

THE FALLON POST



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Nevada Cowboy Brings Roughly Top Gun Xtreme Bulls to Fallon New Year's Eve

By Leanna Lehman

Fear not, rodeo fans. Just because the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) in Las Vegas has drawn to a close and winter has descended on the Silver State, we do not have to wait until spring to catch some live rodeo action.

Grab your tickets and hold on to your seats. In less than two weeks, the 2024 Roughly Top Gun Invitational promises to deliver heart-pumping action as top-ranking bull riders from across the nation try their luck against 1,500 pounds of solid muscle and raw bucking bull power.

What could be better than a bull riding event on New Year's Eve in Fallon at the Rafter 3C indoor arena? How about a professional showdown brought to life by a Nevada native with a deep love for the sport and his home state? Driven by his passion, he founded Busted Up Productions to make it all happen—because nothing says Nevada like grit, bull riding, and a New Year's Eve to remember.

Meet Chad Denton, a former bull rider and NFR qualifier who grew up in Round Mountain, Nevada—current population 2,233. Chad began pursuing bull riding at an early age. "I started going to junior rodeos and then high school rodeos throughout Nevada," said Chad, whose love for the sport is still evident today.



Former world NFR and PBR finals qualifier Chad Denton at the 2009 Xtreme Bulls event in Cody, WY. Photo courtesy of Chad Denton.

"I hit the professional ranks and moved up from there. I qualified for the NFR once, and the PBR [Professional Bull Riders organization] world finals three times," Chad noted. "I rode in the PBR for many years. I made a living doing it, and really chased my dreams."

Retired at 33 after breaking his leg in the eighth round of the NFR. Chad continued to compete after his injury, but he couldn't sustain a career in the highly competitive and dangerous sport. "The fire had gone out," Chad recalled.

Chad turned to extreme danger of a different sort—as a professional firefighter instead of a professional bull rider. He is now a captain with a fire department in northern California. And, instead of an eight-second wild ride, Chad began dreaming of bringing a top-notch Xtreme rough stock event to his home state of Nevada, where he is still a resident.

"From Round Mountain, it was a long way to go to any professional event," Chad explained, who grew up traveling great distances to compete or even spectate. "Pretty much the only thing was Reno Rodeo. I could go to the NFR, of course, but I couldn't ever get tickets to that as a kid."

With a bit of prodding from Chad's Fallon friends—he put together what he called, "something for kids like me, from the middle of nowhere." The result was Busted Up Productions, which puts on

[Roughly Top Gun continued on page 3]

The Sky is Falling; the Sky is Falling – Wait, Those Were Starlings

By Leanna Lehman

While last week may have looked a bit like a scene from the children's story "Chicken Little" or Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 thriller "The Birds," the sky was not falling, and there was no sudden violent bird attack on the residents of Fallon. Nor was it an unexplained natural phenomenon.

Hundreds of birds fell from the sky in unnatural numbers, dead or nearly so by the time they hit the ground. It is unsettling to see birds falling en masse, but there is a logical explanation: abatement.

The birds were European Starlings—small, black, speckled birds that fly in mesmerizing murmuration. Thousands, sometimes millions, of them move in close formation, creating ever-changing patterns

in the sky. Some find their swooping and swirling magical. Others see an undeniable downside.

Starlings are a highly invasive species and an unwelcome presence at dairies and feedlots, primarily for the financial damage they cause and their potential to compromise livestock health. Wildlife specialists estimate that 1,000 starlings can consume up to 100 pounds of food in a day. In the Lahontan Valley, where they flock in hundreds of thousands, they feed on grain meant for dairy and beef cattle, increasing feed costs by thousands daily.

Starling populations can grow unmanageable in cooler months when food sources dwindle. As with disease-transmitting pests like rats and mice, extermination is sometimes necessary. However, because they are



Starlings. Photo by Lee Kareny, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

birds, they are not always viewed as pests, though the long-term impact can be equally undesirable.

Beyond consuming feed, starlings spread seeds—often weeds—across miles. They are

[Starlings continued on page 2]



IN THIS EDITION

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| From the Publisher2 | Education10 |
| Features3 | Sports12 |
| Announcements4 | Columns14 |
| Community6 | Business Directory15 |
| Holiday Hope7 | Legal Notices17 |
| Courts8 | |

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Captain's Log

Pruning and Fertilizing

By Rachel Dahl

I grow plants. Lots of them. We are lousy at the Boyer Bunny Ranch with plants. I love them like I love the bunnies and the chickens. Except I don't name them. That's a little much. Says the girl whose 13 chickens all have names. (Larry, get off the shed!)

Apparently, I have quite a knack for growing plants. There is an abundance. A plethora. Some people can sing, some can dance, me – things grow.

In my younger years, there was a leaning to letting plants do their thing. Plant, water, sun. To get all wild and overgrown. To just see what would happen if you let nature take its course. One time for Anne Pershing I wrote a column about this massive, pink rosebush that had overtaken the front entry way of my house. There was for me a certain beauty in seeing what would happen when I just got out of the way.

Over the years, I've learned, sometimes the hard way, that plants do better when you facilitate their growth a bit. Trimming them back, strategically, will do wonders for encouraging growth. Learning the art of water and sun will produce beautiful flowers. And in the structure, it turns out, there comes a level of expansion I never imagined.

Pruning a plant yields cuttings that you can root and in weeks you have even more plants while the momma plant becomes even more healthy and flourishing.

It's like life.

There comes a time when you have to take a look at what's going on and prune and do some major clean up and recalculation.

The end of the year seems a good time to take stock and assess your situation and make some strategic nips. We're doing that here at *The Fallon Post* – madly cutting costs everywhere we can in anticipation that we will continue to bloom in even more strategic ways.

Along with that, our team has talked a lot about how we operate and what it costs and



how we can build our strength in the paper. One idea the team raised with me was to raise our prices on the newsstand and the subscriptions. Two years ago, we did a survey of our readers and overwhelmingly you all supported an increase, but I resisted and didn't do it. In the six years we've been doing this, we have never increased our prices.

But now we just have to. To quote one of my favorite movies, "The cost of land in California is \$600 an acre, an acre!" (*Rustler's Rhapsody*).

Beginning January 1, 2025, six years after we started this windmill-tilting we will raise the newsstand to \$2 a piece and subscriptions will go to \$149.95.

We will continue to make this the best possible local, community newspaper and make it worth your while and your money. We appreciate your support over the years. Your encouragement. Your belief in what we're doing.

So while we prune and fertilize, your support of this increase will allow us to still be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

Rach.

— Rachel



[Roughy Top Gun continued from page 1]

one event per year: the Top Gun Invitational Bull Riding in Fallon.

Speaking of kids like Chad, he brings something very special to 3C this year - a bull riding clinic. With help from a few top-ranking Professional Cowboys Rodeo Association bull riders like T.J. Gray, aspiring young riders from Fallon and around the region can learn some fundamentals that will help them avoid injury and improve their skills. The clinic will be held December 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with lunch provided.

This New Year's event will be Chad's third Top Gun bull riding and first PRCA production. "We were not a professional event, but we had professional bull riders there, of course, but the money didn't count towards the NFR," explained Chad, referring to the points that qualify professional riders for the world finals. This year's bull riding is a fully sanctioned PRCA Xtreme Bulls event with 35 competitors on the roster, and the top eight making the short go (final round).

Helping Chad fulfill his dream are good friends Justin Andrade, Jesse Segura, the operations deputy at Rafter 3C Events Complex, and with Hunter Giovanetti, 3C's event specialist. According to Chad, he has brought in three stock contractors for the bulls—Jeff Davis of Four Star Rodeos, also a longtime friend and a stock contractor in the PRCA; Western Rodeo Company; and Legacy Pro Rodeo, LLC, who will bring most of the bulls. All three are known for some of the toughest bulls on the circuit.

Beyond bull riding, ticket holders can look forward to a trade show and event vendors, drinks and VIP catering from Troys Double Shot Bar, and concessions by The Grid. There will be music and dancing, of course, with award-winning country artist Chad Bushnell taking the stage right after the final go-round.

Chad thanks his event sponsors, including Roughy (the rough stock branch of Hooley brands), the City of Fallon—who has been instrumental in helping the event become a PRCA-sanctioned bull riding—The Grid, Boot Barn, A&K Earthmovers, Peek Construction, Cheek Construction, Hoof Beats Corrals, Hot Wire Electric, Les Schwab, Tedford Tire, and many others.

Tickets are now on sale for \$30 online at Bustedupproductions.com and in Fallon at The Grid, 3-D Shipping, and Les Schwab, or \$35 at the gate. VIP tables are also available, seating nine for \$1,000, with single seating at \$125. Gates open at 5:30 p.m., with the bull riding kicking off at 8 p.m.

Don't miss top riders from around the country taking on some of the fiercest bulls in the sport. Ring in 2025 at what will surely be an all-out New Year's Eve party—cowboy style.

For information about the bull riding clinic, contact Chad Denton at Busted Up Productions.

[Starlings continued from page 1]

aggressive and frequently displace native birds from their habitats. Large flocks, called a murmuration, can interfere also with aviation, while their droppings are corrosive and toxic. Starlings carry diseases such as salmonellosis, histoplasmosis, toxoplasmosis, fowl pox, and parasites like tapeworms and external pests. Indirectly, they can spread West Nile virus.

Starling populations can grow unmanageable in cooler months when food sources dwindle. As with disease-transmitting pests like rats and mice, extermination is sometimes necessary. However, because they are birds, they are not always viewed as pests, though the long-term impact can be equally undesirable.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Nevada Department of Wildlife announced on Dec. 12 a targeted removal of invasive starlings in Churchill, Lyon, and Nye counties. "Starlings spread diseases that put livestock at risk like H5N1, salmonella, and E.coli. This treatment is targeted—other animals will not be harmed and are at no risk of secondary poisoning," NDOW wrote.

It has been several years since there has been a large abatement measure in Churchill County. This year, local dairies participated in abatement efforts, which generally yield more effective results. The most common remedy is DRC-1339, or Starlicide, a chemical engineered to target starlings and pigeons. It metabolizes quickly, minimizing risks of secondary poisoning to pets or other wildlife, though consuming large numbers of poisoned carcasses can still pose risks.

Air cannons, which mimic shotgun blasts, are another tool used to

deter large flocks of birds. However, starlings are highly intelligent and can become habituated to repetitive sounds over time, reducing the cannons' effectiveness. However, while widely used, cannons have stirred controversy in the valley due to noise concerns and their potential impact on property values.

Poisoning has historically been the most effective control method; however, it has some drawbacks. It is costly, requires precise conditions, and often draws criticism from nearby homeowners. Shooting is another option but requires significant time, ammunition, and manpower. Without cooperation from neighboring dairies, any method risks being a temporary fix, as starling populations inevitably return and are larger each year.

Dairymen and ranchers have wrestled with the starling problem for decades. The birds were introduced to the United States in the 1800s by a well-intentioned group seeking to bring all species mentioned in Shakespeare's works to Central Park. With no natural predators, starlings spread rapidly and became highly invasive.

Unfortunately, non-lethal deterrents have failed to control starlings' ever-growing numbers, leaving NDOW and local dairymen and ranchers to adopt abatement measures. While birds falling from the sky is an unwelcome sight, at least we can rest easy in knowing that less disease will spread to area livestock, pets, and residents, all while helping protect the financial stability of our valley's agriculture.

For those who encounter dead birds, officials recommend disposing of them with single-use gloves or reporting their location to the USDA at 775-851-4848.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & OBITUARIES

Movies & More
December 20 & 21

By Kelli Perez



Polar Express volunteers.

Our eighth annual Polar Express event is in the books, and we're thrilled to share that we set amazing records for both attendance and the amount of hot cocoa handed out. The 4D experience was a fantastic experiment, and we're so grateful to everyone who contributed—our sponsors, volunteers, and especially the supportive community that showed up in full force to celebrate with us. We're proud to be part of so many cherished family traditions.

Join us this weekend for one final holiday hurrah before Christmas arrives.

On Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., we'll be showing the 2018 animated adventure *The Grinch*, featuring the voice talents of Benedict Cumberbatch. This PG-rated film has a runtime of 1 hour and 25 minutes. Alongside that Grinch, at 7 p.m. on both days, we'll be screening the 2000 live-action version, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, starring Jim Carrey. Also rated PG, this film runs for 1 hour and 44 minutes.

We'll finish out December with two fun classics: the winter favorite *Ice Age* and the slapstick comedy western *Blazing Saddles*. We hope to see you here for a little fun and laughter during the liminal space between Christmas and New Year's.

Coming up in January, we're introducing a new live music event featuring the Reno-based dark folk duo *Sweet Decay* on Friday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. They describe their music as gothic country with a hint of spice. Admission is \$10, and we're excited to welcome them to our stage!

If you would like to book a Marquee Message or reserve an auditorium for a party, please leave us a message at 775-423-6210 or email us at thefallontheatre@gmail.com.



Museum Director Mel Glover, Craig and Jenny Olsen, Harry Smith, and Lynne Hartung. Photo by Rachel Dahl.

Museum Fans
Celebrate the Season

Members and fans of the Churchill County Museum attended the Annual Holiday Open House on Saturday where children worked on crafts, listened to holiday stories, had refreshments and, heard a fantastic performance by the Tintabulations Handbell Ensemble.

Births

Sutton Marie James Wisdon
born Nov. 4 to Meghan German and Jake Wisdom, weighing 5 lbs. 11 oz., measuring 18 inches.

Jasper Lee Nelson
born Nov. 7 to Aurora Stamps and Connor Nelson, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz., measuring 20 inches.

Churchill Kids Choir Deliver a Fantastic "Christmas Carol"



CKC Performing "A Christmas Carol." Photo by Leanna Lehman.

By Leanna Lehman

Last Tuesday, December 10, the Churchill Kids Choir with the Performing Arts of Churchill County (PACC) shined before a packed house at Numa Elementary School.

Young carolers sang a variety of Christmas and other songs while students performed a mini-musical version of "A Christmas Carol." Several children delivered speaking parts—some quite extensive—with talent and passion far beyond their years.

Students from several elementary schools had been practicing since Sep-

tember under the direction of longtime Churchill County music educator Tom Fleming, along with his wife, Patty, also a retired educator, and Numa school counselor and accompanist Noreen Swenson. That practice paid off, as the crowd was engaged and delighted throughout the performance.

"The Land of Make Believe," is next on stage for PACC. Audition applications open on January 4 for students in grades 3-8. Auditions are scheduled for January 28-February 1, with performances set for April 3, 4, & 5, 2025. Visit paccnv.org for more information.

SENIOR CENTER MENU

WILLIAM N. PENNINGTON LIFE CENTER 952 S. MAINE STREET, FALLON, NV | 775-423-7096

Lunch Served Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Lunch is \$6 for those under 60 and a suggested donation of \$3 for those 60 and older.

Monday, Dec. 23
Teryaki Chicken
Fried Rice
Layered Salad
Fresh Orange

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Ranchers Omelet
Beef, Onions Peppers
& Potatoes
Salsa & Cheese Spanish Rice
Chili Beans
Lime Jello Salad

Wednesday, Dec. 25
- Closed for -
Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 26
Biscuits and Gravy
LS Turkey Sausage
Apple Bake
Blueberry Yogurt
Orange Juice

Friday, Dec. 27
Chicken Noodle Soup
Turkey Salad Sandwich
Cucumber Tomato Salad
Diced Pears

FALLON DAILY BREAD

WOLF CENTER | 457 ESERALDA AVE., FALLON NV | 775-423-4714

Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 23
Ham Dinner, Yams
Vegetables & Dessert

Thursday, Dec. 26
Pizza Night
Salad & Cookies

Monday, Dec. 30
All you can eat
Pancakes

Thursday, Jan. 2
Buffet Night
Variety of Dishes

All are
Welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OBITUARIES

LLOYD DENNIS VERMILLION

January 3, 1946 – November 25, 2024



Everett Benedict Bradley Jr. passed away in Fallon, Nevada, on Nov. 25, 2024, at the age of 78. Born Jan. 3, 1946, in Orangevale, California, to Everett and Augusta Baker Bradley, Everett was known to his family as “Bennie.”

As a child, Everett visited the brand-new Disneyland with his grandparents, became the yo-yo champion of his elementary school, and played the trombone in high school. Prone to sneaking off to smoke and drink Coca-Cola, Everett was often a trial to his parents.

A man always mechanically inclined, Everett completed his automotive mechanic apprenticeship in 1970 and his machinist apprenticeship before receiving an honorable discharge from the Army National Guard in 1971. He then permanently moved to Nevada, living

first in Yerington, then Silver Springs, and finally Fallon, where he worked at Fallon Ford and Napa. Later, he settled in Austin and retired from the Nevada Department of Transportation highway maintenance crew in 2014. He spent his retirement trapshooting, reloading, traveling, cooking, and driving through the mountains.

Throughout his life, Everett had many hobbies and interests. He enjoyed wood and metal working, and his creations decorate several homes. He was an avid trapshooter, becoming the Nevada State Singles Champion in 1999. He and his daughter spent many evenings in the garage reloading for the next big shoot. As an automotive and off-roading enthusiast, Everett rebuilt a 1966 Kaiser Jeep CJ-5, which he loved taking into the mountains to explore and search for ghost towns.

Everett also loved cooking and sharing recipes with his loved ones. A fan of the arts, he frequently admired drawings and took pictures of paintings he encountered during his travels. He loved music and would sometimes sit quietly just to listen. He traveled extensively, visiting nearly all of the western and southwestern United States, often combining his trips with his interests in trapshooting, history, and trains. Everett lived a very full life and had a lot of fun doing it.

Everett is survived by his partner, Nancy; his children, Doug, Kevin, Michael, and Melanie; and his grandchildren, Daniel, Sean, Evelyn, Macray, and Thomas.

At Everett’s request, there will be no funeral or graveside services or “any of that bull**t,” as he would say. His burial will take place at noon on Dec. 21, 2024, in Austin, Nevada, at Calvary Cemetery. A celebration of Everett’s life—the party he wanted us to have—will be held at 4 p.m. on April 26, 2025, at the Fallon Elks Lodge, 93 W. Center St.

SHARON CHICVARA

July 31, 1956 – November 20, 2024



Sharon Chicvara passed away peacefully on Nov. 20, 2024, after a brave battle with breast cancer.

She was born to Joseph and Mary Tworzylko on July 31, 1956, in Chicago, Illinois, where her sister, Denise Reinke, continues to reside.

Sharon was a kind soul and a loving wife to Fred, and a devoted mother to Jamie Hyde (Bart) and Matthew (Chelsea). She adored her grandchildren: Lainey, Taylor, Payton, and Anson Hyde, and Logan, Landon, and Emmy Chicvara.

She lived a rich life full of love and happiness, embracing the outdoors and the beautiful simplicity it offered.

Her greatest accomplishment was her family, especially her grandchildren. She will be forever remembered for her unwavering kindness to all.

Sharon was laid to rest in a private family ceremony at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fernley.

CLAUDIA ANN TRUSSELL-PACE

November 16, 1927 – December 10, 2024



Claudia Ann Trussell-Pace, a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away of natural causes on December 10, 2024.

She was born on November 16, 1927, in Fallon and graduated from Churchill County High School in 1945. Claudia traveled around Nevada with Drum Construction and her late husband, Clifford, until 1970. Shortly after, she began working as a telephone operator at the Churchill County Telephone Company, a position she held until 1990.

Claudia loved reading, needlepoint, gardening, and was an amazing cook. She was a devoted fan of the Giants baseball team. A member of Epworth United Methodist Church, Claudia was also a lifelong member of the Retired Public Employees of Nevada and The Fraternal Order of Eagles in Fallon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Blanche Trussell; sisters Donna Jean Strickland and Loretta Gatriex; brother James Trussell; her husband, Clifford Morris Carr; and her son, Clifford Raymond Carr.

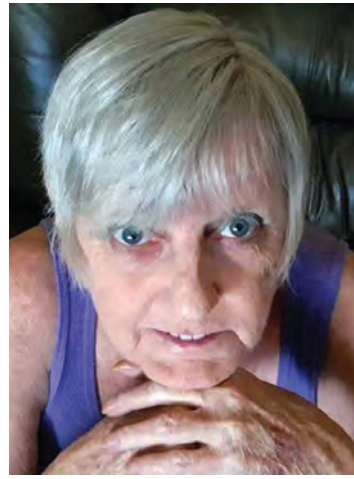
Claudia is survived by her granddaughter, Shelie (Brian) Eastman of Sparks; grandson, Steve Carr of Sparks; great-grandson, Alex (Cathryn) Eastman of Reno; great-grandson, Cody (Jen) Carr, and their three children of Sparks; sister, Ramona (Bud) Harless of Lake Charles, Louisiana; and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 18, at Epworth United Methodist Church, 280 E. Stillwater Ave., Fallon, NV 89406, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Epworth United Methodist Church, 280 E. Stillwater Ave., Fallon, NV 89406.

“Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God.”
– Ronald Reagan

MERRILEE “MAZIE” WOLD

November 4, 1949 – December 13, 2024



Mazie was born in South Carolina on Nov. 4, 1949.

The family moved to Idaho Falls, Idaho, when Mazie was about six months old. She grew up on 11th Street, the second of seven children of Lionel and Mary Wold.

Mazie passed away at her home

in Idaho Falls on Dec. 13, 2024.

Mazie was always the wild child and kept her family busy with her antics. Climbing out her upstairs bedroom window and down the side of the house was one of her favorite stunts.

In February 1968, Mazie married David Kjar. He was in the Navy, and that life took them all over the United States. In August 1969, in New London, Connecticut, Michael, a cute little boy with strawberry blonde hair, was welcomed into the family. Mazie and Dave later divorced.

Mazie earned a bachelor’s degree in social work and worked with domestic violence services in Idaho Falls. In 2003, she moved to Fallon, Nevada, where she became one of the best social workers the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services ever had. She loved helping children, and it showed.

While in Fallon, Mazie met Jim Hooker, and their love grew. When Mazie retired, the family returned to Idaho Falls, where she spent the rest of her life out in the country, enjoying the beautiful view from her living room window.

Waiting to greet her on the other side are her parents, Lionel and Mary, and her brother John Wold (Christine).

Mazie will be greatly missed by her husband, James Hooker; her son, Michael Kjar; her grandson, Devin Kjar; her sisters, Vicki Melrose (Mark), Teresa Moon (Daryl), Kathryn Hayes (Jay), and Nancy Wold; and her brother, David Wold (Roberta).

No services will be held at this time.



PET OF THE WEEK

Mozzy is Available for Adoption



Meet Mozzy: The purr-fect companion waiting for you! Mozzy has been patiently waiting at our shelter for a year, and we can’t figure out why? This 9-year-old gentleman is the ultimate lap cat, ready to fill your home with love and warmth.

Mozzy adores being close to his people—whether he’s following you from room to room, curling up on your lap for snuggles, or purring happily while being petted. He’s the kind of cat who will make every day brighter just by being his sweet, affectionate self.

He’s already neutered, fully vaccinated, and ready to transition seamlessly into his forever home. If you’re looking for a loving, loyal companion, Mozzy is the perfect match!

Stop by our shelter to meet Mozzy today—let’s make sure this holiday season is the last one he spends waiting.

FAWG Fallon Animal Welfare Group
4629 Reno Hwy, Fallon
775-217-4745

COMMUNITY



Bites and Bottles Ribbon Cutting

By Nancy Chapman

Bites and Bottles owners, Bron and Colleen Tschumperlin along with J.D. and Stephanie Reese are proud to present their new wine/mead bar and a snack haven, kicking off the holiday season with a Fallon Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting.

The shop featuring panini sandwiches, charcuterie boards of various sizes, as well as small individual boards, and is accompanied by a small bar that features local Nevada wineries and hard ciders. From the Sierra foothills, Nevada Sunset Winery and Sparks Engine 8 winery are the featured wines. Bites and Bottles also featuring hard ciders including Black Rabbit from Reno and Avid Cider based in Oregon.

For any questions or to place orders please contact Bites and Bottles at 775-866-2168 or on their website at www.bitesandbottlesnv.com.

Fallon Chamber members and friends join Colleen Tschumperlin and Stephanie Reese at their Bites and Bottles ribbon cutting. Photo by Nancy Chapman.

NSHE Welcomes Senator Pete Goicoechea as New Regent for District 8

Courtesy Nevada System of Higher Education

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) has announced that Senator Pete Goicoechea has been appointed by Governor Joe Lombardo to serve on the Board of Regents, representing District 8.

With a career spanning over three decades, Senator Goicoechea has served in both the Nevada Senate and Assembly, as well as 16 years as a Eureka County Commissioner. As a rancher and lifelong resident of rural Nevada, he brings a unique perspective to the Board, particularly on the needs of students in rural areas.

“The addition of Senator Goicoechea enhances our Board’s collective expertise,” said Board of Regents Chair Amy J.

Carvalho. “His insights will be instrumental as we continue to address the diverse educational needs of Nevada’s students.”

NSHE Chancellor Patricia Charlton expressed enthusiasm about the appointment: “Senator Goicoechea’s deep-rooted understanding of Nevada’s rural areas and his longstanding dedication to public service will be invaluable assets to the Board. We look forward to his contributions in advancing higher education across the state.”

Lombardo appointed Senator Goicoechea to fill the vacancy left by Michele Cruz-Crawford, who resigned to serve in the Nevada State Senate for District 1. District 8 encompasses parts of Clark, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties.

Lions Club and Homestead Residents Complete Lily’s Trees

Staff Report

The Fallon Lions Club completed 34 of 41 “Lily’s trees” for residents of Homestead Memory Care, continuing a tradition started by a Lion family in Las Vegas after losing their 2-month-old daughter, Lily, just after Christmas.

“While she was in the hospital, the family and other Lions came up with the idea to give children in the hospital their own miniature Christmas tree to bring them a piece of the Christmas spirit,” said Barbara Hertz, member and former Lions Club President. Since then, clubs in District 46 have made trees for Christmas and other occasions, extending the gesture to adults as well. Hertz explained the Fallon Lions wanted to revive the tradition in Northern Nevada this year and selected Homestead Memory Care for their project.



Lions Club members and Homestead residents work on Lily’s Trees for the holidays. Photo by Barbara Hertz.

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HOLIDAY HOPE

Thrive on Purpose

By Natasha Bennett

Editor's note: The holidays often bring extra pressures and feelings of sadness to many who struggle during this time of year. Here, our newest local columnist offers some words of wisdom for dealing with holiday stress.

Hopelessness, depression, thoughts of suicide—these are just a few of the mental health concerns affecting adolescents and adults, as documented in the Nevada Needs Assessments conducted by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services over the last 10 years. Adolescents are defined as middle and high school-aged children.

Both adults and adolescents report experiencing stress at home, school, and/or work. Studies show that kids who experience sadness, depression, and hopelessness for consecutive weeks often reach a point where they no longer participate in academic or social activities.

Many of the Nevada Health Assessment questions revealed differences in race and ethnicity on topics such as teen pregnancy, household income, and insurance. However, when it comes to youth sadness, depression, and thoughts of suicide, all ethnicities and races rated within a few percentage points of one another. This shows we are all susceptible to feelings of mild or extreme sadness and depression.

The great thing about depression is that it reveals something about you as a person. For example, if you feel depressed because you lost your job, it might reveal that you value your income, your coworkers, or your job title. If you lose a loved one and feel depressed, that depression reflects how much you valued that person. If you did not feel these emotions, it might suggest you did not care about your job or the person who passed away. Sadness, in itself, isn't necessarily a bad thing.

Emotions become problematic when they take over our conscious selves. "Conscious" means we are capable of thinking and decision-making. When our emotions control our consciousness, feelings like frustration, anger, perfectionism, or depression dominate our thoughts and decisions. However, we are designed to override these emotions and use logic. Logic allows us to extract necessary information from our emotions and make wise decisions.



So how do we do this? How do we put out emotional fires? Do you remember the phrase "Stop, Drop, and Roll," taught to protect us in case of a physical fire? Well, we can adapt it as "Stop, Drop, and Role Play" for emotional fires.

- **STOP.** Be honest with yourself about what's wrong. This is best done on half a sheet of paper—you will use the other half later. Start by jotting down your perception of what's wrong.
- **DROP.** Go deeper and ask yourself, "Why does this bother me so much?" Write down your answers alongside your notes.
- **ROLE PLAY.** Now use the other half of the paper. Imagine your most beloved person came to you with everything you just wrote down. What advice would you give them? Write it down. Talk through any objections that come up. Once you are "all talked out," you will have written logical and wise advice—and maybe even a plan—that you can now apply to yourself.

Even when we feel hopeless, we usually want the best for the people we value. Temporarily removing yourself from your problems

and imagining they belong to someone else allows you to access a more beneficial state of mind. Once you've given your beloved person advice, you can take back ownership of your problems with a renewed sense of personal power and move forward.

We would never want someone we love to feel hopeless, depressed, or suicidal. You are just as lovable and just as deserving of hope and joy as those you care about.

Basic laws of science tell us that gravity is the force that holds us down. From a spiritual perspective, there is a Scripture that reads: "Stay alert! Watch out for your enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

Whether you prefer a spiritual perspective, a scientific one, or both, there is always a force working against you. Feelings are our alert systems that can prevent us from being devoured or held down. Don't let feelings of hopelessness, depression, anger, or anxiety turn into emotional fires that spread from adolescence into adulthood. Stop. Drop. Role Play. Let us thrive on purpose.

Natasha is a veteran and homeschool mom of three who is currently stationed in the Oasis of Nevada with her husband of 15 years at NAS Fallon. She is a Specialist for healing symptoms of mental and emotional trauma through MindFred founder Roman Zaroni.

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The lottery for Fall 2025 will be held March 3, 2025.

CHURCHILL COUNTY COURTS

Tenth Judicial District Court

Tuesday, Dec. 10, Judge Thomas Stockard Presiding

By Teresa Moon

Hayden Paul Sibley appeared for sentencing on the Category E Felony of Possession of Marijuana, to which he pleaded guilty in October.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Chelsea Sanford told Judge Stockard that there was a guilty plea agreement in place; however, the defendant violated the specified terms. Sanford said that despite this, the state still believes diversion is appropriate. According to Sanford, Sibley appears to be sabotaging himself, but the state is hopeful Drug Court will help get him on track. Sanford reported that his substance abuse evaluation recommends outpatient treatment; however, if he cannot maintain sobriety, inpatient treatment would be appropriate. She concluded by stating that Sibley needs to decide what path he is going to take: to remain a victim of drugs or go to college and have a good life.

Churchill County Public Defender (CCPD) Jacob Sommer, who agreed with Sanford's recommendation, said his client recognizes he needs to get his life on track and knows he must take measures to address the issue. Sibley told the court that he had messed up the opportunity he was given, stating, "I need to find ways to maintain my sobriety," and agreed Drug Court would be helpful.

Judge Stockard suspended proceedings and placed Sibley on probation for 12 months with the conditions that he complete Drug Court and follow the recommendations of his substance abuse evaluation. Judge Stockard cautioned Sibley, "If you are unsuccessful... there is the very real possibility that the court will put you into prison... Don't squander this opportunity."

Shane Michael Namuth, in custody, appeared for sentencing on the Category E Felony of Possession of a Controlled Substance (methamphetamine), to which he pleaded guilty in September. CCPD Sommer said his client knows he made a mistake and asked for probation, with no provision for Drug Court. Namuth told Judge Stockard he would like to eventually have his probation transferred to Virginia. Stockard sentenced

Namuth to probation on a suspended 12- to 36-month sentence and ordered him to obtain and follow the recommendations of a substance abuse evaluation.

Crystal Lynn Moore, in custody, admitted to the Non-Technical Sentencing Violation regarding Drug Court, among other violations.

Deputy District Attorney Aaron Thomas asked for Moore's probation to be revoked and her underlying sentence imposed. Moore received probation on suspended sentences in August 2023—19 to 48 months and Drug Court for possession of methamphetamine, and 20 to 72 months for being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm. At that time, Judge Stockard told Moore, "The court's tolerance for future behavior like that, it's not zero, but it's as close to zero as you can get. Be crystal clear on that."

"This defendant has had a tumultuous history with Court Services and the Drug Court Program," Thomas said, listing several violations, including testing positive for meth with a diluted sample, which she admitted tampering with. "The system doesn't work if the defendant will pick and choose when they want to report their violations, and actively hide the fact that they are testing positive."

Churchill County Alternate Public Defender Wright Noel told the court there was no question that Ms. Moore wasted an opportunity. He asked the court to allow Moore to attend Vitality for substance abuse treatment. If the court determines she must go to prison, Noel asked Judge Stockard to modify the underlying sentences and allow them to run concurrently, as opposed to consecutively.

Moore apologized to the court, stating, "The truth is... I still suffer from my addiction... I don't want to be powerless to my addiction anymore." Moore reported she does have a bed date at Vitality. "I do not want to use anymore, and with God all things are possible... I am asking today, please don't send me to prison."

Judge Stockard told Moore, "One of the most pernicious things within recovery...

is people who are dishonest, and cheat, which is what you did." Stockard revoked Moore's probation but agreed to modify her sentence to run concurrently and remanded her to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff for imposition of the sentence.

Travis Wade Souza, in custody, admitted to a Non-Technical Sentencing Violation regarding Drug Court. DDA Aaron Thomas told the court the defendant completed 120 days of Drug Court, then "simply decided enough was enough and did not attend Drug Court further." He asked that probation be revoked and Souza's underlying sentence imposed. In February, Souza received probation for Possession of a Controlled Substance and was placed in Drug Court.

CCPD Sommer said his client recognizes he could have done better and would really like to have another chance at probation. "He does not want to spend time in prison," Sommer said, adding that he believes Souza wants to show the court he can comply. Sommer stated Souza is adamant he does not feel Drug Court is in his interest.

Judge Stockard revoked the defendant's probation and imposed the underlying sentence. Souza was remanded to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff for imposition of the sentence, which carries a term of one to four years in prison.

CONTINUANCES AND WARRANTS

- *Lester Leigh Johnson*: Sentencing continued to Jan. 14, 2025, with the condition that he have an ankle monitor by close of business. Johnson pleaded guilty to felony DUI, a third or subsequent offense.
- *Sara Michelle Jones*: Sentencing Violation Hearing continued to Jan. 21, 2025. Jones absconded from supervision in June and tested positive for methamphetamine, methadone, and fentanyl in July.
- *Henry Lee Andrews*, in custody: Sentencing Violation Hearing continued to Dec. 17. In October, he pleaded guilty to failing to maintain mandated sex offender registration.
- *Ralph Kenneth Provident*: Failed to appear for a Status Hearing. A \$25,000 bondable bench warrant was issued.

Child Exploitation Earns Ingram Hefty Consecutive Sentences

By Teresa Moon

Twenty-three people filled the gallery for Christopher Colby Ingram's sentencing hearing on Monday, December 9, in the Tenth Judicial District Court before Judge Thomas Stockard in Fallon. In July, Ingram pleaded guilty under an Alford plea to two Category D felonies of possession of visual pornography of a person under the age of 16. An Alford plea allows Ingram to accept the associated consequences of the plea without admitting to the crime itself, based on the 1970 U.S. Supreme Court case, *North Carolina v. Alford*.

These charges were not Ingram's first. On January 4, 2022, he received probation on a 38-96 month suspended sentence for Category B felony embezzlement and a 22-56 month suspended sentence for Category C felony of Theft by Controlling the Property of Another. Consequently, the pornography charges constituted a probation violation, to which Ingram admitted earlier this year.

In cases involving child pornography and exploitation, defendants must submit to psychosexual evaluations to determine probation eligibility. Judge Stockard noted for the court record that he had received the required assessments from Dr. Hixon-Brenenstall and Dr. Fletcher.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker informed the court that to prevent embarrassment and further trauma stemming from their account of the events, the victims requested the case be resolved and consented to the agreed-upon resolution.

According to Baker, Ingram purchased a spy camera disguised as a USB charger and placed it around the house, including the only bathroom.

"These actions were committed by a person who was trusted, a trusted member of the family who betrayed that trust for his own selfish motives, his own sexual desires," Baker said. "These crimes were committed in their home, in their bathroom, where they're most vulnerable, where a person should feel safe and be the most comfortable." Baker urged the court to hold Ingram accountable, requesting the maximum sentences to be served consecutively to each other and the embezzlement cases.



Christopher Colby Ingram. Photo courtesy of CCSO.

Richard Davies, Esq., defense counsel for Ingram, acknowledged the seriousness of the situation, stating, "There is absolutely no justification whatsoever for the way the children were treated. And he's going to pay for that dearly at the Nevada Department of Corrections, rightfully so. That will be his punishment."

Davies expressed hope that this moment would inspire change in Ingram. "Hopefully, this is a watershed moment in his life, and he'll decide which road he's going to go down. Without the drugs or alcohol, he's a great guy," Davies said. He pointed to Ingram's history as an intravenous amphetamine user and criticized society's reliance on medication. "Certainly, the Adderall use and abuse were a contributing factor to violating the trust of these poor children."

Ingram addressed the court, reading from a prepared statement. "I just want to express how truly sorry I am to the victims. I never meant to hurt the ones I love," he said, acknowledging his decade-long struggle with addiction. Ingram added that he now realizes he needs help and prays that God will begin to heal those affected.

Three victims delivered emotional impact statements, describing the betrayal they felt by someone they trusted as a father figure. One victim shared, "Not a day goes by that I don't think about what he has done." Another added, "I thought Colby was somebody we could trust, and he broke that trust in one of the worst ways." The victims' mother said, "I keep thinking of the horrible thing that happened to my children." Each described the humiliation and ridicule from classmates and the constant feeling of being watched. The victims expressed concerns about trusting others in the future and pleaded with the judge to impose the maximum punishment.

Judge Stockard sentenced Ingram to two consecutive terms of 26-68 months, to run consecutively to Ingram's previous cases for a total sentence of 112- 288 months (24 years) in prison. Judge Stockard granted Ingram credit for the 548 days he served in the Churchill County Jail. Upon release, he will be subject to lifetime supervision by the Division of Parole and Probation and must register as a sex offender.

Ingram was remanded back to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff for the imposition of his sentence.

CHURCHILL COUNTY COURTS

Friends' Concern Prompts Investigation Uncovering Murder of Xiaoxia Zhang (Munoz)

By Leanna Lehman

On November 20, Daniel Munoz (71) was arrested and taken into custody on charges of Open Murder. According to information released by the Reno Police Department, their office initiated a joint investigation on November 17 with the Churchill County Sheriff's Office regarding the disappearance of a 40-year-old woman that ultimately became much more.



Munoz Zhang and Friend.

Reno Justice Court documents report that the Reno Police Department (PPD) received a phone call on November 17 from a concerned party that stated they were friends with Xiaoxia Zhang – the wife of Daniel Lee Munoz and the mother of their four children, ages 4-11. The caller indicated they had not heard from Zhang since November 8 and requested a welfare check on the family at their Pleasant Oak Trail house in Reno. No one appeared home when officers arrived. However, neighbors reported seeing Zhang the day before, on November 7, when Munoz helped them move a package into their vehicle.

At or near the same time as the report made to RPD, the Churchill County Sheriff's Office also received a call from a concerned individual requesting a welfare check on the family at their Fallon residence on Del Rio Drive. When the deputies arrived no one was home.

On November 26, The Fallon Post learned of a November 21 post on BCBay.com, a highly utilized online and news media platform for the Greater Vancouver, British Columbia Chinese community. Roughly translated into English, the post was titled, "Emergency: Reno Mother Missing for 14 Days, Friends Share Disturbing Details."

According to the article, Zhang Xiaoxia – English name Xiaoxia Zhang, was last in contact with friends on WeChat on November 8. By November 11, however, her phone appeared to be switched off. Friends described Zhang as "a devoted mother who rarely ventured far due to her limited driving ability and her focus on raising her children." The article stated Zhang previously attended the University of Nevada, Reno, and was active on social media, though her Facebook updates ceased abruptly in April 2022.

One of the most concerning factors for friends, according to BCBay.com, was that Zhang's husband reportedly did not immediately file a missing person report, claiming instead that she had "returned to China." Friends became suspicious and contacted her parents, who confirmed they had not heard from her. Only after repeated failed attempts to reach Zhang did a friend file a police report.

Court documents affirm that Munoz told Churchill County investigators that "his wife had left either on a Thursday or Friday, and he believed she had gone to Beijing, China, and that she was relatively independent, and he wasn't concerned about her." The document also verifies Zhang's friends' assertion that her mother, in China, could not contact her daughter and had not communicated with Zhang since the morning of November 8.

The article further contends that shortly after Zhang's disappearance, her husband withdrew their four children from school and moved out of Reno. Speculation suggests he relocated to Fallon, Nevada. Reno PD detectives have since confirmed that

Munoz withdrew the children from school.

Another disturbing aspect of Zhang's silence was her unlikely maternal behavior, said friends. Those closest to her found it implausible that Zhang, a devoted mother, would voluntarily abandon her children without contact. "Mothers don't leave their children willingly for extended periods," said one commenter. By then, concerns had arisen that external forces may have played a role in Zhang's disappearance.

Zhang's out-of-character silence was a serious cause for alarm, according to BCBay. Friends described Zhang as outgoing and communicative. "She's not the type to quietly disappear," said a close acquaintance. Friends believed she

would have reached out if she faced trouble rather than severing all contact. Court documents indicate that individuals close to Zhang in Reno also found her lack of communication, which was unlike her, to be a cause for concern. Friends also questioned Zhang's husband's behavior, noting inconsistencies in his reported actions.

One of Zhang's friends, who had been actively posting updates and appeals on social media, commented on Zhang's optimism and strength in the article, expressing deep concern, stating, "Xia Xia, you always faced life with courage, no matter how challenging it became. I pray you are safe and can hear my signal to the universe."

Zhang's friends' concerns did indeed prove valid, as Churchill County Sheriff's Office discovered her body buried under the trampoline at Munoz's Fallon residence on November 21, only three days after the investigation began.

Munoz is the primary suspect in the case.

Munoz remains in custody on charges of Open Murder in Washoe County Jail with a \$5,000,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in Reno Justice Court for a bail hearing on January 15.



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EDUCATION

CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie. Photos courtesy of CCSD.



Students on stage during their "Wizard of Oz" production.



Students in Heidi Emke's class showing of the holiday scarves they made during a brain break.



Alia Galeno Espinoza, Remi Ricketts, and Shannah McElvain show off their character trait snowflakes.

CCHS

Ashley Adams' Greenwave Drama students wrapped up their "The Wizard of Oz" production on Saturday, December 14. The cast featured grades 6-12 students from CCHS, CCMS, Oasis Academy, Veritas, and even a few home-schooled students. With only 11 weeks to prepare, students put on an outstanding performance. "I had one parent tell me that their student is usually very shy, and it has been amazing to see them acting, singing, and dancing on stage," Adams said. She explained many parents were happy with the growth their students experienced by being a part of the production. "They are proud of the work they accomplished on and off stage to make this show a success, and they should be. They did such an excellent job."

CCMS

The eighth-grade boys' basketball team brought home the Sagebrush League Championship on December 10, defeating Fernley in the first game. They went head-to-head with Yerington in the championship, and after being down by 15 points at halftime, CCMS made an incredible comeback and won by three points.

NUMA

Last week, Numa students worked hard during testing to show off what they learned this year. Teacher Heidi Emke held brain breaks to help students stay motivated and energized. They worked

together to build structures that would stand on their own using toothpicks, paper cups, and marshmallows. Students also made festive Christmas scarves. "I love using brain breaks during testing weeks to give students a chance to reset," said Emke, who believes it is important during testing days to prevent burnout and give students time to socialize and move around a bit.

E.C. BEST

Students in Kristina Russell's class learned about character traits and then designed snowflakes, describing how they are one of a kind. In math, students learned about fact families and created their own Fact Family trees. "The students were not only engaged in the material being taught, they also got in the holiday spirit, which was fun to see," Russell said.

LAHONTAN

The holiday season is in full swing in Debbie Swisher's class. Students worked on a pet reindeer project, writing stories about their pet reindeer and then creating reindeer representations. They also made candy cane ornaments using beads, pipe cleaners, and chenille stems. "There is lots of holiday fun going on in our classroom right now. We are staying engaged, learning, and having a good time," Swisher said.

Logos Christian Academy Celebrates Advent Season



Story and photos courtesy of Logos

Logos Christian Academy recently held a chapel service to celebrate the third week of Advent, focusing on the theme of joy and the true meaning of Christmas: Christ.

A service highlight was a performance by Mrs. Broughton's and Mrs. Lyle's K4/K classes. The young students sang "God Gave Me Jesus," their cheerful voices bringing a reminder of the season's message.

Students also enjoyed Bible sword drills, a regular activity where they race to find Bible verses. This exercise helped them connect with Scripture while building a deeper understanding of God's Word.

The service wrapped up with Luke 2:20, a verse that recounts the shepherds glorifying and praising God after hearing the news of Jesus' birth.

With music, Scripture, and time for contemplation, Logos students and staff came together to celebrate this special time of year, and the promise found in Christ.

Veritas Preparatory School Classical and Christian

By David Ernst

On Dec. 3, Veritas Preparatory School held its second Jesus Caching Advent Road Rally. Families participating in the event visited multiple locations throughout the evening and completed a variety of Advent-themed puzzles and challenges.

At one station, families used a map of Oats Park to locate three caches containing "gold, frankincense, and myrrh" and then delivered the gifts to "Mary" before progressing to the next station. Families also helped the shepherds locate their sheep at the Fallon Theatre, followed the star in the West at Frey Ranch, and completed an Advent word puzzle at the Wolf Center. Those who emerged victorious from all



Veritas Advent Night service projects courtesy Veritas Prep.

stations were rewarded with cookies and hot cocoa back at Veritas.

Students have also been actively preparing for a number of upcoming service projects to give back to the community this Christmas season. The third- through eighth-grade classes are collecting mittens and mugs to support the Out of Egypt Food Pantry. Third-grader Dixie Jensen is excited

about the opportunity to give back to the community. "This is my first year helping at the food pantry, and I'm very excited to help out," says Jensen.

The younger classes will be visiting the Homestead to sing Christmas carols for the residents. The students are excited to share the love of Jesus with the town during this time of year.

EDUCATION

Bighorn Bulletin

By Taylor Sowersby.

BRAINPOWER AND SELF-TALK



Top Row L to R: Alexa Hessey, Emma Cline, Taitum Papada, Leyton Anderson, Cole Wood, Eliana Gygax, Penelope Doyen, Maya Ugalde, Executive Director of NvCCE Christine Hull, Raegan Warren, Alyssa Oyler, Assemblyman Gregory Koenig, Warren Thompson, Neel Bhakta, Front Row L to R: Tami McNeill, Kelly Nott, Kenton Horn, Jackson Frey, Eli Diaz, Greysen Dubois.

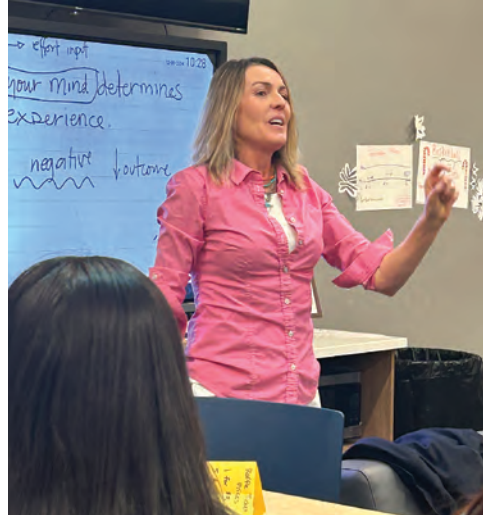
Molly Dahl spent Monday, December 9, with high school students, speaking to them about the differences between the brain and the mind and the unlimited potential of both.

Dahl explained the link between instinct, intellect, and intuition, helping learn about the power of quality of mind and mindsets and how these determine the outcome of experiences. Students also explored breathing techniques. "The lessons were very interesting and eye-opening. I will definitely be using the breathing techniques to help focus in class," said Caidance McCart.

Daily nutrition was also covered, with Dahl teaching students about brain health. She explained that good fats and proteins are necessary for brain function, while sugars can have a detrimental effect. "Molly Dahl is fantastic, and I truly appreciate her approach to everyday mental health," said Andy Lenon, high school counselor. "It emphasizes the fundamentals and aligns perfectly with our teachings here at Oasis."

Lenon noted the importance of Dahl's teachings for students' overall well-being. "We can all benefit from focusing on the basics: nutrition, hydration, exercise, and sleep. It's important to assess these aspects and be mindful of shopping along the perimeter of the grocery store," he said.

The goal is for students to adopt a holistic approach to their health. The key takeaway is to care for both your brain and your gut, as well as your 'three-pound supercomputer,' since they are interconnected through the gut-brain axis," Lenon added.



Molly Dahl during her visit to Oasis.

WE THE PEOPLE AND CIVICS LESSONS

Civic education was at the forefront of Oasis Academy Middle School history classes last week. Christine Hull and Denise Paxton, with the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement (NCCE), visited students on Monday to help them develop a sense of belonging to their country and community. They aim to foster self-worth and collective responsibility – a critical component of the history curriculum,

tying lessons from the Revolutionary War and America's foundation to the present day.

Hull, Paxton, and history teachers introduced National History Day (NHD) to students. Oasis is in its first year of the program and will host a showcase of student projects on this year's theme, Rights and Responsibilities, on Thursday, February 6. Qualifying students may advance to the regional competition in Reno.

Assemblyman Greg Koenig also visited campus for an Ask the Expert session with students in the middle school We the People program. He explained the Nevada Legislature's processes, including drafting bills, districts, and district mapping, and answered students' questions. "We were so proud of the questions

and discussions that ensued from the day with these educators and Assemblyman Koenig," said Nott.

NCCE has provided participating teachers with textbooks, lesson materials, classroom support, and supplies. Materials include K-12 curriculum resources for community action and service, We the People, and NHD.

NCCE center also mentors Oasis teachers and encourages educators to participate in future professional learning communities through these programs. There is no cost; teachers may receive credit, stipends, materials, and support.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: TROY UNDERWOOD

As graduating senior Troy Underwood prepares for the next chapter of his life, he is excited about his future career in public service. "I plan to begin working full-time for the City of Fallon after graduation," Underwood said.



Troy Underwood and his dog Max.

"Then eventually, my goal is to attend the police academy when I turn 21 and serve as a police officer."

Underwood reflected on his journey at Oasis Academy, where he started kindergarten and progressed through high school. "The friendships I made during my freshman year and other friends throughout the years is my favorite memory," he said.

His favorite class over the years was Algebra 1. "Algebra 1 was my favorite class. It's the one math subject where I felt

most confident and capable," he said.

Underwood expressed gratitude for the high school teachers who supported him. "I'd like to thank Mr. Evan Brandt, Ms. Jackie Bogdanowicz, Mrs. Julie Stockard, and Mr. Eric Grimes for their guidance throughout high school," Underwood said.

The senior is on track to achieve a significant milestone, earning a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree from Western Nevada College when he graduates in May.

"We were so proud of the questions and discussions that ensued from the day with these educators and Assemblyman Koenig," said Nott.

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SPORTS

Watch What Happens Next

CCMS Boys Win Sagebrush League 8th Grade Basketball Championship



By of Kim Urso

The Churchill County Middle School 8th grade boys basketball team rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to beat Yerington Tuesday in the championship game of the Sagebrush League Tournament in Dayton.

CCMS arrived at Dayton Intermediate School Tuesday afternoon with the #1 seed for the tournament, and just before the first game, the team was awarded the Sagebrush League Sportsmanship Award for the 2024 Season.

Led by head coach Ammon Finch, the boys first faced No. 4 seed, Fernley Silverland. With a solid game for all four quarter, CCMS defeated Silverland. CCMS boys moved on to face the No. 2 seed, and the only team to beat them this season, Yerington Intermediate School.

Yerington came out in the final game shooting multiple three-pointers, quickly creating a large gap in the score. Near the end of the second quarter, a double technical foul on both Yerington and CCMS had players locked into an intense battle. CCMS left the court at halftime trailing by 15, one Yerington fan boisterously shouted at another fan, "Watch what happens next."

Finch made a few offensive and defensive adjustments, and in the third quarter CCMS quickly closed the gap. By the beginning of the fourth quarter, Yerington was losing momentum and was struggling to keep its lead. With just minutes left, CCMS had the lead at 41-38. CCMS boys didn't let up and fought every second until the final buzzer.

Congratulations CCMS 8th grade boys and Coach Finch. You fought for and earned a first-place win! We can't wait to watch what happens next!

Local Youth Bull Rider Rostin Snow Ranks Second in the World

By Leanna Lehman

Fallon's own Rostin Snow made his way to the Yeti Junior World Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas last week, December 5-8, and walked away ranked second in the world. The youth event runs alongside the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) National Finals Rodeo. It hosts 800 contestants, ages 19 and younger, with over \$1 million in cash prizes going to top-ranking youth cowboys and cowgirls.

Rostin's dad, Justin Snow, is understandably proud of his son, who competed in the 10- to 11-year-old bracket in bull riding, taking on some of the toughest mini bulls in the country. "Rostin killed this week at the Jr. NFR. Got three rode and ended second in the world," said Justin.

According to Justin, by last Friday, Rostin was already back in the practice pen. On December 28, he will join other young bull riders for the PRCA Bull Riding School at Rafter 3C Arena in Fallon as part of the Roughly Top Gun New Year's Eve Invitational Bull Riding. Instructors T.J. Gray, the top-ranking bull rider heading into the 2024 NFR and NFR qualifier Colton Fritzlan, will work with students to hone essential skills and stay safer in one of the world's most dangerous sports.

Great job, Rostin! Fallon is so proud of you.

The school bull riding is December 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information on the school, contact Chad Denton at 530-521-3965.



Rostin Snow 2nd bull riding Yeti Jr. World Finals in Vegas.



Rostin in the chute before his winning ride. Photos courtesy of Justin Snow.

SPORTS

CONGRATULATIONS!

JV Grapplers at McQueen & Reed



Congratulations to Rio Segura 1st, Matthew Bird 2nd, Lars Rasmussen 4th, and Nathan Anderson 4th at the McQueen JV Tournament. Also, congratulations to Tommi Fitzer for winning the girls tournament at Reed.

Hornets' 13th Annual Diamond Dinner

By Nancy Chapman

Fallon's own Baylor Sandberg, who is on track to be a starting pitcher with the Sacramento State Hornets baseball team, will experience his first Diamond Dinner auction and fundraiser in 2025. This will mark the 13th annual Diamond Dinner. Baylor, being a Fallon native, grew up playing baseball with various leagues, and as time went on, it became evident he had the right stuff to pursue a college career in the sport.

Like most kids, Baylor started playing T-ball at the age of 4. He progressed through the ranks, and at age 8, he advanced to the next level of baseball, playing with both Babe Ruth and Fallon Hornets teams. Coached by Albert Martinez as an 8U player, he continued through different age groups and was eventually coached by Matt Hyde, Gibb Mackedon, and Ben Paul while playing for the Fallon Hornets through 15U. For additional training, he also played for the Muckdogs and Scorpions, both Reno-based teams.

During his time at Churchill County High School, Baylor played all four years on the varsity baseball team. He primarily played third base, first base, and catcher, and in his senior year, he served as the starting pitcher. Baylor also participated in Elite Pitching Baseball (EPB), a developmental team that travels to tournaments outside the local area to give players more exposure.

The Sacramento State Hornets' annual Diamond Dinner raises critical funds for student-athletes, programs, expenses, and overall well-being. Athletics at Sacramento State fall under the university's nonprofit status, and the funds are recognized as supporting a nonprofit entity. Sacramento State offers 21 intercollegiate sport programs to more than 500 student-athletes who compete at the NCAA Division I level.



After suffering an elbow injury, Baylor attended Sacramento State University's summer school program in 2024. Funding for this program was made possible by proceeds from the Diamond Dinner fundraising efforts. The 2025 Diamond Dinner fundraiser will help the team travel to the Dominican Republic in August, where they will play several academy teams and engage in community service.

Baylor Sandberg is, first and foremost, a hometown athlete, following his dream of baseball through hard work and dedication to his sport, family, and college. He has spent countless hours training, both physically and mentally, to achieve his goals. Baylor is making Fallon proud.

For more information, please contact Torie Sandberg at 775-426-9759.

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COLUMNS

Postcards: Churchill

By Michon Mackedon

We hear the name Churchill daily: at home, in phrases like Churchill County and Fort Churchill; and in the media, with mentions of Winston Churchill and Churchill Downs. But how many of us recognize the name Sylvester Churchill? Local history buffs will know it was Sylvester Churchill whose name graces our Churchill County and nearby Fort Churchill, but the rest of us probably have never heard of him.

If we turn back the pages of our area's history to the spring of 1860, we'll find the story of Sylvester Churchill, Fort Churchill, and the origins of Churchill County. Let me

set the story in a way familiar to fans of John Wayne westerns.

The country around us was still part of Utah Territory, sparsely settled with farms and ranches, most clustered near the banks of the then-undammed Carson River. Two Pony Express stations had been established close to what we now know as Fort Churchill—

one at Williams Station (west of the present-day Lahontan Dam and usually covered by water) and one at Buckland's Station (between modern-day Silver Springs and Yerington). Now, the all-too-familiar script begins.

According to most sources, the operators of Williams Station, three Williams brothers, kidnapped and raped two young Paiute women from Pyramid Lake. In May, the Paiutes took revenge by setting Williams Station on fire and killing two of the three Williams brothers who were at the station at the time of the raid. The word quickly spread via Pony Express to California, and a band of 105 volunteer soldiers and vigilantes, under the command of Major Ormsby, retaliated in what is known as the first battle of the Pyramid Lake War. Ormsby's group was defeated, losing two-thirds of their force. However, a larger group, including U.S. Regulars, was marshaled in early June 1860. They defeated the Paiutes at the second battle of the Pyramid Lake War.

As in the western movies, Manifest Destiny and the cavalry had once more prevailed, and a U.S. Army fort rose almost overnight near Buckland's Station. Construction began on July 20, 1860, less than two months after the second battle of the Pyramid Lake War. It was named for the inspector general of the U.S. Army and a hero of the Mexican American War,

Sylvester Churchill.

Fort Churchill was built to protect the settlers, the telegraph, and the mail route, but with the outbreak of the American Civil War, it quickly became an important supply route for the Union Army. At its peak, the fort housed 200 troops. With the addition of military security to the region, growth was inevitable. In 1861, Nevada Territory was formed from western Utah Territory, and a new political subdivision was surveyed and named Churchill County. When Nevada entered the Union in 1864, Churchill County became an official county of the new state.

In 1869, Fort Churchill was abandoned. Many factors contributed to its demise: the end of the Civil War; the termination of the Pony Express; the expansion of the railroad network (the Golden Spike was set in 1869); the taming of the American West; the growth of local populations; and the establishment of Native American reservations. The fort gradually decayed to ghostly rubble. In 1935, the grounds were partly restored by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the current visitor center was built.

Sylvester Churchill did not live to visit his eponymous fort or county. He died in Washington, D.C., in 1862. While the fort was short-lived, the county thrives. The first Churchill County seat was established in 1861 at Buckland's Station. In those times of difficult travel, the location of the county seat was driven by population trends. In 1864, it was moved to the booming silver mining camp of La Plata; in 1868, to fertile Stillwater; and finally, in 1903, to Fallon—not yet a city but full of promise—where the elegant old white county courthouse still stands on the corner of Maine Street and Williams Avenue.

Incidentally, if you look at an online photograph of Sylvester Churchill, you will notice his resemblance to Winston Churchill. They did share bloodlines, and Winston, a student of military history, upon seeing a photo of Sylvester, apparently acknowledged him as a legitimate Churchill.

Please send a postcard to mackedon@phonewave.net. If you don't want to write a story yourself, suggest an idea. Merry Christmas.

Michon Mackedon is a native of Fallon and a retired professor of English and Humanities (WNC). She loves her family, her home, her dog, reading, writing, making good food, and sipping a glass of fine white wine. Beyond that, she refuses to be categorized.



Photo courtesy of Ft. Churchill State Historic Park.

Allison's Book Report

"Snowed In" by Catherine Walsh



Alright, folks! By the time you read this, Christmas will be less than a week away. Hopefully, you have your reindeer in a row (that's the saying, right?), your trees are trimmed, your presents are all wrapped, and sugarplums are already dancing in your head. Or maybe you're like me and have not wrapped a single gift or decorated a single cookie because you're a slacker and it has all snuck up on you. Either way, add reading a cute Christmas romance novel to your to-do list. C'mon. You have time, right?

"Snowed In" is a fun, swoon-worthy holiday rom-com from Catherine Walsh that will have you both laughing and blushing. Megan is dreading going home for the holidays. In her small Irish hometown, she's a social pariah – a she-devil who left the local golden boy, Issac, at the altar four years ago when she ran away to the big city. Issac is engaged again, to someone new – and Megan has just been dumped. Again. For the fourth time this year, actually. Then there's Christian, who is fed up with being single every Christmas. He actually doesn't mind being alone – but he could do without his family's sad eyes and pity. When Christian and Megan bump into each other (quite literally) in a Dublin pub, they make a plan to get them through the holiday season. They lay out the rules and write up a contract (on a wine-stained napkin, no less) and agree to make it through each other's family gatherings, appearing to be madly in love, until the holidays are over and they can return to their separate lives.

It's only for a few weeks, so they are sure they can pull this off. But with everyone home for the holidays in the small village and both of their big families to deal with – along with old friends, old flames, and old feelings – things get complicated. Add a snowed-in cabin and a little Christmas magic to the mix; anything could happen!

This book is adorable. It boasts all three of my favorite tropes: fake dating, meddling families, and syrupy-sweet Hallmark holiday vibes. Walsh's writing style is perfect for lovers of Sophie Kinsella, Abby Jimenez, and Emily Henry. "Snowed In" is a perfect holiday read. Pro-tip: I switched back and forth between reading and listening to the audiobook with this one, and the readers' Irish accents make the audiobook an even bigger treat.

I have to get back to that neglected to-do list now, but remember to check out my Instagram [@allison.the.reader](https://www.instagram.com/allison.the.reader). Let's chat about the holiday rush and the books making us feel festive!

Allison Diegel is the Executive Chaos Coordinator at the Diegel Home for Wayward Girls. She has been reading since before she could talk, and now she likes doing lots of both.

Crossword

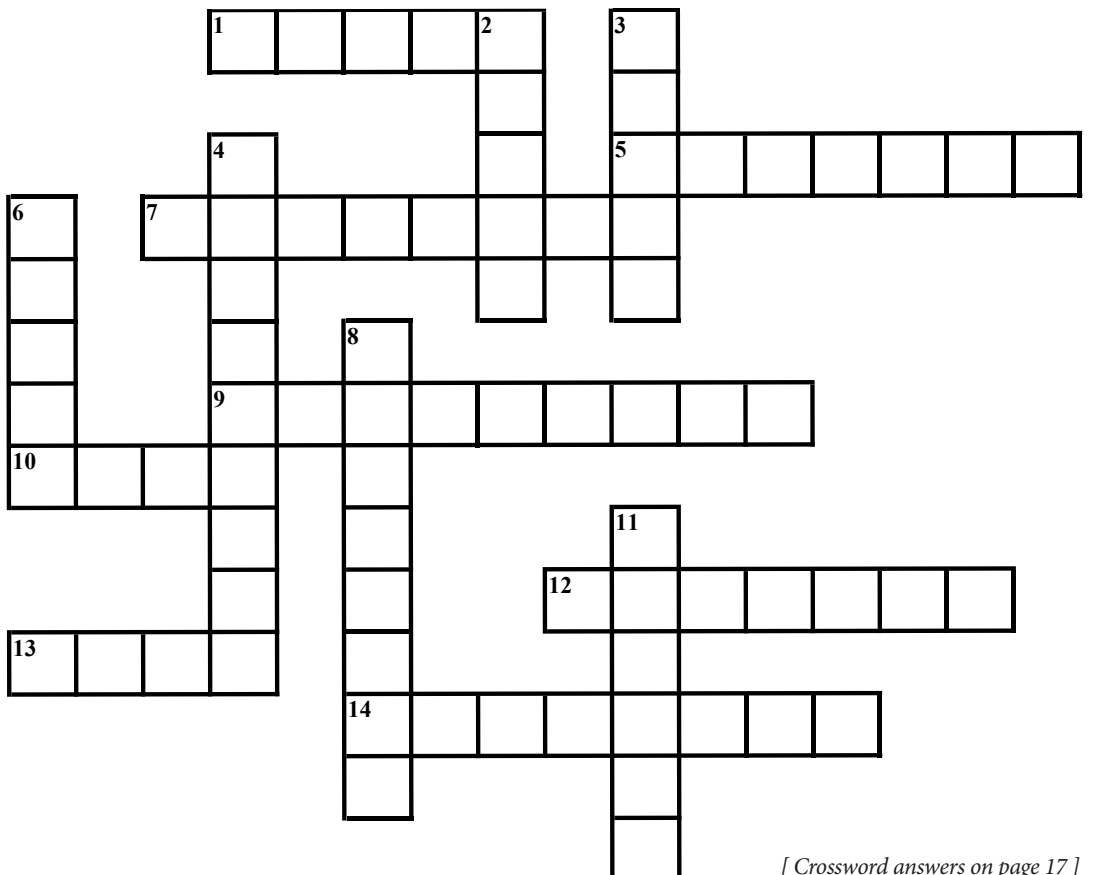
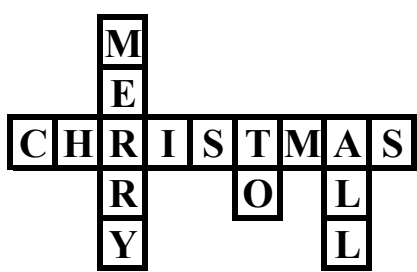
By Peanut

Across

1. Father Christmas
5. Exult
7. Sleigh power
9. City of David
10. Shone in the East
12. Bad lister
13. Good lister
14. Father Christmas

Down

2. Messenger
3. Gift
4. Praise
6. Toy builders
8. Hung with care
11. Songs



[Crossword answers on page 17]

COLUMNS

What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen – Warm You Up Recipes

By Kelli Kelly

Our fantastic publisher just sent me a kick-in-the-pants email asking for my article "STAT." To be fair, it's past my deadline. My calendar has been booked solid, and there's no indication that things are slowing down—it's mid-December, y'all; stop booking meetings! Clearly, expediency is prioritized over wit today, so here are three tasty recipes to warm you up on a cold December night.

Kelli's Black Bean Soup

Ingredients:

- 1/2 lb. Black beans, cooked til soft or substitute, 2 cans of black beans if you must
- 2 tbsp. Olive oil
- 1 White onion, cut into quarters
- 2 Limes
- 3 Cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Jalapeno, stemmed, seeded, and minced
- 1/3 cup Minced cilantro stems
- 1 tbsp. Tomato paste
- 1 tbsp. Cocoa powder
- 2 tsp. Cumin seed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 Can coconut milk
- 2 cup Chicken stock
- Garnish: crumbled cotija, crema or sour cream, avocado, cilantro leaves

Directions:

1. Thinly slice one onion quarter and place in a shallow bowl. Season with salt and add the juice from 1 lime. Set aside. Dice the remaining onion. In a Dutch oven over medium heat add olive oil. When shimmering, add diced onion and 1/2 tsp. salt and sauté until soft and golden. Add minced garlic, jalapeno, and cilantro stems and continue cooking for 2-5 minutes until the stems are softened.
2. Add tomato paste, cocoa powder, cumin seed, and 1/2 tsp. salt. Cook, stirring constantly, until the tomato paste has darkened a little. Add coconut milk, stock, and beans with a little of the cooking liquid.
3. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to maintain a simmer. Cook for 25-30 minutes.
4. Using a potato masher or an immersion blender, process to your desired consistency. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve in large bowls topped with assorted garnishes, including lime-pickled onions, cotija cheese, crema or sour cream, cubed avocado, and cilantro.



Sticky Toffee Pudding

Adapted by Mark Bittman

Ingredients Pudding:

- 1 cup Dates, pitted and chopped
- 1 cup Boiling water
- 3 tbsp. Butter, cold, unsalted, cubed
- 1 tsp. Baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. Salt
- 1/3 cup, plus 1 tsp. Sugar in the Raw
- 1/3 cup, plus 1 tsp. Dark Brown Sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 3/4 cup, plus 2 tbsp. Flour
- 1 tsp. Vanilla extract

Ingredients Topping:

- 5 tbsp. Butter
- 1 cup Cream
- 6 tbsp. Dark brown sugar
- 1/8 tsp. Salt

Ingredients Extra Sauce:

- 3 tbsp. Butter
- 1 1/4 cups Cream
- 3 tbsp. Dark brown sugar
- 1/8 tsp. Salt

Directions:

1. Put the dates in a bowl and cover with 1 c boiling water to soften. Heat the oven to 350 degrees and grease a deep 9x13 inch baking dish.
2. Combine the 3 T of butter, baking soda, a pinch of salt, Sugar in the Raw, 1/3 cup, plus 1 tsp. of brown sugar, eggs, flour, and vanilla in a food processor and pulse until just combined. Add the dates and 1/2 of the water to the mixture and pulse until nearly smooth.
3. Pour the mixture into the baking dish and bake for about 30 minutes (until just firm to the touch).
4. Meanwhile, make the topping. Melt 5 tbsp. butter in a saucepan over medium heat, then slowly add 1 c cream, 6 tbsp. dark brown sugar, and a pinch of salt, whisking constantly until the mixture bubbles gently and comes together. Turn off heat.
5. In another small saucepan over medium heat, make the extra sauce. Melt 3 tbsp. butter, then slowly add 1 1/4 cup cream and 3 tbsp. dark brown sugar with a pinch of salt. Repeat the process above.
6. Preheat broiler. Pour the topping (not the extra sauce) over the cooked pudding and place the whole thing in the broiler until it bubbles and looks sticky (1-2 minutes; watch carefully). To serve, spoon into bowls and cover with the extra sauce. Add a dollop of whipped cream if you want.



Kelli Kelly, Slinger of Produce. Slurper of Dumplings. Person of the Bean.

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Saturday, December 21. 10-6pm
Sunday, December 22 10-4pm



NOTICE OF CHANGE OF DATE OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMISSION, HIGHWAY COMMISSION, & CC COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEETINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to NRS 244.085, the Churchill County Commissioners, Highway Commission, and CC Communications have changed the DATE of their first meeting scheduled in January 2025. The meetings will occur on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 8:15 AM, 1:15 PM, and 1:45 PM respectively at the Churchill County Administrative Complex, 155 N. Taylor Street, Commission Chambers, Fallon, NV.

Pamela D. Moore
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Published in
The Fallon Post
Dec. 20 and 27, 2024
Ad #6274

SUMMONS
CASE NO. 24-10DC-1237

IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CHURCHILL

Lake A. Pressey,
As True and Lawful Owner, Plaintiff,
Vs.
ROBERT LINDEKUGAL, IVA LINDEKUGEL, U.S. BANK TRUST, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust, J & R INVESTMENTS, LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, STEVEN McQUEEN, and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the real property described in the Complaint adverse to the ownership of Plaintiff, or any cloud upon Plaintiff's title thereto.

THE STATE OF NEVADA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 21 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW.

TO THE DEFENDANT: A civil Complaint has been filed by the plaintiff against you for the relief set forth in the Complaint.

The object of said action is to quiet title for one parcel of land in Churchill County (the "Property") commonly known as 300 Mason Road, Hazen, Nevada 89408, APN 009-271-77, and more particularly described as follows:

All that certain real property situated in the County of Churchill, State of Nevada, described as follows: Parcel #2 Robert Lindekugel and Iva Lindekugel Parcel Map, Recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Churchill County on April 18, 2006 File #380820

1. If you wish to defend this lawsuit, you must, within 21 days after this Summons is served on you, exclusive of the day of service, you must do the following:

- a. File with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the Court.
- b. Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below.
- 2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the plaintiff, and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint.
- 3. If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time.
- 4. You are required to serve your response upon plaintiff's attorney, whose address is:

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Dated November 7, 2024
By: Taylor Clark, Deputy Clerk

Published in
The Fallon Post
Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 13 and 20, 2024
Ad #6272

IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE

The Third (3rd) Installment of the 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR taxes will be due and payable on or before January 6, 2025. If not paid on or before January 16, 2025, delinquent charges will be applied in accordance with NRS 361.483. Failure to receive a tax bill does not excuse the taxpayer from the timely payment of taxes in accordance with NRS 361.480. If you have recently refinanced, purchased, paid off your mortgage, moved, or not yet received your property tax bill, please contact the Clerk/Treasurer's office or visit our website at: www.churchillcountynv.gov for current tax information and/or online payment options.

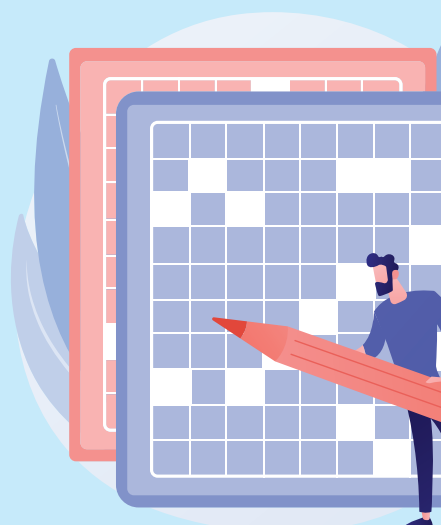
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The Fallon Post
December 20, 2024
Ad #6276

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Crossword found on page 12

ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
CAROLS
CELEBRATE
ELVES
MYRRH
NAUGHTY
NICE
NICHOLAS
REINDEER
REJOICE
SANTA
STAR
STOCKING



MEETINGS
December 23-27, 2024

Merry Christmas

No meetings this week.

WATER LEVELS

Measurements Taken Dec. 17, 2024 at 3:30 a.m.

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Lahontan Reservoir | 123,500 af |
| Carson River Below Lahontan | 1.84 cfs |
| Truckee Canal at Wadsworth | 0.00 cfs |
| Truckee Canal at Hazen | 0.00 cfs |
| Carson River at Ft. Churchill | 121 cfs |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Dec. 16, 2024 | Dec. 16, 2023 | Dec. 16, 2022 |
| 123,201 acre feet | 211,336 acre feet | 24,585 acre feet |

*Cfs - Cubic Feet per Second
Af - Acre Feet
TCID.org & Water Data.USGS.gov*

Send us your sports stories and photos.

admin@thefallonpost.org



FALLON ON ICE

Now Open



**Book Your Birthday Party
or Business Event Today!**

Scan to learn more.



Monday is First Responder Night
Show ID and get in for \$10



Disney Night
Friday, December 27

Join us for this
enchanted evening!

