

Roof replacement at swimming pool set to begin in late February

By Robert Perea

The roof replacement project at the Fernley Swimming Pool is expected to begin in late February, pending the close of a mandatory bid protest period, after the Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District Board of Trustees accepted a \$1.16 million bid on Jan. 26.

The project has been about two years in the making, triggered by damage during a windstorm in 2024.

Although the exact start date wasn't determined as of last Friday, the pool will close around Feb. 17 and will most likely remain closed until sometime in June.

The need for the project dates back to a severe windstorm in 2024 that tore pieces of the metal roof off the building and scattered them across the surrounding fields.

"We were lucky nobody was here and nobody got hurt," said Suzanne Prouty, President of the Swimming Pool General Improvement District Board of Trustees.

At the time, the district brought in a repair company to evaluate whether the roof could be patched or needed



The Fernley Swimming Pool will be getting a new roof two years after a windstorm ripped off some of the metal, like this piece along the front of the building.
Photo by Robert Perea

full replacement, Pool Director Patrick Daniel said. He said a small 20 to 30 foot repair alone was estimated at \$70,000, but the rest of the roof was also determined to be in poor condition.

"The metal panels are bolted directly into plywood with no water barrier," he said. "Over the decades, the plywood has deteriorated to where it's almost gone. The bolts are backing out

and physically falling out."

Prouty said the district moved quickly to determine whether the storm damage was covered by insurance.

"Surprise, surprise, we weren't," she said. Instead, the insurer determined the deterioration was age related.

That left the district with the choice to repair one section at a time or replace the entire roof. Daniel said

repairing only the damaged portion would have led to replacing sections every few years.

The district hired an owner's representative, Jon Burhans of J.R. Builders, who has extensive experience managing public works projects in Winnemucca. H&K Architects handled the design work. Daniel said the design process alone took more than a year.

"There were two stages," he said. "First, the initial design stage, what can we do, what do we want to do. Once that was like, we can do this, it probably costs this much, we went into the full design phase, which lasted probably four or six months."

The apparent winning bid is \$1,161,000 from SB Builders of Carson City. The district received five bids, all within a narrow range, with the highest at \$1,316,102. The Pool Trustees approved the bid on Jan. 26, which triggered the statutory protest period. Any competing bidder has five business days to file a protest, though doing so requires a \$250,000 bond.

"If that happens, all bets are off,"

Continued on Page 5 - POOL...

Trustees advance first reading of new AI policy

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County School Board approved the first reading of a new policy governing the use of artificial intelligence in schools during its Jan. 27 meeting, establishing a framework district officials say is necessary as AI becomes an increasingly common part of students' academic and personal lives.

Executive Director for Educational Services Jim Gianotti said the policy is designed to enhance learning, ensure safety, and protect academic integrity while giving teachers and students clear expectations for responsible use. He said the district based the policy on the STELLAR framework (security, transparency, empowerment, learning, leadership, achievement and responsible use) and expects it to evolve as the technology does.

"It is a meaty policy and will likely need to evolve as the technology does," Gianotti said. "But by approving this

policy, the board ensures the district will remain at the forefront of educational innovation while maintaining high standards of safety, ethics and legal compliance."

Trustee James Whisler asked what kind of training students and staff would receive on the appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI. Gianotti said professional development will be necessary, particularly at the middle and high school levels where students are already using AI tools outside of school.

"Our kids are plugged in quite a bit of their day, and not always while at school," he said. "We have not developed PD at this point, but with the approval of this policy, that's something that we will be working on, and we will have to go through with not only our teachers and staff, but our students as well."

Whisler also asked how the district would monitor ethical use, a requirement outlined in section 3.6 of the pol-

icy. Gianotti said oversight will occur through classroom practice, administrative monitoring and teacher review of student work.

"Teachers already have to vet whether information in research papers is factual," he said. "There are ways to check accuracy and ensure students truly know the material."

Gianotti said the Lyon Online program already uses tools to detect AI generated work, and teachers there routinely verify whether assignments were created by bots.

"It's a constant effort by teachers to review the material and make sure that what the kids are turning in is not created or spawned (by AI)," he said.

Trustee Elmer Bull pointed to a section of the policy stating that the extent of AI use in assignments will be determined by individual educators and asked how the district would ensure consistency across classrooms.

Gianotti said much of that will be addressed through professional devel-

opment and ongoing administrative oversight. He said principals already monitor curriculum implementation, pacing and instructional practices, and AI integration will become another part of that work.

He added that teachers must continue verifying that students understand the material they submit. He referenced a stakeholder meeting at the University of Nevada, Reno, where engineering faculty expressed concern that students were relying on AI for calculations and design work.

"It's a real fear," he said. "But I think the important thing is for our teachers to check and ensure that our students truly know the material and to determine whether or not the students have the knowledge truly or if something is created through AI."

Trustee Kallie Day asked whether the district's cyberbullying policies would need to be updated to address

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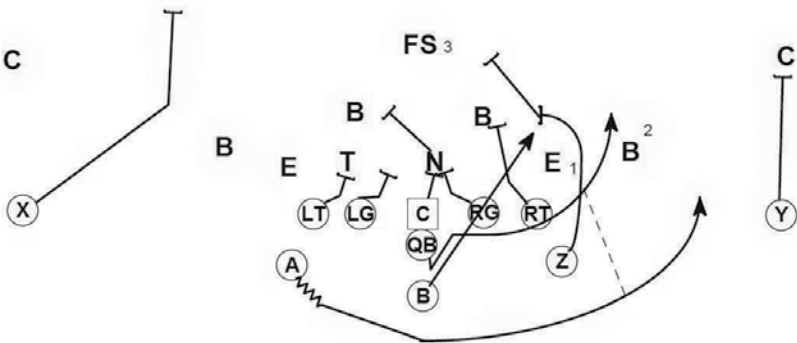
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The Inside Veer



When the answers come before the questions

There are important things happen- ing in Fernley this week. That's not unique to Fernley of course, nor does it make this week unique. Important things happen all the time, every- where.

The significance of the events themselves doesn't change much week to week, even if the details do.

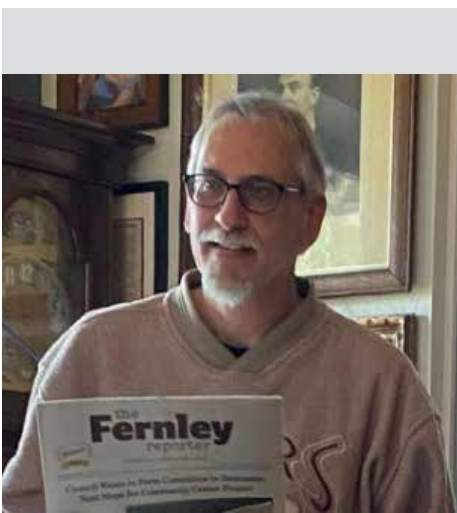
But whether its Fernley or the wid- er world at large, the pattern always seems the same: the reactions arrive long before the understanding does.

What's frustrating is how many conversations start with certainty and end with outrage, without ever passing through the part where peo- ple learn what actually happened.

That is most certainly not unique to Fernley. All it takes is a quick scroll through whichever social media plat- form you prefer, the comments posted on an online news story, or just an open ear whenever you are in a place where there are people.

When you do, you start to notice how familiar the rhythm is. It's quick judgments, confident declarations, conclusions drawn from fragments. If sports were this predictable, Vegas wouldn't even bother setting odds.

But the way people react to news, the outcome feels almost guaran- teed. It doesn't matter whether the stakes are high or trivial. It could be a controversy over a city councilman's



ROBERT PEREA

actions, an ICE officer shooting some- one, or the garbage truck running late.

It's dismaying and exhausting to live in a world of constant, loud opin- ion. Even more so when those opin- ions reveal a lack of understanding or context. What's most disappointing is when those opinions reveal a lack of curiosity, because without curiosity, there's no path to understanding, and by understanding I mean knowing de- tails, not finding common ground.

What, actually, is a conversation without basic curiosity? Two people talking when neither is curious is an exchange of statements, not ideas. It's just an exchange of conclusions, which actually leaves us right where we started, where the answers arrive

before the questions.
I'm sure most of us don't wake up in the morning looking to argue. We're trying to get the kids to school, get to work on time, and hang on long enough until we make it back home where the beer is cold.
The truth is, the noise isn't going anywhere. The arguments, the cer- tainty and the rush to react will keep spinning around us. Maybe the best we can do is move through it without getting swallowed up in it.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send yours to Robert@FernleyReporter.com



Fernley Women's Golf Club Results, Jan. 27

- Game: Book-Ends**
1st: Loretta Bradley, 38
2nd: Nancy Newton, 42
3rd: Kathy Kennedy, 43
Low Putts: Patty Liljeberg & Loretta Bradley, 33
Closest to hole #11: Susan Marinucci, 9'5"
Closest to hole #14: Kathy Kennedy, 4'8"
Birdies: Terry Richter, #12

FERNLEY NEWS MINUTE

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



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FEATURES

School Board adopts military style “challenge coins” to recognize students, staff and community members

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County School District Board of Trustees has launched a new recognition program using “challenge coins,” a tradition rooted in military service and adapted to honor students, staff and community members for exceptional contributions.

Trustee James Whisler, who served in the U.S. Navy, proposed the idea last spring after reflecting on how service members are often recognized by commanding officers. Challenge coins, he said, were among the most meaningful tokens he received during his military career.

"I was pondering what I and the board could do to recognize the staff and students of LCSD and even members who support our schools," Whisler said. "And it just dawned on me, we should do a challenge coin."

Whisler originally intended to present the coins himself, but when he approached Superintendent Tim Logan about using the district logo for a coin design, Logan recommended bringing

the idea to the full board, which unanimously supported it. The District's Communications and PR Officer Skyler Tremaine worked with Whisler to design the coin and find a manufacturer.

The district's challenge coin, called the Lyon County School District Recognition Coin, has the emblem from the Nevada state flag on one side and the logo from the district's website on the other.

“Skyler did most of the legwork,” Whisler said. “She put together a beautiful design, and we made a few small adjustments before moving forward.”

Challenge coins have a long and varied history. Roman soldiers were sometimes given specially marked coins as bonuses for exceptional performance. Renaissance era “portrait medals” commemorated notable individuals and events. In 17th century France, Huguenots used small communion tokens to identify fellow worshippers during periods of religious persecution.

But the most widely cited origin

Continued on Page 4 - COINS...



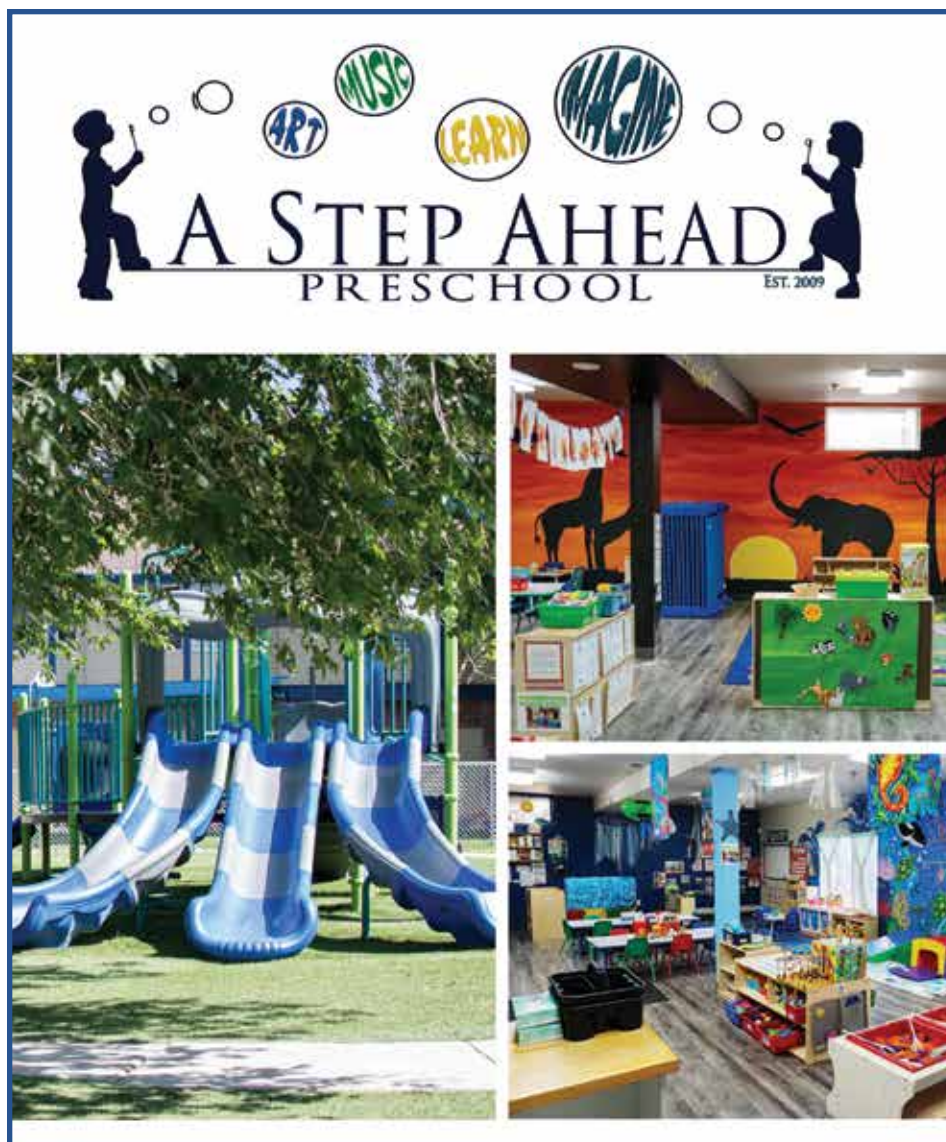
Lyon County School Board Trustee James Whisler recognized Fernley Intermediate School teachers Julie Shoemaker, Anna Namicos, and Emma Hisken by presenting them with a challenge coin for organizing the annual Veterans Appreciation Day. Photo courtesy of LCSD



School Board Trustee Darin Farr awarded the first LCSD Recognition Coin to Beth Perry, Principal's Secretary at Fernley Elementary School, for transforming an existing space into a sensory room for students who need a safe place to reset, refocus and feel calm during the school day. Photo courtesy of LCSD



School Board Trustee James Whisler presented a challenge coin to LCSD Communications and Public Relations Officer Skyler Tremaine. Photo courtesy of LCSD



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

State of the City
Address
scheduled Feb. 26



Fernley Mayor Neal McIntyre, Photo Courtesy of the City of Fernley

Staff Report

Fernley Mayor Neal McIntyre will deliver the 2025 State of the City Address during a special event Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Community Response and Resource Center. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and light refreshments will be served before the Mayor speaks about the accomplishments and challenges of the past year and the city's plans and goals for this year. This will be McIntyre's third State of the City address. In last year's address, McIntyre touted Fernley's robust business climate, a list of projects completed by the Public Works Department and infrastructure projects around the city, including street reconstruction projects.

Trustees retain Hendrix
as School Board president,
assign committee
representatives

By Robert Perea

After hearing from about a dozen people during public comment, the Lyon County School District Board of Trustees voted to reelect Tom Hendrix as Board President and Dawn Carson as Board Clerk for 2026. Hendrix was elected to the School Board in 2022 and was elected by the board to serve as president in 2025. Carson was elected to the board in 2024. About a dozen people spoke during public comment in favor of Hendrix remaining as Board President, while a couple of others advocated for Trustee Darin Farr. Ultimately, the vote to keep Hendrix as President passed 4-3, with Trustees Sherry Parsons, James Whisler, Dawn Carson and Hendrix in favor and Elmer Bull, Kallie Day and Farr opposed. The vote to reelect Carson as Board Clerk passed unanimously.

The Trustees approved the appointment of board members to represent the district on several committees:

- Debt Management Commission - Representative Trustee Farr; alternate Trustee Bull
- Nevada Association of School Boards (NASB) - Representative Trustee Bull; alternate Trustee Hendrix
- Career & Technical Education Committee (CTE) - Representative Trustee Hendrix; alternate Trustee Whisler
- School Safety Development Committee - Representative



Tom Hendrix, photo courtesy of Lyon County School District Board

Trustee Parsons; alternate Trustee Whisler

- Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) - Representative Trustee Hendrix; alternate Trustee Bull
- Northern Nevada Development Authority (NNDA) - Representative Trustee Carson; alternate Trustee Farr
- Lyon County Health and Human Services Committee - Representative Trustee Day; alternate Trustee Parsons
- School Absenteeism Advisory Board (SAAB) - Representative Trustee Day; alternate Trustee Whisler

Nominations open for
4th of July Parade
grand marshal

Staff Report

The Fernley 4th of July Committee is seeking a veteran to honor as the grand marshal for this year's 4th of July Parade. This year's 4th of July coincides with the city of Fernley's celebration of its 25th anniversary of incorporation on July 1 and the nation's USA 250th commemoration. Three days of special events are being planned to celebrate the city's 25th anniversary starting on Wednesday, July 1 and culminating with the annual 4th of July festivities. Nominations for grand marshal may be submitted by email to fernley4thofjuly@gmail.com or by call or text at 775-399-4796. Submissions must include a brief bio of the nominee and a description of why that person should be grand marshal.

Continued from Page 3 - COINS...

story comes from World War I, when a young American pilot carried a bronze medallion engraved with his squadron's emblem. After being shot down and captured by German forces, he escaped and reached a French unit that initially suspected him of being a saboteur. The medallion was the only proof of identity he had left, and it saved his life. The tradition of carrying a unit coin grew from there. Today, challenge coins are commonly used across the U.S. military to recognize outstanding performance, commemorate service, or welcome honored guests.

Whisler said the coins he earned during his Navy career remain among his most meaningful mementos. One in particular stands out: a coin and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal he received while serving with Helicopter Combat Squadron 21 in San Diego, CA., after helping extinguish a fire in a dumpster. He recalled arriving at the hangar on a Sunday afternoon and noticing smoke coming from a recycling bin. When he opened the lid, a rush of oxygen ignited the smoldering ashes inside. Whisler and another sailor grabbed extinguishers and contained the flames until firefighters arrived. The next day, his commanding officer presented him with a challenge coin in recognition of his quick action. "A memory I will not soon forget," Whisler said. "Those ones are the most meaningful, is when you don't get it for doing your job and doing it really well. You get it for doing something you aren't expected to do." Since the district began using challenge coins, trustees have presented them to students, staff and community members who demonstrate exceptional effort or support for LCSD schools. Rather than a set criteria to earn a challenge coin, Whisler said it is up to the discretion of each board member to reward someone whenever they see

something good. "It's more up to, if you think it's an outstanding thing, do it," Whisler said. "I think my favorite thing is seeing the smiles on their face when they get recognized, especially in front of their peers," he said. Those in the Fernley area that have received a recognition coin include Fernley Intermediate School teachers Julie Shoemaker, Anna Namicos and Emma Hisken, for organizing the annual Veterans Appreciation Day at FIS, and, Beth Perry, Principal's Secretary at Fernley Elementary School. Whisler expressed gratitude to his fellow trustees for embracing the idea and to Tremaine for her work on the design. "I hope this begins a tradition that will last for many years in this district," he said.

Recognition coin recipients:

- Margaret Heim
- Amy Morrison
- Beth Perry
- Amanda Aldridge
- Ian Friedman
- Jennifer Smith
- Beth Perry
- Anna Rigsby
- Skyler Tremaine
- Brad Pope
- Matthew Strahl
- Sylvia Perez
- Bridget Perez
- Julie Shoemaker
- Anna Namicos
- Emma Hisken
- Lindsey Harrison
- Kym Alzamar
- Megan Parker
- Jolene Dille
- Danyelle Holmes
- Danielle Salamone
- Jason Santos
- Rob Schnieder

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Monday, Feb. 9

Baked Chicken Tenders
French Baked Potatoes
Carrots
Pineapple

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Pimento Chili Chicken
Brown Rice
Four Bean Salad
Tropical Fruit

Wednesday, Feb. 11

Sloppy Joe
Whole Wheat Bun
Baked Beans
Carrots
Fruit Cocktail

Thursday, Feb. 12

Breaded Fish Square
with Cheese
& Whole Wheat Bun
Hushpuppies
Chickpea Salad
Frozen Berry Cup
Fruit Cocktail

Friday, Feb. 13

Valentine's Day Lunch
Meatloaf with Gravy
Scalloped Potatoes
Garlic Sautéed Spinach
Fresh Fruit
100% Juice
Brownie

COMMUNITY

Fernley Community Foundation
announces naming rights for three CRRC
classrooms

Staff Report

The Fernley Community Foundation celebrated major milestones at its annual Membership Dinner on Jan. 23, where about 70 attendees gathered to honor donors and unveil naming rights for three classrooms inside the Community Response and Resource Center building.

The naming rights recognized \$50,000 contributions toward the construction and operation of the building by Nick & Joy Hidek in memory of Joy Hidek; the Wagner Family in memory of Diana Wagner; and the Fernley Community Foundation.

The Foundation also recognized cumulative giving from supporters over the years, with several donors approaching \$5,000 in lifetime contributions. Alan LaVoie was recognized as the organization's leading individual donor, having contributed more than \$15,000.

The CRRC opened last August and is being operated by the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows Serving Fernley.



Attendees at the Fernley Community Foundation Membership Dinner on Jan. 23 applaud the unveiling of the naming of a classroom in memory of Joy Hidek at the Community Response and Resource Center. Photo courtesy of Fernley Community Foundation

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Continued from FRONT - POOL...

Daniel said. “We would have to stop and possibly rebid the whole project. But we don't expect it.”

That leads to some of the uncertainty about the start date for the project, but Daniel and Prouty said they're looking at Feb. 17 as the tentative date the pool will close. The bid documents for the project were based on 140 days, which would take the project into June.

The contract includes a hard deadline tied to the last day of school on June 12.

“That's our hard line, to open the day after school ends,” Daniel said.

The contract includes a \$1,000 per day liquidated damages clause if the contractor fails to deliver the facility on time.

“We probably get 50 percent of our income in June and July,” Daniel said. “If we're not able to open in time for summer, we'll have to sit down and look at how much money it's costing us.”

There is a slim chance the pool could reopen earlier if interior work finishes ahead of schedule. “By some miracle, we might actually have the pool opening in May,” Daniel said. “But I would call that a miracle.”

The project goes far beyond just

replacing the metal roof. It includes the full replacement of the roof and the ceiling of the mezzanine, or pool area; replacing the HVAC ducting, upgraded lighting including pendant fixtures around the pool; replacement of the security system; and minor exterior lighting updates.

Daniel said the current security system is outdated and failing.

“It's old technology from the '90s,” he said.

Before beginning the work on the roof and ceiling, the entire pool deck will need to be scaffolded to bring in equipment, which Daniel said will take two to three weeks.

“We realized the scaffolding was going to take longer than expected, so it sped up the project to give us more buffer before summer,” Daniel said.

Once the scaffolding is in place, crews can begin interior work even if the exterior roof must wait until after summer.

“They could do the roof after Labor Day if they had to,” Prouty said.

Daniel acknowledged that the timing of the project creates unavoidable disruptions.

The high school swim team won't be able to use the pool this season, and Fernley High School Athletic Director Paul Sullivan said they're trying to

work an arrangement for the team to practice in Fallon.

“We kind of left the swim team homeless,” Daniel said. “But once we get the roof on, they'll have a home for the next 30 years.”

The closure will also affect end of year school events. The pool will most likely be unable to host the schools' end of year parties. Swim lessons will also be canceled.

“We'll have a bunch of Fernley kids without swim lessons right before summer, which is not ideal,” Daniel said.

Staffing will be another challenge. Without spring operations, the district won't have its usual pipeline of trained lifeguards heading into the busy season.

“I won't have enough lifeguards at the start of summer,” Daniel said. “I'll be scrambling just to hire new lifeguards. If anybody's interested in being a lifeguard, let me know. Classes are free for locals.”

The money for the project comes from the Pool District's reserves. Prouty and Daniel said because GIDs generally cannot borrow money, the district must save for major capital projects.

“Any money that we do not spend over the course of the year goes into

our cash account, saving for these types of projects,” Daniel said. “So effectively, we penny pinch year by year, saving as much as we can. It then goes into this cash account for us to pay for these large projects.”

The Fernley Swimming Pool District operates as a General Improvement District (GID), which was formed before the City of Fernley incorporated. That means the district is independent of the city, county and state.

“We're entirely unto ourselves under the direction of the Board of Trustees,” Daniel said. “If we had a fire, if we had a failure of any kind, if a drunk person drove through the building with a bulldozer, us the Fernley pool, have to put ourselves back together. No one's coming to our help.”

Daniel said he's optimistic the project can be completed on time without the supply chain delays that affected the district's recent park project.

“Our park project ran into a problem because a good chunk of it got stuck in a port in Hamburg or something like that,” Daniel said. “We lost like a month or something with our irrigation system sitting in the port. This should be straightforward. Knock on wood, I don't expect any major delays.”

Fernley Community Events

FEB. 7TH

BRING A CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY
10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Fernley Branch Library
575 Silver Lace Blvd
775-575-3366

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

VALENTINE'S DAY LIGHT UP BOTTLE WORKSHOP
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Southern Charm & Let's be Artful
25 East Main Street Suite # 5
775-302-1488

FEB 8

BIG GAME WATCH PARTY
2:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.
The Meadows
1045 Inglewood drive

FEB. 12

PUBLIC MARKET
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
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

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 19

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

FEB. 20

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

FEB 26

MAYOR NEALE 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

the
Fernley
reporter
FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

BUSINESS

Pinnacle Health brings prevention-focused care to Fernley

By Rachel Dahl

After more than two decades of calling Fernley home, Jennifer Garrett is bringing her life’s work back to the community that shaped it.

Garrett, a nurse practitioner with dual certification in family practice and psychiatric mental health, is helping lead the opening of Pinnacle Health in Fernley, a clinic built around prevention, and primary care.

“I’ve been in Fernley for 22 years,” Garrett said. “My kids went to school here. This is home. Getting to care for people here, in a way that actually works for rural communities, is an honor.”

The clinic is open Tuesday through Friday, with early morning appointments beginning around 7:30 a.m. Garrett sees patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She works alongside physician assistant Elizabeth Peterson, who brings a deep background in primary care and sees patients Wednesdays and Fridays. Together, they offer a complementary approach that blends medical treatment with education, mental health support, and long-term health planning.

Pinnacle Health’s model is one Garrett knows well. While completing her Doctor of Nursing Practice, she focused her doctoral work on the barriers rural patients face when managing chronic illness, barriers that often have little to do with motivation and everything to do with access.

“When people end up back in the hospital, it’s not because they didn’t listen,” she said. “It’s because they couldn’t get in to see a provider in time, or they didn’t have the tools to follow the plan. By the time help is available, the problem has grown.”

That insight came not only from academic research, but from years of bedside nursing and home health work, where Garrett saw firsthand how transportation, distance, and limited appointment availability can derail even the best care plans. Those experiences also pushed her to pursue a second certification in psychiatric mental health.

“Chronic illness is exhausting,” she said. “It wears on people emotionally. If you don’t address mental health alongside physical health, you’re missing half the picture.”

At Pinnacle Health, that philosophy shows up in longer conversations, patient education, and a strong emphasis on prevention, keeping people healthy and out of the hospital whenever possible. The goal, Garrett said, is to help patients age well, manage conditions earlier, and avoid the need for frequent trips to Reno.

“That drive adds another layer of difficulty,” she said. “When care is far away, people put it off. We’re trying to remove that obstacle.”

Garrett credits Pinnacle founder Chris King with believing in that vision and waiting until the timing was right to open in Fernley. “I feel like a princess,” she said with a laugh. “He waited until I finished my boards and was ready to serve this community.”

For Garrett, the opening of Pinnacle Health in Fernley is both professional and deeply personal. What began as a temporary stop years ago became a hometown, and now, a place where her passion for prevention, primary care, and mental health can make a lasting difference.

“We fell in love with this town,” she said. “Getting to give back by helping keep our people healthy, that’s what this is all about.”



Elizabeth Peterson, Physician Assistant



Jennifer Garrett, a nurse practitioner with a dual certification in family practice and psychiatric mental health

Meetings

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

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

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

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 February 19

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

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GOVERNMENT

ROC Express Walk-in Clinic now open in Fernley

By Rachel Dahl

A new walk-in orthopedic clinic is now open in Fernley, bringing specialized injury care and physical therapy closer to home for residents of Fernley, Fallon, and surrounding communities. Reno Orthopedic Center officially opened its ROC Express & Physical Therapy location at 1034 Inglewood Drive on Jan. 5, offering no-appointment-necessary orthopedic care alongside on-site physical therapy services.

The Fernley location is designed to treat common orthopedic injuries, including sprains, fractures, sports injuries, and joint pain—without requiring patients to travel to Reno. The clinic also offers advanced imaging and coordinated physical therapy to support recovery close to home.

ROC Express provides walk-in orthopedic care Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., while physical therapy services are available Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The clinic can be reached at 775-829-2663 for ROC Express and 775-260-2619 for physical therapy.

During a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony,

community leaders and local business representatives welcomed the clinic as an important addition to Fernley’s growing medical infrastructure. Speakers emphasized the value of expanding local access to specialty care, particularly as travel between Fernley, Fallon, and Reno has become increasingly time-consuming.

Clinic representatives noted that many staff members live in Fernley, Silver Springs, Fallon, and nearby communities, reinforcing the clinic’s connection to the region it serves. The Fernley location reflects a broader effort by Reno Orthopedic Center to expand access to orthopedic care across northern Nevada.

Services available at the Fernley ROC Express location include treatment for back and neck pain, broken bones, shoulder and knee injuries, sports injuries, strains, sprains, dislocations, and upper- and lower-extremity injuries.

Local officials described the opening as a sign of continued growth and investment in Fernley, highlighting the importance of supporting businesses that provide essential services to residents across the region.



The Fernley Chamber hosted a ribbon cutting for the Fernley ROC Walk-In Clinic last week. Photo by Rachel Dahl.



ROC now offers physical therapy and urgent orthopedic care in its new Fernley facility. Photo by Rachel Dahl



The Reno Orthopedic Center celebrated the grand opening of its Fernley Campus on Jan. 30. Photo by Rachel Dahl



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LAW AND ORDER

Arrest report

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

Jan. 26 – 31, 2026

COLBIE CLEVELAND – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$10,000, Charges: Domestic Battery by Strangulation	VALERIE AJA-MCCALLISTER –Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$590, Charges: Criminal Contempt	JURNIE PEPION – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,640, Charges: Allow Child Abuse/Neglect (Endanger), (1st); Resist Public Officer	Commitment
CHRISTINA NICKERSON – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court Commitment	LUCAS RUSSELL – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court Commitment	RYAN HEMSLEY – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$1,140, Charges: Failure by Convicted Person to Comply W/ NRS 179c Requirements	JORDON MCKINSEY – Area: Mason Valley, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Failure to Appear After Bail, Felony Crime
COREY CHAMBERLAIN – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$16,640, Charges: Obtain/Use Personal ID of Another to Avoid/Delay Prosecution; Manufacture/Import/Possess/Use Dangerous Weapon (1st); False Statement to Obstruct Public Officer; Assist Other Agency--Hold	IAN INSERRA – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$395, Charges: Criminal Contempt; Operate Vehicle with Expired Registration/Plates	MALACHI FULKERSON – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$1,140	APRIL LYMAN – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$875, Charges: Assist Other Agency--Hold
DEAN FOX – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$3,140, Charges: Domestic Battery, 1st	ANTHONY MELENDREZ – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$175,000	Charges: Battery	RAFE COSSMAN – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$13,140, Charges: Domestic Battery by Strangulation; Domestic Battery, 1st
PAUL COPPOLA – Area: Dayton, Bail Amount: \$17,596, Charges: Criminal Contempt	Charges: Child Abuse or Neglect, (1st); Promote Sex Performance of Minor, 14+	RICKY RODRIGUEZ – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$56,140, Charges: Driver Disobey Peace Officer, Endanger Other Persons/Property, DUI, (1st); Reckless Driving w/Disregard Safety Persons/Property (1st)-Enhanced/Public Safety Zone; Fail to Yield at Stop/Yield Sign or Controlled Intersection; Fail to Drive on Right Half of Road; Overtake on Left Side/Left Turn in Prohibited Zone; Failure to Decrease Speed or Use Due Care; Drive Without Driver's License; Fail to Wear Safety Belt/Shoulder Harness	KARA WEISBROD – Area: Dayton Bail Amount: \$2,260, Charges: Failure to Appear on Traffic Citation; Failure to Appear After Bail, Misdemeanor Crime
LATRICIA DEAN – Area: LYSO, Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court Commitment	CRYSTAL BAKER – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$3,140	NATHAN SCOTT – Area: LYSO Bail Amount: \$0, Charges: Court	CAINE JOHNSON – Area: Silver Springs, Bail Amount: \$3,140
WILLIAM DEACON – Area: Fernley Bail Amount: \$5,000, Charges: Failure to Appear After Bail, Felony Crime (2 counts)	Charges: Domestic Battery, 1st		Charges: Domestic Battery, 1st
	CHANCE PLUMMER – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$40,000, Charges: Driver Disobey Peace Officer, Endanger Other Persons/Property		TRAVIS SELF – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$2,615, Charges: DUI, (2nd); Resident/Non Resident Drive When Privilege Revoked; Open Alcohol Container in Vehicle
	ANGEL RODRIGUEZ – Area: Fernley, Bail Amount: \$15,500, Charges: Violate Stalking/Harassment Extended Protective Order; Destroy Property of Another, \$250–\$5K		

Continued from FRONT - AI POLICY...

AI driven harassment, including deepfakes.

Superintendent Tim Logan said existing discipline policies already cover cheating, plagiarism and cyberbullying, and AI related misconduct would fall under those categories for now.

“If I were to say right now, we would find it under a category that we needed to make sure a consequence was issued if there was intention for harm or something of that nature,” Logan said, adding that the discipline plan may need updates as AI evolves.

Day also asked whether the district planned to use a specific AI platform. Gianotti said the district expects to

rely primarily on Google Gemini, which is included in the district’s Google for Education licensing.

Teachers already use a variety of AI tools, Gianotti said, but the district does not plan to open all of them to students.

Logan said Gemini offers stronger protection for student data than open source tools.

“With the professional Google Suite, it doesn’t go out into open AI,” he said. “If my kid enters something or I enter student data, it stays within ours.”

Trustee Sherry Parsons said teachers and administrators are gaining a better understanding of AI, sharing an example of her daughter using an

AI generated scavenger hunt around Fernley. She said the experience showed how creative AI can be but also noted concerns about deepfakes and identity misuse.

“AI is a wonderful thing,” Parsons said. “But the bad stuff is coming, too.”

Gianotti said those concerns reinforce the need to teach students how to use AI responsibly.

“This is going to be their world moving forward,” she said. “To not give them those tools would almost be criminal.”

Board President Tom Hendrix questioned the use of the term “misinformation” in the ethical use section, saying that during the COVID 19 pandemic things that were labeled as mis-

information were later determined to be true. He asked how the district would determine what qualifies as misinformation. Logan suggested removing the term misinformation from the policy.

Gianotti said the district’s goals are straightforward.

“Ultimately, we want to keep kids safe,” he said. “We want to ensure academic integrity. We just want to make sure our kids are doing the right thing and are learning how to use the tool appropriately.”

The vote to approve the policy as a first reading passed unanimously and it will be brought back for approval as a second reading at a future meeting.

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COMMUNITY COLUMNS

From the Fed to precious metals to housing:
Why a silver crash matters for homebuyers

By Richard Roznos

In early February 2026, financial markets around the world experienced a stunning turn. Precious metals – particularly silver and gold – plunged sharply, wiping out billions in speculative gains. At the same time, a major shift in U.S. economic policy leadership was unfolding, President Donald Trump nominated former Federal Reserve governor Kevin Warsh as the next Chair of the Federal Reserve, replacing Jerome Powell when his term ends in May.

While at first blush the connection between a Fed chair nomination and the price of silver might seem tenuous, the metals selloff reflects a broader realignment of expectations about interest rates, inflation, and economic risk, factors that also have deep implications for the U.S. housing market.

Kevin Warsh's nomination sent waves through financial markets because he is widely perceived as more hawkish on inflation and monetary policy than many had anticipated. Investors betting on aggressive interest rate cuts are now reassessing their positions, leading to sharp movements in interest rate expectations. This shift, in turn, affects asset prices across markets.

Gold and silver have historically been viewed as hedges against inflation and currency weakness. When the market believes interest rates will stay higher for longer – or that monetary policy will be less accommodative – those hedges lose luster. Traders began unwinding leveraged positions in precious metals, contributing to the steep drop in prices.

“It wasn’t just a routine selloff,” noted a market strategist. “This was a recalibration of risk and rate expectations tied to the perception that the Fed might take a different path under new leadership.”

The link between precious metals and housing may not be direct, but the underlying forces are shared: inflation expectations and interest rates.

Mortgage rates closely track U.S. Treasury yields, which tend to rise when markets expect tighter monetary policy. The nomination of Warsh – seen as potentially less inclined toward rate cuts – has bolstered Treasury yields. Higher yields generally push mortgage rates up, which in turn affects affordability for homebuyers.

For months, the housing market has been in a delicate balance. Buyers have struggled with high borrowing costs, while sellers have been reluctant to move without locking in equally favorable rates. The sudden shift in rate expectations reinforces that dynamic.

According to several real estate analysts, potential buyers are holding back, unwilling to commit to a mortgage without more clarity on the rate outlook. That caution has softened demand in many regions, lengthening the time homes re-

main on the market and giving buyers modest leverage in negotiations.

The metals crash also reflects a cooling inflation story. As inflation expectations drift lower, the argument for immediate, aggressive rate cuts weakens. In theory, this could be positive for the housing market in the long term, because sustained low inflation would eventually allow the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates, improving affordability.

However, markets are signaling that such rate cuts are not imminent. Warsh's nomination reinforced this sentiment: if the Fed under new leadership prioritizes inflation discipline over short-term market stimulus, rate cuts could be delayed further. That prolongs the period of higher borrowing costs, which weighs on housing activity.

Investor Psychology and Capital Flows

Investor behavior adds another layer to the picture. When gold and silver prices rise rapidly, it often signals heightened economic anxiety; investors flock to hard assets for safety.

Conversely, a sharp reversal suggests risk tolerance increasing and capital shifting to cash, bonds, or equities. While this can be positive for broader markets, it means fewer investors turning to real estate as a haven.

For housing specifically, this can translate into reduced speculative buying and specialty products, particularly in markets where investors were chasing appreciation. Instead, activity increasingly centers on traditional owner-occupants prioritizing affordability and stability.

Importantly, none of these developments point to a housing market crash. Lending standards remain relatively strong, household balance sheets are healthier than in previous downturns, and the core drivers of housing, demographics, employment, and local supply constraints, are largely intact.

What the metals market and the Fed chair nomination signal instead is an extended period of adjustment. Prospective buyers may face higher costs for longer, sellers may need to adjust pricing expectations, and the overall pace of transactions may slow.

In a shifting economic landscape shaped by new leadership at the Federal Reserve, both markets and households are watching closely, from Wall Street to Main Street, and from gold bars to open houses.

Richard Roznos (Lic. S.197449) has been a licensed realtor since 2022, serving Reno, Sparks, Fernley, Lovelock, and Fallon. Drawing on experience in project management and land acquisitions since 2018, he works with residential and commercial clients, including first-time buyers, sellers, and investors.

Food for thought

By Sherry Perea

Tiramisu: Your anytime ‘Pick me up’

You could call tiramisu the most famous icebox cake ever. Delicious sweet cream and espresso soaked ladyfingers are layered in a dish, the top dusted with rich cocoa. It has a complex flavor achieved with simple ingredients- no baking required.

Its name, rather than a list of components, aimed to describe how eating a slice might make you feel. The word Tiramisu means ‘Pick me up’ in Italian. Various reasons have been given for why such a name was chosen. The most popular two go like this: it refers to the espresso used in the recipe; it was created in a Venetian brothel as a fortifying salutation to physically exerted patrons upon their departure.

Legends aside, you can easily enjoy this world-renowned dessert yourself due to its simple construction and readily available ingredients. You might even have all or most of them in your pantry right now. If you do not have an espresso machine, consider using cold brew coffee or a cold brew concentrate. You could even bolster regular brewed coffee with instant coffee packets from that ubiquitous chain coffeehouse we are all familiar with.

If ladyfingers are not available (or you’re not a stickler and like to flout tradition) you could use pound cake or vanilla wafers as well. Anything that will absorb the espresso without falling apart. Layer the cookies and cream depending on the thickness of the ladyfingers/cookies you are using i.e. two layers for ladyfingers, three or more for thinner cookies. Will keep in the refrigerator up to one week.

Ingredients

- 8x8 dish
- Electric mixer
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1/3 cup powdered sugar
- 8oz mascarpone cheese
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 package ladyfingers
- 1 cup cold espresso or strong coffee
- Cocoa Powder (darker the better)

Instructions

1. Beat the cream with a mixer on medium speed. As mixture thickens, slowly add sugar and vanilla and continue mixing until peaks form. Slowly mix in mascarpone cheese. Set mixture aside.
2. Lazily dip ladyfingers in espresso and arrange one layer in the bottom of the dish. Top with proportional amount of cream mixture and smooth. Add alternating layers of soaked ladyfingers and cream mixture until the dish is full, ending with a smooth layer of cream on top.
3. Generously dust the top with cocoa powder.
4. Cover and refrigerate for at least several hours before serving.

Enjoy!



Justin Miller is a Northern Nevada native, train buff, and recovering picky eater. He typically covers local history and ‘Food For Thought’, our weekly food column. His writing appears in both the print edition and on fernleyreporter.com

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PET OF THE WEEK

Brenda is looking for love!

Brenda (aka Babygirl) is 1-2 years young. She is shy at first but a real loving cuddle bug once she warms up. Brenda needs a home that is low energy, no dogs or small children. She is fixed, vaccinated and microchipped. Do you have a place in your heart and home for Brenda? If you would like to meet her, please call and leave a message with your contact info and someone will get back to you asap!

775-575-0950



BRENDA (aka Babygirl)

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PET OF THE WEEK

Smokey is looking for his forever home!

Smokey is curious, loves kisses, funny, athletic, playful, smart, affectionate, brave and friendly. Smokey is an all-around good boy, and described as a very “cool dog.” He has the look, athleticism, and intelligence to impress. Smokey knows many basic commands including sit, stay, place, paw, and walks nicely on leash. And the drive to learn whatever you can teach him! He also plays nicely with dogs of all ages and sizes. Who doesn’t want a buddy to keep you active? And we promise, he does also cuddle in the mornings!

Call us at the Lyon County Shelter (775) 577-5005 to meet Smokey!



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