

# the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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## Lau calls out “chaos” among council

By Kerry Lyman

Fernley City Councilman Stan Lau called out his fellow council members for what he called “chaos” after personalities clashed, tempers flared, and frustration ensued at last Wednesday’s Fernley City Council meeting.

Lau had originally seconded a motion by Councilman Ryan Hanan related to rules of decorum for council members participating in meetings via Zoom. However, after council members disagreed about whether such a policy is necessary, Lau withdrew his second and expressed his frustration.

“I’ve been here 11 years. I’m the oldest city councilman up here and there’s been a lot of changes. Right now, I’ve never seen more chaos on a city council than right now, in this last year, and I’m going to withdraw my second because I see that the council wants chaos,” Lau said. “We have rules, decorum. We’re not following them. It’s absolute chaos up here.”

The discussion was held during an agenda item requested by Councilman Ryan Hanan that would have required council members remotely attending a council meeting to do so with their video cameras turned on.

In making his motion originally, Hanan moved “to direct the city attorney to revise the rules in regard to digital participation, phone participation, with exceptions for illness and family emergencies, additionally, digital appearances should require

members to be stationary, camera on, participating, if they are granted permission to access via Zoom or other digital media.”

Lau quickly provided the second. “There’s five adults up here. I don’t need a babysitter to tell me whether or not I need to be on video,” Councilman Albert Torres responded. “A lot of entities, commissions and city councils have actually gotten away totally from Zoom and they are calling in because Zoom takes so much more of the (city) clerk’s time,” he said.

Torres cited several instances when he would not want to be on video, such as in a motel where the computers are in the lobby and the council audience would be able to see passersby in the lobby background, or when a council person may be ill. He also noted one situation when he was in Canada and he had no Wi-Fi, so he had to call into a council meeting.

“Does that mean I have to take that as an unexcused absence?” he asked. “Why is this a big deal and why do we

have to make that a part of policy? I think this is great overreach,” Torres added.

Councilwoman Felicity Zoberski said she had done some research, and she thought both sides of the issue had merit, but she was a little uncomfortable with showing the inside of her home on a public video conference,



adding that she thought “If they’re voting and they’re there for the meeting, then they’re there.”

Torres said if voters have a problem with how a council member is conducting themselves, then the voters need to talk to the council member.

“It is not any single council person’s job to babysit the rest of us,” Torres said. “This is a huge overreach on your part. We are adults. We were elected. None of us answer to each other. We answer to the voters.”

Hanan responded that council members should hold themselves to a higher standard and said it is incumbent upon all council members “to be

here and to be participatory.” He asked if remotely participating council members are not on video, how is the public to know if they are being attentive and participating?

“The people elect us to sit up here. They don’t elect us to sit at home or to be in our car, or to be on vacation on Zoom with your camera off, not participating,” he said. “That should be an unexcused absence in my opinion. I’ve never missed a meeting because I make it a priority.”

Addressing City Attorney Aaron Mouritsen, Lau said, “Aaron, you need to start doing something instead of just sitting there. Mayor, you need to get a little stronger up here. Actually, you need to get real strong up here. There’s people on their phones right now. Mayor (Roy) Edgington used to yell at people on their phones. Right now, this is a weak council.”

Zoberski said she could not support Hanan’s motion because none of her voters are complaining about a lack of transparency due to a council member not being on video when attending a meeting remotely. She also said she was “not sure it’s my place to police the council up here.”

Since Lau had rescinded his second to Hanan’s motion, and no other second to the motion was offered, Mayor Neal McIntyre declared the motion failed.

*The Fernley City Council, (back row from left) Council members Felicity Zoberski, Stan Lau, Ryan Hanan, (front row) Joe Mendoza, Albert Torres, and Mayor Neal McIntyre. Photo courtesy of City of Fernley*

## Council selects consultant to help with city manager search

By Kerry Lyman

During their last regular meeting, the city council approved a contract with CPS HR Consulting of Sacramento to assist the city in an executive recruitment search for a new city manager.

Three consulting firms submitted proposals to the mayor for consideration, Prothman Executive Recruitment from Issaquah, WA, proposing a fee of \$18,500 plus expenses; Bob Murray and Associates in Roseville, CA, proposing a fee of \$40,000 plus expenses; and CPS HR Consulting, proposing a fee of \$30,000 plus expenses, according to Robert Carson, city treasurer.

All three firms submitted similar proposals, anticipating a 16-week recruitment process, with all offering a one-year guarantee that if a hired candidate going through the recruitment

process is not employed for at least a year, the consultant firm will conduct another recruitment at no cost, save advertising, travel expenses, and added background checks, etc.

In addition, if initial recruitment efforts are unsuccessful, all three firms agreed to continue the search at no extra cost until an offer is made and accepted by a candidate. They also said they would perform reference and background checks of the candidates. Councilman Joe Mendoza asked whether the city could check with entities that hired persons recruited by the consultants to see how those candidates worked out. Carson said the council could delay hiring a consulting firm and get some references if that is the council’s desire.

The CPS HR proposal which the council selected, included a three-phase approach, to develop a candidate

profile and recruitment strategy, to conduct an aggressive, proactive and robust recruitment and to participate in the selection process, according to Carson.

Councilman Albert Torres asked why the mayor had recommended CPS HR over the other consultant proposals. Mayor Neal McIntyre said it was because of a discussion he had with the city engineer about what a good job CPS HR did with the Regional Transportation Commission and “personally talking to all three companies.”

McIntyre said, “CPS HR went into depth on what they would do for us, whereas the other two said, ‘we will send you some information.’” He also suggested that he could contact CPS HR about what they would charge to recruit for upcoming “hard to fill” engineering positions the city will be filling in coming months, bringing that

proposal back to the council when necessary.

The council voted 4-1 to approve the contract with CPS HR, with Torres saying he was voting no only because he would prefer to have the reviews of the companies before proceeding. The city is looking for a new city manager following the resignation of former City Manager Ben Marchant in May during budget discussions.

At that time, three council members voted to defund the city manager position, charging Marchant with dishonesty and insubordination.

Marchant denied the allegations but offered to resign if that was the only thing holding the council from approving its budget. After going into a recess while a separation agreement was negotiated with Marchant, the council reconvened and approved the final budget.

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FEATURES

Local home made of heart and steel

By Justin Miller

Not everything that is noteworthy was intentional. Take Rick and Laura Griffin's home for example - one of the most unique in the Fernley area. From the street it looks like any other home. Its pleasant tan exterior is accented by white trim and a gray asphalt shingle roof. There is an awning out front and the exterior siding appears to have the vertical battens so popular on modern homes. Only upon closer inspection does it become obvious the vertical 'battens' are in fact the corrugated sides of a steel shipping container, and this is no normal house at all.

The Griffins never would have ended up in Fernley if not for Rick's love of classic cars. His workshop, which stands next to their home, contains cars from nearly every decade of the last 80 years. He is most proud of a matching pair of '52 Dodge Coronet 'Sierra' station wagons, dark green with rich leather and wood interiors. A black cat named Paladin loafs about as Rick gestures over his shoulder to a far corner of the building. "I have my own little gym back there. I used to own Flex Fitness in Reno... I'm probably one of the few people still alive that have competed in AAU, NPC, and the IFBB. I was a light-heavyweight bodybuilder."

Rick has worn many hats during his life - Marine, carpenter, civil engineer in the Air National Guard, husband, father. The hat he has most often donned is that of a cop. Specifically, a Reno Police Department beat cop from 1969 until his retirement in 2005. Around the Griffin home the only nod to his 36 years in law-enforcement are numerous porcine themed pieces of bric-a-brac on display.

"That shop building is what drove this whole project," Laura said. "When he retired, he started working on cars again."

After being forced from the Reno shop they had leased, the Griffin's found that leasing a new commercial shop space would be prohibitively expensive. They decided to erect their own structure on property they would purchase in a more affordable area. In 2016 a friend pointed them to a disused metal building for sale in Palomino Valley. They purchased the building and began the search for property on which to place it.

"We looked around Winnemucca, we looked around Lovelock... and Lovelock was not only no, but hell no," says Laura. Eventually, they found a piece of property advertised as unde-

veloped on Desert Shadows Lane. To their surprise the property actually contained a functional well. They purchased the property at a probate auction and it wasn't long before they ran into the first of several issues they would need to overcome. While pulling permits for the construction of the workshop, the city's development officer stepped in. "...the city said we could not put that building up with without a house."

When this new requirement for a residence on the property came to light, the Griffins thought back to a trip they had taken to England. Inspired by the different types of shipping container structures they saw in London, they began investigating whether they could build something similar on their Fernley property. Lyon County deemed their proposed home to be of modular type construction, despite being far more custom and different in construction than conventional 'modular homes.' Since modular construction was allowed on their property, the Griffins engaged a Reno architect to put their vision on paper and create plans for their new house.

After several meetings to perfect the design, they were given plans for an 1,800 square-foot home made of three 40-foot and five 20-foot steel shipping containers.

The home has two bedrooms, two bathrooms, an open concept kitchen, living and dining room, and is 'green' in most respects. A solar array atop the workshop offsets electricity costs, two tankless water heaters provide instant hot water, and much attention was given to insulating throughout. Four mini-split systems regulate the internal temperature. In theory, the house could run 'off-the-grid,' having its own backup electrical generator, water well, and septic system. It sits on a foundation comprised of a perimeter stem wall and concrete footings throughout the crawlspace to prevent sagging.

Initially the Griffins hired a project manager to oversee construction. They ordered the shipping containers, which were trucked to Reno from Long Beach, where they arrived via ship. An unfortunate situation emerged in the initial phases of the project which led the Griffins to fire the project manager and oversee the rest of the construction on their own.

In some cases they did the job at hand themselves. Laura says, obviously proud of her husband's handiwork, "Rick did the entire interior himself. We didn't have a carpenter, he did all



Laura and Rick Griffin with their dogs in the home they built out of shipping containers. Photo by Justin Miller



The home of Rick and Laura Griffin, made of shipping containers. Photo by Justin Miller



Rick Griffin and the cat named Paladin with a pair of '52 Dodge Coronet 'Sierra' station wagons. Photo by Justin Miller

the interior." Inside, the container house feels like any other modern home: light, open, and solidly constructed. The 9.5-foot ceilings make the open main living area feel extremely spacious. They opted to forgo a drop ceiling, instead leaving the top of the metal container exposed. Painted a tasteful metallic blue, it imparts a distinctly industrial vibe into the space, which is balanced by the Griffins' eclectic collection of vintage furniture, some of which belonged to Rick's parents. The attention to detail Rick and Laura put into their home is obvious. The walls are a soft yellow, which compliments the mahogany panel flooring nicely. Each flooring panel is 4'x8' plywood and are the original floors installed in the shipping containers, mahogany being well suited to resist the nautical elements the containers were exposed to in their original seafaring role. Rick had to unfasten, trim, and refasten each panel to accommodate the changes made to each container's dimensions.

When the city of Fernley required that the house have a pitched roof, it was a neighbor 'down the way' who helped them get it done. One of Laura's wishes for the design was that the main living area of the home be free of columns. To make this possible, their neighbor, who is in the construction business, designed a system that would suspend the roof above the main structure of the home, transferring its weight to the external walls. By doing so, it was possible to meet the requirements of the city as well as Laura's request for an unobstructed living room.

All told it took the Griffins four years and far more money than expected to build a home they are proud of. Rick recalls, "We broke ground officially on September 15, 2017 and we got our certificate of occupancy on September 15, 2021. Four years to the day. Part of the reason I can remember that date is because it's my son's birthday. Sometimes it just seems like stuff is in the cards, you know?"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gray appointed as Senior Advisor to National Cemetery Administration

Staff Report

Assemblyman Ken Gray announced that he has been appointed by President Donald Trump to serve as Senior Advisor to the National Cemetery Administration at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Gray said he will be officially sworn in later this August.

“While this new role means I can no longer serve as your Assemblyman for District 39, it has truly been the honor of a lifetime to represent you over the past two terms,” Gray said in a social media post.

Gray served in the U.S. Air Force from 1987 to 2013, retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant. He served as a Lyon County Commissioner from 2017-2022 before being elected to the Assembly where he has served in two regular sessions and two special sessions. He served as a member of the Health and Human Services, Judiciary and Revenue committees.

“I’m not disappearing—just taking a temporary step away from Nevada politics to once again serve my fellow



Assemblyman Ken Gray. Courtesy LCB.

veterans, our country, and our President in a new capacity,” Gray said, “Thank you all for your trust, support, and friendship. I look forward to what lies ahead—and I’ll be seeing you again soon.”

City receives temporary Certificate of Occupancy for CRRC



The City of Fernley has received a temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the Fernley Community Response and Resource Center, and is planning a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 27. Photo courtesy of City of Fernley

The City of Fernley has received the temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the Community Response and Resource Center and should receive the final Certificate of Occupancy by the end of the month, Deputy City Manager Lydia Altick said at the July 16 City Council meeting.

Altick said a ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for 2 p.m. August 27. “We’ll send out more invitations and notifications when that gets closer, but (it’s) pretty exciting,” Altick said.

Groudbreaking was held for Phase 1 of the project in March 2024. Phase 1 includes a multipurpose room, commercial kitchen, office space, classroom, teen center, and outdoor event space. The city is working on a lease agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows to operate and maintain the building.

Planned future phases include an early learning center in Phase II and a gymnasium in Phase III.



FERNLEY SENIOR CENTER MENU

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Applesauce

Tuesday, July 29  
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& Noodles  
Baked Acorn Squash  
Orange Spinach Salad  
Plums

Wednesday, July 30  
Italian Fried Chicken  
Spaghetti  
WW LS Crackers  
Garden Salad  
FFLS Italian Dressing  
Orange

Thursday, July 31  
Shrimp Scampi  
WW Penne Pasta  
Biscuit  
Caulliflower  
Lima Beans  
Kiwi

Friday, August 1  
Mexican Lasagna  
Spanish Rice  
Black Bean &  
Corn Salad  
Mango

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202-224-3542  
Cortezmastoc.senate.gov

Senator Jacky Rosen  
202-224-6244  
Rosen.senate.gov

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775- 686-5760  
Amodei.house.gov

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775-463-6581

Third Judicial District Court  
Judge John P. Schlegelmilch  
775-463-6571 Ext. 1

Judge Leon Aberasturi  
775-463-6571 Ext. 2

Lyon County District Attorney  
Stephen Rye  
775-463-6511

Canal Township Justice Court  
Judge Lori Matheus  
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# OBITUARY

## Philip Bruce Fow, Jr.

Philip Bruce Fow, Jr., of Fernley, passed away on Thursday, July 10, 2025, in Reno, Nevada, after a brief battle with cancer.

He was born on Oct. 30, 1961, in Torrance, California, to Bruce and Marilyn Fow, and was joined by his little sister, Chrissy, two years later. He grew up in Torrance, Norwalk, and La Mirada, California, and his family continued to change and grow, with his stepmother, Rita, and stepsister, Becky.

The family traveled extensively, locally and abroad. Many weekends, they took their friends and their boat to the Long Beach Marina or Lake Elsinore. Phil was an expert water-skier, having fallen in love with the sport at a young age. His sister Becky would drive the boat while Phil slalomed across the wakes on his single ski – and occasionally tease him about seeing the great white shark, even in freshwater lakes, after the family watched the movie “Jaws” together in 1975.

He joined the Boy Scouts in 1972, with Rita as his “den mother” and Scoutmaster Dexter Phipps in Troop 981 and earned Eagle Scout in 1977 with Scoutmaster Don Spain in Troop 803 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Santa Fe Springs Ward.

He shared his father’s interest in cars, repairing and tinkering on his many vehicles throughout his life. One of his great joys was driving his 1965 Mustang convertible, which had belonged to his father, and “Greenie,” the 1967 Mustang fastback he rebuilt over the years. His love of Ford vehicles extended to the Explorer sport utility: Gator, where he swapped out the automatic transmission for manual; and Babe, the Big Blue Ox, whose engine was awaiting a rebuild.

Phil could repair or build anything, having learned from his father as his family worked on their homes and rental properties. He was a hands-on repairperson from an early age, building and fixing every element of a home inside and out, from the roof to its foundation, as well as landscaping, for his family and friends.

At John Glenn High School in Norwalk, he was active in the ROTC and, in his senior year, in cross-country running. He graduated with the Class of 1979.

He joined the U.S. Navy in 1979 and served as the interior communications electrician on the nuclear submarine USS Benjamin Franklin (SSBN-640), which shared the name of his paternal grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Fow.

In 1991, he left the Navy and began a career in construction. Among his projects were the Indiana Jones ride at Disneyland (keep an eye on the snakes!); the haunted Luxor Casino in Las Vegas; and the Atlantis Casino skybridge. During his career, he received numerous awards, including the Caesars Founders Award, which honors exemplary team members.

His greatest joy in life was being a father to his four children: Philip, Kat, Eric, and Sarah. He built their childhood home with his own hands. He enjoyed his Del Taco outings as a foodie with his children at every opportunity. He spent many hours repairing and rebuilding cars with Kat and landscaping Sarah’s home. He was devoted to Bun-Bun, the family bunny.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents, Philip Bruce Fow and Marilyn Finger Fow, and his stepmother, Rita Cecilia Fow.

He is survived by his four children: Philip, Katherine (Kat), and Eric, of Reno, Nevada; and Sarah Fow Baker and her husband, Russell Baker, of Fernley, Nevada. He also is survived by his siblings, Christine Fow Cohen (Chris) and her husband, David Cohen, in Fairfax, Virginia; and Rebecca Grable Bible (Becky) and her husband,



Dale Bible, in Magnolia, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on July 25, 2025, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 155 U.S. 95 Alternate, Fernley, Nevada. Burial and military funeral honors will be held at 12:30 p.m. on July 25, 2025, at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 14 Veterans Way, Fernley, Nevada. A luncheon will follow the burial.

# FAITH

## Hope Beyond the Darkness

My daughter and I just returned from a trip to Washington D.C. We did all the things: toured the Capitol Building, took pictures next to Dorothy’s real ruby red slippers, visited the Washington Monument, saw an original Gutenberg Bible at the Library of Congress (original!), posed for photos in front of The White House, and mastered the metro. Being a self-proclaimed history nerd myself, I was seriously geeking out visiting all the places I had only ever seen on TV.

While I loved connecting to my American heritage that week, the most moving experience I had on our trip was visiting the Holocaust Museum.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is dedicated to documenting and interpreting the history of the Holocaust. It honors the memory of the six million Jews and millions of other victims killed by the Nazis during World War II. I had read books about the Holocaust in the weeks leading up to our trip. I thought I had prepared myself; however, I didn’t fully anticipate how I would feel experienc-

ing it in person. Visiting the museum was moving. As we walked through the exhibits, the physical space played a key role in telling the story. Many areas were left intentionally dark, creating a heaviness that reflected fear, loss, and suffering. Narrow winding hallways and dim lighting made us feel confined, and connected us to the victims’ experiences.

As I silently wept walking through each dark room, the thought that kept coming to me was how much God loves each of His children. He loves the Jew as much as the German, and the gypsy, and each precious child. He loves me with the same kind of love as my brothers and sisters in every race, religion, and nationality, and throughout all time.

Jesus Christ is the embodiment of this love. After all, God loved the world so much that gave His Only Begotten Son. He gave His son for us. (John 3:16) Jesus suffered and died for each of those six million Jews and when He rose on the third day and conquered

death, it was for not only every person memorialized in that museum but also every person before and after. It’s incomprehensible to me.

The best part of the museum is at the end. The cramped, dark rooms begin to open up to larger spaces filled with natural light. The tour culminates in the memorial room which is flooded with sunlight, symbolizing survival, memory, and hope. This contrasting shift was visceral. It felt like a physical weight was lifted when I sat in the warmth of the sun.

I feel the same way about the hope that comes from Jesus Christ. I feel a spiritual lift when I sit in the brightness of the Son. The hope that comes from Jesus is an anchor to my soul (Hebrews 6:19). It drives me to keep going. It allows me to try again. And again. And again.

Faith in Christ helps me bear hard things, unfair things, incomprehensible, terrible things.

In trying to process this all in the weeks that followed, I was reminded of one of my favorite quotes, "In unfair

situations, one of our tasks is to trust that 'all that is unfair about life can be made right through the Atonement of Jesus Christ.' Jesus Christ overcame the world and 'absorbed' all unfairness. Because of Him, we can have peace in this world and be of good cheer." (Dale Renlund)

While visiting the Holocaust Museum was difficult, it was also a powerful reminder to me of exactly how "infinite" the Atonement of Jesus Christ is. Our Savior not only fully comprehends the pain of each holocaust victim, but He also meets me in my own personal suffering, heartache, disappointment, and sin.

God loves all His children. He gave us Jesus because of His great love. In turn, Jesus loves each of us perfectly. He paid the price for it all. We are truly written upon the palms of His hands. (Isaiah 49:16) For that, I am so thankful.

Mary Sorensen is the Fallon/ Fernley Communication Director, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

## Fernley Church Directory

**Summit Church**  
Silverland Middle School

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

**Fernley First Baptist Church**  
485 E. Main Street

**Gift of Grace Lutheran Church**  
290 N. West Street

**Living Faith Church**  
110 Center Street

**Crosswinds Assembly of God**  
3015 Farm District Road

**Calvary Chapel**  
875 Fremont Street

**Joy! Alliance Fellowship**  
www.facebook.com/JOYchurchFernley

**St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church**  
625 Desert Shadows Lane

**Fernley Free Methodist Church**  
100 N. West Street

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**  
155 Hwy 95A South

**Living Stones Church**  
868 Cottonwood Lane

Share With Your Community.

## Send *The Fernley Reporter* your obituaries.

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BUSINESS

Homicidal Cakes brings you delicious cakes to kill for

By Christy Lattin

As a young girl in Grimes, Iowa, Schey Brown loved to bake cookies and cakes with her grandmother – and has now turned that favorite childhood activity into a business.

She recently launched Homicidal Cakes (Cakes To Kill For) as a home-based business. Her cottage food license is based in Fernley, but she delivers to surrounding areas, including Fallon, Silver Springs, and Dayton. She specializes in high-end cakes, cupcakes, macarons, and gourmet cookies.

Brown is an executive pastry chef and earned her baking and pastry degree from the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts. Although it was an online program, she described the exacting and thorough steps she went through for each lesson. Lessons began with a picture of “mise en place,” the culinary practice of preparing and organizing all the ingredients and equipment before cooking. From there, she photographed every step – showing how her meringue had stiff peaks, proving her macaron feet and shells were perfected, and plating the final display.

She said the master chef instructors taught students to develop their palate by having them describe the texture, flavor, and aroma of each dish – skills they could later use for menu building.

Before she was a chef, Brown served her country. She said her grandmother supported her decision to join the military after high school, and she

went on to serve ten years in the Navy as an aircrew survival equipmentman, formerly known as a parachute rigger.

She excitedly described the survival gear she packed into the seats of pilots for P-3 Orions, P-8 Poseidons, and F/A-18E/F Hornets. Her co-workers at NAS Fallon often reaped the rewards of her “stress baking.” As she looked to her future after the Navy, her grandmother once again provided guidance and urged her to make baking her profession.

She served in Florida and Hawaii before arriving at NAS Fallon. Brown utilized the tuition assistance program available to sailors and completed her culinary studies before she was medically retired from the Navy.

Brown guarantees freshness and says her goods are all baked within one day of pickup. She focuses on round cakes, sheet cakes, cupcakes, macarons, gourmet cookies, sourdough bread, and sourdough muffins and bagels. She can also fulfill specialty requests. Her lead time is three days’ notice, and she requires a deposit up front and full payment before delivery to ensure customers don’t back out and leave her with a cake she can’t sell. She accepts most forms of payment, including credit cards, Venmo, Cash App, and Facebook Pay.

Examples and pricing of her baked goods can be found on her Facebook page, Homicidal Cakes by Schey Nicole. You can also visit homicidalcakes.square.site or call 515-865-5776.



Executive Pastry Chef Schey Brown holds a tiered cake she baked and decorated. Photos courtesy Schey Brown.

New Business Licenses

The Fernley City Council approved the following new business licenses at its July 16 meeting:

Shadow Valley Construction, Sparks, General Contractor

Reno & Sparks Shaved Ice LLC dba/Kona Ice Of Sparks, Reno,

Shaved Ice Mobile Food

Mills Roofing Inc., Sparks, Roofing Contractor

Pyramid Lawncare & Handyman LLC, Fallon, Lawn Care & Tree Service

Uprite Construction Corporation, Irvine, CA Residential and small commercial contractor

Breakthru Enterprises, LLC, Santa Ana, CA Residential rentals

Silver State Geotechnical LLC, Reno, Geotechnical engineering

M.H. Fine Swine Barbecue LLC, Fernley, Mobile food truck

Sunrise Roofing, LLC, Reno, Roofing Contractor

Battle Born Equity Group LLC, Fernley, Commercial property rentals

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GOVERNMENT

Council approves Mark IV petition for a Special Assessment District

By Kerry Lyman

The Fernley City Council accepted a petition at its July 16 meeting from Mark IV Capital for the city's first private property Special Assessment District (SAD) for improvements to Nevada Pacific Parkway.

Mark IV requested the formation of an SAD to finance construction of the Nevada Pacific Parkway, linking the road between I-80 exit 50 and U.S. 50A at an estimated construction cost of \$114.75 million.

The council approved guidelines and procedures for adoption of property owner initiated SADs on June 4,

allowing property owners to petition for an SAD to fund a variety of public infrastructure and improvement projects.

Under the adopted guidelines, the city has no obligation for any bonds issued under an SAD to pay for the improvements. Instead, property owners within the district who benefit from the improvements pay for the bonds, with annual assessments being proportional, based on each property owner's benefit from the improvements.

Deputy City Manager Lydia Altick said the application and petition process is about 75 percent complete. Once completed, the formal SAD

petition will be brought before the city council for a public hearing, she said.

Improvements proposed under the SAD include extending construction of the road itself to U.S. 50A, a bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, a multi-use path, street lighting, intersection improvements, curb and gutter, as well as stormwater and other utility relocations, Altick said.

She also said Mark IV is responsible for all costs of the project's initiation, including engineering costs, bond underwriters, the city's financial consultant, bond counsel, city staff time spent on the project and all appraisal and environmental review costs.

The council praised Mark IV for its initiation of the process to complete construction of the Nevada Pacific Parkway and unanimously approved the SAD petition application with the following conditions:

1. Mark IV will contact other property owners regarding the formation of the SAD and obtain their buy-in or rejection of the proposal.
2. Provide the most recent appraisal of Mark IV property to ensure the current value is higher than the proposed assessment.
3. Provide desired timing of the SAD formation, bond issuance and project expenditures.

Commissioners appoint Ross, Edwards to Library Board

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County Commission voted at its July 17 meeting to appoint Sara Ross of Silver City to fill one vacant seat on the Lyon County Library board and re-appoint Kay Edwards of Silver Springs to a second term on the board.

The seats were vacant due to the end of the terms of Edwards and Deanne Davis of Dayton. The Library Board had recommended Ross to fill the vacant seat for the Dayton area but was unable to come to an agreement on a recommendation for the Silver Springs area at its June 25 meeting.

Six people applied for the vacant seats, six applications for the two spots, with Davis, Ross and Sara Jorgensen of Dayton applying for the seat representing Dayton, and Edwards, Vida Keller of Silver Springs and Eric Nelson of Stagecoach applying to represent Silver Springs.

Each of the applicants were given three minutes to introduce themselves to the Commissioners and explain why they want to serve on the Library Board. Edwards was the only applicant not at the meeting. Library Director Wynne Prindle said Edwards had medical appointments that day.

Ross said she's been a Lyon County resident for 23 years and said she has been involved in volunteer work in the community in Silver City. She said she worked for the Carson Montessori Charter School for eight years, starting in the office and progressing into administration. She currently provides suicide prevention presentations in Lyon County middle and high schools.

During the June 25 Library Board meeting, Edwards said she brings an "average Joe outlook" into what is needed at the library, and she said she has advocated for more community use of the Silver Stage library in particular, because it is the smallest in the county.

The motion by Commissioner Dave Hockaday to appoint Ross to the library board passed 3-1, with commissioner Tammi Hendrix opposed. Commission chairman Scott Keller recused himself from the discussion because his wife was one of the candidates. Hendrix then moved to appoint Eric Nelson but that vote ended in a 2-2 tie, with Hendrix and John Cassinelli in favor and Hockaday and Rob Jacobson opposed. Jacobson made a motion to nominate Edwards, and that motion passed 3-1, with Hendrix opposed.



Upcoming Meetings

Fernley City Council  
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.  
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.  
Next meeting August 6

Fernley Planning Commission  
2nd Wednesday of the Month at 5 p.m.  
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.  
Next meeting August 13

Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee  
2nd Friday of the month at 9 a.m.  
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.  
Next meeting August 8

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

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

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

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

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LAW AND ORDER

Richards ordered to competency eval in Filiatraut murder

By Robert Perea

Third Judicial District Court Judge Leon Aberasturi has ordered a competency evaluation for Robert Matthew Richards, who is charged with the murder of 25-year old Sara Filiatraut in March 2024.

On July 7, Judge Aberasturi signed the Order Granting Stipulation for Evaluation RE Competency in the case, suspending all proceedings in the case until the question of competency is determined.

The judge ordered that Richards be examined with regard to the question of competency by either two psychiatrists, two psychologists or one psychiatrist and one psychologist to state their opinion of whether Richards has the ability to understand the nature of the criminal charges against him; understand the nature and purpose of the court proceedings; and aid and as-

sist counsel in the defense at any time during the proceedings with a reasonable degree of rational understanding.

In June, Richards waived his right to a preliminary hearing in Canal Township Justice Court and Justice of the Peace Lori Matheus issued an Order of Commitment, sending the case to Third Judicial District Court.

Sara Filiatraut’s father reported her missing on April 15, 2024. Lyon County Sheriff’s investigators later learned she had not been seen or active online since March 21.

On May 23, 2024, her body was found in a pit in a remote desert location east of Fallon. The discovery of her body came after a deep technological dive into Sara’s and Richard’s devices by investigators, and a multi-agency search on the ground.

Richards had been arrested weeks earlier, on April 8, in an unrelated case alleging sexual assault and solicitation.

Judge Matheus released him on his own recognizance under enhanced supervision. At that time, Sara had not been reported missing, and authorities had not yet connected Richards to Sara’s disappearance.

Following the discovery of Sara’s remains, investigators interviewed Richards on May 27, 2024. Court documents report that he admitted he had been with Sara the night of March 22 but claimed she left his trailer. A warrant was issued, and a multistate manhunt ensued. Richards was later apprehended in Utah and extradited to Nevada last November. The Lyon County District Attorney’s Office formally filed murder charges on July 25, 2024, following the conclusion that there was sufficient evidence to proceed.

Richards remains in custody with no bail.



Robert Richards has been ordered to undergo an evaluation to determine if he is competent to stand trial for the murder of a young woman last year. Photo courtesy of Lyon County Sheriff’s Office.

Miller ruled competent to stand trial

By Robert Perea

Adam Elijah Miller has been ruled competent to stand trial for the murder of his father and attempted murder and battery of his mother.

Third Judicial District Court Judge John Schlegelmilch accepted the reports of two doctors who concluded that Miller is competent to proceed to trial and remanded the case to Canal Township Justice Court for further proceedings.

The order issued by Schlegelmilch states that the defendant understands the nature of the criminal charges against him; has an understanding of the nature and purpose of court proceedings, and that he has the ability to aid and assist counsel in his defense within a reasonable degree of rational understanding.

Miller, who was 19 at the time of the incident on December 18, is charged with Open Murder with the Use of a Deadly Weapon, a Category A felony punishable by life in prison—with eligibility for parole after 20 or 50 years—or the death penalty. He is also

charged with Attempted Murder with the Use of a Deadly Weapon, a Category B felony punishable by 2–20 years, and Battery with a Deadly Weapon Causing Substantial Bodily Harm to a Victim Age 60 or Older, punishable by 2–15 years.

According to the criminal complaint filed by the Lyon County District Attorney’s Office, Miller is charged with killing his father, 73-year-old Lance Miller, by stabbing him in the neck and/or chest with premeditation. The complaint also accuses him of attacking his mother, Elizabeth Miller, with a knife, stabbing her in the neck. The DA further filed charges for Destruction of Evidence, a misdemeanor, for allegedly concealing or destroying the knife used in the attacks. In a separate complaint, the DA accuses Miller of allegedly Carrying a Concealed Firearm Without a Permit and Obstructing a Public Officer related to a prior incident on November 21.

Miller was arrested December 19 after a two-day manhunt when he was found hiding in the rafters of an abandoned barn.



After an evaluation by two doctors, a District Court judge has ruled Adam Miller competent to stand trial for the murder of his father and attempted murder and battery of his mother. Photo courtesy of Lyon County Sheriff’s Office

Three arrested in fraud case

Staff Report

Lyon County Sheriff’s deputies arrested three people on July 16 following an investigation into reports of fraud and mail theft in Dayton and Stagecoach.

The Lyon County Sheriff’s Office said the investigation began after deputies received a report of fraudulent bank activity from a victim who lives outside of Lyon County. The victim reported multiple unauthorized transactions totaling more than \$6,000 withdrawn from their bank account.

Around the same time, residents in Stagecoach reported missing mail from mailboxes in their neighborhood. The Sheriff’s Office said that with the cooperation of victims, banking documentation and video surveillance footage, they were able to identify suspects in both the fraudulent financial activity and mail theft.

On July 16, members of the LCSO Investigations Division, Major Crimes and Special Investigations Units executed a search warrant at a home in Stagecoach. During the search, deputies found evidence that they said substantiates the charges of mail theft and fraud in both Stagecoach and Dayton.

Solana Hughes-Dickson was arrested on charges of use of identifying information causing harm and con-



spiracy to commit fraud. Bail was set at \$102,500.

Joshua Daniel Schultz was arrested on charges of mail theft and conspiracy to defraud another. Bail was set at \$7,500.

Tiffany Ann Monson was arrested on charges of mail theft, conspiracy to defraud another and obtaining and using personal identity information of another for unlawful purposes. Bail was set at \$32,500.

This investigation remains active, and additional victims may still be unidentified. Anyone with information or who believes they may have been impacted by these criminal activities is encouraged to contact the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office at (775) 463-6600 and reference Case Numbers 25LY02717 and 25LY02727.



Above: Solana Hughes-Dickson, left, Tiffany Monson, and right, Joshua Schultz. Photos courtesy Lyon County Sheriff.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Third Judicial District Court, Lyon County, Nevada, Case number 25-CV-0742

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was filed in the above-entitled court requesting that the Court legally change applicant’s name from Korey Thomas to Korey Beardsley.

The applicant submitted a statement signed under penalty of perjury that the applicant is not changing his or her name for a fraudulent purpose.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that any person objecting to the changing of applicant’s name shall file written objection with the above-entitled Court within 10 days after the publication of this notice.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2025  
/s/Korey Thomas

Published in *The Fernley Reporter*  
July 25, 2025 Ad #2508

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robert@fernleyreporter.com

Have a story?









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

Softball Little League juniors finish 4th in regional tournament

By Robert Perea

The Fernley Softball Little League junior division team finished in fourth place with a 3-2 record in the West Regional Tournament in Tucson, AZ. Fernley opened the tournament on June 18 with an 18-0 win over Timberlake Little League (Spirit Lake, ID). Naveah Leija drove in four runs with a single and a double and pitchers Nahla Burnitt and Cadence Alexander combined on a no-hitter. Burnitt struck out five in three innings and Alexander finished it off with one strikeout in her inning. Fernley scored six times in the first inning, keyed by a three-run double by Leija. Jaelyn Smythe had a two-run single in the second inning as Fernley added five more runs to make it 11-0. In the third, Jillian Richards, Rayne Wardleigh and Smythe all drove in runs during a seven-run rally.

On June 19, Fernley defeated High Plains LL (Falcon, CO) 8-4. Fernley broke the game open in the sixth inning with four runs to go up 6-0. Isabella Martinez singled in two runs to cap the rally, then in the seventh inning, Brienna Pope tripled in one run and scored on an error.

Lillianna Young and Emma Collins each had two hits for Fernley, and Izzy Martinez drove in two runs. Fernley suffered its first loss of the



Fernley players congratulate the Oregon team after their last game in the Junior League West Regional Tournament in Tucson, AZ. Photo courtesy of Fernley Softball Little League

tournament on June 20, 6-5 to Quartz Hill LL (Quartz Hill, CA). Fernley led 6-5 until Quartz Hill scored twice in the top of the sixth.

A single by Zoe Gillespie in the second inning drove in Wardleigh and put Fernley ahead 2-1. After trailing 5-2, Fernley scored four times in the third inning, on an RBI-single by Burnitt, a couple of passed balls and a groundout by Leija. Young had three of Fernley's eight hits,

including a double.

Fernley bounced right back, beating Shoreline LL (Shoreline, WA) 6-5. Fernley scored three runs in the top of the seventh to tie the game at 3-3, three more in the top of the seventh to take the lead, then held on to win by throwing out a runner at the plate to end the game.

A single by Martinez drove in Gillespie and Alexander with the go-ahead runs in the top of the seventh,

after Warleigh's single in the sixth inning scored Collins with the tying run. Collins had tripled in two runs to get Fernley within 3-2.

That moved Fernley into the semi-finals, where they were eliminated with a 17-1 loss to Blue Mountain LL (Heppner, OR). Fernley scored the first run of the game in the top of the first, but Blue Mountain put up six runs in the first, four in the second and seven in the third.

McKnight has top finish for Fernley at National High School Finals Rodeo



Fernley's Ian Leavitt, shown competing earlier this season, placed 54th in bareback riding at the National High School Finals Rodeo. Photo courtesy of Monica Randolph

Staff Report

The 2024-25 high school rodeo season ended at the highest level for four members of the Fernley High School Rodeo Club.

Kade McKnight had the top finish for Fernley, placing 28th overall out of 79 competitors in aggregate in boys cutting 408 points, and placing 45th out of 82 competitors in steer wrestling.

In goat tying Kylie Ann Behrendt had an aggregate score of 16.79 to placed 38th out of 169 competitors.

Olivia Process also competed in two events, placing 70th out of 113 in girls cutting with 396 points, and placed 120th among 169 participants in goat tying.

In bareback riding, Ian Leavitt placed 54th out of 71 riders.

Dozens compete in Fernley Junior Rodeo



By Robert Perea

Several dozen contestants turned out last weekend to compete in the 2025 Fernley Junior Rodeo and Stan Ceresola Memorial Roping at the rodeo grounds at the Out of Town Park.

The rodeo included events for Pee-Wees including dummy roping, stick horse barrels, stick horse pole bending, goat undecorating and mutton busting along with the regular junior and intermediate events team roping, steer daubing, breakaway roping, got tying, flag race, calf riding, barrel racing, pole bending, figure 8 and steer riding.

This year's all-around champions were: (pictured above)

10-13 Intermediate boy - Hayes Allegre, Fallon

10-13 Intermediate girl - Hazel Griffith, Las Vegas

6-9 Junior Boy - Kestin Moore, Fallon

6-9 Junior Girl - Mylee Macedo, Lovelock

Pee Wee All-Around Jaden Deller, Fallon

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*Earl Grey and Scout Are Available for Adoption*

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**Precious Paws Society of NV**  
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### PET OF THE WEEK

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