

# The Comstock Chronicle

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## 601 Vigilance Committee Matches Bond Arms Donation, Delivering \$2,000 to Community Chest Inc.

Article on page 7. Photo via 601 Vigilance Committee

## Storey County Updates Contact List for Virginia City Businesses



Article and photo by Julia Moreno-Fritz on page 7

## Murder and Music on the V&T Railroad for Valentine's Day!



Article and photo by V&T Railroad on page 9

# 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.

# SILVER LININGS

*A Note from the Editor*

The New Year has wasted no time making itself known—marked by a flurry of arrests and seizures across both counties, an outpouring of generosity for local causes, and, sadly, the need to say goodbye to friends who helped shape the Comstock we know today. As both a resource and a record for our growing community, we want to pause and say thank you. Without your support, your ideas, and your willingness to share your stories, this paper simply could not exist.

Before long, our winter nap will end and the world will once again descend upon our historic hills. With that in mind, I have a feeling 2026 is going to be a

very good year to tell stories—and I'd like your help doing it. Consider this a friendly call to action: *The Comstock Chronicle needs more local voices.*

We're looking for community members interested in volunteering to write about local events and happenings throughout the year—folks who enjoy writing, taking photos, asking questions, and talking with their neighbors. Prefer to support from home? We could also use help gathering online "intel" for our Events & Entertainment Calendar, managing Facebook content, and spotting stories worth telling. Being a contributor is not meant to feel like a job; it's a chance to learn

more about the place you call home, share what's happening around you, and help preserve a living record of our time on the Comstock.

Thank you for continuing to read our printed pages and for helping us grow our digital footprint. I always welcome your questions, comments, and story ideas—or inquiries about getting involved—at editor@thecomstockchronicle.com.

"For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice." – T.S. Eliot

Forward together,

Steph Norby

*Editor, The Comstock Chronicle*

# Storey County School District Superintendent Search - Input Survey

## SCSD

The School Board has approved a community survey as part of the superintendent search process. We value the voices of our families, community members, and high school students, and appreciate your input as we move forward. Please take a moment to complete the survey

linked below—thank you for helping shape the future of our district!

SURVEY: [tinyurl.com/589drmcce](http://tinyurl.com/589drmcce)

If you have any questions, please contact [moderneducatehr@gmail.com](mailto:moderneducatehr@gmail.com).



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## Page 11 Sudoku Answer

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

## Page 11 Crossword Answer

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



# Football 2026 PINE NUTS

By McAvoy Layne  
*The Ghost of Mark Twain*



Football are pointy and bounce funny. I guess that's what makes football so much fun. Watching a grown man chase a fumble is like watching a child chase a duck, it's enough to make a cow laugh, really.

Betting on sports is popular these days, but you don't want to bet on football. No, save your money for March Madness where the balls are round and the games are determined by something the fat guys in Las Vegas cannot measure or predict, that of the heart.

My good friend Pilarski RIP and me, used to carry money out of the Hyatt Sports Book in wheelbarrows in March. Of course, we would give it back over the balance of the year, but, hey, we had a few free drinks and one merry hell of a good time along the way.

There was one season in my hoary old days of sports betting where I actually made a small fortune by adding up the total tonnage of offensive lines, and betting on the heavy side to best protect the quarterback and the running backs. That proposition vaporized however when my swaggering stats got swallowed up by an even heavier defensive line.

Then for a while, I rode comfortably



along with the Tooth Fairy by betting strictly on the strongest kickers, as so many games are determined by a field goal. That manifesto served me well until my favorite kicker got turf toe and kicked me out at the next homeless shelter for escaped sports book apostates.

Every little surefire sportsbook scheme that set me on fire from head to foot soon enough left me grasping for a Little-Three-Team-Prospect-Made-in-Heaven.

For a few short weeks I actually made money on the flip of the coin. I figured the captain of the team who won the toss would be so jacked-up as to continue his good fortune with a dead-center win, and there was still time to get in on the action. That prediction market held

me over for a few weeks of euphoria until I got puffed up big as a Kauai Bufo and bet the farm on one single provocative toss. I am limping still from the loss...

At the end of my string, I turned to that Oracle of Prophecy, my ex-wife, whose favorite team is the Bengals, though she calls them the "Bagels."

"Honey, who do you like in this Sunday's feature game?" I asked over the phone.

"Who's playing?"

"The Bengals and the Rams."

"Well, you know I love my Bagels, so bet against the Lambs."

You might wonder why I might consult my ex-wife for advice on football bets.

Well, when her attorney called to tell me I was late with my alimony, I excused myself by telling him, "But she told me to put it on the Bagels!"

I shall leave the last word about football to Mark Twain's astute observation of 1900,

"Football beats croquet. There's more go about it!"

## He "May Have a Warrant"

*Storey County Sheriff's Office*

On Jan. 25, 2026, at approximately 11:20 a.m., a Storey County Sheriff's Office deputy on patrol in the Tahoe Reno Industrial area, observed a male subject holding what appeared to be ignition wire from a vehicle, behind a locked gate at a business known for recent burglaries. As the deputy attempted to speak with the subject and identify him, the subject fled on foot and out of sight. Before the deputy could pursue, he observed the subject appear again. The deputy ordered the

subject to his location, to which he eventually complied.

The subject was removed from the property and the deputy attempted to identify him. The subject refused to identify initially, but eventually provided a name and date of birth. The deputy, quite the detective, determined this name and date of birth was not correct, which was verified via photographs. The subject still refused to provide identification and allegedly uttered he "may have a warrant". The deputy,

who possesses Sherlock Holmes like skills, continued to investigate, and was able to identify the subject by a bank card found on scene, with his identity confirmed by a DMV drivers license photograph.

With the subject positively identified as Jason Pineda (age 31 of Reno, Nevada), a records check was conducted. Dispatch advised Pineda had two felony warrants of arrest, out of the Second Judicial Court of the State of Nevada and the Reno Justice Court, both with no bail

holds. Pineda was placed under arrest pursuant to the warrants. He was transported to the Storey County Detention Facility, where he was booked on the following charges:

NRS 211.370 Other Jurisdiction Warrant x 2, no bail holds

NRS 205.463.2 Use or obtain information of another to delay prosecution, \$10,000.00 bail

NRS 199.280 Resist or delay public officer, \$640.00 bail



# King's Corner

By Jeff Headley

Perth sits where the Swan River meets the Indian Ocean, two and a half miles wide at its mouth, on the western edge of Australia—about as far from New Jersey as a 13-year-old boy could get without falling off the map. Ships entering the river are often escorted by bottlenose dolphins into the busy port of Fremantle, active since the 1820s, when the British raced France to establish a colony there.

When my dad, Mark King, sailed into that harbor in 1940 on a cargo ship carrying a prized bull and 20 head of cattle from Wyoming, he thought he had reached the far edge of an adventure. What he didn't know was that he wouldn't be sailing out again. He was gliding into a war.

Mark had nearly ended the adventure before it began.

At 13, curiosity was his strongest instinct, and restraint was still theoretical. Early in the voyage, his fascination with the lifeboats led him to climb out and inspect one more closely than was wise. He accidentally released the forward restraint, and the lifeboat dropped into a vertical position, sending loose gear tumbling into the ocean. Mark managed not to follow it, which was fortunate. The captain's response was less forgiving.

That was Mark's first lesson that adventure doesn't just reward curiosity—it tests responsibility.

So when a later incident involving a rope and a manure bucket nearly dragged him overboard, the captain's patience was already gone. By the time they reached Australia, Mark understood that some lines, once crossed, aren't crossed twice.

Standing on deck now, watching the Swan River open before him, Mark was still enjoying the thrill. The water teemed with life—bull sharks, pelicans, black swans, fish he couldn't name.

Solid stone buildings lined the shore, built by convicts decades earlier. And just before entering the river, they passed a German surface raider sent to sink anything trying to leave.

That detail stayed with him.

Sometimes history doesn't announce itself. Sometimes it simply glides past you and waits.

America wouldn't officially enter World War II for almost two more years, but Mark was about to discover it was already very much present in Perth. The bull and cattle were unloaded and hauled inland, and Mark stayed on as a farmhand and cowhand. The work was steady, the hills were green, and the distant mountains made it easy to believe this was still just another chapter in a grand adventure.

But adventures eventually ask for something back.

When Mark returned to Perth, he learned that no ships were leaving. None. German submarines waited offshore, and no one was eager to test them. He wasn't desperate—but he was suddenly aware that charm, optimism, and curiosity might not be enough this time.

The adventure hadn't failed. It had simply stopped moving—and standing still, he was discovering, could be just as uncomfortable as being in trouble.

He began eating at a small diner, doing quiet arithmetic over coffee and pie. The head waitress noticed. She offered extra-large slices along with advice that was less comforting and more challenging. It was time, she suggested gently, to stop drifting through the story and start deciding who he wanted to be.

American flyers ate there too, though they spoke carefully and watched the room. At first, they weren't sure what to make of Mark. A teenage American alone in wartime Perth raised questions.



But one pilot was from Minneapolis-St. Paul, and soon they were swapping stories about Mother Merel's on Seventh Street, Micky's Dining Car, the St. Paul Rec Center, and fishing for muskie on White Bear Lake.

Familiar places opened the door. Character kept it open.

As Mark listened, he began to notice things. These men joked, but the joking stopped quickly when serious matters surfaced. They listened more than they spoke. They weren't impressed by daring stories or bold claims. They seemed impressed by steadiness. For the first time, Mark sensed that being grown up had less to do with confidence—and more to do with weight.

Gradually, he realized he had wandered into something much larger than himself. The United States couldn't openly support Britain, but American aircraft were quietly flying supplies to Perth, which were then forwarded on to England. These men were volunteers—men who had grown up, taken responsibility, and chosen purpose over comfort.

Until then, Mark's adventure had mostly been about seeing how far he could go before some-

one stopped him. Now he was beginning to sense that the stops themselves mattered—that each one was asking something more of him than cleverness or nerve.

He still needed a way home. That much hadn't changed.

But something else had.

Watching those flyers, listening to their stories, and feeling the weight of a world at war, Mark understood that growing up wasn't about losing his appetite for adventure. It was about discovering that he belonged to something larger than himself—and being willing to take responsibility for his place in it.

When the chance came to join a short-handed flight back to the United States, it wasn't just another bold yes. It was a step across a line—from boyhood into something sturdier.

Most of us don't cross that line all at once. We reach it through embarrassment, hard lessons, and quiet courage. And sometimes, if we're paying attention, God uses adventure not to entertain us—but to shape us.

The question isn't just what you're capable of.

**Sunday, Feb. 1 • 10:00am**

"Putting First Things First" • Jeff Headley



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## Alexander Joseph Pattison (Alex, "Zander Bander")

*Chris Pattison - Proprietor of The Odeon, Dayton*

Age 20

Alexander Joseph Pattison, known to many as Alex or "Zander Bander", was born in Reno, Nevada, on Aug. 21, 2005, and passed away in Carson City, Nevada, on Jan. 17, 2026.

Alex is survived by his father, Christophor Pattison; step-mother, Svetlana Grabelnikova;

mother, Shannon Pattison; step-father, Josh Kelley; sisters, Andreyia Pattison, Veronika Egorova, and Jordan Kelley; brother, Carter Kelley; grandparents, Tammy Mask, William Pattison, Kristi Pattison, Dianna Hammock, and Mike Hammock; great-grandmother, Carol Eyre; and many loving uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

Alex grew up mostly in Carson City. School was tough for him early on, but things shifted in high school. Later, we would laugh about how he seemed to attend nearly every grade school in the area, mostly because he kept getting kicked out for telling teachers off.

After high school, Alex followed what he loved. He attended the Chapman School of Seamanship, where he earned his Master Yamaha boat engine mechanics certificate, an OUPV/NC (less than 100 ton) Captain's License, and Merchant Marine Credentials. He continued building his skills through North Lake Tahoe Boat Rentals, and had recently passed another boating course.

Alex was driven and determined, working hard to build a life around the things that made him feel most alive. He loved the outdoors: hunting, fishing, boating, and motorcycling. He loved his family and friends, and he loved video games too. Alex embodied the saying: "If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life." Lions were his favorite animal. With golden hair and blue eyes, he was like a lion himself - beautiful, strong, kind, and unforgettable.

He had a kind and noble heart. He was an amazing friend, always eager to help, a wonderful brother, a dearly loved son. He will be sorely missed.

A viewing and service will be held at the Dayton Valley Golf Course on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 9 a.m. This will be followed by burial at the Dayton Cemetery at 12 p.m., and then a gathering at The Odeon. The Odeon will be closed to the public and open only to family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that charitable donations be made in Alex's name to <https://cleanupthelake.org/alex-pattison-charitable-giving/>

*It is said, that at sea, there's no route—just the trail that you leave in waves.*

*Know, captain, as you sail out, you are leaving behind a trace.*

*Though today your waves turn to clouds, the direction you showed us stays.*

*You've lit beacons that won't go out—lights of kindness, and love, and grace.*

— from Lana

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SPONSORED CONTENT

# Restoring the Land That Built a Legacy

## Part 3 of the the Comstock Chronicle Series: “From Gold to Green—The Evolution of the Comstock”

Part 3 of this series will run for 4 weeks.

By Rob Dyer, Comstock Inc.

Drive down the winding road from Virginia City to Gold Hill on a cool morning, and it's easy to imagine the ghosts of the Comstock's past: ore wagons rumbling, the clang of steel on stone, the distant hum of hoists pulling wealth from the depths of the mountain. But look closer today, and you'll see something new: green slopes where tailings once lay, creeks running clearer than they have in generations, and signs of life returning to ground that once bore the weight of the West's first great mining boom.

This is the modern face of the Comstock, a landscape being restored, not exploited.

And much of that work has come from the long-term reclamation and remediation efforts led by Comstock Mining, a proud subsidiary of Comstock Inc. (NYSE: LODE).

When Comstock Mining began its operations in the 2000s, the company inherited more than a mining district; it inherited a responsibility. The land along Gold Canyon and American Flat carried the legacy of more than a century of mining, with its benefits and its scars alike. Mercury residues, unstable tailings, and erosion had accumulated over decades, long after the original bonanza had ended.

Rather than turning away from that legacy, Comstock Mining turned toward it. The company invested heavily in



*Four mule deer stand alert on the slopes of American Flat, where wildlife continues to thrive among the region's rugged terrain. Photo Credit: Rob Dyer*

reclamation, removing legacy tailings, regrading historic mine sites, and reseeding native vegetation across thousands of acres. They improved drainage systems to prevent sediment runoff, restored water channels to healthier flow patterns, and helped stabilize the steep terrain that once fueled both fortunes and floods.

It's a story that many longtime residents have witnessed firsthand. Hills that once looked barren now show hints of sage and rabbitbrush. Runoff that once carried heavy metals now moves clean through restored channels. Wildlife, too, is returning: hawks circling above American Flat, wild horses grazing the shoulders of old mining roads, even the occasional coyote trotting

through a patch of reclaimed ground.

This is more than environmental restoration; it's cultural restoration. Each project honors the ground that built Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City, ensuring that the Comstock's future is as valuable as its past. The land that once yielded gold and silver now yields something just as important: stability, safety, and stewardship.

For Comstock Mining and its parent company, Comstock Inc., reclamation isn't an afterthought; it's the foundation. The same mindset that drives today's recycling and decarbonization technologies across the Comstock family of companies began right here,

with the commitment to restore what was once taken. It's a philosophy that ties together the company's entire mission: extracting value without leaving harm behind.

Perhaps the greatest sign of progress isn't what you see, but what you don't. The dusty plumes of the old days are gone. The roar of unchecked runoff after summer storms has quieted. In their place stands a more resilient landscape, proof that Nevada's most historic mining region can also lead in responsible land management and sustainability.

In the end, restoration on the Comstock isn't about erasing history; it's about extending it. Every reclaimed acre, every reseeded slope, every cleared streambed adds another line to a legacy that began more than 160 years ago.

Because the Comstock story has never been defined solely by its minerals, but by the pride of those who worked this land and the responsibility of those who continue to care for it today.

**Next Month — Part 4:**  
“Mining the Future: How Innovation is Redefining the Comstock”

How new technology, data, and environmental design are transforming mining into one of Nevada's cleanest and most forward-looking industries.



# Storey County Updates Contact List for Virginia City Businesses

By Julia Moreno-Fritz



## A Quick Way to Get Important Storey County Updates

*Stay ahead of closures, construction, and weather by sharing your contact info through this short survey*

Storey County is updating its contact list for Virginia City business owners to ensure they receive timely alerts on road closures, construction, traffic changes, weather events, and other information that may affect their operations.

The county is asking business owners to complete a short survey to confirm or update their contact information. Owners can add as many people as they wish to the list, and contacts can be reached by email, text, or both. The information will be kept internal and used only for important or urgent notifications.

Business owners can take the survey online.

[tinyurl.com/2pph8n96](https://tinyurl.com/2pph8n96)

## 601 Vigilance Committee Matches Bond Arms Donation, Delivering \$2,000 to Community Chest Inc.

*Virginia City 601 Vigilance Committee*

The Virginia City 601 Vigilance Committee announced today a \$2,000 total donation to Community Chest Inc., made possible through a matching contribution in partnership with Bond Arms of Granbury, Texas.

Bond Arms helped the 601 raise \$1,000 through the auction of discounted Bond Arms firearms. In response, the 601 Vigilance Committee matched the donation dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact for Community Chest Inc.

Community Chest Victim Advocates are trained professionals who assist victims of crime by providing emotional support, guidance, and assistance connecting individuals with available community resources during times of crisis. The donation directly supports these essential

advocacy services within the Comstock region.

“The 601 is committed to improving the lives of those in need in our community,” said Lee Nashold, Executive Director of the Virginia City 601 Vigilance Committee. “By matching this donation, we were able to double the impact and support an organization doing vital work for victims of crime.”

The Virginia City 601 Vigilance Committee is a community service organization dedicated to promoting Virginia City tourism while preserving Comstock heritage. Its mission includes supporting veterans, preserving cowboy traditions, promoting gun safety education, and advancing the arts through grants, donations, scholarships, and restoration projects throughout the Comstock

LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS	LEGALS
<p align="center"><b>APPLICATION FOR WATER NO. 94830</b></p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 17th day of November 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 3.87 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&amp;M. Water will be used for wildlife purposes (cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout) as decreed. Water was used as decreed.</p> <p>Chris Thorson, P.E. Acting State Engineer</p> <p>CT/mh</p> <p>Date of first publication: 1/16/2026</p> <p>Date of last publication: 2/6/2026</p>			

region.

Since 2014, the 601 has donated more than \$50,000 toward preserving Comstock traditions, supporting the arts for children, assisting veterans, and restoring historic sites across the region. These efforts are funded through community-supported fundraising events hosted by the organization.

Special thanks to OTS Printing, which designed and printed the ceremonial promotional check featured in the donation photo.

For more information about the Virginia City 601 Vigilance Committee or upcoming fundraising events, visit [www.601vc.org](http://www.601vc.org).

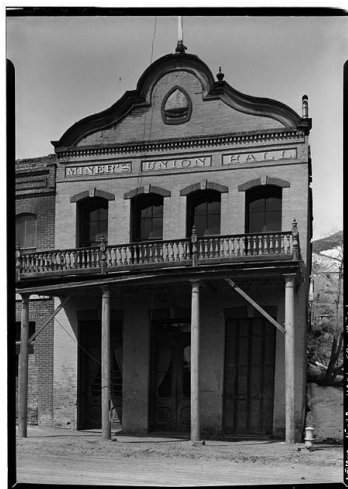
# Miner's Union Hall: A Working Landmark on the Comstock

Guest Contributor: Audie Robinson

On North B Street, where Virginia City's commercial blocks climb the hillside, the Miner's Union Hall stands much as it has for nearly a century and a half, solid, purposeful, and in use. Built of brick in 1876, the two-story hall has never been a relic waiting to be rediscovered. From the height of the Comstock mining era to the present day, it has remained a place where people gather, organize, and invest in their community.

When the Comstock Lode was discovered in 1859, Virginia City grew almost overnight into one of the most important mining centers in the American West. Beneath the city's streets, miners worked deep underground in conditions that were dangerous and unpredictable. Heat, poor ventilation, flooding, cave-ins, and industrial accidents were part of daily life. As mining became increasingly capital-intensive and ownership shifted to large, often absentee-controlled corporations, miners found themselves with little individual leverage over wages or working conditions.

Organization emerged as a practical response. In 1863, miners formed the Miner's Protective Association of Storey County, followed a year later by the Storey County Miners' League. These early organizations sought to standardize underground wages at four dollars per day and to assert collective bargaining power within an increasingly industrialized mining economy. In 1864, miners in Virginia City and Gold Hill staged coordinated demonstrations, among the earliest large-scale labor actions in the western mining industry.



*Miner's Union Hall, 1937.*

*Photo credit:*

*Library of Congress*

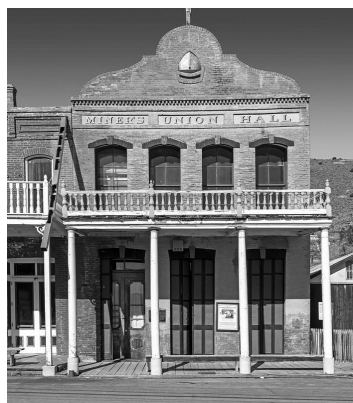
Those early efforts were short-lived. A mining depression in 1864–1865 weakened the League, and mine owners blacklisted union members. Territorial Governor James W. Nye went further, ordering federal troops from Fort Churchill to Virginia City to suppress union activity. The Storey County Miners' League collapsed, but the lessons endured. Miners learned that lasting success required not only collective action, but political awareness, community support, and permanent institutional footing.

By the late 1860s, miners reorganized with greater durability. The Gold Hill Miners' Union formed in 1866, followed by the Virginia City Miners' Union on July 4, 1867. These organizations succeeded where earlier efforts had failed, enforcing the four-dollar daily wage and later securing the eight-hour workday in 1872. On the Comstock, organized labor became a stabilizing force in an industry defined by risk.

As the Virginia City Miners'

Union expanded its role beyond wages to include mutual aid, education, and civic participation, the need for a permanent headquarters became clear. In 1870, a parcel on B Street was formally conveyed for the use and benefit of the union, establishing the site as a purpose-built labor institution. That first building was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1875, which swept through Virginia City and reshaped much of its commercial and institutional core.

The following year, the min-



*Miner's Union Hall, 2025.*

*Photo credit: FOE*

ers rebuilt, this time in brick. The new Miner's Union Hall rose on the same parcel in 1876 at a reported cost of approximately \$15,000. Its construction reflected post-fire priorities that emphasized masonry and fire resistance. The building's curving brick false front concealed a gable roof, a common local practice that reduced fire risk while maintaining a consistent streetscape. Tall upper-story windows, steel fire doors at street level, and a prominent porch and second-story balcony gave the hall an unmistakable institutional presence. A metal

beehive crowned the parapet, symbolizing communal labor and shared responsibility.

Inside, the building quickly became one of Virginia City's most important civic spaces. The ground floor served as a large assembly hall for meetings, lectures, and social events. Upstairs, the union established the Miners' Union Library in 1877, appropriating \$2,000 from union funds. By the early 1880s, the library contained approximately 2,200 volumes and was widely described as the city's only public library. Union members enjoyed free access, while non-members were welcomed for a small monthly fee. Reading rooms and chess rooms shared the upper floor, reinforcing the hall's role as a center for education, self-improvement, and social life.

As the Comstock's great bonanza years faded after the late 1870s, organized mining labor gradually lost influence. Yet the Miner's Union Hall did not fall quiet. Meetings continued, and the building remained a familiar gathering place. In 1926, ownership passed to the Comstock Aerie 523, Fraternal Order of Eagles, reflecting a broader regional pattern in which former labor halls were adopted by fraternal organizations as mining declined. The transition did not end the building's institutional life; it extended it.

Under Eagle stewardship, the hall has continued to function as a meeting place and social center, preserving its long-standing role in Virginia City's civic fabric. Today, Comstock Aerie No. 523 meets monthly on the third Thursday at 7 p.m., maintaining

*Cont'd next page...*



## MINER'S UNION HALL, cont'd from page 8

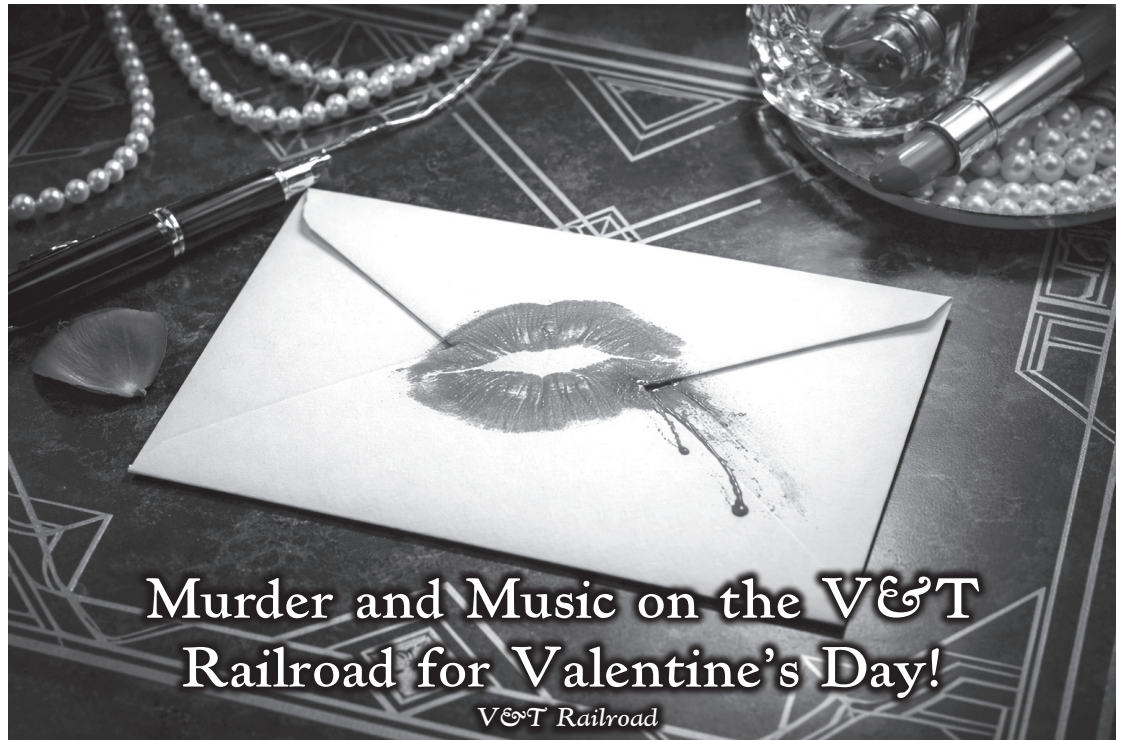
an unbroken tradition of regular use that stretches back to the nineteenth century.

That continuity shapes the Aerie's approach to restoration. The Miner's Union Hall is not treated as a static monument or a frozen artifact. Instead, restoration is understood as an intentional, forward-looking effort, one that respects historic materials and character while ensuring the building remains safe, functional, and relevant. The goal is not simply to preserve a structure, but to sustain a working hall.

Public engagement is central to that mission. By sharing the building's history, its roots in organized labor, its role in worker education, and its uninterrupted use, the Aerie seeks to build broader understanding of why the Miner's Union Hall matters. Financial contributions, new memberships, and community advocacy all play a role in carrying this work forward, just as collective investment sustained the hall in earlier generations.

The Miner's Union Hall has always been a place where people come together. From miners organizing for fair wages, to readers browsing library shelves, to Eagles gathering for monthly meetings, the building has adapted while remaining true to its purpose. As a working landmark on the Comstock, its future, like its past, depends on shared responsibility and continued participation from the community it serves.

For more information, follow the Comstock Aerie 523, Fraternal Order of Eagles on Facebook, write to P.O. Box 80, Virginia City, Nevada, or join us at the Miner's Union Hall, 36 North B Street, Virginia City, on the third Thursday of each month around 7 p.m.



Do you love solving mysteries, but your partner loves toe-tapping country music? You don't have to choose, thanks to the Virginia Truckee Railroad's full schedule of Valentines Day Trains.

First, immerse yourself in solving a murder mystery. Love and betrayal take center stage aboard the historic Virginia & Truckee Railroad as a Valentine's Day-themed murder mystery unfolds in an elegant vintage train. Love Gone Off the Rails transports guests back to the Prohibition Era, where romance simmers and intrigue fills the air. Guests are invited to don their finest 1920s attire and step into a world of clandestine affairs, whispered promises, and dangerous secrets.

As the train winds through the scenic Nevada landscape, secret romances and tangled love affairs begin to surface, revealing motives as layered as the era itself. What begins as an afternoon of glamour and flirtation takes a deadly turn, challenging guests to piece together clues, interrogate suspects, and uncover the truth before the

final stop.

Engage with a colorful cast of characters, each with their own motives and secrets, as you enjoy delicious appetizers and wine or beer. Chocolate dipped strawberries and roses for the ladies and other treats will be served as passengers work to figure out the identity of the Villain. Prizes will be awarded for the best and worst guesses. Will love survive the journey, or has it truly Gone off the Rails?

Tickets are \$62 per person. Choose either the 12 noon or the 4pm departure. Board train at F Street Depot, 166 F St in Virginia City, NV.

Next, grab your Stetson's and climb aboard the V&T's Country-Western themed Valentine Train at 6:30 pm, featuring Carson Chandler and Christian McNamara as they present an evening of classic country music, romance, and fun! Inspired by Alan Jackson, George Strait, and Cody Johnson, 24-year-old Carson Chandler is bringing the heart of western country music to life. Joining him is Christian McNamara with his

deep voice and beautiful guitar playing. Enjoy selections from Christian's new album, Mental Apparitions.

Enjoy two great performers, laughter, and romance as the train rolls down the tracks. Every lady receives a rose, and all guests can indulge in strawberry chocolates, wine or whiskey, and tasty snacks. Soft drinks are available, too.

Choose one experience or do both, either way your Valentine is sure to be impressed! Don't wait too long to decide as these are sure to sell out. And while you are thinking about unique events to break the winter blues, add the Virginia Truckee Railroad's St. Patrick's Day Murder Mystery train to your list. The fun starts March 15, at 2:30 or 4:30 PM. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Tickets for each performance are \$62 per person and are available online at [www.virginiatruckee.com](http://www.virginiatruckee.com). Trains depart from the original 1870's depot located at 166 F Street in Virginia City, Nevada.

# LCSO K9 Unit Drug Bust

*Lyon County Sheriff's Office*

On January 21, 2026 at approximately 1422 hours, Lyon County Sheriff's Office personnel observed a silver colored Chevrolet sedan travelling in the area of the 1400 block of Mountain Rose Drive in Fernley, Nevada. The vehicle did not have a front license plate and the rear license plate was obstructed by a tinted plastic cover. Deputies conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle at the Out of Town Park. As the vehicle was stopping, a male passenger, 32 year old Pablo Castro-Zambrano of Sun Valley, Nevada, exited the vehicle and began to walk away. Deputies gave him verbal commands and he returned to the vehicle. Deputies then contacted the vehicle's driver, 32 year old Gabriel Vasquez of Reno, Nevada, who possessed a suspended Nevada driver's license. They further determined the vehicle was uninsured and



the obstructed license plate was fictitious, returning to another similar vehicle.

A Lyon County Sheriff's Office K-9 was deployed and alerted to the odor of drugs coming from the vehicle. During a subsequent search, deputies located approximately ½ pound of methamphetamine, various items of drug paraphernalia to include baggies, scales and other items used in the commission of drug sales. A search of the trunk revealed 26.3 grams of Trazadone Hydrochloride and more than 15 pounds of marijuana. Gabriel Vasquez additionally had brass knuckles concealed on his person at the time of contact.

Gabriel Vasquez and Pablo Castro-Zambrano were both taken into custody and booked into the Lyon County Jail on the following charges:



*Gabriel Vasquez*

Gabriel Vasquez:  
NRS 453.338 Trafficking Schedule I Controlled Substance  
NRS 453.337 Possession Schedule I Controlled Substance for Purpose of Sale  
NRS 453.566 Use/Possession Drug Paraphernalia  
NRS 202.350 Possession of a Dangerous Weapon  
NRS 454.316 Possession of a Dangerous Drug without a Prescription  
NRS 453.401 Conspiracy to Violate the Uniform Controlled Substance Act  
NRS 482.545 Display Bogus/Fictitious Vehicle Registration  
NRS 483.560 Drive on Suspended Driver's License



*Pablo Castro-Zambrano*

NRS 453.336 Possession of Marijuana More than 1 Ounce  
Bail: \$99,395.00  
Pablo Castro-Zambrano:  
NRS 453.338 Trafficking Schedule I Controlled Substance z  
NRS 453.337 Possession Schedule I Controlled Substance for Purpose of Sale  
NRS 453.566 Use/Possession Drug Paraphernalia  
NRS 453.401 Conspiracy to Violate the Uniform Controlled Substance Act  
NRS 453.336 Possession of Marijuana More than 1 Ounce  
Bail: \$93,640.00

## Another Felony Arrest for Storey Deputies

*Storey County Sheriff's Office*

On Jan. 25, 2026, at approximately 2:59 p.m., a Storey County Sheriff's Office deputy conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling 70 mph in a posted 45 mph zone in the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Serina Rodriguez (age 28 of Las Vegas, Nevada). A records check revealed Rodriguez had a misdemeanor warrant out of the Municipal Court of the City of Sparks and a felony extraditable warrant out of Maricopa County,

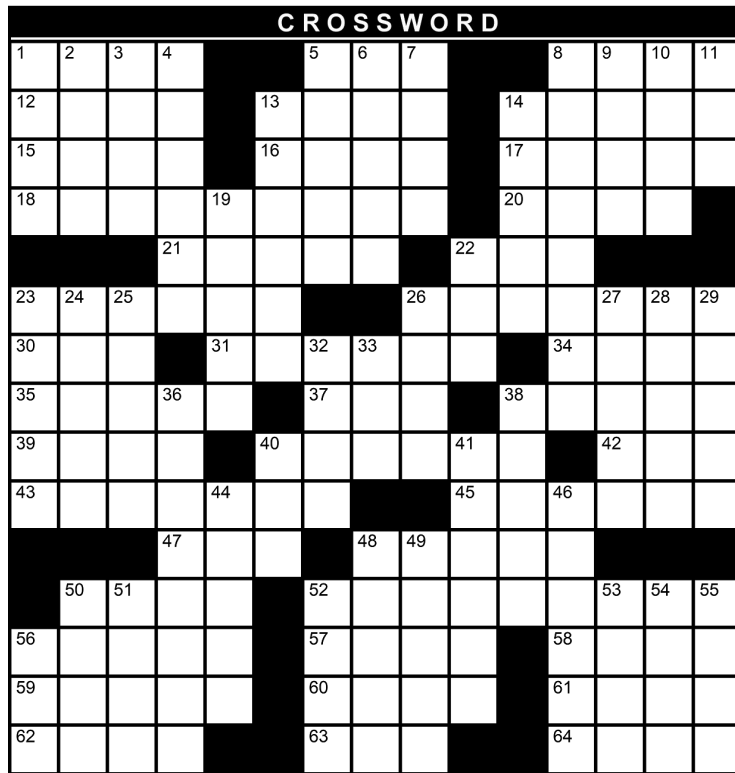
Arizona. Rodriguez also had a suspended drivers license.

Rodriguez was issued a civil citation for speed. She was arrested on the following charges and transported to the Storey County Detention Facility:

NRS 483.560.1 Driving on a suspended drivers license, \$640.00 bail  
NRS 211.370 Other jurisdiction warrant, \$500.00 cash or bond  
NRS 211.370 Other jurisdiction warrant, no bail hold







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## Crossword Answer on Page 2

THEME: LOVE'S IN THE AIR

### ACROSS

1. Biology lab supply
5. Aldous Huxley's drug of choice
8. \*Certain Courtney
12. Tear violently
13. Color of a bruise
14. Al Roker's show
15. Pupil control
16. Any minute, to Shakespeare
17. Sheep-like
18. \*H. P. of science fiction fame
20. Hibernation stations
21. Boat station
22. Tennis shot
23. Packed in container
26. User-friendly interface, acr.
30. Genetic info carrier, acr.
31. \*Love unquestioningly
34. Equal to 1.3 ounces in Asia
35. Not a minor

37. Poem addressed to certain subject
38. Hundred, in Italian
39. Nothing
40. Relating to clone
42. Division, abbr.
43. Sloughed off skin
45. Fluffy dessert
47. All good things come to this?
48. Between Oct's and Nov's
50. \_\_\_ Verde National Park
52. \*B-52s' "little old place" (2 words)
56. Singing femme fatale
57. Deed hearing
58. Reverberated sound
59. Blue-Green scum, pl.
60. Misery cause
61. Actress Perlman
62. Scheme
63. Right coast time
64. Made by tailor

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

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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 2

### DOWN

1. Seed cover
2. Biking helmet manufacturer
3. Tel \_\_\_, Israel
4. #64 Across, redone
5. Like 1969 landing
6. Laugh with contempt
7. Fender-bender damage
8. \*a.k.a. hickey (2 words)
9. Norse deity
10. "Off The Wall" shoe
11. Needle hole
13. Macy's Thanksgiving offering
14. Commotions
19. Silica variety
22. NaOH
23. Solder together
24. Dewey Decimal Classification, a.k.a. Relative \_\_\_
25. Pleasant Island
26. Small songbird

27. Harry's and Hermione's magic tools
28. Bigfoot's cousins
29. \*Hand cover, with love
32. \*Lemming relative, or anagram of love
33. Tokyo, formerly
36. \*Couch for two
38. Lumps in liquid
40. Knave
41. Unit of electric current flow
44. Absurd
46. Theater guides
48. Nutritious beans
49. Black tie one
50. Grain grinder
51. "Cogito, \_\_\_ sum"
52. Stud site
53. Occasional heart condition
54. Prepare to swallow
55. Riddle without solution
56. Tree juice

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