

THE FALLON POST



June 25, 2021

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Local Businesses Report Worker Shortage

~by Rachel Dahl

There is a shortage of available workers willing to work in local establishments, indicative of the workforce shortage plaguing the country in the wake of a strong economic recovery, and despite a year of partial shutdowns due to COVID-19.

More than ever, local business windows display a plea for help, and several have cut their hours with some restaurants even closing on premise dining for lack of enough employees to keep the doors open.

Opinion for months has been that the augmented unemployment benefits are what is keeping workers home, preferring to collect nearly \$600 per week rather than return to any job paying less than \$15 per hour. But data release this week by the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR) show unemployment in Churchill County at 3.2% with only 25 initial claims made last week, down from 232 during this week last year. Not many people in the community are hanging on to the unemployment rolls.

So where are they and why can't local employers find them?

Part of the calculus is the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center (TRI) in Storey County. There are thousands of jobs paying decent wages, benefits, and even providing transportation from Fallon to the warehouses and factories. Several recent high school graduates are jumping out of the local job market, working for Panasonic, Chewy, or Tesla, to name just a few of the TRI employers. They are bringing home \$20 per hour with bonuses instead of filling local \$12 per hour job positions. In the past it has been those new graduates who

filled the local market with a fresh crop of workers willing to start in these entry-level spots and keep the shops, restaurants, and hardware stores functioning.

But now, in no small part due to the resilience developed through COVID, people have changed, and their basic values have shifted. Not only are they choosing to work for more money at TRI, but many have figured out that their

Photo by Rachel Dahl



Story cont'd on page 4...

Dry Conditions and Fireworks Hazards



Photo courtesy of Denise Edgmon

~by Stuart Cook

This 4th of July, leave fireworks to the professionals. The fireworks that are used for 4th of July displays are dangerous explosive devices and should never be used by amateurs. Every year many people – including children, are burned, blinded, and disfigured by fireworks.

The grass in Churchill County is very dry and presents a serious hazard that has been keeping the Fallon/Churchill Fire Department very busy already this year. The direct and indirect costs of extreme fire incidents can reach millions of dollars. These fires can threaten homes, endangered animals and wildlife, grazing crops, and cause health issues, and cost jobs.

The lesson is simple: leave fireworks to the professionals. Talk to kids, tell them not to touch fireworks they may find and report it to an adult.

Remember, possession of unlawful fireworks on State or Federal property could be a misdemeanor but depending on the circumstances, such as setting a structure on fire, could be a felony.

Enjoy your fourth of July and be safe. - Stuart Cook is a retired Fire Chief from NAS Fallon

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From the Publisher

Captain's Log – Out on the High Seas (ok, it's really a highway)

It always comes down to people. The people with whom you surround yourself and how you are able to navigate life because of them.

There was a rodent problem this week... It is and was super disgusting. The solution made possible because of our own little Chicago mob connection. I'm not sure if her job description read "possible body disposal" or her resume said it, but when I opened the garage door to find a very large dead rodent, I called her to invoke said clause. And here she came, the cavalry to bail me out.

There was a shovel and a plastic bag involved, along with Pine Sol and nearly a gallon of Clorox.

And now I've gone off and left the girls to put out the paper by themselves. I'm sitting in a Chili's restaurant in Idaho Falls with my mom and my oldest daughter, Sara. We're headed to North Dakota for Sloanie's graduation party. They took turns driving while I finished writing my stories and worked remotely to get things sent to the girls at the shop.

I checked in to see what else they needed and they reminded me I hadn't written this yet – so here I sit pecking away on my tablet while we eat chips and salsa and guac and Sara and Gramma Nancy are watching the hockey game over my head.

We've had the best day. We have a rest stop affliction. We like to stop and look at stuff and take pictures. We have two separate family text strings going – the sister text and the kids in North Dakota text. My mom and all my sisters and Sara have a string going that we talk to each other all day on, and then my kids have a Snapchat string that we use to keep in touch throughout the day. So we have to update both strings of course.

It is the coolest thing to be on a three-generation trip with these two, headed to rendezvous with little Rhett, my grandson. So then we'll be four. And modern technology makes it possible to keep in touch all along the way so we are kind of traveling together – they are watching our progress and updating us on their preparations for our arrival. We are updating our location and all the sights, including the Mormon Crickets at the Cosgrave rest stop near Winnemucca.

So of course Rhett wants us to bring him one.

But Alicia doesn't have the Chicago girl for cricket eradication so she made it very clear there will be no critter importation other than the turtle.

Oh yeah, we are also transporting the turtle. She is still alive in her tank in the back seat. Apparently we are better at reptiles than rodents.

So we are off! And the girls will be at the shop...

...keeping you Posted.
Rach

Picture of the Week



“We see you!...But do you see us?”

Cool right? Send us one of your favs and we might select it for the next edition to admin@thefallonpost.org or message us on Facebook @thefallonpost.

Thank you for sending us your photos!

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Senior Center in Transition – Services Expanding

~by Rachel Dahl

Shannon Ernst, Director of the Churchill County Social Services Department, reported to the County Board of Health on Wednesday morning that she will be at the Pennington Life Center for the next few weeks as the county transitions control from the Coalition for Senior Citizens under the leadership of former Director Lisa Erquiaga, to Ernst's leadership under the Department of Social Services. Churchill County is in the process of restructuring services and will take control of the Center as of July 1st.

The Center is bustling with activity as county staff have been spending this week cleaning, organizing, and learning the many activities at the Center from exercise classes to cleaning the ice cream machine.

The Churchill County Public Health Nurse, Raylene Stiehl, will be on location at the Center starting Monday offering vaccines and a wide range of other health services to local area seniors.

Lunches are currently being offered in the dining room, which is located at 952 South Maine Street, from 11:30 to 12:30, Monday through Friday. The community is invited to enjoy a meal with the seniors and the cost is \$3.00 for ages 60 and up, \$6.00 for anyone under 60 years.

Ernst is working with Bus Scharmann, former County Commissioner, who has been tapped as the Interim Director. They will be getting set up, hiring/rehiring staff, and ordering food and supplies. He will stay on until the new Manager is hired to help with the transition.

Buster Pierce, Operations Director, was on site Wednesday, serving lunch to the seniors and meeting with Ernst regarding transition matters. He said the Center is serving close to 60 people a day, down from 80 who attended before COVID hit. "We're picking up," he said, "but we lost a lot of our regulars over the past year." The Center staff needs to work on attracting the younger seniors and get new people attending. "That's what they have to do is work on the programs



Commentary

for the younger seniors, they wanted Tai Chi and we had an instructor, but he backed out. That's something they would really like to see, anything like that they would like."

Ernst said the activity calendar and menus will be released on Tuesday, the 29th. "We will be working with Anne McMillin, (Public Information Officer for the county)

to really highlight the things we are adding over the 30 days. We hope to have a robust activity calendar released on July 1st." We have great staff, and everybody is working closely to make this transition and I really appreciate everyone's help."

"I don't understand why this was all sprung on us without talking to the seniors to see what they wanted." ~ Jackie Ugalde

~by Ginny Bragg

Once again, tensions were high during the Coalition for Senior Citizens board meeting on Thursday, June 24. The board convened to decide whether the employees of the Pennington Life Cen-

Tensions Remain High Over Senior Center

ter will be paid for their earned vacation and sick time after the Senior Center transition. The Board also discussed how to handle the hiring of employees. It was decided that the current employees will have to reapply for their positions with the County. This is necessary due to the requirements required by the Churchill County Human Resources Department. The decision was made after members of the public spoke during public comments.

Jackie Ugalde stated, "I don't understand why this was all sprung on us without talking to the seniors to see what they wanted." Ken Brown also spoke, stating,

"Within the past few days there have many, many new faces in the center - why now? They should have been there when COVID hit, not just to take over!" Melanie Keener pled with the board, "Make sure you hire people with hearts that care about the seniors, not just people who want a job. It's been sad watching the Director pack her things and be watched like she was a criminal. You don't treat people like that! I hope you feel ashamed."

The Coalition Board approved the measure which will require that senior center employees be paid for 100% of their vacation and 65% of their accrued sick leave. Board member Roberta Lind was the only member who voted against the measure.

Features

...Worker shortage cont'd from front page

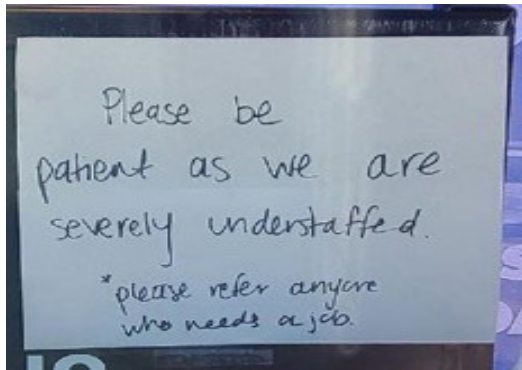


Photo by Joe Kiele

“side hustle” can provide as good or better a living, with no “boss” running the show or demanding an eight-hour shift. Technology has allowed people to earn a living from their living rooms in house-slippers. They can tele-work for companies anywhere in the country, independently trade stocks or crypto currency, build online stores or training programs, and develop customers from all parts of the world.

Because workers currently seem to have the upper hand, some local employers are offering higher wages or bonuses to attract warm bodies to fill positions. Several local dairies are paying incentives to employees who show up on time for every shift, includ-

ing Sage Hill which is currently advertising for a milker, five shifts a week, from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. starting at \$129 per shift with quarterly bonuses and annual raises. The United States Postal Service was looking for an assistant letter carrier for \$17.29 per hour, and Kent's Supply Center is looking for a Yard Associate that pays up to \$17 per hour depending on experience. General consensus among local employers is it is extremely difficult to find employees right now.

The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) recently released a Labor Supply Study to measure the quantity and quality of potential employees across the state. Responses were collected from every county across a broad range of potential employees ranging from 18 to 64 years of age. GOED will use the study to determine the number of workers available to employers who are considering expansion or major investments in the state. The report issued in December 2020 shows a total available workforce of 1,514,900 people; workers who are either looking for employment or would change jobs for the right opportunities. Of that number 300,500 are considered underemployed and 232,600 are actively seeking different employment than they currently have.

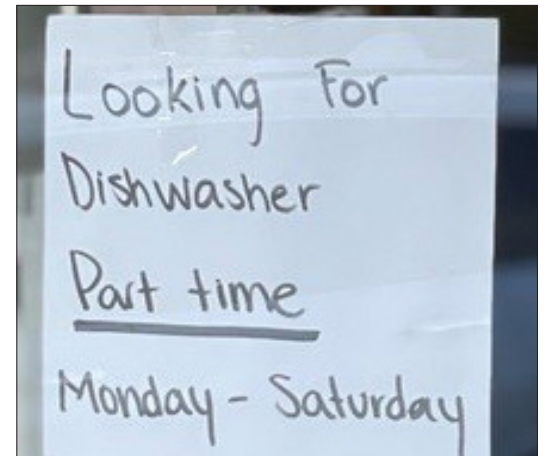
“With the right opportunities, the Nevada Labor Market appears poised to provide the talent necessary for the growth of new and existing businesses,” according to the

report.

Six months later, DETR data reports a total of 390 unemployed people in Churchill County. There are nearly 11,800 people working in 609 establishments, down from 704 at this time last year. An establishment is defined as an economic unit such as a farm, factory, or store that produces goods or services and whose activities are reported to the state unemployment system.

In spite of the labor shortage, the local economy continues to improve, within taxable sales for March up 38.1% from February to \$41,355,415.

Photo by Rachel Dahl







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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Capt. Morrison Briefs Chamber Luncheon Attendees on NAS Fallon

~by Jo Petteruti

Commanding Officer of NAS Fallon, Capt. Evan Morrison, spoke at the Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on June 17. Morrison, who has been the base commander since March of 2019, discussed the mission of NAS Fallon, the range modernization, advancements in weapons technology, and the base housing shortage.

The NAS Fallon Mission, Morrison said, "Is to provide the most realistic integrated air warfare training support available to carrier air wings, tenant commands, and individual units participating in training events, including joint and multinational exercises, while remaining committed to its assigned personnel." He provided a snapshot of base personnel, reporting that there are currently over 2,700 full-time employees at the base including active-duty military personnel, government contractors, and civil service employees.

According to Morrison, NAS currently has an annual economic impact of over a half-billion dollars (\$517 million). The base currently occupies 8,670 acres, with the range area spanning over 232,000 acres, and the air space spanning over 6.5 million acres.

When discussing the base's 21 tenant commands (units located on base that have a separate chain of command), Morrison explained that NAS Fallon's Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center (NAWDC) is the largest in the nation, supporting 52 aircrafts from F-18s up to the newest birds, the F-35s. They utilize two runways; one is over 14,000 feet long and a second at 11,000 feet. At present, there are currently two F-35Cs assigned with four more on the way.

Morrison stated that NAS Fallon training programs, attended by military personnel stationed locally and abroad, include pre-deployment training, graduate-level air warfare tactics for nine different platforms, and unit-level training.

The 2013 analysis of the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) identified severe weapons training deficiencies and an inability to meet current combat weapons tactics training. Given the large advances in weapons and tactics in the past three decades, the need to expand the FRTC continues to grow in lock-step with the new technological advancements. Morrison described differences

between the older and newer weapons classes saying, "The Fallon ranges were originally designed for the older, dumb bombs. However, the newer weapons classes incorporate 'Smart Bomb' technologies for release at longer and higher distances that improve aircraft survivability and minimize collateral damage."

NAS Fallon is also experiencing a housing shortage at a time when local housing is in high demand and base personnel is increasing. NASF is currently completing construction of 193 new homes, with 28 more becoming available within the next three months. However, that still leaves a shortage of over 50% with a total of 411 homes currently needed. Morrison did note, however, that the base owns an additional 400 acres on the north side of the existing housing development, therefore acquiring land for more housing is not an issue.

Morrison wrapped up his briefing by answering several questions from the attendees, undeterred by some pointed inquiries. He will continue in his efforts to keep the local residents up to date on base activities and NAS Fallon's community impact.

The Chamber of Commerce holds its luncheon on the third Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m., with the next one scheduled for July 15 at the Fallon Golf Course.



Capitan Morrison, Commander Navy Region Southwest and NAS Fallon -photo courtesy of U.S. Navy

Intergovernmental Executive Committee Prepares for Second Public Meeting



Photo by Carl Porter; Courtesy of NAS Fallon

~ Staff Report

The second meeting of the Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IEC) is set for 28 June, 2021 at 2p.m. The Committee will continue discussions on a memorandum of understanding and a charter

that will allow all members to participate in a meaningful way.

The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held on 20 April, 2021 via a virtual conference call. The initial meeting was focused on defining the group's membership, establishing how those members are allowed to have alternates, and electing the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee. Serving as Chair of the IEC is Amber Torres, the Tribal Chairwoman of the Walker River Paiute Tribe, and the Vice Chair is Pete Olsen, Commissioner of Churchill County.

The IEC is a congressionally mandated effort that will serve as an advisory board for the purpose of facilitating government to government and intergovernmental coordination, the exchange of views, information, and advice in matters regarding the management of the natural and cultural resources, as well as other concerns, within the existing and proposed withdrawal Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) land area and airspace. The IEC is modeled after a similar committee that addresses issues concerning the Luke Air Force Base training ranges in Arizona.

The meeting on 28 June will be conducted in accordance with the Nevada open meeting law (NRS-241) and will be streamed over Zoom to accommodate broad involvement. To find more information on the upcoming meeting, please go to www.FRTCModernization.com/IEC.

County Board of Health Update



~by Rachel Dahl

Social Services Director Shannon Ernst, reported on Wednesday to the County Board of Health the county's COVID response. According to Ernst 7,861 Churchill County residents are fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, with 293 of those ages 12 to 17, for a total of 35.93% of the population. The test positivity rate continues to hover around 4%, with roughly 1 to 2 positive test results daily, with a recent uptick of cases at the Fallon Tribe.

Out of a total of 11,482 tests provided to the community, there have been a total of 2,116 positive cases of COVID in the community since March of 2020, with 2,056 people recovering. There are four active cases currently in the community and a total of 49 deaths have been attributed to COVID.

Because Churchill County does have a deep freeze for vaccine storage, the county

uses a provider that handles vaccines for rural communities.

Ernst said her staff will be holding a vaccination Point of Delivery (POD) at the fairground's facility one day a week and then work on "pop-up" PODs throughout the community. "The CDC reminds us weekly about getting at 'least one in the arm.' And we don't want anything to expire."

Social Services will also be coordinating with the schools to get all the kids their regularly required vaccinations for classes, as well as offer the COVID vaccine at the drive through.

In other business, Ernst presented the funding recommendations for the RU92 Marijuana Tax revenue grant program. The project supports community partnerships that meet the Board of Health priorities of substance abuse prevention, reduction of teen pregnancy, and mental health and wellness. Approximately \$88,000 is available each year to Churchill County, and then made available through an applications process through social services and approved by the Board of Health.

Recommended funding was proposed and accepted by the Board for: \$6,472 to New Frontier for a teen support group focusing on substance abuse and mental health; the Churchill Coalition for the Too Good for Drugs program in the amount of \$4,528; a match for the Resource Liaisons of \$66,728; and the Churchill County School District for the Mental Health partnership with the University of Nevada for mental health services in the amount of \$10,272.

Ernst also reported on the weekly meetings and the work for the eventual establishment of a Rural Health District in Churchill County in partnership with the UNR, which

is expected to be up and running by November of 2023. The county has been awarded a \$2 million grant to evaluate and begin the expansion plans for a health clinic that will eventually see the county health staff double. John Peckham and Gerald Ackerman, both with UNR, are working with Ernst to get the contracting in place. On Monday, the parties are expected to tour the new lab in the County Annex building.

Sheriff Hickox reported that his office has been working with an organization called Blue Help that catalogs officer suicides. They are also working with Lexipol, an organization that develops tools to assist law enforcement officers (LEOs) with an app customized for active and retired personnel. The program assists them and their spouses with mental health, resilience, financial issues, and physical fitness - all toward the goal of saving the lives and marriages of LEOs.

Summer Stephens, Superintendent of Churchill County School District, reported on the district reopening plan. They are working to fully reopen, with some adjustments to meet the federal government requirements to receive COVID relief funds. School will begin August 23rd, with slight adjustments for elementary students to begin and end their day a little earlier. Those times will be forthcoming. Additionally, there will be no social distancing requirements for bussing, however, the district is waiting on mask protocols from the state. The transportation department is doing away with the transfer system this year and increasing the number of stops in town for students who are outside ½ mile to school eligibility for the bus. There is also work being done on vaccine and testing protocols, however, neither will be required/mandated.

Churchill County Recognizes Employees' Service

~Staff Report

At the June 16 meeting, the County Commissioners recognized seven county employees for their years of service to this community. Honored were:

- Lisa Nordman, District Attorney's Office – 10 years
- LaKrisha Ernst, Facilities/Parks & Recreation – 10 years
- Jessica Gulley, Juvenile Probation Office – 10 years
- Benjamin Shawcroft, District Attorney's Office – 15 years
- Chad Sweeney, Sheriff's Office – 20 years
- Lee Orozco, Sheriff's Office – 25 years
- Geof Stark, Human Resources – 25 years (shown in photo)

Each quarter, the Commissioners present plaques and lapel pins to employees for every five years of service to our local community.

The next recognition event will be at the Commissioners' meeting on September 15.



Left to right: Commissioners Dr. Greg Koenig, Dr. Justin Heath, Geof Stark, and Commissioner Pete Olsen - Photo by LaKrisha Ernst

NHP Joins Regional Effort to Put the Brakes on Excess Speed Crashes

~Staff Report

Many drivers stayed off the roads during the pandemic. Unfortunately, those who did drive were the cause of a steep rise in roadway deaths with excess speed at the heart of many crashes. Twelve State Patrols across the west have come together again to partner as the Western States Traffic Safety Coalition (WSTSC) in a joint speed education and enforcement initiative June 25th, 26th and 27th.

During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, driving patterns and behaviors changed dramatically as people drove less often and less far. Even with those dramatic changes, many who did hit the road were driving faster and more recklessly. Coalition members have seen the consequences of this trend firsthand, most notably a surge in vehicles traveling at 100 mph or more. Excess speed is a major factor contributing to serious and fatal crashes for drivers of all ages, along with speeding-related vehicle rollovers.

As the nation opens up and more people hit the roads, law enforcement will be proactive in helping bring speeds and subsequent

crashes down. The partnership established by the WSTSC is initiating a coordinated speed education and enforcement campaign across western states starting on Friday, June 25th and concluding on Sunday, June 27th. These dates were chosen to help prevent risky driving behaviors leading into the July 4th holiday.

In July 2019, the Western States Traffic Safety Coalition was formed in response to evolving impaired driving issues in addition to aggressive and distracted driving and failing to wear seat belts. The Coalition members came together with their neighboring states to show commitment and emphasis on meaningful public education about the dangers of risky and dangerous driving behaviors.

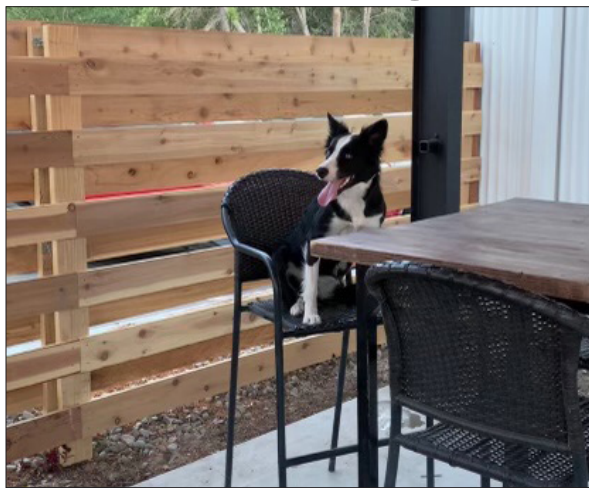


The Coalition includes the following members:

- Arizona Department of Public Safety
- California Highway Patrol
- Colorado State Patrol
- Idaho State Police
- Montana Highway Patrol
- Nevada Highway Patrol
- North Dakota Highway Patrol
- Oregon State Police
- South Dakota Highway Patrol
- Utah Highway Patrol
- Washington State Patrol
- Wyoming Highway Patrol

Business

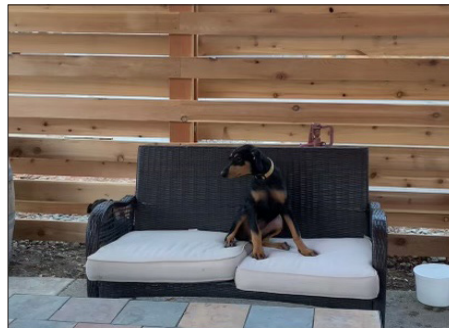
Who Let the Dogs In? The Grid, on Their New Pet Patio



~ by Michelle Richardson

There are different kinds of grids but there's only one in Fallon that is a puppy patio for your pets to play, relax and connect with a network of friends to help them feel at home. You don't need to make a reservation, but you do need someone to take you to "The Grid" if you're a furry friend.

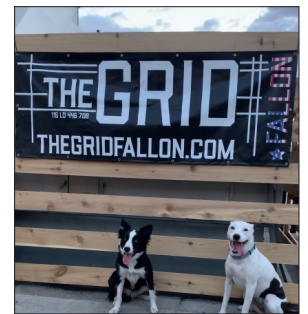
This puppy patio is comes from the inspiration of owners Paul & Tiffany Picotte's dog friends, Daisy & Lulu. Entering through the black and white walkway out back you already know this



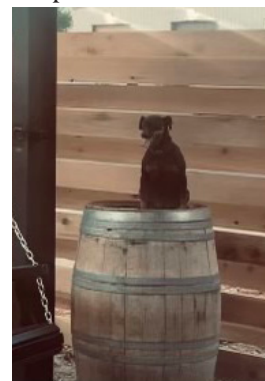
is the place that you want to spend time with your peeps- human, furry, or both. The concrete and resurfaced rustic wood flooring invites pet owners to come and hangout in their favorite spot with their favorite companions. Cuddle up as you sway in the newly built swings to the songs you choose to play through the outdoor speakers on the jukebox.

There are so many features in the works including a seven foot gas fireplace, shade sail, and automatic water dishes where pets can feel like they are at a resort. The latticed hops on the south side are from our local Two Ravens Farm and complete the homey ambiance.

It's fun to step up for a game of Cornhole or Rings out back and know that all of your best buds are beside you. The Grid has been working with Churchill Animal Protection Society (CAPS), Fallon Animal Shelter, and Fallon Animal Welfare group (FAWG) to ensure that our local pets are taken care of and have the opportunity to be adopted. The Grid



River, Daisy, Lulu, and Duke pose for their shot at fame -courtesy of Paul and Tiffany Picotte



will also be expanding as they introduce their new Brewery & Marketplace location on Highway 50 next year. Until then bring your pet to a venue that will help them feel like they are living their best life at the Grid!

Obituaries

Balbino (Bill) Achurra



Balbino (Bill) Achurra, 86, died June 12, 2021, at his home in Moses Lake WA with his family at his side.

Holy Rosary & Visitation will be from 7pm - 9pm at Kayser's Chapel of Memories on Thursday, June 17th. Funeral services will be at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Moses Lake, WA on Friday, June 18th 10:30am. Bill will be laid to rest at Churchill County Cemetery in Fallon, Nevada.

Bill grew up on an 80 acre cattle ranch which also had a 30 dairy cows, which he was in charge of at the young age of twelve. He attended a one room school house from the 1st to the 8th grade. He got there on his mustang pony named Jeep. Bill loved working on cars. When he was twelve years of age, he put a '47 Mercury V8 in a 34 Ford Coupe. Bill was part of the FFA who won an award for designing a Parlor barn for dairy cows. A family friend, John Getto, loved Bill's design and asked if he would build him one. Bill refused, stating that he had no construction experience, but Mr. Getto convinced

him that if he could design it, he could build it. He built that parlor barn at 16 years old, and spent the next 65 years as a builder. He proceeded to build a Dairy Queen in Fallon at 17 years old, which still stands to this day. He married his High school sweetheart Shirley Jean Taylor. Together their family grew in love and numbers.

Bill is survived by his Wife of 68 years Shirley Achurra, his 6 children, Stephen Achurra (Serena), Matthew Achurra (Julie), Diana Johnson (Clay), Patrick Achurra, John Achurra, Marta Mazzei (Chris), 17 Grandchildren and 10 Great Grand Children

He was preceded in death by his Parents Joe and Connie Achurra, Brother John Achurra and his sister Victoria Fowler.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Our Lady of Fatima building fund or your preferred Charity.

A special thank you to the staff at Assured Hospice in Moses Lake WA for their loving care and support during his final days.

Organizations

Fallon July 4th Parade Planning Continues - Will be Held on 3rd



2020 4th of July Parade - Photo by Rachel Dahl

~by Jo Petteruti

The Fallon Parade Planning Committee met on Monday, June 21st, at His Inspirations Gift Shop to discuss plans for this year's July 4th Parade. The parade is being held on Saturday, July 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. Street closures along the parade route will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The date of the parade was readdressed by the Committee. Lucy Carnahan, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, emphasized that choosing the Saturday date was done to maximize participation in the parade. In 2010, when July 4th fell on a Sunday, the parade was held on the Saturday, July 3rd; establishing precedent for years when the 4th falls on Sunday, as it is this year.

Much work remains to be done before parade day. Announcers and their stations along the parade route are still being finalized.

The stations must be noted on the parade route map and be submitted to Nevada DOT prior to the event. Two of the three judges have been selected and the parade Grand Marshall position will be represented by three of the original Fallon Babe Ruth players.

Logistical planning for placement of the PA Systems to be used by the announcers, placement of pop-up tents along the route, breakfast for the judges and volunteers are still in the works. Parade permits and the required authorizations are complete, except for the final route map. Letters have been sent to homeowners along the parade route notifying them of the event and road closures. Media graphics for the event are nearly complete and will be shared on social media, web sites, and the local news outlets.

Later in the day, the Green Goddess Farmers Market will be held from 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., outside of the Churchill Arts Center and Lariat Café at Oats Park. Parade award winners will be announced at the start of the market on the outdoor stage under the Lariat sign.

Fireworks will not be held on Saturday evening, they will be held on the 4th, Sunday night at Rattlesnake Raceway.

Entries are open until Saturday, June 24th, and the committee is encouraging businesses and organizations to help sponsor the event. The sponsorship fee is \$150 which includes free parade entry as well as prominently displayed logos on parade banners and other advertising fliers. This year's parade sponsors include Highland Village, Fallon Tribal Development Corp., Farmers Insurance the Lundstrom Agency, Great Basin Urgent Care LLC, Jeff's Digitex Printing, Financial Horizons Credit Union, At Your Service, Edward Jones, Tedford Tire, and Cyrq Energy/Soda Lake Geothermal.

Parade volunteers are still needed. Anyone interested in volunteering for the parade may contact the Chamber of Commerce at (775) 423-2544 or Wende Hook at His Inspirations, (775) 423-0622. The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 29th, at the Telegraph Coffee and Tap at 3:00 p.m.



GREAT BASIN URGENT CARE

Urgent Care

Sore throat?

Rash?

Stop by any of our convenient locations today to be seen.

Family Practice

Diabetes? High blood pressure? Talk to our providers about getting healthy today.

Specialty

DOT exams, women's health, addiction medicine, mental health, can all be found at our locations

Our Urgent Care locations offer extended hours for diagnosing and treating medical conditions that could worsen without proper care, including broken bones. An urgent care visit is quicker and more affordable than a visit to an emergency room, but call 911 for a life-threatening illness such as heart attacks or strokes. Other services include wellness screenings and diagnostic testing.

At Great Basin Urgent Care our friendly, caring and dedicated team understands you want a convenient, immediate urgent care visit. We ensure all our patients receive the best treatment from a staff who genuinely cares and provides a more personable experience. Our convenient locations — Fallon Nevada and Logan Utah — provide you with clean facilities, as well as a fun and upbeat staff who will ensure you receive the treatment you and your family deserves

We also are fluent in Tagalog, Kapampangan, and Español .

50 Commercial Way, Fallon, NV 89406

Tel: 775-423-2222, Fax: 775-423-3131, info@gbucnv.com

Morton Sentenced to 14-36 years for Sexual Assault of Minor

~ by Alicia Parsons

Joseph Richard Morton (42) was arrested in January on charges related to allegations that he had a long-term sexual relationship with a 14-year-old girl that suffers from various mental deficits that make her highly vulnerable to predators. Based on plea negotiations entered into with the State, Morton pled guilty to the following charges in February: (1) Statutory Sexual Seduction by a Person Age 21 or older, a Category B Felony that carries 1-10 years in prison (commonly referred to as statutory rape), (2) Luring a Child or Mentally Ill Person to Engage in Sexual Conduct, also a Category B Felony that carries 1-10 years in prison, (3) Lewdness with a Child Under Age 14, a Category A Felony, punishable by life in prison with the possibility of parole after ten years, and (4) Child Abuse or Neglect (a first offense), a felony that carries 1-6 years in prison.

In Nevada, sexual assault of a child technically qualifies as two separate crimes: (1) child abuse and (2) sexual assault. However, "double jeopardy" protects defendants from being convicted of a similar offense for the same behavior. Defendants accused of sexually assaulting a minor can either be convicted of child abuse or sexual assault, but not both. In Morton's case, count four also includes the sexual assault of a minor but occurred on a different day than count two. Jacob Sommer, Public Defender for Morton, informed Judge Stockard that the plea agreement reduced both the number of charges against his client and prohibited more serious charges from being filed or pursued. The initial charges against Morton included: Statutory Sexual Seduction (six counts), Luring or Attempting to Lure a Child to Engage in Sexual Conduct (one count), Lewdness with a Child under Age 14 (four counts), and Child Abuse or Neglect (four counts).

During Morton's arraignment, he stated that he used Facebook Messenger to communicate with the victim to persuade her to engage in sexual conduct. When addressed by Judge Stockard, Morton admitted that he knew how old she was. He further admitted to having sexual intercourse with the victim and inappropriately touching her to arouse sexual desire.

Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Weed asked the court to impose the maximum penalty on each charge based on the evidence in the case.

Weed stated that Morton engaged in long-term predatory grooming of his victim. He also said that witness statements provided to attest to Morton's good character were completed by individuals who did not have full knowledge of why they were asked to provide such statements. The statements claimed that Morton is a great person, and no one had ever seen any behavior that led them to believe he was engaging in such acts.

According to Weed, Morton, like most predators, was able to hide the assault of the victim even from her own family. The psycho-sexual evaluation done by Dr. Hicks-Berenstahl revealed that Morton assaulted the 14-year-old over 18 months. It also concluded that Morton blames the victim for approaching him. Additionally, Morton was aware of her mental deficiency and exploited that to take further advantage of the victim. He further told the victim that their encounters had to be kept secret so he would not go to jail or get in trouble. He stated that the victim pursued him, he knew that she had intellectual difficulties and had been held back in school, and "he just loved her."

Weed told the court that Morton was trying to gain the evaluator's sympathy and control the interview process. "He has repeatedly proven that he will manipulate any person or situation to try and benefit himself without regard for his actions," Weed stated. The results of the psycho-sexual evaluation showed that Morton demonstrates a high risk to re-offend.

This was supported by observed avoidance for taking responsibility and blaming others, including the victim.

The evaluation revealed that Morton made attempts to normalize and minimize his inappropriate behaviors. He claimed that he was assaulting the victim to educate her because she had approached him with questions about sex. Morton also stated that he continued the relationship in secrecy because it was consensual, and they loved each other. Evidence indicated that Morton planned and sought opportunities to be alone with the victim to have sex, even telling the victim that when she turned 18, they could tell everyone about the relationship, and she could then move in with him at his residence and live there with him in a romantic relationship.

The relationship only ended when it was reported. Morton suggested that the pornography he shared with the victim was educational in nature. Morton believed that the progression of the sexual relationship was "him doing an act of service for the victim." Morton showed the victim the pornography and then acted it out with her, performing several types of sexual acts.

Facebook private messages included conversations in which Morton explained that him caressing her breasts and her breathing differently were simply endorphins, and she should look it up. Morton claimed that out of love, he tried to coach her into inappropriate touch and suggested that he should show her rather than explain via messenger. Morton attempted to claim that he worried about her comfort with the sexual acts.

Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer said Morton's statements were not intended to excuse any behaviors that brought his client before the court. Som-


mer asked the court's sentence to embody fairness, consistency, and proportionality. He requested that Morton be granted an opportunity to overcome to correct the behaviors he exhibited. Sommer did not ask for probation but rather to have the imposed sentences run concurrently rather than consecutively.

Morton addressed the court, stating, "I lost sight of the values instilled in me from the moment I joined the military. I acted in a manner that was shameful, disgraceful, every word you could think. I went from wearing a uniform of honor to a black and white stripe uniform of shame. I need to bring back the guy that everyone wrote the letters about, not the man I am today." He went on to say that he betrayed his entire family, including the victim's guardian, and dishonored everyone he ever served with and the flag. "I can beg for forgiveness, but I don't deserve it," Morton stated. "I owe it to my mother to be the man I once was. I cannot imagine what the victim's family is going through. I want to make a promise to be the man I was before this incident happened."

The victim's guardian addressed Morton and the court during victim impact testimony stating that the family and the defendant have known each other for over 30 years. "The victim is a sweet girl who wants so badly to be 'normal.'" She wants to drive and get a job, but those are not things she will ever be able to do," the guardian stated. Additionally, the victim suffers from severe mental deficits that do not allow her to make decisions, understand things going on around her, or realize that situations are wrong. She went on to say that she is shocked the State is not taking into consideration that not only is the victim a child who was 14 years old at the start of this inappropriate relationship, but also severely limited mentally by her disabilities.

According to the guardian, the victim told her that on numerous occasions, Morton would leave her brother at his house playing video games, put her in the car under the guise of going to grab food, and drive her behind the skating rink and have sex with her. While Morton's family lived with him, he would take the victim around the corner from the living room to the kitchen

Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff's Office



Cont'd on page 11...

Probation Revoked for Castillo on Firearms Charge



~ by Alicia Parsons

Brayden Walker Castillo (19) in custody, appeared in court on probation violations, specifically the provision that prohibits probationers to consume alcohol or other intoxicants. Castillo stated that he had too much fun and got aggressive and blacked out, and he doesn't remember what happened. He told the court that he only knows what is alleged in the criminal complaint. Further, Castillo said that alcohol caused the blackout.

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Priscilla Baker asked the court to revoke Castillo's probation, reminding the court of the original charges in which he stole a gun from a residence while at

Photo courtesy of Churchill County Sheriff's Office

a house party and later posted videos of himself on social media with the firearm. In October, Castillo plead guilty after the court reduced the charges from Felony Theft of a Firearm to Conspiracy to Commit Grand Larceny of a Firearm, a gross misdemeanor. According to Baker, there have been multiple issues with his attitude, and he told his probation officer that he just wanted to be done with supervision and he believed that four months was adequate supervision for his case, all while continuing to drink alcohol which is not only a violation but also illegal as he is not of legal drinking age.

Judge Stockard previously sanctioned Castillo to 30 days in jail

for probation violations. Four months later he was brought back before the court on new violations and charges from Lyon County alleging that Castillo, still under the legal drinking age, was at a party where alcohol was served. The new criminal complaint alleges that he drove drunk with two individuals in the car, including one minor. He then committed a hit and run.

According to the criminal complaint, a Churchill County Sheriff's Deputy noticed a vehicle entering Fallon that was unable to maintain travel lanes. When he attempted to initiate a traffic stop, the vehicle went off the roadway, over-corrected, and bounced off a median. The deputy found Castillo to be the driver, who was highly intoxicated. Castillo then began resisting officers; he kicked and spat on an officer while in custody. Deputies had to call a van to transport him due to his combativeness.

Baker stated that Castillo has proven that he cannot be supervised. He has no regard for the court's orders and continues to do what he wants without care for the consequences. He is a danger to the community. Churchill County Public Defender Wright Noel said the state is not wrong in their assessment of Castillo's behavior, but requested that he receive six months in jail rather than the sentence maximum of 364 days in jail. Castillo addressed the court, stating, "I kinda know I messed up and that I am tired of it all and want to move on."

Judge Stockard told Castillo that there are many circumstances where he would consider modifying the underlying sentence, but this is not one of them. Judge Stockard revoked Castillo's probation and imposed the underlying sentenced sentence of 364 days in jail with credit for 46 days served.

District Court News

~by Alicia Parsons

Celestina Renee Ortiz (in custody) pled guilty to Possession of a Controlled Substance, a Category E Felony punishable by 1-4 years in prison. Churchill County Public Defender (CCPD) Jacob Sommer, counsel for Ortiz, stated his client knowingly possessed methamphetamine. Ortiz was also accused of failing to comply with Drug Court requirements and failing to report to probation, to which she admitted. Ortiz is waiting to be admitted into Vitality, a substance abuse treatment center in Carson City, and will remain in custody until that can be arranged. Sentencing is set for September 14.

Bryan J. Bankson (in custody) pled guilty to Abuse, Neglect, or Endangerment of a Child Under the Age of 18, a Category B Felony

punishable by 2-15 years in prison. CCPD Wright Noel, counsel for Bankson, stated that his client struck a 13-year-old child on the butt, leaving welts. Sentencing is scheduled for August 17.

Jesse Dalton Fritz appeared on probation violations to which he admitted. According to statements made in court, Fritz was arrested in Washoe County on charges of Possession of Stolen Property and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Charles Woodman Esq., defense counsel for Fritz, stated that his client realizes that he needs substance abuse treatment. Judge Stockard asked Fritz why he wasn't sentenced to drug court. Fritz told the Judge that at the time of sentencing, he was expecting to be employed at a mine and his schedule would not be conducive to drug court. In January, Fritz was granted probation on a suspended sentence of 12-32 months on charges of Conspiracy to Violate the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and Possession of a Controlled Substance. The next hearing is scheduled for July 27

...Morton, Cont'd from page 10

and engage in sex acts while the entire family was mere feet away in another room. She also stated that the original 16 charges do not account for even half of the crimes committed against the victim. "I do not feel that four counts are justice for the victim," she said. "The victim is suffering from self-identity issues, unable to relate to or interact with men, and believing that she is a mere sex object for men." Further, according to the guardian, the family is now divided, and Morton's family blames the victim for his actions. "Innocence stolen, is innocence forever lost," she continued. "I understand that the psycho-sexual evaluation says that Mr. Morton is a moderate to high risk to re-offend, and we ask for the maximum sentence allowable."

Per Nevada statute, Morton was eligible for probation. However, Judge Stockard stated that he did not believe Morton is a suitable candidate for probation. He must submit to lifetime supervision upon his release from prison, and he will also be required to register as a sex offender within 48 hours of his release from prison.

Judge Stockard sentenced Morton on (1) Luring a Child with the Intent to Engage in Sexual Conduct to 48-120 months in prison (2)

Statutory Sexual Seduction, also 48-120 months in prison (3) Lewdness with a Minor Under 16 a Category, 48-120 months in prison (4) Abuse, Neglect, or Endangerment of a Child a 28-72 months in prison with the terms to run consecutively. The aggregate sentence is 172-432 months (14.33 - 32 years) in prison. Morton will receive credit for 159 days of time served.

Stockard stated that there were words of hope in Morton's statement, who was clear-minded and articulate. "I hope that your words are sincere about bettering yourself and I hope that you can fulfill your commitments upon release," said Stockard.

Note: If you are familiar with the case, accused, victim, or families, please refrain from sharing information that identifies the victim who is a minor child.

53 Fallon Students Make WNC Spring Dean's List



Photo courtesy of WNC

~Staff Report

Western Nevada College's latest group of students to earn Dean's List honors has demonstrated how outstanding students can make the necessary adjustments to excel in higher education.

Despite taking most of their classes online during the COVID health pandemic, 413 WNC students made the college's Dean's List, with 53 attending the Fallon Campus.

To earn the distinction of making WNC's Dean's List, students must complete at least 12 units during the semester and accumulate a grade point average of 3.50 or higher.

Fallon's Honorees include: Hunter Arends, Jelen Rose Bayoneta, Josh Bloomfield, Christine Brantley, Wendy Bullock, Sequoya Casey, Jasmin Castanon Hernandez, Matthew Catlin, Dario Ceresola, Karter Conway, Elvira Correa, Kara Derby, Ashley Devault, Tayler Felton, Grace Griswold, Lauren Halloran, Trevor Halloran, Heidi Hansen, Ericka Heath, Kaitlyn Hert, Samantha Hines, Jayden Jensen, Ryan Jones, Jase Kroll, Isabella Leal, Samuel Lee, Britney McArthur, Joseph Mikulak, Madelyn Mikulak, Eddie Morrow, Amanda Ngo, Sadie O'Flaherty, Madison Paladini, Shalby Palmer, Hailey Penfold, Callista Perez, Timothy Petersen, Melanie Plasse, Benjamin Polish, Luke Rechel, Laine Reid, Emma Robinson, Nelly Ruiz, Novaleah Sampley, Skye Schafer, Megan Shyne, Kailyn Sorensen, Madeline Stephens, Maiya Swan, Will Swisher, Jackson Turner, Linda Wadsworth, Shailynn Winter

Jayden Jensen Earns Rodeo Scholarship and Signs with Northwestern Oklahoma University

~Staff Report

Jayden Jensen, a local athlete has officially signed for a rodeo scholarship at Northwestern Oklahoma State University with Stockton Graves, the Northwestern rodeo coach, on Thursday evening June 17th, at The Grid. Jensen received a dual degree through both Churchill County High School and Associates of Applied Science degree at Western

Nevada College. Jensen will be representing the Fallon rodeo club and competing at National Finals Rodeo July 18- 24th. Her family would like to say how proud they are of all of her hard work and dedication to not only her education, but her rodeo career. We wish her the best of luck!

Photo courtesy of the Jensen family



Claybreakers Nevada State Trap Championships 2021



~Staff Report

Lahontan Valley Claybreakers took 1st Place in the Varsity Division at the State Trap Shoot this past weekend. J Rowe took 3rd place after a shoot-off in the Varsity division with a 195/200. Tanner Huckaby made the All-State Team and was 4th place for individual Varsity Division.

Tanner Huckaby, Colby Webb, Matt Ernst, Tony Adams, and John Rowe, II.
Courtesy Jessica Huckaby

Great job!



Fallon Grown Athletes — Women’s Football

~ by Rachel Dahl



In a town known for turning out athletes, Fallon has once again grown a crop of great football players, women football players, that is. The women are a part of the Women’s Football Alliance and are playing women’s tackle football in Reno on Saturday in the First Round of the Conference Championship.

Allison Lister and Darnell Mutte, playing for the Nevada Storm, will meet former Greenwave softball player and marching band member, Camilla Cleveland, as the Denver, Colorado’s Mile High Blaze team takes the field against the Storm. The game begins at 6:00 tonight at Reno’s North Valleys High School. Both the Storm and the Blaze have gone 6 – 0 this season leading into the play-offs.

Cleveland fell in love with football when she played for the Nevada Storm in 2012, cutting her teeth in the league. She now lives in Billings, Montana, and travels to play Defensive Tackle with the Blaze.

Mutte ran cross country for the Greenwave and played basketball for Anne Hale, along with holding a manager position on the football team. She is now playing Middle Linebacker, as is Lister whose talents on the track team caught the eye of Coach Adam Barrett. He invited her to try out her freshman year at the University of Nevada. Lister said she was too busy at the time and decided it wouldn’t fit in, but she tried out this year and made the team. She said she “absolutely loves playing football,” and has met so many amazing people this past season. “You’ve got to see a game,” she said, “this ain’t no patty cake. One of our teammates broke three fingers last week.”

The women started their season in May, their last regular game was last weekend.

According to Cleveland, there are two Women’s Football leagues, the Women’s National Football Conference and the Women’s Football Alliance.

The Conference Championship is July 10th , and the National Championship will be held on July 4th in Canton, Ohio.

Top: Camilla Cleveland grew up in Fallon and will face the Nevada Storm in Reno on Saturday as she plays Defensive Tackle for the Mile High Blaze in the Women’s Tackle Football semi finals - Photo courtesy of Camiila Cleveland

Left: Allison Lister, Right: Darnell Mutte with the Nevada Storm -courtesy of Nevada Storm





GREEN GODDESS FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAYS, 3-8 PM

MAY 1 * JUNE 5 * JULY 3
AUGUST 7 * SEPTEMBER 4

Join us at the Oats Park Art Center & Lariat Courtyard for the *Green Goddess Farmers Market* featuring produce for sale from local farmers, artwork from local artists and crafters, music by local musicians, food from the 5 Star Indian Food Truck, and more!

The Market begins at 3PM with a “Meet Your Farmer” cocktail hour in the Lariat Bar, where a specialty cocktail composed using local ingredients will be available for purchase, along with a variety of other drinks.


CHURCHILL ARTS COUNCIL
Oats Park Art Center • 151 East Park Street, Fallon, Nev.
For more info call 775-423-1440 or email charts@phonewave.net

Community Events



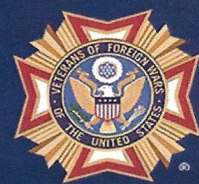
SUMMER Fun Events

June 17-20 - 4 days	Rockabilly Riot Camp Out	County Fairgrounds
June 18 - 8:00 pm	Will Shamburger Band	Fallon Theatre
June 19 - 9 am	UNR Fallon Alumni Golf Tourney	Fallon Golf Course
June 19 - 7:30 pm	Free Concert in the Park	Oats Park
June 23 - 3 - 7 pm	Pick'n & Grin'n Farmers Market	Behind The Grid
June 26 - 9:30- Noon	Cars and Coffee	Telegraph Coffee & Tap
June 26 - 9-5 pm	Cruise to the Lake Lahontan	Lahontan Day Area
June 26 - 5:00 pm	DeGolyer Horse/Bull Bash	County Fairgrounds
June 26 - 5:00 pm	Fallon Elks Prime Rib Dinner	Elks Hall, Center Street
June 30 - 3 - 7 pm	Pick'n & Grin'n Farmers Market	Behind The Grid
July 3 - 10:00 am	4th of July Parade on July 3rd	S. Taylor - S Maine St.
July 3 - 4-9 pm	Green Goddess Farmers Market	Arts Center/Oats Park
July 7 - 3 - 7 pm	Pick'n & Grin'n Farmers Market	Behind The Grid
July 14 - 3 - 7 pm	Pick'n & Grin'n Farmers Market	Behind The Grid
July 17 - 9:00 am	FYC Annual Kids Kup Tourney	Fallon Golf Course
July 21 - 3 - 7 pm	Pick'n & Grin'n Farmers Market	Behind The Grid
July 28 - 3 - 7 pm	Pick'n & Grin'n Farmers Market	Behind The Grid
Aug. 7 - 3-8 pm	Green Goddess Farmers Market	Arts Center/Oats Park
Aug. 20-22	Community-wide Reunion	Oats Park / other areas
Aug. 21 - 7:30 pm	Free Concert in the Park	Oats Park
Aug. 27-29 - 10 am	Cantaloupe Festival & County Fair	County Fairgrounds
Sept. 4 - 3-8 pm	Green Goddess Farmers Market	Arts Center/Oats Park



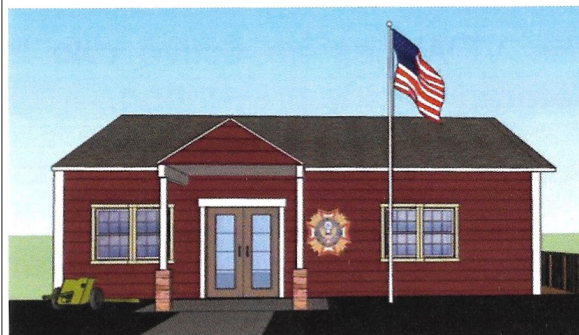
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



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**MUSTERED IN -
SEPTEMBER 11, 1946**



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50th Reunion

August 20-22

For more details please call or email

Cindy Sullivan
775-376-3705
cindysullivan@hotmail.com

Vicki Paul
775-427-8173
dvpaul@eccomm.net

Please RSVP promptly as we need numbers for planning



2021 9th Annual Kidz Kup

SATURDAY July 17th
FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE

CHECK-IN 9:00 AM~SHOTGUN START 10:00 AM

To enter, sponsor, or contribute to raffle please email
doskellys@gmail.com

Hole in One on #8 wins \$10,000!





- First place—\$600 course credit.
- Second place—\$300 course credit.
- \$50 course credit for Men/Women's LD and CTP.
- \$300 per team includes greens fee, cart, food, and swag.
- Great raffle. Betting TBD. Sponsorship starts at \$100/"hole"

AFTER WORK FAMILY TIME @ THE LIBRARY

Tuesdays
5:00 - 5:45 pm


Stop in for an activity to do with your children



CHURCHILL COUNTY LIBRARY
FALLON, NEVADA

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DONATE NOW



Call (775) 636-2082
For Additional Information

Community Events



7th Annual Community Wide Reunion August 20-22, 2021 Oats Park

All Years, All Classes, Students, Teachers, Family & Friends
Don't miss the opportunity to connect with friends from the past

Friday, August 20

- 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Public Library Video Yearbook Display
- 7:00 p.m. Music by The Coaches Band at the Fallon Theatre

Saturday, August 21

- 8:00 a.m. to Noon Breakfast at the Pennington Life Center \$8.00 and \$5.00 for those 10 years and younger
- 8:00 a.m. to Noon FREE Show-n-Shine Car Show & Antique Tractors at the Pennington Life Center
- 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Open Swim at the City Pool
- 3:00 p.m. Conversation with Bill Joe & the Dusty 45's at the Oats Park Arts Center and tour the galleries
- 4:00 p.m. gather at Oats Park; **extra parking at EC Best**
- BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS; some classes will have tents
- Honoring the Classes of 1960 and 1961
- Food along with beer/wine will be for sale or bring your own picnic to the park
- 7:30 p.m. FREE concert Billy Joe & the Dusty 45's; continue the celebration after the concert at the Art Bar at Oats Park Art Center

TOURS & ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Churchill County Museum (10-5pm) | Cottage School Tour (1-4pm) |
| Old High School (1-4pm) | Frey Ranch Distillery (12-4pm) |
| | Oats Park School/Art Center (4-6pm) |
| | Fallon/Churchill Volunteer Fire Department (1-4pm) |
| | Douglass House & The Old Post Office (1-4pm) |
| | Chat with Mayor Tedford at City Hall (1-4pm) |

Sunday, August 22

- Many individual classes are planning breakfast or get-togethers

Questions: communityreunionfallon@gmail.com or call 775.423.5465
Find us on Facebook (Fallon/Churchill County Community Reunion)



July 2021

July 15 - Open House @ the Library- Thursday- 6 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Drop by to see what's new and socialize with staff, board members, and friends. Refreshments will be served.

Summer Reading Program - Monday -Friday- 9 a.m.—6 p.m.

- Grab and Go Activities
- Self Directed Activities
- Reading Logs
- Books to Keep

After Work Family Time - Tuesdays 5:00-5:45 p.m.

Stop in for an activity to do with your children

Story Time—Every Wednesday and Thursday—11 a.m.

Art Exhibit - Churchill County Middle and High School Art Students



Churchill County Library * 553 South Maine Street* Fallon, NV 89406

Happening this Weekend

7th Annual DE GOLYER Bucking Horse & BULL BASH

SATURDAY JUNE 26TH FALLON FAIRGROUNDS

GATES OPEN AT 5PM
RODEO STARTS AT 6PM
TICKETS \$10 EACH
@ the gate, Seniors and 12 & under just \$5.00

CALL 775-427-0228 TO ENTER
degolyerbullbash@yahoo.com

Credit Cards accepted

FREE KIDS ZONE- bounce house, 20ft waterslide, face painting

VENDORS- food trucks, craft vendors, Troy's Double Shot Bar

LIVE BAND AFTER THE RODEO!

CASH PAYOUTS

100% payback
BUCKLES TO THE WINNERS!

ADDED MONEY IN BULLS \$1000
BRONCS \$500

EVENTS
Bulls, Broncs, Barrels, Team Roping, Mutton Bustin

Enjoy a slice of Fallon

CANTALOUPE FESTIVAL and COUNTRY FAIR

AUGUST 27th -29th 2021

Presented by CC Communications ★ Churchill County Fairgrounds ★ FallonCantaloupeFestival.com

High Desert Dirt – The Raven’s Rant

Mulling Mulberries-Trees for Fallon



A friendly woman came into the nursery one day looking for a tree that didn't shed, you didn't have to water much, fertilize or prune. I replied that we had some beautiful plastic trees in the gift shop she might like to look at. Side note, thanks to my boss Susan Henderson for not firing me! The point of this story isn't to point out what a pain I can be, rather to encourage folks to be more accepting of what trees do and what they need to grow here in Fallon.

Trees shed - it is a part of their life cycle. Even evergreens exhibit needle drop. Despite many benefits, I regularly hear mulberries being vilified for a number of reasons. Number one is usually their berry drop. Here in the United States, the *Morus* genus has three main species that are prevalent. Red mulberry, *Morus rubra* is native to the United States. White mulberry, *Morus alba*, is native to Asia where they are used for medicinal benefits and as food for silkworms. *Alba* actually was introduced to the US in the 1600s to start up a not so successful silkworm sericulture industry. We also have *Morus nigra* (quick Latin quiz), the black mulberry that is originally native to the Middle East. Mulberries hybridize readily by wind pollination, making it difficult to distinguish which mulberry you have. Leaf shape or berry color are not

definite identifiers here. Birds are largely responsible for distribution. If you find a tree with fruit that you like the flavor of, try potting one up.

Mulberries are a large leaved, quick growing, shade tree that are suited to Fallon. They are tolerant of our difficult environment, alkaline soils and produce fruit practically every year. Additionally, mulberries are an excellent source of firewood that burns hot and long, having a BTU of 25.8, markedly higher than some oak species. If you aren't using them for firewood, they are long lived. A white mulberry planted by George Washington is still flourishing at Mt Vernon. If you are a permaculture kind of gardener, a mulberry will tolerate some shade, making them a good candidate to include in a home food forest. In my experience, treating a mulberry like any other fruit tree in your yard - regular water, pruning and fertilizer will yield tastier fruit and a healthier tree. I should mention that the fruit is very perishable and should be consumed or pre-served quickly (within a day or two after harvest for best results).

Besides being silkworm food, mulberry biomass is fed to livestock. Young bark is made into an artistic paper. A box of mulberry leaf tea will run you about \$5, a bag of dried mulberry fruit around \$15. Mulberry leaves can even be used to make a yellow dye that reminds me of the golden hue the leaves turn in the fall. They also are a larval host to the mourning cloak butterfly. We see them here around mid-July. The trees had great value to Native Americans as well, used medicinally and even for making coats out of the bark of young shoots.

To address the mess, if you get the "right tree" the birds will do most of the clearing. I have been racing robins, finches and meadowlarks in harvesting. The berries that do drop add some good organic matter to our soil. Every year I cover them with a light layer of compost and they decompose quickly. Alternately, you could rake them and add to a compost pile. Another common complaint, is the purple droppings the berry happy birds leave behind. You probably should not plant a mulberry near concrete walkways or over any place vehicles are parked if this would bother you. Another slight negative is the tender large leaves tend to be damaged by our late frosts in the spring. However, they leaf back out fairly quickly. It should also

be noted that seed-lings do pop up around our gardens. We dig them up when we find them, several every year, pot them up and gift them to other oddballs like us. Our farm mulberries came undoubtedly via bird, from a former neighbor a few houses down. Mrs. Dennis had a giant tree she loved and I think of her whenever I take a break from the heat and sit under ours. There is further nostalgic value to me as well. As a kid in Michigan, I spent many hours in a giant mulberry tree eating thumb sized berries and laughing with friends at our purple stained fingers. A sort of summer rite of passage for country kids, I think. Except my childhood friend, Susie Appleyard (her actual name), fell out and broke her arm one year. Years later she is not a mulberry fan.

If you're still unconvinced, a fruitless version is available at most of our local nurseries. There is also a weeping form, if you're looking to add some interest to your garden. Plan for the space though because they get large.

I'm lucky to have a few "makers" in my life. You know, the ones you can text and say, "hey would you like a giant bag of mulberries?" Kelli Mae Kelly is one of those people. With her chef background she always manages some wonderful kitchen witchery. I always look forward to what she crafts up.



Jaime Sammons carries a pair of pruners in her glove box - just in case, and believes you can be a gardener even with a single planted container on your porch.



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What's Happening in Kelli's Kitchen



"All around the mulberry bush, on a cold and frosty morning..."

We don't have too many cold and frosty mornings this time of year, but we do have a TON of mulberries. When my dear friend Farmer Jaime showed up at my house with a gift of freshly harvested mulberries from her tree, my creative juices started flowing.

Fortunately for lovers of the tart and sweet mulberry, there are a multitude of trees around Fallon--some on public property, some in the yards of friends and neighbors, and one behemoth at Lattin Farms. Most mulberry owners are enthusiastic when people volunteer to help glean ripe fruit from their trees. In truth, the vast majority of mulberries are likely eaten by Churchill County's bird population, resulting in purple bird poo. So, in order to facilitate the utilization of this highly seasonal fruit by the human residents of our community, I thought I would share a couple of my favorite ways to use mulberries.

Mulberries look like a tiny blackberry, though it is actually a relative of figs and breadfruit. They are sweet, nutrient dense, and have a variety of impressive health benefits--including vitamins C, K1, and E, potassium, iron, and a rich variety of antioxidants. Mulberries in any form (juiced, fresh, dried, extracted, preserved) can help lower cholesterol, reduce cancer risk, and improve blood sugar control. In fact, mulberries have been used in Chinese homeopathic medicine for centuries.

The gallon Ziploc of black mulberries in

my kitchen inspired me to make a mulberry shrub. A shrub is a beverage syrup made from equal parts plant, sugar, and vinegar. This combination creates both a tasty drink ingredient and provides a method to preserve seasonal fruit harvests to be enjoyed throughout the year. Fruit vinegars and shrubs were most prolific during the pre-refrigeration years of Victorian England and early Colonial America. During prohibition, the shrub replaced consumption of alcohol-based beverages (for the rule followers)--shrubs endured as cocktail and soda ingredients well into the 20th century. While they fell out of favor in the mid-20th century as sugary soft drinks rose in popularity, the craft cocktail movement resurrected the technique and ingredient about 10 years ago.

Shrubs can be made with truly any combination of fruit, vinegar, and sugar--they also benefit from the addition of other seasoning ingredients. Some of my favorites: Apricots with Demerara Sugar and Apple Cider Vinegar; Strawberries with White Sugar, Black Peppercorns, and White Balsamic Vinegar; Mulberries with White Sugar, Thyme, and a mix of Balsamic and Apple Cider Vinegar.

While there are two techniques to make a shrub (hot method and cold method), I exclusively use the cold method in my kitchen. I prefer the cold method because it is easier to preserve the benefits of naturally fermented "live" vinegars--that being said, if you are in a rush, the hot method yields a shrub syrup that is ready to drink as soon as you are finished.

The basic recipe for a shrub syrup is equal parts fruit, sugar, and vinegar. I recommend starting with a cup of each ingredient. To prepare the shrub syrup with the cold method, you simply smash the fruit up with the sugar until they are well combined in a mason jar or other storage container and add the vinegar. Leave your shrub mix at room temperature for one day, then give it a shake and pop it into the fridge. You can strain the liquid into a cup and top with soda water for a refreshing alcohol-free beverage or use it as an ingredient in a cocktail.

To prepare your shrub with the hot method combine the sugar and fruit in a small saucepan and bring it to a simmer. Cook over medium heat until the fruit is broken down and juicy. Remove from heat and add your vinegars. Strain into a mason jar and refrigerate until you are ready to use.

Mulberry & Thyme Shrub Syrup

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup fresh mulberries (stems removed as best you can)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 lemon, zested
- ½ c balsamic vinegar
- ½ c apple cider vinegar
- 10 thyme sprigs

DIRECTIONS:

- Smash up mulberries with lemon zest and sugar in a mason jar.
- Top with thyme sprigs.
- Pour over both vinegars. Seal the mason jar and shake it until the sugars are dissolved.
- Leave on your counter top for at least 1 day before refrigerating.

Serve over ice topped with soda water or in a rocks glass with your preferred clear liquor, soda water and a lemon twist.

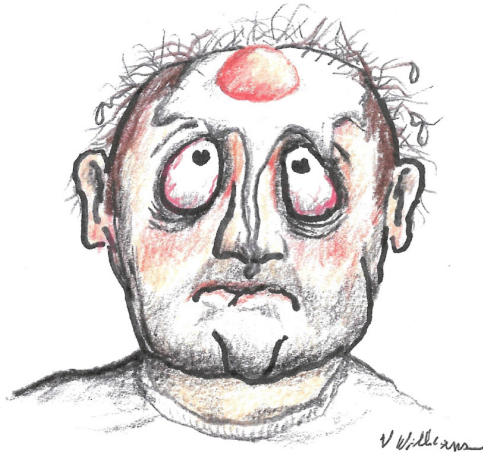


Kelli Kelly - Slinger of Produce. Slurper of Dumplings. Person of the Bean.

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Egg on our Face - Sort Of



We were really excited a couple weeks ago to cover the historic, first Jury Trial in New River Justice Court. However, we've been set straight by some of our loyal readers who know, or remember local history better than we do.

Apparently, there was a brief moment in time during 1985, right before the legislature made changes, when a jury trial was held in Justice Court in front of Marilyn Craig. It was a DUI case, tried by Bob Bogan against Todd Young the defending attorney.

Sources say Mike Richards was the arresting officer, who was required to demonstrate a field sobriety test in court to show that a person could fail due to nerves.

David Huff argued that being sick and running a fever could alter the accuracy of the blood alcohol level.

Robin Mills was the Sargent on duty who had to deal with the details of the arrest being made before the defendant was pulled over – because it happened right the switch of daylight savings time.

Prostitutes were called to the stand to testify; it was the days of Salt Wells. Dave Miller was the foreman of the jury, and if you can believe this – no one who called us about this could remember if the lady was found guilty.

It was interesting to hear from readers about this and to hear about all these people we used to know so well. We keep getting requests to revive the Stillwater Notes so if anyone out there is interested, give a ring.

Feral Housewives Weekly Horoscope - June 21

Aries- March 21 to April 19

The self-improvement you have been working so hard on seems to be showing progress this week. You are going to have a huge breakthrough regarding matters of your soul this week, it will be a glorious moment of revelation. You will be pushing through boundaries and negative self-talk all week long, revealing the truest form of your best self.

Taurus- April 20 to May 20

As you let go of the old and welcome the new you are rewarded! You have worked hard to change your narrow ideas surrounding huge theories in life and are seeing a bounty of good because of it. With the new hope that has been renewed within you, keep pushing ahead and enjoy the new job or position you have been offered. You worked hard for this moment.

Gemini- May 21 to June 20

While the success you have tasted is so very sweet, it is time to be honest with yourself, you have been working yourself too hard. Take a much-needed self-care week and get plenty of rest. You aren't going to be very efficient in this new role you have achieved if you keep trying to work yourself to death. GO REST! That is an order.

Cancer - June 21 to July 22

This is your time to shine, as the sun enters Cancer, you are feeling great and considering something new to add a little spice to life. Go ahead and sign up for that new class, you are searching for a new spiritual enlightenment, and boy, are you going to get it. Connect with what matters and dance in the sunshine!

Leo- July 23 to August 22

It is a great time to sit back and observe rather than go forth and steal the show. You might even consider declining a few social invitations for a chance to sit down and recharge yourself. Always being the loudest one in the room and full of ideas gets exhausting, even for you, Leo. Take a break and get ready to come back in true Leo fashion!

Virgo- August 23 to September 22

You have been taking things personally when the situation doesn't call for it. With hurt feelings and a broken spirit, you can go into this week knowing that it wasn't about you. Release that negativity and truly believe that no one is actually out to get you, they never were.

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Moon over American Flag, Fallon, USA -by Jo Petteruti

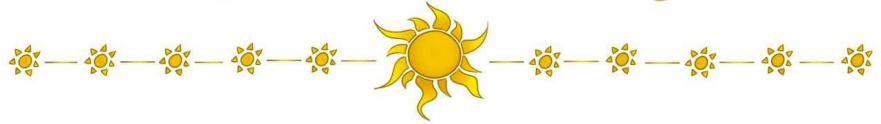
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6:30



1hr 38min (TV-G)



1hr 52min (G)

1hr 50min (PG)

Saturday 6/5
6:00 & 6:30

Thursday 6/10
6:30



1hr 35min (R)



1hr 55min (PG)

2hrs 2min (R)

Saturday 6/12
6:00 & 6:30

Thursday 6/17
6:30



1hr 32min (G)



1hr 44min (G)

1hr 45min (PG)

Saturday 6/19
6:00 & 6:30

Thursday 6/24
6:30



1hr 57min (G)



1hr 42min (G)

1hr 48min (PG-13)

Saturday 6/26
6:00 & 6:30



All movies are FREE!



Libra- September 23 to October 22

The full moon is bringing upset to your household, this will delay travel plans that you previously made. This is a blessing in disguise, you need to fix what is broken rather than continuing to pretend that it is in working order. Delay the plans for a bit, just to take care of this issue that has been lingering and your trip will be all the better for it!

Scorpio- October 23 to November 21

Curiosity killed the cat, the risks that you have been taking aren't worth it. You are trying to answer questions that are not of any concern to you in the long run. Slow down, stay home, and think on what is next. You aren't going to be missing anything but trouble while you regroup. The flood of mistrust and lack luster enthusiasm for life needs to be addressed.

Sagittarius - November 22 to December 21

This week is bringing you a bounty. All of your hard work is being rewarded with the paychecks rolling in. What an incredible time to be alive! You are busier than ever and shockingly more productive than you even thought possible. Keep those creative juices going!

Capricorn - December 22 to January 19

What you attract is dependent upon your mindset, this week start attracting all the great things in life that you want to see happen. You will manifest your future this week, even through the full moon. You have so much power this week, and even more magnetism, so use it before you lose it.

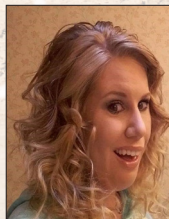
Aquarius - January 20 to February 18

Pay close attention to the details at work this week, retrograde throws you one more curve ball. You misunderstand a task that is given to you, but not all is lost, it is a learning moment for you. You need to slow down and make sure to really pay attention to whatever it is that you are doing to avoid any future hiccups.

Pisces - February 19 to March 20

This week is full of love and surprises. You are going to be receiving a shocking and unexpected proposal from someone you have been enamored with for a while. Work on your trust issues this week, you need to resolve whatever it is that has you wary of believing what people are telling you.

Alicia Parsons grew up in Yerington and has been a dishwasher, teacher's aide, patient care representative, and debt collector, before landing her current and favorite gig as a feral housewife to Trevor and card-carrying mother-of-the-year to four year old Rhett



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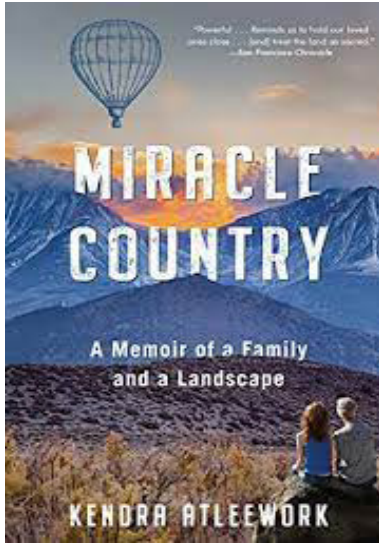
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Entertainment & Art

Carol's Book Report



Miracle Country: A Memoir of a Family and a Landscape by Kendra Atleework

This is a beautifully written book about family, home, and place in and around Bishop, CA. Atleework's early years are dreamy, idyllic and full of adventures. Hiking, snow storms, fire, airplanes, balloon rides, imagined Lupine Land. After her mother dies when she is 16 things shift and begin the fray. Atleework leaves but eventually returns. She weaves Mary Austin and Joan Didion into her stories about the Eastern Sierra, the Owens Valley, Mono Lake, and her family. A worthy read. I'm looking forward to what comes next from this author.

Available in print at the Library and downloadable in both ebook and audio via Hoopla on the website. Also available on downloadable ebook through Overdrive/Libby.

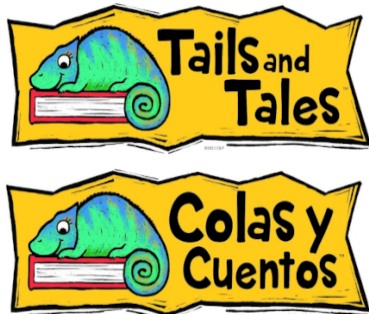
Carol is the Director of the Churchill County Library. Join her, staff, and neighbors at an Open House @ the Library on Thursday July 15, 2021 from 6 - 8 p.m.

*Carol Lloyd
June 2021*



Churchill County Library

Summer Reading Program June 7 - July 30

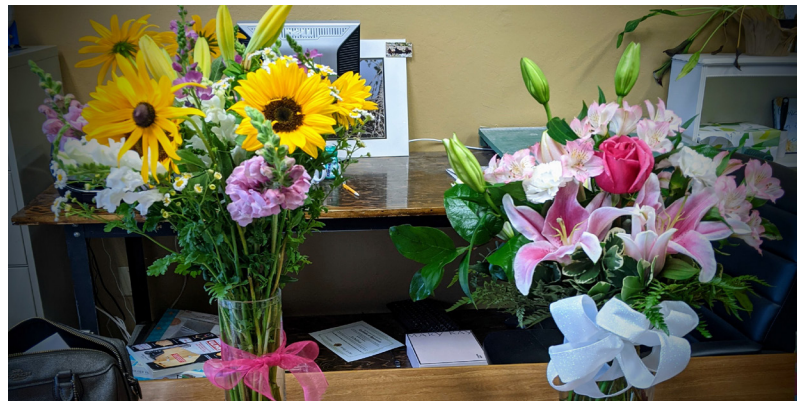


Sign your child up for the The Churchill County Library Summer Reading Program. The program is for all ages and includes in-library and take-home activities, books to keep, and much more. Come in or call for more information.

Contact Jess MacDiarmid, Children's Librarian
jdmacdiarmid@churchillcountylibrary.org
553 South Maine Street
775-423-7581

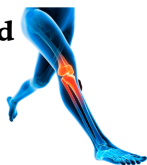
The library is located at 553 South Maine Street in Fallon and www.churchillcountylibrary.org

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Water levels continue to drop at Lake Lahontan - photo by Ginny Bragg

Newlands Project Water Levels

Measurements taken June 24, 2021 at 1:45 p.m.

Lahontan Reservoir
82,870 af

Truckee Canal at Hazen
43.6 cfs

Truckee Canal at Wadsworth
70.2 cfs

Carson River Below Lahontan
820 cfs

Carson River at Ft. Churchill
3.23 cfs

Water Levels June 24
2021 : 83,372 acre feet
2020 : 194,138 acre feet
2019 : 306,605 acre feet

cfs - Cubic Feet per Second
af - Acre Feet

Community Meetings / Events

June 28 - July 4

**County Commission
Meeting**
Thurs. July 1
8:15 a.m.

**Highway
Commission
Meeting**
Thurs. July 1
1:15 p.m.

**CC Communications
Meeting**
Thurs. July 1
2:00 p.m.

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Summer Fun Crossword Puzzle

- 3** Something the kids run through to stay cool.
- 4** A device to cool an area using water and a fan
- 8** A trip taken in the summer for families.
- 10** The place to see all of the businesses in the paper.
- 12** Our office dogs name.
- 13** A liquid to keep you hydrated.

Down

- 1** You use it to cool your home in the summer.
- 2** Our new urgent care center is called?
- 4** A season that starts with the letter S.
- 5** This can either be above ground or inground for cooling off in the backyard.
- 6** A prolonged period of abnormally hot weather.
- 7** A body of water people use to stay cool.
- 9** Something Stuart Cook talks about in the paper.
- 11** Moisture exuded through the pores.

Contact your Representatives

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Rural Mobile Office: 775-225-1457

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Congressman Mark Amodei
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Governor Steve Sisolak
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Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus
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**Councilwoman Karla Kent
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**Councilman James Richardson
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**Churchill County School Board
Matt Hyde
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Email: hydem@churchillcsd.com

**Tricia Strasdin
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**Carmen Schank
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**Amber Getto
Acting Clerk Term: Jan. 1, 2019 to Dec. 31, 2022**
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Email: gettoa@churchillcsd.com

**Kathryn Whitaker
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Email: whitakerk@churchillcsd.com

**Fred Buckmaster
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Phone: 775-232-4809
Address: 1640 Drumm Ln. Fallon, NV 89406
Email: buckmasterf@churchillcsd.com

**Gregg Malkovich
Member Term: Jan. 1, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2024**

Nevada's Highway 50 East of Fallon



Photos by Leanna Lehman

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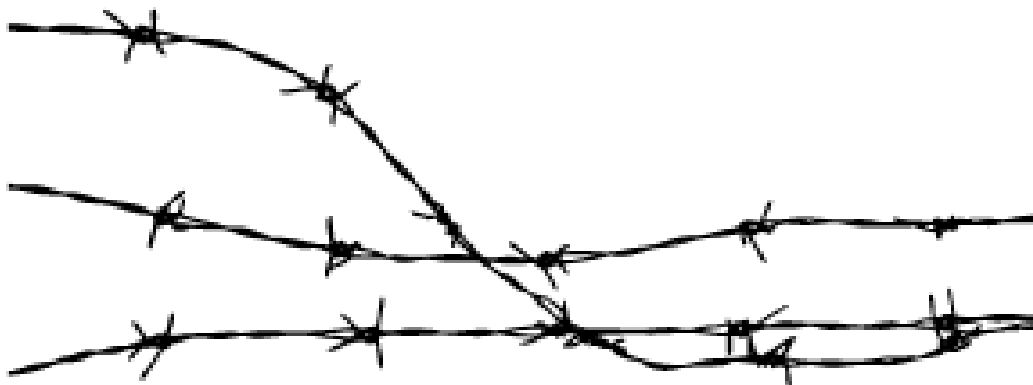


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Fallon, NV - Historic Justice Court Building. Photo by Denise Edgmon

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