FALLON MAGAZINE

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

04.

FEATURE

NAS FALLON AND AIR POWER PARK

08. HERITAGE

HOME TO THE SEAWOLF

09. HISTORY

DON SEFTON

10. **INDUSTRY**

HUCK SALT



19.

ART, AUTHORS, & POETRY STEVE RANSON MAKING HIS OWN

20. ART, AUTHORS, & POETRY COWBOY POETRY

21. ART

CHURCHILL ARTS COUNCIL

26. **MEET THE STAFF**

TEAM WING - WALKERS, MEN, NUTS



12. LEGENDS

THOMPSON CENTER GUNS

13. REVIVAL

VIC WILLIAMS COMES TO THE POST

14. WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

GEM DRAFTING

16. BUSINESS

JO LEAVES THE TEAROOM





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152 Industrial Way Fallon, Nevada 89406 (775)-423-4545 publisher@thefallonpost.org www.fallonpost.org

President/Publisher RACHEL DAHL

Editor **LEANNA LEHMAN**

Staff Writer/ Designer
VIVIANE UGALDE

Staff Writer/Post Production ALICIA PARSONS

Staff Writer
JO PETTERUTI

Post Production
LAURA SHURTLIFF

Contributors

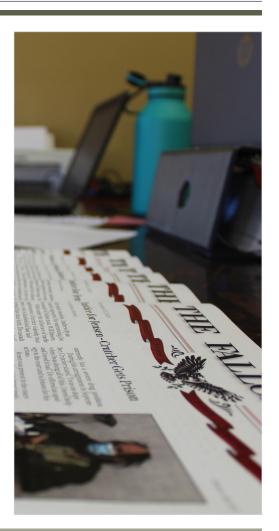
STAN LEHMAN

DON SEFTON

ZIP UPHAM

SUSAN WEIKEL

VIC WILLIAMS



A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome to our first and long-awaited edition of the *Fallon Magazine*. We finally did it and we hope you really like it. The idea of the magazine is to dodge the news and feature our community and all the wonderful things that go on here - who we are, from where we've come, and the things that make us special. All done by local writers and contributors. For us, by us.

We are indebted to Zip Upham and Val Serpa for the features in this edition - the Navy and the Art's Council. We thought since going to see exhibits is still off-limits, we would bring the exhibits to you. This was harder than we thought, and we acknowledge it just isn't the same, but we hope you get a taste of these amazing displays.

Normally, the Lahontan Valley Artist Invitational reception and show happens each year, the first Friday in December, and features the recent work of our local, Churchill County artists. We owe an apology to the artists for our inability to capture the beauty of their work in photographs reproduced in print, but we hope you find the feature inspires you to take advantage of the private tours available of the Arts Center by calling for an appointment: 423-1440.

We realized while doing this edition, that the magazine was taking on a military flavor, so we've decided to theme each magazine. Welcome to the Military Edition of the *Fallon Magazine*. The next edition will be the Health Care Edition, and then maybe a Natural Resources Edition. Send us an idea if you have one for themes we could use going forward.

So there we have it... we're going to put this thing out and see how it goes. Let us know your thoughts, how we can improve, and things we can include. Let us know if you have a business and would like to carry this beautiful new Fallon-focused magazine. We will add your business to our list of distributors on our website and in the weekly paper for a little advertising boost.

Keeping you posted,

Rachel

NAS FALLON AND AIR POWER PARK

Naval Air Station Fallon is home to a large collection of static display aircraft. Some of the aircrafts are near the main gate and the rest are arrayed for public viewing in Air Power Park. The collection includes historical Navy aircraft from WWII to the present. The collection also includes five Russian MiG aircrafts. There are 24 aircrafts on dislpay at NAS Fallon



The F-8 Crusader was the Navy's first supersonic fighter jet. Used during the Vietnam war as an interceptor, the carrier-based F-8 had difficulty landing on the ship and required the entire wing to be canted (angled) to slow the aircraft for ship-board landing.





The A-4 Skyhawk was a nimble bomber used during the Vietnam conflict. It later became an adversary aircraft and is still being used today for training purposes. This NAS Fallon gate guard is painted in the colors of the Fallon-based reserve squadron VFC-13, "Fighting Saints.". (left)

Looking down the pitot tube of the MiG-21 Fishbed (Right).



The powerful propeller of a Douglas A-1 Skyraider overlooks the front entrance at NAS Fallon (below)

A MiG-15 boasts a colorful camouflage paint scheme reminiscent of tiger stripes (below)







The F-14 Tomcat was the Navy's air-superiority fighter from 1970 through 2006. The Tomcat was made famous by the Film Top Gun in 1986 (Left)

The nose of the F-4 Phantom II. A carrier launched Navy fighter aircraft from the Vietnam era that retired in 1996. The F-4 Phantom II aircraft was then used for unmanned air-to-air missile practice and testing through 2016. It had a top speed of over Machtwo (right)



The F-86 Sabre in Air force paint commemorates USMC Major John Glenn and his three MiG shoot-downs during the Korean War (Right)

Photos provided by Zip Upham and the U.S. Navy.



www.TheFallonPost.org 7

5

NAS FALLON — HOME TO SEAWOLF



The Seawolves of HA(L)-3 fly their UH-1B Huey helicopter low over riverine forces in Vietnam. Photo courtesy of www.seawolf.org

By Tiffany Picotte

Anyone who lives in or visits Fallon quickly becomes aware of the many aircraft flying through the endless blue skies of our desert town. It is not uncommon to see F-18s, F-35s, E-2s or H-60s on any given day. That is because Fallon is home of the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (NAWDC) which is the premier training facility for naval aviation. Fallon became the home of this elite school when several training programs moved from Miramar, California, to the Battle Born state in 1996. Since then, our endless desert lands and mostly blue skies have been the playground for these aircraft, preparing our warriors for battle in the sky.

Thanks to the 1986 movie *Top Gun* the fixed-wing side of this training program will forever be known to the American public. There is a whole other side to this program, however, dedicated to rotary wing operations and training. The Helicopter Weapons and Tactic Instructor Course has approximately 20-25 instructors who specialize in overseeing the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, the Navy Helicopter Mountain Flying Course, as well as training the helicopter squadrons of visiting airwings.

Back in 2011, this exceptional training division was re-named SEA-WOLF after a unique but mostly unknown helicopter squadron from the Vietnam War. The birth of Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three, better known as HA(L)-3, was as distinctive

as the squadron itself. Vietnam was a war of unknown tactics never before seen which forced the US military to adapt and change their strategies to deal with the enemy. This made air warfare an unquestionable asset.

Originally the light attack helicopters were taken to Vietnam to provide the Patrol Boat River (PBRs) air support in the Mekong Delta. With the Navy helicopter pilots having the needed skills to provide support at night and in bad weather, skills learned while flying in all-weather situations during antisubmarine warfare and search and rescue missions, their assistance quickly became a necessity. As a result, in 1967 a Navy squadron was stood up in Vietnam comprised of

eight UH-1B Hueys borrowed from the Army. HA(L)-3 was born, with the mission to support PBR operations with fire support, recon, and medevac services. The squadron

was soon called upon to help support multiple other units operating in the delta.

It quickly became apparent that additional detachments were needed to provide enough coverage for the Mekong Delta. According to Seawolf Facts provided at www.seawolf.org their first-year operation statistics include over 13,000,000 7.62mm rounds fired and 155,000 2.75 inch rockets fired. HA(L)-3 was one of the only known squadrons in the Navy's history to be established and then decommissioned in 1972 on foreign soil during the Vietnam War. Over 3,000 men rotated through the squadron and together they earned hundreds of medals, citations, and commendations making them the most decorated squadron in Naval Aviation History.

After the war, however, their mission was mostly unknown and sometimes grossly misunderstood by some people in the military and most civilians. Because of their unusual situation as the US Navy's first and only dedicated attack helicopter gunship squadron which was then decommissioned overseas, they were mostly unknown. These warriors and protectors of our country did not receive the recognition they earned or deserved.

Fast forward to 2011. The training division for the most elite Navy personnel in rotary-wing aviation were both humbled and honored to be allowed to name themselves after the Seawolves. This was just one small way to pay tribute to the men of HAL-3 and thank them for a job well done. Another awesome tribute to this command is the documentary, "Scramble the Seawolves" directed and produced by Jeff and Shannon Arballo

and narrated by Mike Rowe, where they used original Seawolf footage for over 80% of the documentary. The fact that we have this amazing bit of history and a tribute to some American heroes in our small town is something everyone should know

more about.

Please visit www.seawolf.org for more information about the Seawolves.

A SH-60S assigned to the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center SEAWOLF training program operates in the Nevada sky during a training mission at Fallon. Photo by MC1 Joe Vincent, US Navy



REPURPOSED WAR DETRITUS

The Ubiquitous German Mask Canister of World War II

By Don Sefton

After World War II, millions of tons of used and unused military equipment was sold to the public in war surplus stores or "Army Navy Stores". While most of the World War II surplus made its way through these channels between the late 1940s and the late 1960s, there are still surplus stores today including Fernley, Sparks and Reno. Most of these stores now sell modern surplus (from Vietnam and Desert Storm), or reproductions of World War II equipment and camping equipment manufactured for non military purposes. But, it is still possible 75 years later to find World War II surplus for sale.

Post war Germany was so destitute (more than 85% of Berlin was razed to the ground between American and British bombing and Soviet Artillery used in

the final "Battle of Berlin") that much of their war detritus found its way directly to civilians from returning soldiers, rather than through commercial outlets like those seen in the US and Great Britain.

During World War II, each German Soldiers (13,000,000+) was issued a Gas Mask in a ribbed cylindrical container.

Many of the photos of World II soldiers show this part of their Kit as it was ubiquitous, issued and signed for in their "Soldbuch" (pay book) and most of the soldiers kept this part of their equipment to the bitter end. There were at least a half dozen variations of this equipment through the course of the war, but most looked similar enough to be easily confused as identical. They are typically cylindrically shaped and about 5" in diameter and 11" in height. Also typical is the ribbed metal exterior.

The use of chemical warfare began thousands of years ago, but gas as it was used in war was a World War I was a phenomena. As many as 1,250,000 soldiers from both sides were gassed during the war and nearly 100,000 of those died. According to U.S. records 72,807 Americans were gassed and 1,462 of those, fatally. Records for the Allies and

for the enemy are far less specific. Germans suffered approximately 200,000 casualties, with approximately 9,000 fatalities. While these numbers are small in comparison to the total casualties suffered by all parties during the first World War, the sheer terror of being gassed weighed heavily on all participants and particularly those who rose to leadership positions before World War II.

Adolf Hitler himself was gassed with British Mustard gas as a German Army Corporal on October 14-15, 1918 in the Ypres salient in Belgium and was temporarily blind and in a hospital through the armistice on November 11, 1918. It had a lifelong impact upon him and it is widely believed that it is the only reason he eschewed the use of gas in World War II.

Gas attacks, including attacks on civilians were widely expected by both sides. Early in the war, British citizens were issued a civilian version of a gas mask and there were penalties for not

having them with your person when out and about.

Allied soldiers were also uniformly issued gas masks during World War II and all American GIs went through gas mask training using non-lethal tear gas during Basic Training. Why did so many of the German soldiers keep these canisters through the entire war when their counterparts in the allied armies routinely threw their gas masks away? The general utility of the German Gas

Mask Canister ("Gasmaskenbüchse") was an all purpose carrying utensil for soldiers. Some contemporary accounts claim that German Soldiers kept their canisters, with the gas mask intact, even in the absence of a single gas attack during nearly six years of war, because of their "discipline" and fear of inspections. However, many anecdotal stories talk of the canisters being routinely used to carry foodstuff, cognac, writing materials, and war booty by the soldiers with the masks themselves either discarded or stored.

Schools were a dicey proposition in the waning months of World War II with both Western Allies and the Soviet Union on German soil pressing toward Berlin from early January 1945. German schools were largely shut down in February of 1945. However, they were quickly re-opened when the war ended



for Germany, with. children were already returning to school in July of 1945.

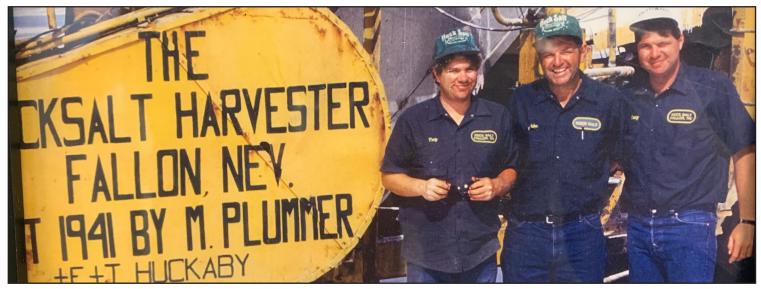
Equipped by fathers, older brothers, uncles, etc., many, if not most, children used one of these gas mask canisters as a school lunch pail in the post war era. This continued even into the 1960s when Germany finally emerged from poverty during the "Wirtschaftswunder" ("Economic Wonder") period.

Authentic original period equipment canisters are available on Ebay and other auction sites for \$100 to \$300 depending on condition and whether the mask is present (which is only true in a minority of sales). A thriving secondary market has emerged with manufacturers in China selling well made reproductions that are similar in weight and material to original construction and even have accurate war time markings on them. These reproductions cost between \$20 and \$50 and are primarily used by "re-enactors" who have historically accurate costumes and equipment that are used to participate in a large scale re-enactments of World War II battles such as the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion in Normandy. But, like post war German children, some of these canisters are purchased and used again for lunch pails!

Don Sefton writes from Fallon, where he owns a business and supports the local art community. He is a history buff and has been telling Rachel stories since the Shirley Walker days.

History

HUCK SALT -- A FAMILY TRADITION



Left to right: Troy, John, and Tracy standing in front of the original harvester built by Elmer Huckaby and M. Plummer, which can still be used today.

By Leanna Lehman

Have you ever driven by that mysterious operation about four miles east of Fallon on the Austin Highway? The one that looks like it is situated on the south edge of civilization and belongs in a Mad Max movie? It is none other than Huck Salt, one of the Lahontan Valley's oldest and longest-running businesses.

Started by local Fallon man, Elmer Huckaby in 1938, Huck Salt has been mining salt since just before WWII. Elmer Huckaby could harvest about six tons of salt in two days - with a shovel and a wheelbarrow. After loading it into a truck by hand, Elmer would drive it to town and sell it to the IMP Creamery for \$7 per ton.

By the end of 1939, the country was at war. Huckaby was soon working to help offset the salt shortage and began shipping salt east. Huck's salt became an ingredient in water purifying chlorine tablets as part of every soldier's combat rations.

The road that crosses the salt flat from Highway 50 to Huck Salt was constructed in the 1920s. Geographically speaking, the Huck Salt flat is the lowest point in the Lahontan Basin. According to NASA, the flat shows off a slightly pink hue, making the area unique, even from space.

While Huck Salt is technically considered a mining operation, salt is not mined in the traditional sense. Mud and water evaporate and leave behind salt deposits that can be cleaned and refined. The method used to remove salt from the ground is more is similar to crop harvesting. According to Jessica Huckaby, their salt, which grows in anaerobic mud underwater, rises to the surface as the water evaporates and is then picked up by the harvester. At one point, Elmer Huckaby estimated there could be salt deposits up to 70 feet thick. And with a claim of 700 acres, that leaves a lot of salt still in the ground.

In 1941, with a WWI Garford truck frame and scrap parts from a cement truck, Elmer built his first salt harvester. This new contraption could harvest one ton of salt per minute - a far cry from three tons a day, and is still operational.

Elmer's son, John Huckaby, officially joined the operation when he was 16, even though he had been part of the business since he was five-years-old. John later added his own innovations by modifying snow removal equipment to the harvester, improving production. Nearly all of the equipment used by Huck

Salt was designed and built by the Huckabys, which manages to run for decades despite salt's highly corrosive nature.

In 1990, Elmer passed away and left the business to John. Before long, John brought on his three sons, Tracy, Troy, and Tron. Sadly, Tracy was involved in an accident on the flat that took his life in 1996. However, Troy and Tron are still working alongside their father. And now, Kovey, Kandon, and Conner have joined their father, Tron, bringing in to Huck Salt the fourthgeneration of Huckabys.

Huck Salt harvests from 125 acres of salt flat at a depth of one to four inches because of the layer of mud underneath the freshly grown salt. Mother nature, however, is in charge of the harvest. Rain, sun, and wind are all variables that affect the annual salt harvest. But unlike other agricultural crops, the peak season for salt growing is winter as water is essential in bringing salt to the surface.

Huck Salt sells some of their salt directly to customers from their warehouse off the Austin Highway near Harmon Junction. On a larger scale, Huck's Salt is used in many products like water softener, livestock mineral, agricultural products,



and is also used by fish hatcheries and geothermal plants. The largest part of their harvest, about 80%, is snow removal related and sold to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). There, it is used as road salt and in snowmelt. Unfortunately, a dry winter season can also mean a dry bottom line for the Huckabys. With drastically increasing environmental permits and mining fees combined with drought years, they often find themselves in the same position as other farmers in the valley - praying for rain.

The Huckabys have had their fair share of challenges over the years. Keeping equipment running on a man-made island essentially constructed from salt and mud is nothing short of a battle. Rust wages constant war against the equip-

ment, making rebuilding a part of normal every-day operations. As genetics, necessity, or possibly good luck would have it, each generation of Huckabys seems to have enviable millwright and mechanical skills. Nearly, if not all, of the constructing, repairing, and modifying, is done by the Huckabys.

Salt production does not stop after harvesting. It must also be refined once it is off of the ground. The end product determines how pure the salt must be. Even road salt must meet NDOT specifications. Freshly harvested salt is coated in mud and must be washed and dried. The kiln used by Huck Salt was installed in the 1960s and is still in use today.

One would think that by virtue of location, Huck Salt would be set

apart from neighboring influences. Not only is Huck Salt situated in the middle of BLM territory, but the Navy also has a claim on lands encircling the mine. They are also surrounded on three sides by other mining claims, but no one else is actively mining the area. But that does not mean no one has tried. China's Zong Industries recently sent researchers to the area in hopes of finding lithium deposits - an alkali metal used in many industrial applications like the manufacturing of batteries. In many cases, where there is salt, there is often lithium. Fortunately, Zong will not be encroaching on the Huck Salt operation any time soon. Mother Nature decided to produce lithium elsewhere and leave the salt

harvesting in Churchill County up to the Huckabys.

Fallon is lucky to have several locally owned businesses that have served the community for almost a century. Passing from one generation to another, these companies have provided jobs and helped support the county's economy. Huck Salt is no exception. However, the long-standing family-owned business is not a cog in the wheel of local industry. Rather, Huck salt is an integral part Fallon's history and heritage while continuing to be part of the community they serve.

Above: Harvester loading a "swamp: truck with salt. Below: Stockpiles of salt around the wash plant



FOR THE LOVE OF MACHINES -THE THOMPSON CENTER UGALDE



Wes Ugalde holding a 7mm TCU during a competition

By Viviane Ugalde

Churchill County has been home to several gun clubs for decades. Most notably, the Stillwater Firearms Association, the Greenhead Club, and the Canvasback Club. While the clubs offer sport for the casual gun enthusiast, they also have a host of top-notch competitive shooters on their roster. What else do these clubs, along with others across the nation, have in common? They use a 7mm TCU ammunition cartridge invented in 1977 by Fallon gunsmith, Wes Ugalde.

Wes Ugalde (or as I less formally liked to call him, Grandpa) became interested in gun smithing in 1957 while working on the .243 Winchester. Within five years,

In 1965, Ugalde started with a military version of a Remington hunting rifle, the .223, along with the ac-Soon, he had a 6.5mm caliber design that he thought had potential. That did not mean Ugalde would not continue to improve the new cartridge, however. At Stillwater Firearms shooting range, he found that his 6.5mm lacked the force to topple the silhouette targets. The cartridge needed more power downrange. He was determined to create something that was high performing, had low recoil, was accurate, and could be produced at

he had progressed from tinkering to becoming the onsite gunsmith for Fallon Sporting Goods Store. And, he was not able to keep his excellent craftsmanship under wraps. tion from a factory Remington XP100 bolt action pistol.

Wes Ugalde's 6.5mm cartridges were being used in the unlimited class shoot. During these competitions, targets are placed at varying distances and must be knocked over by the bullet without it piercing the steel target. His cartridges had to have enough power and accuracy to knock down chicken silhouettes at 50 meters, pigs at 100 meters, turkeys at 150 meters, and rams at 200 meters with a single shot allowed

After 15 years of competitions, Ugalde's 6.5mm cartridge was being used by world champion shooters. Finally, he crafted a 7mm version of his earlier design that would become known as "the bench shooter's dream."

That same year, Ugalde with six other competitive shooters from Nevada, headed for the World Shooting Championships in Los Angeles. He and his lifelong friend and Fallonite, Skip Talbot, who also designed his own cartridge, were anxious to put their handiwork to the test. Talbot designed what would later be called the 7 Talbot, but ultimately used Ugalde's 7mm

cartridge in the competition, which earned him the firstplace trophy. Ugalde also fared well, taking home the third-place prize. In 1979, seven shooters at the World Championships tied for first place, four of whom used Ugalde's 7mm cartridges.

Ugalde and his first-rate 7mm cartridge quickly gained notoriety. Contacted by the Thompson/Center Ārms, a firearms company based in Springfield, Massachusetts, Ugalde was offered an opportunity to "play with their pile of guns." They also wanted to add his high-performance cartridge to their catalog.

By the early 1980s, the expert gunmaker found himself in residence at the Warren Center of the Thompson/Center Arms factory in New Hampshire, and had his cartridge added to their catalog. It was named the 7mm TCU for short. One of Ugalde's sons said, "He had free run of the factory. He would cut open an action, fix all of the things wrong with it, and then just tell the engineering department to redraw plans and save them millions."

Ugalde returned home to Fallon in 1993 and continued to pursue his interest in the mechanical innerworkings of machines. The 7mm TCU is still a popular choice for competitive shooters. The cartridge remains a highly accurate, powerful, and inexpensive choice exactly what Ugalde was determined to create. 7mm TCU is not a factory round, so you cannot buy it in stores. But, Wes Ugalde's 7mm TCU cartridge and his contribution to gun clubs and competitive sport shooting is recognized locally and internationally. For Ugalde, it was all done just for the love of machines and shooting. As summed up by one of his children, "He didn't get anything out of it other than the name."

a low cost.

VIC WILLIAMS: BRINGING HIS HUMOR HOME TO THE FALLON POST



By Rachel Dahl

In my memory, Vic Williams is situated back in the acrimonious days of Tom Robinson, Don Bowman, Jeff Robinson, and the like. A time in Fallon when the Double Eagle Saloon and the old Waterhole were the places to be. I was a child, so the stories probably have little resemblance to fact, but I always remember seeing the Double Eagle when my dad took me to the Pickle Barrel for sandwiches before he took me flying in his little plane. That building eventually became the Bird Farm, another venture between Vic and a friend.

Vic did political cartoons in the *Lahontan Valley News* back then. I still remember one from 1993, about the death of small businesses at the hands of mandatory health care. Ironically, things haven't changed much. Those were the days when Anne Pershing was at the helm of the LVN and she and J.C. could be seen lunching in the corner of local establishments wearing

big dark glasses, smoking cigarettes, and planning the next edition of the paper. Their table at Jerry's still holds a place of honor for those of us who remember those days. Ranson, McMillin, and I are planning a tribute lunch in the near future.

Like many of our local treasures who live a low-key life in Fallon, Vic has an interesting history and is a true Renaissance man. He grew up in Fallon, played football for the Greenwave, and graduated in 1956, joined the Army National Guard in 1957 and served for eight years.

Several years later, he went to work for Naval Strike Warfare, traveling from Fallon to Lemoore as a civilian to attend training in the art department. Yes, there is such a thing. Or was back then. He said he would read the satellite photos, which were horrible in quality, and "photo interpret" them, creating slides used in pilot strike training. He gained a top-secret clearance and learned to speak Russian and Spanish. Which, he will sneak into a conversation with a twinkle in his eye.

I ran into Vic this summer - he had seen the paper last fall when we first printed our special section, and he was interested in doing cartoons for us. Imagine that.

We've been talking about it ever since and finally settled down enough to get the idea on paper. His reprisal ran in the Christmas edition and in this first magazine.

We are officially re-introducing Vic Williams to the community with a little ditty he did one day to test our color printer. He typically uses black on white pen and ink and was excited to see how his new colored pencils would look in print. We are excited to host a community institution – a renowned cartoonist of great talent and clever insight.

He is a winner of the Nevada Press Association Better Newspaper contest, bringing home the Best Political Cartoonist award three different years.

Welcome back, Vic. We're glad we have you.

www.TheFallonPost.org Revival 13

THE BROTHERS GELINEAU: GEM DRAFTING





Eddie (left) and Matt (right) Gelineau.

By Susan Weikel

Some leave in search of education, others chase opportunity, and some leave seeking adventure. Yet, most find their way back to the small town of their youth.

In the case of brothers Matt and Eddie Gelineau, Churchill County High School graduates who left Fallon in the early 2010s, both have made their way back to the Oasis of Nevada, bringing with them an entrepreneurial spirit. Returning home to settle down and raise families, they started their own business,

GEM Drafting.

Matt graduated from CCHS in 2010 and headed off to Winnemucca to work construction in a mine. During that time, he decided he wanted more, realizing he was ready to do whatever it took to build a more fulfilling career. Working in construction stirred a curiosity in him to learn and understand how buildings and structures were designed. He began taking classes while still working full-time at the mine and eventually earned his associate of science in Building Information Modeling (BIM).

Taking with him his skills, experience, and new degree, Matt moved to Reno to work for PK Electrical. He quickly became the BIM manager for the company. He also became a certified instructor for Autodesk Inventor, a company that manufactures software for the engineering, architecture, and construction industries. Following that, Matt set out to become an Autodesk Revit professional in building information modeling software, which is used by architects, landscape architects, structural engineers, mechanical, electrical,

and plumbing engineers, designers, and contractors. He is currently the only certified Revit Professional in northern Nevada.

Despite his success, Matt still felt something was missing. The dream of owning his own business was never far from his mind, but the opportunity had not quite presented itself. Until his brother's return, that is. Once Eddie was back home, Matt soon realized it was the right time to make that dream a reality.

Eddie graduated in 2012 and took a much different path than his brother. While Matt was working in the mines and going to school, Eddie served in the U.S. Army. After his Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in Alabama, he graduated as a Distinguished Honor Graduate and went into air traffic control. He also competed for, and won, the Aviation Soldier of the Year. Within two and a half years, Eddie advanced in rank to E-5 (sergeant) and was off to air assault school, followed by Korea for a year, and then to Germany.

As Eddie's leave date approached, he applied for an individual internship with Expa Labs, a startup studio created by Garrett Camp, the founder of Uber to teach entreprenaurs how to create and launch new companies. The prestigious internship only accepted 1% of applicants, of which Eddie was one. Once in the program, he set off for San Francisco where he had an opportunity to work for Arrow, a private charter company. Still, Eddie was in search of more. He believed he could make more of himself and make more money doing it. Just like that, the soil magnet of the Lahontan Valley drew Eddie back home.

Once Matt and Eddie were together again, it did not take long for the two to decide that the only way forward was to build their own business. Thus was born, GEM Drafting.

GEM does work for the City of Fallon and architectural firms across northern Nevada. Additionally, GEM provides BIM for already designed and permitted projects. In 2019, GEM Drafting was hired as an Electrical BIM subcontractor to model the electrical systems for UNR's William N. Pennington Engineering Building.

In addition to Matt and Eddie's work at GEM, they also employ an architect, a construction engineer, and a contractor. They are very proud of the work they are doing and the strong team they have built.

The Gelineau brothers share a desire to bring more awareness to Fallon of the importance of technology and the careers available in the drafting industry. Eventually, they hope to teach classes to high school students and show them the many career choices available in the field.

Matt and Eddie are currently offering training classes in the Rivet program; teaching modeling, generating cost schedules, collaboration, and change management that drives efficiency and accuracy across a project. Scheduling for this training is very flexible, requires 80 hours of training, and provides trainees with real-life job scenarios. By the end of the training, students will be prepared to enter the job market with skills that will earn them a decent working wage. Trainees may then

opt to take the test for certification as a Revit Professional.

Eddie's advice to young people is, "Make decisions about what you want to do and set goals and a plan of action. Everyone has a dream life. I had my vision and working for someone else just wasn't going to get me to accomplish my dream. The path may often involve risks, but don't take no for an answer - keep pushing on."

Matt agreed, "Don't be afraid to take that leap. You can get a learning experience from just about any job you have - and this goes for people who clean toilets. It's all about trusting the process and using those experiences to progress and not hold you back. Use any job experience to better yourself every single day, then eventually you're going to accomplish what you set

Both Matt and Eddie strongly agree; things come up in life and downfalls happen, but refusing to give into them is key. They believe that with this attitude and hard work, your success will be there.

out to accomplish in this life."

Internships are available for students interested in learning more about the growing Building Information Modeling field. BIM is projected to be a \$15 billion industry by 2027. If anyone is interested in talking with either Matt or Eddie regarding this industry, they can be reached at 775-387-0585 or gemdraftingsolutions@gmail.com

A model of the electrical systems for the William N. Pennington en gineering building at the University of Nevada -- GEM Drafting



JO SAYS FAREWELL TO THE TEAROOM



The Fallon Post was birthed at the Tea Room -- from an idea hatched by the pool, to a cocktail napkin, to the first printed special section, our biggest milestones were celebrated at Jo's.

By Leanna Lehman

Once upon a time, well over a decade ago, a hot-blooded Italian couple from Rhode Island ventured to the Silver State to check out a 1970 Jaguar XKE Convertible. Not only did they fall in love with the car, but with northern Nevada in its entirety. That couple, as many Fallon residents may know, was Jo and Paul Petteruti, of Jo's Stillwater Tea Room.

Upon their return to Rhode Island, Jo immediately shared their newfound love of Nevada with her parents. As it turns out, they were easily sold on the idea of less snow, warmer winters, and wide-open spaces. Without delay, Mom said, "When do we leave?"

Jo left her long-time position in technology with Fidelity Investments and Paul, a master cabinet maker, packed his saws and blades, and prepared for a new life. With Mom and Dad in tow, the Petteruti's headed "out to the land of the setting sun, where the wind blows wild and free." They may not have known it at the time, but they were heading home.

With only one strict requirement in mind - a view of the mountains, Jo and Paul settled into a lovely home on Tarzyn Road in Fallon where the Stillwater's are always in the backdrop and on crystal clear days, Mt. Rose can be seen from the front

yard. Indeed, they were home.

Once firmly planted in their new hometown, the Petteruti's considered opening an Italian deli, wanting to build a small business of their own as they headed into their pre-retirement years. But life often takes us away from the best-laid plans. Jo and Paul spent several heartbreaking years caring for Jo's father, who lost his battle with Leukemia, and her mother, who developed Alzheimer's.

Despite its difficult roads, life also brings us to new destinations. Arising from the grief and loss, something new awaited them on the horizon. Jo and Paul agreed that the timing didn't seem quite right to open a deli, but how about a speakeasy-type establishment? A place where locals could enjoy an old-school cocktail, a craft martini, or good draft beer? Thus, the concept for Jo's Stillwater Tea Room was born. And according to Jo, it was Paul's idea to call it a "Tea Room" to create a bit of curiosity. Which it did - and much more.

Then came the hard part. Jo and Paul purchased the old Coffee Jewelers building on Maine Street and spent seven brutal months demolishing the interior of a building constructed in 1920. The Petteruti's hauled out over seven tons of debris. "We

had to move that seven tons three times," said Jo, "we had to get it out of the building, which was still fully intact as a jewelry store, load it, and unload it. The only item to survived the demo was the jewelry store safe, which is now a permanent Tea Room fixture.

According to Jo, everything that went into the Tea Room was new; electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling, and the roof. Acquiring the building adjacent, they also revamped that entire space. Once the old was out and the new in, Paul set to work.

The master cabinet maker installed solid birch plywood throughout the Tea Rooms interior with redwood styles and rails. The beautiful bar rail is constructed from Bubinga, a hardwood that closely resembles rosewood. According to Jo, they selected it not only for its beautiful unique grain - but for its cool Italian sounding name. Everywhere you look in the Tea Room, Paul's beautiful craftsmanship can be seen.

The couple's abilities weren't limited to woodworking. All of the Tea Room's stained glass was handcrafted by Jo. Each of her works contains roses, which was a loving tribute to her mother. Paul and Jo also spent ten weeks hand affixing tin ceiling tiles that were two-foot square, over approximately 1,000 square feet at a height of 14 ½feet. The result was nothing short of astounding. And atop the bar, you will find acid-etched copper that ages with the bar, altering ever-so-slightly under the touch of its

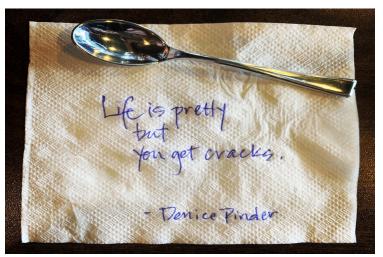
beloved patrons.

Inside the Tea Room, you will find a host of unique treasures. About half the items within were donated by local patrons like the circa 1940's train from Ronnie Lawrence and a 1920's train from Ron and Deb Julef. A vintage gas pump from the former Alegre's Dairy can be found along with an original speaker from the Roper Drive-In Theater. There is even a small replica of the plane piloted by Thom Reeves who was a Marine pilot that did three tours in Vietnam. After much hard work and many months, the opening day arrived on Friday the 13th of 2015. "Always a lucky day for me," said Jo. And with it came many patrons that still stop in for a cup of tea or an Old-fashioned. Before long, the upscale drinking establishment became a local favorite.

The story of Jo and Paul is one of rare beauty. Their love spanned decades and Jo will tell you that it was their love that led them to - and through, everything. Hand in hand and heart in heart, they created something even more precious than the Tea Room with Paul's fine craftsmanship and Jo's delicate stained-glass roses. Sadly, however, all stories must come to an end. Jo lost her lifelong-love to esophageal cancer. She said her final goodbye on August 25th, 2018, and once again found herself fac-

ing heartbreaking loss and grief.

Continued next page...



Jo encouraged proper manners which led to the Memoirsofaspoon hashtag during local book club meetings.

THE LAST "COCKTAIL NAPKIN"

The First Cocktail at the Tea Room

By Jo Petteruti, Mixologist

The very first cocktail that we crafted at the Tea Room in 2015 became known as the Fallon Flapper. Natalie Parrish, Teri Lister and I were experimenting one afternoon and we devised the recipe that follows. We decided that it should be a gin-based cocktail as a throwback to the speakeasy days. We felt that even the name should be



era-appropriate. The cocktail also had to have style and class which got us thinking about martinis, roses and rose water. With a bit (or maybe a little more than a bit!) of trying different portions and other ingredients, we arrived at the Fallon

Flapper recipe.

The original definition of a cocktail according to the Mr. Boston Bartender's Guide is a "spirit of any kind, sugar, water and bitters". So, we decided to try to follow this basic principle when choosing our ingredients. The spirit: We chose Bombay Sapphire Gin as the spirit. One of the reasons for this gin choice was because of its botanical composition. The Bombay Spirits Company uses a vapor infusing process to capture the flavors of the botanical ingredients they use in their gins, as opposed to adding artificial flavors to the spirit. The sugar and the water: We decided to add a splash of 7-Up and a little rose water for these two components. The 7-Up added a sweet sparkle and the rose water complimented the other botanicals in the gin. The bitters: A splash of Cinzano Dry Vermouth took care of this, and of course I got to put my Italian influence in there somewhere... We chose to garnish the cocktail with edible dried rose petals because once they re-hydrate or "blossom", they look lovely in the glass and do enhance the flavor of the drink.

The Fallon Flapper had become quite popular at the Tea Room and I'm very proud of that. Many thanks to those two ladies for helping me craft this one. So, here is the Tea Room's Fallon Flapper recipe. The rose water and petals can be bought on Amazon.com.

Fallon Flapper Ingredients:

2 1/2 oz. Bombay Sapphire Gin 1/2 oz. Cinzano Dry Vermouth 1 oz. 7-Up 3 -4 drops Rose Water Edible dried rose petals

Preparation:

Chill a coupe glass and have a sidecar carafe handy.

Add a good scoop of ice to a cocktail shaker, then add the gin, vermouth and rose water.

Cover and shake well until icy cold.

Add the 7-Up to the shaker and swirl it in a little bit - do not shake.

Add a few rose petals each to the glass and sidecar.

Strain some of the shaker's ingredients into the coupe glass then add the re maining amount to the sidecar. The roses will start to "blossom" in the drink after a few minutes.

Sip and enjoy responsibly... Ciao!

The Fallon Flapper, Jo's first specialty coccktail at the Tea Room

Continued from page 12...

As strong as she is savvy, Jo rose again from a place of difficulty and poured not only her memories of Paul into the Tea Room but her tenacious business skills. Taking on bartenders Mark Venturacci and Danial Hilliker, Jo was able to further establish the Tea Room's place at the top of may lists. An extensive array of awards and nominations followed, including nominations for the SBA 2018 Microenterprise Business of the Year Award, SBA 2019 Woman Owned Small Business of the Year, Fallon's most remarkable businesswomen, and nominated for Fallon's Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Small Business Award for 2020. The Tea Room received the best bar award three years running, along with Jo as the best bartender. The Tea Room also was named one of the best speakeasies in Nevada by the Best of American Towns, was featured in several publications including Travel Nevada, Northern Nevada Business Weekly, and the Drinks edition of Edible Reno-Tahoe magazine.

And now, at the close of 2020, Jo has passed on the Tearoom torch to another couple ready to take on the challenges of bar ownership. Gregg and Laura Malkovich, as of January 1st, are the new owners of Fallon's beloved

Maine Street speakeasy.

Over the last year, especially with the COVID shutdown, I realized the wear and tear on my body," said Jo, "I am not a spring chicken anymore." According to Jo, the plan always was for her and Paul to operate the business for five to seven years then retire. So, for Jo, that time has come. After some summer traveling and fun-filled days spent on the back of a motorcycle, she is ready for her next adventure. Jo may be retiring, but she has no intention of slowing down. In fact, as of the writing of this article, Jo recently returned from an all-inclusive resort vacation in Cancun to welcome in the new year. Nope, Jo is not slowing down.

Jo will tell you that over the last seven years she has made wonderful friends - and lost a few as well. She fondly remembers Betty Van Meter and her favored dirty martini and Marlene Caffrey with her unoaked chardonnay. She also made friends that will last her lifetime. And she still plans to enjoy a cocktail at the Tearoom, just from the

other side of the bar.



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STEVE RANSON: MAKING HIS OWN LEGACY

By Rachel Dahl

A newspaperman, educator, coach, soldier, and now a published author of his first book, Steve Ranson has found his niche after a lifetime of adventure. "I never knew what I wanted to be when I grew up," he says jokingly, "but I'm having more fun with this than newspapering."

Ranson spent his year of COVID spearheading a project to gather stories from Nevada World War II veterans and publish them in a book, "Legacies of the Silver State: Nevada Goes to the War." Along with fellow journalists Kenneth Beaton, and David C. Henley, the three contributed articles they have written over the years. Many of Ranson's stories came from veterans who flew on Honor Flights to Washington, D.C., and one flight that traveled to Pearl Harbor in February 2020.

Editor Emeritus of the Lahontan Valley News, Ranson has built a legacy of his own, venturing from Reno to Cheyenne, Wyoming, back to Reno and then to Wells, Nevada for eight years before running off to Panama and finally settling in Fallon, Ranson has always been open to trying new things and has taken advantage of the many opportunities that mindset opens.

A graduate of the University of Nevada, Ranson always thought he would be a television or radio newscaster. In 1974 he broadcast UNR basketball games for KUNR radio and in 1975-76 was the weekend news anchor on Channel 4 in Reno.

While in Wells, where he went to teach school, he got a true taste of smalltown America, also working for the Fire Department, was an EMT, served on the City Council, as well as coaching football. He got his teeth into community journalism writing at the *Wells Progress* newspaper.

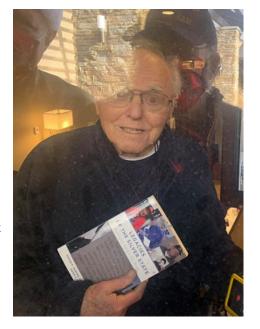
In the summer of 1980, he wrapped up his master's degree and was working for Truckee Meadows fire department at the Washoe Lake fire station. He saw an article in the Reno Gazette Journal about the national guard looking for combat medics. He was already signed up for an EMT program in the Fall. When he went to the recruiter's office, they looked at his credentials and convinced him to go through the officer's training program, which he completed in 1982.

In March of 1984, he married Sylvia, the mother of his children, who he met while he was in England for the Guard. They traveled to Panama where he taught mass media and yearbook to

United States students at Balboa High School as part of the English curricula and coached football on a two-year contract. The Ranson Family landed in Fallon in 1986 where he began teaching high school English and writing sports for the LVN.

Last year the late Dan Ingram, director of the Churchill County Museum, loaned Ranson a book during the anniversary trip and convoy celebrating Highway 50. "I toyed around with the idea then," he said, "that book was so well done." He got a hold of Beaton and Henley who were both interested, and once the stories were put together, they printed the book through Pacific Publishing on the Amazon press called Book Baby.

Ranson said these stories and others throughout his years as a reporter taught him just how small the world really is and getting to appreciate the connections between friends and community members. "One thing I've learned is you can be out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and not far away can be a future acquaintance." He tells a story from 1943 when Señor Arciniega was in the Marine Corps on an aircraft carrier, and 300 miles away, Bob Kent was on an aircraft carrier, but they didn't know each other then. Ranson notes that Kent served with an operations officer, Gerald Ford,





LEGACIES OF THE SILVER STATE

NEVADA GOES TO WAR



STEVEN R. RANSON, KENNETH BEATON,

who went on to become the 38th President of the United States.

Ranson definitely has caught the book bug and is already formulating plans for another book which will include stories from Afghanistan, and then a third book compiling stories from Nevadans who served in Vietnam.

He says the best experience so far happened on Small Business Saturday during his book signing at His Inspirations. "I will tell you, Donny Frey made my day," said Ranson. "He brought his son up and instead of introducing me as his old vice-principal, or the former editor of the newspaper, he told me he wanted his son to meet a real author. I thought, "that has a nice ring to it."

Honor Flight is a non-profit organization Ranson supports that raises money to transport America's veterans to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices, "helping every single veteran in America, willing and able of getting on a plane or a bus, to visit their memorial," according to the Honor Flight website.

All the proceeds from the limited edition of the "Legacies" book will go to the Honor Flight Nevada organization so more veterans may see the military memorials and museums in Washington, D.C. The book, which costs \$20, is available in Fallon at His Inspirations on South Maine Street.

World War II bombardier Sheldon Beigel holds a copy of "Legends of the Silver State," which includes his story as a young aviator. Beigel is a resident at the Northern Nevada State Veterans Home in Sparks and because of COVID restrictions received his book from Ranson. However, had to remain isolated and was photographed through the glass.

HE DID IT AGAIN ~ STAN LEHMAN

Settin' by the cabin door Waitin' on the boss Out'a grub the last three days Ol' bastard must be lost.

It happens every winter An' sometimes more than once Seems like I'd be smarter Than to work for that damn dunce.

I ought'a quit and move to town An' sell my whole damn rig Get a fancy payin' job An' live in style real big.

He sends me cranky horses An' bull that won't leave camp, Toothless cows to babysit When it's damn sure cold and damp

This time I'm gonna tell 'im Tell 'im fast and straight Get another cowboy real quick I'm headin' for the gate.

I wish to hell he'd get here I'll have my bedroll packed My junk will all be gathered Already tied and sacked.

I see some dust a comin' An' I sure do hope it's him I've missed so many meals of late I'm feeling purty slim.

Well howdy boss, I'm glad you're here I've got the some things to say Well damn that's awful nice of you I hadn't thought about a raise.

Unload the truck? You gotta go? But boss, why hell, he's gone. The 'ol fart did it again.



Illustration by Cody Deegan

Cowboy Poetry

Nevada has a rich history of cowboy poetry – so much so that the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering is held each January in Elko. This year, 2021, marks the first year since its inception in 1985, that the event did not take place. Stan Lehman (1947-2018), born and raised in Fallon, performed at the gathering for several years in the 1990s.

Cowboy poetry is largely written to be read or performed. Stan performed locally, regionally, and beyond. His poems were born of his experiences as a cowboy growing up in the Lahontan Valley. His book, High & Dry was published in 2017 and can be found on Amazon. All proceeds go

Dry, was published in 2017 and can be found on Amazon. All proceeds go directly to the Alzheimer's Foundation.



Michael Herb, Balance, photographic prints, 56x42 in., 2020, \$3,000.00

FALLON MAGAZINE



Kim Rowlett, Hummingbird Harmony, oil



Jeanne Evatt. Raku Vase. raku fired pottery. 7x5in. 2020. \$04.00



amie Lynn Shafer. Nectar, lineoleum print, 10x9.5in, 2020. \$75.00





Lisa Hess. Frosted Peach Blossoms, photographic print under glass, 11x11in,



Larry Neel, House on Fire, wrapped phtographic print, 2020, 34x40 in, \$700.00

Suzette Slaybaugh. Queen of Cocoa Visits The Gardens for the First Time, acrylic on canvas, 16x16in, w/ mixed media sculpture, 15x6in, 2020, \$800.00



Vanessa Burch-Urquhart Sacrifice of Security, acrylic n canvas, 16x12in, 2020, \$150.00



Edith Isidoro-Mills, Little Green Spider on Mint, color photographic print on canvas, 16x13in, 2020, \$80.00



Sheree Jensen, Out of the Dark, Photographic print on metal, 13x17in, 2020, \$200.00



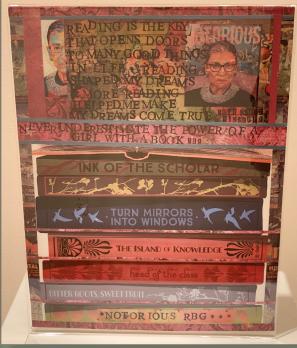
Kevin Sammons, Rusted Roots, metal. 30x40x-48in. 2020, \$1,000.00



Jaime Sammons, Hess Field Storm, acrylic or canvas, 20x16in, 2020, \$200.00

FALLON MAGAZINE















Jennifer Manha, Walker Lake Horses, photographic print, 10x19in, 2020, not for sale

Lorri Van Woert, Kites, mixed media fiber, 18x18in, 2020, Not For sale



Andrew Zika. Strength and Balance, acrylic on canvas. 36x24in. 2020. \$300.00







Zinna, watercolor, 28x22in, 2020, Not for sale

Patricia Sammons. Where the Earth Meets the Sky (№6). mixed media painting, 16x20in. 2020. \$400.00

MEET THE STAFF



Rachel Dahl is a 1987 grad of Churchill County High School and received her BA from the University of Nevada. She continued on, receiving her MA in Political Science, and has served the Fallon community as a city councilwoman, and director of economic development. She taught high school and middle school English as well as Core Humanities at the University of Nevada, and Political Science at WNC. She is mother of three and grandmother of one.



Leanna Lehman is a Fallon girl, born and raised. She started writing for The Fallon Post in February 2019. Her first novel was published in 2015 and she has had articles featured in First for Woman and Women's World Magazines, PopSugar, Chick Lit Central, and Chispa Magazine. Leanna is a lover of all things Western Nevada as is working on a Nevada photography collection as well as new fiction and non-fiction projects.



Viviane Ugalde is a recent graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno. She is a born and reared Fallonite who graduated with a degree in English with an emphasis in writing, and two minor degrees in film studies and Basque studies. She also performs stand-up comedy at area open-mics and comedy clubs.



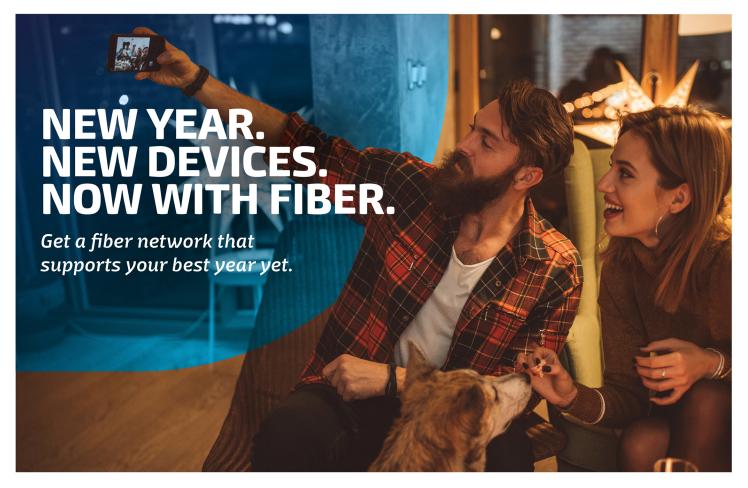
Jo Petteruti moved to Fallon from Rhode Island in 2007 after a successful 25-year career in Information Technology. She is the original owner/builder/designer of Jo's Stillwater Tea Room and is now retired from that endeavor. She is an avid football fan and even worked as a security person for the New England Patriots for one season. She now spends her time volunteering in many capacities around town, including in her new role as a reporter for *The Fallon Post*.



Alicia Parsons was raised in Yerington where she lived until her promotion to feral housewife in 2015. Moving to Fallon to start her life and family with husband Trevor Parsons, they welcomed son Rhett into the menagerie in 2017 and moved to North Dakota. Recently Alicia came back to Fallon "for just a visit" and started writing The Feral Housewife Horoscopes for *The Fallon Post*, keeping Rachel on her toes with the dreaded words, "so I was thinking" and entertaining those around her with stories of the days of dude wrangling and debt collecting.



Laura Shurtliff is a local, who was born and raised in Fallon. She recently graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a Bachelor of Arts in art and a minor in English literature. She is an artist and creative writer who dreams of one day publishing her own books and becoming an illustrator. She also enjoys spending time with children and is the happy and proud aunt to her first niece.



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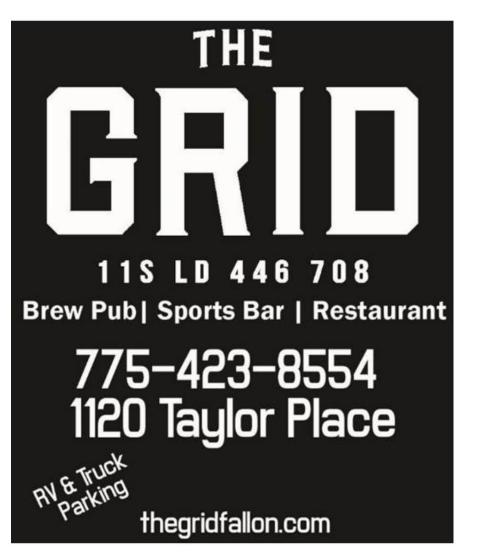
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