find.

Local educators and training programs are trying to close that gap. The presentation highlighted efforts at Truckee Meadows Community College, the University of Nevada, Reno, and area nursing and healthcare programs to push more students into high-demand fields, along with partnerships that tie training directly to companies like Tesla. Skilled trades remain a bright spot, with demand for electricians, plumbers, and other hands-on occupations outpacing the broader economy and considered relatively resistant to automation.

For households, the squeeze is showing up in the monthly budget. Compared to 1960, today's typical family lives in a larger home, owns more

vehicles, eats out more often, and pays for a raft of digital subscriptions. At the same time, savings rates have fallen to around 4 percent, while consumer debt has almost doubled over the past two decades. A significant share of adults say they could not cover a \$1,000 emergency without borrowing. A separate SmartAsset study cited in the presentation estimated that a Nevada family of four would need about \$238,500 in annual income to feel they are living comfortably, far above the state's current median household income.

Housing is where all those pressures collide. Mortgage data showed a "lock-in" effect: roughly one in five Nevada mortgages carries an interest rate below 3 percent, while another fifth are above 6 percent. Many owners with ultra-low rates are reluctant to move, limiting inventory for buyers. First-time homebuyers now make up only about 21 percent of sales, and their median age has climbed to around 40. New construction is constrained by rising material and labor costs and by the reality that much of the land surrounding the Truckee Meadows is either federally owned or difficult to build on. Regional planners estimate the area will need roughly 15,000 additional homes over the next decade; current affordable housing projects will add units by the hundreds, not the thousands.

On the investment side, the picture is more upbeat. Business capital expenditures nationally are at or near all-time highs, particularly in manufacturing, business equipment, and data infrastructure. Northern Nevada has benefited from those trends with continued growth in advanced manufacturing, logistics, and especially data centers.

Large-scale projects, many tied to artificial intelligence and cloud computing are reshaping the construction market toward digital infrastructure rather than traditional office space.

EDAWN leaders used the event to report on their own role in that landscape. Taylor Adams, President and CEO reported that over the past year, EDAWN worked hundreds of qualified leads and site visits, helping land new and expanding companies that collectively represent hundreds of projected jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in capital investment. He also emphasized a growing focus on retention and expansion of existing businesses, and on entrepreneurship as a long-term economic strategy.

Nevada was recently named a founding state in the national "America the Entrepreneurial" initiative, which aims to reduce barriers to starting and growing businesses. Local officials and EDAWN see that work, along with workforce development and housing solutions, as the next stage of economic development, moving beyond simply recruiting companies to making sure residents can afford to live, work, and build something here.

The overall message from the State of the Economy was neither doom or cheerleading, but a check in complexity. Northern Nevada remains a growth market with strong fundamentals, but families are feeling the cost of that success in housing, debt, and uncertainty. The challenge for policymakers, employers, and communities will be turning today's investment and population trends into a future that feels as strong on the ground as it looks on the charts.

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GOVERNMENT

Council input to be required on future city manager evaluations

By Kerry Lyman

Future annual city manager performance reviews will require input from each City Council member and will no longer solely be the purview of the mayor under an ordinance unanimously adopted by the council on Feb. 4.

The change to the city's municipal code was requested by Councilman Albert Torres following the negotiated resignation last year of former City Manager Benjamin Marchant during

budget discussions. Some council members, unhappy with Marchant's performance, wanted to eliminate funding for the city manager position.

Marchant denied the allegations made against him but volunteered to resign to solve the dispute and allow the budget to be adopted while retaining funding for the city manager position. Marchant and the city then negotiated a severance package.

The city is still searching for a new city manager after the council rejected two candidates presented at the

Jan. 7 City Council meeting.

Prior to the municipal code change, the mayor had "the discretion but is not required to solicit a peer review from the statutory positions (using an approved peer review form) for city manager performance reviews."

Under the amendment adopted on Feb. 4, that language was eliminated and replaced with text indicating "The mayor shall solicit a peer review from each member of the City Council for the purpose of informing the mayor's evaluation."

Under the change, the annual city manager review "would remain the mayor's evaluation but would require him to consult and communicate with the council" when preparing his evaluation, said City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen.

"So, basically, we're changing it from 'the mayor may' to 'the mayor shall?'" asked Mayor Neal McIntyre.

"Yes," Mouritsen responded.

"OK, I'm good with that," McIntyre replied.

Amodei announces retirement from Congress

Staff Report

U.S. Rep. Mark Amodei announced Thursday that he will retire at the conclusion of his current term, bringing an end to more than 15 years of service representing Nevada in Washington, D.C.

In a statement released Feb. 6, Amodei said serving Nevadans had been "the honor of my lifetime," and thanked constituents for the opportunity to represent the state at the federal level.

"Every achievement worth doing

began with listening to Nevadans and fighting for our values," Amodei said in the statement. He added that his work in Congress focused on problem-solving and ensuring Nevada maintained "a strong voice in the federal policy and oversight processes."

Amodei said he plans to complete his current term before stepping away from office, noting that he believes "it is the right time for Nevada and myself to pass the torch."

Amodei has represented Nevada in Congress since 2011 and previously served in state and local government

roles. His retirement will open the seat ahead of the 2026 election cycle, setting the stage for new candidates to seek the office.

"Congressman Mark Amodei has been a steadfast supporter of Nevada and its residents for many years," Fernley City Councilman Albert Torres said. "His leadership, approachability, guidance, and professionalism have made a lasting impact both in Washington, D.C., and across our great State of Nevada. He will be greatly missed, and I wish him nothing but the very best in his retirement."

Meetings

Fernley City Council
1st and 3rd Wednesday
of the month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting February 18

Fernley Planning Commission
2nd Wednesday
of the Month at 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting March 11

**Fernley Senior
Citizen Advisory Committee**
2nd Friday of even numbered
months at 9:00 a.m.
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.
Next meeting February 13

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 February 19

**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 March 10

**Lyon County Library
Board of Trustees**
4th Tuesday
of the Month, 9:30 a.m.

*Locations rotate between the
5 county libraries

Next meeting February 24

**Lyon County School District
Board of Trustees**
4th Tuesday
of the month, 6:30 p.m.

*Locations rotate between each
attendance area

Next meeting February 24

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

Next meeting February 19

**Fernley Swimming
Pool General
Improvement District**
3rd Tuesday
of the month, 5:30 p.m.
300 Cottonwood Lane

Next meeting February 17

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FOR DIRECTORS

TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Notice of Nominations for Directors of Truckee-Carson Irrigation District and for Elector Registration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that commencing Thursday, February 16, 2026, and continuing through Wednesday, March 18, 2026, nominations for the office of director, within five (5) electoral districts of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, may be made by the filing of a declaration of candidacy and a \$25.00 filing fee with the Secretary. Such declarations may be given between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the District Office, 2666 Harrigan Road, Fallon, Nevada.

The Secretary will receive nominations for the following electoral districts:

1. District Two (2) (Soda Lake Area); (Wade Workman)
2. District Four (4) (South Central Area near Fallon) *(Vacant)*
3. District Five (5) (South of Fallon); (Eric Olsen)
4. District Six (6) (East of Fallon); (Abraham Schank)
5. District Seven (7) (Stillwater Area); (Lester deBraga)

*District 4 is currently vacant, The Board is scheduled to consider the appointment of Mike Olsen on March 10, 2026, who, if approved, will appear on the ballot at this general election. Other candidates may run for this position.

Qualifications for office include residence within the electoral district for which a nomination is being made, and ownership of land within the district to which a surface water right is appurtenant.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that a general election will be conducted for the offices of directors April 7, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Polling place will be the District Office. In the event that there shall be no contests for office, then such election shall not be held, and the duly qualified candidates shall be deemed elected as of the date the election would otherwise have been held.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the electors (voters) of the District may now register for participation in the general election. Registration may be made Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the District Office. If an election will be held, District Office will remain open for voter registration until 7:00 p.m. on March 18, 2026. Close of general voter registration will be Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

Ad #2603

Continued from FRONT - ACES...

said there have been many events in the past where she was uncomfortable signing off on permit applications for events because they did not meet the minimum requirements, and that she had been directed by a former city manager not to be involved in the issuance of special event permits.

"I think turning away and not being involved is negligent as well," FCTA member Joe Mendoza said.

"I have no disagreement with that at all, and I'm happy to do whatever you folks direct me to do," Birkel said. "But I want to make it known that there will be 'Nos' involved and I can't help that."

Mendoza asked Birkel whether she had been told not to inspect or be involved with certain organizations, or all special events.

"So you don't go out and inspect the carnies?" Mendoza asked, referring to the traveling carnivals that occasionally set up in the city. Birkel replied that she had not done so for the past two years.

"That is unacceptable," Mendoza said.

After hearing Birkel's explanation of how the decision was made to instruct her not to conduct inspections for temporary use permits, FCTA member Felicity Zoberski agreed the problem appeared to be the city's process, not applicants' noncompliance.

"The longer this meeting goes on, it's getting harder and harder to justify the meeting, because it very much feels like this is an inside issue, not an outside issue," Zoberski said. "If there's certain rules that are being followed with this city manager, and then the city manager is gone, and now we're reinforcing rules that city manager got rid of, then I have no idea how any body could follow."

Birkel said there has never been a written city policy that says what departments are involved in TUPs or a procedural document that spells out how the process works.

"Those are things that we are working internally as staff to improve," she said.

Mouritsen said there is a written

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.

Feb. 2 – 8, 2024

PETE RAMIREZ – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st

TERRY BRADLEY – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$3,495, Charges: DUI, (1st); Possess/consume marijuana in public place/marijuana store/vehicle; Display blue lights on non-emergency vehicle; Improper adjustment/excessive auxiliary lamps

MICHAEL DEMPSEY – Area: Fernley, Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$3,000 Charges: Criminal contempt (2 counts)

KENNETH COOK – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court commitment

TIMOTHY SMITH – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,855, Charges: Operate vehicle w/expired registration/plates; Operator - proof of insurance required; Failure to appear after bail, misdemeanor crime

EZEKIEL TOVANI – Area: LCSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Felony arrest for violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence

JAMES O'NEIL – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st

DUSTIN ASHFORD-WELLMAN – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st

ARNOLD GOMES – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$15,420, Charges:

Domestic battery, 1st; Possess hypodermic device; Prevent/dissuade reporting of crime/causing prosecution/arrest; False imprisonment; Possess dangerous drug without prescription, (1st/2nd)

DEANNA HARNESS – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$6,295.45 Charges: Criminal contempt

MATTHEW DRISCOLL – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$193,420 Charges: Sell/transfer or attain schedule I or II controlled substance, 1st offense; Possess schedule I, II controlled substance, 42+ grams; Possess schedule I, II controlled substance, less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense (2 counts); Possess dangerous drug without pre-

scription, (1st/2nd); Use/possess drug paraphernalia

MICHAEL DRISCOLL – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$3,640, Charges: Misdemeanor violation of probation/conditions of suspended sentence for gross misdemeanor offense; Possess schedule I, II controlled substance, less than 14 grams, 1st or 2nd offense; Use/possess drug paraphernalia

RYAN BIGGS – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$1,140, Charges: False statement to obstruct public officer

DAVID SCANLON – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$1,555, Charges: DUI, (1st); Failure to drive on right half of road

STEVEN MANSUR – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Criminal contempt; Court commitment

SHANNON SHRADER – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Violation of domestic violence temporary restraining order

MICHAEL ANDERSON – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$2,795, Charges: Failure to appear on traffic citation (2 counts)

ANDREW RODARTE – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st

KEITH BRASUELL – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic battery, 1st

JEREMIAH KRESTA – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Failure to appear after bail, felony crime

JOHN HARRIS – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$7,500, Charges: Prohibited act, violate sex offender registration, 1st (2 counts)

ANDY DIAZ – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$21,780, Charges: Driver disobey peace officer, endanger other persons/property; Reckless driving with disregard for persons/property safety, (1st) (2 counts)

NICHOLE PAVLIN – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,370, Charges: DUI, (1st); Basic speed – 1-10 mph over posted limit; Failure to drive on right half of road

Richards pleads not guilty in Sara Filiatraut murder case

By Leanna Lehman

Robert Matthew Richards appeared in Lyon County's Third Judicial District Court in Yerington on Feb. 9 with his defense attorney, Kale Mackenzie Brock. Richards, who has been in custody in the Lyon County Jail since his extradition from Utah in November 2024, was arraigned on a charge of Open Murder before Judge Leon Aberasturi.

Richards, who pleaded not guilty, is charged in connection with the March 2024 death of 25-year-old Sara Filiatraut, whose disappearance was reported by her father on April 15, 2024. Investigators with the Lyon and Churchill County sheriff's offices later found her body on May 23, 2024, in a remote desert pit about 30 miles east of Fallon.

The Washoe County Regional

Medical Examiner's Office ruled the death a homicide, believing Sara Filiatraut was killed around March 23, 2024. Before she was reported missing, Richards had been arrested on April 8 in an unrelated case, released on his own recognizance on April 10, and later admitted to investigators that he had been with Filiatraut the night of March 22, claiming she left his trailer at the Desert Rose RV Park in Fernley.

On July 25, prosecutors concluded they had sufficient evidence and filed murder charges against Richards, leading to a multistate manhunt. Richards was extradited from Utah in November 2024, denied bail, and later evaluated and determined competent to stand trial.

Judge Aberasturi explained the penalties of Open Murder to Richards, which include life in prison, 20 years

to life in prison, or a definite term of 50 years in prison with parole eligibility after 20 years if a jury were to find him guilty of first degree murder. A charge of open murder means the jury has the option to find the defendant guilty of first or second degree murder.

Richards will have an opportunity to participate in a Criminal Settlement Conference before trial, should he choose. A settlement conference allows the state and the defense to present their cases to an out-of-district senior district court judge. If the matter cannot be resolved, the case will proceed to a jury trial.

Aberasturi set a status hearing for March 30.

Richards has pleaded not guilty and is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.



Robert Matthew Richards, photo courtesy of Third Judicial District Court.

Preliminary hearing set for Adam Miller in murder case



Adam Miller was arrested on a charge of open murder on Dec. 19, 2024 after a two-day manhunt. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for March 5-6.

Photo courtesy of LCSO

By Leanna Lehman

Adam Elijah Miller, who is charged with killing his father and attempting to kill of his mother, will appear in Canal Justice Court in Fernley on March 5-6 for a preliminary hearing before Judge Lori Matheus.

A preliminary hearing is a court proceeding used to determine whether there is enough evidence for a criminal case to move forward. Judge Matheus will decide whether probable cause exists to believe a crime was committed and that the defendant likely committed it. The prosecution presents basic evidence and may call witnesses, and the defense can cross-examine them, but it is not a full trial. If the judge finds probable cause, the case proceeds; if not, the charges may be dismissed.

Miller, who was 19 at the time of his arrest, led law enforcement on a 30-hour manhunt after he allegedly stabbed his parents. He is charged with Open Murder with the Use of a Deadly Weapon, a Category A Felony, which is punishable by the death penalty, life in prison, 20 years to life, or 50 years in prison with parole eligibility after 20 years.

Count I of the criminal complaint

filed by the Lyon County District Attorney's Office alleges that on or about December 18, 2024, in Fernley, Adam Miller used a knife to stab Lance Miller in the neck, inflicting mortal injuries. Count II alleges that he stabbed Elizabeth Miller, 61, in the neck. Count III also relates to the alleged stabbing of Elizabeth Miller and charges Adam Miller with Battery with a Deadly Weapon Causing Substantial Bodily Harm to a Victim 60 Years of Age or Older, which is punishable by 2-15 years.

A separate case charges Adam Miller with Carrying a Concealed Pistol, Revolver, Firearm, or other Deadly Weapon, a Category C Felony punishable by 1-5 years, and alleges he was in possession of a .380 handgun on Nov. 21, 2024.

After an evaluation by two doctors, Adam Miller was deemed competent to stand trial. Should probable cause be determined during the March preliminary hearing, the case will be bound over to the Third Judicial District Court for Lyon County in Yerington.

Richards has pleaded not guilty and is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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A Bridge to the Future of Fernley
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Victory Logistics District

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.

SPORTS

Fernley wrestlers place third at regionals, qualify nine for state meet

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School wrestling team placed third as a team at the Northern 3A Regional Tournament in Fallon last weekend, with nine individual qualifiers for the State Tournament and two regional champions.

Nathan Pritchard took first place at 144 pounds, while Isaid Solis was the champion at 150.

Archie Mendez (106 pounds), Jayse Jones (157) and Riley McCullar (175) all placed second, Calvin Bacon was third

at 285 while Clayton DeGolyer (113) and Keon Kreller (215) each placed fourth.

Other placers for Fernley were Isaih Mutte, who finished in fifth place at 190 pounds and Brayden Cruz (138) and Kayden Paredes (165), who each placed sixth. All three are alternates for the State Tournament.

The nine state qualifiers are the most the Vaqueros have had under coach Jake McCullar.

"I was really happy the way we wrestled," coach Jake McCullar said. "Qualifying nine guys definitely put us in a



Fernley's Isaid Solis takes down Brady Higgins of South Tahoe in a quarterfinal match at the 3A Northern Region Tournament in Fallon last week. Photo by John Baker



Fernley's Nathan Pritchard won his third consecutive regional title in last week's 3A Northern Region Tournament in Fallon. Photo by John Baker

great spot to try and win a team title."

Pritchard and McCullar are defending state champions.

"Archie, Riley and Nate are the favorites to repeat for the state finals match, but the great thing about the state tournament is anything can happen," Jake McCullar said.

The previous week, the girls team had three wrestlers, Bronwynn Garrett, Faith Mhondo and Blessing Mhondo, qualify for the state finals. Garrett

won the regional championship in her weight class and will be the No. 1 seed from the North.

"The ladies are a very young team and are getting better every day," Jake McCullar said. "Bronwynn has had an amazing season and looks to cap it off with a state title. As a program I couldn't be more excited for next weekend's opportunity. Winning a state title will always stay with you."

Vaqueros begin postseason climb in semifinal rematch with Dayton

By Robert Perea

The postseason has been a familiar hill for the Fernley High School boys basketball team. Four straight years of climbing toward a state title, four straight years of coming up just short.

After a 66-36 win over Incline in Monday's opener, the Vaqueros begin another ascent Friday in the 3A North Region semifinals.

The Vaqueros will face Dayton at 5:10 p.m. Friday with a berth in the state

tournament and the regional championship game on the line.

It's a quick rematch of last Friday's game, which the Vaqueros won 69-38 on the strength of strong defense and rebounding and a 26-8 third quarter.

Knutson said the Vaqueros were focused on stopping Dayton's top two scorers, Isaac Powell and Talon Brown, who combine for more than 40 points per game and accounted for 73 points in a game at Fallon earlier this season.

Although the Vaqueros led 37-24 at

halftime last Friday, Powell and Brown had 20 of Dayton's 24 points.

"Anytime somebody's leading scorer is doing that, we're going to fix that," Knutson said.

The Vaqueros held that tandem to six points in the second half, helped by four fouls on Powell, which Knutson said took away his aggressiveness driving to the basket. Knutson was most pleased that two of those fouls were charging fouls, praising his players for their defensive efforts.

Meanwhile, Fernley's top two scorers, Sheldon Jacobson and Bryce Dunagan-Stephens, put up 24 and 19 points, respectively. The Vaqueros also outrebounded Dayton 31-17. Even though nobody grabbed more than the six individually, every Fernley player had at least one.

That's the kind of effort Knutson said they will need again this Friday.

"We've got to match their physical-

Continued on Page 11 - REMATCH...

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SPORTS

Fernley girls to face Elko in regional semifinals

By Robert Perea

The third chapter in the book of the Fernley High School girls basketball season opened this week with a win over Incline on Monday night in the first round of the 3A Northern Region Tournament.

The Vaqueros will write the next pages Friday, when a win would move them into Saturday's regional title game and to next week's State Tournament on the home floor.

With a 75-11 quarterfinal win over Incline Monday night, the Vaqueros advanced to face Elko at 3:30 p.m. in the semifinals Friday at Wooster. In the other semifinal, Fallon will play either Spring Creek or South Tahoe, who were scheduled to play Wednesday night after Spring Creek won a play-in game over Lowry on Monday.

The regional championship game will be played Saturday at either noon or 2 p.m.

"I told the girls Chapter 1 was preseason, Chapter 2 was league," coach Ralph Dunn said. "We did pretty well, and now we start Chapter 3 -- regionals."

The Vaqueros opened Monday's game with a 24-0 lead, held a 42-7 half-time advantage and were up by as much as 75-7.

The Vaqueros entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed from the East Division, winning a tiebreaker over Fallon. They clinched that spot with a 65-40 win over Dayton Friday night.

The Vaqueros left no room for suspense, leading 20-5 after a quarter and 35-15 at the half.

After giving extended minutes to everyone on the roster against both Dayton and Incline, Dunn expects to tighten the rotation this weekend.

"Going into regional as No. 1 team we will have a target on our back and need to step up each game on both ends of the court," he said.

Continued from Page 10 - REMATCH...

ity," he said. "We can't engage in any of the shenanigans that they try to get us to engage in, and we've got to be ready to play."

On the other hand, the Vaqueros made just 3-of-19 shots from 3-point range, after going 2-of-21 the first time the teams met.

"We're going to have to make six or seven of them. is my guess," Knutson

said.

Facing the DustDevils for the third time in 34 days, Knutson said his team knows what kind of challenge awaits them on their way back up the postseason mountain.

"I think we're ready for a dogfight on Friday," coach Cade Knutson said. "We always get their best effort, and it's an elimination game, so, you're going to get everybody's 100%."



Fernley's Taylor Tollestrup scores two of her 17 points in last Friday's win over Dayton.

Photo by Felicity Zoberski

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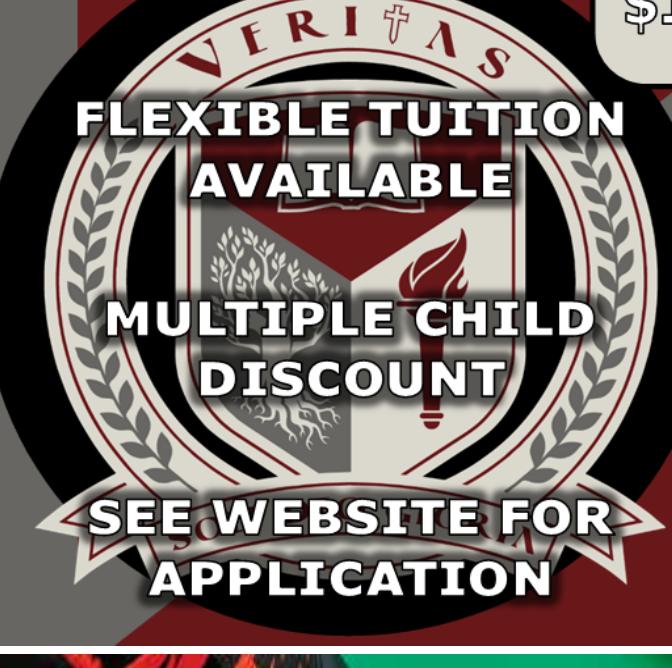
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PET OF THE WEEK

Gabby is looking for love!

Gabbie is approximately 1 year young. She is very affectionate, and loves a warm lap and lots of cuddles. Gabbie is fixed, vaccinated and micro chipped. She is not socialized with dogs or little kids. 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



Precious Paws Society of NV | 1085 Aster Ln, Fernley, NV 89408
775-575-0950 | preciouspawssocietynv@gmail.com

PET OF THE WEEK

Roast is looking for his forever home!

Roast is an Australian Cattle Dog and he is described as playful, independent, and protective. Roast is believed to be 2.5 years old. This loyal and friendly boy has a heart of gold. Roast patiently awaits a loving family to whisk him away!

Contact today for more info!

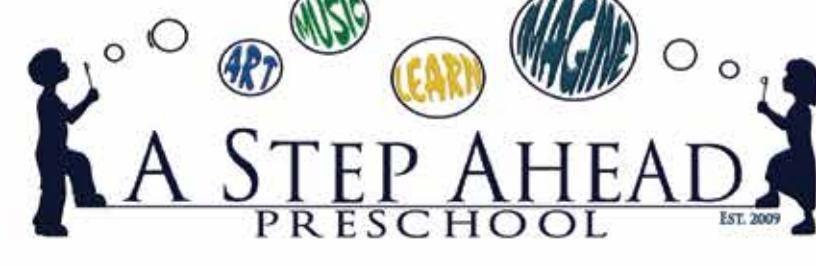
You can contact Lyon County Animal Services at 775-577-5005.

He is located at 3705 Highway 50 West in Silver Springs, NV



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