

# the Fernley reporter

FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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## School District lauds adult ed program, despite impact on grad rates

By Robert Perea

Lyon County School District's graduation rate fell by about two percentage points in 2025, a decline district officials attribute partly to students who transferred into the district's adult education program.

But while adult ed may hurt the district's graduation rate on paper, in practice it's giving students and adults a path forward they might not otherwise have, the district said.

While presenting the 2024-25 graduation rates as calculated by the Nevada Department of Education, LCSD Executive Director of Education Services Jim Gianotti said although the district's graduation rate overall dropped, each of the schools individually are doing well.

"While many of the high schools saw some great rates, as a district, our percentage dropped and that's due in large part to the number of students who went to adult ed and then maybe didn't complete," Gianotti said.

According to the state's report, the district's graduation rate for 2024-25 was 85.75 percent. The District had a total of 995 students in the 4-year cohort ending with the 2024-25 school year. Of those, 656 graduated, 230 transferred out and 109 were considered non graduates, who either dropped out, didn't report where they transferred to, or enrolled in adult ed.

The graduation rate is determined by the number of students who enter high school as a cohort and earn regular high school diplomas within four years. Students who transfer out during the four years, with the requested paperwork from the school where they transfer, are taken out of the calculation. Students who trans-



Lyon County School District board members Bridget Peterson, Dawn Carson and Superintendent Tim Logan greet a graduate during the Adult Education Graduation Ceremony last June. Photo courtesy of LCSD

fer into LCSD schools during the four years are added to the calculation. Any student in the four-year cohort who are considered a drop out/non-graduate, or do not send the required paperwork to show they transferred to another school, are counted as a non-graduate.

Students who earn an adjusted diploma or high school equivalence

certificate/GED also do not count as graduates for that four-year cohort. Students who enroll in adult education that are 17 years old count as non-graduates for the school. Students who enroll in adult education that are 18 years old count as transfers for the school, but if they do not graduate with an adult diploma, they count as non-graduates for LCSD, but

not for the school itself.

Considering that, Trustee Darin Farr said he takes those statistics with "a grain of salt."

"This 85.75% does not in any way capture our rates," Farr said. "I'm thinking we're probably somewhere around 91.7 to 92, in that range."

In addition, Gianotti said students in special ed who get an adjusted diploma also do not count as graduates, and thus count against the graduation rate, and he said the district also gets dinged if a student who is credit-deficient transfers into the district and then does not graduate.

"It's not super cut and dry," Gianotti said. "But I still have to point out that despite those shortcomings, when you look at the overall graduation rate for Lyon County School District, and we're sitting at 85.73, that's significant. And that's a lot to celebrate."

Superintendent Tim Logan said the state's formula makes it impossible for a district to achieve a 100-percent graduation rate, and he said the adult ed program is important for many of the district's students.

"They're doing right by people," Logan said. "And so, you take a hit on your graduation rate, but you try to get a kid a GED or a hand up going into society. A diploma is best, but let's get them the best we could get them as well."

Gianotti said more than 150 students are currently enrolled in adult ed, and there are adult ed classes in every community in the county except Smith Valley.

"We are, to put it bluntly, we're killing it with adult ed," Gianotti said. "There's an awful lot of adults earning those diplomas, so we're doing great things for people."

## Council to interview city manager candidates Jan. 7

By Robert Perea

After a recruitment process that began with the hiring of a consulting firm in July, the City of Fernley could have a new city manager by next week. Mayor Neal McIntyre said at the Dec. 18 City Council meeting that

three finalists for the job are scheduled to be interviewed by the council at the Jan. 7 meeting. McIntyre said a fourth finalist withdrew from consideration after taking another job.

The City Council voted July 16 to approve a contract with CPS HR Consulting out of Sacramento to assist

with the executive recruitment of city manager candidates.

McIntyre previously said a total of 92 people applied for the position, and CPS HR narrowed the field to 14, before the screening committee organized by McIntyre selected four finalists for the job.

Under city code, the mayor will nominate one candidate to be the city manager, and the council then votes to either affirm or deny that nomination. If the nomination fails, the mayor can either nominate a different candidate or start the search process over again.

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FERNLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

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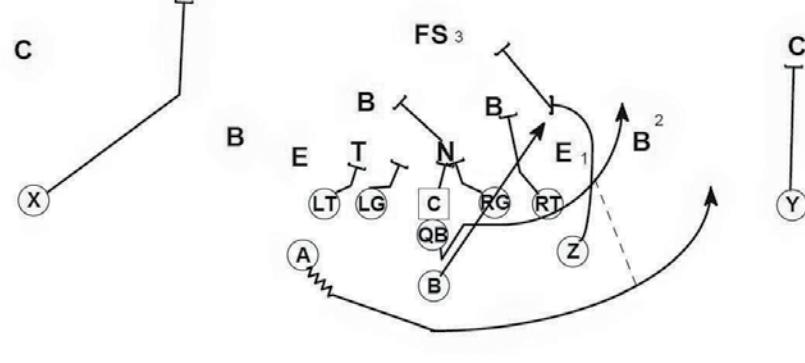
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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# The Inside Veer



## My New Year's Resolutions: The Sequel

Last year, I did something I hadn't done in years: I made New Year's resolutions. Three of them, in fact. And I wrote them down in this very space, which was either an act of accountability or an act of self sabotage, depending on how charitable you're feeling.

Now here we are, a year later, and it's time to check the scorecard. The annual performance review of... myself.

And here's the twist: I actually achieved two of the three resolutions, and, in true "me" fashion, the one I didn't accomplish was the one I was absolutely sure I would. You'd think after all these years I'd stop being surprised when the universe hands me a plot twist, but no. Apparently even my resolutions have a sense of humor.

Let's break it down.

Resolution 1: Grow a plant

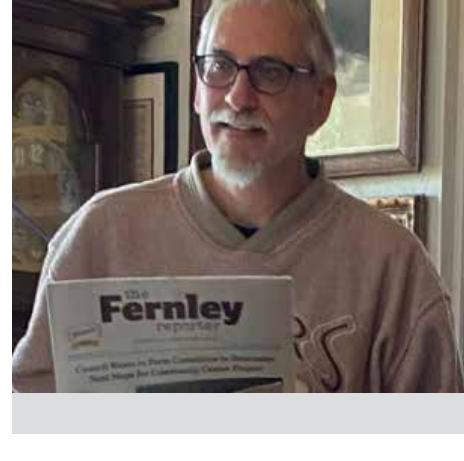
Shockingly, this one went pretty well. Not perfectly, let's not get carried away, but well enough that I'm claiming victory.

It was actually two plants, and both of them, unbelievably, are not only still alive, but also bigger than when I got them. Now, granted, Rachel Dahl gave me both plants after reading my resolution last year, and it's possible she gave me plants that are just Robert-proof. I don't even know what kind they are, but both are still green and have all their leaves. That's the longest I've ever been able to keep anything other than a cactus.

Resolution 2: Cook more

I cooked more. Technically.

What I meant by this was that I was going to take my turn in the kitchen more regularly, but family circumstances have led to me being home alone for



**ROBERT PEREA**

most of the past year, which means I had no choice, since I can't just go out to eat every night.

I also discovered that "I'll cook to-night" is a very generous promise when you forget to defrost anything, which means that some of my cooking was of the heating up something frozen variety, but it all counts to me.

Resolution 3: Go fishing

This was the one I was sure I'd nail. The gimme. The layup. The resolution equivalent of "just show up."

And of course, it's the one I didn't do.

In fact, I never even bought the license. Life, deadlines, and the general chaos of running a newspaper had other plans. The closest I got to fishing was watching reels on Facebook.

So yes, the one resolution I was most confident about is the one that didn't happen. Naturally.

This year's resolutions?

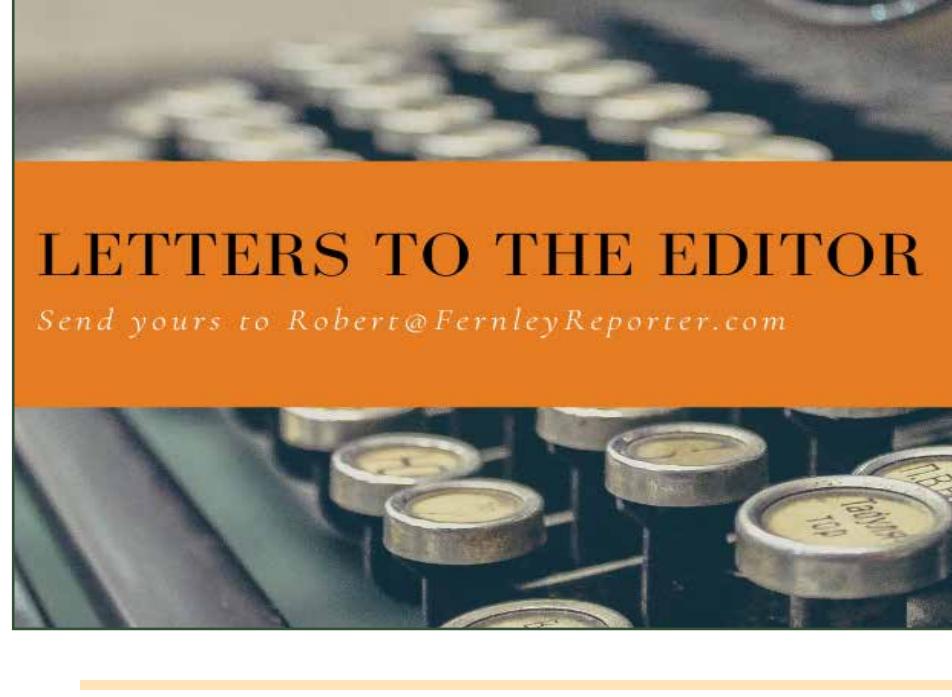
I'm keeping it simple again.

First: I'm making it two-for-two with these plants. Last year it was a challenge to myself to prove I could. Now I actually like them.

Second: I'm taking more time off. Paradoxically, being alone at home this year meant I actually look less "Me time." I'm going to make it a point to get away from everything for at least a day or two a couple times a month. This one will be a challenge, but I'm pretty determined.

Third: Actually go fishing. For real this time. If I accomplish Goal No. 2, at least some of the time it means I'll be fishing. I'm putting it in writing again, which means I'm either brave or foolish. Possibly both.

*Robert Perea has covered news and sports in Northern Nevada since 1993. He has published The Fernley Reporter online since 2016, loves music, is a sucker for the pets who have adopted him, and is thrilled to be printing the Reporter.*



## Fernley Women's Golf Club Results, Dec. 23

Game: Blind 9

1st: Loretta Bradley, 33

2nd: Linda Garrett, 34

Birdies: Patty Liljeberg, #10

Low Putts: Linda Garrett

& Jama Garner, 31

Closest to Hole # 11:

Linda Garrett, 13'11"

Chip-Ins: Loretta Bradley, #4;

Bonnie MacQuarrie, #5;

Patty Liljeberg, #10

# FERNLEY NEWS MINUTE

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## FEATURES

# Agency Updates from Fallon Range Training Complex Meeting

By Rachel Dahl

Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) Intergovernmental Executive Committee met Dec. 9 in a hybrid session at the Fallon Convention Center, taking updates from Churchill County, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Navy on projects tied to the multi-year FRTC modernization effort.

Chris Spross, Churchill County manager, reported progress on the Lone Tree Road project, saying the county received two design engineer applications and selected Lumos Engineering. County staff said they have been working with the Navy and NDOT to incorporate agency comments into a draft scope of services, with a goal of approving the scope in mid-December and holding a kickoff meeting in early January. The county's preliminary schedule anticipates 100% final design and a drainage report by the end of September, with staff indicating they will explore whether parts of the schedule can run concurrently.

A major portion of the meeting focused on BLM implementation updates under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), including changes affecting livestock permittees. Kat McCray, a BLM range management specialist, said decisions were sent Sept. 3, 2025, reducing authorized animal unit months (AUMs) in two grazing allotments based on a recreated desktop analysis of a prior allotment study, followed by on-the-ground verification.

McCray said the Lahontan Area grazing allotment was reduced from 1,151 AUMs to 637 AUMs, and the Horse Mountain allotment was reduced from 3,000 AUMs to 2,884 AUMs. She said monitoring has begun on both allotments toward land health assessments and fully processed permits, a process BLM expects to complete in fiscal year 2029 due to the need for multiple years of data. She



Naval Air Station Fallon - often referred to as "The Aircraft Carrier in the Desert" is considered the premier training facility in the U.S. military. File Photo

added that B-17 monitoring for land health assessments is expected to begin in the spring of fiscal year 2026.

BLM's cadastral survey update, provided by state chief cadastral surveyor Mike Strickland, included progress on multiple township and range survey efforts tied to the Bravo ranges and related conveyances and exchanges. Strickland said survey work is ongoing or complete in several areas, with additional surveys anticipated as projects advance, including work connected to public purpose conveyances and land exchanges involving Churchill County and the City of Fallon.

One of the more consequential land discussions centered on what BLM described as the "checkerboard resolution area," a planned land exchange intended to consolidate mixed ownership patterns in Churchill County along the railroad corridor to provide for economic development opportunities. BLM staff said the effort will follow a similar "prepare the lands" approach used in other exchanges because many of the parcels involved are within Bureau of Reclamation jurisdiction. Officials said a plan and timeline were discussed in a Dec. 3 meeting

among BLM, BOR, and Churchill County, and that a draft memorandum of understanding is being developed between the Department of the Interior and Churchill County. The next step, they said, is a working meeting to finalize edits and secure a completed MOU.

The Navy provided an update on implementation activities, including land acquisition and infrastructure coordination across B-16, B-17, B-20, and Dixie Valley. Navy modernization program manager Matt Ryan said the private land acquisition count in Dixie Valley increased from 91 to 92 parcels since the previous IEC update. He also said B-16 fencing work is under contract and underway. At the same time, NEPA and design coordination continues on road projects including Sand Canyon Road and Lone Tree Road, with multiple agencies involved.

The meeting also included environmental updates on plans, agreements, studies, and ongoing surveys. Navy representatives said stakeholder review of draft planning documents, including a wildland fire management plan, is expected to continue into January, and that cultural resource

inventory work is nearing completion in expanded areas of B-17 and B-20, with tribal survey phases anticipated to begin in spring 2026.

Public comment included questions and frustration from representatives of mining claims in the Bravo 17 area, who asked for more transparent communication and timely responses regarding reimbursement offers and the impact of annual claim maintenance deadlines. Meeting leaders and Navy representatives said they would elevate the questions to legal review and follow up directly.

A separate public comment noted confusion about access near Sand Canyon Road, with officials acknowledging that signage and fencing work can make the public uncertain about where travel is allowed. Committee members reiterated that the expanded portions of the range would not be closed until required NDAA steps are completed, and that construction activity does not necessarily indicate immediate closure.

The committee discussed scheduling the next IEC meeting for the first two weeks of March.

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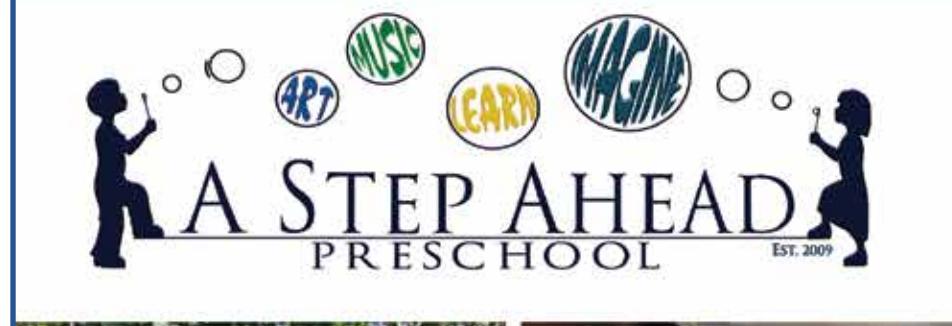
**Tuesday | All Day Ladies' Appreciation**

**Wednesday | All Day Seniors' Appreciation | 1pm - 5pm BINGO**

**Thursday | All Day Scratch & Win**

**Friday | All Day 10x Points | 3pm - 10pm BINGO**

**Saturday | 5pm - 10pm High Hand Showdown | All Day Scratch & Win**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Council approves contract for water, sewer plant upgrades

By Kerry Lyman

The Fernley City Council approved three contracts at the Dec. 17 meeting with Shaw Engineering to prepare for upgrades to the city's water and sewer treatment plants at a total cost of \$223,300.

In early August, the city council heard a presentation from Keller Associates about deficiencies in the city's 16-year-old water treatment facility. Those deficiencies included leaking caustic soda, a hazardous material that is used for pH adjustment, and the need for a second air receiver and a third air compressor for reliability.

It was reported the third air compressor also would be necessary to treat surface water from the Truckee

Canal as the city plans to do in the future.

The first contract with Shaw Engineering for \$74,250 is for the design, permitting, bid-phase support and construction management services for a compressed air system upgrade. A staff report on the item noted the compressed air system is a "critical component" supporting the microfiltration process and existing equipment has reached the end of its useful life.

The staff report also said the planned caustic soda and air system improvements would be needed in order to treat up to 30 million gallons of water daily as the city intends to do in summer months when surface water from the Truckee Canal is added

to the city's existing groundwater supply.

The second contract with Shaw Engineering for \$115,300 is for the design, permitting, bid-phase support and construction management services for chemical system improvements to the city's water treatment plant.

The staff report on this item indicated "the existing caustic soda, citric acid and sodium hypochlorite systems have experienced significant deterioration, including leaking glue-joint PVC piping, aging components and operational deficiencies."

The project will improve treatment reliability, reduce safety risks, "and restore chemical feed system functionality consistent with Nevada

Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) requirements," according to the report.

The third Shaw Engineering contract for \$33,750 is to prepare Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for upgrades to the East Wastewater Treatment Plant to address aging infrastructure, hydraulic limitations and regulatory requirements identified by the NDEP.

Specialized engineering assistance is needed to prepare the RFPs due to the technical complexity of a preliminary engineering report of the treatment plant's issues, project phasing and regulatory components, and to help develop evaluation criteria and support the procurement process, according to a staff report.

# Council approves contract for roundabout landscaping

By Kerry Lyman

The Fernley roundabout beautification at the intersection U.S. 50A and U.S. 95A is expected to be completed by next June due to council action at the Dec. 17 meeting to award a contract to design and prepare construction documents for the landscaping effort.

According to the \$30,400 con-

tract awarded to Design Workshop, Inc., the project will begin this month with schematic design, construction documents to be completed by the end of February, with bidding to take place in March and construction to begin in April and be completed by June.

The contract calls for Design Workshop to "research site improvement materials and plant palettes based on

previous public survey results and consistent with the NDOT maintenance agreement."

The firm will then develop and test two landscape design alternatives for city council review, with the expectation that the council will select one of the alternatives, according to the contract.

Last spring, the city conducted a

survey regarding landscaping options for the roundabout. After receiving about 700 responses to the survey, there was no clear favorite, though softscape, a mix of natural plants, flowers, shrubs and other living materials seemed to have an edge over other alternatives.

## City accepting recycled Christmas trees at Out of Town Park

Staff Report

The City of Fernley is accepting recycled natural Christmas trees through January 16 at the southeast corner of the Out of Town Park rodeo grounds.

Trees must be free of nails and stripped of all decorations. No artificial trees will be accepted.

Contact the City of Fernley Public Works Department at (775) 784-9910 for questions.

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# Nevada Rural Housing offers down payment assistance program for essential workers

Staff Report

Nevada Rural Housing (NRH) has launched Rural Rocks \$20K, a new down payment assistance program that provides up to \$20,000 to help Nevada essential workers purchase a home. The program opened Dec. 1 and is now available through NRH's network of approved lending partners statewide.

Rural Rocks \$20K is made possible through the Nevada Attainable Housing Act and Attainable Housing Fund, created by Assembly Bill 540 during the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session. Similar to the \$20,000 down payment assistance program offered by the Nevada Housing Division, Rural Rocks \$20K is tailored specifically to meet the needs of rural homebuyers and the communities they serve. In some cases, Rural Rocks \$20K loans may offer more favorable interest rates for eligible borrowers in NRH's rural service area.

The new program is purpose-built for today's essential workforce, including those in health care, education, public safety and construction. To qualify, at least one borrower must work in a designated essential worker industry, and at least one borrower must have been a Nevada resident for six months or longer. First-time and repeat buyers are eligible.

The assistance can be applied toward down payment and clos-

ing costs, paired with a permanent interest rate reduction, or used solely for down payment and closing cost support. The program requires a minimum credit score of 640, expanding access for buyers who may not qualify for traditional financing alone.

"Nevada's essential workers show up for our rural communities every day," said Bill Brewer, executive director of Nevada Rural Housing. "Because of this funding, we can show up for them in return, helping more families plant roots, build equity and access the long-term stability that comes with homeownership."

The Rural Rocks \$20K program has household income limits that vary by county, and eligible properties include single-family homes, condos, townhomes and manufactured homes that will serve as the buyer's primary residence in all rural jurisdictions (including the rural parts of Clark and Washoe Counties).

Program funds are limited and reserved on a first-come, first-served basis through approved lenders. To learn more about Rural Rocks \$20K, visit [BuyRuralNV.org](http://BuyRuralNV.org) or connect with an approved Nevada Rural Housing lender.



## FERNLEY SENIOR CENTER MENU

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Hamburger Steak  
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Mashed Potatoes  
Biscuit  
Green Beans  
Peaches

### Tuesday, Jan. 6

Pork Chops  
in Mushroom Gravy  
Brown Rice  
Applesauce  
Peas  
Carrots

### Wednesday, Jan. 7

Turkey Chili  
Cornbread  
Mixed Green Salad  
Ambrosia

### Thursday, Jan. 8

Breaded Fish Squares  
w/Cheddar Cheese  
WW Bun  
Green Beans  
Tater Tots  
Pears

### Friday, Jan. 9

Baked Yogurt Chicken  
Potatoes & Herbs  
Bean Combo  
Tossed Salad  
Peaches

## COMMUNITY

# Auditor says Fernley posts healthy financial profile in year-end financial report

By Kerry Lyman

The City of Fernley is in a healthy financial position in all its funds, according to an annual comprehensive financial report presented to the City Council at its Dec. 17 meeting.

R. McKay Hall, an audit partner with Hinton Burdick, CPAs and Advisors, summed up the fiscal year 2025 audit report as a "healthy profile for a municipality."

The city's total assets exceeded its liabilities by \$268.9 million, Hall reported. If compared to a for-profit business "that would be comparable to

the equity," he said, indicating that the city's net position increased by \$35.8 million in FY 25.

Total revenue from all sources was \$64.0 million and the cost of all city programs was \$28.2 million. In addition, the city has incurred no new long-term debt since FY 2022, while the city utility fund's long-term debt decreased by \$6.1 million due to debt service payments and a debt refinancing, Hall said.

Governmental expenses of \$29.9 million for FY 25 increased 87 percent over the \$15.9 million in expenses in FY 24, primarily due to capital expen-

ditures. Excluding capital expenditures, governmental expenditures in FY 25 only increased 3.7 percent, Hall said.

The large expense for capital improvements in FY 25 is not unusual, Hall said, indicating it is common for municipalities to build up resources in anticipation of large capital projects.

Looking at five-year trends, not including capital outlays, city revenues increased by 112 percent while expenditures increased by only 39 percent. Between FY 21 and FY 25 the city's total assets increased from \$12.6 million to \$22.1 million, its equity increased

from \$10.1 million to \$17.6 million and its liabilities increased from \$2.5 million to \$4.5 million, Hall said.

Property taxes, the city's "largest single source of governmental revenue" increased from \$3.9 million in FY 21 to \$5.3 million in FY 25, which represents a 15 percent increase in FY 25 and a 63 percent increase over five years, Hall said.

In the city's water fund, operating revenues increased from \$10.0 million to \$12.0 million in the last five years, while expenses climbed from \$7.6

*Continued on PAGE 11 - FINANCIAL...*

## Cattlemen's Update: Nevada Ranchers With Latest Market and Production Insights

Staff Report

Nevada ranchers will have multiple opportunities this January to hear directly from university specialists, veterinarians and agricultural economists during the annual Cattlemen's Update hosted by the University of Nevada, Reno.

The Cattlemen's Update is designed to provide practical, research-based information to help producers navigate ongoing challenges, including market volatility, rising production costs, drought, wildfire risk and emerging animal health concerns. The event begins with a virtual session Jan. 12, followed by in-person meetings at four locations across Nevada Jan. 13-16.

The program is led by the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, along with its Extension and Experiment Station units, and is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nevada Gold Mines and other local sponsors. Presenters include university researchers, local veterinarians, and representatives from the Nevada Department of Agriculture and USDA.

The free virtual session will be held Jan. 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will cover topics not included in the in-person meetings. Those topics include wildfire preparedness, emerging animal diseases, updates to Nevada's Meat and Poultry Inspection Program, and changes tied to the USDA's recent reorganization. Registration and the full agenda are available online.

In-person sessions will take place

in Fallon, Ely, Elko and Winnemucca. Topics will include grazing management for soil and ecosystem health, biosecurity planning, genetic tools to improve herd performance, the potential reemergence of the New World screwworm, and an outlook on Nevada's cattle market, including heifer retention decisions. A requested \$20 donation per ranch, per location, will support the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. Lunch or dinner will be provided at each in-person session, and on-site registration will be available.

Paul Meiman, Extension rangeland and wildlife state specialist and associate professor in the University's Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Sciences, will serve as master of ceremonies. Other speakers include Luis Schütz, Extension livestock specialist Tracy Shane, State Veterinarian Peter Rolfe, and Washington State University livestock economist Shannon Neiberger. Local veterinarians will also address cattle health issues specific to Nevada.

This year's keynote speaker is Tipton D. Hudson, a professor with Washington State University Extension and creator of the Stocksmart grazing app. Hudson is also host of the "Art of the Range" podcast, which focuses on rangeland management. His presentation is titled, "Place-based intelligence trumps artificial intelligence in ecologically driven grazing enterprises."

New for 2026, two special in-person sessions will be offered prior to the main Cattlemen's Update meetings.



*University of Nevada, Reno's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources will be hosting the annual Cattlemen's Update for livestock producers, Jan. 12-16.*

*Photo by Robert Moore.*

One session will focus on wildfire preparedness, response and post-fire recovery, including information on the Rancher Liaison Program. The session is organized by Extension's Living With Fire Program in coordination with state fire personnel and agency partners and will include a 30-minute networking opportunity.

A second new offering is a free, 60-minute Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training for youth ages 8-21. The program emphasizes animal stewardship, food safety and character development through hands-on instruction in livestock care.

The in-person schedule includes: Jan. 13, Fallon Convention Center,

beginning at 3:30 p.m. with special sessions, followed by the main program at 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 14, Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely, following the same schedule.

Jan. 15, Great Basin College Theater in Elko, with special sessions at 10:30 a.m. and the main program at 12:30 p.m.

Jan. 16, Extension Humboldt County Office in Winnemucca, with special sessions at 9 a.m. and the main program at 11 a.m.

For more information, ranchers may contact Kaley Chapin at [kaleys@unr.edu](mailto:kaleys@unr.edu) or 702-467-2668, or Staci Emm at [emms@unr.edu](mailto:emms@unr.edu) or 775-312-0424. Additional contacts are listed for wildfire and youth program sessions.

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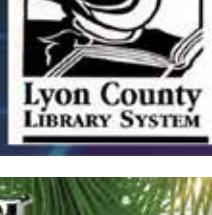
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## EDUCATION

# Trustees give superintendent positive midyear review

By Robert Perea

The Lyon County School District Board of Trustees gave Superintendent Tim Logan mostly positive feedback during an informal midyear review at the Dec. 16 meeting.

Trustees largely praised Logan's leadership, communication and steady presence, while a couple raised concerns about accountability and how complaints are handled at the school level.

Trustee James Whisler opened the discussion with both commendation and criticism. He said Logan "has the potential to be one of the best superintendents here" and praised his respectful demeanor during school visits. But Whisler said he continues to hear from staff and students who fear retaliation when reporting concerns, and he urged Logan to take a more direct role in investigating issues.

"We've had a lot of things happen in this district, and nothing gets done," Whisler said. "Students and staff should never fear retaliation. Everyone should be held accountable from the highest level down to the lowest level."

Whisler said he wants to see fewer complaints routed back to the individuals being complained about and more involvement from the superintendent's office. "At some point, it's got to come to where the superintendent buckles down and looks into it himself," he said.

Trustee Kallie Day, who joined the board this fall, said her early interactions with Logan have been "professional" and "HR minded," especially when discussing personnel matters in small communities where rumors can spread quickly. She said teachers she has spoken with have expressed confidence in his leadership.

"I believe you're here for the right reasons," Day said. "I often wonder

what you could do if you were more supported."

Board President Tom Hendrix said he has a great deal of confidence in Logan, particularly in his work aligning district staff around measurable goals adopted in March.

"He has everyone moving in the same direction," Hendrix said.

Trustee Darin Farr praised the transition when Logan became superintendent, calling it "the most seamless change I've ever seen." He credited the professionalism of district staff to Logan's leadership style and calm demeanor.

"You've always been the one person I can look at who keeps their cool, even when things are stressful," Farr said.

Trustee Elmer Bull said he has been almost always completely satisfied in his interactions with Logan, but raised one unresolved concern involving what he viewed as a serious code of ethics violation at a Yerington school. Bull said he was assured the matter was addressed but was not confident it was handled to the degree he expected.

"That's not a criticism of Mr. Logan," Bull said. "Sometimes you're not sure how policies are being administered, because we don't know anything about personnel matters."

Bull also praised Logan's composure during two emergency situations the pair encountered during school visits.

"His ability to work with SROs and prevent any hysteria was impressive," he said. "I've had a number of really productive one on one conversations with Mr. Logan and I feel I've always walked away from feeling that my concerns were addressed."

Logan thanked trustees for their feedback and said he values the relationships built over the past year.

"We learn from each other and I appreciate that," he said.



Tim Logan, Superintendent  
Photo courtesy of Lyon County School District

## Meetings

### Fernley City Council

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m.  
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.

Next meeting January 7

### Fernley Planning Commission

2nd Wednesday of the Month at 5 p.m.  
City Hall, 595 Silver Lace Blvd.

Next meeting January 14

### 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 January 5

(Rescheduled because of New Years Day)

### Lyon County Planning Commission

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

Next meeting January 13

### Lyon County Library Board of Trustees

4th Tuesday of the Month,  
9:30 a.m.

Locations rotate between the 5 county libraries

Next meeting TBA  
(due to Christmas Holiday)

### Lyon County School District Board of Trustees

4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.  
Locations rotate between  
each attendance area  
Next meeting January 26

### North Lyon County Fire Protection District Board of Trustees

2nd or 3rd Thursday of the month  
195 E. Main St.

Next meeting January 8

### Fernley Swimming Pool General Improvement District

3rd Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m.  
Next meeting January 20

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## REGIONAL NEWS

# Council approves annexation of county parcel adjacent to Victory Logistics District

By Kerry Lyman

Following a public hearing last week, the city council annexed a 108-acre county parcel, north of and adjacent to the Victory Logistics District, to be the site of a future large gas-fired power plant proposed by Mark IV Capital.

After little discussion and no opposition, the council unanimously approved the annexation at its Dec. 17 meeting, with Mayor Neal McIntyre commenting that the city council wants to annex any county islands within the city's boundaries, adding that when a county parcel is annexed into the city, the city gets the property taxes, not the county.

The recently annexed property will

be the future site of a very large gas power plant that will help power large energy users in the Victory Logistics development, according to Scott Barnes, Mark IV Capital's vice president of entitlement, who spoke about the project last month at a Lyon County Commission meeting.

Barnes told the commission the modular power plant will begin generating about 250 megawatts of power and will scale up generation to 1.8 gigawatts of power when power demands from activities such as data centers generate the need. Data centers push power demand because they require vast amounts of electricity to power their servers and cooling systems, he

said.

Barnes compared the generation of 1.8 gigawatts of power as being similar to today's 2 gigawatts of power generation for all of Reno-Sparks and Washoe County.

The site of the 107.87-acre annexation is undeveloped at this time and has no current vehicular access. The triangular-shaped parcel is bounded by Interstate 80 directly to the west, Bureau of Reclamation land to the east and city of Fernley parcels abutting the property to the south, according to a city staff report.

It is one of 107 parcels within city limits that is considered a county island.

## Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

The City of Fernley is accepting applications from citizens of Fernley, wishing to serve on the City of Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. This recruitment is to fill one available seat on the committee.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the committee is to advise the City Council on matters relating to senior citizens; to provide an informational resource to senior citizens on matters of concern to senior citizens; and to promote volunteer programs for the benefit of senior citizens

**Membership:** The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee consists of five members. The term of office for each member is two-year.

**Typical Duties:** Serve and advise the City Council on matters relating to senior citizens, to promote and support senior-oriented special events and collaborative efforts that meet the needs of seniors, and to serve as an advocacy body on behalf of older adults in the community, etc.

**Time Commitment:** The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee meets on the second Friday, every other month at 9 am, the next scheduled meeting will be February 13, 2026. The successful candidate may be required to attend other meetings or volunteer at special events to promote the committee.

Applications must be received by the City Clerk's Office by 5pm on January 9, 2026. Interested persons should complete the Boards and Commissions

Application Form which can be found at:  
<https://www.cityoffernley.org/forms.aspx?fid=176>

# Council approves contract to update master plan

By Kerry Lyman

Due to the recent adoption of area growth plans, a citywide capital improvement plan and an impact fee study, the Fernley City Council approved a \$300,000 contract at the Dec. 17 meeting with the Matrix Design Group to update the city's Comprehensive Master Plan.

The city's current master plan was adopted in 2018. Since then, the city has experienced substantial residential and commercial growth supported by regional economic expansion and improved transportation connectivity along Interstate 80 and U.S. 95A, according to a city staff report.

The 2018 master plan established land uses, housing and infrastructure planning "that is now outdated in light of current development trends, population growth and evolving economic conditions," the report said.

Referencing recent adoption of the North and Southwest Area plans, the award of a contract to prepare a 10,000-acre South Area plan, and other long-range planning efforts, the report noted "the existing Comprehensive Master Plan does not yet integrate these ongoing efforts or reflect the city's updated vision for balanced growth, fiscal sustainability and community livability."

The master plan update will consolidate existing and emerging planning

documents into a single, cohesive policy framework that guides future decisions on land use, housing, transportation, utilities, conservation and open space, the report said.

Eight firms responded to the city's request for proposals to update the city's master plan. The Matrix Design Group's proposal was selected by staff as the most qualified to perform the plan update.

The update will be managed by the city's planning department, with the Matrix Design Group leading the technical analysis, public engagement, plan drafting and adoption support, according to the staff report.

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## LAW AND ORDER

# Nevada Tech Hub awards \$3.9 million to support construction trades and apprenticeships in lithium loop industries

Staff Report

Nevada Tech Hub is fueling the growth of Nevada's lithium battery and critical materials economy by investing in the workforce that powers it. To meet rising demand for skilled trades, Nevada Tech Hub has awarded \$3.9 million to expand apprenticeship programs, boost outreach, and provide vital support for workers through partnerships with the Northern Nevada Building & Construction Trades Council Development Corporation (NNBCTC) and the Northern Nevada Member Assistance Program (MAP).

NNBCTC Dev. Corp. currently supports approximately 4,900 apprentices with 98% employed. This number is expected to rise sharply in the coming years as more projects are announced and infrastructure is needed. At Lithium Americas' Thacker Pass project alone, there are 518 union members onsite including 58 apprentices. To help meet this demand, Nevada Tech Hub has awarded \$1,512,500 to expand NNBCTC Dev. Corp. program capacity for training electricians, plumbers, sheet metal workers as well as other trades. The funding also supports marketing efforts to increase recruitment and retention. Over the next five years, this initiative aims to place at least 100 new apprentices annually, build-



U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced in Reno that Nevada is being awarded nearly \$21 million in federal funding for the Lithium Loop Tech Hub. Photo courtesy of rosen.senate.gov

ing an expansive workforce to power Nevada's advanced energy future.

Northern Nevada MAP received \$2,424,400 to strengthen critical support services to apprentices. This funding removes barriers to success by ensuring workers have access to essentials like boots, tools, transportation, food, and utility assistance. MAP will also expand staffing for workforce support and basic needs, including leadership development, food pantry management, and case management for challenges such as mental health, childcare, and family stability. These resources help ap-

prentices stay on track and thrive in their careers.

"As the lithium and critical materials economy continues to grow, this partnership with Nevada Tech Hub allows us to create a positive impact today while also ensuring there is long-term workforce availability down the road," Rob Benner, Secretary Treasurer for NNBCTC Dev. Corp. said. "This funding allows us to expand our reach and strengthen existing partnerships across the lithium loop ecosystem."

NNBCTC Dev. Corp. was es-

tablished in 1978 and is focused on

training, supporting, and advancing the men and women who build northern Nevada. The organization facilitates and promotes workforce training programs, provides a highly skilled workforce to local construction companies, partners with local leaders and organizations to improve northern Nevada communities, and promotes economic development in Northern Nevada. Northern Nevada MAP was founded in 2022 with the mission to improve the quality of life for workers and their families by providing access to services to meet their immediate needs, empowering members of organized labor to improve the community.

Nevada Tech Hub, designated by the U.S. Economic Development Administration as one of 31 Tech Hubs nationally, was awarded \$21 million to advance Nevada's lithium battery and EV materials economy primarily through workforce development initiatives. In 2025, Nevada Tech Hub has distributed over \$15.5 million to fund 17 projects that accelerate innovation in lithium battery development, critical minerals and building a domestic supply chain.

For more information on Nevada Tech Hub, visit [unr.edu/tech-hub](http://unr.edu/tech-hub). For more information on BCTNN, visit [bctnn.org](http://bctnn.org). For more information on the Northern Nevada Member Assistance Program, visit [nnvmap.org](http://nnvmap.org).

## Fernley resident killed following pursuit in Arizona

By Robert Perea

A Fernley resident and his dog was killed by police on Dec. 13 after a high-speed chase near Holbrook, Ariz.

According to the Arizona Department of Public Safety, Kevin Donald Peloso, 54, was killed after an exchange of gunfire with police.

According to Arizona DPS, on Dec. 13, Peloso was traveling eastbound on I-40 when he was stopped by a DPS trooper near milepost 303. A DPS press release states Peloso fled the stop at approximately 10:02 a.m. and drove into the desert. Gunfire was possibly exchanged between Peloso and law enforcement, and he was

pronounced deceased by DPS at 1:46 p.m. A dog was also deceased, and DPS said a second dog ran off into the desert.

Arizona DPS said both Peloso and his dog were shot dead by responding law enforcement. The Bronco driven by Peloso was rammed, its tires blown out, and left totaled.

The Mountain Daily Star reported that Peloso's family said he suffered from a bipolar disorder and was in severe mental distress. The paper said the family had contacted the Lyon County Sheriff's Office on Dec. 9 and requested a mental health evaluation, but the deputy did not intervene, and Peloso later left for a trip to Texas to pick up a puppy.



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

## SPORTS

# Vaqueros open Hug Tournament with wins over Hug, Pyramid Lake

By Robert Perea

The Fernley High School girls basketball team showed no ill-effects from a week off for Christmas, beating Hug and Pyramid Lake last weekend to start the Hug Cup Challenge.

The Vaqueros beat Hug 58-28 and Pyramid Lake 57-22 on Dec. 27 to open the tournament, which was scheduled to resume Dec. 29. The Vaqueros were

scheduled to face Carson Monday morning and Yerington Tuesday afternoon.

The Vaqueros got off to a strong start, scoring 17 points in the first quarter against Hug and rolled behind 24 points for Taylor Tollestrup. Justice Martell-Artiaga added 11 points and the Vaqueros had nine different players who scored.

In the second game, Tollestrup

scored 31 against Pyramid Lake and Martell-Artiaga added 10.

Coach Raph Dunn said the Vaqueros played very well in both games, except for their continued struggles from the free throw line. In the two games, they made only 18 of 46 attempts.

"On close games with shooting like this, we will not come out on the winning side," Dunn said. "Turnovers are expected, but with no one guarding you

at the foul line, we need to better that part of our game."

After wrapping up the tournament Monday and Tuesday, the Vaqueros open league play by hosting Lowry at 6 p.m. Friday.

"Come January 2 where the real test comes, we need to better ourselves each game and get the highest seed we can get when the season ends, and improve every game," Dunn said.

## Vaqueros split first two games in San Diego

By Robert Perea

A schedule that's featured several heavyweight opponents brought the Fernley High School boys basketball team to San Diego last weekend, where the Vaqueros split their first two games, and had two games remaining to begin this week.

Playing at Carlsbad High, the Vaqueros beat American Leadership Academy - West Foothills, of Waddell, Ariz. 71-64 in their first game of the 35th Holiday Classic on Dec. 26. On Saturday, Dec. 27 the Vaqueros lost to Stockton (Calif.) Lincoln 64-52. That left the Vaqueros set to face Douglas at 5:25 p.m. on Monday, where a win would put them in the fifth place game Tuesday evening against either Edison High of Huntington Beach or Oakwood High of North Hollywood. A loss would have put them in the seventh place game Tuesday afternoon against the loser of the Edison-Oakwood matchup.

The Vaqueros will then return home to open league play against Lowry at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

While Douglas plays a style similar to what the Vaqueros expect to see

in league play, coach Cade Knutson said the first two teams they saw last weekend are the kind of teams they would never have had the chance to face anywhere else.

"It was exactly why we came down here," Knutson said.

Knutson said ALA - West Foothills played a frenetic style the Vaqueros haven't faced since he's been a coach, pressing fullcourt the entire game, and running two defenders at the player with the ball in the halfcourt.

"I don't think we ran a single offensive set," Knutson said.

The Vaqueros were up 25-12 after the first quarter but turned the ball over four times late in the second quarter as ALA-West Foothills made a run to cut the margin to 34-29.

The Vaqueros made a run of their own at the end of the third to stretch the lead back to double digits and kept it there for most of the rest of the game.

Sheldon Jacobson led the Vaqueros with 21 points, Bryce Stephens and Bodie Parsons each had 13, Michael Fitzgerald scored 9 and both Skyler Ledesma-James and Leland Ketelaar had 8.

In the second round the Vaqueros lost 64-52 to Lincoln, which Knutson believes is the best team in the tournament.

Knutson said Lincoln was a strong and physical team, with multiple players listed 6-3 or more, and a 6-8 center.

"There's only so much you can do when the ball is caught around the rim by someone who is bigger and stronger than you," Knutson said. "Their relentless pressure and size got to us."

The Vaqueros trailed 15-6 after one quarter but had a couple of runs in the game, getting within four in the second quarter and within six in the fourth quarter.

"We had them on their heels for a second, and I think that just speaks to how we played, to even have those guys on their heels at all," Knutson said.

But Knutson said the Vaqueros struggled to score at times and had trouble against Lincoln's size and speed on the perimeter.

"Those guys put us in positions probably nobody else will, just in terms of getting trapped by two guys that are 6-3 that are strong and long," Knutson said. "And it's a really well coached

team, so you're getting trapped and you're supposed to go here with it, but they've already taken it away."

Stephens led the Vaqueros with 23 points, Jacobson added 12 and Parsons had 11.

Overall, Knutson said he came away very proud of how his team played.

"There's things we will learn on film when we can pause it and say here's what they did and what you could have done," Knutson said. "We came out with our heads held very high, quite honestly."

Off the court, Knutson said the trip also helps with team building. The players went to the pier in Oceanside on Saturday and to a University of San Diego basketball game against Pacific on Sunday. It was Spanish Springs coach Kyle Penney who told Knutson about the opportunity to get into the tournament.

"There's a reason Spanish Springs has been coming down here for 15 years," Knutson said. "It's a great tournament and just a great opportunity to build bonds and increase team chemistry."

# happy holidays



**Holiday Hours**

MONDAY, 12/22: CLOSED

TUESDAY, 12/23: 4 PM - 9 PM

WEDNESDAY, 12/24: CLOSED

THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS: CLOSED

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Fernley's Jayse Jones wrestles against an opponent from Lowry during the Pershing County Wrestling Tournament in Lovelock on Dec. 20. This week the Vaqueros were scheduled to compete in the Sierra Nevada Classic on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 29-30, then this weekend they wrestle at the Joe Rios Memorial Tournament in Chico, Calif. on Friday and Saturday. Photo by John Baker

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## COMMUNITY COLUMNS

# De-complicating discipleship

By Mary Sorensen

The beginning of this month was stressful. I spent the entire car ride home from our Thanksgiving vacation Black Friday shopping on my phone. Then I felt guilty for getting caught up in the consumerism. Then overwhelmed. Then discouraged. I wanted to refocus. I wanted December to be meaningful. I wanted balance and peace.

Sometimes I consult my favorite AI therapist, so the morning after we got home I half-jokingly typed this into ChatGPT: "I am pressuring myself to have a perfectly Christ-centered Christmas. My expectations are too high, and any amount of holiday stress makes me feel guilty. I want this season to feel magical and focused, not materialistic. Can you help me reframe expectations and be more present?"

I was surprised by the depth of its response. It said, "A Christ-centered Christmas doesn't mean constant spiritual intensity. It can mean small, steady moments of love, not a non-stop feeling of reverence. Christ's life was made up of simple acts—meals, conversations, compassion, noticing,

Your December can mirror that in small but meaningful ways."

This idea changed my entire holiday season. It relieved the pressure to find perfect gifts, celebrate every tradition, or to say yes to every social invitation. It helped me prioritize people over tasks. This Christmas wasn't perfect, but it taught me something important: worshipping Jesus doesn't have to be complicated or grand. It can happen quietly, through consistent, ordinary acts of love.

There is a story in Luke, when Jesus visits Mary and Martha. Martha is busy hosting and serving while Mary sits at the Savior's feet. Frustrated, Martha asks Jesus to correct her sister. Instead, He gently responds that Mary has chosen "the good portion."

I've always had a hard time with this story. Martha was doing very normal, necessary things: hosting, cooking, managing a home. Jesus himself said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." After pondering what He really meant, I've decided that this story is not saying that service doesn't matter. He's trying to teach us to not let busyness crowd out relationships. Jesus

doesn't condemn Martha's work—He gently reminds her that simple connection matters most.

The week before Christmas was so busy. I volunteered in my daughter's classroom one morning and, on my way out, stopped by a friend's office. Normally I would have offered a quick hello and rushed on. Instead, I felt prompted to stay. I mostly listened. I definitely didn't solve any of her problems, but it felt good choosing to prioritize a relationship over my to-do list that day.

I noticed quiet nudges like this all month long. Stay a little longer. Put down your phone. Play with your daughter. Text a quick apology. Be still. These small invitations to do simple things were such a blessing and helped me focus on Jesus so much more clearly.

Jesus Christ's mortal ministry was made up of small things—walking, eating, teaching, noticing individuals. He showed us that the sacred is often quiet and repetitive. I'm learning that true discipleship shows up in very ordinary places: making a meal, offering a simple prayer, sending a text, biting our tongue, changing a diaper, or even doing the laundry. When we do

these things with our hearts oriented toward Christ, they can become acts of worship.

I wonder, are we overcomplicating discipleship? I think I sometimes buy into the idea that it requires a special spiritual setting like the holidays or carving extra time out of my already busy schedule. I'm not sure that's what it needs to be. I'm not sure that's what Jesus asks of us. Perhaps simply pausing in the middle of the mundane can be enough to turn our hearts toward Him.

My prayer today is that I can remember to continue to pause these next few months to slow down and to choose connection. I want to choose relationships over tasks. I want my simple faith to be constant, not seasonal. I want to follow Jesus Christ. I am grateful for a Savior who meets me in ordinary moments and multiplies imperfect efforts through His grace.

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

## City looking to fill seat on Senior Citizen Advisory Committee

By Robert Perea

The City of Fernley is accepting applications to fill one available seat on the Fernley Senior Citizen Advisory Committee.

The purpose of the committee is to advise the City Council on matters relating to senior citizens; to provide an informational resource to senior citizens on matters of concern to senior citizens; and to promote volunteer programs for the benefit of senior citizens

The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee consists of five members. The term of office for each member is two years.

Committee members also promote and support senior-oriented special events and collaborative efforts that meet the needs of seniors, and to serve as an advocacy body on behalf of older adults in the community, etc.

The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee meets on the second Friday, every other month at 9 a.m. The next meeting scheduled is Feb. 13, 2026.

The successful candidate may be required to attend other meetings or volunteer at special events to promote the committee.

Applications must be received by the City Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on Jan. 9, 2026. Interested persons should complete the Boards and Commissions Application Form, which can be found at: <https://www.cityoffernley.org/forms.aspx?fid=176>

Continued from PAGE 5 - FINANCIAL...

million to \$9.2 million.

In the water fund's balance sheet over the last five years, assets went from \$156.2 million to \$188.6 million, equity went from \$95.7 million to \$139.3 million, and liabilities decreased from \$60.5 million to \$49.2 million, Hall said.

The city's sewer fund shows much the same, Hall reported, with revenues rising from \$4.6 million to \$5.6 million in the last five years and expenses increasing from \$3.1 million to \$4.6 million.

Examining the sewer fund's balance sheet for five years, assets climbed from \$45.4 million to \$65.4 million, equity went from \$36.2 million to \$56.3 million and liabilities fell from \$9.1 million to \$8.1 million, Hall said.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send yours to [Robert@FernleyReporter.com](mailto:Robert@FernleyReporter.com)

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Please attach a photo to the email. Obituary text must be sent in Word document format, or in the body of an email, no images or pictures of text please.

## PETS OF THE WEEK

**Molly & Marley are looking for a new home!**

Sadley, Molly (f) & Marley's (f) human parents passed away and now they are in need of a new fur-ever home and family to call their own. They have lived together their whole lives and came to us together. Molly is 6 yrs old and Marley is 5 yrs old. They both love laying in laps and they are very loving kitties. Marley gives love nibbles and Molly gives nose kisses. We are hoping to keep them together if possible since they have always been with each other. They would do best in a low energy home. They have never been around dogs or small children. They are chipped, vaccinated and microchipped.. If you would like to set up an appointment to meet us, please call and leave a



message with your contact info and Barbara will call you back asap!  
(775) 575-0950 - Precious Paws Society of Nevada is your local Fernley rescue.



Precious Paws Society of NV | 1085 Aster Ln, Fernley, NV 89408  
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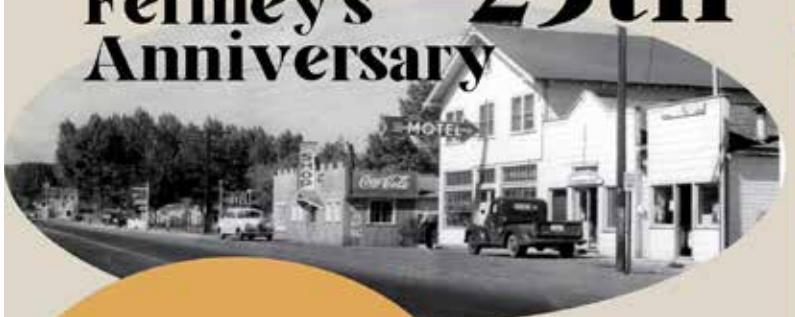
PET OF THE WEEK  
**Kai is looking for his forever home!**

Koda is a Husky mix and he is described as playful, affectionate, athletic, funny, curious, brave, and friendly. Kai reads other dogs really well, so if you're thinking about adding a dog and you have a dog, Kai is definitely worth checking out. Kai is believed to be 3-8 years old. Kai patiently awaits a loving family to whisk him away! He loves to play with other dogs. Contact us for more info!



You can contact the Lyon County Animal Services 775-577-5005. They are located at 3705 Highway 50 West in Silver Springs, NV

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[jmurdock@cityoffernley.org](mailto:jmurdock@cityoffernley.org) or 775-784-9850

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