# THE FALLON POST



KEEPING YOU POSTED ON LOCAL NEWS

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**\$2.00** | The Week of January 24, 2025

# North Maine Ballparks: A Game-Changer for Recreation and Economic Growth

By Rachel Dahl

In a special meeting, Churchill County Commissioners approved a strategic \$700,000 purchase of six acres of vacant land adjacent to the North Maine Street ballpark. According to County Manager Jim Barbee, the acquisition will provide critical space for additional sports facilities and parking.

Barbee said the property had been previously listed at a higher price, but the county put together an offer that the seller accepted. The funding for this project comes from a \$42 million grant awarded to the county through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. The Secretary of Interior recently approved a one-time appropriation of \$10 million for the North Maine project, which will not draw on the county's general fund.

The plan to revitalize the North Maine ball fields will enhance recreational opportunities while driving significant economic growth.

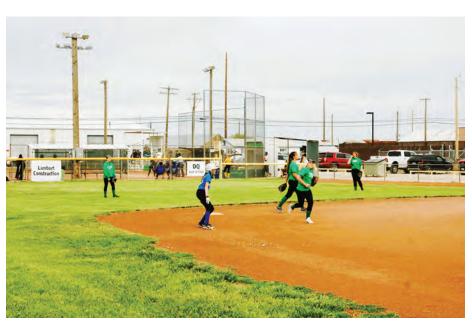
Barbee outlined plans to upgrade the current facilities. The county plans to modernize the parks while preserving the feel of the ballfield's character and history.

#### RENOVATED MAIN FIELD

The pro-league field, which was built in the 1930s, will undergo a complete renovation and include paved parking, a new clubhouse, an updated announcer stand, and a modernized playing field.

#### ADDITIONAL AMENITIES

The upgrades will create a multi-purpose recreational space featuring a splash pad, play areas, barbecue zones, and additional paved parking.



Churchill County Youth Softball Park on N. Maine Street. Photo courtesy of CCYSA.

#### SOFTBALL FIELD ENHANCEMENTS

Three full-size softball fields are planned across Highway 95 to replace the old existing facilities. Each field will include two-story buildings with restrooms, concessions, announcer booths, bleachers, and a nearby children's play area.

Barbee said the upgrades are critical to addressing an increasing population and expanding youth sports leagues, including soccer and softball. "The fields we have now were built for a much smaller community. This investment allows us to accommodate the rapid growth we've seen in youth athletics," he said.

The improvements are also expected to draw regional sports

[ Ballparks continued on page 2 ]



## Casy Duby Found Safe

Photo courtesy of FPD. Staff Report

On Friday, January 17, the Fallon Police Department provided an update on missing 21-year-old Casey Duby, who has been found safe. Casey was last seen on December 29, with Fallon PD requesting public assistance in locating her on January 7. The department expressed their thanks to everyone who shared the missing person alert and assisted in finding her.



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Single copies may be purchased for \$2 at local merchants listed on the back page.

#### FROM THE PUBLISHER

# Captain's Log Hope

By Rachel Dahl

For a few weeks now we've been waiting for a \$24,000 check to show up. Some days, it's \$32,000, just depending on how far over the edge we've fallen. We're real big on the "Fake it 'til you Make It" mindset around this joint.

The girls told me to start the Captain that way today... we joke about it all the time.

Whenever anyone heads out to check the mail, they'll say, "I'm running to pick up the \$24,000 check." If any money is there, they send a picture of it and say, "Well, it isn't the \$24,000 one, but it's better than a kick in the head."

Whenever someone calls for an ad, the office gets giddy. And when someone buys one or twelve or one a month for the rest of the year, we do the happy dance, and the \$24,000 celebration commences. Can you imagine if we ever really got one? What that day would be like?!? (hint, hint).

Some days, we live on the encouragement and the kind words that come in the email or a text or scribbled on a subscription form, "We love your paper; keep it up!"

Sometimes, we are graced with words of wisdom from the wisest of our friends.

"The free press is not the enemy of the people. Censorship is tyranny. Your "small" paper is worthy of the brilliant arguments of old John Milton. Be strong. With hope and respect. I hope we do not hear just so much thunder, but the rain will follow the plow, and you will be strong..."

I studied Milton at the University but still had to look up the reference for a reminder.



Preamble to the Constitution written in rocks on Hwy 50 east of Fallon, 2018. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

He wrote the "Areopagitica" in 1644 after the British Parliament overthrew and beheaded King Charles I. In deference to space, a quick explanation is that he was arguing for free speech against a parliament that wanted to change the law so that all books published would have to be licensed first by the government. He's worth the read, and worth the reminder.

We are all so grateful for the words of encouragement you send – we can live for weeks on words of hope.

Which probably is no way to run a business, and we spend way too much time living on kind words than green Benjamins, but here we still are. Full of hope. Working with our heads down to be worthy of Milton and you.

So, while we keep checking for the \$24,000, we'll be right here...

...Keeping you Posted.

\_\_ Dack

[ Ballparks continued from page 1 ]



Early renderings of N. Maine improvements, courtesy of Churchill County.

tournaments, resulting in a long-term economic boost for the area. Barbee noted that tournaments typically bring visitors who spend money locally on hotels, restaurants, and retail. "A single league tournament can generate \$500,000 to \$700,000 for our local economy," he said. "This project supports our larger goal of promoting economic growth through community-focused initiatives."

### THE NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND WILL SUPPORT:

- Parking Expansion: An estimated 100 parking spaces adjacent to the existing ball fields.
- Additional Softball Fields: Two league-size fields with restrooms, concession stands, and announcer booths.
- Shared Use: The fields will also help alleviate the shortage of practice space for soccer teams in the area.

Barbee outlined a long-term vision for the ballparks, explaining that the upgraded

facilities and newly purchased land positions the community to host larger tournaments comparable to Reno and Fernley.

Barbee pointed to the success of the 3C Event Complex as an example. "We started with a \$2 million annual economic impact. Now, we're approaching \$11 million and aiming for \$15 million. These investments build momentum and strengthen our community," he said.

The board approved the purchase unanimously. "I've always been concerned about our parking," Commissioner Matt Hyde said. "It's always a juggernaut over there, so I think it's a good opportunity for us to gain that parking."

"I've been involved with softball over there for a long time," Commissioner Eric Blakey said. "It is definitely a positive impact for the softball community and the other communities that this will bring to have access to larger fields."

#### **FEATURES**

# Governor Lombardo Highlights Progress, Challenges in 2025 State of the State Address

By Rachel Dahl

Governor Joe Lombardo delivered his 2025 State of the State address in the Assembly Chambers on January 15, focusing on Nevada's progress, challenges, and priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Addressing lawmakers and citizens, Lombardo emphasized fiscal responsibility, education reform, healthcare accessibility, and public safety while highlighting economic growth and new initiatives.

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE

Lombardo touted Nevada's strong economy, citing record-high employment of 1.6 million Nevadans. However, he acknowledged the state's 5.7% unemployment rate, highlighting the need for continued job creation and workforce development.

"Our state is steadily improving," Lombardo said, noting cautious optimism about Nevada's economic stability. His proposed \$12.7 billion executive budget prioritizes fiscal discipline, including a record \$1.3 billion Rainy-Day Fund, ensuring resilience against economic downturns.

Lombardo reaffirmed his commitment to avoiding tax increases on Nevada families, pledging to "hold the line" on government spending while enhancing efficiency and accountability in state agencies.

#### EDUCATION INVESTMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Reflecting on the largest investment in K-12 education in Nevada's history, Lombardo called for heightened accountability to improve student outcomes. His Nevada Accountability in Education Act proposes stricter performance standards for schools and districts, expanded open enrollment policies, and resources for struggling schools.

"No child should be trapped in a failing school because of their ZIP code," Lombardo said, advocating for educational equity and teacher excellence through new incentives.

#### **HEALTHCARE ACCESSIBILITY**

Lombardo unveiled the Nevada Healthcare Access Act to address the state's low provider-to-patient ratios. Key measures include investments in telemedicine, graduate medical education, and a new Nevada Health Authority to manage Medicaid and other services.

The governor emphasized expanding behavioral health services and leveraging state purchasing power to reduce healthcare costs. "Healthcare is more than just a service—it's a lifeline," Lombardo said.

#### ADDRESSING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Lombardo announced the Nevada Housing Attainability Act to combat rising housing costs. The bill aims to streamline permitting, incentivize development, and prioritize local housing projects over out-ofstate investments.

"My administration has fought hard to make land available," Lombardo said, emphasizing partnerships with federal agencies and developers to alleviate housing shortages.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Lombardo introduced the Nevada Safe Streets and Neighborhoods Act, focusing on stricter penalties for repeat offenders and enhanced protections for vulnerable popula-



Governor Joe Lombard delivers 2025 State of the State address. Photo courtesy of National Governor's Association.

tions. The bill addresses issues such as drug trafficking, DUI laws, and cyberstalking.

"Our citizens deserve safer streets and neighborhoods," Lombardo said, building on public safety reforms enacted in 2023.

#### ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

Lombardo outlined plans to modernize Nevada's economic development policies, focusing on clean energy, childcare, and rural infrastructure. He also reaffirmed his commitment to election integrity, proposing voter ID measures and ensuring timely ballot counting.

#### **CLOSING MESSAGE**

Concluding with a call for bipartisanship, Lombardo urged lawmakers to focus on shared goals and avoid partisan divisions. "The voters of Nevada hired us to conduct their business efficiently and ethically," he said.

The 2025 legislative session will tackle critical issues such as housing, healthcare, education, and public safety. Lombardo's vision reflects a balance of fiscal responsibility and proactive governance, aiming to solidify Nevada's future prosperity.



## **Fallon Post Price Increase**

Please be aware our much-touted subscription increase went into effect this week. The cost for a monthly subscription, whether online or in print, will now be \$13.95. Yearly subscriptions, online or printed, will be \$159.95. We made this change with much trepidation, hoping our customer base would bear it. When we went to make the change to our credit card wall, it said the last change was made on November 26, 2020, when we created our subscription feature. This is our first increase.

We will send out emails to our existing customers over the next few weeks as subscriptions renew, reminding subscribers they will need to go online to renew their existing subscriptions. They will not automatically renew because of the price change, and we hope you all will continue to subscribe. (See the updated subscription form on page 3).

We appreciate your continued support of local community news.





#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

# PETS OF THE Adopt med WEEK

#### Meet Spot!



Meet Spot, a sweet and gentle 2-year-old white male cat with a heart full of potential. A little shy and reserved, Spot enjoys observing the world from a quiet, safe place. Behind his timid nature is a tender soul waiting for the right person to help him blossom.

Spot thrives in calm, patient households and would do best as a solo pet or with a gentle, non-dominant companion. With time and understanding, Spot is sure to form a deep bond with his new family.

He is neutered, up to date on vaccinations, and ready to start his new chapter. Could you be the one to give Spot a forever home?

FAWG Fallon Animal Welfare Group 4629 Reno Hwy, Fallon 775-217-4745 For barn cats call Pat 775-217-7248

#### CAPS Animal Spotlight

Star is a 2-yearold Terrier mix who is as sweet as she is energetic! She loves meeting new people and is always excited to make new friends. Star is housetrained and gets along well with other dogs, though she prefers her doggie friends to be just the right match. With her



high energy, Star will need a home that can keep up with her active lifestyle, including a secure yard with a tall fence, as she's quite the jumper. She enjoys exercise and playtime and would thrive in a home where she can burn off that energy. Star is currently in training to learn even more skills to be the best companion she can be.

Churchill Animal Protection Society 5894 Pasture Rd, Fallon 775-423-7500 | capsnevada.org

#### City of Fallon Animal Shelter



Say hi to Hera. This very friendly girl is 8 months old, and while she might be shy at first, she is very cuddly. She shows so much emotion she will be your best friend if you take the time. Hera is good with dogs; however, she has no history with cats. She has minimal leash training but is

coming along. Come in and check Hera out, or give us a call at the Fallon Animal Shelter.

City of Fallon Animal Shelter 1255 Airport Rd, Fallon | 775-423-2282

# Fallon and Fernley Sailors Reenlist in Navy Reserve



Photo courtesy of Lt. Andrew Serafico, U.S. Navy.

Courtesy of Navy Reserve - Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

Construction Mechanic Cyber Warfare Technician 1st Class Vivian Jusino of Fallon and 1st Class Tevarath Jullanant of Fernley and took part in a reenlistment ceremony on Jan. 11, 2025, at Navy Reserve Center (NRC) Fallon. During the event, both Sailors recited the oath of enlistment.

NRC Fallon plays a vital role in Northern Nevada, providing Navy Reserve combat power and ensuring personnel and resources are ready to support U.S. Navy operations around the world.

Fallon and Fernley are extremely proud of Tevarath and Vivian! Thank you for your service to our country and community.

# Movies & More at the Historical Fallon Theatre January 24 & 25

By Kelli Perez



Although there are still two weekends remaining in January, we're already looking ahead to February here at the theatre. On our schedule, we have an exciting Galentine's Concert Evening featuring The Domesticated Man Band on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., followed by a screening of "Mamma Mia!" The next day, Feb. 8, will be our annual "Love Your Theatre" Valentine's Fun Run/Walk 5K fundraiser at 9 a.m.

We look forward to seeing everyone! This weekend, January 24-25, we're continuing with the "Despicable Me" franchise and will show part three at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. In this movie, Gru meets his long-lost, charming, cheerful, and more successful twin brother, Dru, who wants to team up with him for one last criminal heist. "Despicable Me 3" is rated PG with a runtime of 1 hour and 29 minutes.

Showing Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., we have "Twisters," the 2024 stand-alone sequel to the 1996 film "Twister," which starred Helen Hunt.

Kate Carter, played by Daisy Edgar-Jones, is a retired tornado chaser and meteorologist persuaded to return to Oklahoma to work with a new team and technologies. This film is rated PG-13 and has 2 hours and 2 minutes runtime. Both movies are free.

As mentioned above, coming up on Feb. 8, we'll be hosting our annual "Love Your Theatre" Valentine's Fun Run/Walk 5K fundraiser. It will begin on Maine Street in front of the theatre at 9 a.m. Pre-registration prices are \$25 per person and \$40 per couple. Registration information can be found on Facebook or our website, fallontheatre.com. Registration forms can also be picked up at Kent's Supply Center.

In addition to our free movies and fun events, we offer our beautifully refurbished marquee for special event messages. 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.

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### JEFFERSON LEE BICE

September 4, 1960 - January 14, 2025



Jefferson Lee Bice was born September 4, 1960, in Prescott, Arizona, to James Layton Bice and Barbara Lee Heydorn Bice. His family later moved to Cottonwood, Arizona, where he grew up. After high school graduation, Jeff enlisted in the US Navy, training as a Navy Seal and an Intelligence Specialist, specializing in maps and satellite imagery.

On June 5, 1980, he married his high school sweetheart, Janice Marie Layton, in the Ogden LDS Temple. They were blessed with three daughters and a son.

While in the Navy, Jeff traveled all around the world. His family joked that the list of places he had NOT been was shorter than the places he had been. He served in the Navy for 20 years.

In 1996, he was transferred to Fallon, Nevada. He fell in love with Fallon, and he and Jan decided to make it their permanent home. Soon after their arrival, he began attending online classes at the American Intercontinental University. He later received a Bachelor of Business Administration Management Cum Laude.

After retiring from the Navy in 1999, Jeff began working for Lockheed Martin, building flight simulators for the military. He later worked in security for them. He worked for Lockheed Martin for 23 years and fully retired in July 2024.

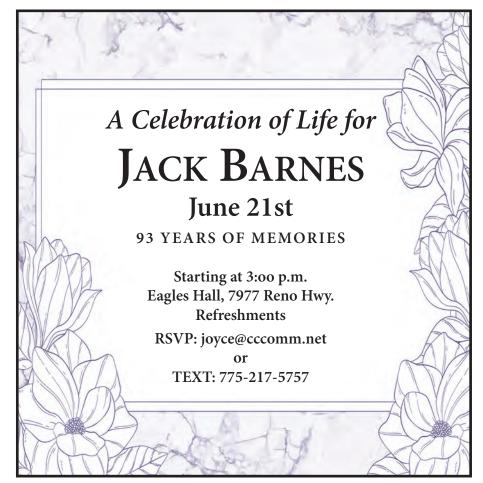
Jeff loved to fish and spent many hours fishing the lakes and rivers of Northern Nevada. He loved hiking, arrowhead hunting, and a good campfire. Through the years, he began Chucker hunting (a bird) with his favorite Springer Spaniel, Katie. He also enjoyed spending time with and bragging about his six grandchildren, who he loved very much. He was a great grandpa!

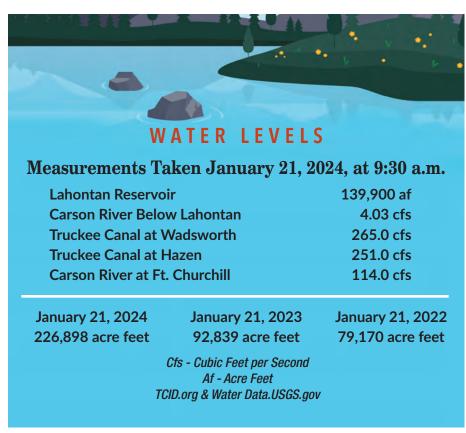
Jeff died on January 14, 2025, after a long battle with liver disease.

Jeff was preceded in death by his youngest daughter, Halycon Marie Bice, and his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Bice; his daughters Carolyne Bolt (Josh) and Jessica Purkhiser (Brad), son Michael Bice (Aubrey); and his six grandchildren, Christoper Kiker, Rebekah Purkhiser, Morgan Purkhiser, Syrena Bice, Korben Bice, and Seth Bolt.

He will be missed.





# MEETINGS January 27-31, 2025

County Meetings 155 N. Taylor Street

Board of Equalization Monday, Jan. 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Coalition for Senior Citizens Monday, Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. Commission Chambers

Planning Commission Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. Commission Chambers





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, January 27

BBQ Pork Riblet

Scalloped Potatoes

Green Beans

WW Bread

Spiced Pineapple

Tuesday, January 28

Stuffed Cabbage

Steamed Carrots

Apple Crisp

WW Bread

Wednesday, January 29
Beef Coney Dog w/Beans
WW Bun
Cheese & Onions
Mixed Veggies
Tator Tots

Thursday, January 30

Cajun Baked Fish
w/Mango Salsa
Red Beans & Rice
Capri Veggies
WW Bread

Peach Cobbler

Friday, January 31
Asian Chicken Salad
Noodle Soup
Mandarin Oranges
Almonds
Fortune Cookie

WW Bread

#### FALLON DAILY BREAD

WOLF CENTER | 457 ESMERALDA AVE., FALLON NV | 775-423-4714 Meals are served Mondays and Thursdays from 5 - 6 p.m.

Monday, January 27

Baked Potato Bar

Salad & Cookies

Thursday, January 30

Chili Mac

Corn Chips

Salad & Dessert

Monday, February 3

Taco Bar

Rice & Salad

**Thursday, February 6** *Rotary Night* 

Volunteer groups
needed to help serve
once per month,
3 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.
Call for information.

#### COMMUNITY

# Be Prepared:

#### How to Protect Yourself and Your Family in Emergencies

By Rachel Dahl

When disaster strikes, being prepared can make all the difference. Recent fires in Los Angeles remind us how quickly lives can change. Whether it's wildfires, earthquakes, or other natural disasters, having essential documents and plans ready can help keep you and your family safe.

Here in rural Nevada, we may not face the same challenges as a big city, but emergencies can happen anywhere. The key is to be ready. To help you prepare, here's a list of important documents and items to gather, store, and protect.

#### WHAT DOCUMENTS DO YOU NEED?

If you had to leave your home quickly, having your vital records in one place could save you time and stress. Make sure to gather the following:

- Birth certificates and passports/visas for everyone in your family.
- Driver's licenses and Social Security cards. Marriage licenses or other legal documents
- like power of attorney and wills.

   Insurance documents, including home, car,
- and health insurance policies.Medical records, glasses prescriptions, and
- health insurance cards.Titles, deeds, and proof of ownership for property and vehicles.

Having these documents scanned and stored in a secure location, such as a thumb drive or the cloud, is a smart move. This ensures you can access them even if the originals are lost or damaged.

#### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Emergencies don't just threaten your safety—they can impact your financial stability, too. Collect these important financial documents:

• At least one recent statement from each



financial account (with account numbers, phone numbers, and addresses).

- Credit card information and backup IDs like student or military identification.
- Tax returns from previous years, especially if you need them for insurance claims.

#### DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS

If you have pets, make sure to include their needs in your emergency plan. Keep their vaccination

records (especially proof of rabies shots) and any important medical information ready.

If you need to board them, these records are often required.

#### DOCUMENT YOUR HOME

One of the most important steps in being prepared is having proof of what you own. Take the time to document your belongings:

- Create a video inventory of your home.
   Open every drawer and closet to record what's inside. Don't forget to include items in your basement, garage, attic, and any artwork.
- Store this video on a thumb drive or cloud storage, so it's safe if your home is damaged.

#### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Having these items ready can make it easier to recover after a disaster. For example, insurance claims often require proof of ownership and damage. If you have to evacuate, having your documents and a plan can reduce stress and help you focus on staying safe.

In addition, Nevada is no stranger to emergencies. From wildfires to earthquakes, being prepared means you won't be caught off guard.

#### WHAT TO DO NEXT

Preparing for a disaster doesn't have to be overwhelming. Start by gathering the items listed here and storing them in a safe place, such as a fireproof box or a cloud account. Talk to your family about your emergency plan, so everyone knows what to do.

Finally, stay informed. Make sure you're signed up for local emergency alerts and keep an eye on weather reports. By taking these steps now, you'll be ready for whatever comes your way.

For more tips on preparing for emergencies, visit www.ready.gov.

#### Median Home Prices Rise Despite Decline in Sales Across Northern Nevada

Staff Report

The Sierra Nevada REALTORS® (SNR) released its December 2024 report on existing home sales in Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Washoe counties, showing shifting dynamics in the region's housing market.

The average median sales price for a single-family home across the five counties reached \$549,000 in December, reflecting continued demand despite a transaction slowdown. While sales of existing single-family homes declined in several counties compared to November, median prices rose in Carson, Churchill, and Washoe counties.

SNR President Robert Bartshe described the current market as a blend of rising prices and declining sales activity. "The December housing market shows mixed trends," Bartshe said. "While sales of existing single-family homes have decreased in most counties, the median sales price has continued to rise, highlighting ongoing demand despite the slight slowdown in transactions. In today's market, where trends can shift rapidly and the process can be complex, consulting a REALTOR® is essential for making informed decisions."



Churchill County single family property sold for \$500,000 in December. Image courtesy of Realtor.com.

#### COUNTY-BY-COUNTY BREAKDOWN Carson City

Carson City recorded 70 sales of existing single-family homes in December, up 6.1% from November and 66.7% compared to December 2023. The median sales price rose to \$567,445, an increase of 4.7% from the previous month and 11.8% year over year. Active inventory dropped to 94 homes, down 30.9% from November and 23% from last year.

#### **Churchill County**

In Churchill County, 12 homes sold in December, marking a 7.7% decline from November and a 33.3% drop from December 2023. The median sales price rose to \$394,950, up 7.6% from November and 8.3% year over year.

#### Douglas County

Douglas County saw 31 sales of existing single-family homes, down 26.2% from

November and 13.9% compared to last year. The median sales price fell to \$660,000, reflecting decreases of 9.5% from the previous month and 9.8% year over year.

#### Lyon County

Lyon County reported 92 sales, including stick-built and manufactured homes, a 4.2% decline from November but a 19.5% increase compared to December 2023. The median sales price for these properties was \$385,000, a slight decrease of 0.6% from November and 3% year over year.

#### Washoe County (Excluding Incline Village)

Washoe County recorded 229 new listings and 349 closed sales in December. The median sales price rose to \$600,000, an increase of 2.8% from November and 6.2% compared to last year. Active inventory decreased to 787 homes, down 20.9% from November but up 22.4% year over year.

#### REGIONAL TRENDS

Overall, the December report reflects a market in transition, with fewer transactions in many counties but rising home prices in several areas. SNR compiles its Northern Nevada Regional Multiple Listing Service data and notes that statistics reflect single-family, stick-built homes unless otherwise specified.

For the most updated information, contact Sierra Nevada REALTORS®



#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# **Ceremony of Protocol for City Officials**



Mayor Tedford and family after swearing in ceremony.



Councilwoman Karla Kent takes the oath of office for her new term on City Council. Photos by Denice Pinder.

Staff Report

Mayor Ken Tedford and Councilwoman Karla Kent took their oaths of office in a ceremony at City Hall before the first City Council meeting of the new year.

Tedford is the 14th mayor of the City of Fallon, which will celebrate 117 years of existence this year. During his brief remarks, Tedford expressed his love for Fallon and recognized several people he has worked with over the last 30 years, including Sen. Robin Titus, Rep. Mark Amodei, and former Gov., now University of Nevada President Brian Sandoval. He noted he has served alongside 14 council members during his tenure.

Tedford also quoted Colossians 3:12, a verse he reads daily: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

Brennan Behimer provided the opening prayer, Summer Stanton sang the national anthem, and Russ Houcks gave the benediction.

# Churchill County Seeks Proposals for Casey Road Property

By Rachel Dahl

Churchill County Commissioners are looking for development proposals for the property at 2255 Casey Road. During their recent meeting, commissioners approved issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to find a developer who can transform the cleared site into something that benefits the local economy.

Joe Sanford, assistant civil deputy district attorney, shared a brief history of the property. The county purchased the land in 2023, when it was occupied by run-down and uninhabitable mobile homes. In 2024, officials sought economic development proposals and entered a purchase agreement with Best Development Group for a hotel project that included cleaning up the site. However, the developer withdrew during the feasibility period, and the county completed the cleanup, removing all dilapidated structures.

The new RFP seeks developers interested in the property west of Walmart. While the county prefers a project such as a hotel or motel, other ideas that align with the community's needs will be considered. Submitted proposals will be reviewed and scored before being presented to the board for approval.

County Manager Jim Barbee noted the property's location could work well with adjacent land. A neighboring 14-acre property is currently for sale, and Barbee said combining parcels could open the door to larger projects. "We now have a much cleaner entrance into our community," he said.

Churchill County Commissioners also held a public hearing to approve the county's water dedication rules. The new ordinance simplifies the requirements and adds and allows for developers to make payments instead of dedicating water rights. Currently, water requirements vary depending on the type of development: rural parcels require 2.0 acre-feet of surface water per parcel; higher-density single-family homes require 1.12 acre-feet of groundwater per residence; and multi-family dwellings require between 0.56 and 1.12 acre-feet of groundwater per residence, depending on density.

These requirements often make larger projects more expensive. The updated rules aim to give developers more flexibility while ensuring the county maintains adequate water resources. Payments made instead of water dedication will go toward acquiring water rights for the county's water bank. "The goal is to streamline the process and give developers more certainty about water availability and costs," Sanford explained.

Commissioners also approved posting an RFP to hire a health

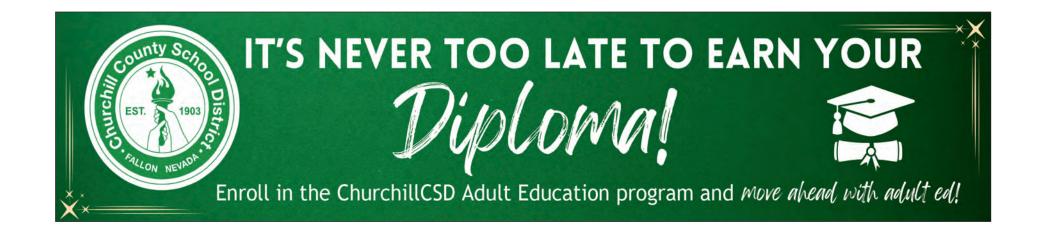


Improved Casey Road property. Photo by Tyler Ethridge.

authority for the Churchill County Adult Detention Facility and Juvenile Detention Facility. The county is seeking qualified or licensed healthcare providers to provide medical care and medication management for individuals in custody at both facilities. The new approach reduces prior requirements, focusing on weekday outpatient services instead of 24/7 on-call availability.

Deputy District Attorney Jeff Weed said the need for a new health authority arose after the departure of the provider at the juvenile detention center and rising concerns about the long-term availability of the current physician for adult detainees. The county hopes to control costs while meeting medical needs by scaling back the scope of services. Similar contracts last year ranged from \$600,000 to \$754,000 annually.

Proposals will be reviewed in the coming months, with a decision expected by April. The contract will initially run for one year with automatic renewal unless terminated or renegotiated.



#### CHURCHILL COUNTY COURTS

## **Tenth Judicial District Court**

Tuesday, January 14, Judge Thomas Stockard Presiding

By Teresa Moon

*Tad Fredrick Mergener* pleaded guilty to the Category C Felony of Grand Larceny of a Motor Vehicle, punishable by 1-5 years in the Nevada State Prison and a fine up to \$10,000.

Churchill County Alternate Public Defender (APD) Wright Noel outlined the negotiated plea agreement, requiring Mergener to pay a \$2,000 fine. The state agreed to reduce the charge to Gross Misdemeanor Attempt to Commit Grand Larceny of a Vehicle. Sentencing was set for March 25.

Lester Leigh Johnson appeared for sentencing on the Category D Felony of DUI, a Third or Subsequent Offense, to which he pleaded guilty in September.

Churchill County Public Defender (CCPD) Jacob Sommer noted that the Diversion Program was unavailable when Johnson was sentenced to a previous DUI in 1993. He emphasized his client's education, including a Stanford University degree. PD Sommer argued for treatment over imprisonment or the minimum sentence allowed by statute if the court denied diversion.

Johnson expressed gratitude for a continuance granted to address family matters before sentencing. Judge Stockard imposed a fine of \$2,000 and sentenced Johnson to 12-32 months in prison. He was remanded to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff.

Travis Reed Johnson admitted to the Non-Technical Sentencing Violation of failing to enter and complete the Western Regional Court Program.

Deputy District Attorney (DDA) Priscilla Baker cited multiple failures, including missed testing and program participation, saying, "He said it isn't his fault that New Frontier Treatment Center didn't do their job and he didn't learn anything from the program." She argued for probation revocation, stating, "The State gives an opportunity to address his issue, and he throws that opportunity back in the court's face."

CCPD Sommer acknowledged his client's actions. "He has come further than I could have thought," said Sommer, "It's important to note that Mr. Johnson did not commit any new crimes, and made positive progress during his time in the program," referring to Johnson's stable housing and employment. He asked for probation for his client, also citing Johnson's sobriety and clean drug tests.

Judge Stockard provisionally readmitted Johnson to the Western Regional Specialty Court program and continued the Violation Hearing to February 4.

Nicholas Wesley Neal, in custody, pleaded guilty to the Wobbler charge of Attempt to Commit Burglary of a Business. The charge is

punishable as a Category D Felony with 1-4 years in prison or as a Gross Misdemeanor with up to 364 days in jail.

Senior Deputy District Attorney (SDDA) Chelsea Sanford summarized the case and argued against probation. She reported that the defendant entered Wal-Mart with an accomplice, picked up a trash can, put other items in the trash can, and walked out without paying. "Unfortunately, we have an individual who has a criminal history, and he has an appearance of not correcting his behavior." She told the court that probation was revoked all four times it was granted.

APD Noel requested sentencing as a Gross Misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of 364 days. Neal told the court that he gave up when he lost his fiancé and his unborn son; "Did that give me an excuse to do what I did? No." He asked for mercy, explaining he had found stable housing and was working to improve his life.

Judge Stockard sentenced Neal to 14-48 months in prison and ordered \$317.16 restitution. Neal was remanded to the sheriff's custody for imposition of his sentence.

Sabrina Marie Ortiz, custody, pleaded guilty to the Category B Felony of Possession of a Firearm by a Person Convicted of Domestic Battery, punishable by 1-6 years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000. Judge Stockard reinstated Ortiz's release on her own recognizance (OR) with conditions, including daily testing, obtaining a substance abuse evaluation, and no contact with Tomas Tijerino. Sentencing was set for March 25.

Torie Rae Turner, in custody, Torie Rae Turner appeared for sentencing on the Category C Felony of Abuse, Neglect, or Endangerment of a Child with a prior Felony of the same. DDA Baker detailed Turner's repeated endangerment of children and argued against probation, requesting a sentence of 24-60 months.

Turner expressed remorse and asked for probation or a concurrent sentence. Judge Stockard sentenced Turner to 12-60 months, consecutive to her current sentence. She was remanded to the custody of the sheriff for imposition of sentence.

Two cases were referred for competency review. The cases will move forward if the defendants are deemed competent. If not, physicians will work with the defendants in an effort to treat them to competency.

#### CONTINUANCES

- Rachel Nicole Brown arraignment continued to February 4.
- *Miguel Angel Aguayo-Rodriguez* arraignment continued to January 21.
- Joshua William McEvers Sentencing Violation Hearing continued to January 21.

### Competency Evaluation Ordered by Lyon Co District Court in Fernley Stabbing Case

By Robert Perea and Leanna Lehman

A Lyon County District Court judge ordered a competency evaluation for Adam Elijah Miller on January 13. The 19-year-old allegedly attacked his parents with a knife in their home on Farm District Rd on December 18

Miller's father, Lance Miller, died of his wounds, and his mother, Elizabeth Miller, was seriously injured in the incident. Miller is facing charges of Open Murder with the Use of a Deadly Weapon, a Category A Felony, punishable by 20-50 years to life in prison, with or without the possibility of parole, and could even call for the death penalty. He is also accused of Attempted Murder with the Use of a Deadly Weapon, a

Category B Felony punishable by 2 to 20 years. Other charges include Concealing Evidence and Domestic Battery.

The initial order came from Fernley's Canal Justice Court Judge Lori Matheus on December 31, after Patrick Mansfield, Esq., the attorney appointed to represent Miller, requested the case be waived up to the District Court so that Miller could be assessed.

At the January 13 hearing, the court ordered a competency evaluation and an early March status hearing to review the findings. In Nevada, legal competency standards require that defendants understand the charges and the legal process before them, and can effectively participate in their defense.

Competency evaluations are not uncommon in murder cases to ensure defendants are fit to stand trial. If found competent, Miller's case will return to Fernley Justice Court, where it originated, before officially transferring to the Third Judicial District Court until concluded.

If Miller is not initially determined competent, professional staff at Lake's Crossing in Reno will work to treat him to a level of competency as established by NRS. Lake's Crossing is a Nevada State maximum-security psychiatric facility that provides forensic mental health services. This process often takes months or longer. In some cases, individuals cannot meet competency requirements and remain under the care of treating physicians indefinitely.

### **Daniel Munoz Murder Case Continued to March**

By Leanna Lehman

Daniel Lee Munoz, 71, appeared in Reno Justice Court Jan. 15, on charges of Open Murder. During the Mandatory Status Conference, Munoz appeared with retained attorney Orrin Johnson, who requested a 45-day continuance to allow time to review discovery documents.

Johnson informed Judge Kendra Bertschy that the defense would likely be requesting a bail hearing to address his client's custodial status prior to the next hearing. Munoz is currently in custody at Washoe County jail with bail of \$5 million, reduced from \$10 million.

Should Munoz post bail, he is ordered to have no contact with his minor children until a court reaches a decision regarding those issues. He must surrender his passport and consent, to GPS monitoring prior to release. Further, he may not possess any weapons or firearms.

Munoz, long time Fallon resident, is accused of killing his 40-year-old wife at their Reno home, and burying her body in the yard of their Fallon residence on Rio Drive. He is next scheduled to appear March 5 at 1:30 in Reno Justice Court.



Munoz during his Jan 15 hearing. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

#### BUSINESS

# Promega Feed:

### Advancing Natural Nutrition for Livestock

By Nancy Chapman

Paul Plouviez, founder of Promega Feed, along with Shizuko Shimada, has purchased Bench Creek Ranch to further their goal of raising the highest-quality natural beef on the American market. Seeking a healthier way to feed cattle without synthetic additives, Plouviez and ranch manager Sarah Porter have collaborated with nutritionists Stephen E. Duren, M.S., PAS, Ph.D., an expert in equine nutrition and exercise physiology, and Jonathan Beckett, M.S., specializing in endocrinology, to develop a proprietary feed for their beef program.

Promega, derived from "Pro" (professional) and "mega" (omega), is a high-quality flaxseed product rich in omega-3 fatty acids. The feed blends peas, rice, and flax processed through a seven-step extrusion method to ensure maximum digestibility. The result is a product free of chemical additives, artificial colors, and hormones, making it a non-GMO and gluten-free option. Promega feeds contribute to better animal health, sustainable agriculture, a food chain enriched with natural omega-3, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.



L-R Sarah Porter, Bench Creek Ranch Manager, Ocean Plouviez, Paul Plouviez, Founder Promega Feed and owner Bench Creek Ranch, Shizuko Shimada, co-owner Promega Feed and Bench Creek Ranch, George and Jaimet Gonzales. Photo by Sarah Porter.

is non-GMO and gluten-free, with sugars and starches removed during processing. It is suitable for all classes of horses and promotes healthier diets for equine, similar to the benefits humans experience when reducing sugars and starches.

For poultry, Flax Extra serves as a complete feed, enhancing health and productivity. Benefits include omega-3 enriched eggs, reduced cholesterol, stronger eggshells, improved immune function, enhanced feather growth, and decreased dust mites.

#### LOCAL MANUFACTURING AND AVAILABILITY

Promega products are manufactured and produced locally in Fallon, Nevada, and are available at Fallon Big R and other Big R stores, Abe's Hay, as well as online at Amazon, Walmart.com, and Chewy.

For more information, visit the Facebook group Promega Feed, PromegaFeed.com, or contact: Paul Plouviez, owner 818-519-4172 or Sarah Porter, ranch manager 775-217-5425.



#### THE SEVEN-STEP PROCESS

Promega's unique extrusion process ensures the highest-quality feed supplements. The steps include:

- 1. Flax Selection: The finest flaxseeds, sourced directly from growers, are chosen for their consistency and high levels of
- omega-3 fatty acids.
  2. Proprietary Formulation: Ingredients are measured to exacting standards, optimized for the specific needs of the animals.
- 3. Mixing: Ingredients are blended to ensure each batch is nutritionally consistent.
- 4. Grinding: Raw ingredients are ground to achieve uniform size and texture.
- 5. Steaming and Extrusion: The blend is steamed under high pressure to eliminate impurities and remove linseed oil, a known equine allergen. This step enhances digestibility for both ruminant and monogastric animals.
- 6. Drying and Cooling: The feed is thoroughly dried and cooled in a controlled environment to maintain consistent quality and improve shelf life.
- 7. Packaging: The final product is packed into 25-pound pails, 50-pound bags, or 250-pound bulk bags to ensure freshness and quality.

This process results in a feed rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which Bench Creek Ranch utilizes for its own operations. The ranch also markets the feed to other livestock owners for use with chickens, cows, goats, horses, hogs, rabbits, sheep, and fish.

#### PROVEN BENEFITS

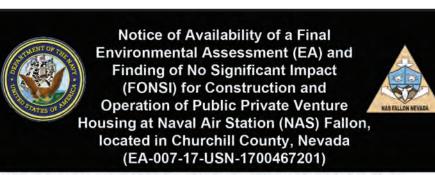
Studies have demonstrated significant benefits from incorporating Promega Flax Extra into livestock diets:

- Beef Cattle: Adding Flax Extra to finishing rations for 30–60 days has resulted in daily weight gains of 4–6 pounds, improved marbling, and higher-quality beef at harvest.
- Dairy Cattle: Feeding Flax Extra has increased fat content and production in milk.

Promega and Bench Creek Ranch have sponsored several 4-H and FFA animals for the 2025 Churchill County Junior Livestock Show in April.

#### EQUINE AND POULTRY BENEFITS

Promega Flax Equine Supplement provides advantages such as reduced inflammation, improved joint health, enhanced sperm quality, and improved airway function. The supplement



Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) NEPA regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and Chief of Naval Operations Manual-5090.1, the Navy gives notice that a Final EA and FONSI have been prepared for the proposed construction and operation of Public Private Venture (PPV) Housing at NAS Fallon, located in Churchill County, Nevada. The Navy proposes to amend existing agreements with San Diego Family Housing, Limited Liability Company (SDFH), to include the leasing of additional Government land from the Navy into the SDFH leasehold, as well as construction, operation, and maintenance of 172 new PPV privatized military family housing units at NAS Fallon. The Proposed Action would address the lack of housing for active-duty military members assigned to NAS Fallon and their families by providing new housing units. The proposed PPV housing development would be located on undeveloped NAS Fallon property north of existing PPV housing and along Pasture Road. The site location is adjacent to the NAS Fallon Child Development Center, approximately 600 feet west from the NAS Fallon main gate on Churchill Avenue.

Interested parties may review the Final EA and FONSI at the local library (Churchill County Library, 553 S Maine St, Fallon, NV 89406) and on the Navy Region Southwest website at:

https://cnrsw.cnic.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Environmental-Support/Public-Information-Access-to-Navy-Projects/NASF-Environmental-Assessment-PPV-Housing/.

In addition, a copy can be requested by contacting Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest:

- Via email: amanda.t.peyton.civ@us.navy.mil
- Via mail: Attn: Amanda Peyton
   Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest
   750 Pacific Highway (12th Floor, Environmental)
   San Diego, California 92132-5190

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#### **EDUCATION**

# CCSD Cool School News

Compiled by Kaitlin Ritchie with photos courtesy of CCSD.



Jenny Mitchell's class showing off their New Year crowns after goal setting.

#### **CCHS**

ACT prep sessions are in full swing at CCHS, with 59 students attending last week's math sessions led by teacher Jake Lewis. Vice Principal Reema Pulifser noted the high turnout. Each week, different teachers focus on specific subjects to prepare students for the ACT on February 25. This year, the ACT will be administered on paper, returning to the traditional format at students' request. "We highly recommend that our students take advantage of every opportunity offered to help them reach their goals," Pulifser said. Prep sessions are held Wednesdays and Thursdays during seminar or from 12-12:30 for those without scheduled classes.

#### CCMS

of the Week.





Last week, CCMS recognized office secretary Brittany Pimental and CTE teacher Frank Whitten for their outstanding contributions. Pimental, described as "like sunshine." "Brittany is so welcoming and positive with all the staff, students, and parents," said one staff member. Students commended

Whitten for always supporting their success. Both staff members exemplify the CCMS spirit, creating a great environment for learning and growth.

#### NUMA

Tricia Strasdin's 5th-grade class studied ecosystems by classifying organisms as producers, consumers, or decomposers. Students explored energy flow and examined Nevada's unique food webs, gaining a better understanding of local plants and animals.

#### E.C. BEST

Jenny Mitchell's 2nd-grade class tackled MAPS testing last week after setting personal and academic goals for 2025. Students aimed to improve reading, math, and more. "I really think this helped them mentally prepare for their MAPS testing. Goal-setting got them focused and excited," Mitchell said, noting her class's improved MAPS scores.

#### LAHONTAN

Jill Ackerman's kindergarten class read Sneezy the Snowman to practice sequencing, retelling, and cause and effect. Students also



Jace Hawkins, Leon Clements, Allison Hail, and Cloud Rosario show off their melted snowman craft project.

worked on addition and enjoyed sensory play. "We snuck snowmen into everything we did. We even got to craft a fun melted snowman and made pretend snow for fun sensory play to end the week," Ackerman said.

# Veritas Bids Farewell to Beloved Educator Kim Jung

By David Ernst

Fallon will bid farewell to one of its most esteemed longtime educators at the end of this school year. Kim Jung, a teacher for the past 28 years, has dedicated 25 of those years to Classical Christian schools in Fallon. Mrs. Jung also spent three years teaching secondary education in Lander County and four years homeschooling, but most of her career has been devoted to teaching kindergarten.

Over the years, Mrs. Jung has built a local reputation for maintaining exceptionally high standards and inspiring excellence in her young students. New parents were often surprised to see letter grades on their children's penmanship and coloring worksheets each fall. Even in something as basic as coloring, students were taught to be neat and thorough and to perform their best work to the glory of God. Her

rigorous expectations often led to remarkable transformations: 5- and 6-year-old students would rise to the challenge, learning to color within the lines and produce letters and numbers that rivaled the legibility of middle schoolers.



Mrs. Jung and Ms. Kelsey. Photo courtesy of Veritas.

Mrs. Jung has greatly enjoyed her time at Veritas. While she could have chosen a career in public education, she has a deep appreciation for the Classical Christian model of education. "Classical Christian education produces people, not just busy kids," says Jung, who plans to retire in Idaho, where she looks forward to learning fly fishing.

Although the Fallon community and Veritas will miss her dearly, the school is fortunate to have Ms. Jessica Kelsey stepping into the role. Ms. Kelsey brings nine years of experience teaching kindergarten and second grade, including five years in public education and three years at Fresno Christian Schools. After relocating to the area last year, she taught second grade at Veritas and is passionate about teaching young children. She recognizes that kindergarten is pivotal when students decide

whether they "like school or not." With her fun and energetic demeanor, Ms. Kelsey embraces the joy and inquisitiveness of her young students.

Open enrollment for Veritas begins Monday, March 3, at 8 a.m. For more information about Classical Christian education at Veritas, visit www.veritasfallon.org.

### Logos Encourages Character Development Through Service



Story and photos by LCA

At Logos Christian Academy, character development is as important as academic achievement. The school offers students a variety of opportunities to serve others, helping them grow in responsibility and compassion.

One of the ways students get involved is through Take-Out Thursday, where seventh and eighth graders serve lunch to their classmates. This weekly tradition not only gives older students the chance to help but also allows them to spend time with their younger peers, building a sense of community across grade levels.

"We love that classical education prepares our students for real life by teaching them the value of service," said a school representative. "After lunch, everyone pitches in to clean the lunchroom, from wiping down tables to sweeping the floor."

At Logos, students are encouraged to develop strong character inside and outside the classroom. The school is proud of how dedicated each student is—not only to their studies but also to making a positive impact on those around them. As Matthew 20:28 reminds us, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve."

# SPORTS ROUND UP

# 3C Gets Ready to Rumble

NIAA Wrestling Event Feb. 7-8 Expected to Draw Over 2,000 Attendees

By Leanna Lehman

The Rafter 3C Arena is gearing up for the NIAA State Wrestling Championships on Feb. 7-8. The two-day event is expected to host 504 wrestlers and draw more than 2,000 people as families cheer on their student-athletes.

According to Jesse Segura, Rafter 3C Events Complex operation deputy, the 2A, 3A, and 5A Divisions, along with the Nevada Girls Wrestling Division, will compete. The Nevada 4A Division state championships will be held at Western High School in Las Vegas, as there are no 4A teams in Northern Nevada.

Not only will top-performing high school wrestlers have an opportunity to test their skills, but Fallon restaurants, hotels, and merchants can expect to see a substantial boost in business during the traditionally slower post-holiday season.

Wrestling fans, don't forget the Greenwave Rural Rumble



Wrestling Tournament is also coming to 3C on Jan. 24-26. For more information, contact the Rafter 3C Arena at 775-423-7733 or visit rafter3carena.org.

## **CCHS** Wrestlers Recognized



Matthew Bird. Photo by Dr. Sue Segura.



Tyson Wilson



Tommie Fitzer



Rio Segura

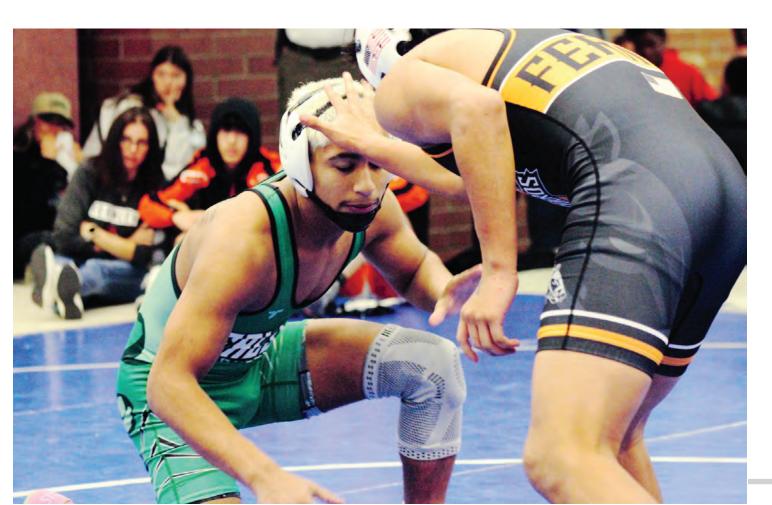


Staff Report

Several Churchill County High School wrestlers have delivered strong performances over the past few weeks, excelling in multiple competitive events. Here are your last *four wrestlers of the week:* 

- Matthew Bird: Earned an outstanding performance at the Lovelock Mustangs Tournament.
- Tyson Wilson: Competed impressively at the Rollie Lane Invitational at the Ford Idaho Center in
- Rio Segura: Battled through a tough match at the McQueen Wrestling Multi-Teams event. • Tommie Fitzer: Secured a second-place finish at the Sparks Invitational.

Great job, Matt. Tyson, Rio, Tommie, and all the dedicated CCHS wrestlers!



Congratulations to wrestlers that placed at the Spring Creek Invitational last weekend: Manny Barrios, Evan Mackuliak, Lonnie Adams, Carson Melendy, and Tommie Fitzer. Way to go Greenwave!

Photo courtesy of Greenwave Westling.

#### COLUMNS

# Postcards

#### John Mason and his Desert Cross

By Michon Mackedon

On the evening of Friday, January 24, 2025, beginning at 6.p.m., the Churchill Arts Council will celebrate a remarkable event. The "Desert Cross" (sometimes called the "Fallon Cross"), a work of international importance created by ceramic artist John Mason, will be officially repatriated to its home in the Oats Park Art Center. The work was one of many works of art removed from the Center in a stealthy and puzzling operation which took place over Memorial Day weekend 2023. A lawsuit has been filed against Michael Scott, former Director of the Churchill Arts Council, seeking damages pertaining to the removal of the art works. After its removal from the Arts Center, Mason's "Desert Cross" was given by Scott to the Lilley Museum of Art at the University of Nevada Reno. The Museum has since returned the work, with the approval of the Nevada Board of Regents, to the City of Fallon for reinstallation in the Oats Park Art Center.

The event has been carefully planned to commemorate the importance of the "Desert Cross" and its creator and to highlight the connection of artist and artwork to Fallon. Mason was raised in Hazen, Nevada, and began his serious pursuit of art at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, California, eventually becoming one of the most significant and influential ceramic artists of the Twentieth Century. Joining the Arts Council to honor Mason will be John Mason's widow, Vernita Mason; Getty Research Center Deputy Director, Andrew Perchuk; University of Nevada Reno President, Brian Sandoval; and Fallon Mayor, Ken Tedford. The public is invited.

John Mason's niece, Andrea Getto Caldwell submitted the following essay about her uncle, John Mason:

Alva John Henry Mason was a transformative artist who changed the perception of ceramics from craft to fine art throughout the world and yet his early beginnings were based here in Churchill County. Uniquely, he spent the majority of his childhood on a dairy farm in Hazen, Nevada where he was schooled in a two-room schoolhouse. As one travels the highway to Reno from Fallon, note the Mason Road sign just west of the Hazen Store, where at the end of that lane, is the location of his upbringing. John was born in Madrid, Nebraska to AJ Henry and Florence Brown Henry. When their marriage ended early, his mother came to Hazen to join her sister in Nevada. She subsequently married Albert Mason, who adopted John, and he and his sister Barbara were then raised in the rural farming environment within the close community of Hazen. John contracted rheumatic fever in his teens which deterred his attendance of high school but upon graduation he moved to Pasadena, California to begin his pursuit of what became a lifelong devotion to art. The Otis Art Institute was the beginning of the birthing foundation of his inspirations. There he met his later collaborator, Peter *Voulkos, as they both found clay to be an* inspiring medium. They opened a studio in Los Angeles where a giant kiln was built to fire their large sculptures. His abstract creations gained height and breadth, once freed from the earlier confines of space and which led to an amazing time of production. The Red X and the Blue Wall were created in this studio. John had a structured approach to his

creativity which involved mathematic calculations and architectural applications in his mockups prior to constructing his stunning pieces. He began to amass a following as his artwork was displayed in many world-famous museums and galleries. John, although only attaining a high school diploma at any graduate level, went on to instruct at UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, Pomona College all in California and Hunter College in New York. Although he walked amongst the world's finest artists and was recognized as a pioneering innovator, John remained the humble and quiet man to the end of life, motivating and inspiring legions of aspiring artists by his amazing ability to deflect questions to him back to the inquirer to answer, always with a twinkle in his eye. John never forgot his early beginnings and in the mid-60s, he created and donated an astounding sculpture he deemed the Desert Cross. It was originally installed at the Churchill Public Library and then moved to the Oats Park Art Center. The Cross recently received negative attention when it was removed from the Center without authorization. After long and involved negotiations with *University of Nevada, the sculpture was re*cently returned to its rightful home in Fallon, Nevada as John wished for it to be.

The world lost John Mason on January 20, 2019. He is survived by his widow Vernita and two adult children Jarilyn and Stuart and grandson Ibn, as well as legions of Mason-inspired artists.

If you drive by the Fallon Theater, please look up at the marquee. The "Desert Cross" is in lights. And please, send your Postcards (stories, essays, ideas, etc.) to mackedon@phonewave.net

### What's Cooking in Kelli's Kitchen - Sheet Pan Solutions

By Kelli Kelly

It's the calm before the storm in Kelli's Kitchen, and in preparation for a months-long whirlwind, I am taking time to stockpile easy, one-dish recipes to keep my body nourished and my brain at peak performance. In addition to the demands of a full-time job that I am very invested in, I have two days before I start grad school, and the legislative session is a mere two weeks away. We can't forget the occasional side gig making food at the Churchill Arts Council and the kickoff of the golf fundraising season. My schedule is starting to look ridiculous. Taking time to plan now is necessary to ensure I don't eat take-out every night!

A few years ago, I described a strategy for quick and easy dinners called "The Sheet Pan Solution." This dinner preparation tactic should be in your box of culinary tricks—various ingredients are combined, seasoned, and roasted together on a sheet pan, then finished with a complimentary sauce or garnish. What could be easier? Add a foil or parchment pan liner to simplify after-dinner cleanup. Here are some new ideas for simple yet delicious sheet-pan dinners.

#### Sheet-Pan Sausages with Brussels Sprouts and Honey Mustard

By Ali Slagle

Ingredients:

1 lb. Sweet Italian sausage

1 lb. Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved lengthwise

1 lb. Small potatoes, cut in half2 tbsp. Extra virgin olive oilKosher salt and black pepper

4 tsp. Honey 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard

1 tbsp. Yellow mustard seeds1/4 cup Almonds or walnuts, chopped (optional)

#### Directions:

- 1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees fahrenheit, and place a sheet pan in the oven. Score the sausages in a few places on both sides, making sure not to cut all the way through. Transfer to a large bowl with the brussels sprouts, potatoes, and 2 tbsp. of olive oil, and stir until coated. If the mixture seems dry, add a little more oil. Season with salt and pepper.
- 2. Spread the mixture evenly over the pre-heated sheet pan, and arrange the vegetables cut-sides down. Roast 15 minutes, until the brussels sprouts and potatoes start to soften. The sausages will not be cooked through yet.
- 3. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, stir together the honey, mustard, and mustard seeds.
- 4. Drizzle the honey mustard over the sausages and vegetables, and toss or shake to coat. Flip the sausages. Sprinkle with nuts, if using. Roast until the sausages are cooked through and the vegetables are golden and tender, another 10 minutes or so. Season to taste with salt and pepper.



Sheet-pan Chicken with Potatoes, Arugula and Garlic Yogurt
By Melissa Clark

#### Ingredients:

1 1/2 lb. Chicken thighs Small potatoes 1 1/4 lb. (gold, red, white) halved and cut into 1/2 inch slices 1 tbsp. Kosher salt 1 tsp. Black pepper 2 tbsp. Sriracha 1/2 tsp. Cumin 4 1/2 tbsp. Extra virgin olive oil

Leeks, white and light green parts only, halved

lengthwise and thinly sliced
Lemon, zested
1/3 cup Plain yogurt (not Greek)

1 Garlic clove
2 oz. Baby arugula
Chopped fresh dill
Lemon juice, as needed



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

#### Directions:

- 1. Combine chicken and potatoes in a large bowl. Season with salt and pepper. In a small bowl, whisk together harissa, cumin, and 3 tbsp. olive oil. Pour over the chicken and potatoes and toss to combine. Let sit at room temperature for 30 minutes or refrigerate for up to 8 hours.
- 2. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, combine leeks, lemon zest, a pinch of salt, and the remaining olive oil.
- 3. Heat oven to 425 degrees fahrenheit. Arrange chicken and potatoes on a large-rimmed baking sheet in a single layer. Roast for 15 minutes. Toss the potatoes lightly.
- 4. Scatter leeks over the pan. Roast until chicken and potatoes are cooked through and everything is golden and slightly crisped, 25-30 more minutes.
- 5. While the chicken cooks, place yogurt in a small bowl. Grate garlic over the yogurt and season with salt and pepper.
- 6. To serve, spoon yogurt over chicken and vegetables in the pan. Scatter arugula and dill over the mixture. Drizzle with oil and lemon juice and serve.

#### COLUMNS

### Allison's Book Report

# "The Cheat Sheet" by Sarah Adams

Sundays were made for football. We are huge football fans in our house; I love nothing more than hanging out with my family, making snacks, and cheering on our favorite teams. Every year at this time, I get a little bit sad that soon the season will be over and we will not see football again until fall. If you're a football fan like me, just trying to such the last few drops out of the season, and also love a friends-to-lovers/fake dating rom-com, "The Cheat Sheet" by Sarah Adams has everything you need to extend the season.

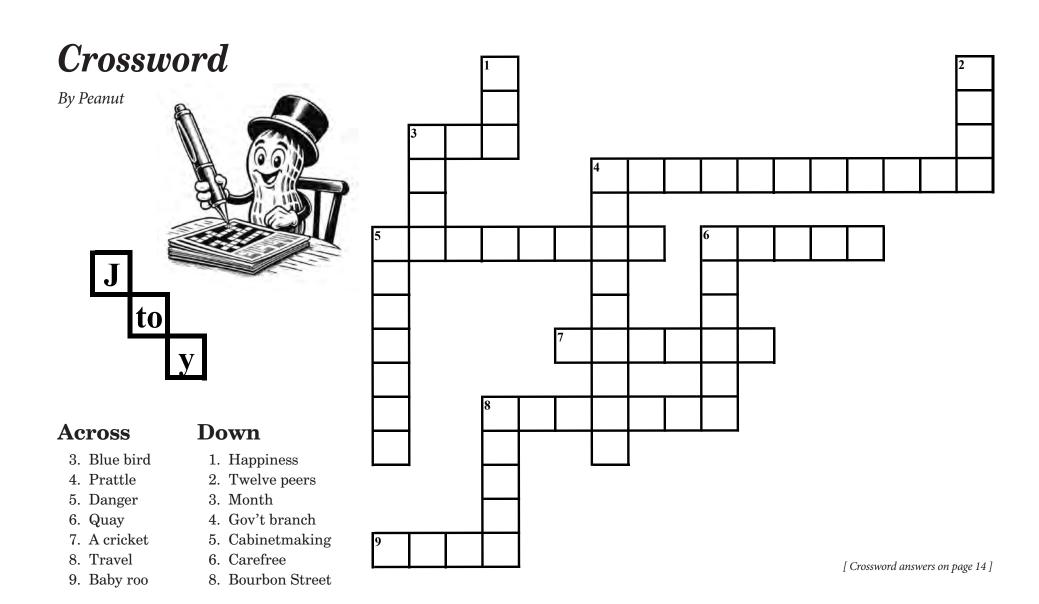
Bree Camden is hopelessly in love with her longtime best friend, Nathan Donelson, who happens to be an extremely hot NFL football legend. Secretly, Bree doesn't want the friend zone to be the end zone of their relationship, but she can't admit her true feelings because he clearly sees her as a best friend with no romantic potential whatsoever. Bree would never want to ruin their relationship- but those abs... Nope! Bree must keep up their good old-fashioned, no-touching-the-sexiest-man-alive, platonic relationship. She has other things to worry about anyway – after a car accident ended her career as a professional ballerina, Bree opened her own dance studio. She dreams of expanding, but one more rent increase would be the end of the studio entirely. As he tends to do, Nathan comes to the rescue and buys the entire building. Stubborn Bree is not happy about it, and she shows her displeasure with a couple (okay - more than a couple) of tequila shots, compelling her to spill her deepest, darkest secret to a TMZ reporter. One viral video later, the world thinks that Nathan and Bree are a perfect couple. Before they can really discuss her accidental confession, Nathan's publicist proposes a big opportunity that could mean financial security for Bree: They just have to pretend to be in love for three whole weeks. Bree has been hiding these feelings for Nathan for so long – is it her imagination, or does Nathan seem to be enjoying it?

"The Cheat Sheet" is a super fun and sexy rom-com for football fans and romance readers alike. If you have followed along with the Taylor Swift/Travis Kelce saga with bated breath (it's okay – me too) this book will be a surefire win for you. I am such a sucker for a fake dating trope, and this one delivers.



Alright, football fans – grab a bag of chips and your copy of "The Cheat Sheet," cuddle up on the couch, and get ready for the last few games of the season – and when you're done reading, don't forget to pop over to my Instagram @allison.the.reader, and let's talk about football, snacks, and books!

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.





#### LEGAL ADS



#### PETITION FOR ADULT NAME CHANGE

In and for the 11th District Court of Nevada, Pershing County, Case #27FC-NMC-2024-0297

In the matter of the application of TONISHIA RENEE MARTINSON-BELAND for Change of Name. Petitioner was born on March 3, 1992 in Fremont, California.

Petitioner has resided in Pershing County, Nevada since February is 1, 2015 and intends to live in Pershing County, Nevada indefinitely.

Petitioner's current legal name is Tonishia Renee Martinson-Beland. Petitioner wishes to take a different name. The new name Petitioner would like to take is TONISHIA AANG MINARD.

Petitioner is not requesting this name change to defraud creditors or for some other fraudulent reason.

Dated this 14th day of January, 2025.
/s/Tonishia Martinson-Beland
Lovelock, Nevada.

Published in The Fallon Post and The Pershing Post January 24 & 31, 2025 Ad #6285 Case Number 24-10DC-1420

# NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO CONSTRUE GENERAL DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

In The Tenth Judicial District Court in and for of the State of Nevada in and for the County of Churchill, in the matter of the Petition to Construe the Power of Attorney of VIRGINIA ELIZABETH AUSTIN (principal), and PAUL R. YOUNG (Agent), Petitioner.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 3rd day of February 2025, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. in the Tenth Judicial District Court, 73 North Maine Street, Fallon, Nevada 89406, a hearing on a petition in the above-captioned matter, will be conducted to construe the General Durable Power of Attorney of VIRGINIA ELIZABETH AUSTIN (Principal) and Paul R. Young (Agent). Any person interested may, on or before the day fixed for the hearing, answer the petition. Failure to answer the petition shall be deemed to be an admission of the material allegations thereof.

DATED: This 31st day of December 2024.

Taylor Clark, Clerk of the Court Rusty D. Jardine, Esq. 824 Timothy Way Fallon, Nevada 89406 775-666-9026 Rustyjardine1930@gmail.com

Published in *The Fallon Post* January 10, 17, and 24, 2025 Ad #6281

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Churchill County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on February 6, 2025, at 8:15 AM, to be held in the Commission Chambers, County Administration Building, 155 North Taylor Street, Suite 145, Fallon, Nevada, on the following matter: A Nuisance Complaint filed by Dave Strasdin against the Estates of James Mackintosh, Thomas J. Mackintosh, Lana C. Smith, and Zana Lee Ofcinik, all deceased, concerning an unoccupied home with broken windows and a foul odor, weeds, garbage and rubbish in the yard, broken and dismantled vehicles, collapsing sheds, and dead trees causing a fire hazard associated with property located at 3140 Alcorn Road, Fallon, Nevada, Assessor's Parcel Number 008-431-01.

written comments may be submitted to the County Clerk's Office, 155 No. Taylor Street, Suite 110, Fallon, Nevada 89406, before 4:00 PM on February 5, 2025 or via email to: pam.moore@churchillcountynv.gov and crystal.muschetto@churchillcountynv.gov. Dated: January 15, 2025 PAMELA D. MOORE

If you cannot attend the meeting,

DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD Published in

The Fallon Post
January 24 and 31, 2025
Ad #6283



#### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

Crossword found on page 13

JABBERWOCKY
JAUNTY
JAY
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JOEY
JOINERY
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JURY



#### BUSINESS DIRECTORY

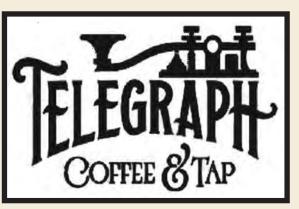
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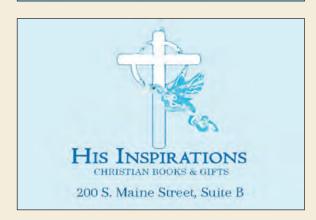




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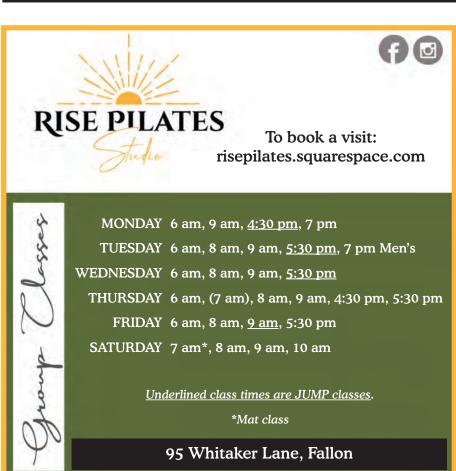


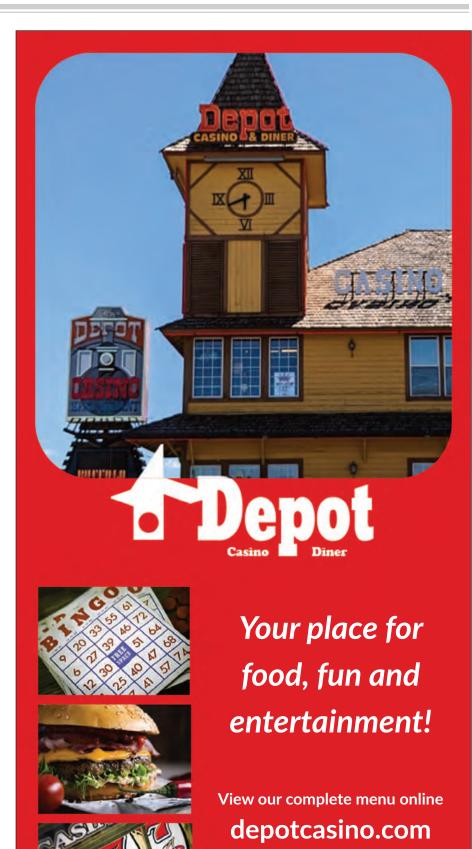












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