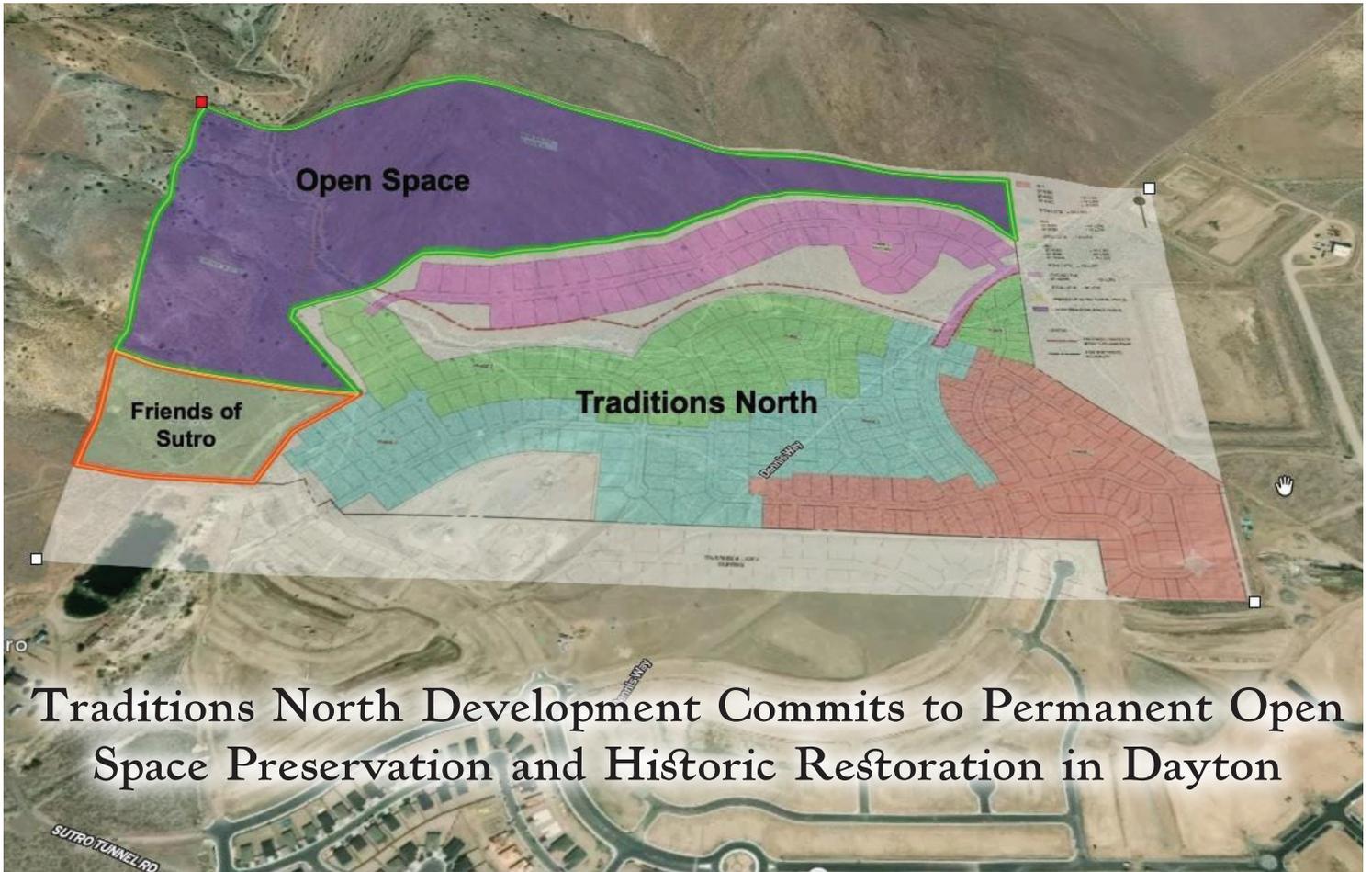


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THE Comstock Chronicle

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.

Boys & Girls Club Breaks Ground on Dayton Early Learning Center

Article by Steph Norby

Big things are happening for little learners in Dayton. Dirt is officially being pushed – and concrete poured – for the new Boys & Girls Club Early Learning Center (ELC), a long-anticipated addition that will expand youth services to 64 of Dayton Valley’s youngest children.

The new building will sit right next to the existing Boys & Girls Club clubhouse, creating a single, connected campus that will help more families in the area.

“It’s really, really, really exciting that kids in Dayton are soon going to be able to be Boys & Girls Club members from infancy all the way through high school graduation,” said Director of Development for Boys & Girls Club of Mason Valley Nick Beaton.

Currently, the Dayton clubhouse serves youth ages 5 to 18, and a small pilot preschool program is operating with 12 children. That pilot helped the organization confirm what many parents already knew – early childhood care is in high demand.

In 2025, Dayton had roughly 100 licensed childcare spots



Photo via Boys & Girls Club of Mason Valley

for a community with three elementary schools. When Boys & Girls Club reached out to existing providers, the response was not concern about competition – it was relief. Waiting lists were long, and the need was clear.

The new Dayton ELC is designed to help meet that demand without undercutting other providers. Instead, the goal is collaboration and support—offering high-quality care with extended hours that better reflect the reality of Dayton area families, many of whom commute long distances for work.

“We’re not going to come in and undercut on fees,” explained Beaton. “We’re not

going to come in and blow everybody out of the water on pay. We want to help solve the situation and not take kids from any other daycare there.”

Construction is currently on schedule, and if all continues to go well, waiting list registration is expected to open mid-Spring before the planned opening in Q3 2026. While final operating hours have not been officially set, the team is hoping for expanded hours similar to the clubhouse.

The Dayton ELC is part of a statewide initiative – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) approved in April 2024 for \$16.7 million – with 14 total projects, collaborating with seven independent Boys & Girls Clubs. The Dayton ELC was allocated \$3.5 million for ground up construction.

Beyond bricks and mortar, this project represents something bigger: continuity, stability, and opportunity for local families. With separate, age-appropriate spaces as kids grow, the Boys & Girls Club is creating a place where Dayton’s youngest residents can start strong—and stay supported for years to come.



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Now Let's Get Your Story Out!

PINE NUTS

By *McAvoy Layne*
The Ghost of Mark Twain

I'm excited to be collaborating with celebrated author Michael Archer on a pictorial essay we're calling, Now Let's Get Your Story Out!

Michael wrote the book on Bill Raggio, and is in possession of a very sharp sardonic but kind sense of humor that can cast mirth upon most any subject.

The first part of our essay is to encourage the performance art of Chautauqua as an alternative to screen time. Chautauqua is destined to diminish adverse effects of our modern-day smart phone in this age of AI. Our people are craving eye contact, subtle signals of body language, and the warm sound of a live human voice...

So we would ask you to start thinking about who you might like to be. History is so much more interesting when presented firsthand, and you can put some muscle and blood into the telling of the story. You might be thinking, "I could never do that," but you could, if you found it to be an interesting challenge, which is exactly what will happen...

And then, let's get your story out! We all have a good one to tell, and you only need to do two things. One, read good

books. "The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them." So whenever you have a choice of two things to read, let's say between social media and a good book, try to remember that quote from our old friend Mark Twain. Just this morning I stopped for coffee, and while looking around, saw this headline on the cover of a tabloid, "Woman Pigs Out on Five Gallons of Haagen-Dazs and Freezes to Death!"

Reading social media is like eating cotton candy for breakfast, you have nothing to build on, but when you read a good book you have ideals and ideas, and that good book can bring out your best instincts, and good things can happen for you when you read good books."

Now the other thing you need to do is to provide yourself with some solitude, that is to say a place where you cannot be interrupted by a person or a text. Only then can you engage the critical thinking, the creative thinking necessary to unleash your imagination and let it work its magic.

If you do those two things, read good books and provide yourself with some solitude, your story will jump out just like

that Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County. It might not come out in book form, it might emerge as a screen play or a song or a poem, but it will jump out, and people will be glad to see it...

We shall leave the last word here to Mark Twain: "There is only time for love, and but an instant, so to speak, for that."

So now you have a sneak preview of Michael and my pictorial essay coming soon to a Thrift Shop near you...



Dayton Boy Black Powder Burn Injuries

Lyon County Sheriff's Office

At about 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 30, Lyon County Deputies and Central Lyon County Fire Protection District responded to the area of Flowery Avenue and Rose Peak Road for an 11-year-old boy who had burned himself.

Upon arriving, emergency medical personnel and deputies located a young boy who had been playing with some black powder. During that time, it had exploded causing moderate

injuries to his face. After questioning the family, the powder was found in a small tin by their son who was playing in the backyard. The young boy was flown to UC Davis Burn Center with moderate injuries. At this time, there is not threat to the public.

Commander A. Ortiz
Dayton Substation Western Command
Lyon County Sheriff's Office



Photo via LCSO



King's Corner

By Jeff Headley

Can you recognize the opportunity waiting for you—or does it look too much like work to bother with?

In the summer of 1859, miners in Dayton, Nevada thought they were chasing gold. For nearly four weeks after June 8, they sifted creek beds and mountain soil, tossing aside a heavy, sticky “blue mud” that clogged their tools, slowed their progress, and tested their patience. Gold was the prize. Gold was easy to separate. Gold was worth ten times more than silver.

The problem was, there wasn't much gold.

Day after day, the miners worked and failed. They dug, panned, carried, and sorted, only to come up short again. Each evening ended the same way—tired bodies, dirty hands, and empty pans. It's one thing to fail quickly. It's another to fail slowly, honestly, and repeatedly, while doing everything you know how to do.

They hadn't come all that way to be mediocre miners. They hadn't endured the journey just to discover they weren't very good at this. The temptation must have been strong to conclude that nothing worthwhile was there at all—or worse, that they were the problem.

But failure doesn't always mean nothing is happening. Sometimes it means something is being learned.

The miners weren't foolish; they were committed. They weren't lazy; they were persistent. What they failed to recognize was that the value they were looking for didn't look the way they expected. The heavy blue mud they kept discarding—the nuisance slowing everything down—was silver ore. And not just a little. There was nearly ten times as much silver as gold.

In the meantime, they were literally repairing streets and filling potholes with what would soon

make them wealthy.

Gold is cooperative. You pan for it, and it politely separates from the dirt. Silver is not. It bonds with almost anything and requires chemical processing to free it. It's tempting to focus on the rare, easy win right in front of you, even when surrounded by abundant potential that simply demands more effort.

Sometimes the harshness of the challenge hides the opportunity.

Back then, the difficulty wasn't just underground. Many who came here from California endured long treks over unforgiving mountain trails, only to climb Mount Davidson and discover there was little housing, poor shelter, and a lack of basic necessities. Mining itself was grueling work, especially if you tried to do it alone.

But Nevada had something unusual going for it. In most mining regions, wealth lies deep underground and requires large teams and significant resources. That's why so many mining towns grew large—they had to. Here, the climate concentrated silver into dense gray crusts right on the surface. You could shovel opportunity straight off the ground.

If you were willing to see it—and willing to work.

Have you ever talked with someone and realized that something obvious to you wasn't obvious to them at all? In fact, they'd never even noticed it. We all have blind spots, and we all have sightlines. There are things you naturally see and understand that others miss entirely. That ability isn't accidental. It's a gift. And when you ask God to help you recognize it—and guide how you use it—it can become a compass for your life.

History offers more than one example of difficulty disguising opportunity. In the late 1700s, Franciscan missionaries in California grew muscat grapes to



make wine. When silver was later discovered near Six Mile Canyon, the whole western region suffered a devastating drought. Everywhere grapes withered on the vine. The missionaries prayed, convinced they were about to lose everything.

Then one of them had an idea.

They took the shriveled grapes into town and sold them as locally grown “Peruvian delicacies.” That small pivot became the beginning of the Sun-Maid Raisin Company. What looked like failure turned out to be the product.

Sometimes the turning point is simply asking God how to respond, rather than reacting.

My dad, Mark King, had a knack for that.

Before moving here, he worked as an electrician at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento. The base had countless narrow alleys between buildings that made convenient shortcuts. One day, Mark parked his van in one while loading up after finishing a job. A jeep pulled up behind him and couldn't get through. The driver leaned hard on the horn.

Mark tried to start the van. Nothing.

The horn continued—louder, longer, and with growing enthusiasm.

Mark finally walked back, motioned for the driver to roll down his window, and handed him the keys. “If you'd like to try starting my van,” he said, “I'll stay back here and lean on your horn.”

There was a pause—then a roar of laughter from the back seat. The passenger turned out to be the base commander. He told his driver to find another route, and before long, they were all friends.

The situation didn't change. Mark did.

If you're willing to ask God to help you see what you uniquely see, to handle situations with grace instead of frustration, and to let Him shape who you're becoming, you may discover that the dense gray crusts in your own life aren't obstacles at all.

They might just be the opportunity you've been overlooking.

Jeff Headley is pastor of the Dayton Valley Community Church, and a storyteller who blends humor, honesty, and hope. His weekly column reflects on resilience, grace, and the surprising ways faith shows up in ordinary life.

Sunday, Feb. 8 • 10:00am

“The Fine Art of Mountain Moving” • Jeff Headley



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Dayton's First Lady of Dentistry

Chris Pattison - Proprietor of The Odeon, Dayton

Before Dayton was known for mining, mills, and mischief, it had a woman with a drill and a dream.

Meet Helen Rulison Shipley, born right here in Dayton on Jul. 23, 1870, and destined to become Nevada's first female dentist.

In an era when women were expected to sew, not scrape plaque, Helen packed her bags for the big city, graduating from the University of California, San Francisco in the 1890s with a degree in dentistry, a first for any Nevadan woman.

She opened her practice among the rough-and-tumble mining camps of Goldfield and Tonopah, where the average patient was a miner with more gold dust in his gums than teeth in his mouth. Imagine a petite woman in a long skirt, setting up her dental chair between saloons and assay offices, calm, professional, and entirely unfazed by the wild West chaos around her.

When she wasn't fixing frontier smiles, Helen became an advocate for women's education and profes-



Helen Rulison Shipley

sional work. She paved the way for generations of Nevada women to step into roles once thought "impossible."

By the time she retired, she had worked in Reno, raised a family, and proved, one patient at a time, that Dayton women could do anything.

So the next time you're in town, and you see someone flash a confident smile, tip your hat to Helen Rulison Shipley – the woman who made sure Nevada could grin with pride.

Rising from the Rubble: American Flat Mill in Virtual Reality

Chronicle Staff

Howard Goldbaum of All Around Nevada has spent years capturing stunning photographic panoramas of historic and significant sites all over the Silver State. Thanks to his work, you can explore places that might otherwise be out of reach—whether because of distance, accessibility, or the simple fact that they no longer exist.

One virtual tour that recently caught our eye is his immersive look at the American Flat Mill.

According to the Bureau of Land Management, the mill was

constructed in 1922 and sprawled across an impressive 29 acres. The complex included eight buildings and a remarkable 10,000-foot tunnel used by electric trains to haul ore and water to the mill. It even connected to two spur lines of the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. At the time, American Flat Mill was the largest of its kind in the world. Like so many ambitious projects of that era, however, its run was short-lived—the mill ceased operations just four years later, in 1926.

Though the mill itself shut

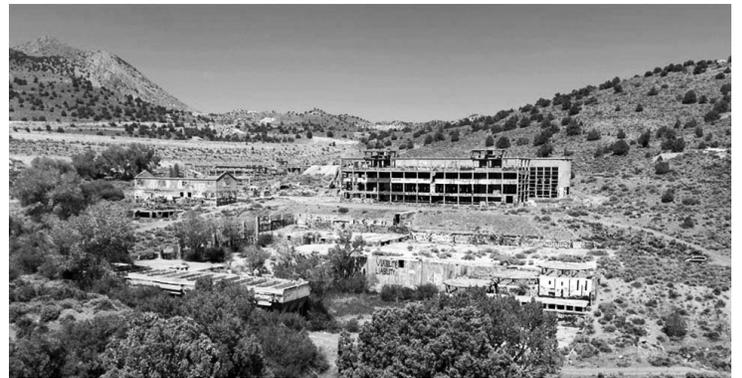


Photo via All Around Nevada

down early, its ruins endured until 2014. For decades, the site served as a hauntingly beautiful backdrop for artists, photographers, and more than a few late-night gatherings. Today, you can relive your own memories—or experience the mill for the first time—through the All Around Nevada virtual tour: allaroundnevada.com/americanflat

Be sure to also explore Goldbaum's virtual tours for Donovan Mill, Sutro Tunnel, and other Comstock wonders. Then, step outside and visit the sites that still remain. It's a powerful way to honor Nevada's past and see firsthand how your neighbors are working to preserve these treasures for the future.



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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.

While You Were Sleeping...

Storey County Sheriff's Office



Photo vis SCSO

On Jan. 28, 2026, at approximately 2:51 a.m., Storey County Sheriff's Office deputies were dispatched to a report of a hit and run crash located in the Tahoe Reno industrial Center.

Upon arrival, the victim provided deputies with a description of the suspect vehicle. Deputies located the vehicle on Waltham Way. Deputies attempted to contact the driver, when the vehicle sped away at a high rate of speed. Deputies pursued and observed the vehicle attempt to make a u-turn, when it lost control and crashed into a fence (someone thought they could drive better than they could).

Deputies located and made contact with the driver, Alexander Chavez (age 38 of Reno, Nevada), hiding near the scene in a bush (like that is a good hiding spot?). Chavez refused commands to exit the bush with his hands showing (not a good decision).

Chavez resisted being detained (also not a good decision). After he was detained, Chavez attempted to kick deputies (really not a good

decision). Chavez was placed into the back seat of a patrol car, at which time he kicked the interior, breaking a light on the ceiling (he's just not learning, the bad decisions continue).

Deputies observed Chavez to have open alcohol containers in his vehicle and was allegedly required to have a court ordered breath interlock device, which was not installed in the vehicle. Deputies observed Chavez to exhibit signs of impairment (oops).

Chavez was placed under arrest and transported to the Storey County Detention Facility on the following charges:

- NRS 484B.550.3B Elude peace officer
- NRS 200.471.2D Assault on protected person by prisoner
- NRS 484C.470 Interlock device required
- NRS 484B.150.2 Open alcohol container in vehicle
- NRS 484C.110 DUI, 1st offense
- NRS 206.010 Damage to property, \$25 to \$250

STOREY COUNTY PATROL STATISTICS: 2025 IN REVIEW

Calls for Service	8,617
Traffic Stops	10,436
Total Incidents	27,673
Deputy Initiated Incidents	19,056
Cases/Reports	1,640
Citations	3,896
Arrests	701
Detention Center Bookings	690
Detention Center Releases	695
Sexual Offenders Overseen	172
K9 full-time unit deployments	62
<small>*Unit created in May 2025, K9s in handler school for a time after creation</small>	
K9 reserve unit	Unknown 2025 stats at time of print

*SCSO and LCSO stats came from separate sources and may be defined differently based on the county. Please contact the Sheriff's Offices directly for questions and clarifications.

LYON COUNTY PATROL STATISTICS: 2025 IN REVIEW

Calls for Service (LCSO Dispatch)	55,965
Traffic Stops (All Lyon County)	10,960
Total Incidents	1,629
OTS Stops	2,820
OTS Citations	1,183
OTS Arrests	104
STET Stops	344
STET Citations	204
Detention Facility Bookings	1,629
Detention Facility Releases	2,011
Sexual Offenders Overseen	249
K9 unit deployments	286
Search & Rescue	12,985 logged hours + 70 calls for service

*Special Investigations Division, Major Crimes and other divisions/patrol entities not reflected in these numbers. Please see full annual report: www.lcsonv.com/annual-reports

LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS LEGALS

APPLICATION FOR WATER NO. 94830

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&M. Water will be used for wildlife purposes (cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout) as decreed. Water was used as decreed.

Chris Thorson, P.E.
Acting State Engineer

CT/mh
Date of first publication: 1/16/2026
Date of last publication: 2/6/2026

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Photo taken during the November 2025 Lockwood Town Hall.

Lockwood Town Hall Reviews Flood Evacuation Drill, Identifies Next Steps

Article and photo by Julia Moreno-Fritz

County officials and residents gathered last week for a Lockwood Town Hall meeting to review a flood evacuation drill conducted in December 2025 and discuss lessons learned from the exercise.

About 30 community members and 12 county staff attended the meeting, which focused on public safety outcomes and opportunities to improve future evacuation efforts.

Emergency Management officials said the drill was successful overall, citing strong participation and positive feedback from both residents and staff stationed at the public evacuation site. Observations from the exercise helped confirm that current procedures are effective while also highlighting areas that could be strengthened.

Several improvement items were discussed, including clearer signage at evacuation centers, placing staff at entry points when staffing levels allow, and identifying additional accessible parking closer to evacuation

buildings.

County officials also shared plans to continue similar preparedness exercises in other Storey County communities. Future drills will vary by location and disaster type as the program expands. Mock evacuation drills are planned later this year for Virginia City, Gold Hill, and the Mark Twain community.

Residents were reminded to review and update their Smart911 profiles annually to ensure emergency responders have accurate contact and household information. Assistance is available through the Senior Center or Storey County Emergency Management for those who need help updating their profiles. More information is available at smart911.com.

County staff thanked residents for their participation and feedback, noting that community input plays an important role in strengthening emergency preparedness countywide.

SCSO Recovers \$500K in Stolen Product

Storey County Sheriff's Office

On Jan. 29, 2026, Storey County Sheriff's Office detectives were notified of two stolen semi truck trailers from the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center, which held over \$500,000.00 in product.

SCSO detectives initiated an investigation (are our detectives world famous yet?), coordinating with the owner of the trailers. With the assistance of Sparks Police Department (team work makes the dream work), the trailers were located in an industrial area in Sparks, Nevada. Detectives, in coordination with Sparks Police Department and the Regional Crime Suppression Unit, began to conduct surveillance on the trailers.

On Jan. 30, 2026, a SCSO detective conducting surveillance (secret squirrel style) observed a semi truck and a passenger vehicle approach one of the stolen trailers, hook up to it, and proceed to drive away from the area. Sparks Police Department patrol officers conducted a traffic stop on the semi truck and the passenger vehicle (cue Bad Boys theme song).

Upon completion of the traffic stop, Sparks Police Department arrested three subjects who were transported to the Washoe County Detention Facility and booked on the following charges:

Arashdeep Singh (age 21 of Fremont, California):



-Possess stolen property, value \$100,000.00 or more (felony)

-Attempt to possess stolen property, value \$100,00.00 or more (felony)

Deepinder Singh (age 26 of Manteca, California):

-Possess stolen property, value \$100,000.00 or more (felony)

-Attempt to possess stolen property, value \$100,00.00 or more (felony)

Harman Pal Singh (age 25 of Lodi, California):

-Possess stolen property, value \$100,000.00 or more (felony)

-Attempt to possess stolen property, value \$100,00.00 or more (felony)

Approximately \$500,000.00 in stolen product was recovered. Storey County Sheriff's Office detectives are continuing to investigate and additional charges are pending (not a good idea to commit crime in Storey County).

We would like to thank the Sparks Police Department and the Regional Crime Suppression Unit for their assistance!

Traditions North Development Commits to Permanent Open Space Preservation and Historic Restoration in Dayton

By Helaine Jesse

GF Development has submitted plans to Lyon County for Traditions North, a thoughtfully designed residential community that balances much-needed housing with a strong commitment to open space preservation, historic stewardship, and long-term community benefit.

Of the approximately 230 acres that make up the Traditions North site, approximately 80 acres will be permanently preserved as open space. This includes a 10.0-acre land donation to Friends of Sutro Tunnel Charity, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to restoring and protecting the historic Sutro Tunnel—one of Nevada's most significant engineering and cultural landmarks.

This donation builds upon the charity's existing 27.94 acres, expanding the Sutro Tunnel Portal Park to 38 acres, significantly enhancing its long-term preservation and public access potential.

Helaine Jesse, Director of the Friends of Sutro Tunnel Charity's Major Gift Campaign, praised the contribution, stating that she "cannot believe the generosity of GF Development." She added that preserving the most visually prominent portion of the site, visible throughout Dayton, is "incredibly important to keeping the Sutro Tunnel's impact on the community intact." Jesse also noted that the



Image via Friends of Sutro Tunnel

distinctive tunnel soil—often mistaken for tailings—is one of the site's most charming features and a key reason so many feel connected to the project.

She emphasized that the donation doubles the charity's footprint, positioning the Sutro Tunnel Portal Park to grow into a site of regional importance.

The donated land will be preserved in perpetuity for open space, historic restoration, and public enjoyment, expanding the protected Sutro Tunnel corridor and supporting ongoing educational and recreational opportunities.

Housing is intentionally clustered within a well-planned footprint, allowing the project

to meet local housing needs while preserving open land, protecting historic resources, and enhancing community character.

The project aligns with Lyon County's long-term planning goals by focusing on development in areas served by existing infrastructure while conserving scenic and culturally significant lands. Trails, natural buffers, and preserved open spaces are integral to the community design.

Traditions North represents a balanced approach to growth in Dayton—demonstrating how housing, historic preservation, and open space conservation can move forward together.

About Traditions North

Traditions North is a proposed residential community in Dayton, Nevada, currently under review by Lyon County, designed to provide diverse housing options while preserving open space and supporting long-term community values.

About Friends of Sutro Tunnel

The Friends of Sutro Tunnel Charity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to preserving & sustaining the historic Sutro Site, honoring its remarkable mining history while transforming into a vibrant destination for tourism, education, & recreation—a treasured landmark for visitors of all ages & generations to come.

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

Muckers Deal Bulldogs First Defeat of Season

By Luke Branson



Photo: Hannah McCoy

The Muckers had a great weekend, coming out 3-1 between both varsity teams.

The boys beat the Coleville Wolves on Friday, Jan. 23 and the previously undefeated Smith Valley Bulldogs on Saturday, Jan. 24.

On Friday, the Muckers breezed past the Wolves 65-30, increasing their win streak to 5 games.

Heading into Saturday, the Muckers were huge underdogs as they had lost to the Bulldogs 26-64 just two weeks before. Not to mention losing to them in the state and regional championships last season.

As the game started, it was clear that the Muckers had a different intensity and hunger to win.

They headed into halftime with an 11-point lead and put their foot on the gas even more in the third quarter, leading by as much as 19.

The starting five for the Muckers didn't get a single sub all game, and you could tell that was wearing on them as the Bulldogs made a run in the fourth quarter.

The boys held on, though, and won the game 59-56.

Key performers from the night were Derek McCoy, who posted 15 points, 8 rebounds, and 5 steals; and Luke Branson with 29 points, 5 steals, and 63% from the three-point line.

The Lady Muckers' weekend was a little different but still a success.

They had a tough game against the Lady Wolves on Friday, and despite Kaiya Krum's 29 points, they lost 56-68.

Rolling into Saturday, the Ladies were in a similar situation as the boys. They lost to the Lady Bulldogs just two weeks ago and were seeking revenge at home.

After a tight first quarter, the Lady Muckers rallied with an impressive 16-6 second quarter, giving them great momentum heading into the second half.

They outscored the Lady Bulldogs in both the third and fourth quarters, ultimately giving them a 57-40 win.

This was in great part to Haylee Walters, who had one of the most impressive games of the season with 40 points, 9

Luke Branson Reaches 1,000 Career Points at Virginia City

By Julia Moreno-Fritz

Virginia City High School senior Luke Branson reached a major milestone Tuesday Jan. 23, 2026, scoring his 1,000th career point during the game and earning a brief stoppage of play to recognize the achievement.

Branson said the moment caught him off guard, even though he knew he was closing in on the mark.

"When I realized I reached 1,000 points, I was pretty surprised," Branson said. "Me and my coach had talked about it a couple weeks before, so I knew I was close, but I had no idea it would happen that game."

After hitting the milestone basket, play stopped while Branson was congratulated and presented with the game ball, a moment he said was especially meaningful.

"That had never happened before at VC, as far as I know," he said. "It was a very special moment and it meant so much to me."

Branson, who has played varsity basketball at Virginia City all four years, said the work behind the milestone began well before high school. He started playing in eighth grade and spent count-

rebounds, 4 steals, and 3 blocks.

Looking ahead, the Muckers have two big games this coming weekend, starting Friday, Jan. 30.

"This weekend's games mean everything for playoff seeding," said head coach Clint Hess. "The goal is to come out of this weekend with a couple of wins

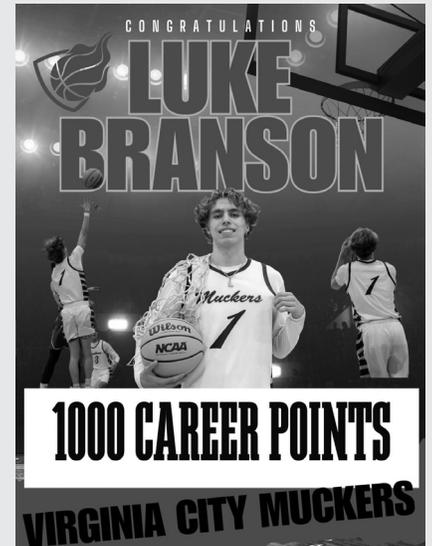


Photo: Hannah McCoy

less hours during the offseason training on the outdoor court in Lockwood with his mentor, Jim.

"We would often work out in the morning and at night, five to six times a week," Branson said. "I credit all my success to those times."

Despite the individual milestone, Branson emphasized a team-first mindset.

"The game is so much bigger than me," he said. "My personal accomplishments mean nothing if we aren't able to put something in the trophy case at the end of the season."

and guarantee us home court advantage for the playoffs."

They will travel to Hawthorne on Friday, Jan. 30 to play the Mineral County Serpents (Girls at 6 p.m. and boys at 7:30 p.m.), and then come home to play the Pyramid Lake Lakers on Saturday, Jan. 31 (Girls at 4 p.m. and boys at 5:30 p.m.).

EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

Events are subject to change; please verify details with event hosts.

DAYTON

Dayton High School

Feb 7: Father Daughter Masquerade Ball, 6pm-10pm. Tickets at tinyurl.com/35bjs3dp

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

Dayton Valley Branch Library

February: Story time every Friday at 10am

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 5pm, Bingo at 6pm

Feb 19: HSDV presents "History and Wonders of Churchill County" with Mel Glover, free to all, doors at 6:30pm

Dayton Valley Golf Club

Feb 8: Super Bowl Party, 3pm. \$20/person, buffet and drink specials, RSVP

Feb 14: Valentine's Date Night, doors at 4:45pm. RSVP with entree choice

Mar 21: Save the Date! Dayton Area Chamber Chili Cookoff, 11am-3pm, register as a cooker or vendor: daytonnvchamber.com/event-6499333

The Odeon

Feb 7: Comedian & Actor Eric Schwartz, shows at 4pm and 8pm

Feb 20: Comedian Bret Ernst, 8pm

Mar 15: Comedian Kevin Farley, shows at 4pm and 7pm

*Check out Odeon on Facebook for ticket information

Sutro Elementary

Feb 12: Canvas, Cocoa, & Community Wellness Night, doors at 5:15pm

GOLD HILL

Gold Hill Hotel & Saloon

Feb 13 & 14: Special Valentine's Sweetheart Menu, RSVP

Feb 26: Dinner & Ghost Tour, tours at 7pm or 8:30pm

LOCKWOOD

Lockwood Senior Center

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

Rainbow Bend Clubhouse

Jan 20: Canyon GID Meeting, 6 pm

Feb 8: First Super Bowl Party, potluck and raffles, doors at 1:30 pm

SILVER CITY

Silver City Schoolhouse

Feb 21: Winter Dance featuring Margret's Funk Band, 7 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

Stagecoach Bingo

Every Saturday, doors open at 4 pm

VIRGINIA CITY

Storey County Chamber of Commerce

Board member nominations open. Become a member today: storeycounty.chamberofcommerce.com

Bonanza Saloon

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

Bucket of Blood

Saturday and Sunday, Live Music, 2 pm

Cider House at Canvas Cafe

Saturdays, Canyon White Live
Typically 12 - 2 pm but times may vary

Delta Saloon and Sawdust

Corner Steakhouse
Sawdust Steakhouse currently closed - stay tuned for reopening details

Historic Fourth Ward School Museum

Jan 9-Apr 30: Winter Season hours
Friday-Monday, 11 am - 3 pm

Feb 14: Annual Valentine's Dance Fundraiser, 6:30 pm

Mackay Mansion

Feb 14: Sweethearts & Spirits Valentine's tea party, 7pm - 9pm, RSVP

Piper's Opera House

Feb 10: Virginia City Monthly Mix & Mingle, 5:30pm - 7pm. Info at storeycounty.chamberofcommerce.com

Ponderosa Saloon

Friday Karaoke & Dance Party, 8 pm
Saturday Live Music, 8 pm

Red Dog Saloon

Mar 28: Nevada Highway Band, 7pm

Silver Queen and Kitchen Sink

Feb 16: Galentine's Night Out, starts at 5pm, \$5 cover

St. Mary's Art Center

Jan 1-Apr 4: Closed for season, private tours & rentals available

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Food Bank: 2nd Wednesday each month in parking lot, 10 am - 12 pm

Tahoe House Hotel

Fridays: Live Music, 7 pm
Alternating Saturdays: Open Mic and Karaoke, 7 pm

V&T Railroad

Feb 14: Murder and Music ... two unique Valentine's themed train rides

Washoe Club

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



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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



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