

THE FALLON POST



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Keeping You Posted on Local News

Friday, January 5, 2024

A Year in Review – Farewell to 2023

By Rachel Dahl

Our small Northern Nevada community witnessed many events last year – some of them inspiring, some of them challenging. Not only did we see the Changing of the Guard for some of those serving the city and county, but we also began waging war on the local housing crisis in the hopes of bringing ample and affordable housing back to the Lahontan Valley. We took on record-breaking winter snows and threats of devastating flooding through the major engineering feat of the V-Line Weir. We saw the runway rebuild for our NASF aircraft completed, water returned to Fernley through the Truckee Canal, and we watched one of our hometown boys head to State Legislature. We even got a winter ice skating rink.

We cheered as some of our sports teams dominated their competitors and we also witnessed some scary

Continued on page 3...

Newly completed V-Line Weir. Photo by Rachel Dahl.





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From the Publisher

Captain's Log – On the Heels of Technology

Testing 123 how does this really work? Like, I could write the captain's log just by sitting here visiting with my computer. Weird.

That sentence was written by my trusty laptop, no typing involved. I just opened a new document, and a little message popped up explaining that I could “dictate” to my computer. So, I tried it. This brings a whole new meaning to “Take a Memo.”

It must have been an old movie when I was very young when I first saw that happen. “Take a memo” was always slightly scandalous and involved high heels and a steno pad. The idea of being an “office girl” was some kind of romanticized storyline running through my experience. In high school, I took typing, and in community college all the classes to know how to be a “Secretary.”

I think they even called it Secretarial Skills or something like that.

But it was valuable. I told Irene Joannette not too long before she died that I would put that six-week course she taught me at the age of 17 up against my master's degree for value, any day. Having those skills put me in places to learn all about the world and business and how local government works and provided opportunity after opportunity.

Leanna has played around quite a bit with all these fancy new Artificial Intelligence tools and is getting really good at using them. We used to joke about Becky – the printer we named early on, and then we named the program we use for layout because it developed a somewhat belligerent personality with Leanna, shutting down nearly every time she goes to export our final draft of the paper before sending it off to Vegas to the printer. Addy. Our Adobe InDesign program is actually named Addy.

But now. Now, there is also Ernest.

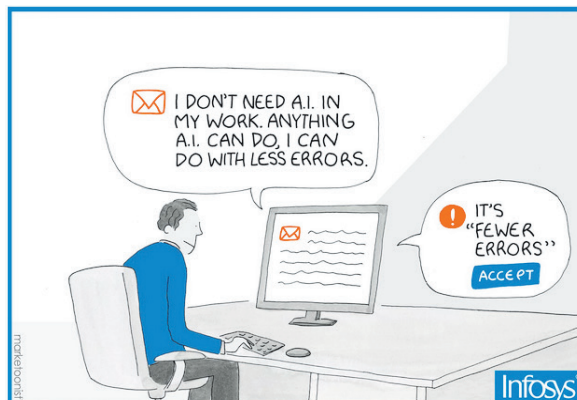
Ernest is the name Leanna has given her ChatGPT that she has trained to help her find a more appropriate word than “grooming” in the court story this week. This is partly what he came up with, “manipulated, befriended, or established a relationship with...” We think Ernest has a considerably more charming personality than our other inert teammates.

Technology has come a long way.

And so has the team at The Fallon Post. We have some employees, we have a ton of volunteers, and we have some magic machines. Rest assured, you will not be seeing stories written by the GPT. We only put our tools to work for good, honest help.

So, while we rally the troops and head into the new year at home in our yoga pants instead of in an office in heels with a steno pad, we'll be right here...

...Keeping You Posted.
Rach



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moments at our schools. Indeed, we met many challenges as a community. Yet, we prevailed in the usual way – by facing them together.

2023 Highlights

Swearing in of New Officials: At City Hall on Tuesday morning, Councilwoman Kelly Frost and Councilman Paul Harmon were sworn into office during a Ceremony of Protocol. The city council also thanked James Richardson for his commitment to the city through his 13-plus years as a Councilman to the citizens of the City of Fallon, the youth, and senior citizens throughout the community.

Newly elected and re-elected county officials were sworn in at the first 2023 commissioners' meeting of the year by District Court Judge Tom Stockard. County Commissioner Myles Getto District 2; Churchill County School Board Trustees Julie Guerrero-Goetsch, Joe McFadden, Matt Hyde, and Amber Getto; Clerk-Treasurer Linda Rothery; Recorder Tasha Hessey; District Attorney Art Mallory; Public Administrator Bob Getto; Assessor Denise Mondhink-Felton; Sheriff, Richard Hickox; Mosquito & Noxious Weed Abatement District Richard Grondin all took the Oath of Office.

Koenig Headed to the Legislature and Olsen Retired: Outgoing Churchill County Commissioner Greg Koenig had high praise for the county employees and their ability to work together to address issues affecting residents. "No one shirks from duty, and all work together as a whole toward a common county goal," he said, citing the county's Covid response as a prime example of addressing an unknown problem with a "can-do" attitude.

Outgoing Churchill County Commissioner Pete Olsen was humbled to have had the opportunity to serve the community over the past 12 years, eight of those as a commission chair, saying it has been "a good ride" but emphasizing that he has done nothing by himself. At his final commissioners' meeting, he praised county employees as hard-working, dedicated public servants. "They always answer the call and take time to work for the community.



L to R: Outgoing Commissioners Greg Koenig and Pete Olsen, with County Manager Jim Barbee. Photo courtesy of Anne McMillin.

High Housing Demand Brings Development Approvals Despite Heavy Opposition: The commission unanimously approved the PUD for Old Stone Ranch, approving the tentative map application. Commissioners also considered an appeal of the denial by the Planning Commission of a Special Use Permit application for a multi-family development on Coleman Road. Riverstone Apartments is being developed by Vertex Fund 3, LLC, a Colorado company that answered a Request for Proposal by the county to provide apartments in this subdivision. The commission overturned the planning commission's decision and approved the Special Use Permit, authorizing a multi-family development on the subject property.



L to R: Commissioner Myles Getto, Diane Arvizo, Bill Brewer with the Nevada Rural Housing Authority, Senator Jacky Rosen, County Manager Jim Barbee, NASF Capt. Shane Tanner, and Social Services Director Shannon Ernst at the Coleman Road development site. Photo by Leanna Lehman.

CCHS Archery Team Makes Nine State Titles: Coach Dean Schultz has coached the archery team at CCHS to nine state titles, encouraging several students who haven't done any extracurricular activities before their archery experience to participate. He also coaches students who came up in athletics and through local 4-H archery programs. Congratulations to Schultz and his students on continuing this culture of excellence.



Top row, left to right: Case Utter, Jaiden McFadden, Kolbyn McFadden, David Price. Bottom, left to right: Cameron Christy, Tanner Huckaby, Wyatt Steffens, Mackenzie Kerr, Isaac Nestlerode, Coach Dean Schultz. Photo courtesy of Joe McFadden.

Community Schools Locked Down Due to "Swatting": There is a new word we are being forced to accept into our modern glossary of daily terms. "Swatting" is an internet prank or crime where someone calls 911 anonymously and reports a fake emergency, which law enforcement or a SWAT team would be dispatched to the address. Churchill County schools were locked down for a few hours in February after the Fallon Police Department received

a threat of a possible shooting at the high school. Oasis Academy and Logos Christian Academy were also locked down as multi-agency law enforcement units responded to the threat. According to the FPD, "This incident appears to be a hoax; however, the Fallon Police Department takes these threats seriously and will continue our efforts at the schools to ensure the safety of all."

Heavy Storms Bring Fear of Flooding: On March 3, Churchill County Commissioners approved the precautionary emergency declaration needed to establish an Emergency Operations Center in preparation for flood mitigation efforts due to elevated snowpack from this winter's snowfall upstream on the Carson River. The City of Fallon will be declaring a precautionary emergency declaration in the coming days.

New Chief of Police: March 13 was a special day for Captain Ronald Wenger as Mayor Ken Tedford swore him in as Fallon's new police chief in the City Council Chambers. Mayor Tedford said Wenger has a long and successful law enforcement career that began with his service in the U.S. Coast Guard at the Soda Lake Road Loran Station. During that time, he was accepted into the Fallon Police Reserve Program and, after completing his Coast Guard enlistment, was hired as a full-time Fallon patrol officer.

High Water Mitigation Continued: Local officials held a town hall meeting on April 13 at the Rafter 3C to provide an update on local high-water mitigation efforts. Churchill County developed predictive mapping that was presented and available on the county website. The mapping showed potential flows in the event water begins flowing over the top of the flashboards at Lahontan Reservoir. At the time, the Carson River below the dam flowed at 1,000 cubic feet per second.

Maps depicted potential flows in different scenarios, including 2,000 cfs and 4,000 cfs. "This information is all meant to be precautionary," said County Manager Jim Barbee, "it is meant for you to prepare and is not inevitable. These predictions are at least a month out; we are talking the

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2023 in Review

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end of May, the beginning of June.” The county has also scheduled local area youth to fill and deliver sandbags to anyone over 60.

The First Edition of The Fallon Post on Newsprint Occurred on April 21

CCSD Superintendent Selected: After what proved to be a very intense and time-consuming process, the ChurchillCSD Board of Trustees selected Fallon’s own Derlid Parsons as the new superintendent. The last CCSD employee hired as superintendent was Ron Flores in 1995. Parsons, who has 23 years with ChurchillCSD, currently holds an administrative position as the Director of Learning and Innovation, which he has had since 2020. Formerly, he was the Director of Special Services, coordinating special education district-wide. Parsons holds a master’s degree in education administration from Grand Canyon University and a Bachelor of Science in Special Education and Elementary Education from the UNR.

Lloyd Retired as Library Director: When retiring Library Director Carol Lloyd came to Fallon in 2012, she was drawn to the opportunity to put all her experience in libraries and bookselling to use for the good of the community. “I could say yes to suggestions and ideas without having to ask permission and was pretty much responsible for what did or didn’t happen,” Lloyd said. “It was exciting to have the latitude to try what I thought would be best for the community.” She quickly credits her staff with bringing new projects and ideas to interest library patrons. “The staff is enthusiastic and get things done.” When she first stepped into the library, Lloyd saw a world of opportunity to make things more accessible for the community. After learning the county had been putting aside resources for a new building, she garnered the approval of the Library Board of Directors to offer to repurpose the current library rather than build a new facility. This was accomplished with great success.

New Weir Completed to Safeguard Water Supply and Prevent Flooding: The new weir was completed and stands

ready to take water from the V-Line canal should Lahontan Reservoir fill and water come over the flashboards. Water inflow into the reservoir from the Carson River continues to increase as snow in the Sierras begins to melt, with the gauge at Fort Churchill flowing at 4,860 cubic feet per second. On May 16, that flow was right at 3,000 cfs. Pictured on Front Page.

Cottage School Buildings Open for Childcare: Renovations to the second of the three Cottage School buildings used for Churchill County’s after-school and day camp programs were completed in time to welcome children for the 2023 SUMFUN program. The three-man county facilities crew of Gary Rothery, Sean Hesse, and Mike Nolan, along with several local contractors, added new flooring, redid the majority of the plumbing, painted the interior, replaced broken windows, and got the HVAC and water heater running. The City of Fallon had replaced the roof of each building in previous years to help preserve the historical integrity of the facilities. While some aspects of the building were replaced or repaired, many original features remain, including the chalkboards, window fixtures, kid-sized sinks, toilets, drinking fountains, and shelving and cabinet units.

Turmoil at the Arts Council: On May 30, the Oats Park Art Center staff arrived to discover that more than 100 pieces from the Permanent Art Collection had disappeared. The works, curated over 30-plus years, were a beloved community asset and the legacy of past Executive Director Valerie Serpa and her husband, Kirk Robertson, on behalf of the Churchill Arts Council. The Churchill Arts Council Board of Directors believes that now-resigned Executive Director Michael Scott undertook an unauthorized, intentional effort to dismantle the collection. “We are shocked and devastated that this collection has been gutted by the actions of one man,” said Board Chair Theresa Guillen. “This is a complete betrayal of the memory and hard work done by Valerie to build this collection and was completely unauthorized by the board. We are exploring all of our legal options to remedy the situation.”

New Library Director C.L. Quillen: After being introduced to Northern Nevada



Fire Department members that attended the ceremony. Also pictured front row left to right, Councilwoman Karla Kent, Councilwoman Kelly Frost, Capt. Randy Sharp, Chief Jared Dooley, Mayor Ken Tedford, Asst. Chief Russ Jont, and Councilman Paul Harmon.

while attending a professional conference, C.L. Quillen, Churchill County Library’s new director, was hooked on the area. When the opportunity arose to move to Fallon for the library director’s position, she jumped at the chance and has enjoyed getting to know the region better since landing her job.

Arts Council Builds a New Permanent Collection and Hires New Director: Members of the Churchill Arts Council banded together to share pieces of their personal art collections with the community. They filled the Arts Center with a new Permanent Collection called “Fallon Stands Together.” At the beginning of July, the board offered the executive director position to Jessica Rowe. “Jessica is a force of nature,” said Jaime Sammons, who serves on the Arts Council Board. “She has big ideas and a sense of who she is that will serve the community well and will help the Arts Council as we work to define who we are and what we will be.”

Fallon Noon Whistle Escapes the Siren Bill: SB 391, which prohibits local governments from sounding sirens, bells, or alarms for specific purposes, passed the legislature. It would have also prevented the Fallon noon whistle had it not been for an amendment brought about by Fallon’s freshman Assemblyman Greg Koenig. Thorough research by a team of the Churchill County Museum, City of Fallon staff, and the support of citizen lobbyist Kelli Kelly assisted Koenig in preparing the amendment. The bill passed the Senate with seven yes and four no votes. It was

amended in the Assembly Government Affairs committee before it passed out of the Assembly on a 41-1 vote.

CCHS Summer Intern Program is a Huge Success: The school-to-careers program at CCHS, led by Dr. Sue Segura, hit the ground running to connect students with valuable summer internships at local businesses. Through Dr. Sue’s dedication and extensive partnerships, nearly two dozen students have secured internships, providing them with practical experience and skills in various fields and trades. Even students as young as 14 have been allowed to learn and grow under the guidance of area businesses. Thanks to the business partners’ generosity, the interns are receiving compensation, giving them a taste of what being an employee means and how good it feels to earn a paycheck.

Fallon/Churchill Volunteer Fire Department Named Nevada Department of the Year: The Nevada State Firefighters’ Association recognized the Fallon/Churchill VFD organization for its exceptional dedication and commitment to its community. Mayor Ken Tedford and Fallon City Council members honored the department last week during a ceremony where each member received a custom-made plaque acknowledging their outstanding achievement and the city’s appreciation of their exceptional efforts. “We don’t take you for granted,” said Mayor Tedford, “We know what you do.” Pictured above.

New CAPS Facility in Design Phase: County commissioners approved their

Continued next page...

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annual \$20,000 contribution to the Churchill Animal Protection Society after receiving a report from Public Works Director Chris Spross about the status of the new building and a report from CAPS Executive Director Julia Ameil. Spross anticipates that CAPS could be in the new facility by the end of June 2024 between the bid process and the building time. The new facility will be located off Moody Lane near the water treatment facility and is a partnership with the City of Fallon.

Truckee Canal Lining Project Through Fernley: The TCID Board met on August 17 with representatives from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and several members of the public to discuss extending the outage of the Truckee Canal in Fernley for 30 days to accommodate delays in the project due to poor weather conditions. The 31-mile-long canal delivers water to more than 50,000 acres of farmland, wildlife, and area residents. Phase I of the Truckee Canal Public Safety Improvement Project began in December 2022. The multiphase federally funded project aims to restore the safe, long-term operation of the Truckee Canal, increase public safety, and improve water supply reliability.



Portion of lined area of Truckee-Canal taken in December. Photo by John Clodius.

Troy Driver's Guilt Decided in Murder of Naomi Irion: When Troy Driver committed suicide in the Lyon County jail on August 6, he deprived the family of

Naomi Irion the opportunity to hear a jury pronounce him guilty of kidnapping, sexually assaulting, and murdering her. Instead, Sheriff Brad Pope and District Attorney Steve Rye declared Driver's guilt at a press conference Wednesday morning at the Lyon County Sheriff's Office in Yerington. "The evidence of guilt in the case was overwhelming. Troy Driver kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and murdered Naomi, explained Rye. There was nobody else involved," he said. "We, like the sheriff's office, wanted to see justice for Naomi and her family with a guilty verdict and death sentence for Troy Driver. Unfortunately, that will not happen in this case.

However, it is important that the family know about what happened to Naomi and what Driver did to her." Pope opened the press conference by providing a detailed timeline of Driver's time in the Lyon County jail after his March 25, 2022 arrest. "The evidence is insurmountable that he was the perpetrator of this despicable act, and he is dead," Pope said. "He continually chose the path of a coward and ended his life with a cowardly act. I know this is not the closure the family or law enforcement wanted or anticipated. I empathize with them; however, I do not have any empathy for the damned soul of Troy Driver." Following Pope's comments, Detective Lt. Tyrell Joyner narrated a video timeline of the investigation.

Fallon Tribe Planning Retail Development Near Fox Peak: Laura Ines, the new Economic Director with Fallon Tribal Economic Development, apprised the County Planning Commission in September of the Tribe's ongoing plans for a 35-acre development between the Fox Peak gas station mini-market and Fox Peak Cinema. Ines, formerly with Churchill Economic Development Authority (CEDA), also mentioned a forthcoming 1.32-acre development adjacent to Fernley's Fox Peak gas station. The primary intent behind these projects is retail space. Ines stated, "We are starting to figure out which architectural plan we will be going with," and indicated they would also move toward paving the roads for the development shortly. Plans include provisions for food outlets and outdoor seating. Ines expressed eagerness to kickstart these

ventures. "We want to get the word out that we want to work with you," she said. Ines also mentioned plans to develop over seven acres in Mound House, intending to introduce another Fox Peak store.

Cantaloupe Festival Bigger and Better than Ever: Organizers of the Cantaloupe Festival and Country Fair are calling this year a "massive success," with nearly 20,000 tickets coming through the gates, in addition to the vendors, volunteers, and staff of the various events. Despite the huge attendance, the festival ends the year in a weaker financial position because of strategic investments made to improve the festival for the future.

"We really tried to put a lot of things in place for the long run. Big picture investments," said Adrienne Snow, the festival's Executive Director. "We're positioning the festival to take advantage of the improvements the county is making to the grounds. We've invested in safety: cooling tents, extra lighting, extra golf carts so people not as mobile could get around." In

addition to those investments, there is a long-standing tradition of supporting volunteer organizations that bring groups of volunteers to help at the festival with contributions to those "sister" non-profit organizations. "To have the caliber of human beings there helping with tickets, driving the carts, helping out, we could not have had better folks," said Snow.

City of Fallon on Ice: Fallon locals discovered the magic of ice skating at Fallon on Ice this winter, beginning November 18, in the parking lot just south of the Douglass House at 10 S. Carson Street. There was free skating all day with food trucks and vendors. Fallon has an old history of ice skating. Back in the day, early settlers in Fallon would ice skate on the S-line Reservoir behind Rattlesnake Hill. For years, Mayor Ken Tedford has wanted ice skating in Fallon. Over ten years ago, the city was gifted a hockey rink from a community in Southern California, but it wasn't in very good shape, so the city sent it to auction.

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2023 in Review

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But the idea hung on with Tedford, and he's been thinking of the concept as an economic development anchor, "With the communities surrounding Fallon coming in where they will use it and then shop with local merchants and use the restaurants and gas stations as well. I talked to the council, and they agreed," he said.

Rancharrah Equestrian Center Changes and Endures: The iconic Rancharrah brand will continue in Northern Nevada despite the demolition of the former Rancharrah Equestrian Center in Reno, newly named RanchHarrah. On November 8, during a special meeting, Churchill County Commissioners agreed to enter into a Donation Agreement with Locus Development Group for approximately \$2 million in fixtures, equipment, and memorabilia from the RanchHarrah Equestrian Center in Reno. Rancharrah's expansive and illustrious history dates back to the golden age of Reno. In 1957, casino magnate and owner of the Harrah's Hotel & Casino empire, Bill

Harrah, purchased the estate, renaming it Rancharrah. Regular guests of the ranch included John Wayne, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Waylon Jennings, among others.

Since 2016, Rancharrah has undergone extensive changes and is now home to a master-planned development with luxury homes, dining, and shopping areas. Churchill County had discussions with RanchHarrah regarding donating part of the ranch's equipment, coral panels, and iconic memorabilia associated with the Equestrian Center and Rancharrah.

The donation is considered significant in terms of financial and historical value to the citizens of Northern Nevada and its Western heritage. Churchill County Manager Jim Barbee told the commission, "The donation is north of \$2 million, plus a substantial art donation as well." Chief Civil Deputy District Attorney Joe Sanford told the commission that the idea behind the donation is to reconstruct the panels, fixtures, and equipment here so the Rancharrah brand will continue for them.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Churchill County Board of Equalization will meet during the month of February 2024. The meetings will be held in the Churchill County Commission Chambers, Churchill County Administration Complex, 155 N. Taylor Street, Suite 145, Fallon, Nevada.

Persons wishing to appear and be heard at these meetings for the purpose of seeking adjustments on assessed valuation must obtain a petition for such with the Churchill County Assessor at the Churchill County Administration Complex, 155 N. Taylor Street, Suite 200, Fallon, Nevada and return the petition to the County Assessor **on or before 5:00 PM on January 16, 2024**. The County Board of Equalization shall conclude business on or before February 29, 2024.

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January 5 & January 12, 2024



Captain Shane Tanner cuts the ribbon on the newly rebuilt taxiway. Photos courtesy of NASF

First Responders Holiday Food Drive – Long Time Success: When it comes to Fallon's First Responder Food Drive, there is nothing like a little healthy competition between agencies to rev up the giving. This year's event yielded an outstanding result of 23,666 pounds of food, which will be distributed to area residents in need this holiday season. The program's cumulative impact, reaching a total of 146,454 pounds of donated food since its inception in 2016, highlights the generosity of Fallon's First Responders and underscores the exceptional sense of community that makes Fallon the caring and compassionate town it is. The department bringing in the most contributions in 2023 was the Fallon Police Department at 6,506 pounds, with the Churchill County Sheriff's Office a close second at 5,060. A special acknowledgment goes to Beth Riley for orchestrating this annual event. Her dedication and the collaborative

efforts of the entire community have made this year fabulous.

NAS Fallon Celebrates Runway Completion: NAS Fallon marked the official reopening of the Bravo Taxiway. After the three-and-a-half-year reconstruction effort, the project was officially complete. On November 28, a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrated the successful completion of the project, which has transformed the airfield's critical taxiway. The revitalized Bravo Taxiway involved a large-scale upgrade, incorporating 19,000 cubic yards of new concrete, improved lighting systems, and freshly painted runway markings. This extensive overhaul demonstrates the Navy's commitment to maintaining cutting-edge infrastructure supporting vital air operations at NAS Fallon. *Photo courtesy of NASF.*

• H A P P Y • N E W • Y E A R •

2024

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING

CHURCHILL COUNTY LIBRARY
FALLON, NEVADA



Staff Report

Begin 2024 at the Churchill County Library and discover the programming and events offered in January. The library will be closed on January 1 and 15 to observe New Year's Day and the Martin Luther King, Jr. holidays.

Special Events

- Spice Club in January looks at ginger. Tag the library on social media and share what you have made with this spice.
- The learn-to-fly-a-drone workshop is happening on January 3 at 3:30 p.m.
- Tech Services Librarian Joe offers computer basics classes on January 5 and 19 at 9 a.m. at the Pennington Life Center. Need help understanding basic computer commands? Come on out!
- Senator Rosen's office representative at the library on January 11 for "office hours" at 1 p.m. Stop by and let the Senator's staff know your concerns.
- Reading with Rover also takes place on January 11 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Children read books to dogs to improve their reading skills and confidence to a decidedly captive audience. Bonus: our furry friends are great listeners.
- Need a career change for the new year? Let EmployNV help you with

aspects of finding a new job on January 4 and 18 at 2 p.m. at the library. EmployNV staff will help you with aspects of finding a new job for the new year.

- Stop Motion Animation workshop happening on January 17 at 3:30 p.m.
- Drop-in 3D printing workshop takes place January 10 and 24 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Using the library's 3D printer, make practical and pretty objects and learn more about this popular technology.
- Book discussion group for adults continues on January 25 at 6 p.m. in the library annex. This month's topic is "New Year, New You." Bring your favorite read on this topic to discuss and share with others. Light refreshments will be served.
- The Elementary Book Club meets in the Library Annex on January 26 at 3 p.m. for elementary school students. January's book is "The Lion of Mars," it can be reserved to take home at bit.ly/CCLElementaryBookClub.

Ongoing Programs

- "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" encourages youngsters to read age-appropriate books before entering school. Book titles are suggested and offered by library staff. Recognition is given for every 100 books read on the way to 1,000.

Sign-ups are accepted at any time at bit.ly/CCL1000BBK.

Tuesdays

- The Knitting Club meets at 10 a.m. on January 2, 16, 23, and 31 and welcomes novice and advanced knitters. They are willing to offer advice, tips, and encouragement on your project.
- Virtual Reality drop-in sessions take place from 3:15 to 5 p.m. All are welcome to stop by.

Wednesdays

- In-person children's story time meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Each week's story time will feature the same content. Children's Librarian Miss J reads picture books to children and offers a craft to accompany most stories. It is geared toward children ages 3-5, but all kids are welcome to participate.
- Enjoy family board games at the library on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.

Thursdays

- Children's story time is at 10 and 11 a.m.
- The Knitting Club meets again at 3 p.m.

Fridays

- STEAM sessions with VR at 1:30 p.m.
- Have a problem with your computer or smartphone? Head over to the William N. Pennington Life Center on Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. and get answers from Technical Services Librarian Joe Salsman, a technology expert.

Hours of operation

Library hours of operation are Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Sundays and major holidays. Call 775-423-7581 for more information on the above activities.

The Churchill County Library is located at 553 South Maine Street in Fallon. The library website is www.churchillcountylibrary.org.

Start the new year at the library!



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Martyn Sentenced to Prison for Attempted Sexual Assault, Maintains His Innocence

By Teresa Moon

Bret Walker Martyn appeared for sentencing in the Tenth Judicial District Court on Tuesday, December 19, before Judge Thomas Stockard for the Category D Felony of Attempt to Commit Sexual Assault, punishable by 2-20 years in a Nevada State Prison.

Arrested on a warrant booking last January, Martyn pleaded guilty during his District Court arraignment on July 25. The plea was entered "per Alford," based on the landmark ruling of *North Carolina v. Alford* (1970). The Alford plea is the guilty acceptance of a crime, while the defendant claims innocence. An Alford plea accepts the full ramifications of a guilty verdict and the prescribed penalties without admitting to committing the crime.

It is important to note that in the most general terms, Attempted Sexual Assault differs from Sexual Assault in that it occurs when an individual takes a substantial step towards committing a sexual assault but does not complete the act.

Deputy District Attorney Priscilla Baker began by repeating to the court the words Martyn allegedly told the victim, "This is something you take to your grave; don't ever say a word; you never say a word or I'll make your life a living hell." According to Baker, over about a year and a half, Martyn manipulated, befriended, or established a relationship with a minor with the intent of preparing her for potential sexual exploitation or abuse.

Baker drew the court's attention to the victim's statement detailing her current state of mind. "I can't stand myself most days because I don't feel comfortable in my own skin," she said, with her name protected by statute due to her age at the time of the alleged offenses. "The pain I've felt in my chest every day since is unexplainable. It is something I have to carry every day with me. I no longer feel the same or trust. I'm lost."

During the Pre-Sentence Investigation, Martyn stated that he believed he has "no sexual disorder that needs treatment," according to Baker, who strongly disagreed with Martyn's assertion. "This defendant took an opportunity, exploited a young girl, and ruined her life," said Baker. By statute, Martyn is eligible for probation after completing the requisite psychosexual evaluation. However, Baker asked the court not to consider probation and to sentence Martyn to prison, stating, "He put this child through hell."

Karena Dunn Esq., defense counsel for Martyn, began her argument by reminding the court that Martyn pled guilty pursuant to Alford, maintaining his innocence. Dunn aimed to convince the judge that her client would be a great candidate for probation, explaining that Martyn has no prior criminal history and had never been arrested before this event. According to Dunn, he has a support system, has been a hard worker throughout his life, and has been a good provider. Additionally, there has been a temporary

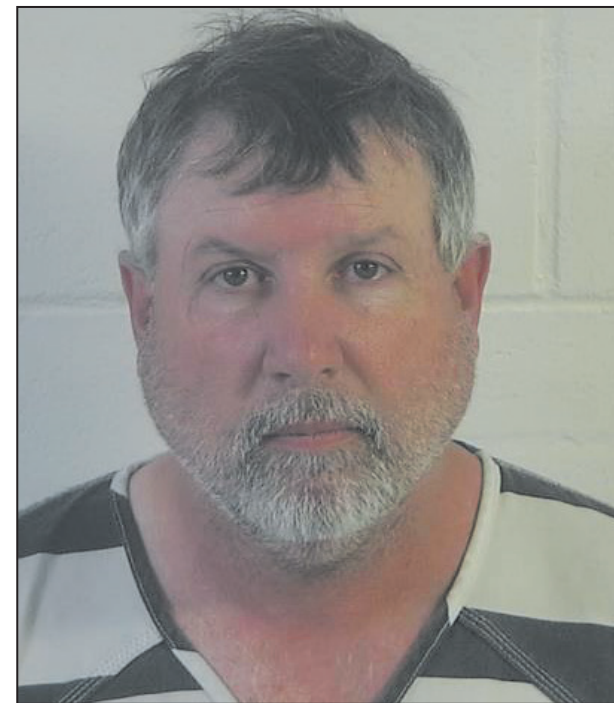
protection order since the beginning of this case with no violations, and Martyn's risk assessment concluded he was at a below-average risk for supervision and intervention. Further, several letters were written to the court in support of Martyn.

Dunn explained the punitive factor for convicted felons and convicted sexual offenders, which will have a significant impact on Martyn's daily life, work life, and social life. Dunn argued, "Mr. Martyn is humbly asking for [probation], and I am vehemently supporting that."

During his address to Judge Stockard, Martyn said, "I apologize for even being here. I don't know what to say other than I'm a good person. I'm a good father. I try to do the right thing every day in my life. And I ask that you consider me a candidate for probation."

Before judgment was passed, the minor in the case provided a Victim Impact Statement. Unable to withhold tears, she told the judge the defendant's actions' effects on her, stating, "A whole lot was taken from me." Before concluding, she said, "I just don't understand; what did I do that was so wrong?"

Judge Stockard imposed fees



Bret Walker Martyn. Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff's Office.

and assessments, including a \$1,675 psychosexual evaluation fee and \$500 in restitution. Considering all documents submitted by the state and the defense, as well as the Pre-Sentence Investigative Report and Psychosexual Risk Assessment, Stockard sentenced Martyn to 36-140 months in prison. Upon release, he will be required to register as a sex offender subjected to lifetime supervision.

Stockard concluded the hearing by telling Martyn, "I have considered probation in this case. I am not going to grant you that privilege." He was remanded to the custody of the Churchill County Sheriff's Office for the imposition of sentence.



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Elections

Nevada Presidential Primary by the State, Caucus by the Republican Party

By Rachel Dahl

The State of Nevada will hold a Presidential Preference Primary on February 6, 2024. According to information on the Nevada Secretary of State website and the Churchill County Clerk, qualified candidates will be listed on the respective party ballot. Early voting will begin on Saturday, January 27, and run through Friday, February 2.

The Nevada Republican Party will hold a separate Presidential Caucus on February 8, 2024.

To qualify for the Presidential Preference Primary election on February 6, both Democrat and Republican candidates had to file with the Secretary of State by October 16, 2023. The primary is non-binding, and only candidates participating in the Caucus can earn delegates and be nominated at the national convention to run against the Democrat candidate in the general election.

Candidates could only file to run in the primary or the caucus, not both. Republican candidates who chose to appear on the state-run primary ballot did so knowing that their decision meant they could not earn delegates by appearing on the caucus ballot. The Democrats are not holding a Caucus.

The filing deadline for the Nevada primary was on October 16, 2023, and the Secretary of State published the list of qualified candidates on October 20.

Democrat candidates who filed for the Presidential Primary

- Joe Biden
- Gabriel Cornejo
- Superpayaseria Crystalroc
- Brent Foutz
- John Haywood
- Stephen Alan Leon
- Frankie Lozada
- Stephen Lyons
- Jason Michael Palmer
- Armando Perez-Serrato
- Donald Picard
- Mark R. Prascak
- Marianne Williamson

Republican candidates who filed for the Presidential Primary

- John Castro
- Heath Fulkerson
- Nikki Haley
- Donald Kjornes
- Michael Pence
- Timothy Scott
- Hirsh Singh

Both Mike Pence and Tim Scott have suspended their campaigns but will still appear on the ballot.

Candidates who have chosen to participate in the Republican Caucus on February 8

- Ryan Binkley
- Former Governor Chris Christie
- Governor Ron DeSantis
- Vivek Ramaswamy
- Former President Donald J. Trump

The Caucus will be held at the Rafter 3C on Sheckler Road, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voters wishing to participate must be registered Republicans in one of the 19 local, Churchill County precincts by January 9, 2024, and must present their government-issued ID. Electors are welcome to cast a secret paper ballot and leave, or they may choose to stay for the whole meeting and participate in the nominating of delegates to the local Republican County Convention.

It is allowable for Republican voters to participate in both the Primary and the Caucus.

Nevada has a long and varied history of vacillating between the Presidential Preference Primary and the party caucuses. From 1864 to 1948, Nevada elected presidential electors through a direct vote of the people, except in 1912 when the Democrat Party opted to hold a presidential preference vote. The 1949 legislature eliminated

the practice of directly electing presidential electors, creating a procedure where selection of electors happened during each party's State convention.

During the 1953 and '55 legislatures, the presidential preference primary was established and then repealed before the 1956 election took place. In 1973, the Legislature once again passed legislation, instituting a 'closed' presidential primary election where only registered Democrats could vote for Democratic candidates and only registered Republicans for Republican candidates. The primary was repealed again in 1981. However, in 1996, the Republican party deviated from the norm and held a presidential preference primary. Apart from that particular year, Nevada has consistently utilized a closed caucus system, akin to the one employed from 1952 to 1972, for determining delegates at the respective presidential nomination conventions.

Voters can check their registration status online and those who are not registered can register online at nvsos.gov/SOSVoterServices/start.aspx as well as update an existing registration.

Presidential Primary – Early Voting, Election Dates, Locations

Staff Report

As the calendar turns to a new year, with it comes an opportunity to provide information regarding the 2024 election year.

The Churchill County Clerk/Treasurer's Office will run the Presidential Preference Primary Election on Feb. 6, 2024. In order to participate in this primary election, you must be registered with the Republican or Democrat political parties. Update your registration online at <https://registertovote.nv.gov/>.

Sample ballots will be sent no later than January 8, 2024, and mail ballots will be sent no later than January 8, 2024.

Dates, times and places for voting

Presidential Preference Primary Early Voting is January 27, 2024 - February 2, 2024 with the Presidential Preference Primary Election Day on February 6, 2024.

The sample ballot is available for preview online. As always, early voting locations and hours will be available for those who wish to cast their primary votes prior to Feb. 6. Ballot drop box locations are also available.

Early Voting Polling Locations and Hours

Churchill County Commissioner Chambers at 155 N. Taylor St., Fallon,

Nevada on Saturday, January 27, 2024 10 a.m. - 2 p.m, Monday, January 29, 2024 - Friday, February 2, 2024 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Community Learning Center at 8955 Mission Rd., Fallon, Nevada, Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Election Day Polling Locations and Hours

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

- Fallon Convention Center at 100 Campus Way, Fallon, Nevada.
- Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Com-

munity Learning Center at 8955 Mission Rd., Fallon, Nevada.

- Churchill County Official Ballot Drop Box Locations
- Churchill County Clerk's Office at 155 N. Taylor St., Suite 110, Fallon, Nevada
- City of Fallon Clerk's Office, 55 W. Williams Ave., Fallon, Nevada
- Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe Administration Office at 565 Rio Vista West, Fallon, Nevada

School Board – Audit Report, Capital Improvement Plan, and Home Sale

By Rachel Dahl

During December's Churchill County school board meeting, the Board of Trustees heard and approved the audit report from Comptroller Christi Fielding and CPA Kelli Jones-Mesko of Hinton Burdick. This firm performed the yearly audit.

Hinton Burdick has issued a clean opinion on the Financial Statement for year-end June 30, 2023. In their report on the internal controls over financial reporting and compliance during FY2023, Hinton Burdick found significant deficiencies in the segregation of duties with a lack of proper controls over recording. Fielding said considerable turnover in the business office during the year resulted in the findings.

Trustee Kathryn Whitaker asked about the corrective action plan that will be implemented and what that time frame would be. "It says there will

be a secondary review and segregation of duties as soon as we are 'appropriately staffed and trained,' where are we with that?"

Fielding responded that her office is now fully staffed and in training and cross-training. "We have just started cross-training, and then staff can proof. Right now, I'm doing all of it, which is not ideal, but there is not anything else that can be done with only two people."

She expects the staff to be fully trained in six to eight months.

During the 2022 audit, Hinton Burdick found material weaknesses in the district's bank reconciliations, but those have been resolved and removed.

Capital Asset activity for FY2023 included the CCHS track repair at \$292,000, Northside's chain link fence installation costing \$85,000, CCHS security camera installation at \$77,000, and purchasing two new buses costing \$321,000.

The board also received written reports regarding human resources from the high school student represen-

tative, the assistant superintendent, and school principals. During the consent agenda, board members approved filling eight positions, leaving 76 openings still vacant throughout the district, including an English teacher at the high school, three second-grade teachers, and six bus drivers.

Annette Cooper, Human Resource Manager, reported on her extensive and ongoing activities to fill positions, including attending a Human Capital Leadership Summit where she was able to network with smaller school districts experiencing the same labor shortages and exchange ideas on recruiting and keeping employees. She said career fair season is approaching, and work has begun on the 2024-25 school year staffing needs.

Superintendent Derild Parsons and Maintenance Supervisor Dustin Drinkut provided an update to the board-approved Capital Improvement Plan, with the addition of a sound system for the high school gym being included as funds become available. Other projects presented and ap-

proved include new radios and base station for the transportation department, interior and exterior paint at the middle school, updated weightlifting equipment, security fencing, access points, and security camera additions, all at the high school.

Trustees also approved the sale of 414 Discovery Drive, the house being built this year by the construction class at the high school, for a minimum price of \$365,000. The district has requested local realtors to list the property, and Josh Berney of Berney Realty received one offer. The Board approved the listing of the house by Berney.

Athletic Director Joe Wood presented the fall sports survey report, saying the survey was sent to 260 athletes and 389 parents. Results were mostly positive, according to Wood, who said that concerns revolved around communication. Trustees asked that the winter survey results be designated by sport.

85 New Nevada Laws Taking Effect in 2024

Staff Report

There are 85 new laws passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Lombardo that are now in effect as of the new year. These laws cover a wide range of subjects.

AB45 Section 6 created a Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities Program to repay student loans of qualified health care providers who commit to work in certain communities.

AB53 increases the fines on retailers selling tobacco products to anyone under 21. Previously, first and second offenders were issued a warning. Now, \$2,500 is permissible for a first offense, \$5,000 for a second offense, and \$7,500 for a third. Subsequent violations within two years could result in a \$10,000 fine.

AB56 prohibits a driver yielding the right of way to an emergency

vehicle from stopping on the shoulder of the road. The driver should stop as close as possible to the right-hand edge of the road, leaving the shoulder free for other official vehicles responding to the emergency.

AB161 aims to help improve understanding between law enforcement officers and individuals with a communication impairment. It is now possible, for a fee, to have a symbol added to the individual's driver's license to inform the officer of the impairment.

AB289 authorizes using natural organic reduction for the disposition of human remains.

AB342 codifies into statute the existing regulation that a cannabis establishment agent verify the consumer's age by checking a government-issued ID containing a photograph using an ID scanner approved by the Cannabis Compliance Board before selling cannabis or cannabis products to a consumer.

SB 161 prohibits an insurance company from requiring an insured individual to obtain prior authorization before receiving a contraceptive drug.

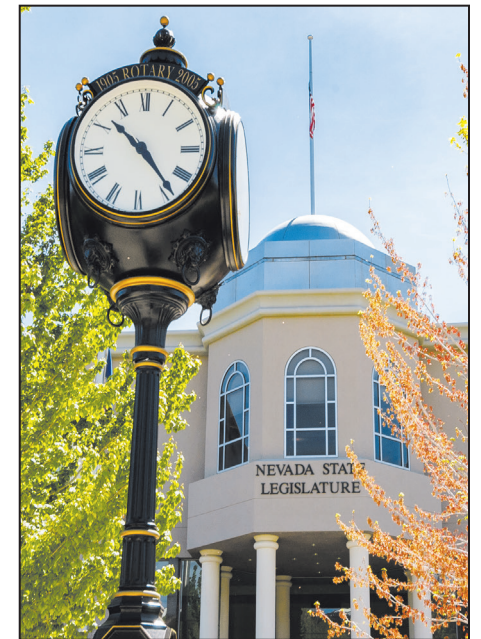
SB162 establishes the Nevada Pesticide Act, which bans using neonicotinoid pesticides in non-agricultural products and aims to help bees and other pollinators rebound from severe population declines.

SB277 changes the amount of marijuana a person can possess from one ounce to two and a half ounces. Also, the amount of concentrated cannabis is now a quarter ounce.

SB311 allows for the transfer of a tag for hunting big game mammals to anyone under 16.

SB423 allows anyone cited for driving a motorcycle without a valid motorcycle license, endorsement, or permit to complete a motorcycle safety course within nine months instead of a fine.

File photo.



For more information on any of these bills and the complete listing of the new legislation taking effect, visit <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Nelis/REL/82nd2023/Bills/Effective/2024-01-01>.

Education

CCSD Principals Report

By Rachel Dahl

In written reports to the Board of Trustees at the December board meeting, building principals submitted updates on activities at their respective schools along with progress on their schoolwide Performance Plans.

Dr. Mandie Hammer submitted that Northside Early Learning Center added nine new students and one new teacher during December, bringing enrollment to 126 students.

Kimi Melendy reported on the many engagement activities at Lahan Elementary and the school performance plan. She also mentioned the daily challenge of access to the limited number of substitutes for teachers and aides, resulting in canceled P.E. or music classes. Often, the P.E. and music teachers are asked to cover other courses because subs are not available, and then P.E. and music are canceled.

From E.C. Best, the board members heard that teachers are focusing on school goals set in September based on needs in reading and math. In Reading, the winter goal for second grade is to increase proficiency by 9% for a total of 51%, and by spring, another 9% for 60%. The third-grade winter reading goal is 62%, and the spring is 68% proficiency. In math, the second-grade

winter goal is to increase proficiency by 13% for a total of 58%, and by spring, increase an additional 14% for a total of 72% proficiency. The third-grade math goal for winter is 61%, and by spring, 67% proficiency. To achieve these goals, teachers will be utilizing iReady curricula, Learner-Centered framework, and math facts practice in 90-minute blocks.

Instructional Coaches have recently been hired at Numa Elementary, and principal Shawn Purrell is concerned about the poor attendance of many students, implementing parent/guardian contact as a primary strategy to help improve attendance. Purrell also reported that as of the fall assessment, 50% of all 4th and 5th grade students are at or below the 40th percentile in Math and Reading, having a median percentile score of 45%. Numa teachers have set a goal to increase the math and reading Median Percentile score by 5% by the end of the year.

Robbie Wickware reported from the Middle School on the school Performance Plan, including goals of increasing proficiency rates for all grade levels, conducting structured Professional Learning Communities opportunities with staff, reducing disruptive student behaviors in classrooms, and reducing chronic absenteeism by 10%.

The Behavior Update covering the period from November 10 to December 8 included 16 events of Disruption of School Activities by 21 students, 81 events of Insubordination by 54 students, three events of Violence to Students by four students, and one event of Bullying/Harassment by two students.

According to Wickware's written report, the middle school faces the critical challenge of covering teacher leave with limited substitutes. Teachers, safe school professionals, and counselors work their preps almost daily to cover or combine classes. The cost of paying teachers to work on their preps is very high. During September, there were 111 paid preps; in October, 192, and in November, 216.

Trustee Whitaker questioned Wickware about this issue during the meeting, saying she was "alarmed by the number of teachers on leave in November. That seems more like a teacher problem than a substitute problem. I'm more concerned with why so many teachers are gone rather than not having enough subs."

Wickware responded, "I don't see it as a teacher issue; teachers are going to have absences; teachers have days and absences afforded them in the contract. This is a daily issue for the middle school. Typically, during the year, we have five regular subs at our school, but this year, we are closer to

none. A number of the subs who traditionally are with us are now COSAs. There has been a massive decline in the resources we have available when teachers are absent."

Superintendent Derild Parson explained the role of a COSA as "Classified on Special Assignment." "Basically, we were struggling to fill our teaching positions. We have some classified staff who are preparing to become teachers but could not afford to leave their job and long-term sub because of the loss of benefits. This allows them to do this, maintain union representation, and work in a classroom as essentially a long-term sub. They need to have a substitute license. This is proving to be very helpful in growing our own teachers. It also helped us to put people in classrooms when we do not have enough licensed teachers."

Moving substitutes into these COSA positions means fewer subs are available to fill in during teacher absences.


At Churchill County High School, school goals include increasing the proficiency scores in math and English by 10% and increasing the science score by 15%. Currently, the high school proficiency rate in math is 27.9%, English is 55.3%, and science is 19.09%. For the Class of 2024, the goal is to increase the graduation rate by 3.5 points from 86.5% to 90%.

School District Reminders

Staff Report

CCSD reminds students and families of transportation blackout dates and altered bus schedules. Buses will run as usual on January 4 and 5. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will return to school on Monday, January 8. Yellow Zone (Buses 1, 16, 24, and 41) will be on blackout. Parents will need to find alternate transportation for their students in the morning and afternoon. As a reminder, this rolling schedule is for general education bus routes only. Special education routes and the routes to Hazen (#19) and Middlegate (#56) will run as usual and will not be affected by the rolling blackouts.

| YELLOW ZONE BUS ROUTES | BLACKOUT DATES |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Bus #41 Bus #1 Bus #16 Bus #24 | January 8-13 February 5-9 |
| RED ZONE BUS ROUTES | BLACKOUT DATES |
| Bus #8 Bus #36 Bus #38 | January 15-19 February 11-13 |
| BLUE ZONE BUS ROUTES | BLACKOUT DATES |
| Bus #10 Bus #25 Bus #37 Bus #60 | January 22-26 February 19-23 |
| GREEN ZONE BUS ROUTES | BLACKOUT DATES |
| Bus #33 Bus #47 Bus #48 | January 29-February 2 February 26-March 1 |



**JANUARY 8-11
BLACKOUT
YELLOW ZONE**

**BUS NUMBERS
41, 1, 16, 24**

**You will need to find alternate transportation
to and from school for your students.**

Bighorn Bulletin

By Angela Viera with photos courtesy of Oasis Academy



Senior Spotlight: Jason Neumann

Senior Jason Neumann wants to make a difference in the lives of kids in the foster care system. It's something he knows about firsthand.

"After graduation, my plan is to help foster children who struggle with trauma and pain. I am passionate about making a difference in their lives because of my life," said Neumann. "I have spent years in the foster care system. I have had pain and hardship, loss, and sorrow. As well as success, love, and hope. I plan to start a ministry called The House of Fire that would help provide the help and support foster children need," he said.

"There are several mentors and teachers at Oasis that I would like to thank. Mr. Eric Grimes, Mr. Andy Lenon, Mr. Evan Brandt, Fenn Mackendon, and countless others played a significant role in my success at Oasis. Their guidance, support, and belief in me fueled my determination to strive for greatness," he said.

"My time with Mr. Lenon has been so much fun, and we have a great relationship. I am truly grateful for

his mentorship, encouragement, and belief in me," he added.

"Out of all the classes I took at Oasis, my favorite was Government with Mr. Grimes. I enjoyed this class because it gave me an opportunity to express my opinions and engage in debates and discussions. It taught me the importance of critical thinking as well as civic responsibility," he explained.

Although he only started at Oasis his junior year, there are countless memories and friendships the senior has made. He has been active in school, participating in basketball, archery, and baseball this season.

"My time at Oasis has been memorable. Every day brought something new, and I learned a lot about myself and others during my time here. Oasis truly helped me become the person I am today," Neumann said.

Neumann has advice for future students as well.

"My advice would be to embrace new experiences and step out of your comfort zone. You can't discover new oceans if you are not willing to lose sight of the shore. So, take advantage of any opportunities presented to you, be it joining clubs, trying out for sports teams, or taking challenging classes. Explore your passions, invest time in building meaningful relationships, and never stop learning and growing," he said.

Homecoming Activities

Oasis Academy celebrated Homecoming with a spirited week. The High School Student Council planned the activities and kept students involved. The week started with the annual staff versus student volleyball game at the Venturacci Gym, with the staff winning this year.

Festivities continued with dress-up days, a karaoke night, a white elephant gift exchange, and finally, a dance at the Fallon Youth Club, with this year's theme of Winter on the Beach. Over one hundred students attended the dance this year.

"Huge shout out to Student Council and Eric Grimes for a fun-filled week and awesome dance," added Rochelle Tisdale, Interim Executive Director.

Christmas Traditions Continue

During the holiday season, many classes and grades have developed fun traditions. The project-based activities provide educational opportunities in the classroom and focus on service and community.

Mrs. Julie Stockard's tenth-grade classes hold an annual potluck with dishes that are part of each student's family traditions. Students present their dishes as part of a lesson before they read "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

Eighth graders look forward to caroling and a gift exchange each year. Students meet at school and ride on a flatbed truck driven by Hiskett and Sons throughout town, singing Christmas songs. They then return to school for hot cocoa and a gift exchange.

Other traditions include caroling in the Maker's Space for kindergarten through second graders and the middle school dance in the cafeteria.

The staff did a favorite things gift exchange for the second year. Participants brought in three of one of their favorite things. Items included milk frothers, lotions, soaps, treats, and more. Each person then went home with three new things.



Zachary Budner, Joshua Gusewelle, An Nguyen, Joshua Helm

Staff also surprised students by dressing up each day the week before school was released. Students were surprised to see teachers and administrators in ski gear, reindeer costumes, snowman outfits, and their favorite holiday sweaters.

Samantha Kramer, Lauren Kelly, Nicole Hanifan, Meg Antoniono, Bella Prewett, Raquel Feest.



Sports

Fallon Outlaws Wrestler's Earn 2nd Place at Tourney

Congratulations Fallon Outlaws Wrestling Club on a 2nd place at the Sierra Nevada Classic wrestling tournament. The Outlaws knocked off some rust and got the regular season started last week. Coach Wade Workman said, "We have a lot of work to do before the state tournament in March, but these kids are up for the challenge."

Outlaws photos by Debbie Workman.



Send your sports photos to
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Columns

Allison's Non-Book Report – Granny Erquiaga's Soup

Hello! It is your friendly neighborhood book lady, and this week, I am stepping out of the library and into Kelli's kitchen for a little column swap. As Kelli mentioned a few pages ago in the Book Report, she and I bonded over our mutual love of books, food, and the Muppets. I am here to add bearded husbands, Wes Anderson movies, puppies, off-colored jokes, and bottomless margaritas. We are two peas in a pod, or maybe two chickpeas in a bowl of this soup? Kelli is a bean connoisseur, so she will approve of a recipe that features garbanzo beans, which I called Gonzo beans for most of my childhood because, well, Muppets, with a few veggies and tender chunks of meat in a flavorful tomatoey broth.

I think this soup started with my Granny Erquiaga and an old Weight Watchers recipe in the 70s or 80s and with a handful of little changes by individual family members, Granny's Soup is a family staple. Manna from heaven for all of us. Sick? Sad? Feeling cozy? Have a big gathering of hungry people at your house? Need a healthy lunch prep idea? Dump the ingredients into a pot or a slow cooker. Grab a

loaf of crusty bread, and this soup will solve all your problems. Okay, maybe not all your problems, but at least your belly will be full.

Granny Erquiaga's Soup

Ingredients:

A drizzle of olive oil
1 pound of stew meat
1 large onion diced
1 carrot, peeled and diced
1 stalk of celery, chopped (I hate celery, so I chop it up so tiny that I forget it is there)
Several cloves of garlic, finely chopped (who am I to tell you how much garlic – measure with your heart)
2 tablespoons tomato paste
½ cup of red wine (go ahead and a glass for the cook while you're at it)
1 large potato, peeled and diced
1 tablespoon each of onion powder and garlic powder
2 tablespoons Italian seasoning
Several bay leaves
2 cans of Gonzo beans (or chickpeas if you don't speak Muppet)
2 cans of diced tomatoes
1 quart of tomato juice (I guess you

could use V8 or something, I just use plain)
1 carton of beef broth or stock (more if it gets too thick or you like it brothy)
¾ cup of quick-cooking barley
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

In a large soup pot, add olive oil along with onions, carrots, celery and garlic and a sprinkle of salt. Cook over a medium heat until veggies are translucent. Add meat. When the meat is seared, add tomato paste, stirring for a minute or two. Add the wine to deglaze the pan, really scraping the bottom of the pot while the wine is cooking out a little bit. Add potatoes, tomatoes, chickpeas, seasoning, tomato juice and stock. Bring soup up to a boil, cover reduce the heat to low and let it simmer. Go drink the wine you hopefully poured for yourself or read a book or knit or whatever you do while you wait for soup. Your house will start to smell amazing, and it is time to throw in the barley. If my soup starts looking a little too thick, I add some more stock or water. When the barley is tender, season to taste and ladle into big bowls.

Sprinkle with parmesan. Warm, crusty French bread for soaking up the broth is a must.

Like many old family favorites, this one is more of a template than a recipe. Don't have stew meat? Browned hamburger works, or my personal favorite venison. I use barley and potatoes in mine. Granny added cheese tortellini. My gluten-free family uses brown rice; even a handful of macaroni or ditalini works. Sometimes, I even mix whatever combination of these things I have lying around. I often toss in some chopped zucchini, or I add a handful of fresh spinach to my bowl before I ladle the hot soup on top to up the veggie factor. It is truly the foundation of a great soup that is begging to be personalized.

Go forth and make Granny's soup your own.

Allison Diegel is the Executive Chaos Coordinator at the Diegel Home for Wayward Girls and Their Many Pets here in her hometown of Fallon. She has been reading since before she could talk, and now she likes doing lots of both.



Happy New Year!

- Churchill County Museum Staff



What's Cooking on Kelli's Bookshelf

Greetings friends - happy to see you a few pages earlier in this issue of The Fallon Post.

Welcome to 2024! As you may be aware, my friend Allison and I share many of the same interests: a passion for the written word, showing love for others through home-cooked meals, and The Muppets. In this special cross-over episode, I asked Allison if we could swap articles so that I could recap a year of reading, and she would be obligated to share one of her family's treasured recipes. I'm not going to lie. I want the recipe.

Since 2014, I have logged the books I read as a part of the Goodreads Annual Reading Challenge. The challenge invites folks to set a reading goal for the year and track progress as they update their reading status. In 2023, I set a modest goal as I stepped away from leisure reading while I was completing my degree at WNC. I just barely eked it out with a whimsical novel, Nina George's "The Little Village of Book Lovers." Here are the books that I gave a five-star rating on Goodreads this year. All titles are available from the Churchill County Library or through an inter-library loan.

"The Lost Art of Mixing" - by Erica Bauermeister: This is a novel about food, community, and families built by choice. It plays out in a restaurant that is the embodiment of all that I ever dreamed of as a culinary professional. The story is touching, accessible, and beautifully written.

"No Two Persons" - by Erica Bauermeister: This novel is worthy of a five-

star review. The publisher describes this book as "One book. Nine readers. Ten changed lives." It is a book about a book, reflective of the reality that no two people experience a book in the same way.

"Other Birds" - by Sarah Addison Allen: This was the first of many of her books I read in 2023. I found so many beautiful sentences and ideas on these pages. My favorite: "There are birds, and then there are other birds. Maybe they don't sing. Maybe they don't fly. Maybe they don't fit in. I don't know about you, but I'd much rather be an other bird than just the same old thing."

"The Island of Missing Trees" - by Elif Shafak: This book tells the story of the island of Cyprus through the eyes of two young lovers separated by political and cultural division. It is an equally heart-warming and heart-breaking story about love, the threads that connect us with our neighbors, and the things that we allow to drive us apart.

"The Seed Keeper" - by Diane Wilson: A compelling narrative about the importance of seeds is told through the perspective of four generations of Dakota women who protect them in order to preserve their way of life and the survival of their family.

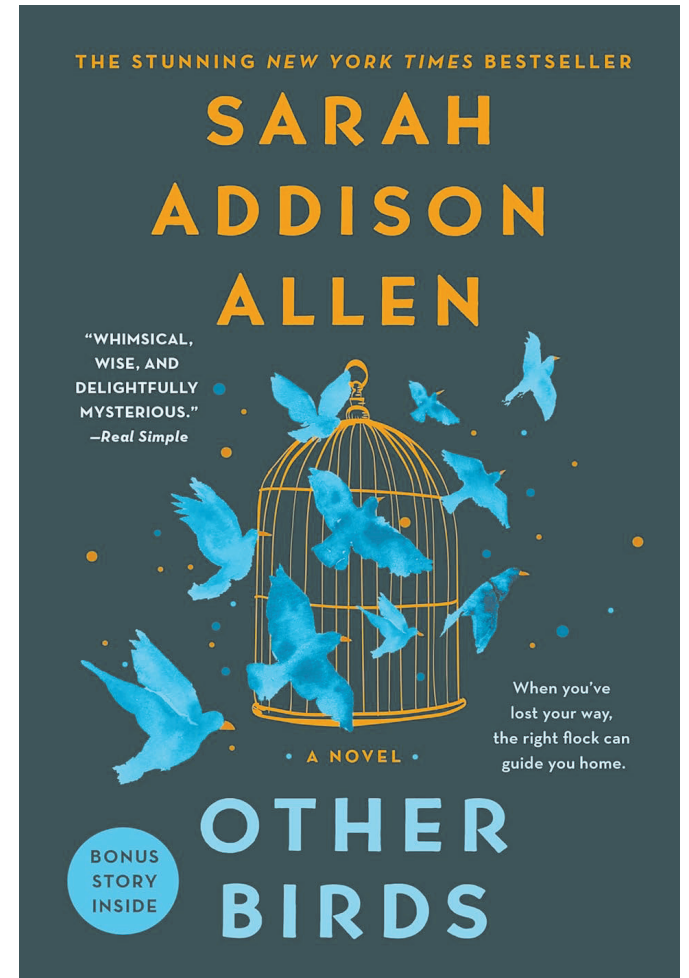
"Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow" - by Gabrielle Zevin

This novel tells the story of the love and friendship shared by two game designers through thirty years of collaboration. The story leads us to confront questions of identity, failure, disappointment, and redemption

through our relationships with others. Ultimately, this book is about the need for connection and belonging.

"Parable of the Sower" - by Octavia Butler: A speculative fiction book published in 1993 and set in 2024. It was illuminating to read her envisioning of a time thirty years in the future as a reader in 2023. While actual life is not as dire as Butler envisioned, many of the struggles that she describes ring true. This is a hard read with graphic descriptions of the worst things that people can do to one another. It is also a transformative tale with characters emerging from tragedy, coming together to form a community, cultivating hope, and working together to build something beautiful.

As we start our 2024 book journey, remember there is not enough time to waste a moment reading a book you don't like. You have my permission to put it down without finishing to start something else. Happy reading.



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

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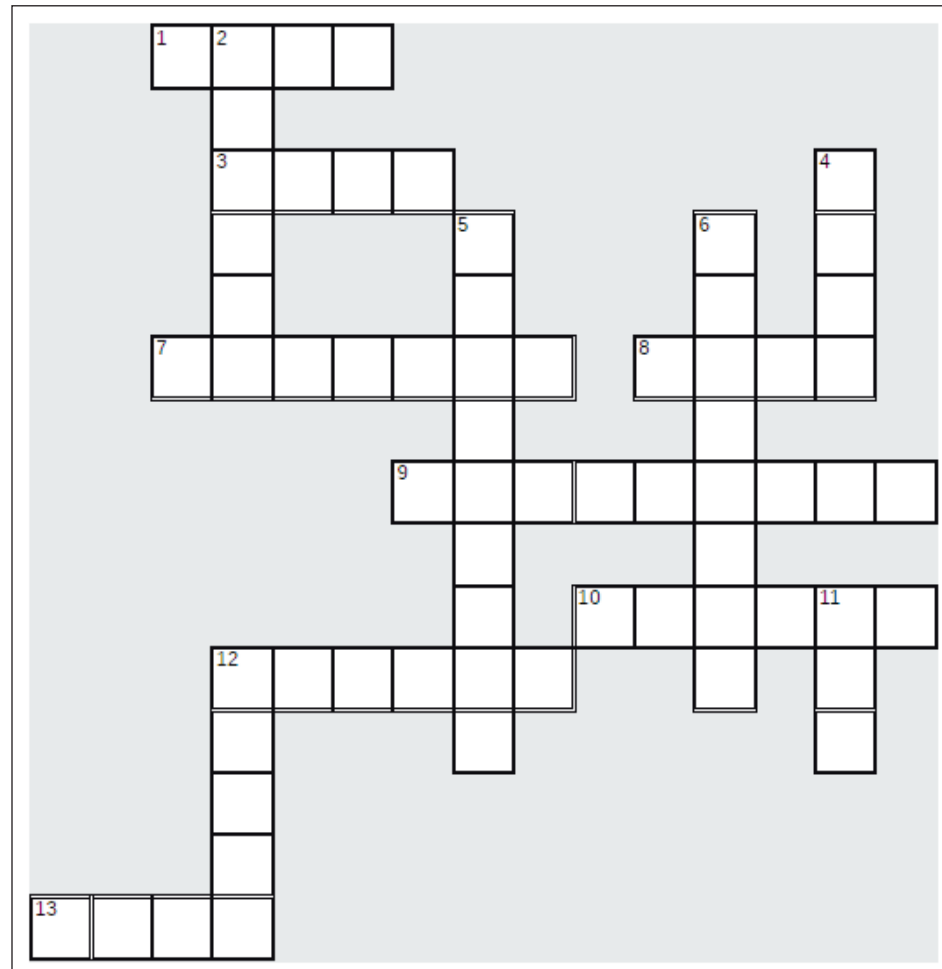
Your Community-Owned & Operated Fallon Theatre

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We start 2024 with a new film, a 'cult' classic, and our movies are still free. Playing this weekend, Friday, January 5, and Saturday, January 6, at 6 p.m., each evening is the 2023 animated action comedy "Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken." Sweet and awkward 16-year-old Ruby Gillman is desperate to fit in at school, but she mostly just feels invisible. She's prevented from hanging out with the cool kids at the beach because her over-protective mom forbids her from getting in the water. When she breaks her mom's rule, Ruby discovers that she is a descendant of the warrior Kraken queens and is destined to inherit the throne from her grandmother. The Kraken are sworn to protect the world's oceans against vain, power-hungry mermaids. Annie Murphy, Lana Condor, Liza Koshy, and Jane Fonda provided voices.

Our second feature on both evenings, starting at 7 p.m., is the 1981 fantasy adventure "Clash of the Titans." Perseus, son of the Greek god Zeus, grows up on a deserted island. His destiny is to marry Princess Andromeda, who will someday rule the city of Joppa. But as long as the satyr Calibos - who uses a giant vulture to kidnap Andromeda's soul every night - is alive, no one can marry her. Perseus travels to Joppa, where he must defeat Calibos and other mythological monsters to rescue Andromeda. Starring Harry Hamlin, Laurence Olivier, Ursula Andress, Maggie Smith, and Julie Bowker.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, January 13, as we are excited to have The Will Shamberger Band and a Special Guest join us for live music on our historic stage. The concert starts at 7 p.m., and tickets are only \$12.

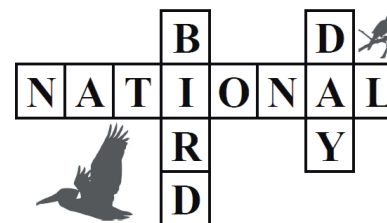


January Movies

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Friday 1/5</p> <p><i>Teenage Kraken</i> (PG) @ 6pm <i>Clash of the Titans</i> (1981) @ 7pm</p> <p>Friday 1/12</p> <p><i>Scooby-Doo</i> (PG) @ 6pm <i>The Shop Around the Corner</i> (1940) @ 7pm</p> <p>Friday 1/19</p> <p><i>PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie</i> (PG) @ 6pm <i>A Dog's Purpose</i> (PG) @ 7pm</p> <p>Friday 1/26</p> <p><i>Barnyard</i> (PG) @ 6pm <i>Operation Haylift</i> (1950) @ 7pm</p> | <p>Saturday 1/6</p> <p><i>Teenage Kraken</i> (PG) @ 6pm <i>Clash of the Titans</i> (1981) @ 7pm</p> <p>Saturday 1/13</p> <p><i>Scooby-Doo</i> (PG) @ 6pm <i>Will Shamberger Band</i> January 13th, 2024 7pm Live Music @ 7pm! \$12</p> <p>Saturday 1/20</p> <p><i>PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie</i> (PG) @ 6pm <i>A Dog's Purpose</i> (PG) @ 7pm</p> <p>Saturday 1/27</p> <p><i>Barnyard</i> (PG) @ 6pm <i>Operation Haylift</i> (1950) @ 3pm & 7pm</p> |
|---|--|

All Movies Are Free!

Crossword — by Peanut



Across

- 1 White-faced
- 3 Mourning
- 7 Pyramid Lake resident
- 8 Canvasback
- 9 Red-winged
- 10 Likes crackers?
- 12 Bird-watching place
- 13 Graceful on a lake

Down

- 2 Parakeet
- 4 Red-tailed
- 5 Dairy pest
- 6 Our state bird
- 11 Great-horned
- 12 Christopher

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LET it snow

CASE NO. 23-10DC-1227
DEPT. NO. 1

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COURT OF THE STATE OF NE-
VADA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF
CHURCHILL

In the Matter of the Estate of
ALEXANDR PEREVERTAN, De-
ceased

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned have been appointed and qualified by the above entitled Court on December 4, 2023, as Personal Representatives of the Estate of Alexandr Perevertan, deceased. All creditors having claims against the Estate are required to file their claims, with supporting documentation attached, with the Clerk of the Court, Churchill County Courthouse, Fallon, Nevada within 60 days after the mailing of the first publication (as the case may be of this notice).

Dated: December 13, 2023
By: Anna Perevertan, Personal
Representative of the Estate of
Alexandr Perevertan

Law Office of Michal Majchrzak
Michal Majchrzak
P.O. Box 10761
Zephyr Cove, Nevada 89448
Bar Number: 13531
Attorney for Anna Perevertan

Published in The Fallon Post on
December 22, 29, 2023 and January
5, 2024
Ad #6144



ANNUAL PUBLICATION NOTICE

Sierra Trucking, LLC, doing business in Nevada, hereby makes the annual publication notice under NRS 80.190, by Shelley Schafer, Manager. Sierra Trucking, LLC is located at 3300 Sheckler Road, Fallon, NV 89406.

Published in The Fallon Post on
December 29, 2023 and January 5,
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Ad #6146

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Case No. 23-10DC-1480
Dept. No. 1

IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DIS-
TRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF
NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUN-
TY OF CHURCHILL
NOTICE OF HEARING

In the Matter of the Estate of

LAWRENCE MARTIN MAES aka
LAWRENCE M. MAES aka
LAWRENCE MAES,
Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ERSIE E. WALLS has filed with this Court on the 20th day of December, 2023, her PETITION FOR SUMMARY ADMINISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; that the aforesaid Petition for Summary Administration and Issuance of Letters of Administration, will be brought before the above-entitled Court for hearing on the 16th day of January, 2024, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. of said day, or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, at the courtroom of the above-entitled Court, in the City of Fallon, County of Churchill, State of Nevada, at which time and place all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the Petition should not be confirmed.

DATED this 20th day of December,
2023.

TIFFANY JOSEPHS, Clerk
By: Shellie Hooten
Deputy Clerk
MARSH LAW PLLC
WAYNE A. PEDERSON, ESQ.
Attorney for the Estate
107 N. Main Street
Yerington, NV 89447
(775) 463-3227
wayne@marshlawnv.com

Published in *The Fallon Post* on
December 29, January 5, and Janu-
ary 12, 2024.
Ad # 6150

Legal Notices & Bulletin

Community Meetings

City Council
Tuesday, Jan 9 at 9 a.m.
City Hall

County Planning Commission
Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.
155 N. Taylor St., Ste 145

Central NV Health District
Thursday, Jan. 10 at 1:30 p.m.
155 N. Taylor St., Ste 145

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Water Levels

Measurements taken
January 2, 2024
at 8:30 a.m.

Lahontan Reservoir
218,400 af
Carson River Below Lahontan
2.34 cfs
Truckee Canal at Wadsworth
.85 cfs
Truckee Canal at Hazen
0.00 cfs
Carson River at Ft. Churchill
242 cfs

January 2, 2024
2024 : 218,357 acre feet
2023 : 34,715 acre feet
2022 : 66,008 acre feet
cfs - Cubic Feet per Second
af - Acre Feet
Source: TCID.org & WaterData.USGS.gov

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|---|--|--|---|---|
| 8 Beef Vegetable Soup Tuna Macaroni Salad Whole Wheat Roll Tropical Fruit Cup | 9 Turkey Cacciatore Italian Bean Blend Garlic Bread Tomato & Lettuce Salad Sliced Pears | 10 <i>Birthday Lunch</i> Swiss Steak Egg Noodles Mixed Vegetable Orange Spinach Salad Seasonal Fruit | 11 Teriyaki Meatballs w/Pineapple Rice and Black Beans Capri Blend Veggies Spiced Peaches | 12 Chicken Tenders Au Gratin Potatoes Peas and Carrots Roll Fruit Cocktail Bread Pudding |



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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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