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The Comstock Chronicle

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Ongoing Missing Person Investigation – Ronald Littley

Article by Lyon County Sheriff's Office on page 2

Three Grants, Three Ways to Shape Virginia City Together

Article by Alexia Sober on page 7

Muckers Off to Strong Start at Home

Article by Luke Branson on page 8. Photo credit: Hannah McCoy

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.

Ongoing Missing Person Investigation – Ronald Littley

Lyon County Sheriff's Office

PRESS RELEASE UPDATE – MISSING PERSON

Case Number: 22LY03984

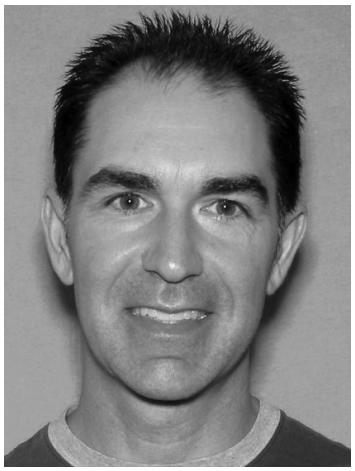
Agency: Lyon County Sheriff's Office

Location: Fernley, Nevada

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate the disappearance of Ronald Littley, a 56-year-old male who was reported missing in September 2022.

Mr. Littley was last known to be living at a residence on Dixie Lane in Fernley. He was last seen in midSeptember 2022. A welfare check conducted on September 22, 2022, determined that Mr. Littley was not at the residence, and he has not been seen or heard from since that time. His personal belongings, including his vehicles, were located at the residence, and he is believed to have left the area on foot.

Due to concerns related to Mr. Littley's medical and mental health history, he was entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as an endangered missing person. Since the initial report, deputies and detectives have conducted follow-up checks, neighborhood canvasses, and coordination with family members and partner agencies. Despite these efforts, no confirmed sightings or leads have been developed. The investigation into Mr. Littley's disappearance remains open and active.



Ronaold Littley

As of January 2026, Ronald Littley was listed on the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) with the following link: http://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/153841

Description of Ronald Littley:

- White male
- Date of Birth: September 10, 1969
- Height: Approximately 6'1"
- Weight: Approximately 185 pounds

The Lyon County Sheriff's Office is asking anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of Ronald Littley, or who may have seen him since September 2022, to contact law enforcement.

Anyone with information is urged to contact: Lyon County Sheriff's Office at (775) 463-6600 or by email at detective@lyon-county.org

Tips may be provided anonymously.

Scam Alert

Lyon County Sheriff's Office

Lyon County Dispatch has been receiving calls stating that a Lyon County Officer is calling to collect money and leaving messages referencing legal matters. The caller is currently using the name Sergeant Murray and caller ID reads Lyon County Sheriff's Office. No employee of the Lyon County Sheriff's Office would ever call and ask for money or personal information over the telephone. Please do not respond to these scammers.

CORRECTION: Luke Branson's Jan. 2 article was published under an incorrect headline. The headline should have read, **"Hard Lessons, Big Takeaways for Muckers at Arizona Tournament"**. We regret the error.

Night of the Cotton Bouquet

PINE NUTS

By McAvoy Layne
The Ghost of Mark Twain

Jimmy asked me to teach him how to swim. He was maybe fifteen, and I was a lifeguard not much older. He was also blind and liked to wrestle, so I wrestled him into some deep water, where he let go and learned how to swim. We became friends, and he taught me how to read braille.

Jim confided to me that he had fallen in love at camp with a girl named "Cecelia." And as Cecelia was also blind, well, both sets of loving parents preferred that their special teens would fall in love with sighted persons, and did not encourage Jimmy and Cecelia's affections.

Jim sighed a deep sigh and lamented to me that he would probably never be near her again, at least not until he got his driver's license, which would be in his next life...

There is nothing in this world quite so pathetic than a lovesick teenager, so I volunteered to take Jimmy and Cecelia to a drive-in movie, then excuse myself to the popcorn stand, and let them make out a little, maybe even steal a kiss...

Well, on the drive to pick up Cecelia we passed a field of cotton, and I described the sight to Jim, who in turn asked if we could

stop so he could feel the cotton. He ended up picking a bouquet to give to Cecilia, and though it was a fright to look at, it felt good, so off we went to pick up Cecelia...

I remember so well how she came to the door wearing a radiant smile, and when Jimmy handed her that cotton bouquet, well, her smile broadened into an appreciative sigh of gratitude and love. The sight of her touching that cotton and embracing it, moistened my eye, and I had to gather myself in order to meet her parents, and assure them that we would be back home promptly following Lawrence of Arabia. They did not seem to be pleased about our little outing, but blessed it, begrudgingly.

Well, the two of them piled into the back seat and held hands, or so it seemed in my rearview mirror. We landed a good spot for the movie and I took their orders. Then I warned them that I'd be back in twenty minutes and excused myself to the popcorn stand. Upon my return I noticed the windows were fogged up, so I cleared my throat and opened the trunk before opening their door with an arm full of popcorn. Well, as Jimmy would tell me sometime later, "Lawrence of Arabia was as good a movie as ever there was."

While attending separate colleges, Jimmy and Cecelia would both fall in love with sighted partners, and live happily ever after...

Meanwhile, that drive-in movie taught me a lesson that I call upon even today, that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and in the touch of the beholder, as was the case in that night of the cotton bouquet...

Filing Period for Judicial Offices Opens Jan. 5

Storey County Government Affairs

Storey County residents interested in running for elected office can file in person during the official filing periods listed below.

Judicial Offices
January 5–16, 2026

Non-Judicial Offices
March 2–13, 2026

File with the Storey County Clerk (Virginia City):

- Justice of the Peace, Virginia Township (remainder of current 6-year term through 2030)
- County Commissioner, District 2 (4-year term)
- Assessor (4-year term)
- Clerk & Treasurer (4-year term)
- District Attorney (4-year term)
- Recorder (4-year term)
- Sheriff (4-year term)
- School Board Trustee: Seats 1-A and 2-B (4-year terms); Seat 1-C (remainder of current 4-year term through 2028)
- Canyon GID Seats: 2-A, 2-B, 3-A (4-year terms)

For all other offices, please contact the Nevada Secretary of State's Office.

Important Reminder:
Filing must be completed in person at the Storey County Clerk's Office.
Please bring a valid ID and proof of current residence.
Filing fees vary by office and must be paid by cash, cashier's check, or certified check.

Questions?
775-847-0969
elections@storeycounty.org

King's Corner

By Jeff Headley

The stretch limo was solid white. The handsome man standing through the sunroof—wearing a solid white tuxedo and a grin you could see from orbit—was my dad. As the limo crept around California's state capitol buildings, a string of cans rattled loudly behind it, doing exactly what cans are meant to do: announce something important. A large sign on the back read, "Just Divorced."

That was my father, Robert "Mark" King, and this was his way of saying: Time to start over.

With the arrival of a new year, many of us feel that same impulse—though most of us settle for a new calendar, a gym membership we won't use, or a resolution we quietly renegotiate by February. January invites reinvention. We like the symbolism of clean slates and fresh starts, even when real life is messier than a white tuxedo. Still, the hope is sincere: Maybe this year can be different.

Change, however, doesn't wait for January. Life as we knew it doesn't return. The road ahead is unavoidable, uncertain, and inconveniently short on clear signage. Our choices matter, even when we're not sure what to choose.

After losing his wife Norma-Jean to cancer, Dad kept moving forward. She had pursued him with determination and delight, and their life together was a good one—too short, but deeply lived. Her death reshaped him in ways he never expected, leaving both gratitude and grief in its wake. Still, he stayed in a steady job, served in the reserves, earned a pension, and later worked as an electrician at an Air Force base.

Looking back, it's tempting to see the women in my father's life as markers along the road. Darien, my mother, was the love he wanted to marry before I was born, until life—and her mother—had other plans. Norma-Jean, his wife, made his life a delight until cancer took her far too soon. And then there was Jean, who took advantage of his generosity and left him poorer in more ways than one.

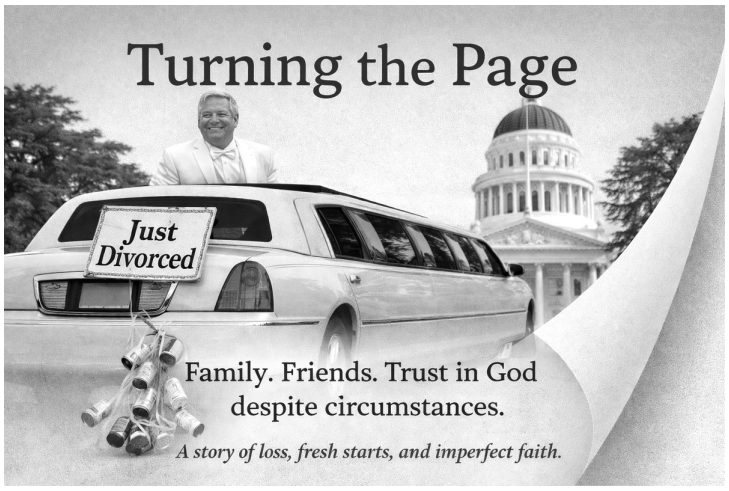
Each woman marked a chapter. None of them defined the whole story. When each chapter ended—through loss, disappointment, or death—Dad did what he had always done. He turned the page, sometimes with joy, sometimes with grief, and kept moving forward.

Rather than quietly mourning his second divorce, he marked the occasion in white-limo style.

Next, he volunteered for high-voltage electrical work on tall metal towers carrying 750,000 volts. (This is the point in the story where listeners stop nodding and start wondering about his judgment.) Midway up a tower, his partner accidentally electrified the entire structure. Dad blacked out, fell backward, and was saved only when his knee caught on the rail.

He woke in the hospital permanently disabled—alive, but done working. For a man who thrived on motion, it was yet another unexpected turn.

How much change are we built to handle? Have you moved recently? Changed careers? Fallen in or out of love? Lost someone—or gained a responsibility you never asked for? Some changes arrive like lightning; others come as a slow drip that wears us down before we realize we're tired. Either way, the accumulation can feel like too much.



After Dad was back on his feet, we attended another unexpected event: my mother's funeral. Their story had ended long before, but grief has a way of circling back. Later, over a quiet meal, I finally asked him how he coped with so much change and so much uncertainty about the future. I remember the pause before he answered, the way he looked down at his plate, then back up at me. Some conversations stay with you.

Dad spoke of his generation, shaped by war and loss, who learned to live with uncertainty long before it became fashionable. They leaned on family and friends, invested in relationships, celebrated small victories, and helped each other build something for tomorrow. They trusted God—not blaming Him, not seeing themselves as victims, but believing He could see them through.

By then Dad's life revolved around horses, so naturally he illustrated his point with one. A careless visitor once startled the herd, and they stampeded over him. One hoof crushed his foot flat, breaking every bone. (Fortunately, they missed his head—small mercies matter.)

A new medical device suctioned his foot back into shape over three months. It healed completely. Once again, he moved forward.

Family. Friends. Trust in God despite circumstances. It sounds almost too simple—until you realize how often we look everywhere else first.

My father never planned the turns his life took, but he showed up for them anyway—sometimes in work boots, sometimes in a hospital gown, once in a white tuxedo. He trusted that God was not waiting at the finish line with a clipboard, but walking alongside him, even when the road made no sense.

As the new year begins, we may not get the fresh start we imagined. But faith has never required certainty—only willingness. If we are willing to trust God with what comes next, even imperfectly, we may find that starting over is not something we do alone after all.

Pike Street

By Chris Pattison - Proprietor of The Odeon, Dayton

I've often wondered why the street that The Odeon sits on is called Pike Street.

At first glance, the obvious guess is the Northern Pike, but that doesn't hold up. Northern pike aren't indigenous to Nevada. They were introduced into at least one Nevada water (Comins Lake near Ely is the example most people point to), and they're treated as an invasive predator because of the damage they can do to trout fisheries, so much so that anglers are encouraged to remove them when found. So whatever Pike Street is named for, it's almost certainly not the fish.

So if it's not the fish, what about the word "Pike"?

In a Nevada Appeal article dated Nov. 8, 2008, Ruby McFarland wrote:

"*I can't find out how it got its name, but the answer may be that the early miners were called 'Pikes,' and the street was named for them. Following the footsteps of the pioneers were the Pony Express and Wells Fargo stages.*"

That's a reasonable theory at first... but "Pikes" as a mining nickname doesn't fit Dayton very well. The most famous "Pike" mining reference is Colorado's 1859 Pikes Peak Gold Rush, where miners were usually called "Fifty-Niners." Some people elsewhere used "Pikes" loosely, but it's not a clean match for early Dayton.

Photo credit: Rick Donaldson, flickr

So what does that leave?

Maybe "Pike" is just an old term for a main road, like a "turnpike," or "the pike?" I'm not convinced, but it's possible. Pike Street was absolutely a travel corridor. It followed the footsteps of the Overland Emigrant Trail, one of the great human rivers that pushed west in the 1840s through the 1860s, peaking around the Gold Rush years. Later, Pike Street also became part of the Lincoln Highway, America's first transcontinental auto route. Those facts tell us Pike Street mattered, but they still don't explain why it's called Pike.

Then, while reading a book called "As I Remember Them" by C. C. Goodwin, a light bulb went on.

"As I Remember Them" is Goodwin's portrait of the people who shaped the West, especially the world that formed between California, Nevada, and the Comstock era. It contains dozens of stories ranging from famous names (Sutter, Ralston, Mackay, Sutro, Twain, De Quille, "Lucky" Baldwin and more) to character types and town atmospheres. What makes it so valuable is that Goodwin is often describing what he saw and what he remembered, people as they actually appeared, sounded, and behaved.

For example, he describes Adolph Sutro like this:

"*He was a massive and masterful man physically. He must have been six feet and two inches in height and big every way. When I knew him best, he weighed perhaps two hundred and thirty-five pounds, but was active as a boy and seemed ever driven on by an energy that never tired. He had a lion-like face and a brain that was always alert and strong.*"

That's not a modern summary. That's a man painting another man from memory.

And one of Goodwin's chapters is titled "The Gentleman from Pike".

A "Gentleman from Pike" refers to the famous emigrant stereotype associated with Pike County, Missouri. So common in the migration era that "Pike County men" (or "pikers") became a catch all label for certain emigrants and newcomers pushing west. Goodwin doesn't describe them as empire builders in the romantic sense. He describes them as practical people, families, who wanted land, grass, room, and a place to live without being crowded out.

From Goodwin (paraphrased by the passage itself):

He wasn't dreaming of conquering kingdoms. He wasn't trying to start a religion or build a government. In fact, he believed there was already too much government. What he wanted was more land, especially grass land, and if it came with woods, game, berries, nuts, and honey, all the better.

This wasn't a "forceful" type of

...Cont'd on page 7

SPONSORED CONTENT

From Pickaxes to Progress: The Birth of Comstock Mining

Part 2 of the the Comstock Chronicle Series: "From Gold to Green—The Evolution of the Comstock"

Part 3 of this series will run next week.

By Rob Dyer, Comstock Inc.

Ask anyone in Virginia City and they'll tell you: the Comstock isn't just history—it's heritage. The old headframes on the hillside, the timbers deep beneath the town, the stories passed from grandparents to grandkids—these are living memories woven into the identity of this community. But the revival of the Comstock in the modern era is a chapter that even longtime locals may not have seen coming.

By the late 20th century, the original mines had quieted. The bonanzas of the 1800s had given way to decades of stillness and intermittent attempts to revive the activities that lead to the richness of the lode, punctuated only by the wind brushing through abandoned structures. But the ground beneath us never stopped holding potential—both geological and historical.

In the early 2000s, that potential drew a group of geologists, engineers, and Nevada mining professionals together with a shared mission: not to repeat the past, but to responsibly revive the Comstock for the future. Their work eventually led to the creation of Comstock Mining, a modern mining company committed to restoring, operating, and safeguarding one of the most important mining districts in the world.

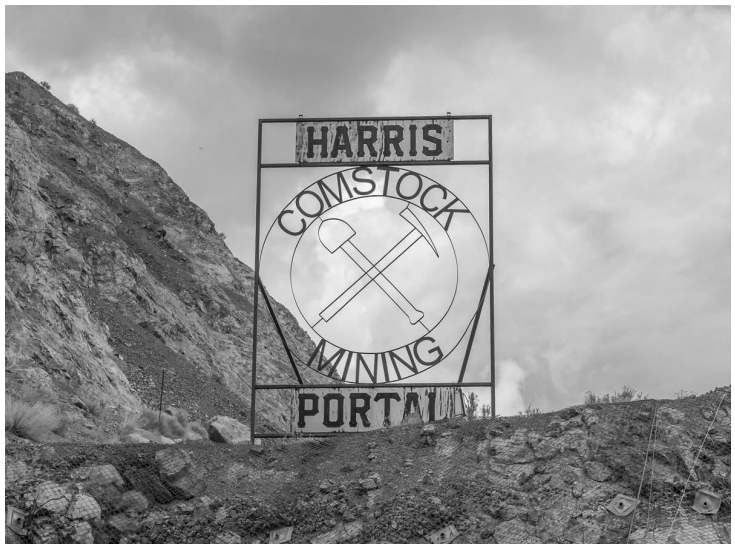


Photo credit: Rob Dyer, Comstock Inc.

From the start, Comstock Mining took a different approach than the miners of the 19th century. Before they extracted an ounce of gold or silver, they invested in reclaiming the land, addressing historic tailings, and improving essential infrastructure throughout Gold Hill and American Flat. It was the first time the Comstock saw large-scale environmental restoration tied directly to renewed mining activity.

This commitment to responsible development helped reestablish safe, modern mining on the Lode while honoring the region's legacy. Roads were upgraded. Drainage and flood-control systems were reinforced. Historic features were preserved. The result was a mining operation built with the past in mind but firmly grounded in the values of the present and a vision for the future.

As the company grew, so did its vision. That evolution—rooted in the same stewardship the region was built on—eventually gave rise to Comstock Inc., now a publicly traded Nevada-based innovator under the ticker LODE. Today, Comstock Inc. focuses on advanced technologies that extract, process and convert under-utilized waste and natural resources into clean energy products across multiple industries. But importantly, Comstock Mining still exists as a core subsidiary, continuing its work on the historic Comstock while contributing to the broader mission of responsible resource utilization.

For many in Virginia City, the renewed activity on the hillsides wasn't just a sign of industry returning—it was a reminder that the Comstock's story is still being written. The clang of equipment, the sight of reclamation crews, the steady hum of progress—these sounds echoed a familiar spirit, even if the tools looked different.

Because that's the real through-line from the Old Comstock to the New: ingenuity, resilience, and reinvention. The 1800s miners used pickaxes and grit. Today's teams use data models, environmental science, and precision engineering. But the drive to make something meaningful from this land has never faded.

As we look ahead, the Comstock continues to evolve—not by leaving its past behind, but by building on the values that made this community what it is.

———————————

Next Week — Part 3: "Restoring the Land That Built a Legacy"

A look at how modern reclamation efforts are healing historic mining lands—and how the Comstock is proving that even the most storied landscapes can be renewed.

Three Grants, Three Ways to Shape Virginia City Together

By Alexia Sober

This month, we're pleased to share some good news for Virginia City and the broader Comstock community. The Virginia City Main Street Program has been awarded three grants through the Governor's Office of Economic Development Nevada Main Street Program, each one focused on caring for our historic place while inviting community participation in meaningful, hands-on ways.

Together, these projects reflect a shared belief that preservation, storytelling, and economic vitality work best when they are shaped by the people who live and work here.

Façade Improvement Grant

The Façade Improvement Grant launches Virginia City's first Main Street Façade

Improvement Program, offering matching grants to property owners and businesses along the Main Street corridor. The program will support historically appropriate exterior improvements—such as paint, windows, doors, signage, and architectural details—while reinforcing the long-term vitality of local businesses.

Designed to work in coordination with the Comstock Historic District Commission, this program is intended to grow over time into a sustainable, community-centered preservation tool. It focuses on visible change, shared stewardship, and reinvestment in the buildings that define Virginia City's streetscape.

Virginia City Street Scene Grant – "Then & Now" Exhibit

The Street Scene Grant brings history directly into public space through a new "Then & Now" Street Scene Exhibit. Large, translucent panels will be installed at locations where historic photographs were originally taken, allowing past and present to align in real time.

These installations are designed to be outdoor, walkable, and accessible—placing history back into the streets rather than behind walls. Community members will play a role in shaping image selection, locations, stories, and interpretation, turning Main Street into a living, open-air experience that highlights everyday Comstock life and shared memory.

Sazerac Lying Club Grant – Comstock Tall Tales

The Sazerac Lying Club Grant supports the launch of the Sazerac Lying Club:

Comstock Tall Tales Competition, an annual storytelling event rooted in a real Virginia City tradition. Inspired by the historic Sazerac Saloon and Nevada's long-standing tall-tale culture, the project celebrates humor, exaggeration, and storytelling passed down across generations—without reinterpreting history.

The event will be open to locals, merchants, students, and visitors, with multiple

divisions and an emphasis on creativity, delivery, and connection to Storey County. At its heart, the project is about keeping a living tradition active, shared, and community-driven.

These three grants reflect the steady leadership of the Main Street / Chamber Board, along with the growing support of local businesses, volunteers, and partners who helped shape these projects and are prepared to support their success.

Most importantly, these projects are not meant to happen for the community—they are meant to happen with it. Residents, business owners, artists, storytellers, historians, students, and neighbors are invited to participate, contribute ideas, help guide decisions, support installations, and bring these efforts to life.

More details and opportunities to get involved will be shared in the weeks ahead.

Information will also be posted at www.storeycountychamberofcommerce.com, where community members can follow progress and learn how to participate.

These grants represent more than funding—they are an invitation to shape Virginia City's next chapter together.

PIKE STREET, cont'd from page 5

conquest. It was settlement. Men, women, and children moving across the continent, planting themselves, and building lives from Missouri to San Francisco, with Dayton sitting right on the route between worlds.

And that's where Pike Street starts to look different to me.

If Dayton's main corridor road was shaped by emigrant traffic, stage routes, and the flow of people west, and if the term "Pike" was already culturally loaded in the 1800s as shorthand for those emigrants, then I think it's possible that "Pike Street" preserved that old language: a street named not after a fish, and not after Colorado's rush, but after the archetypal emigrants, the "Pike County men", who helped populate and reshape the American West.

Still, this is exactly why books and original sources matter. If you try to research this question online, you'll get scattered fragments, partial explanations, repeated guesses, and modern summaries that often lose the meaning of the older language. The closer you get to original texts, early records, and firsthand accounts, the clearer the picture becomes, and the harder it is for later retellings to bend the story into whatever narrative is fashionable at the moment.

The Comstock era had so many newspapers for a reason: every editor had a viewpoint, every paper had an agenda, and even then people argued about what was "true." If you want to learn the Comstock and the world around it, I recommend going as close to original sources as possible, Mark Twain, Dan De Quille, Alf Doten, and yes, C. C. Goodwin. Because those voices preserve a texture that doesn't survive in simplified modern retellings.

And if we can finally pin down the earliest use of "Pike Street" in Dayton, when it first appears on paper, and what it might have been called before, then we may be able to say with confidence whether Pike Street was named for a person, a road, a place, or for the "Gentleman from Pike" themselves.

But I prefer it my way, I think I'll continue to believe that Pike Street is named in honor of the "Gentleman from Pike". That is, of course, unless we can find some more first hand accounts and documentations.

LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS

APPLICATION FOR WATER NO. 94820

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 17th day of November 2025 Hiatt Land & Development Co. Ltd., a Nevada limited liability company, formed 9/2/1997 of Fallon, Nevada made application to the State Engineer of Nevada for permission to change the point of diversion and place of use of 0.066 c.f.s., 47 a.f.a., a portion of water heretofore appropriated under Permit 77614. Water will be diverted from an underground source at a point located within the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 36, T20N, R22E, MDB&M, or at a point from which the SE corner of said Section 36 bears S 70 degrees 15 minutes 16 seconds E, a distance of 3,229.74 feet (approx. 1.3 miles SE of the intersection of US Hwy 80 and State Route 439, McCarran, NV). Water will be used for quasi-municipal purposes from January 1st to December 31st of each year. The existing point of diversion was located within the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Sec2tion 15, T19N, R21E, MDB&M, or at a point from which the W1/4 corner of said Section 15 bears S 32 degrees 57 minutes 49 seconds W, a distance of 1,575.29 feet. Water was used for quasi-municipal purposes from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Chris Thorson, P.E.

Acting State Engineer

CT/mh

Date of first publication: 12/26/2025

Date of last publication: 1/16/2026

APPLICATION FOR WATER NO. 94821

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on the 17th day of November 2025 Hiatt Land & Development Co. Ltd., a Nevada limited liability company, formed 9/2/1997 of Fallon, Nevada made application to the State Engineer of Nevada for permission to change the point of diversion and place of use of 0.008 c.f.s., 6 a.f.a., of water heretofore appropriated under Permit 87298. Water will be diverted from an underground source at a point located within the SE1/4 SW1/4 of Section 36, T20N, R22E, MDB&M, or at a point from which the SE corner of said Section 36 bears S 70 degrees 15 minutes 16 seconds E, a distance of 3,229.74 feet (approx. 1.3 miles SE of the intersection of US Hwy 80 and SR439, Storey County, NV). Water will be used for quasi-municipal purposes from January 1st to December 31st of each year. The existing point of diversion was located within the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 15, T19N, R21E, MDB&M, or at a point from which the W1/4 corner of said Section 15 bears S 32 degrees 57 minutes 49 seconds W, a distance of 1,575.29 feet. Water was used for quasi-municipal purposes from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Chris Thorson, P.E.
Acting State Engineer

CT/mh

Date of first publication: 1/2/2026

Date of last publication: 1/23/2026

NOTICE OF PASSAGE
BILL 147 ORDINANCE 25-335

TITLE: An ordinance amending Storey County Code Chapter 6.04 Dogs, to reduce licensing fees, update policies and procedures to reflect current standards and more humane practices and encourage increased public compliance with dog licensing requirements.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bill 147 Ordinance 25-335 was adopted and passed on January 6, 2026, during the Storey County Commissioners Meeting, at the Storey County Courthouse, Virginia City, Nevada.

VOTE:

AYE: Chairman Jay Carmona
AYE: Vice-Chairman Clay Mitchell
AYE: Commissioner Gilman

A copy of Bill 147 Ordinance 25-335 has been filed with the Storey County Clerk located in the Storey County Courthouse, Virginia City, Nevada, and is available for inspection by all interested parties.

ATTEST:

Jim Hindle
Storey County Clerk

Jay Carmona
Chairman of the Board
Storey County Commission
Publication dates: 1/9/2026, and 1/16/2026

Muckers Off to Strong Start at Home

By Luke Branson

Both Boys and Lady Muckers pulled off wins against the Coleville Wolves in the first league game of the 25-26 season on Jan. 3 in front of a home crowd.

The Lady Muckers headed into halftime down 1 point, but came out blazing in the third quarter, scoring 27 points to the Wolves' 9.

Helping lead the Lady Muckers was Tesla Turley with 19 points and six rebounds, and Danika Baker with an impressive 11-point, 20-rebound, double-double.

They secured the W with a final score of 56-43.

As for the boys, they rolled through the Wolves pretty easily, putting up a season-high 76 points.

Top performers for the Muckers were Luke Branson with a 31-point, 12-rebound double-double, and Derek McCoy with 13 points, eight assists, and six steals.

The Muckers captured a 76-27 win over the Wolves.

Both teams will travel to Nixon, Nevada, on Tuesday, Jan. 6, to play the rival Pyramid Lake Lakers.

Entertainment Calendar

DAYTON

Dayton High School
Jan 12: Presale ends for Father-Daughter Masquerade Ball, entry with dinner included. Event is on Feb 7. Buy tickets at DHSBC.org

Weekly: family-friendly square dancing Thursday evenings with Dayton Silver Squares, 6:30 pm - 8 pm. Contact jimrenfree@msn.com or (775) 781-0673

Dayton Valley Branch Library
January: Story time every Friday at 10 am

Check out the library calendar for yoga, bridge, and other classes each month!

Dayton Valley Community Center
Monday Bingo – Historical Society of Dayton Valley. Doors at 5 pm, Bingo at 6 pm

Jan 15: HSDV presents "From the Frontier to Capital: The Making of Carson City" with speakers Liz and Gary Cain, 7 pm; free, open to all

Jan 22: Dayton Main Street public meeting to discuss DMS efforts to revitalize Old Town Dayton while preserving its history, starts at 6:30 pm.

Dayton Valley Golf Club
Jan 5-31: Ahead of Valentine's Day, purchase raffle tickets for a Round of Golf for Two and support our local Kiwanis Club. tinyurl.com/daytonkiwanisstore

The Odeon
Jan 9: Captain Kirk classic rock & soul, blues, modern country - 6 pm - 9 pm

Jan 10: Red Flannel Flashback, 7 pm - 10 pm

Jan 17: Wild West Poker Night to support DHS Booster Club, starts at 4 pm. Buy tickets at the Odeon or online at DHSBC.org

Jan 21: Paint and Sip, 6 pm

GOLD HILL

Gold Hill Hotel & Saloon
Jan 1-21: Crown Point Restaurant and Bar closed

Jan 22: Haunted Ghost Tour

Jan 23: Annual Winter Wine Dinner, seating is at 6 pm. Tickets at goldhillhotel.net

LOCKWOOD

Lockwood Senior Center
Jan 14: Mobile Harvest, 10 am - 11 am

Jan 21: Lockwood Flood Evacuation Drill Recap Town Hall, 5:30 pm

Fridays: Food pantry, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Rainbow Bend Clubhouse
Jan 20: Canyon GID Meeting, 6 pm

SILVER SPRINGS

Silver Springs Senior Center
Jan 7-Feb 11: Caregiver Support Services Class, weekly for six weeks, on Wednesdays, 10 am - 11:30 am and 12:30 pm - 2 pm. Please contact Lyon County Human Services to sign up: 775-577-5009 ext. 3324

STAGECOACH

Prospector Pizza
Jan 9: Rose Creek Pizzeria will reopen as Prospector Pizza @ 5925 Apache Dr, Stagecoach

Stagecoach Bingo
Every Saturday, doors open at 4 pm

VIRGINIA CITY

Bonanza Saloon
Friday Live Music, 7 - 11 pm

Saturdays Live Music
12 - 4 pm, 7 - 11 pm

Bucket of Blood
Saturday and Sunday, David John & The Comstock Cowboys, 2 pm - 6 pm

Cider House at Canvas Cafe
Saturdays, Canyon White Live
Typically 12 - 2 pm but times may vary

Delta Saloon
Thursday, Sunday, Monday NFL action live on the big screen

Historic Fourth Ward School Museum
Jan 9-Apr 30: Winter hours
Friday-Monday, 11 am - 3 pm

Ponderosa Saloon
Friday Karaoke & Dance Party, 8 pm - 12 am

Saturday Live Music, 8 pm - 12 am

Red Dog Saloon
Jan 9: Cat & Dagger - featuring Adam Bishop and Kelsey Michelle, 7 pm

Jan 10: Nevada Highway Band, 7 pm

Jan 14: Trish Good hosts open mic/jam, 7 pm

Jan 16: Chaser - The Rebekah Chase Duo, 7 pm

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

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Food Bank: 2nd Wednesday each month, 10 am - 12 pm

Tahoe House Hotel
Fridays: Live Music, 7 pm

Alternating Saturdays:
Open Mic and Karaoke, 7 pm

Washoe Club
Ghost tours daily, run every hour from 12 pm - 5 pm
Check in early for reservations

Page 11 Sudoku Answer

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

Page 11 Crossword Answer

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

Nevada's First Dance

By Laura Tennant

On Dec. 31, 1853, at the mouth of Gold Canyon, on the original California Trail where Nevada's first gold was found in July 1849, the once obscure site on the lower Gold Canyon Creek was where Nevada's first dance was held, and where Dayton first grew into a booming milling town in the 1860s.

According to pioneer Fannie Gore Hazlett's memoirs of life in 1849-1857 Dayton in the "Historical and Reminiscent Sketch of Dayton, Nevada" published in the Nevada Historical Society Papers of 1921-22, Nevada's first dance was held in Dayton on Dec. 31, 1853. Fannie wrote:

"As in all the pioneer mining communities there was dearth of women. In the summer of 1853, outside of the Carson Valley (this area was known as the Carson Valley Bottom then,) Mrs. McMarlin, Mrs. Walter Cosser and the wife of the blacksmith were the only women in Western Utah, what this area was called."

Since the name of the blacksmith's wife was unknown, doing more research, the NHS staff had added the blacksmith's name in Italics in a postscript.

"One authority says this woman was the wife of Henry Vansickle, but another of this historic time written by Myron Angel, author of the Thompson and West History of Nevada 1881, says her husband's name was Thos. Pitt, the blacksmith there in 1853."

Continued Hazlett: "Mrs. Cosser had a twelve year old daughter, and late that year a new family had arrived which boasted several members of the fair sex. Perhaps, it was the latter encouragement that decided the citizens to celebrate the advent of the new year by a dance in the upper story of Spafford Halls's log-cabin store. It is recorded that three women did not attend the dance and the blacksmith's wife had gone to California. Still, the women and girls at the dance numbered nine and ranged in ages of ten years and up so some of them came a long distance and represented three-quarters of the fair sex in Western Utah. Indians were welcomed as partners and probably, one of these was the Princess Sarah Winnemucca who habitually attended the dances held in Johntown later. (Her father was chief of the Paiutes and had been named "Onemucca" by two white trappers because they saw him wearing one moccasin. Glorying in the appellation, he had adopted it, and had sanctioned its corruption to "Winnemucca," or "Winnemuck")."

Another source in Thompson & West, History of Nevada 1881, said, "Old Mrs. Mott attended too." (Would not want to leave any historic names out of the fun to be had at Nevada's first New Years Eve dance!)

The First Barbecue

"In strong contrast to the nine women guests at the party were the approximate 150 men, gathered from far and near, and representing the occupations of miner, rancher, or station keeper. The Paiute Indians of Western Utah were also bent on celebrating the pale-face New Year, for down at Chalk Hills near Mound House, the next morning the first recorded barbecue in Nevada was held and the dancers of New Years Eve were short two horses, while the rest of the animals were in peril of similar treatment. However, it is recorded that all the later were duly rescued from the Indians who had driven them off from the settlement the evening before," Fanny Hazlett wrote in her book.

Unregistered Sex Offender Arrested in Dayton, Dies While Being Transported to Jail

Lyon County Sheriff's Office

Silver Springs, NV – On Dec. 31, 2025, the Lyon County Sheriff's Office Sex Offender Task Force responded to a residence in the Dayton area following an anonymous tip regarding a convicted sex offender who had failed to register as required by law. Members of the Task Force located the individual and placed the subject under arrest for failure to register as a sex offender.

The subject was transported from the Dayton area to the Lyon County Jail for booking. While en route, the transporting deputy stopped at the Silver Springs Substation to adjust the subject's restraints. Upon arrival at the substation, the deputy discovered the subject to be unresponsive.

Deputies immediately removed the subject from the vehicle and initiated CPR. Central Lyon Fire personnel arrived on scene and assumed lifesaving efforts. Despite these efforts, the subject was pronounced deceased.

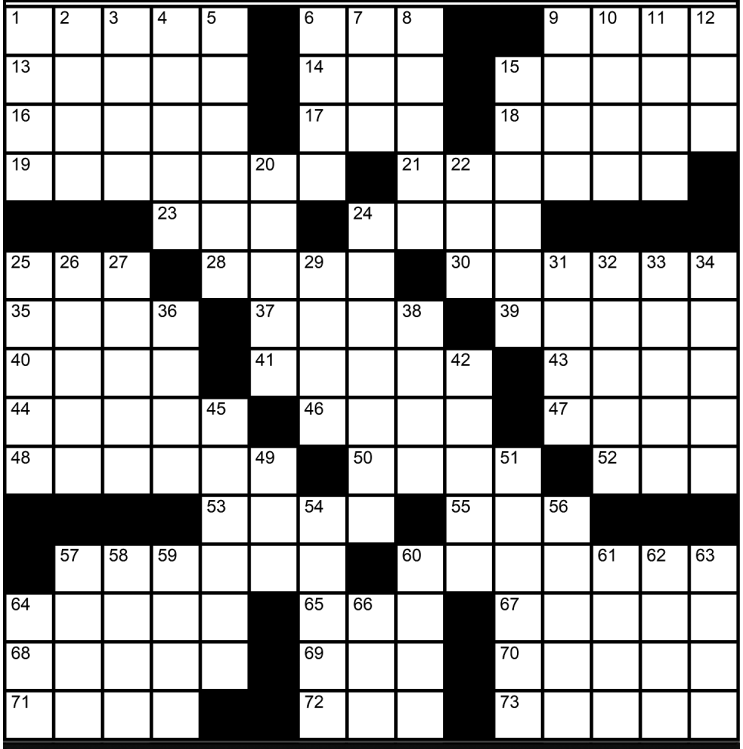
Pursuant to the Regional Critical Incident Investigation Protocol, the Carson City Sheriff's Office and the Nevada State Police, Investigations Division will conduct the investigation into the death.

The identity of the subject will be withheld pending notification of next of kin. This is preliminary information. As additional or new information becomes available, the information will be released in a timely manner.

Jeffrey S. Miller
Central Commander
Lyon County Sheriff's Office

Visit www.thecomstockchronicle.com for the January 2026 Lyon County Senior Center Menus

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU

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

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.

Crossword Answer on Page 9

Sudoku Answer on Page 9

THEME: THE GRAMMYS

ACROSS
1. Inundated
6. Word before humbug
9. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
13. Rough, as in voice
14. Kimono sash
15. Misrepresent
16. Do like ivy
17. Go for the bronze?
18. Poem of lament
19. *Grammy nominee Bad Bunny's first language
21. *KPop Demon Hunters' nominated song
23. Sought at crime scene
24. Lord's worker
25. Rob Manfred's org.
28. Jab, in speech
30. *___.com Arena
35. Rowboat engine, pl.
37. ___ gum, ingredient
39. Cowboy's cry of joy
40. Big attraction
41. Spring holiday honoree
43. Live bait
44. Daytime moth
46. Puerto follower
47. Finger move
48. Colonnade
50. Invitation letters
52. "Zip it!"
53. Trash bag brand
55. Polar helper
57. *Lady Gaga's nominated album
60. *Tyler of CHROMAKOPIA, with The
64. Prejudiced one
65. Busy one
67. Do penance
68. Approves
69. Make a mistake
70. Sans-___ font
71. "I, Claudius" role
72. Jack and Jill did this
73. Changes to a manuscript

DOWN
1. Parentheses, e.g.
2. "Star Trek" speed
3. Away from port
4. Not be frugal
5. What TikTokers are often doing
6. This and that
7. Legal grp.
8. Door holder
9. Mix together
10. Away from wind
11. Leo or Libra, e.g.
12. *Wonder's "Songs in the ___ of Life," Album of Year (1977)
15. Where bats are?
20. Eurasian goat-like antelope
22. Middle-earth dweller
24. Pelican or albatross, e.g.
25. Person in an ad
26. One of Florida Keys
27. Health food pioneer of liquid aminos fame
29. *Nominated "Drop Dead Years" comedian Bill ___
31. Swerves
32. Sound units
33. Synagogue scroll
34. Zing or pizzazz
36. *Justin Bieber's nominated song
38. Fabled fliers
42. Red one, send somebody over!
45. Unalienable ones are in the Declaration of Independence
49. Draft pick
51. Give satisfaction
54. Spot for prehistoric fly
56. Doomed
57. *MCA, Ad-Rock and ___ D, Grammy-winning Beastie Boys
58. Culture-growing turf
59. Walk-the-dog toy
60. What concerning and discernable have in common
61. *Nine-time Grammy-nominated Amos
62. Fonzie's comeback: "Sit ___ ___"
63. Whistle blowers
64. *___ Iver of SABLE, fABLE fame
66. Historical period

Where to find the Comstock Chronicle

DAYTON
Dayton Shell
The Odeon
Dayton Area Chamber
Gold Ranch
Casino Restaurant

VIRGINIA CITY/ SILVER CITY
Virginia City Station
VC Visitor's Center
VC USPS box
Silver City USPS box