

# THE FALLON POST



January 1, 2021

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## TCID Will Hold Special Election for Water Users



By Rachel Dahl

The Truckee Carson Irrigation District will hold a special election on March 9, 2021 to give water right owners in the Newlands Project the opportunity to ratify the newly negotiated contract between the district and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

TCID is a political subdivision under the State of Nevada that was created in 1918 to represent water right holders and work with U.S. Reclamation Service, which was the precursor to the BOR. The current TCID contract with the Bureau will expire December 31, 2021.

According to Rusty Jardine, general manager of the district, board members recently approved the core of the contract and plan to approve the exhibits to the contract at their meeting next week.

Under Nevada Revised Statutes, any proposal to enter into a contract for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the existing works must be voted on by the electors of the district. "It must go to an election to ask the water right holders," said Jardine, "They should have a say."

In order to vote in the election, water right holders must be registered to vote with TCID by February 23rd. The office will be open with extended hours, Thursday, January 14, and Wednesday, February 3, 2021, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the District

Office, 2666 Harrigan Road, in Fallon. Voter eligibility in the district is based on ownership of land in the Newlands Project that also has a surface water right attached to it.

Jardine says there are many water right holders who are not registered, and board members are urging eligible voters to register as soon as possible.

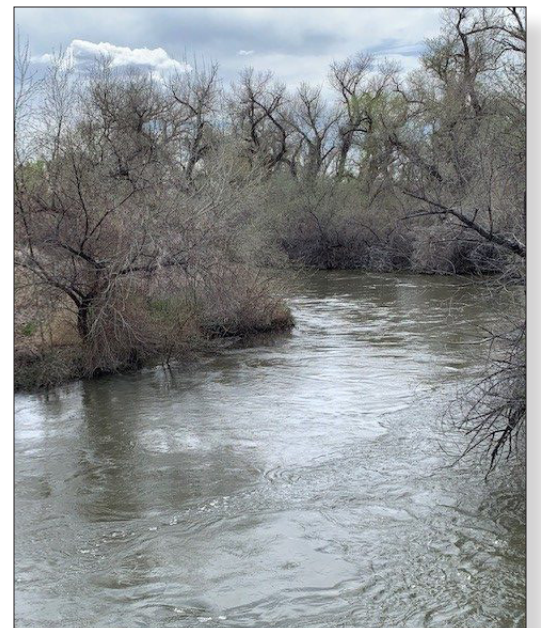
If the vote is successful, the district operations will remain constant with modifications made to the contract as needed as they may arise. Currently the O&M assessment for the district is \$47.90 an acre. If electors vote no, the BOR will be forced to take over the operation and maintenance of the project. Jardine says one estimation puts the O&M charges at three times the current cost per acre should the operation shift to the Bureau.

Running on a parallel track to the TCID approval process is the federal process of approving negotiated contracts. The BOR is currently working toward that end, which includes obtaining the signature of the Secretary of the Interior and filing notice with the Federal register. According to Jardine, the entire ratification process could take most of the year.

There appears to be general support for the contract throughout the project. Most people see the need for the district to continue to operate the project and the premise is understood, "It is important the water

right holders have a mechanism to voice their positions," stated Jardine.

There will be two polling places on March 9th where electors can cast their vote. Division 1, which includes Fernley, Hazen, and Swingle Bench, will vote in Fernley at the North Lyon County Fire Protection District, 194 E. Maine Street. The remaining Divisions, 2-7, will vote at the TCID office on Harrigan Road.



# From the Publisher

*Captain's log... January 1st*

Time. We talked a lot about time this week in the shop. We've pushed out the magazine publishing for a week and we're rethinking the whole Christmas/New Year's week thing for next year.

Each one of us has kind of slipped into a role that seems to fit our interests and abilities better than others. Leanna has taken on the courts, Susan does all things schools, Viviane the City, and I do the County and TCID. In a general sense, and it sounds funny writing this – we really enjoy the meetings that we sit through on a regular basis. And it's good for institutional memory as well. Leanna always catches hearings that slip by me, and Susan knows exactly when the school board did whatever.

Several times this past week we found ourselves frustrated at the amount of time we spend sitting through a meeting and then sitting through the recording again as we write. It's not unheard of for Leanna to spend seven hours producing a court story. Susan preps for the school board meeting and then sits through it and then listens, and then writes while listening to her recording.

They were comparing notes on how we could get faster. We're trying like heck to get more efficient and find a schedule that works that will give everyone a free day to do laundry and errands.

But we mostly just think it's going to take time and its part of the deal. We want the paper to be amazing and we think it's really important that people know what is happening in our community. How else will you know how to vote, or for whom to vote? Or how will you decide that you want to run for office if you don't know what's going on?

So we'll take the time and cover everything we can.

Let us know what we may be missing and what else you would like to see –

Keeping you posted,  
Rachel

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*A special thanks to Jewel Fain for her creative touches with the owl tracks and barbed wire fence posts.*



## Dysfunction Junction: Wing Walkers, Wing Men, And Wing Nuts



By Leanna Lehman

Ha! Write a column she says. It'll be fun she says. It'll be *funny* she says. Well, I am not laughing. It's the 11th hour, or 15th, or 27th, I can't exactly be sure. She (as in our beloved and oh-so-enthusiastic editor in chief and publisher, Rachel) has hit her head. I tried to warn her about the very dark and perilous path we were on - yes, that one where we attempt to put out a weekly news publication and a brand spanking new super-slick magazine, between Christmas and New Year's. Did I mention that we haven't taken on any new staff? And we are running this dubious enterprise, lock, stock, and barrel on a wing and prayer? Like I said, she hit her head.

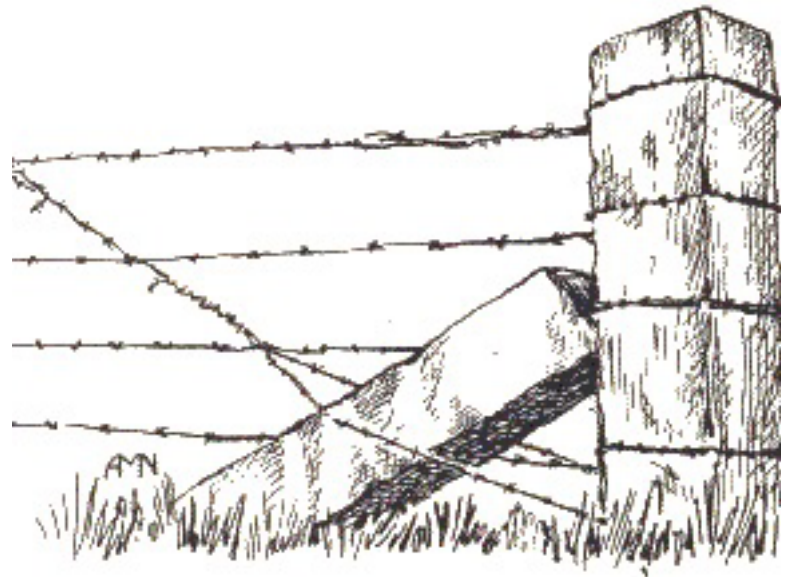
Speaking of wings, that brings me to the subject of wing walkers. That is one thing that Joe Dahl saw in his daughter that was right on the nose. If you are not familiar with the phrase, a wing walker is essentially a pathologically insane human being that walks on the wings of airplanes, while they are in flight. Basically, they are daredevils. Wing walking is usually done by stunt actors. Rachel, on the other hand, does her own stunts.

Now a wingman (or wing woman, as the case may be) is a different animal entirely. In the formal sense, according to the world's most reliable and accurate source of information, Wikipedia, a wingman is a pilot that flies behind and outside of a leader flying in formation. In the informal sense, it's a friend that accompanies another friend in an activity that might otherwise be intimidating. Like life. Or starting a newspaper. Or printing a newspaper when print media is as rare as being brought flowers on a date - or an actual date, for that matter. Fortunately, at The Post, we have a special collection of wingmen that support us when things get intimidating and when our leader can't fly in formation because she is busy wing walking. Which is pretty much always.

Then, there are wing nuts. I am not talking about wing nuts in the modern blogosphere sense or the old bucket of mismatched bolts and screws sense. Rather, the old-school term for slightly left of center, mad as March hare, and nutty as a fruitcake - as in C-R-A-Z-Y. Crazy. Well, that is me. Why? you ask. For joining this circus.

Now I have considered that if it weren't for the bold actions of one dare devil in particular and the unending support she encourages, I wouldn't be writing about any of this. So it's possible that the best place for a wing nut to work just might be with a wing walker, even if doesn't exactly lend itself toward reigning in the cray-cray. On the upside, the expectation bar for wing nuts is relatively low. Also, one can dance to *Body Groove* in the shop like no one is watching (when they really are) because it's already widely known that you are few bricks shy of a full load. And, when you crank out a column at midnight after trying to survive on coffee and stale jelly beans, no one is the wiser.

Happy New Year friends and don't be afraid to embrace your crazy. If you are brave, you might even try wing walking. Don't worry, if it goes south, you can always rely on your wingman.



# Features

## 2020 Wrap-Up... Remember Crowds?

By Viviane Ugalde

Do you remember anything that happened in 2020 prior to March? As we ring in the New Year, here are 10 things that happened in 2020. The most interesting, secluding, craziest year of them all.

### 1. Murder Hornets



As if an invisible virus, and election weren't enough. Mother nature thought, "Why not throw murder hornets in the mix too!"

### 2. Tiger King



Everyone was stuck inside, and ran out of things to watch. Why not try a series about two tiger enthusiasts -- one that may or may not have killed her husband.

### 3. Toilet Paper



A common staple that has suddenly become a high value commodity. Never leave home without it!

### 4. Is It Cake?



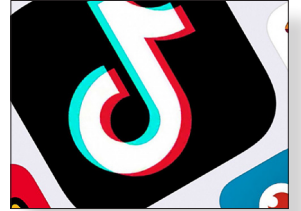
If you cut us do we not bleed? Well, if the baker did a good enough job, we might be cake. But don't cut everything open in your house to double check.

### 5. Vaccines



In the span of nine months we got a virus and a vaccine. Unfortunately, neither of them are the beer of the same name.

### 6. Tik Tok



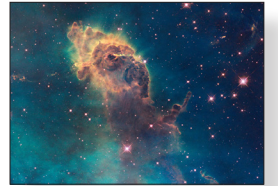
The dance challenges, the vlogs ... it was the only thing that kept the youngest generation going while staying inside.

### 7. Kanye West For President



Yeezy ran for President in twelve states. That's it. I'll just leave that there.

### 8. Space



So much happened in space this year! Space Force, the military branch and the television series, water on the moon, and Elon Musk's rocket exploded. Space gave us a lot of gifts.

### 9. Brexit



The UK left the European Union, but didn't think to leave behind the constantly rainy weather or bland food. Too bad.

### 10. Taco Bell



Some people think World War III officially began when Taco Bell took half their menu items away. I can't say I completely disagree.



## Balloons Released Over Carson City Correctional Centers



Community members release balloons as a Christmas signal to those inside Northern Nevada Correctional Center (right) and Warm Springs Correctional Center (above).

By Leanna Lehman

2020 has certainly been a year for unusual things. Fortunately, one unusual thing occurred last week that was in no way connected to politics, the economy, or a pandemic. On December 24th, in Carson City, over 1,000 balloons were released over Northern Nevada Correctional Center and Warm Springs Correctional Center to wish those inside Merry Christmas and tell them they are loved.

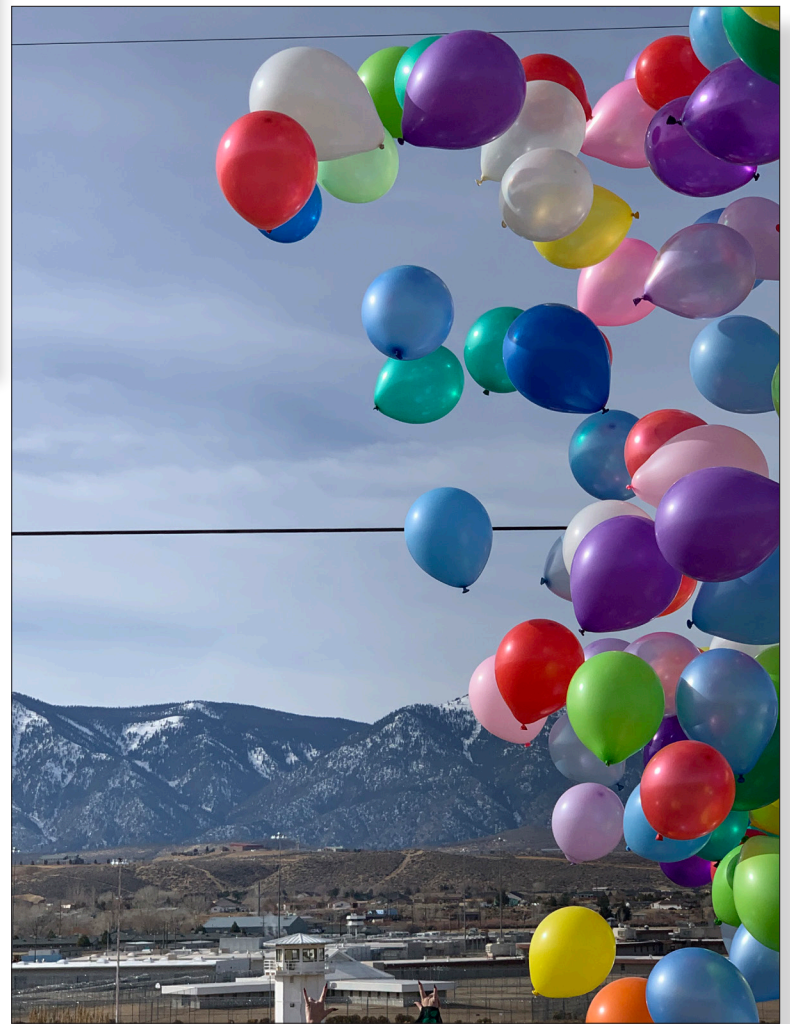
The event was organized not only in honor of the holidays but to send a message of joy and hope to the incarcerated individuals behind bars in Nevada prisons. After the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) stopped inmate visitations last March at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, friends and families have been trying to find ways to encourage their loved ones and remind them that despite the separation, they are not alone. And, as wisely stated by Winnie the Pooh – “Nobody can be uncheered with a balloon.”

On the heels of a massive COVID outbreak in Nevada prisons, and weeks of lockdown, many Nevada inmates were thrilled to see the rainbow of color that dotted the beautiful Nevada sky on Christ-

mas Eve – even if it was on the news. Most inmates were excited to know the event was taking place, although only a few of them caught a first-hand glimpse of the crowds that had gathered and the balloons as they sailed above.

The event drew the support of more than just friends and family. Lisa Moore of Life Changes, along with several other Life Changes residents, were also in attendance. The Reno organization aids in offering housing, shelter, and support to individuals affected by substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence, and incarceration. The Leaf Community, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting women who have been incarcerated, was also there to show their support. As many prisoner advocates agree, most incarcerated individuals will one day reintegrate into their families and their communities. Helping them to feel connected is paramount to their successful reentry into society.

NDOC did not offer opposition to the event, allowing the balloons to be released on the edge of prison property. Some officers also viewed the event, watching as the crowd sent their well-wishes, via biodegradable balloons, up into the chilly Christmas Eve air. Charisse N. traveled from Las Vegas to be near her loved one incarcerated at Warm Springs, along with several people hailing from Carson, Reno, Fernley, and Fallon. The skies above other Nevada prisons were inundated with balloons as well, with even more areas gearing up to participate in the event next year.





## County To Hire New Public Health Nurse



Raylene Stiehl, the new public health nurse.

By Rachel Dahl

Churchill County Commissioners met Wednesday in an emergency meeting to fill three positions under an immediate need to address issues that have arisen due to the COVID pandemic, according to Ben Shawcroft, Civil Deputy District Attorney.

Human Resources Director, Geof Stark, explained that the county has been recruiting to fill the position of Public Health Nurse and have had a limited number of qualified candidates apply. Raylene Stiehl has applied and stands out among the candidates. "Because of her background and experience," said Stark, "and because of the lack of qualified candidates and the need to get someone hired sooner rather than later, the county is requesting to put her at Step 12 on the pay range, and that has to come before the commissioners."

Appointment of a new hire at an advanced pay step requires approval by the county commissioners.

The Public Health Nurse position at Step 1 pays \$65,395, and at Step 12 will pay \$85,841.

Additionally, commissioners added two full-time office specialists for the Social Services Department to help with duties associated with the health department. The office specialists will be paid \$35,150 each, for a total addition of \$72,300.





## To Mask Or Not To Mask: That Is The Question



Photo courtesy of Telegraph Coffee & Tap.

By Leanna Lehman

2020 has seen too many issues of contention; racial tensions have flared, the presidential election was the stuff of nightmares, and science surrounding COVID-19 has many scientists and researchers locked in debate. For many Nevadans, the question over Governor Steve Sisolak's mask mandate has caused no small amount of controversy.

Unfortunately, we are not discussing ski or masquerade masks.

On June 24th, Governor Sisolak issued a mandatory face-covering requirement for all residents and visitors. According to Sisolak, the goal was to "flatten the curve", or delay the spread of the virus to allow medical facilities to prepare for the influx of ill patients. According to Sisolak's directive, research indicates that facial coverings are one of the most effective ways to slow the transmission of this disease.

Many Fallon residents are questioning the effectiveness of face coverings and the validity of some of the research. One question being asked regards the state's most recent and devastating increase in positive test cases. Most Nevadans were complying with the mask mandate at the onset of the latest surge, which has resulted in record-high positive tests, hospitalizations, and deaths. This fact has many people less convinced that masks offer the protection touted by state officials.

Most science agrees that face-coverings offer some protection, but the hot-button questions ask how much, and at what cost?

Not all masks are created equal. Medical or surgical masks are proven to protect the nose and mouth from droplets, sprays, and

splashes, and filter out large airborne particles. These masks are intended for one-time use and disposable. The N95 Mask is actually a type of respirator that offers more protection than a surgical mask and filters out 95% of small particles. However, wearers are supposed to be trained and pass a fit test before wearing one. N95 Masks are also disposable. Cloth masks keep droplets from spreading when the wearer coughs, sneezes, or talks.

All types of masks are said to offer some protection from COVID, but none are FDA (Food and Drug Administration) approved. Additionally, there have been no large-scale clinical trials proving personal-use masks effectively prevent the spread of coronavirus. "The trials neither prove that masks are useful nor that they are dangerous or a waste of time," stated Hilda Bastian, P.h.D. in her recent article regarding face coverings. "That is because the studies have been both few in number and beset with methodological problems."

One area of concern among scientists regarding masks is that exhaled air goes into the eyes, which causes people to touch their eyes more frequently. One food server in a Fallon restaurant recently stated, "Now that I have to wear a mask all day, I touch my face more than I ever have."

Also causing unease among some researchers is the false sense of security that the mask provides for some. In many cases, the mask wearer becomes less attentive to social distancing, disinfecting and hand washing. Without these additional preventative actions, COVID will continue to spread.

Science and research aside, area residents that disagree with the mandate are concerned with the impact on our every-day lives and believe that the mask mandate overreaches civil liberties. For some people, they simply do not trust the sources of Nevada's public health information.

Another prevailing argument is that those individuals who are high-risk should not dictate the social actions of those who are not. If a person is fearful of contracting the virus, that person should limit their exposure or avoid crowded public areas. "I look around and ask myself, is this where we are now?" stated one Fallon resident that preferred to remain anonymous. "I don't believe the masks are that effective - if I get sick, I get sick."

Several mask wearers also complain of skin problems, anxiety issues, and breathing difficulties. While the state mandate excludes individuals with medical conditions from having to wear masks in public, employees, even with medical conditions, are not exempt. This means they must choose between being unmasked and unemployed, or being masked and attempting to work with conditions like Asthma. And for those who don't wear masks due to medical conditions or not, the social pressure and hostility from others creates another set of unique issues.

The controversy goes beyond politics and causing contention among family, friends, and businesses. The consensus among many is that the financial, personal, and social costs of the mask mandate will be far worse than contracting the virus.

Nevadans are faced with a balancing act – staying safe while maintaining our civil liberties and personal freedoms. Both are crucial to the economic and social health of Nevada residents. While that is no easy feat, we can choose to be respectful of one another on this issue. Unlike some California cities, we are fortunate that local law enforcement is not enforcing mask mandates. In return, we can be kind – even in disagreement, and we can refuse to allow masks to be another source of division.

*This article does not propose that masks need not be worn. The preponderance of available evidence indicates that facial coverings can help prevent the spread of the virus.*

## COVID News – Last Update For 2020

By Leanna Lehman

As 2020 finally comes to a close, COVID has shifted from a breaking news item to an everyday topic of conversation. Ending the year on a positive note, the most recent news surrounding the pandemic and its many facets, is encouraging.

**Vaccine:** Governor’s Sisolak’s office, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), issued a press release stating that the vaccine will be available at no cost to Nevadans. Whether or not you have private insurance, are covered through Medicaid, or through the exchange with Nevada Health Link, there will be no out-of-pocket expense to receive the vaccine. Uninsured individuals are encouraged to visit <https://www.nevadahealthlink.com/> to see if they qualify for coverage, find free local assistance, and may also seek the assistance of a Federally Qualified Health Center. Although the vaccine will not be available to the general public until Spring, state agencies are preparing to update communities on how, when, and where the vaccine will be made available.

**Business Loans:** The new COVID relief package passed by Congress went into effect this week. With it, loans for small businesses will be available, although there will be more rigorous qualification guidelines, and business owners must show a minimum 25% drop in revenue for any given quarter. The primary goal of the package is to provide payroll funds to keep Americans working. Nevada industries hit hardest by the pandemic and government mandates are service and hospitality businesses. Hotel, restaurant, and bar owners will have access to tax-free payroll loans that will cover up to 3.5 months of employee wages that do not have to be repaid provided the guidelines are followed. Other businesses may apply for payroll loans covering 2.5 months of wages.

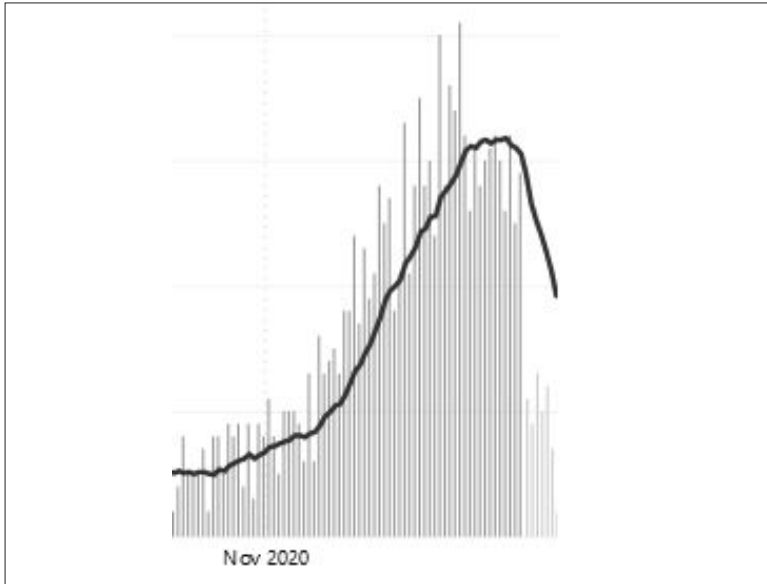
**Stimulus:** The second round of stimulus payments remains at \$600 for most taxpayers. The IRS has already began processing the payments via direct deposit and paper checks. The House of Representatives passed a measure to increase stimulus payments to \$2,000 for some taxpayers under a certain income level and is currently making its way to the Senate.

**Nevada COVID Data:** COVID deaths in Nevada have now reached 3,000 with 697 deaths reported in December. However, the number of daily deaths has seen a sharp decline recently. Hospitalizations are at 2,000 as of the 30th. The positivity rate has remained between 19.7% - 20% since mid-month. Statewide, the age group with the highest positivity rate are those aged 24-49. Most COVID-related deaths occur in patients over 60 with underlying health conditions.

In the Governor’s COVID update press release Wednesday afternoon, Sisolak stated that “Nevada has the 2nd highest positivity across the nation.” Additionally, he directed anyone over 65 with underlying health conditions to not enter any public place where people are unmasked. “If we don’t start making smart choices, 2021 will look a lot like 2020.” Further, he stated, “State enforcement authorities will be out in force on New Year’s Eve.”

**Local COVID Data:** Churchill County positive cases show a decline over last week, along with current hospitalizations. According to DHHS, the county shows the 14-day average positivity rate at 15.1%, well below the overall state average.

While most people are experiencing a bit of COVID fatigue (the emotional fatigue caused by COVID-19 and the many ways the pandemic has affected our lives), it may help to remember that a new year is on the horizon and with it comes more effective ways to combat the virus. They say “you can’t keep a good man down” – well you can’t keep a good Nevadan down either.



COVID daily deaths in Nevada (14 day average) since November. Photo provided by NV DHHS Dashboard.

Churchill County	As of Nov. 11th	As of Dec. 22nd	As of Dec. 28th
Active Positive Cases	227	226	198
Tests Administered since March	11,030	16,412	16,990
Recovered Individuals	218	1,091	1,128
Currently Hospitalized	8	7	16
Total Deaths	4	35	35
Total Positive Cases since March	449	1,280	1,361
Asymptomatic Positives since March	40	101	101



## Graphic Designer Ruth Miller Wins National Grange Award



Ruth Miller - National Grange Publicity Contest Winner.

By Suzann Gilliland Peterson

Not all of us have the ability to design a flyer, a poster, or a social media post. Many of us can't even draw a straight line. Ruth Miller, graphic designer for the High Desert Grange, seems to enthusiastically do all of this with very little effort.

Because of her unique creative abilities, Ruth was recently awarded second place in the 2020 National Grange Publicity Item Contest. The contest is open to all Grange organizations and it requires entrants to submit a publicity item that promotes the Grange. This item can be a flyer, poster, advertisement, short video, radio commercial or announcement, a social media post, a press kit or media release, a shirt, a button or other wearable item, or anything else that promotes the Grange. She found out about the contest from The Patrons Chain, the official newsletter of the National Grange and, with encouragement from a fellow Granger, Gloria Montero, Miller decided to enter her work. She submitted all she had designed for the High Desert Grange in the twelve months prior to the deadline, including a very detailed brochure that features Grange members doing what they love. In addition to her second place ribbon, her efforts secured a cash prize of \$100.00 for the High Desert Grange.

Ruth's talents are a testimony to the fact that a person doesn't need a degree to be a designer. Mrs. Miller has no formal education in graphic design. In fact, she says, her abilities were earned with the guidance and encouragement of her grandfather and her uncle. Her grandfather, a magazine editor, gave her tips, tricks

and suggestions for posterboard layouts for school projects. Her uncle taught her about photography and how to frame a good picture. In high school, she became involved with her local public access cable TV station where she discovered she was an excellent cameraperson. Over the years, her talents have blossomed.

When asked what inspires her when she designs her graphics, she said, "I keep in mind the audience and the destination the product will be used in ... whether it's a Facebook post or a brochure or handout in print, I follow the same idea - simple, easy to read, eye catching."

Born in California, but raised in the Chicago suburbs, Ruth grew tired of the sardine-like city life and moved to Elko where she lived for ten years. Fernley was her next stop, albeit it brief. In 2012, she and her family relocated to Fallon where they discovered the High Desert Grange.

The High Desert Grange is a family-oriented organization that focuses on community service and offers many opportunities for learning. Their Lego Robotics program was the stepping-stone for the Miller family's entry into the organization. She, her ten-year old daughter, and nineteen-year old son love Legos, so three years ago they became Grange members and immediately signed up for the program. Ruth quickly filled a need to "tune up" the Grange Legos laptops used by the students. One thing led to another and she found herself designing flyers, handouts, and Facebook posts for the organization. She has even improved their website and is now its administrator.

Working with the High Desert Grange has brought many personal rewards for Ruth and her children. They have made many friends. She finds Grange members amazing and very supportive. She has also found resources and knowledgeable people from whom she can learn, as she plans a long-desired garden.

Earning second place and representing the High Desert Grange and Fallon was an honor for Ruth. She was proud to show her creations, but was surprised to place. Competition came from the many Grange clubs throughout the country. This contest was not her only experience with the National Grange. She is an amateur webmaster and has reached out to the National Grange for help on web design as well as for help with resources for graphics. She says that everyone she has ever been in contact with from the National Grange has been amazing.

The High Desert Grange has made a positive impact on Ruth's life. "I'm proud to be a part of a group that contributes to this community and offers so many opportunities to learn new skills," she said. She definitely feels more a part of our community through her Grange membership.

To see Ruth's contest submissions, please visit

<https://www.nationalgrange.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-In-House-2nd-High-Desert-Grange-22-NV-Trifold-Brochure.pdf>.

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# Organizations

## Erika Stanford Receives Continuing Education Grant



P.E.O. Grant award winner Erika Stanford, with her husband AJ, and daughter Cheyenne.

By Jennifer Williamson - Recording Secretary - Chapter D

The Fallon chapter of the Philanthropic Educational Organization, P.E.O, is proud to announce that Erika Stanford is this year's recipient of the Program for Continuing Education Grant. The \$1,800 in funds will assist Stanford in completing her specialized teaching degree in special education.

After learning that Stanford was returning to college in 2019, after some time away, the Fallon P.E.O felt that she would be a great candidate for the grant. On December 15th, Stanford received the news that she had been awarded the grant.

The Philanthropic Educational Organization has been celebrating women helping women reach for the stars for more than 150 years. Since its inception in 1869, the nonprofit organization has helped more than 113,000 women pursue educational goals by providing over \$366 million in grants, scholarships, awards and loans along with the stewardship of Cottey College. Through membership, the P.E.O. Sisterhood has brought together more than one-half million women in the United States and Canada who are passionate about helping women advance through education, while supporting and motivating them. In addition to the educational philanthropies, the P.E.O. Sisterhood provides a framework of support and community for all members.

What started with a bond of friendship among seven women in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is now one of the oldest women's organizations in North America with close to 6,000 chapters. Fallon's local Chapter D is 46 members strong and was founded in 1927. The first officers were, Byrd Sawyer, President, Leta Elden Best, Vice President, Ada M. Jarvis, Recording Secretary, Ethel M. Smith, Corresponding Secretary, Helen H. Kent, Treasurer, Augusta Long, Chaplain, and Miss Laura Mills, Guard.

To learn more about P.E.O., its powerful educational philanthropies and see stories of women who have benefited from the programs, visit [www.peointernational.org](http://www.peointernational.org).



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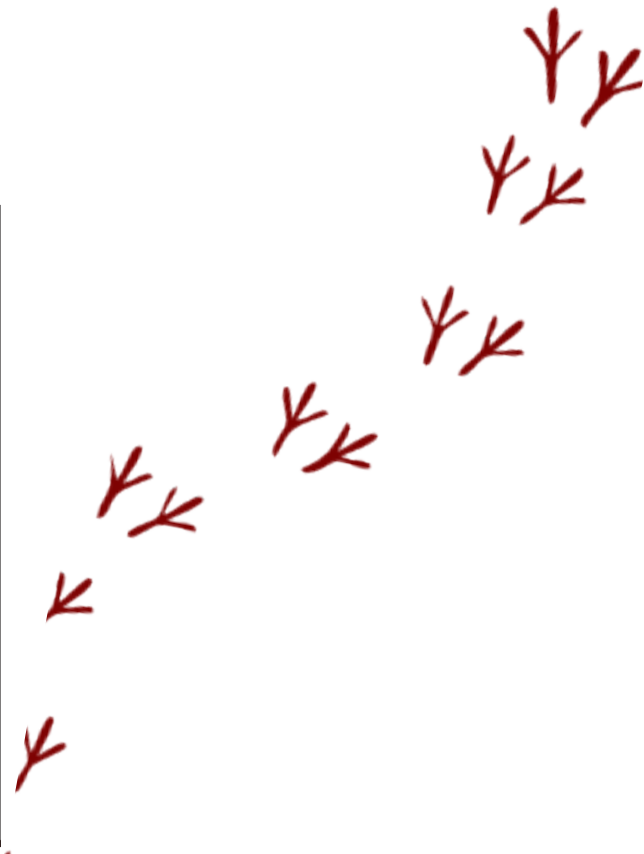
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All CDC protocols and guidelines are followed to protect the health & safety of residents and team members.

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## Churchill School Administrators Report To School Board



By Susan Weikel

The following are summaries of reports given by the school administrators at the last Churchill County School District board meeting. Full, written reports can be found on the district website in the packet for the December 16th meeting.

**Churchill County High School:** Principal Scott Winter reported that steps to disinfect continue, saying, “100% of positive cases came from outside factors and not intra-building. The Learner Centered Framework (LCF) data shows that 74% of students in live classes are showing up on time and are engaged during their 85-minute class period, with only 11% having failing grades. Final percentages for all high school students will not be gathered until after January 28th when online classes officially end. Winters reported that positive notes seen at the high school during this time are a drop in the number of behavior referrals, reduction of students in the halls during class time, and with fewer students in class at one time there is an increase in student-teacher one on one time. An attendance secretary has been added for the COLA program in hopes of improving attendance issues and increasing the timely progress of students. One of the results of the COVID situation is that finding substitutes and coverage of classrooms can be challenging. To help with this, all teachers have a Google Classroom and Modern Teacher playlists for students that can be accessed at any time. Winters praised his staff for the amazing job of adapting and their positive work attitude.

**Churchill County Middle School:** Teachers reported that having only two courses a day has provide the time for staff to work with individual students and get to know students better. On December 16, the start of 3rd term, 10 students switched to fully remote and 13 returned to in-person learning. The staff also welcomed Lisa Wempner as a Safe School Professional. Wempner will be assisting families with extra support, coordinating services, and working with restorative practices. Holiday cheer was also

in the air as CCMS Student Council collected beanies, blankets, socks, and scarves to be distributed with Meals on Wheels to local seniors.

**Numa Elementary School:** Staff and students completed the annual Turkey Trot on November 13 with 1,953 laps made and \$500 raised to support the Numa library. The Lions Club completed the vision screening for 4th graders and the first time Digital Progress Reports were sent out to students. Title I funds were used to purchase NEWSELA, an online news-as-literacy platform that allows for various levels of reading on the same topic. Students will also be participating in a student led contest involving coding that will offer awards to participating students as well as the winners. The staff has been able to fully implement the Learner Centered Framework in math and English Language Arts. Although the school is still in the process of completing MAP testing (Measure of Academic Progress), teachers are seeing growth in both math and reading.

**E.C. Best Elementary School:** Work on the secured entry project continues as students work in Levelled Literacy Intervention lessons to improve their reading skills. There are currently 38 students in Reading Recovery. Staff and students continue to incorporate the four B's in their daily interactions: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind. The results of Winter MAP will be presented at the January meeting.

**Northside Early Learning Center:** To prepare for navigating the hybrid model of instruction, staff participated in ReadyRosie and The Creative Curriculum Cloud trainings. Classes are at 50% of their typical size. Support from the state has been enjoyed with the addition of Sally Root, the ECERS coach (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale). Classrooms are prepared for possible all digital learning with backpacks for every student that contain supplies for work at home and a Chromebook and hotspot if needed. NELC staff continue to provide transportation in district vehicles for students that have a need.



# Education

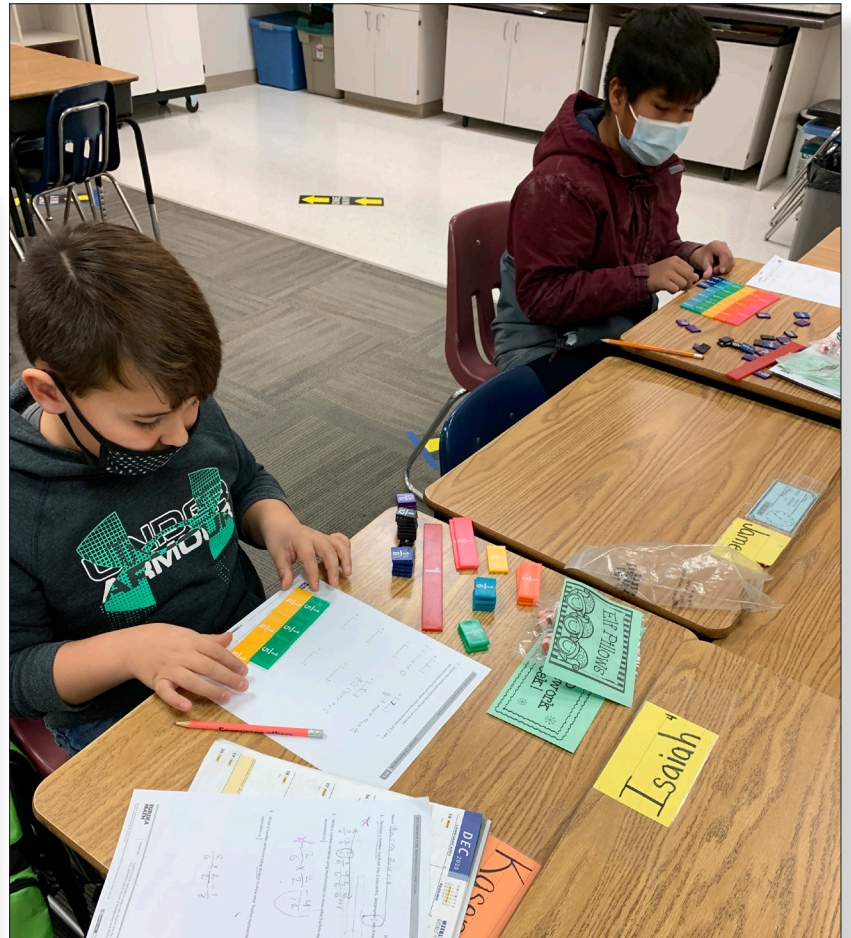
## Student Work From Numa Elementary

By Susan Weikel

Students in Mrs. Johnson's 4th grade classes work with hands-on activities as they use fraction tiles to compare fractions, and gain a deeper understanding of equivalence and amounts.



Kalvin Christianson, Landon Olson, and Stephen Maffi (clockwise)



Kasen Bullock and Nathan George



Jaleah Hibbard working with fractions. All photos provided by Numa Elementary



## School Board Approves Agreement With Classified Staff



File Photo - Trustee Pinder was thanked for his service at his last board meeting - this photo was taken last year.

By Susan Weikel

The Churchill County School Board met on December 16th to approve the new contract with the Nevada Classified School Employees Association, to discuss Positive Behavioral Interventions at the Middle School, and discuss the latest COVID data.

### 2018-2020 Negotiated Agreement with Classified Staff Approved

At the recent Churchill County School Board meeting, trustees voted to approve the agreement between the school district and the Nevada Classified School Employees Association. Trustees discussed the agreement during a closed session and then during the open meeting voted unanimously to approve it. Trustees came to agreement with the association, resolving the issue of tasks assigned to Maintenance and Account Technicians, providing for two days off for 260-day employees, an extra day off work for classified staff who are not 260-day employees, and a

\$100 bonus for all classified employees.

The fiscal impact of proposed changes to the 2018-2020 School Year Negotiated Agreement between Churchill County School District and the Nevada Classified School Employees Association was presented by Christi Fielding, CCSD comptroller. She explained that the cost for one additional day for all non-260 employees would be \$20,541 and the cost for the bonus would be \$15,939.40, bringing the total financial impact to \$36,480.40. This is a one-time agreement. There were also changes to wording in Article 23-5 and 25, dealing with busing issues and seniority.

### Positive Behavioral Interventions at the Middle School

In other business, trustees heard a report from Deena Porretta regarding the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support program that was instituted at Churchill County Middle School in 2019. Porretta provided data and statistics showing the impacts since the program began. Staff has given out 1,799 Gerka Greens (incentive coupons students can use for rewards) to in-class students and 87 to COLA students to acknowledge students who take positive actions. Negative behavior incidents are down from 630 in 2019 to currently only 71. Under the current conditions, only half the number of students are in the building at one time, and teacher-student contact is more accessible.

Trustee Strasdin asked about the size of the PBIS team at CCMS and the teachers' reactions to restorative practices in their classrooms. Porretta said she feels the team of 21 at CCMS is relatively large. Brad Barton, vice-principal of CCMS, shared that restorative practices were relatively new to many of the staff, but with the low number of incidents and reduced number of students in the classes at one time, they haven't been able to implement many of their practices.

Trustee Schank asked about the reactions of staff to the program as a whole. Porretta shared that she found the teachers were very responsive to the program. Schank also commented on the positive value for having a clear understanding by students and staff as to what distinguishes between minor and major offenses, and the consistency in dealing with such infractions.

Trustee Whitaker asked if there was a change in teachers' attitudes towards students and their own behavior. Porretta explained that the creation of minor and major disciplinary incidents was a team effort that included teachers' input. This support with consistency and follow through appears to have a positive effect on students understanding expectations from the staff.

### COVID Update

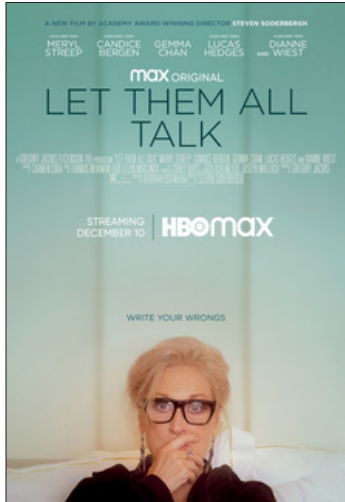
Superintendent Stephens also gave the latest COVID data, saying that as of December 15th, there have been 53 positive student cases and 24 positive cases involving staff. Exclusions, when a student is required to stay at home, are at 1,189. At this time, exclusions are still for 14 days as the district awaits a change from the state to the new guidelines given out by the CDC, which is 10 days or 7 days with a negative test. Stephens said, "The spread does not appear to be from within." All District health care staff are on the Tier 1 list for vaccinations with all other staff in Tier 2. Stephens stressed that none of the protocol with distancing and masks will change, and the Santi Carts have arrived that were purchased with funds from the Pennington Foundation. These carts will speed up the sanitation process, using a dry mist that will not require time to dry.

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## Let Them All Talk



It seems that all my recent finds are on streaming services only, but they are all worth the subscription. HBO's new film *Let Them All Talk* is no different. Even if you can only commit to a trial subscription (or "borrow" the password from a friend, relative, or ex – on the down-low). *Let Them All Talk*'s main character, Alice Hughes, is played by Hollywood icon Meryl Streep. Alice is a successful novelist voyaging from New York to England on the Queen Mary II to receive a prestigious literary award, all the while missing the deadline on her new masterpiece. Her publishing company permits her nephew Tyler, played by Lucas Hedges (*Lady Bird*), to accompany

her. Alice also requests the company of her two old college friends Roberta and Susan, who are played by Candice Bergen and Di-  
anne Wiest respectively.

What follows is a week-long cruise on the luxury ferry, where the three women relive and rehash their long-time quarrels. The entire film follows a lifetime of misunderstandings and confusion.

My favorite thing about this film is the casting. There are three female powerhouse actresses, above the age of 30, on screen at one time. More specifically, these women are not playing grandmothers or frail witches. While this film is also directed by Steven Soderbergh, the director of the Ocean's Trilogy, it has a different artistic pattern than his other films.

The ensemble cast, and overall story of this movie is a great watch for a quiet New Year's at home.

## Soul Blendz Juice Bar



Just in time for New Year's resolutions of cleaner eating and healthier living, Fallon has a new juice bar. Soul Blendz Juice Bar, on Auction Road by Dominos, offers refreshing and reviving drinks to the community. The best part of their juices is the fantastic balance of each flavor. The ginger is never overpowering, the pineapple is never too sweet, and the milk is never too creamy.

In a time of new beginnings, and a strong desire to have a better time than we did in 2020 – some fresh juice is exactly what we all need. For the indecisive bunch – like myself – Soul Blendz has preselect-

ed mixes. And for those who like to change it up, there are endless selections and combinations to make yourself as well.

Start the new year off fresh with drink from a local business at Soul Blendz Juice Bar.

*Viviane Ugalde is a recent University of Nevada grad who is from Fallon. She is a staff writer, and the entertainment correspondent. She is teaching our Fallon post team design and layout, is willing to do any little thing that needs to be tackled, and is also a stand-up comic.*

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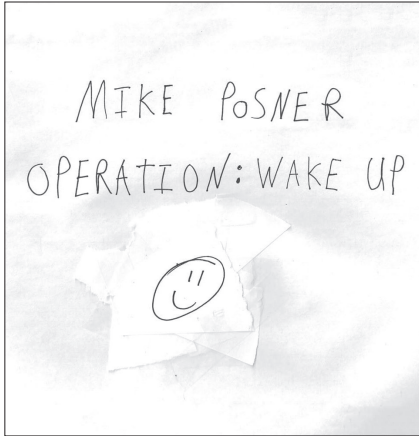
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## Operation: Wake Up



Mike Posner returned – arguably out of nowhere – with a new, and extremely interesting album. Genre bending and unique, *Operation: Wake Up* begins with a spoken introduction from Posner about how the album should be enjoyed. Posner asks listeners to dedicate 36 minutes of their time, uninterrupted, to listen to the album all-the-way through. More shockingly, Posner says that if any listeners struggle with any form of mental illness, to not listen to his album.

Posner’s album returns to the true art of storytelling that albums of the past used to do and follows a story chronologically. Posner uses both music and narration to create a plot. While some may think his introduction of listening instructions is pretentious, I absolutely agreed with Posner.

Posner uses tracks on the album to show the creation of a song that appears later in the list. His album is using a similar skill as films by being self-aware, and breaking the fourth-wall with his listeners. Rather than being a spectator to the music that is already created, we are a part of the process.

This album is extremely refreshing and surprising. There is truly nothing like this out there right now, and I say that in the least dramatic way possible.


## That Was Awkward



I received a fantastic small novel by Emily Flake last week for Christmas. Her book, *That Was Awkward: The Art and Etiquette of the Awkward Hug*, explains the array of awkward hug types. Separated into categories of relationships, business, and family, these hugs are relatable to all and make you cringe thinking about them. At the same time, the relatability of each description makes the book quite fun to read.

This book is also extremely sharable. Because of its brevity and interesting cartoon representations of each hug, the book can be shared with a group of friends or family members as conversation starters. Flake’s descriptions are vivid enough to make me recall many an awkward hug like the “awkward coffee date” hug, or an unnerving “hallway colleague” hug.

The piece is minimalist in description and length, but overflows with wit and powerful descriptions. Flake’s tone and voice through each hug description sounds like the same conversations I have when out to lunch with friends. This is a fun and fast read to enjoy while ringing in the New Year – especially since no one has been able to hug each other for nine to ten months.



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Water Levels**  
*Measurements taken  
December 30th at 4:30 p.m.*

**Lahontan Reservoir  
70,450 af**

**Truckee Canal at Hazen  
156 cfs**

**Truckee Canal at Wadsworth  
165 cfs**

**Carson River Below Lahontan  
1.31 cfs**

**Carson River at Ft. Churchill  
94.2 cfs**

cfs - Cubic Feet per Second  
af - Acre Feet



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Pursuant to NRS Chapter 108, notice is hereby given that the mobile home hereafter described will be sold at public auction to satisfy the lien claim of Ideal Mobile Home Park.

1. The name of the owner or person under whose account the mobile home is held is: Teresa Leon, James R. Herring, The CIT Group/Sales Financing, Inc..
2. The description of the mobile home to be sold is: **1988 Kit, 27 x 44 ft., Serial No. L88732B20SN11295AB.**

The time and place of the sale are:  
1/5/2021, at 9:00 AM, at Ideal Mobile Home Park,  
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Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.

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 229 Lewis Lane (home)  
 155 N Taylor Street, Number 110 (office)  
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 (775) 867-5350 (home)  
 (775) 423-4092 (office)  
 Email Bus Scharmann: buster.scharmann3@gmail.com

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Councilwoman Kelly Frost  
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Councilman James Richardson  
 Ward 3  
 vswirczek@fallonnevada.gov  
 (775) 423-3040 (Work)

<b>Crossword Answers</b>	<b>8. JANUARY</b>
<b>1. CHAMPAGNE</b>	<b>9. MIDNIGHT</b>
<b>2. GATHERING</b>	<b>10. CONFETTI</b>
<b>3. YEAR</b>	<b>11. BALLOONS</b>
<b>4. RESOLUTION</b>	<b>12. PARTY</b>
<b>5. NEW</b>	<b>13. RENEW</b>
<b>6. NEW YEAR'S</b>	<b>14. TOAST</b>
<b>7. COUNTDOWN</b>	<b>15. EVE</b>

# Community Meetings

January 1st -  
January 8th

**City Council**  
1/4 - 9:00 am

**Board of County Commissioners**  
1/4 - 8:15 am

**Highway Commission**  
1/4 - 1:15 pm

**CC Communications**  
1/4 - 2:00 pm

**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
1/5 - 7:00 pm

**Library Board of Trustees**  
1/7 - 3:00 pm

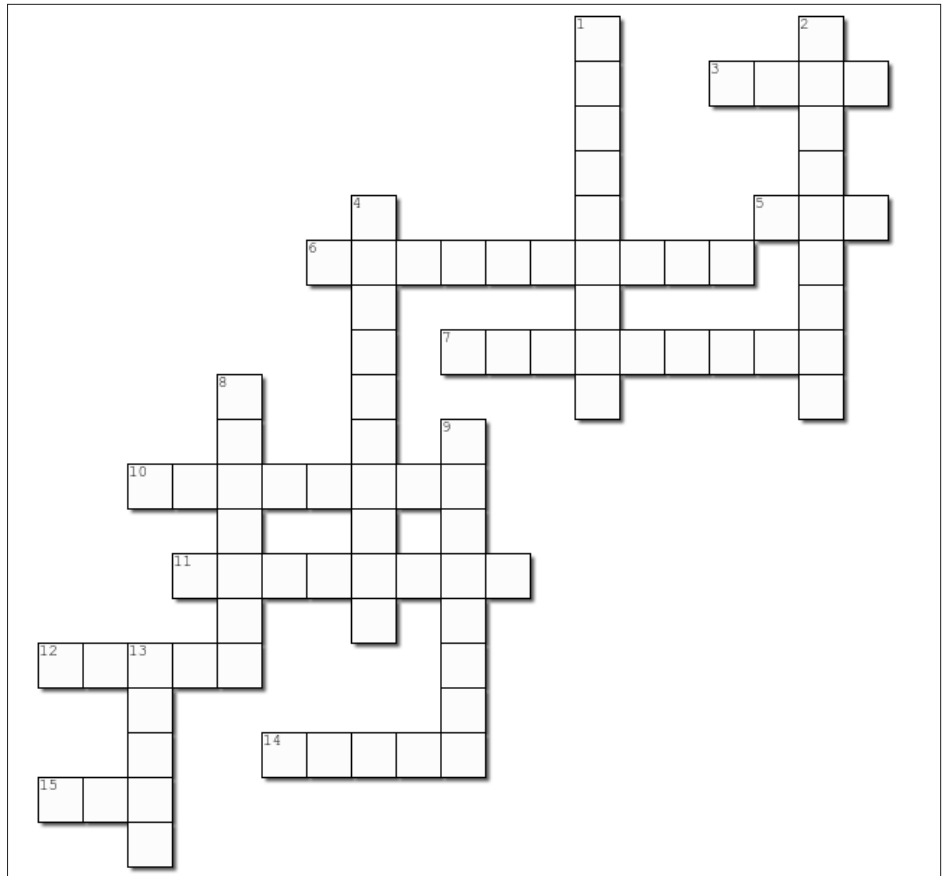
# Crossword

## Across

- 3. 365 days
- 5. Not existing before
- 6. The first day of the year
- 7. The final moments before something ends
- 10. Small pieces of colored paper
- 11. rubber decoration that floats.
- 12. A social gathering of invited guests
- 14. To drink to something; raise a glass with others
- 15. The evening before an event

## Down


- 1. A sparkling wine from France
- 2. A social group of people
- 4. A firm decision to do or not do something
- 8. The first month
- 9. The middle period of the night
- 13. To give life; revive



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*Photo provided by Rachel Dahl*



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