

The Comstock Chronicle

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Donovan Mill & Antique Power Club Host Weekend Event

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VC Welcomes Fire Chief Bob Ryser



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Storey County Sheriff's Progress Report



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THE Comstock Chronicle

Newspaper of Record for
Storey County, Nevada

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Letters to the Editor Policy

- Letters may be edited for length, spelling, grammar, and accuracy.
- The Comstock Chronicle will not publish letters determined to be libelous, plagiarized, or in poor taste.
- Anonymous letters are unacceptable, but anonymity may be requested.

Notes From The CABIN IN THE SKY

by Asa Gilmore

Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason. - Benjamin Franklin

Fraternal orders form a cornerstone of Comstock culture, and the Masonic Order brings considerable weight to our region's history. In fact, the namesake of Storey County, Capt. William Storey, who lies at rest in the Masonic section of the Virginia City Cemetery. John Mackay himself was a member of Escorial Lodge #7. Examples abound.

Escorial Lodge #7 was formed in January of 1864, thus making it older than the state of Nevada itself. Those were the halcyon days of the Comstock, and Masonic lodges flourished throughout the area, from Silver City (where Amity Lodge is still active) through multiple lodges in Virginia City. As the Comstock boom waned and

the Civil War drew to a close, Escorial was the only lodge to survive.

Escorial Lodge is known far and wide as "The Masons on the Mountain," and this week will convene under the leadership of Worshipful Master Kenn Cordy to bestow a Master Mason degree in Gold Hill. The history of the Masons on the Mountain is as follows, as recorded by the Nevada Grand Lodge website.

"... there was no available hall in town after the fire of Sept. 8th, and since it was desired to hold a meeting to devise plans to carry on the work of erecting a new temple, it was suggested to Grand Master Robert W. Bollen that a meeting be held near the top of Mt. Davidson.

Brother Albert Hires, worshipful master of Virginia Lodge No. 3, when informed of the suggestion, asked: "What shall be done to transact the business of the lodge and provide for the destitute, if that meeting is held at the top of the mountain?" He was told, "Call the lodge together on the mountain, waiving all signs and ceremonies." He accordingly issued a call to the brethren to foregather near the top of Mt. Davidson, at the foot of the granite peak which surmounts the summit. The area selected was a natural amphitheatre surrounded by high crags. In preparing the plot for the meeting, rough boulders had been selected as stations for the Worshipful Master and Wardens, and the enclosure was lined with rough rocks which served as seats for the brethren. An altar was built of native rock in the center of the improvised lodge room, before which the brethren might approach the East. From a flag pole erected in years gone by, the white flag of Masonry emblazoned with the square and compass and letter G, floated in the breeze."

On October 4th bright and early, Escorial Lodge will convene and transport via the V&T Railway to Gold Hill, where our candidate will be received in due form. Should you encounter Masons about town this weekend, do say hello. You will find that the true secret of Masonry is a warm friendship and love for God and your fellow man. It is with humble gratitude that I find myself among their ranks.

Signing off, AG



Hierodoodles by Kaleb Temple, www.kalebtemple.com

The Charter Oak

PINE NUTS

by McAvoy Layne
The Ghost of Mark Twain

When I welcome folks into my home for An Evening with Mark Twain I always

encourage them to think about someone they admire who's been dead awhile, study that person's life, and bring that person to life through Chautauqua. It doesn't have to be a famous person, it could be an unknown relative who did something worth remembering. Well, that suggestion struck the flint of a young lady here last night, a recent graduate from Stanford, who told me about her great, great, great Aunt Ada, who hid the Connecticut Charter of 1662 in a tree, saving it from confiscation and revocation by King James.

As she related to me with widening eyes, the legend of the Charter Oak began in 1662 when King Charles II of Jolly Old England granted Connecticut a royal charter guaranteeing representative government and self-rule. "Party On!"

But the party suddenly ended 25 years later, when King James II sent a governor to confiscate the charter and take control of Connecticut. Then guess what? A very smart lady took that charter and hid it in a tree, the hollow of an oak tree to be exact. The newly appointed governor and his men turned the whole town upside down, but never could find that charter in the Oak.

So the new governor returned to the Old World, and Connecticut continued to rule itself, thanks in large part to the great, great, great Aunt of my houseguest, who is relating this saga to me. She even told me she has an artifact of wood at home in Connecticut that was cut from the now celebrated Charter Oak...

Eventually, When William and Mary became King and Queen they restored many of the provisions included in the original charter, and the charter

served as the state constitution until around 1818...

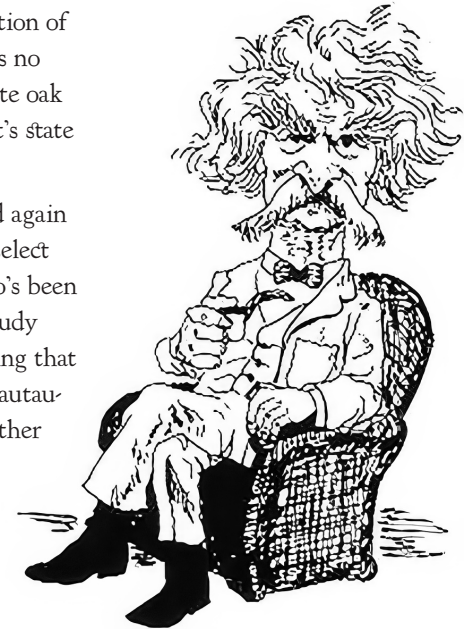
Well, I was fascinated, and suggested to her that she become her great, great, great Aunt Ada, tell that story in its entirety in first person, and bring that history to life in the classroom and on the lecture platform. After all, the Charter Oak remains a symbol of Connecticut's enduring tradition of 1662 even today, and it is no coincidence that the white oak tree remains Connecticut's state tree...

So in closing, I would again ask the gentle reader to select someone you admire who's been dead for a good while, study that person's life, and bring that person back to life in Chautauqua. It will give you another life, and one life is not enough.

Time will tell, but I hope I live long enough to get to hear Aunt Ada tell the story of the Connecticut

Charter Tree in first person. I for one, and I know many others, will be spellbound, and possibly forget for an hour or so, that we even own a smart-phone...

By the way, a bolt of lightning brought down the mighty Charter Oak back in the 19th century, but the legend lives on...





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King's Corner

by Jeff Headley

Nine years after a gold nugget was uncovered in a creek bed in Dayton, more precious ore was discovered further up the mountain. For almost four weeks after June 8, 1859 Comstock miners focused on finding gold, putting aside the heavy "blue mud" that was gumming up their devices. Gold was worth ten times what you could get for silver, but it turned out there was ten times as much silver to mine. That discovery transformed our state.

Have you ever panned for gold in a creek bed? It easily separates from dirt. On the other hand, silver bonds with almost anything, and needs a chemical process to free it from surrounding soil. It's tempting to just focus on the rare gold, the elusive but easy win, even when surrounded by abundant potential that just needs work.

Sometimes the harshness of the challenge hides its opportunity. Back then the many who came here from California endured a long trek on challenging mountain trails only to climb Mt Davidson and find there was little – and very poor – housing and a lack of necessities.

And mining is hard work, especially if you try to do it all yourself. But our harsh landscape had a hidden reward.

In most other places, mining requires that you dig deep, which takes teams of people and significant resources. That's why so many mining towns grew in the California mountains, because they needed so many people.

But here the rules were different. Nevada's sometimes fierce climate concentrated silver into dense gray crusts that formed directly on the surface. Here you could shovel the mineral right off the ground. This was a unique opportunity for those open to seeing it, and willing to work.

Have you ever talked with someone and discovered that something which is obvious to you isn't obvious to them? In fact, they'd never even noticed? There are things that you see, and take for granted, that others don't see at all. God has given you a gift of seeing that, and that gift is a key to finding your direction in life, if you also let Him guide you. You need to realize what you uniquely see, and then know how to act on it.

Franciscan missionaries began systematically growing grapes in California in the late 1700s. They mostly grew muscat grapes to make muscatel wine. Near that time when silver was discovered at the top of

Can you find the opportunity waiting for you?

Six Mile Canyon, there was a terrible drought in this whole region. The Franciscan's grapes withered on the vine. Their missionaries prayed, fearing they were going to lose them all. But one of them had an idea. They took those shriveled grapes down into the towns and sold them as what they called locally grown "Peruvian delicacies." That was the beginning of the Sun Maid Raisin Company.

Their difficulty became their opportunity. And sometimes in difficult situations it's as simple as asking God how to respond rather than just react.

My dad, Mark King, worked at McClellan Air Force base in Sacramento as an electrician before moving here. There are many small alleys between buildings that offer shortcuts to the front gate. His van was parked in one as he loaded up after finishing a job. A jeep that couldn't get by him kept honking for him to move. No matter

how much Mark tried, his van wouldn't start. The jeep driver kept pounding his horn.

Mark walked back, motioned to the driver to roll down his window, and offered him the keys saying, "If you're willing to try starting my van, I'm willing to stay back here and lean on your horn."

A roar of laughter came from the back seat, and the amused base commander told his driver to find another way. As a result of how he handled that, they all became friends.

If you're willing to ask God to help you see what you can uniquely see, then trust Him to help you handle situations well, and let Him change and grow you into who you're capable of being, then He can show you how those dense gray crusts all around you in your life can be turned into the wonderful future He has for you.

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025

Bible Study 8:30am | Fellowship 9am | Service 10am



Dayton Valley Community
Church of the Nazarene

311 W. Main - Dayton, NV - (775) 241-7167 - dvccn.com

ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

By Melody Hoover

The Cider House at Canvas Cafe
Saturdays 12 pm - 2 pm
Live Music with Award Winning Canyon White

Red Dog Saloon
Friday 8 pm - 11 pm
Davey and The Midnights

Saturday 8 pm - 11 pm
Live Music

Wednesday 7 pm - 10 pm
Open Mic

Bonanza Saloon & Cantina
Friday 7 pm - Live Music

Saturday 11 am - 3 pm and 6 pm - 10 pm
Live Music

Ponderosa Saloon
Friday 8 pm - 12 am Karaoke

Saturday 8 pm - Live Music

Wednesday 5:30 pm - Bingo

Bucket of Blood
Friday and Saturday 12 pm - 5 pm
Lady an The Tramps

Sunday Live Music 2 pm - 6 pm
Lady an The Tramps

The Washoe Club
Ghost Tours daily, generally every hour from 12 pm - 5 pm, check in early for reservations

The Tahoe House Hotel
Friday Live Music 7 pm - 10 pm

Every other Saturday - Open Mic and Karaoke 7 pm - 10:30 pm

Historic Fourth Ward School Museum
Open Sunday through Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm

St. Mary's Art Center
Open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am - 4 pm

Outhouse Races
Oct. 4 & 5 on C Street

DAYTON

Historical Society of Dayton Valley Bingo
Dayton Community Center 170 Pike St., Dayton
Mondays - Doors open at 5 pm, Bingo at 6 pm
BUY IN \$5.00

Comstock Foundation for History and Culture
Donovan Mill 900 Main St, Silver City
Oct. 3, Haunted Hills, Mills, & Mansion 2025

The Odeon
Thursday 6 pm Line Dance
Classes \$10.00

Reminder: Haunted Hills, Mills & Mansions Fundraiser Oct. 3 & 4

Chronicle Staff

Northern Nevada Ghosthunters (NNGH) announces its annual Haunted Hills, Mills & Mansions fundraiser for October 3-4, 2025. This year is particularly special as NNGH celebrates its 20th anniversary as a paranormal team in Nevada, one of the oldest established teams in the region.

Join us for two nights of thrilling investigations around the Haunted Comstock. On Friday night, your haunted quest will commence at the Gold Hill Depot (opening at 6:45 p.m.) followed by the historic Gold Hill Hotel and surrounding property. A pre-investigation celebration will meet local authors and as well as showcase your Halloween costume – don't forget to take plenty of pictures!

On Saturday, your spooky evening begins at the Donovan Mill in Silver City (doors open at 7 p.m.), later moving up to Virginia City to explore the Mackay Mansion, a new location for 2025. Each night will offer a unique experience so choose one or join for both evening events.

NNGH is excited to welcome Haunted Pursuit and other special guests to join the team again this year. Haunted Pursuit has been instrumental in the NNGH mission to raise money for the Comstock Foundation for History and Culture as well as volunteering their time to conduct investigations at the Donovan Mill.

“We are very humbled that Haunted Pursuit wants to be a part of our event,” NNGH

Executive Director Jeadene Solberg said. “This local Dayton husband and wife duo are the go-to team for in-home paranormal investigations and play a significant role in the security of Donovan Mill.”

Net proceeds from the event benefit the Comstock Foundation as well as other historic preservation projects, ensuring that we keep Comstock alive. We are seeking sponsors to raise \$7,500 in order to cover event and venue costs and support other preservation efforts. NNGH is a 501(c)(3) organization and all donations are tax-deductible. Your support can make a difference and help preserve our history for future generations. For event details and tickets, please visit hauntedcomstock.com. To inquire about becoming a sponsor or raffle donor, please send NNGH a message at <https://hauntedcomstock.com/contact-us> or at Northern Nevada Ghosthunters-NNGH on Facebook.

Edit to fit flyer?

“Donors will be recognized in our sponsor list and through our websites, social media and at the event.”

Register for this spirit-filled adventure and make a lasting impact on local historic preservation. For event details and tickets, please visit hauntedcomstock.com. To inquire about becoming a sponsor or raffle donor, please send NNGH a message at <https://hauntedcomstock.com/contact-us> or at Northern Nevada Ghosthunters-NNGH on Facebook.



CHURCH SERVICES

Dayton Valley Community Church
Fellowship Sunday 9:00am
Service at 10:00am

St. Mary In The Mountains
Catholic Church Mass Sunday 11:30am and Wednesday 9:00am

First Presbyterian Church
Sunday 9:30am

Add your church service to this list! Email editor@thecomstockchronicle.com

Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Show

By Steph Norby



On Sept. 27, the historic Donovan Mill teamed up with the Northern Nevada Antique Power Club Branch 132 to bring history roaring back to life at the Early Day Gas Engine (EDGE) & Tractor Show. Guests got a kick out of four chugging engines, a pair of antique Ford tractors, and even a table of mini engines that showed how these “cutting-edge” machines once powered tools and heavy equipment in their heyday. Visitors also toured the Donovan Mill grounds, where they saw mill batteries #3 and #4 in operation, the rotary stamp mill in action, and sparks flying in the working blacksmith shop.

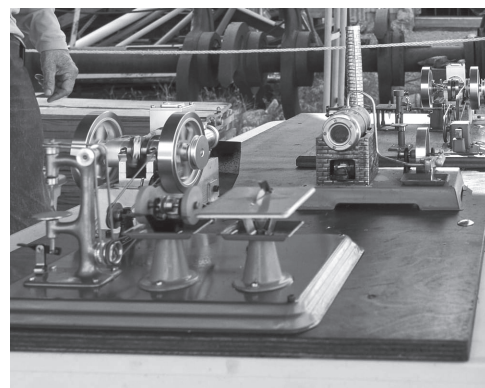
Lee Brunell leading a Donovan Mill tour. Photo by Melody Hoover



Two antique Ford tractors on display. Photo by Roy Norby



Photo by Roy Norby



Working tabletop engines to show how these machines connected to workshop tools and equipment.

Photo by Melody Hoover



Two smaller working engines at the Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor Show. Photo by Melody Hoover.

Model 1915 Western Mine Hoist Engine #6708 - used to hoist ore cars and ore buckets at a copper mine.

Photo by Melody Hoover



Storey County Welcomes New Fire Protection Chief Bob Ryser

by Julia Moreno-Fritz



Photo by Melody Hoover

Bob Ryser has spent more than two decades building a career in the fire service, rising from firefighter to battalion chief and now taking the helm as Storey County's fire protection chief. Since joining the profession in 2002, Ryser has earned a reputation for leadership that blends rigorous training with a focus on teamwork and community engagement.

Ryser's path into firefighting was anything but linear. After earning a bachelor's degree in English and sociology from the University of Nevada, he wasn't sure what direction to take.

"I didn't really want to teach to teach," Ryser said. "I was hopping around a little bit — retail management, working for a running store. I ran all the way through college, so that was

part of it, but I didn't want to continue down that road."

He took an introductory course at Truckee Meadows Community College — then called Entry Level Firefighter, or ELF — to see if firefighting might be a fit. "It was my hey, is this going to be something for me or not? And I loved it," Ryser said.

That led him to enroll in EMT-Basic and the full-time fire academy offered by the college at the time. After a semester, he began a Firefighter II internship in Central Lyon, a rural area he described as "wild cowboy country."

"The learning curve was steep right out of the gate — going to fires as the new guy and even driving the apparatus," Ryser recalled.

It was a baptism by fire, but it confirmed his career direction.

Getting a career position in the fire service proved challenging. Ryser tested for multiple departments while attending paramedic school. He received a verbal offer from East Fork Fire and also had opportunities at Carson City and Central Lyon, where he had done his paramedic internship.

By the time Ryser was hired full time, he was 31, older than many entering firefighters. His early years in Central Lyon were fast-paced and formative. The department had a single station, and Ryser said he quickly found himself learning and taking the lead.

"I was promoted to captain three years into my career, which isn't normal. It was the very first round of a full-time shift," he said.

Ryser said his leadership philosophy was shaped by mentors early in his career.

"So, my first fire chief was a very pivotal person, and he made me learn a lot of things about the fire service, even the hard way. I ended up being the president of our labor management group, and that taught me a lot, and he pushed me in that way," Ryser said.

He credited another mentor for showing him a different style.

"My assistant chief there taught me a very different avenue of leadership, and his

was, I'm just here to help. And that stuck with me as much as anything — probably more so — that led me down a road of working on learning better emotional intelligence and how to relate to my personnel and learn more about my personnel, as opposed to just being black and white," he said.

Ryser said he now surrounds himself with people who have expertise in areas he doesn't, allowing him to focus on strategy and trust his team.

"My goal is to surround myself with people who know more about the things that I don't know. I have no time to learn it all. Surround yourself with people that are really good in their areas, and in turn, really trusting your people to be good at their job and give them the responsibility and authority to be good at their job," he said.

Ryser also discussed his career preparation and vision for leadership.

"My goal has always been to train up and teach down. With that, always be prepared for the position above you, even if the opportunity isn't there," he said.

He outlined his path through fire officer programs.

"Going through programs like the Fire Officer series and working all the way up through Fire Officer Three, and currently working on Fire Officer Four, which is the highest level of fire officer rank in the fire service —

Continued on page 11



Sheriff Cullen Gives Progress Report

Story and Photo by Melody Hoover

Sheriff Mike Cullen

Storey County Sheriff Mike Cullen has now completed nearly three years of his first term, during which he has consistently worked towards and achieved significant goals for the communities of Storey County. Recently, I had the opportunity to accompany Sheriff Cullen on a tour of the County for a safety check, which included visits to the substations in the Lockwood and Truckee-Reno Industrial Center areas. Throughout the tour, he pointed out various locations that had once been the site of homeless encampments, as well as areas that had experienced issues with graffiti, all now cleaned up.

Sheriff Cullen has successfully secured grants to help offset the rising costs associated with enhancing the safety of both his team and the community. In addition to these grants,

the Sheriff's Department has received generous donations, which have enabled the acquisition of improved communication radios. Edgecore donated money for radios last year and for a specific use search and rescue vehicle this year, and off-highway vehicles. Donations from private citizens have assisted with the Sheriff's Off Highway Operations Team (SOHO) team which is completely funded by the state OHV grant.

Sheriff Cullen highlighted the commendable progress made by the Storey County Sheriff's Office towards its objective of achieving zero fatalities on local roads, particularly following the generous donation of an all-wheel-drive Dodge Challenger. This vehicle, contributed by local business owners Thomas and Deborah Hayward, is viewed as a valuable addition to

the department's STEER (safe traffic education enforcement response) Unit, which is led by Deputy David Ranson. The unit has already shown promising results by helping to reduce instances of reckless driving and promoting safer driving practices through initial educational efforts aimed at encouraging responsible behavior on the roads.

Joining Forces grants have funded the overtime necessary for law enforcement during large events, resulting in a significant presence in the area. As a result of this proactive approach, there were no fatalities reported in Storey County on Geiger Grade throughout 2023. Storey County Sheriff's Office is currently working with another private donor for adventure style motorcycles equipped for police use to be used in the

north end of the county for traffic issues and better deputy mobility when responding to calls for service.

An inmate work crew has been actively involved in community cleanup efforts, tackling issues such as trash and graffiti. This initiative not only contributes to the beautification of the communities but also provides inmates with an opportunity for personal growth and development. By participating in this program, inmates can work towards improving their skills and may even qualify for earlier release times.

Sheriff Cullen has further fostered community engagement by helping to establish Neighborhood Watch groups and a Citizen Academy. The inclusion of Community Health Workers on the team is a significant addition, as they support outreach efforts for citizens in need. The community health workers are there for the mental health outreach and form our (MOST) mobile outreach safety team, while working with the deputies, developed through their partnership with the Storey County Community Health and Human Services Dept. They also work closely and have built excellent partnerships with NAMI (National alliance on mental illness) and Community Chest in their efforts to keep people out jail. These initiatives collectively contribute to a safer and healthier Storey County. Storey County covers approximately 265 square miles and has an estimated population of 4,200.

Sheriff Cullen is committed to leading by example and actively encourages open lines of communication within the community.

The Dayton Dispatch



Fort Churchill State Historic Park Hosts Ribbon Cutting for Renovated Visitor Center

Chronicle Staff

Nevada State Parks invites the community to celebrate the grand reopening of the Fort Churchill Visitor Center on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025, from 1–4 p.m. in front of the newly renovated facility. The event will kick off with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony and cannon salute from 1–1:30 p.m. Following the ceremony, guests are encouraged to stay, explore, and enjoy a variety of free, family-friendly activities throughout the afternoon.

Visitors can look forward to:

- Nevada Civil War volunteers encampment
- National Pony Express Association Nevada Division
- Fort Churchill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
- Wagon rides
- Root beer floats (free - while supplies last)

- Adobe brick making
- Gold panning
- Self-guided scavenger hunt around the ruins

The Fort Churchill Visitor Center closed in 2023 for renovations, which included the complete redesign and modernization of outdated exhibits. The new displays highlight the park's rich history, from its days as a U.S. Army fort during the 1860s to its significance as a cultural landmark in Nevada today.

"This project has been a long time in the making, and we're excited to welcome visitors back into the heart of Fort Churchill," said Park Supervisor Scott Egy. "The updated exhibits bring the story of the fort to life that connect visitors of all ages to Nevada's history."

Admission is free, and vehicle entry fees are waived from 1–4 p.m. All event information can be found at parks.nv.gov/events.

Annual Curves 5K Walk/Run on Oct. 4

Chronicle Staff

Curves SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

7TH ANNUAL 5K WALK/RUN

BENEFITTING THE DAYTON VALLEY DOG PARK

LET'S GET ACTIVE FOR A PAWSOME CAUSE!

\$35 INCLUDES:

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- ** First 50 Entries Receive Limited Edition DVDP Tote Bag

DATE & TIME:

Oct. 4th
9am-12pm
Doors at 8am

LOCATION:

Curves Dayton
801 Overland Loop #402
Dayton, NV 89403

GOOD TO KNOW

- UNDER 18 WITH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN
- FREE VENUE PARKING

Get ready to lace up your sneakers and hit the pavement for a good cause with Curves Dayton. Whether you are a seasoned runner or just looking for a fun way to support your furry friends, this event is perfect for all fitness levels! Bring your family, friends, and of course your four-legged buddies to enjoy a morning of exercise and community spirit. Let's get together for this!

SEE YOU AT THE STARTING LINE!

The 7th annual 5K walk/run benefitting your Dayton Valley Dog Park will take place Saturday, Oct. 4 at Curves Dayton from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The entry fee covers your participation, racing bib and a special gift for the first 50 entries. This event is open to all fitness levels so lace up your sneakers, call your family and bring your four-legged friends to support our local dog park.

Sheriff's Message of the Week 09/26/2025

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office continually tries to warn and educate the community about various scams and fraud activity. As the public becomes educated, scammers are thwarted, and they look for other methods to scam honest people out of their money. Everyday life is becoming increasingly digital, and internet scams are rising. I wanted to share some of the information with the community in hopes of preventing more residents of Lyon County from becoming victims of internet scams. The scammers seem to come in waves, and we are in the midst of a resurgence.

1. Keep Personal Information Professional and Limited.

Potential employers or customers don't need to know your personal relationship status or your home address. They do need to know about your expertise and professional background, and how to get in touch with you. You wouldn't hand purely personal information out to strangers individually—don't hand it out to millions of people online.

2. Keep Your Privacy Settings On.

Marketers love to know all about you, and so do hackers. Both can learn a lot from your browsing and social media usage. But you can take charge of your information. As noted by Lifehacker, both web browsers and mobile operating systems have settings available to protect your privacy online. Major websites like Facebook also have privacy-enhancing settings available. These settings are sometimes (deliberately) hard to find because companies want your personal information for its marketing value. Make sure you have enabled these privacy safeguards, and keep them enabled.

3. Practice Safe Browsing.

You wouldn't choose to walk through a dangerous neighborhood—don't visit dangerous neighborhoods online. Cybercriminals use lurid content as bait. They know people are sometimes tempted by dubious content and may let their guard down when searching for it. The Internet's demimonde is filled with hard-to-see pitfalls, where one careless click could expose personal data or infect your device with malware. By resisting the urge, you don't even give the hackers a chance.

4. Make Sure Your Internet Connection is Secure.

Use a Secure VPN Connection. When you go online in a public place, for example by using a public Wi-Fi connection, PCMag notes you have no direct control over its security. Corporate cybersecurity experts worry about "endpoints"—the places where a private network connects to the outside world. Your vulnerable endpoint is your local Internet connection. Make sure your device is secure, and when in doubt, wait for a better time (i.e., until you're able to connect to a secure Wi-Fi network) before providing information such as your bank account number. To further improve your Internet browsing safety, use secure VPN connection (virtual private network). VPN enables you to have a secure connection between your device and an Internet server that no one can monitor or access the data that you're exchanging. Read more about What is VPN.

5. Be Careful What You Download.

A top goal of cybercriminals is to trick you into downloading malware—programs or apps that carry malware or try to steal information. This malware can be disguised as an app: anything from a popular game to something that checks traffic or the weather. As PCWorld advises, don't download apps that look suspicious or come from a site you don't trust.

6. Choose Strong Passwords.

Passwords are one of the biggest weak spots in the whole Internet security structure, but there's currently no way around them. And the problem with passwords is that people tend to choose easy ones to remember (such as "password" and "123456"), which are also easy for cyber thieves to guess.

Select strong passwords that are harder for cybercriminals to demystify. Password manager software can help you to manage multiple passwords so that you don't forget them.

A strong password is one that is unique and complex—at least 15 characters long, mixing letters, numbers and special characters.

7. Make Online Purchases From Secure Sites.

Any time you make a purchase online, you need to provide credit card or bank account information—just what cybercriminals are most eager to get their hands on. Only supply this information to sites that provide secure, encrypted connections. As Boston University notes, you can identify secure sites by looking for an address that starts with https: (the S stands for secure) rather than simply http: They may also be marked by a padlock icon next to the address bar.

8. Be Careful What You Post.

The Internet does not have a delete key, as that young candidate in New Hampshire found out. Any comment or image you post online may stay online forever because removing the original (say, from Twitter) does not remove any copies that other people made. There is no way for you to "take back" a remark you wish you hadn't made, or get rid of that embarrassing selfie you took at a party. Don't put anything online that you wouldn't want your mom or a prospective employer to see.

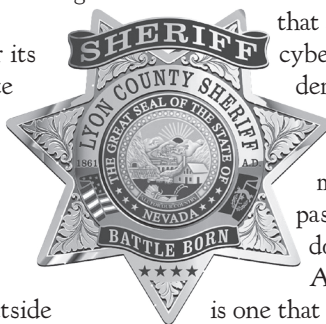
9. Be Careful Who You Meet Online.

People you meet online are not always who they claim to be. Indeed, they may not even be real. As InfoWorld reports, fake social media profiles are a popular way for hackers to cozy up to unwary Web users and pick their cyber pockets. Be as cautious and sensible in your online social life as you are in your in-person social life.

10. Keep Your Antivirus Program Up To Date.

Internet security software cannot protect against every threat, but it will detect and remove most malware—though you should make sure it's to date. Be sure to stay current with your operating system's updates and updates to applications you use. They provide a vital layer of security. The Lyon County Sheriff's Office responds to numerous calls for service a year in relation to fraud. Nearly all fraud starts with the internet and internet access. Please follow these safety tips and protect yourself and your hard-earned money from scammers.

Respectfully,
Sheriff Brad Pope



FIRE CHIEF BOB RYSER, from page 7

that was always kind of headed in that direction, whether the opportunity was going to be there or not,” Ryser said.

For Ryser, leadership means staying connected to the crew.

“I want to see these things through, and it allows me to have an integral role in the future development of the organization, helping the crews. Leaving the crew and heading into leadership, there’s less detachment from that. I still know what that feels like, what they want, what’s going to help them be successful. If it circles back to that same concept — take care of them, and they’ll take care of our customers — I think right now I’m more attuned to that,” he said.

As Storey County’s new fire protection chief, Ryser faces a mix of opportunities and challenges. Rapid growth, unique geography, and the demands of modern fire service make careful planning essential. Plans for new fire stations, modern equipment, and advanced training are central to his vision.

“Controlled growth is critical,” he said. “We want to expand wisely, keeping service standards high while meeting the community’s expectations.”

Community engagement is another top priority for Ryser. He said fostering strong relationships with residents across Storey County, from historic Virginia City to Mark Twain, Lockwood, and the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center, is key to public safety. He also plans to continue strengthening ties with interlocal partners, including neighboring fire departments, to ensure coordinated responses during emergencies.

Balancing administrative duties with hands-on firefighting is part of his philosophy. Ryser said staying connected to the field, even while managing budgets, staffing, and long-term planning, helps him understand what crews need to succeed.

Looking ahead, Ryser said he hopes to continue building a department that blends tradition with modern challenges. His goals include maintaining high service standards, supporting staff professional development, and ensuring the community feels confident in its protection.

“Early on, there’s a lot of pressure to be right — to be a ‘power keeper,’ where you hold knowledge just for yourself,” he said. “What I’ve learned is knowledge works best when you give it away. Surround yourself with people who know things you don’t. If you try to know everything or hoard it all, you’re holding your organization back. The goal is to share as much information as possible so anyone can step in when needed. That way, the team succeeds even when someone is off duty. It was a hard lesson, but one of the most important I’ve learned.”

With Ryser at the helm, Storey County’s Fire Protection Department aims to continue evolving while honoring the core values of teamwork, preparedness, and shared knowledge that have long defined it.

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NOTICE TO STOREY COUNTY TAXPAYERS

The Second Installment of property taxes for the 2025/2026 fiscal year is due October 6, 2025, and may be paid in person, or by mailing your payment to the office of the Storey County Clerk-Treasurer, P.O. Drawer D, Virginia City NV 89440. If you are paying by check, please make your check payable to “Storey County Clerk-Treasurer,” and write the parcel number(s) on your check. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and electronic checks are now accepted by phone or online. Log on to: www.storeycounty.org/clerk. You will need your parcel number (s) and payment amount. Third party processing fees apply.

Taxes that amount to \$100.00, or less, per year, are due in full in August. Taxes that amount to over \$100.00, per year, may be paid in four installments. If paid in installments the Third Installment is due Monday, January 5, 2026, and the Fourth Installment is due Monday, March 2, 2026. (Please note that you will not receive separate billings for each installment.)

Per NRS 361.483:

- If any person charged with taxes which are a lien on real property fails to pay:
 - Any one quarter of the taxes on or within 10 days following the day the taxes become due, there must be added thereto a penalty of 4%.
 - Any two quarters of taxes, together with accumulated penalties, on or within 10 days following the day the later quarter of taxes becomes due, there must be added thereto a penalty of 5% of the two quarters due.
 - Any three quarters of the taxes, together with accumulated penalties, on or within 10 days following the day the later quarter of taxes becomes due, there must be added thereto a penalty of 6% of the three quarters due.
 - The full amount of taxes, together with accumulated penalties, on or within 10 days following the first Monday in March, there must be added thereto a penalty of 7% of the full amount of the taxes.

Failure to receive an individual tax bill does not excuse the taxpayer from the timely payment of his or her taxes. (NRS 361.480)

If you have not received a tax bill, or if you have questions regarding this notice, please call the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at (775) 847-0969.

Jim Hindle
Clerk-Treasurer and Ex-Officio Tax Receiver
Storey County, Nevada

Publication date: 10/3/2025

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA

CORRECTED NOTICE OF AMENDED APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF NATURAL GAS INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN AND NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

On September 24, 2025, Southwest Gas Corporation ("Southwest Gas" or "Company") filed with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada ("Commission") an amended application for approval of its 2026-2028 Triennial Integrated Resource Plan, designated as Docket No. 25-09010.

This Notice serves only to notify the public that the Commission has received the above-referenced filing. It is the responsibility of interested persons to review the filing and monitor the proceedings to determine their desired levels of involvement based on how this matter may affect their unique situations. The details provided within this Notice are for informational purposes only and are not meant to be an all-inclusive overview of the filing. The Commission will accept or modify the amended application or specify any portions of the amended application it deems inadequate.

Southwest Gas filed the amended application pursuant to the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and the Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC"), Chapters 703 and 704, including, but not limited to, NRS 704.991, et seq. Pursuant to NRS 703.190 and NAC 703.527 et seq., Southwest Gas requests that certain material in the amended application receive confidential treatment.

Southwest Gas states that the amended application requests the Commission issue an order: accepting the resource plan pursuant to NRS 704.9915, and all of the proposed programs, plans, purchases contained therein effective no later than 210 days from the filing date; approving the purchase of renewable natural gas and responsibly sourced gas set forth in testimony; approving the demand side management plan through the action plan period; approving the proposed natural gas alarm pilot program; approving the meter protection program; approving the Company's request for deferred accounting treatment for the Natural Gas Alarm Pilot Program and the Meter Protection Program; approving the Company's request to continue the customer owned yard line ("COYL") Replacement Program through the end of the year 2028, including the request for deferred accounting treatment for the costs of the COYL Replacement Program through 2028; approving the Company's Significant Operational or Capital Requirements during the action plan period, including new Single Extension Facilities Projects, System Integrity Projects, distribution integrity management program Projects, and transmission integrity management program Projects; approving the Company's 1984/1985 Pipe Replacement Program; approving the Company's demand forecasts for the applicable three-year action plan period; and approving the Company's request to maintain as confidential and not to disclose to the public, Appendix B and Confidential Exhibit Nos. (VSA_1) and (VSA_2), for a period of three years following a final decision from the Commission.

Interested and affected persons may file petitions for leave to intervene pursuant to NRS 704.9913 at either of the Commission's offices on or before WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2025.

A person who wishes to participate as a commenter may file written comments pursuant to NAC 703.491. A commenter is

not a party of record and shall not take any action that only a party of record may take. Pursuant to NAC 703.500, only parties of record are entitled to enter an appearance, introduce relevant evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses, make arguments, make and argue motions and generally participate in the proceeding.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to NAC 703.655, the Commission has scheduled a PREHEARING CONFERENCE in this docket to be held as follows:

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

2:00 P.M.

Hearing Room A
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
1150 East William Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE TO:

Hearing Room A
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
9075 West Diablo Drive, Suite 250
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148

AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

The purpose of the prehearing conference is to formulate and simplify issues involved in this proceeding and set a hearing and procedural schedule. At the prehearing conference, the Commission may take any action authorized by NAC 703.655.

Participants must appear in-person or request to participate remotely for good cause shown. Participants who wish to appear via Microsoft Teams should provide the email address, title/role in associated business or organization, and business address for each person who intends to participate in the prehearing conference to Commission Hearing Officer Samuel S. Crano at scrano@puc.nv.gov no later than THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025, at 2:00 P.M.

Members of the public may access the prehearing conference at the time noticed herein via the Commission's live stream link on its website at <https://puc.nv.gov>, or in-person at either of the Commission's offices.

The Commission is not responsible for providing clerical or administrative assistance or materials to parties during Commission proceedings. If such assistance is necessary, parties must make other arrangements for this type of assistance.

The amended application is available for public viewing at the Commission's website: <https://puc.nv.gov>; and at the offices of the Commission: 1150 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701 and 9075 West Diablo Drive, Suite 250, Las Vegas, Nevada 89148.

A person must request in writing to be placed on the service list for this proceeding to receive any further notices in this matter.

By the Commission,

TRISHA OSBORNE,
Assistant Commission Secretary
Dated: Carson City, Nevada

9/29/25

Publication date: 10/3/2025

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APPLICATION FOR WATER NO. 94439

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 29th day of May 2025 M&T Farm, LLC of Fallon, Nevada made application to the State Engineer of Nevada for permission to change the place of use of 55.035 a.f.a., a portion of water heretofore appropriated under Claim 3 of the Orr Ditch Decree. Water will be diverted from the Truckee River at a point located within Derby Dam within the N1/2 SW1/4 of Section 19, T20N, R23E, MDB&M. Water will be used as decreed.

Adam Sullivan, P.E.
State Engineer

AS/mh

Date of first publication: 9/12/2022
Date of last publication: 10/3/2025

APPLICATION FOR WATER NO. 94608

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 24th day of July 2025 Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Nixon, Nevada made application to the State Engineer of Nevada for permission to change the place and manner of use of 5.175 a.f.a., a portion of water heretofore appropriated under Claim 3 of the Truckee River Orr Ditch Decree. Water will be diverted from the Truckee River at a point of non-diversion located within Derby Dam being within the N1/2 SW1/4 of Section 19, T20N, R23E, MDB&M. Water will be used for wildlife purposes, including instream flows (cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout) as decreed. Water was used as decreed.

Adam Sullivan, P.E.
State Engineer

AS/mh

Date of first publication: 9/26/2025
Date of last publication: 10/17/2025

Page 14 Sudoku Answer

4	6	2	1	9	5	7	8	3
3	8	9	4	6	7	5	1	2
1	5	7	2	8	3	9	6	4
5	7	8	6	2	9	3	4	1
6	1	4	3	7	8	2	9	5
9	2	3	5	4	1	6	7	8
7	4	5	9	1	2	8	3	6
2	9	6	8	3	4	1	5	7
8	3	1	7	5	6	4	2	9

Page 15 Crossword Answer

B	L	O	W			A	P	E			S	I	N	E			
A	U	T	O			B	L	O	G		M	O	L	A	R		
L	A	I	R			L	O	N	G		A	R	I	S	E		
D	U	C	K			L	I	N	G	S		N	C	A	A		
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B	L	E	N	C	H					T	E	A	R	G	A	S	
L	A	P				R	E	P	E	A	T			E	R	G	O
U	N	I	T	E				O	R	R			T	R	I	A	L
E	A	C	H			S	K	A	T	E	R			E	T	A	
D	I	S	O	B	E	Y					L	A	A	G	E	R	
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	V	I	S	A				A	L	E	X	A	N	D	E	R	
P	E	C	A	N				N	I	S	I			I	O	T	A
V	I	A	N	D				N	E	E	R			C	O	U	P
C	L	O	D					E	S	T				O	M	I	T

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Street Vibrations Report

Storey County Sheriff's Office

For the 3rd year in a row, the Storey County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce no lives were lost on Storey County roads during the 2025 Street Vibrations Fall Rally (9/25-9/28). This was made possible with the assistance from:

• Washoe County Sheriff's Office

• Douglas County Sheriff's Office

• Lyon County Sheriff's Office

• VCTC

• Milne Towing

• Nevada State Police

• Reno Police Department

• University of Nevada -Reno Police Department

The Storey County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the residents of Storey County and all the participants for their time, patience, and contributions to the event.

Remembering the Gold Hill News

via Brewery Arts Center



Remembering the Gold Hill News 1974-78
Thursday | October 16th 2025 | FREE
October 16 @ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

A special reception to celebrate the stunning gallery exhibition highlighting Virginia City's iconic counter-culture communique: The Gold Hill News.

Join us for light snacks and libations.

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4	6					7		3
	8							
			2	8		9		
		8	6		9		4	1
		4				2		
9	2		5		1	6		
		5		1	2			
							5	
8		1					2	9

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Sudoku Answer on Page 13

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
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56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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Crossword Answer on Page 13

THEME: KIDS' BOOKS

ACROSS

1. *The Big Bad Wolf: "I'll ___ your house down"

5. Edgar Rice Burroughs' Kerchak or Kala

8. Cosine's buddy

12. Target of grand theft

13. Influencer's journal

14. Food-grinding tooth

15. Bear's hang-out

16. Like a maxi skirt

17. Get up

18. *Robert McCloskey's "Make Way for ___"

20. March Madness org.

21. Expenditure, in the olden days

22. "'Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a ___"

23. Turn pale

26. Lachrymatory agent (2 words)

30. Swimmer's distance

31. Rinse and ___

34. Consequently

35. Join forces

37. Bruin legend Bobby

38. Jury duty event

39. Per person

40. Hockey player, e.g.

42. Approximated landing time

43. What naughty children do

45. Fortification made of wagons

47. Preceding month

48. Unnecessary embellishment

50. Customs document

52. *He had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day

56. Popular pie nut

57. Not final

58. Just a little

59. Choice dish

60. ___-do-well

61. Sudden and brilliant success

62. Doofus

63. Is, in France

64. Fail to mention

2. Oahu shindig

3. Related to ear

4. Exert persuasive powers (2 words)

5. Jennifer Aniston's movie "___ Came Polly"

6. *Canine father in Dodie Smith's "The Hundred and One Dalmatians"

7. *Dr. Seuss: "I do not like green ___ and ham"

8. *Philosopher in American edition of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"

9. Hipbone

10. U.S. space agency, acr.

11. "'I heard him exclaim, ___ he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas..."

13. Not serious

14. Bipolar disorder phase

19. Filthy cabbage

22. Favorite student

23. Protected steel from rust with coating

24. Hawaiian veranda

25. Long stories

26. *The Queen of Hearts baked more than one of these

27. "In the Hall of the Mountain King" composer Edvard ___

28. Popular gemstone

29. Type of renewable energy

32. *Janette Sebring Lowrey's "The ___ Little Puppy"

33. Pitcher's stat

36. "'One ___ and One Nights"

38. ___-la refrain

40. Group of exercise reps

41. a.k.a. philosopher's stone

44. Flavorless

46. Aluminum + nickel + cobalt, magnetic alloy

48. What time does

49. Button on electrical outlet

50. Bride's cover

51. International Civil Aviation Organization

52. *Green Gables resident ___ Shirley

53. Gloom's partner

54. Evening purse

55. Wholly engrossed

56. Pipe material, acr.

DOWN

1. Like a certain eagle

Lewis & Minor

by Matt Weidmann

Lewis & Minor

MINOR, YOU OLD COOT! I TOLD YOU NOT TO MIX THE TAILINGS.

DANG IT LEWIS I CANT HARDLY TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'UM.

GIVE ME THAT! NOW HERE IS THE DIRT AND HERE IS THE TAILINGS PILE.

NO WAIT, THIS IS THE TAILINGS AND THAT IS THE DIRT. DOH!

Ready to Roll? Virginia City's 36th Annual World Championship Outhouse Races Return

Chronicle Staff



Images supplied by VCTC

On your mark, get set...push. The 36th Annual World Championship Outhouse Races returns to Virginia City on Oct. 4-5, when decorated outhouses on wheels and teams of racers barrel down historic C Street. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, visitors can come watch the excitement as competitors vie for the title of "Fastest Outhouse in the West." This free-to-attend event will also feature live music, food vendors and plenty of lighthearted loo-inspired fun.

"The Outhouse Races embody Virginia City's quirky personal-

ity and community spirit," said Todd Tuttle, tourism director for Virginia City. "What began decades ago as a cheeky protest has become one of Nevada's most iconic traditions, drawing thousands of visitors each year. It's the kind of event that captures both our sense of humor and our deep connection to history. We invite families, friends and fans who enjoy a good laugh to line C Street, cheer on the racers and spend the weekend exploring everything our town has to offer, from historic saloons and shops to museums and attractions that

bring our past to life."

The origin of the event dates back to a local protest against the removal of outdoor restrooms. Residents staged their opposition in true Virginia City fashion by racing their outhouses down the main street. That spontaneous act has grown into a signature two-day event filled with outrageous racing and a bit of Nevada humor.

On Saturday, the festivities kick-off with a parade of competing teams and their outhouses followed by the qualifying races. On

Sunday, the final racers compete for a chance to win the "Fastest Outhouse in the West" title at the closing ceremony. Spectators are encouraged to arrive early for parking and prime viewing spots, as this has become one of Virginia City's most popular annual events.

For more information about the World Championship Outhouse Races, including race registration details, head to visitvirginiacitynv.com, call the Virginia City Tourism Commission at 775-847-7500 or follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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