the GREAT BASIN SUN
Looking Beyond Local
GreatBasinSun.com SECTION B The Week of October 30, 2026

Fenced Out: Fallon Ranchers Fight for Their Family's Future







Top: A still image from the documentary "Fenced Out," which follows the Snow family's dispute over grazing land affected by the Navy's Fallon Range Training Complex expansion. Bottom left: Justin Snow, his father, Gary Snow, and Justin's son, Rostin, work cattle on the grazing allotment. Bottom right: Justin Snow stood near the entrance to the Lahontan grazing area, withdrawn from the family's permitted allotment. Photos courtesy of the Snow family.

By Leanna Lehman

Pointing across Nevada's high desert, fifth-generation Fallon rancher Justin Snow identifies the winter grazing land his family is losing to the Navy's Fallon Range Training Complex expansion at Naval Air Station Fallon.

"This is our winter grazing allotment here. The Navy is taking it. Yet we're making a payment on a ranch that we can't use," Justin says in the opening scene of "Fenced Out," a documentary filmed by Consider It Done Productions & Launch Velocity in Reno.

The couple has already sold two-thirds of a cattle herd the Snow family has spent nearly 20 years building. They say the Navy's compensation offer fails to account for what losing winter range means to the rest of their operation. Justin and his wife, Adrienne Snow, hope that "Fenced Out" will help call attention to what some ranching families are facing in Northern Nevada.

In December 2022, Congress authorized a 558,535-acre expansion of the Fallon Range Training Complex through the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The legislation included provisions addressing grazing losses, but Justin and Adrienne say the Navy's valuation fails to account for the full economic impact on affected ranching operations.

The ranch, located in Fallon, was purchased by Justin and Adrienne from Justin's dad, Gary Snow, who started the operation in 1979 after moving to the area from Bakersfield. The ranch has always relied on winter grazing allotments on federally managed land. Their Lahontan grazing allotment covers approximately 78,000 acres, and Horse Mountain, which is leased through another ranching operation, is less affected. However, Lahontan withdrawal alone encompasses over 30,000 acres, including the best forage, as well as corrals and water wells.

Some grazing land remains outside the withdrawal, but reaching it requires a 120-mile round trip from ranch headquarters instead of the previous eight-mile trip. An alternative allotment near Mina, more than 100 miles away, lacked adequate forage and water, Justin said, and wild horses compete for what was available. "This ranch is irreplaceable because it's five miles from our headquarters," he said.

From November through March, winter range provides feed for the cattle while the family grows hay on approximately 180 acres of farmland. Losing access has forced them to lease more expensive pasture in Genoa and California, as well as buy additional feed. Eventually, they began selling cattle. "We have had to liquidate a herd that has taken the better part of 20 years to build," Adrienne said.

The Navy maintains it has offered a lump sum based on a loss valuation spread over 100 years. According to the Navy, the valuation follows a four-step process addressing losses in permit value, forage value, improvements and business value.

Naval Air Station Fallon Public Affairs Officer Gavin Graham said the Navy recognizes the disruption the expansion has caused ranching families and is committed to treating affected landholders fairly and respectfully during the transition.

Justin and Adrienne say the compensation offer amounts to approximately $14,000 a year before taxes and outstanding financial obligations.

Continue reading on page B-3.

Waiting for Power

Large industrial customers are looking at their own generation as Nevada works to expand the grid

By Rachel Dahl

For the past three weeks, Great Basin Sun has looked at how much more electricity Nevada expects to need, who is driving that demand and who may ultimately pay for the new infrastructure required to serve it.

But there is another problem – time.

A company may have the land, financing and permits for a new industrial project and still face years of studies, engineering and construction before enough electricity can be delivered to the site.

In Northern Nevada, several large industrial developments are responding by pursuing their own generating facilities while NV Energy works to expand its system.

The projects vary considerably. Some are proposed as temporary generation until utility service becomes available. Others are being developed as longer-term power supplies.

Together, they illustrate another part of Nevada's changing electric system: having enough electricity somewhere on the grid is not the same thing as being able to deliver hundreds of megawatts to a particular property when a customer needs it.

NV Energy acknowledges the scale of the challenge.

In material provided to Great Basin Sun, the company describes current large-load growth as unlike anything previously planned for in Nevada.

The company's 2026 Integrated Resource Plan examines multiple scenarios because not every proposed large project will ultimately be built. NV Energy says it is planning new generation and transmission while structuring agreements intended to make large customers responsible for infrastructure costs associated with their demand.

Its IRP planning materials also say Northern Nevada has a greater need for new resources than Southern Nevada and identify 2029 or 2030 as the earliest feasible in-service date for new combustion-turbine generation included in its planning.

That does not mean every large customer must wait until 2030. Service timing depends on where a project is located, how much electricity it requires and what generation, transmission and substation improvements are necessary.

But several Northern Nevada projects are already pursuing alternatives.

At the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center in Storey County, two related projects have sought state approval for temporary natural-gas generation.

The Peru Ridge Self-Generation Project proposes a temporary 218-megawatt natural-gas generating facility.

The South Valley Temporary Power Generation Facility proposes another 144 MW of temporary natural-gas generation.

Both developments are associated with large-load agreements filed by Sierra Pacific Power Company with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada.

In regulatory filings, developer Fleet Data Centers has described the temporary plants as a bridge until NV Energy can provide permanent utility service to the sites. Fleet has estimated that the temporary generation could operate for two to three years before that permanent service is available.

The projects are not necessarily proposals to leave NV Energy permanently. They are examples of customers attempting to meet their own schedules while the utility infrastructure needed for long-term service is developed.

Another proposal at the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center is considerably larger.

Nexus Fulcrum LLC has applied to the PUC for permission to construct ASR-IX, a 510-megawatt natural-gas generating plant on private land within the industrial center. Switch has become involved in the proceeding as the intended power user and prospective owner of the facility.

Continue reading on page B-4.

COMMENTARY

RAN Owes Nevada Retailers an Explanation of Its Endorsement of Ford

By Randi Thompson

I was so frustrated to see the Retail Association of Nevada (RAN) endorse Aaron Ford for governor and Nicole Cannizzaro for attorney general. These two supported the 2019 crime reform bill (AB 236) that allowed people to steal up to $1,200 in merchandise from a retailer and essentially receive a "Get Out of Jail Free" card.

Why would RAN support candidates who allowed Nevada retailers to suffer millions of dollars in losses? $466 million in losses each year, to be exact.

Wonder why prices are so high? Let's start with retailers trying to recoup their millions of dollars in losses over the past seven years, thanks to Aaron Ford and Nicole Cannizzaro.

Why would RAN support candidates who would rather lock up your toothpaste than criminals?

As a retail business owner and former small-business lobbyist, I'm baffled.

Ironically, the main reasons for their endorsement that RAN President Bryan Wachter laid out were related to legislative issues: Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform, credit card swipe fees, and energy costs.

These are issues that Congress has been debating, often thwarted by Democrats.

The Nevada Legislature has actually entertained one of these issues. RAN has tried to pass PBM reforms in the Nevada Legislature several times, but Democrats continually stymied the bill. Democrats like Ford and Cannizzaro.

I'd bet that if a PBM reform bill came to "Governor" Ford's desk, he would likely veto it!

If a bill passed that lowered the amount of products someone could steal from a retailer, "Governor" Ford would likely veto that, too. He has already stated that he does not support lowering the dollar amount of products you can steal without serious consequences.

So, why would a state organization that claims to work to protect retailers from crime and overregulation support the top two Democrats who have worked to make it harder to run a business and easier to steal from retailers?

Well, apparently, the National Retail Federation is mad at President Trump over tariffs, so they are using their state organizations to go against anyone who is aligned with Trump.

Well, Governor Lombardo is no Mini Trump.

He has fought to reduce regulations to make it easier to run a business in Nevada.

He wants to lock up criminals who steal, regardless of the amount stolen.

He supports PBM reform at the state level, as he knows that will lower drug prices.

He supports lowering energy costs, which is why he created the fuel resiliency committee to find ways to lower gas prices.

That is why business organizations like the Nevada Trucking Association, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few, have all endorsed Governor Lombardo.

As a longtime ally of RAN, I'm truly disappointed with their endorsements. I hope RAN members will speak out to RAN's leadership and ask them why they are endorsing candidates who have a track record of making it harder and more expensive to run a business in Nevada.

When you focus on the records of Aaron Ford and Joe Lombardo, there is clearly a difference. Joe protects business. Ford protects criminals.

Randi Thompson is the former State Director for the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's largest organization fighting to protect small business, and is the owner of a prenatal ultrasound studio in Reno.

Nevada Newsmakers – All That Money, and We Still Have to Vote

By Rachel Dahl

Political advertising is the only business where people spend millions interrupting your evening to explain why you should be terrified of somebody you've never met.

By November, you aren't sure who should be governor. You just want your television back.

On a recent *Nevada Newsmakers*, Sam Shad sat down with former state senator Helen Foley and political consultant Tom Letizia for a discussion that required very little encouragement. Sam brought the questions. His guests brought the matches.

The opening subject was Nevada's governor's race: Joe Lombardo, Aaron Ford, and the apparently bottomless supply of money available to tell us what's wrong with both of them.

Foley's observation was simple enough. Lombardo's advertising had been rolling for months, yet, in her assessment, the race remained essentially tied.

Letizia agreed that the contest was close despite the spending imbalance.

That ought to give every political donor pause. After all those checks, all those consultants and all those ominous announcers, the voters were still reserving judgment.

How inconsiderate of them.

Then came the fellow who can dominate a Nevada election without running in it: Donald Trump.

Foley argued that Lombardo's fortunes could turn on how voters feel about the president. Letizia supplied the comedy, predicting that if Trump visited Nevada, Lombardo might suddenly discover a scheduling conflict.

"He'll have a cold that day."

There's a campaign maneuver for you. Stand close enough to collect the votes, but far enough away to avoid appearing in the photograph.

Of course, predicting what voters will do is a hazardous occupation, even for people who get paid to do it. Letizia forecast a strong Democratic showing while still giving Lombardo the edge. Foley saw plenty of trouble ahead for Republicans.

We'll find out. The electorate has a nasty habit of withholding the ending until the votes are counted.

The conversation became more useful when it moved from who might win to what anybody intends to fix.

Take immigration.

Shad asked why securing the border couldn't be followed by addressing the people already here, including longtime residents and DACA recipients.

A reasonable question. Naturally, it landed in the middle of a political argument.

Foley criticized the reach of Trump's enforcement policies. Letizia criticized Biden's border record while also arguing that Trump had gone too far.

There was room in that exchange for an actual policy discussion: border enforcement, public safety, workers, families, and an economy that depends on people showing up to do the work.

Nevada should be particularly interested in that last part. It is difficult to run a hospitality economy on campaign slogans. Somebody still has to clean the rooms, prepare the meals and build the houses.

Washington has spent years campaigning on immigration. At some point, a person starts wondering whether fixing it would put too many political operatives out of work.

Then the panel turned to data centers, and suddenly the discussion came down to something you could put on a utility bill.

Shad pointed out that much of modern life depends on them. Foley raised the questions communities ought to ask about water, power, location and oversight. She also questioned whether Nevada needs to keep offering the same tax inducements to an industry looking for places to build.

A comment that, honestly, deserves more attention than another round of election fortune-telling.

If a company wants to come to Nevada, welcome. Bring the plans. Explain the water supply. Explain the power arrangements. Explain what the neighbors will hear and what the public will pay.

We can admire the technology and still read the contract, including the fine print at the bottom.

Foley disclosed that she represents Storey County and argued for strong county oversight rather than a single approach imposed statewide. Letizia likewise said developers need to work with communities and go through the regulatory process.

There was useful agreement hiding underneath all that political sparring: development comes with obligations.

"The cloud" may sound airy, but the facilities sit on actual ground. Somebody lives nearby. Somebody has to supply the electricity.

Those people deserve answers before the ribbon-cutting.

By the end of the program, the panel had covered elections, immigration, war, artificial intelligence and humanity's prospects. Sam probably could have used another hour. Or a whistle.

But the Nevada questions were plain enough.

Can I afford to live here? Who will do the work? What will growth cost my community? And when the campaign is over, will anybody solve something?

The commercials will keep coming until Election Day.

I'd settle for a little less ominous music and a few more answers.

Liberty Dogs Seeks Volunteer Puppy Raisers

Staff Report

Liberty Dogs is seeking volunteers to help raise and socialize puppies that will eventually become service dogs for military veterans.

Volunteer puppy raisers play an important role in preparing the dogs for advanced training by introducing them to everyday environments, people and experiences. The goal is to develop service dogs that can provide greater independence and support for veterans.

For information about becoming a puppy raiser, call 775-499-0000, ext. 200, email PuppyDepartment@LibertyDogs.org or visit www.LibertyDogs.org.

Nevada Offers Employment Services for Veterans

Staff Report

Nevada's Veteran Career Employment Team provides employment assistance to veterans and helps employers connect with qualified veteran job seekers.

The Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation has launched a webpage outlining available services and providing an online interest form for veterans seeking assistance.

Businesses interested in hiring veterans can also contact the team for employment-related services.

For information, visit https://detr.nv.gov/Page/Veteran_Employment_Services or email veteransemployment@detr.nv.gov.

Senior Companion Program Seeks Volunteers

Staff Report

Nevadans age 55 and older can help seniors maintain their independence through the Senior Companion Program, sponsored by AmeriCorps Seniors and the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division.

Volunteers provide companionship and practical assistance to adults over age 60 who may live alone, lack transportation or have limited access to community resources.

Services can include transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, running errands and providing companionship or respite support for caregivers.

Qualifying volunteers may receive a small stipend, and transportation reimbursement is available.

For information, contact Polly at polly@sisnv.org.

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EVENTS

Worth The Drive

By Doris Rodriguez

Nevada's 162nd Birthday Mystery



Happy Birthday, Nevada, you are always worth the drive. Image generated by Grok.

Evenin', fellow suspects!

The moon's hangin' low, and this year Halloween night doubles as Nevada's 162nd birthday. The Silver State joined the Union on All Hallows' Eve in 1864, so no wonder she's got a few skeletons in her mine shafts. Oct. 30 is Nevada Day, a state holiday, so state offices will be closed.

Start in Wells, where a Trunk or Treat is at Wells City Park on Oct. 31, from 2 to 4 p.m. Chimney Rock Golf Course holds its final round of the season the same day.

Over in Battle Mountain, the Sober Senior Haunted House is inside the old jail Oct. 29 through Oct. 31.

Point your truck toward Winnemucca for a Trunk-or-Treat and Chili Cook-Off on Oct. 31 at 1 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on McArthur Avenue.

Elko's Haunted Commercial Hotel is open Oct. 30 and Oct. 31, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Head to Ely, where the White Pine Chamber of Commerce hosts Trick or Treat the Streets on Oct. 30, starting at noon. Ely Learning Bridge holds a free Trunk or Treat that evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Near Great Basin National Park, the Bristlecone General Store hosts Halloween fun and games on its front porch Oct. 31, starting at 5 p.m.

Pioche's Halloween Fest is Oct. 31, with cornhole at noon, the chili cook-off at 3 p.m., trunk-or-treat on Uptown Main Street at 6 p.m., and the costume contest at 7 p.m.

Rangers lead Bullionville History Walks on Oct. 31 at 10 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m.

Over in the Caliente area, Bahbee's Barn hosts a Halloween Family Dinner and Dance Party on Oct. 29. Dinner is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a free family dance. Side Track Restaurant holds a Trunk or Treat on Oct. 31 from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

At Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge, a Halloween Night Hike is at Upper Pahranagat Lake from 7 to 8 p.m.

Over in Mesquite, Trunk or Treat fills the west field at the Mesquite Recreation Center on Oct. 31, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Eureka Casino Resort hosts Scary-oke starting at 7 p.m., with the costume contest at 9 p.m. (21 and over).

Point your truck over to Logandale, where the Moapa Valley Corn Maze runs select nights through Oct. 31.

Now we're heading over to Boulder City. Fergie's Fun Fright is a free homemade blacklight maze open Oct. 30 through Nov. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. The Fright Zone at Tom Devlin's Monster Museum is open Oct. 30 and Oct. 31, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Pahrump's Halloween Spooktacular brings trick-or-treating to Petrack Park on Oct. 31 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Down in Beatty, Beatty Days fills Cottonwood Park Oct. 30 through Nov. 1. The Tombstone 5K Run and 2K Walk starts at 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 31, and the birthday parade steps off at 10 a.m.

Tonopah's Trunk or Treat at the Tonopah Fire Station runs Oct. 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The All Hallows' Eve Witches Gathering and Moon Walk is at Tonopah Liquor Company on Oct. 31, with a DJ from 9 p.m. and the moon walk at 11:30 p.m. (21 and over).

Over in Hawthorne, the free Mineral County Trunk-or-Treat fills the Mineral County Sheriff's Office parking lot on Oct. 31, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Fallon's Paiute-Shoshone Tribe hosts a Halloween Extravaganza at Fox Peak Cinema on Oct. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. The Maine Street Spooktacular takes over downtown Fallon on Oct. 31, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Fernley's Spooktacular runs Oct. 31, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Fernley City Hall.

At Pyramid Lake, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe brings rodeo action to Big Bend Arena in Wadsworth over Nevada Day weekend. Junior rodeo check-in is Oct. 30 from 9 to 10:30 a.m., with the rodeo starting at 11 a.m. An open rodeo follows Oct. 31, also starting at 11 a.m.

Over in Silver Springs, the Boys & Girls Club throws a Halloween party Oct. 29 at 4 p.m. Prospector Pizza hosts a trunk-or-treat Oct. 31 at 5 p.m.

Dayton's Boys & Girls Club clubhouse holds its party Oct. 29 at 4 p.m. On Oct. 31, Calvary Chapel of Dayton Valley opens its trunks at 3 p.m., Howl-o-Ween is at the Dayton Valley Dog Park at 4 p.m., and Dayton Valley Golf Club hosts a trunk-or-treat at 5:30 p.m.

Virginia City and Gold Hill have the Northern Nevada Ghost Hunters leading a hunt through the haunted rooms of the Gold Hill Hotel on Oct. 29. The Virginia & Truckee Railroad's Haunted Graveyard Train runs Oct. 29–31. On Oct. 31, a costume contest kicks off before safe trick-or-treating along C Street from 6 to 7 p.m., and the Nevada Statehood Ball fills Piper's Opera House from 7 to 10 p.m.

Carson City's BOOnanza fills Mills Park on Oct. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. On Oct. 30, the Downtown Candy Crawl runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The Nevada Day Powwow opens with Grand Entry at 7 p.m. On Oct. 31, the day starts at 8 a.m. with a balloon launch and the Nevada Day Classic race, and the Nevada Day Parade steps off at 10 a.m. Dark Prison leads visitors through the old Nevada State Prison through Nov. 1.

Over in Minden, Rite of Passage hosts a Community Trunk-or-Treat on Oct. 30, from 2:30 to 6 p.m.

Incline Village's Trail of Treats winds along the Village Green trails Oct. 29, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

At Lake Tahoe, Sand Harbor's Spooky Harbor Movie Nights screens "Trick 'r Treat" on Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. The Creeper's Ball at Crystal Bay Casino opens doors at 8 p.m., and the show starts at 9 p.m. (21 and over).

Reno's Día de los Muertos takes over City Plaza on Oct. 30, from 6 to 10 p.m., and returns Oct. 31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The FrightCrawl through Midtown runs Oct. 29 through Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m., plus a day party Oct. 31 at 1 p.m.

Over in Sparks, BooVille and Macabre Manor offer timed haunted-house entry starting at 3:30 p.m.

Down in the Las Vegas area, Nevada Day brings free admission for residents to Springs Preserve and the Nevada State Museum on Oct. 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. VIVA Taco Fest runs Oct. 30 through Nov. 1 at Craig Ranch Regional Park in North Las Vegas.

Plans change faster than a suspect's story, so call or check the website before you go.

Safe Travels!

Nevada Communities Mark Native American Heritage Month in November

Staff Report

Native American history is part of everyday life across Nevada, from the tribal communities of the Great Basin to the languages, traditions and gatherings that continue today. November's National Native American Heritage Month offers an opportunity to learn more about that history and the people who carry it forward.

Nevada has 20 federally recognized tribes with land in the state, according to the Nevada Department of Native American Affairs. The department also works with 28 tribal nations, bands, communities and colonies, including Northern Paiute, Western Shoshone, Southern Paiute, Washoe and Mojave peoples.

Long before Nevada became a state in 1864, Native peoples lived throughout its valleys, mountains, deserts and wetlands. Families relied on knowledge of the land passed down through generations, gathering plants for food and medicine, fishing in lakes and rivers, and hunting throughout the region. Their histories are closely tied to places that remain familiar to Nevadans today.

Those connections continue through tribal governments, families, language programs, cultural gatherings and the work of Native artists, educators and community leaders.

How the Observance Began

Efforts to establish national recognition of Native American heritage date back more than a century. In 1986, Congress authorized American Indian Week, which President Ronald Reagan proclaimed that November.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush proclaimed November as National American Indian Heritage Month following congressional authorization. Presidents have continued the November observance in the years since.

Today, National Native American Heritage Month recognizes the contributions of Native peoples to American history and contemporary life. It also gives schools, museums and communities an opportunity to share the histories of individual tribal nations and learn about their governments, languages and traditions.

Events Across Nevada

Nevada's tribal event calendars and community organizations list several gatherings and observances planned for November, including events in northern and southern Nevada.

The Toi Ticutta Health Fair is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 6, in Fallon. The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe lists the event on its official calendar, with additional event information available through the tribe.

The Duck Valley Veterans Powwow is scheduled for Nov. 6–7 at the Kenneth Crawford Gymnasium in Owyhee. The gathering honors military veterans through traditional singing, drumming, dancing and community activities.

In southern Nevada, the second annual Moapa River Social Powwow is scheduled for Nov. 6–7 at Veterans Park on the Moapa River Indian Reservation. Hosted by the Moapa community, the gathering will feature dancing, drumming, handgames and other activities.

The Great Basin Tribal Forum on Low-Carbon Energy: Renewables, Mining and Water is scheduled for Nov. 17–18 at the Peppermill in Reno. The forum will bring together tribal leaders, staff and community members to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with energy development, mining and water resources across the Great Basin.

The month's activities reflect the variety of Nevada's tribal communities, from cultural gatherings and veterans' observances to discussions about land, natural resources and the future of the region.

For additional information about Nevada's tribal nations, visit the Nevada Department of Native American Affairs at dnaa.nv.gov. Upcoming powwows and tribal events are also listed at nevadasindianterritory.com.

Continued from page B-1- Fenced Out.

Further, the proceeds do not replace the income and grazing capacity they have lost, much less the long-term projected losses.

According to Adrienne, a forensic economist hired by the family traced the Navy's cattle valuation to a Cooperative Extension report published in 2018, apparently using figures from 2017 or earlier.

She said the Navy assigned a value of $697 per animal. However, Nevada livestock prices put a 500-pound steer at approximately $2,500, or about $5 a pound. That is a difference of $1,803 per animal, which she believes illustrates how far the Navy's calculations are from the family's actual losses.

The dispute goes beyond cattle prices. Ranchers do not own the federal land they graze, but their grazing privileges have economic value and are connected to their privately owned ranches, financing, and improvements.

Adrienne argues that using federal grazing fees to value those losses is like determining the worth of a home from its annual property tax bill rather than the property itself. "This is not a standard transaction," Adrienne said, explaining that the issue is multilayered and complex beyond how the Navy arrived at its valuation.

The couple has taken its concerns to Washington, working with U.S. Sen. Jacky Rosen's office and advisers to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins. Adrienne said the USDA advisers met with Navy officials and found a fundamental misunderstanding about ranchers' property interests.

"They have operated up to this point under the belief that what we own... wasn't owned at all, rather given to us by the government and therefore could be taken away," she said.

Adrienne said federal officials are beginning to ask more informed questions, although the compensation dispute remains unresolved. The couple supports the military's training mission but wants compensation that reflects the full impact on the ranch.

The fight has consumed years of research, consultations, and legal preparation, alongside the work of running the ranch and raising three sons. Justin and Adrienne want them to have the choice to carry on the family's ranching tradition.

The Snows believe the Navy and Department of Defense aren't seeing the whole picture. "That's what these guys don't understand," Justin said. "The generational and the heritage of these ranches."

They hope "Fenced Out" will help other Americans understand the stakes as more ranchers face grazing losses from the expansion. Yet some losses cannot be recovered. Asked what the family had already lost that no settlement could restore, Adrienne answered, "Time."

Justin spoke of missing his sons' sporting events and other childhood moments because ranching already demands so much of him. The years spent fighting the Navy have taken even more.

Asked how much time the struggle had consumed, Justin answered, "Ten years' worth."

MADE HERE

Oversized Loads Take a Scenic Detour Across Central Nevada



A truck transports an oversized load on a Nevada highway. Photo courtesy of Nevada Department of Transportation.

By Doris Rodriguez

Oversized superloads transporting massive crystallizers for the Thacker Pass lithium project are continuing their journey through central Nevada this fall, producing temporary traffic delays and requiring escorts.

Great Basin Industrial of Plymouth, Utah, is delivering 12 crystallizers to the Humboldt County project. The first two arrived Sept. 1, with additional shipments planned in pairs approximately every two weeks, subject to permitting, weather and other scheduling considerations.

Some of the loads approach 20 feet in height and width when positioned for transportation, requiring specialized equipment and careful planning to navigate rural highways.

At Thacker Pass, the crystallizers will perform the final processing step, combining purified lithium solution with soda ash under controlled conditions to produce battery-grade lithium carbonate. Lithium Americas is building Phase 1 of the project, which targets approximately 40,000 metric tons of lithium carbonate annually, with mechanical completion planned for late 2027.

In Nevada, the planned route follows State Route 233 from the Utah border to Interstate 80 at Oasis, then continues west before turning south on U.S. 93 at Wells toward Ely. From Ely, the loads travel U.S. 50, the "Loneliest Road in America," through Eureka and Austin.

They then head north on State Route 305 through Battle Mountain to rejoin I-80, continue to Winnemucca, take U.S. 95 north to Orovada and turn west on State Route 293 to the project site.

According to Lithium Americas, the route was selected after more than a year of planning and inspections covering approximately 1,300 miles of roadway across several states. The company said the route was designed to minimize traffic disruptions while avoiding bridges, power lines, tunnels and other obstacles that could not accommodate equipment of this size.

"We didn't just pick a route. We built one," said Keith Lincoln, Lithium Americas transportation and logistics consultant.

Lincoln said the transportation team repeatedly reconsidered routes and equipment configurations as obstacles were identified. Following the first delivery, he said the company was grateful for the patience and cooperation of communities along the route.

Motorists may encounter law enforcement escorts, overnight truck staging and temporary traffic pauses. Shipments operate under permits issued by the Nevada Department of Transportation, which reviews routes for clearance, roadway restrictions and other safety considerations.

NDOT posts upcoming oversized-load movements at NVRoads.com under the "Trucker Information/Oversized Loads" section. Lithium Americas also provides shipment updates through its community newsletter and other communications.

The deliveries are part of broader construction activity at Thacker Pass, where approximately 2,000 people were reported working on the project during the Oct. 21 Nevada 95-80 Futures Forum in Winnemucca.

The extensive transportation route has also raised questions among rural residents about traffic delays, highway safety and potential wear on roads carrying unusually large mining equipment. NDOT's permitting process considers roadway conditions and bridge restrictions, but the effects of these shipments on rural highways have not been independently established.

Motorists traveling the affected corridors should allow additional time, watch for escort vehicles and follow traffic directions. NDOT also recommends carrying drinking water, keeping a full tank of gas and preparing for limited cellphone service in remote areas.

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Nevada Counties Encouraged to Shine Green for Veterans



Photo courtesy of Veterans Affairs

Staff Report

Nevada's 17 counties are being encouraged to light up green in support of military veterans as part of a nationwide recognition effort leading up to Veterans Day.

Operation Green Light for Veterans will take place Nov. 4–11, with county governments, businesses and residents invited to display green lights as a visible show of appreciation for those who have served in the military.

The Nevada Association of Counties is encouraging counties across the state to participate in the initiative, which is organized nationally by the National Association of Counties and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

The program began in New York in 2021 and has since grown into a national effort, with hundreds of counties and landmarks participating in previous years.

Green lights are intended to recognize veterans' service while drawing attention to the challenges some face after leaving the military, including access to health care, employment, housing and benefits.

Participation is simple. Residents can replace a porch light or other visible light bulb with a green one during the observance. Businesses and public agencies can illuminate buildings or display green lighting in windows.

Counties are also encouraged to share information about veterans' services and resources available through local, state and federal agencies.

The observance concludes Wednesday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day.

For information about Operation Green Light and how to participate, visit www.naco.org/program/operation-green-light-veterans.

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The PUC held a hearing on that project Oct. 14. The application remains a separate proceeding from NV Energy's Integrated Resource Plan and approval of the plant is not the same as approval of any individual data-center development.

Still, the project shows the scale of generation being considered alongside Northern Nevada's expanding industrial load.

For perspective, NV Energy reports that its entire Northern Nevada system reached a peak load of 2,073 MW in 2025. A 510-MW plant would equal roughly one-quarter of that amount, although the two figures are not directly interchangeable because system peak demand and individual generating capacity measure different things.

In Fernley, Mark IV Capital is pursuing a similar problem through a different structure.

The Fernley City Council approved a conditional-use permit Oct. 7 for a privately financed 324-megawatt natural-gas generating plant proposed beside the Victory Logistics District.

Mark IV representatives have told city officials that prospective industrial users have left or looked elsewhere because sufficient electricity could not be provided on the schedules those businesses required.

The proposed plant is intended to serve large industrial users within Victory, including advanced manufacturing and potentially data centers.

The council has also moved forward with the Fernley Power District, a municipal electric utility intended initially to serve the Victory area.

That creates a different model from the temporary generation proposed in Storey County. Rather than simply generating power until NV Energy infrastructure arrives, Fernley is developing a local utility structure through which electricity could be delivered to large industrial customers.

The power plant and utility district remain separate actions. The conditional-use permit authorizes development of the plant subject to additional permits and conditions, while the district establishes the governmental framework for providing electric service.

At the same time, NV Energy is working to expand the grid.

Its current resource plan calls for substantial additions of renewable generation, battery storage and natural-gas capacity. The company is also building Greenlink, the major transmission system intended to strengthen connections between different parts of Nevada.

NV Energy emphasizes that Greenlink was conceived as a statewide reliability and transmission project, not specifically as infrastructure for data centers.

The utility also says large customers requiring new generation or transmission will be subject to additional agreements designed to establish load commitments, minimum billing, termination provisions and financial security.

In its own description of the issue, NV Energy says large new customers should pay the infrastructure costs created by their demand rather than shifting those costs to existing customers.

The Public Utilities Commission is now considering how those rules should work.

There is one more piece of the system that can be easy to miss.

Even when enough electricity can be generated, it still has to reach the customer.

Large projects can require new high-voltage transmission lines, substations and other equipment before service begins.

Microsoft, for example, has pursued new high-voltage substation infrastructure in Storey County associated with its Northern Nevada development. A joint application with Sierra Pacific Power sought approval for the RNO12 and Viking substations, while another Microsoft proceeding involves a 345/34.5-kilovolt substation.

NV Energy has also proposed the Chukar-to-Lantern 345-kV transmission project crossing Churchill, Lyon, Storey and Washoe counties.

Those projects illustrate why the question is bigger than simply building another power plant.

Generation, transmission and substations all have to arrive in the right place and on compatible schedules.

The Public Utilities Commission begins its Phase II hearing Monday, Oct. 26, in NV Energy's 2027-2046 Integrated Resource Plan proceeding. That portion of the case includes the proposed framework for serving large-load customers and the financial commitments they would make.

Later phases will examine the longer-term load forecast and the generation needed to meet it.

For Nevada's growing industrial areas, however, the question is already moving from planning documents to construction sites:

How quickly can enough electricity be produced, transmitted and delivered – and what do large customers do while they wait?

Next in the Powering Nevada series: The transmission system – how Nevada moves electricity from where it is produced to where it is needed.