

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023
4:00 P.M.
NORTHWEST RENO LIBRARY
2325 ROBB DR, RENO NV 89523**

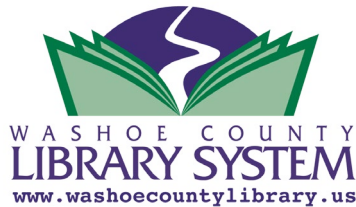
Library Trustees

Amy Ghilieri, Chair
Frank Perez, Vice-Chair
Ann Medaille
Lea Moser
Vacant

Members of the public may attend this meeting in person or can attend by teleconference by logging into the Zoom webinar accessible through the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84224131597>. If prompted, use the following passcode: 889408. Please note: the Zoom link option will require a computer or phone with internet access or the Zoom application with audio capabilities.

Forum Restrictions and Orderly Conduct of Business. The Library Board of Trustees conducts the business of the Washoe County Library System and its citizens during its meetings. The orderly, efficient conduct of the meeting is integral and necessary to allow the Board to conduct business. The Chair or presiding officer may order the removal of any person whose statements or other conduct disrupts the orderly, efficient, or safe conduct of the meeting. Warnings against disruptive comments or behavior may or may not be given prior to removal. Examples of disruptive conduct include, without limitation, yelling, stamping of feet, whistles, applause, heckling, name calling, use of profanity, threatening use of physical force, or any other acts intended to impede the meeting or infringe on the rights of the Library Board of Trustees, staff, or meeting participants. The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place, and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks which antagonize or incite others are examples of speech that may be reasonably limited.

Public Comment. Public comments are welcomed during the Public Comment agenda item for all matters, whether listed on the agenda or not. Additionally, public comment specific to each action item considered by the Board will be allowed. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person per item; persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Individuals wishing to provide live public comment may do so in person or via teleconference by logging onto the Zoom webinar using the above link and utilizing the "Raise Hand" feature during any public comment period. Persons are also invited to submit comments in writing by emailing L J Burton at ljburton@washoecounty.gov or Jamie Hemingway jhemingway@washoecounty.gov at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. The County will make reasonable efforts to send all email comments received by 4:00 p.m. on April 18, 2023 to the Trustees prior to the meeting.



Response to Public Comment. The Open Meeting Law does not expressly prohibit Board member responses to public comments; however, the Board may deliberate or take action only if a matter has been listed on an agenda properly posted prior to the meeting. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Board will consider, Board members may choose not to respond to public comments other than to correct factual inaccuracies, ask for Staff action, or to ask that a matter be listed on a future agenda. The Board may do so during Public Comment or Board Comment agenda items.

How to Get Copies of Agendas and Support Documentation. Copies of agendas and supporting documents will be available for members of the public at the meeting venue or may be obtained by contacting LJ Burton by email at ljburton@washoecounty.gov. If available prior to the meeting, supporting materials may be posted at www.washoecountylibrary.us.

Special Accommodations. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled, need special accommodations or assistance, and wish to attend meetings. Should you require special assistance or accommodations for any Board meeting, please contact LJ Burton at ljburton@washoecounty.gov or Jamie Hemingway at jhemingway@washoecounty.gov, at least 24 hours prior to the date of the meeting.

Possible Changes to Agenda and Timing. The Library Board of Trustees may take agenda items out of order, may consider two or more items in combination, may remove one or more items from the agenda, or delay discussion on an item. Items scheduled to be heard at a specific time will be heard no earlier than the stated time but may be heard later.

Posting of Agenda. Pursuant to NRS 241.020(4)(b), the agenda for this meeting will be posted at the following locations: Washoe County Courthouse, Washoe County Administration building, Downtown Reno Library, Incline Village Library, North Valleys Library, Northwest Reno Library, Sierra View Library, South Valleys Library, Spanish Springs Library, and Sparks Library (except for during times of closure). In compliance with NRS 241.010, this notice will be posted on the official website for the Washoe County Library System at www.washoecountylibrary.us and the State of Nevada notice website at <https://notice.nv.gov>.

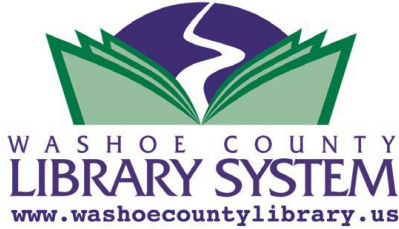
LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

301 South Center Street | PO Box 2151, Reno NV 89505
(775) 327-8341 | www.washoecountylibrary.us



The Board of Trustees may take action only on the items below that are preceded by the words “For Possible Action.” The Board will not take action on any other items.

- 1) Roll Call [Non-Action Item]
- 2) Public Comment – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item]
No discussion or action by the Board may be taken upon any matter raised under this public comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.
- 3) Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a) *For Possible Action:* Approval of Minutes from the Library Board Meeting of March 15, 2023
- 4) Old Business [Non-Action Item]
None
- 5) New Business
 - a) *Presentation and Discussion:* Washoe County Library Strategic Plan Update [Non-Action Item]
 - b) *Presentation:* National Library Week Proclamation [Non-Action Item]
 - c) *Presentation:* Memorial for Trustee Jean Stoess [Non-Action Item]
- 6) Reports
 - a) Library Director Update by Jeff Scott [Non-Action Item]
 - b) Northwest Reno Library Report by Robin Posniak [Non-Action Item]
 - c) Reference and Technology Team Report by Toni Farris [Non-Action Item]
- 7) Staff Announcements – Three Minute Time Limit Per Person [Non-Action Item]
No discussion or action may be taken upon any matter raised under this comment section until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda.
- 8) Board Comment – Limited to Announcements, Strategic Plan Activity Updates or Issues Proposed for Future Agendas and/or workshops [Non-Action Item]
- 9) Adjournment



**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023
4:00 P.M.**

The Board met in regular session in a hybrid format via Zoom webinar and in person.

Chair Amy Ghilieri called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1) ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Frank Perez, Amy Ghilieri, Lea Grace, Ann Medaille

Board Members Absent: None

County Staff Present: Library Director Jeff Scott, Deputy District Attorney Dania Reid, Assistant County Manager David Solaro

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Parks stated the presentation given in November was anything but fair, and that it had been biased and more propaganda than anything. He thought reading to kids was fundamental to their development and ability to succeed in school, but he was not convinced it was acceptable to read to kids in drag. He stated his objective was not hate or fear, but he believed drag queen story time events were confusing to kids and subjected them to pedophiles. He mentioned that the Friends of the Washoe County library donated money to the library and noted a woman had resigned her position because she did not support the drag queen events.

Misty Carter said she had sent an email that morning imploring the Board to strongly reconsider drag queen story time events and ban them. She said she received a response to her email, but it was not the response she had been seeking. She wanted to know what the objective was for having men dress as woman and read to children, and why they did not ask someone to dress up as a firefighter rather than in a sexual way. She discussed gender confusion amongst children and stated the drag queen story time event was garbage which needed to stop.

Stacy Piro spoke regarding her opposition to the drag queen event, which she felt was a horrid use of libraries. She said it made no sense to come to meetings anymore as the Trustees did not communicate and those opposed to the events had been ignored.

Valerie Fiannaca said she would not go away until the events ended. She believed she got the Library's attention since Director Scott had posted a response to public comments made at a recent meeting of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC). She hoped the Library Board watched BCC meetings. She mentioned that Commissioner Herman had questioned the District Attorney (DA) three times regarding the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Library's avenues of funding; the DA responded that Director Scott had the ability to do any programming he chose, however, the BCC had final approval on funding. Ms. Fiannaca said that, while the protestors did not want the libraries to go away, the BCC could take away their funding.

Sandee Tibbett spoke regarding her opposition to the drag queen story events, stating drag queens did not belong in front of children. She opined this was a form of child abuse and endangerment, and a perverted agenda was being pushed on kids. She wanted the Board to stop hosting drag queen story events at all Washoe County Libraries.

Renee Resendez described an individual named Cloe Cole who transitioned hormonally at 15 years old. Cloe was now 18 and was suing doctors, saying she had been confused at the time, and that they had pushed her to make the decision to transition, which she later regretted. Ms. Resendez stated transitioning could be intriguing for children and that they would accept whatever influence they had around them as they were very easily influenced. She opined the drag queen story time events were not innocent, but harmful.

Janet Butcher commented that, after the last BCC meeting, comments had been made regarding the Friends of the Library being the organization which funded the drag queen story time event, not the BCC. Ms. Butcher said interim Library Public Information Officer public information officer Jamie Hemingway had been quoted by the Reno Gazette-Journal saying that a large portion of the community approved of the event, and that performers had been background checked and approved to work with children. On further research, Ms. Butcher noticed that performer Christopher Daniels was part of the MacBeth theater, and Ms. Hemingway served as the Library's liaison to the Friends. Ms. Butcher implored the Board to maintain the safety and innocence of the children.

Bruce Foster also spoke regarding his opposition to the drag queen story events and read a verse to the audience.

Alan Munson expressed his appreciation to the Board, saying he had grown up in libraries and they were awesome places, however, he opposed the drag queen story events. He said children should not be exposed to such things, and that the community did not want the program in libraries.

Roger Edwards stated he had worked for 27 years at the High Desert State Prison, where he once had to end visitation for a prisoner who had a wife and two daughters, due to inappropriate behavior. He opined the Library was condoning similar behavior and breaking the law by allowing it to continue. He implored the Board to keep children safe.

Mark Bartolucci stated he did not want one penny of his taxpayer dollars being used for drag queen story time events.

Mary Jones pointed out that one did not have to be a taxpayer to donate to the Library or to the Friends of the Washoe County Library.

Sarah DePaoli stated there were many opinions on the topic, but if some parents did not support the drag queen story time events, they and their children could simply choose not to attend them. She indicated there were also many families who appreciated the events, and these families were grateful that the Libraries continued to offer them. She looked forward to those opposed making their choice to not attend the events in the future.

3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Bruce Parks commented regarding a spelling error on page two of the February 2023 meeting minutes. He said his statements had not been accurately recorded, pointing out that there was no mention of his discussion of the American Pediatric Society's opposition to drag queen story time events, nor anything in the minutes regarding the 'Gays Against Groomers' website or other information he provided during the February meeting. He opposed the minutes' use of words such as 'felt' when summarizing his comments, saying he would prefer terms such as 'commented' or 'stated'.

Trustee Medaille supported the correction of spelling errors in the February 2023 minutes and revising references to Mr. Parks' comments with verbs such as 'stated', 'said,' or 'commented' in place of the word 'felt'. Director Scott explained the Board could move to approve the minutes with the indicated revisions, if desired.

On motion by Trustee Medaille, seconded by Vice Chair Perez, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the minutes of the February 15, 2023, Library Board of Trustees meeting with the above-mentioned revisions. All in favor; none opposed.

4) OLD BUSINESS

None

5) NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation: Washoe County Library Strategic Plan Update

Director Scott reviewed a power point presentation regarding the March 2023 Strategic Plan Update, a copy of which was provided within the Board packet.

- Nevada reading week had begun February 27th and would continue through March 3rd in partnership with some schools, while others were closed due to inclement weather. Director Scott would be meeting with staff soon to get a better idea of a date for the Sierra View Library reopening.

- The ADA restroom for the Downtown Reno Library was expected to be completed by May 2023, and elevator repairs would be done in the fall of 2023.
- Installations of the book machines for Cold Springs and Sun Valley were scheduled for March 2023.
- Pending Board approval, Saturday hours at Incline Village Library would begin April 1st.
- The Challenge Program, which was self-paced with no time limit required to complete, was underway; over 60 staff members were currently participating voluntarily, and signups had increased after a recent announcement had been sent out. Director Scott shared a slide listing the various Challenge topics staff could choose to learn about.
- Libraries were celebrating Black History Month with events, displays, book lists, and more, and promoting awareness of the 81st anniversary of an executive order signed by President Roosevelt in 1942 which allowed Japanese Americans and anyone deemed a “threat to national security” to be forcibly sent to internment camps across the country.

b. For Possible Action: Hours of Operation Change for Downtown Reno & Incline Village Library

Director Scott reviewed the proposed schedule changes for the Downtown Reno and Incline Village Libraries, which would allow the branches to be open on Saturdays.

A trustee asked why the branches had been closed on Saturdays to begin with. Director Scott responded that most of the changes had been due to the pandemic, but public events were slowly returning throughout the County, and many occurred on Saturdays, so branches hoped to take advantage of the increased traffic.

On motion by Chair Ghilieri, seconded by Trustee Medaille, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the hours of operation changes for the Downtown Reno and Incline Village Libraries. All in favor; none opposed.

c. For Possible Action: Meeting Room Policy

Director Scott stated the only change made to the meeting room policy was the confirmation of the legal age required to book before- and after-hours use.

Bruce Parks said meeting rooms were an asset to the libraries and community groups that could not otherwise afford to host their functions. He applauded the efforts of the Board to avoid incurring liability that might cause increases in insurance premiums. He hoped the meeting rooms would be made available to the public as much as possible.

On motion by Trustee Medaille, seconded by Vice Chair Perez, which motion duly carried, the Board approved the revisions to the meeting room policy. All in favor; none opposed.

6) REPORTS

a. Library Director Update

Director Scott discussed the results of Washoe County's recent Korn Ferry classification and compensation study. He explained many staff would be receiving salary adjustments in line with the County's goal of becoming a preferred employer in Northern Nevada by offering competitive pay rates to attract and retain qualified staff.

Interviews had just concluded for full time LAII vacancies, and interviews for seven part time openings would be conducted next. Human Resources would soon be opening new recruitments for Library Aide, Library Assistant II, and Library Assistant III-level positions. Assistant Library Director interviews were scheduled for the end of March and first part of April 2023; there were currently nine qualified candidates for the position.

Director Scott added that Library Legislative Day was Thursday, March 9th, and he thanked everyone who had signed up to participate.

b. Spanish Springs Library Report

Spanish Springs Branch Manager Jana MacMillan conducted a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which had been provided in the Board packet.

- The branch hosted early election day voting and collaborative events with the Washoe County Parks and Recreation Department and Children's Cabinet.
- In November and December, the Branch had received a Zoom Room, which could be booked online, and staff assisted with the Sparks Hometown Christmas Parade outreach and various community holiday events.
- Some new programs had been launched, including Dungeons and Dragons and Code-It and Build-It 3D Printing workshops. On Thursdays, the branch hosted a STEAM craft studio.
- The Stay and Play program and Lego Robotics group events were designed to help get kids to visit with one another. The branch also hosted various literacy events such as toddler story time and pajama times.
- The Sensory Sound Garden had been installed and was a popular attraction for patrons of all ages; the branch had also launched a new wishing well.
- Spanish Springs staff had been featured in the On the Shelf KUNR radio program.
- Ms. MacMillan introduced the Spanish Springs Library staff.

c. Maker Team Reports

South Valleys Library Branch Manager Julie Ullman conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Maker Services Team Report, a copy of which had been included in the Board packet. She described weekly maker activities in the Quad, such as t-shirt and bag making projects with pressed-on art. Robotics Program staff member Chris discussed the expansion of Robotics activities at the Spanish Springs branch.

Ms. Ullman mentioned a Cricut program was available in library branches which could help patrons cut designs in vinyl and paper. She reviewed collaborations with the Parks Department and the Nevada Discovery Museum, staff attendance at STEM and community outreach events, and work with Sustain Tahoe as well as a recent collaboration with the Sparks Library.

7) STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

8) BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Medaille asked how she could go about learning more about the tool library. Director Scott responded that things like that would occur during work on the Strategic Plan, and once staff had begun conducting more surveys, they would have the tools to move forward.

Vice Chair Perez expressed appreciation for the progress made so far on the Strategic Plan.

Chair Ghilieri said she had noted a few things kept coming up during meetings and she wanted to address them again. She stated the Trustees were appointed, not elected, and their positions were voluntary. She also added that the Board was not responsible for reviewing Library programming as it was completely out of their jurisdiction. Finally, she reiterated that the Library Board of Trustees had no intention of asking Director Scott to resign.

9) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ghilieri adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

STRATEGIC PLAN
UPDATE APRIL 2023

Washoe County Library

1

Stimulate Imagination

2

- ▶ Book Team
- ▶ County Book Club
- ▶ Book Machines
 - ▶ Cold Springs
 - ▶ Sun Valley
 - ▶ Potential New Location (ARPA)

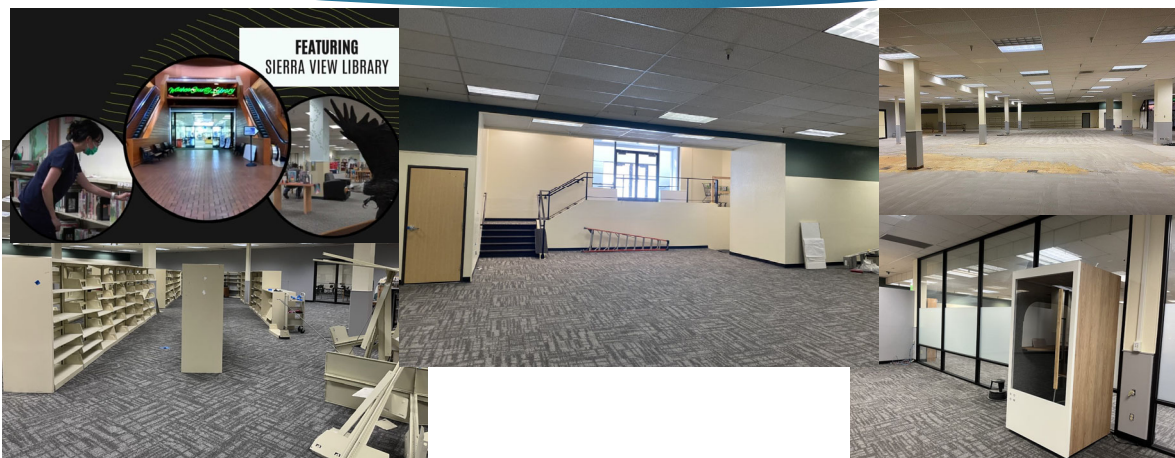
2

Welcoming Spaces

- ▶ Sierra View Library Renovation
 - ▶ Late April Soft Opening
 - ▶ Ribbon Cutting May 17th LBOT Meeting
- ▶ Senior Center Renovation
- ▶ LSTA Grant Zoom Rooms at Downtown Reno, Sierra View, Northwest Reno, and Sparks Libraries
- ▶ Incline Village Library starts Saturday Hours April 1
- ▶ Smart Chutes Future Projects at Downtown Reno and Sierra View Libraries
- ▶ ARPA Opportunities:
 - ▶ Spanish Springs Library New Flooring
 - ▶ South Valleys Library New Flooring
 - ▶ Book Machine
 - ▶ New North Valleys Library

3

Welcoming Spaces



4

Welcoming Spaces

- ▶ Nevada Library Association Legislative Day March 9th
- ▶ Library Hiring
 - ▶ Library Assistant II
 - ▶ Library Aide
 - ▶ Assistant Library Director
 - ▶ Development Officer
- ▶ Washoe County Best Places to Work Survey



NOW HIRING

WORK FOR WASHOE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM

Library Assistant II

Full time: \$48,110.40 - \$62,462.40 annually
Apply now through May 2
washoelibrary.org/libraryassistant2

5

Workforce Development

- ▶ Working with Tesla to Implement ACT Work Ready Community for expansion of workforce
- ▶ Washoe County Library Best Places for Working Parents



6

School Support

- ▶ Baby's First Library Card
 - ▶ Program active at Renown
 - ▶ Planned to market in June
- ▶ Pinwheels for Prevention
- ▶ United Way Partnership with Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- ▶ Food Bank of Northern Nevada Kids Café



7

Lifelong Learning

- ▶ Senior Fairs held at Northwest Reno, Sparks, and South Valleys Libraries
- ▶ Reference Technology Team Senior Survey



8

Celebrate Diversity

- ▶ Women's History Month
- ▶ Women's March Tabling Event
- ▶ Book Lists



Celebrate Diversity

On the Shelf book recommendations from Washoe County Librarians

Mondays at 6:42 am, 8:42 am, and 3:48 pm



THIS WEEK: Book News with Library Director Jeff Scott



CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH KOLO BOOK CLUB

- HOW TO THINK LIKE A WOMAN- REGAN PENALUNA
- OUR SHARE OF NIGHT-MARIANA ENRIQUEZ
- THIS WOMAN'S WORK: ESSAYS ON MUSIC



March is **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

Women Who Dared!

Politicians, daredevils, scientists, athletes, artists, activist: the women in these books for young readers blazed their own trails!

#WhatToRead



11

Board of County Commissioners

RECOGNITION



- Whereas,** libraries provide the opportunity for everyone to pursue their passions and engage in lifelong learning, allowing them to live their best life; and
- Whereas,** libraries have long served as trusted institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status; and
- Whereas,** libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve and ensure equity of access for all; and
- Whereas,** libraries adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities, continually expanding their collections, services, and partnerships; and
- Whereas,** libraries play a critical role in the economic vitality of communities by providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for job seekers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs; and
- Whereas,** libraries are accessible and inclusive places that promote a sense of local connection, advancing understanding, civic engagement, and shared community goals; and
- Whereas,** libraries, librarians, and library workers are joining library supporters and advocates across the nation to celebrate National Library Week, and encourage all residents to visit their library to explore the wealth of resources available;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners does hereby recognize the week of April 23-29 2023 as

National Library Week

Dated this 19th day of April, 2023.




Alexis Hill, Chair
Washoe County Commission

Washoe County

In Memory:

Jean Stoess

Trustee Jean Stoess served on the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees from 2016 to 2022. She was the first woman to serve on the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners from 1977-1981. She had a long and illustrious career focused on community service and improving her community.

Jean Stoess was born on February 10, 1937 and died in her sleep at her Reno home of 57 years on December 3, 2022. A native of Eugene, Oregon, she received her Bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Oregon in 1961 and her Master's in Journalism from the University of Nevada Reno in 1977. Jean would dedicate the next sixty years of her life to serving Washoe County and Reno, Nevada.

Politics and public service were a large part of Jean's life. She got her political start by working for Harry Reid's Lieutenant Governor campaign. Governor Mike O'Callaghan appointed her to the Gaming Policy Committee in 1971, launching her into regional and state-wide politics. Jean would be further appointed and serve on various commissions and boards. As an elections champion, she assisted Washoe County in carrying out free and fair elections over the last ten years of her life.

Governor Mike O'Callaghan would appoint her as the first woman to serve as County Commissioner in Washoe County in 1977. Jean continued championing her community by serving on various boards and commissions, from her first appointment in 1971 to serving as Washoe County Library Trustee in 2016.

Washoe County Library System would like to recognize and honor Trustee Jean Stoess for her time and dedication to the library and her community.



Jean Stoess



February 10, 1937 – December 3, 2022

Jean Stoess was born on February 10, 1937 and died in her sleep at her Reno home of 57 years on December 3, 2022. Except for brief stints in California, Jean grew up in Eugene, Oregon where she attended River Road Elementary School, Colin Kelly Junior High School, and Eugene High School. Jean was extremely successful as a high school student, winning the Chi Omega Recognition Award which was presented to a girl in the senior class who had shown outstanding loyalty and service to her school. The award listed her accomplishments as historian of the student body; co-editor of the EHS newspaper; treasurer of the Folk Dance Group; member of the Latin Club, Spanish Club, International Relations Club, and the Constitution and By-laws Committee of the Student Council. Jean was quick to note that they left out National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and Eugene Folk Dancers. In her spare time, Jean wrote a column for the school paper titled “Babcock’s Babbles.” Jean graduated in the top 10% of her high school class. As a kid, Jean earned pocket money by picking beans, berries, and filberts during the summer. She financed her studies at the University of Oregon by working for Consolidated Freightways.

Much of that work was in Eugene, but she also took some breaks from school and worked in California. She held many positions at CF, including billing clerk, file clerk, transport clearing clerk, and secretary. While working for CF in the Bay Area, Jean became a member of the Office Employee International Union. Other jobs included Capwell's Department store in Oakland and Kelly Girl Services. One of Jean's fondest memories was of driving her 1950 Chevrolet Club Coupe over the Bay Bridge from Oakland to work in San Francisco. Fortunately for Jean, college life was not all study and work. She admitted to spending considerable time drinking coffee and playing pinochle on the second floor of the College Side Inn. In addition, she pledged the Delta Zeta sorority as a freshman. In 2021, Jean was awarded the Order of the Pearl for her 65 years of sorority membership. Jean's studies paid off when she was one of eight women awarded membership in Phi Chi Theta, the national business women's fraternity. She learned of this award at dinner in her living organization when she was presented with a lavender iris. Jean was also admitted to Beta Gamma Sigma, the national business administration honorary, which required being in the top 10% of her college graduating class. Pretty good for someone who she said she went to college only because she lived in a college town. Jean earned her B.A. in Business Administration in 1961. Jean continued her studies by entering the graduate program in Business Administration at Oregon. She applied for and received a graduate assistantship over the objections of a professor who did not favor graduate assistantships for women. This is a theme in Jean's life—she excelled where others thought a woman would fail. During her graduate studies, Jean met Al Stoess, a fellow graduate student. Their initial meeting was when Al borrowed a typewriter from the department office where Jean was working. The next year Jean and Al eloped to Reno.

Raising three children didn't keep Jean from her studies. Despite occasionally bringing a child to class when childcare wasn't available, Jean eventually earned a M.A. in Journalism from the University of Nevada-Reno in 1977. Eight years later Jean proudly completed the Stanford University Publishing course, where she studied newspaper and magazine editing and publishing. Politics and public service were a huge part of Jean's life. She got her start in politics by campaigning for a relatively unknown assemblyman named Harry Reid who was running for Lieutenant Governor.

Jean's big break was when Governor Mike O'Callaghan appointed her to the Gaming Policy Committee in 1971. He later appointed her as the first woman County Commissioner in Washoe County in 1977. She became the first elected woman County

Commissioner shortly thereafter. Jean served on many public policy boards and commissions. She was the co-chair of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Growth in Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County in 1973-1974 and edited the reports for publication. She was a member of the Washoe County Commission from 1977-1981. Jean chaired the Regional Transportation Commission from 1979-1980. She served on the Tahoe Regional Planning Authority twice from 1977-1980 and again in 1981. Governor Robert List appointed her to the Commission on the Future of Nevada in 1979. She represented Washoe County as chair of the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council from 1979-1980. In 1987, Governor Richard Bryan appointed Jean to the Commission on Land Acquisition in the Tahoe Basin. She also served on the Airport Authority of Washoe County from 1992-1998. In 2004, Governor Kenny Guinn appointed her to the State Board of Medical Examiners. Jean also served on the Accuracy Certification Board of the Washoe County Registrar of Voters from 2004 to 2021. In 2014, Jean was appointed to the Blue Ribbon Committee of the Regional Transportation Commission to set future goals for transit services. Finally, she served as a Trustee on the Washoe County Library System from 2016-2022.

Professionally, Jean was a writer and editor. She collaborated on and co-authored books; edited manuscripts for submission to agents and publishers; transcribed oral history interviews; helped graduate students edit theses and dissertations; wrote family histories; and contracted PR, writing, and editing services to businesses and government entities. Jean's media experience was considerable. As the Nevada Manager for News Election Service in 1976, she hired, trained, and managed reporters in every Nevada county. News Election Service was responsible for supplying election returns to the ABC, AP, CBS, CNN, NBC and UPI news networks. From 1985-1996 Jean was the Western Area Manager for News Election Service/Voter News Service with responsibilities for organizing and managing election reporting systems in 13 western states.

She was the Nevada Manager of the Associated Press in 1998 and was again responsible for hiring, training, and managing reporters in every Nevada county. Jean also was the publicity chair for various non-profits, including the Sierra Club, Nevada Environmental Education Council, Nevada Humanities projects, and schools. Animals were one of Jean's passions. Throughout her life, she loved several pet dogs, cats, and even ducks. In 2002, she was the chair for the successful bond campaign for the Regional Animal Shelter—one of her proudest achievements. Jean's community service

was extensive. She was a member of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club since 1972 and served as both the Chapter Chair and Vice Chair. Other volunteer roles included Secretary of the Northern Nevada SPCA; guest member of the Reno Gazette Journal Editorial Board; and member of the Publicity Evaluation Committee for Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center. In addition, Jean was on the Founding Board of Directors for Channel 5 (PBS) in Reno. According to Jean, the community service that got her the most acclaim from her family was when she was a volunteer librarian at Elmcrest Elementary School. Jean's service and commitment were honored by many groups for which she worked or volunteered. She accumulated an extensive collection of Certificates of Appreciation, including from the Commission for Land Acquisition in the Tahoe Basin, Washoe County Airport Authority, Tahoe Bond Program, Regional Transportation Commission, Sierra Club, Ad Hoc Citizen's Policy Study Panel, and Animal Services Advisory Board. In 1958, Jean and three friends attended the Rose Bowl where Oregon lost to Ohio State by a score of 10 to 7. Later in life, Jean renewed an interest in University of Oregon athletics, especially football. She was a great fan of Marcus Mariota and Justin Herbert. Jean's other interests included playing slot machines and reading books on the back deck of her home.

Jean is survived by her husband of 60 plus years, Dr. Alfred Stoess; children, Craig, Mark, and Caryn; and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brother Louis. Contributions in the memory of Jean may be made to the SPCA of Northern Nevada, Nevada Humane Society, Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Domestic Violence Resource Center, Planned Parenthood, or the charity of your choice. A Celebration of Life will be held in 2023.

Posted online on December 17, 2022 Published in Reno
Gazette-Journal

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The Lady Commissioner

Stoess Asks the Right Questions

By FOSTER CHURCH

Jean Stoess is not going to like the question. But it's inevitable and it might as well be phrased baldly and gotten out of the way.

"Are you a knee jerk liberal?"

Her interests, after all, have been consistently liberal. Work for liberal candidates such as Thomas "Spoke" Wilson and Nancy Gomes, involvement with the progressive Blue Ribbon Task Force, continuous interest in environmental and quality of life issues, work on behalf of the Equal Rights Amendment and a commitment to legislative reform.

A bitter laugh. "Oh, come on," she chides. "I'm a social liberal to some extent, although my husband says I'm somewhere to the right of Attila the Hun. And I'm a fiscal conservative. I'm just sort of blah — not associated with any extremes."

If one accepts popular stereotypes, she looks ill equipped for a role as the first female member of the Washoe County Commission. On a Tuesday morning her way to her office, she's clad in a sedate pearl silk dress and a beige wool coat. Her unlined, wide-eyed face is serious and devoid of guile. Her answers are thoughtful.

If she denies the knee jerk label, the people with whom she's worked over a decade of involvement in public affairs adamantly agree.

Dick Allen, director of the Regional Planning Commission with whom she worked on the Blue Ribbon Task Force says, "She can't be categorized as a liberal or a conservative. She'll look at something from a good sense standpoint. And it's her right she pursue it regardless of what kind of tag you put on her."

Warren Nelson, general manager of Club Fall Nevada in downtown Reno who served with her on the state Gaming Policy Advisory Committee, allows that "she's a very, very nice — she wants to know what's going on." But he says she's "very knowledgeable and tries hard." He says she's adamant in defending her own views, "but if you show her another point of view you can change her mind."

In fact, Stoess appears to rate high marks from everyone who has worked with her. She's inevitably described as a hard working, intelligent woman who does her homework, understands the value of careful



At the Office

Newly appointed Washoe County Commissioner Jean Stoess recently opened an office to handle "free-lance management of special projects," but she's uncertain how much time she'll have for the enterprise.

(Gazette/Journal Photo by Larry Nyland)

Nevada State Journal

SUNDAY COLOR

Nov 27 1977 Reno-Tu

RENO EVENING GAZETTE

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Reagan Has Campaign Organization All Ready

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High Winds Hit Colorado, Big Snow Hits Travelers

From Central Wire Services

High winds and snow hit office towers in Denver and other big cities Saturday, snatching at least one life in the Kansas City area as a blizzard swept through the city. A gust of winter storm brought heavy rain to much of the nation.

Supper restaurants in Fairview, driving conditions were so bad that the local and the Midwestern states were closed for the day. The highway system in the West and Midwest was closed for the day.

The Kansas City area, by the way, was hit by a blizzard Saturday, and police asked motorists to stay off the city streets.

A police patrol car in Kansas City, Kan., was unable to reach a traffic accident. Patrolmen walked to the scene of the wreck, and found the body of a woman. Details of the wreck were not immediately available.

While snow covered the area, it also closed early at least one major highway and several state open highways to traffic, and a number of roads.

A North Platte blizzard dumped 17 inches of snow in the city Saturday. In Lincoln, Neb., 6 inches of rain fell. In Omaha, Neb., 6 inches of rain fell. In other storm moved across the north, it hit Plains bringing strong winds to the West, some of the West's mountains.

Rain-wetten rivers near an snow flood stage threatened 20 towns, and forced evacuation of four families in the Sangre de Cristo basin in Washington State, and 600 sandbags were distributed to residents, authorities said Saturday.

More rain was expected later Saturday, adding to the threat of rising waters, west of the mountain where no running water. He has to carry his dish and bathing water in pans from an outside pit at the back. He shares a toilet at the back of another house. Or at least he used to share it. His last neighbor in one of four similar bungalows died of a stroke three years ago.

But for the less-than-modest sum of \$22 a month, Mr. Mac did not complain.

Not the four other bungalows are padlocked, and Mr. Mac has been given until Thursday to vacate the premises, Word is, Mr. Mac said, that the owner intends to build a new modern apartment house, the kind that will be way beyond his income.

Unless Mr. Mac can find a place to live this week, he says, he will have to return to Wilsons a dusty farming crossroads in north central California. He left there for the bright lights and people-filled streets of Reno 17 years ago.

"I sure don't want to go back," Mr. Mac said through the gentle puff of his cigar smoke at the Stein, "because I'd be lonesome there. That's why

The Lewis County sheriff's office reported roadblocks for flooded roads were being prepared and dikes were being watched to insure flood control.

An intense storm swept over the state Friday, bringing nearly 2 inches of rain to coastal areas.

Most rivers in western Washington were very high and flood stages for some major rivers in Snohomish County south to Thurston County were predicted for later Saturday.

The Snohomish River was expected to crest at 20 feet a half foot above flood stage and the Skagitum at Carnation was expected to crest at 25 feet, which is flood stage at that location.

In Colorado, the high winds halted traffic and downed power lines in a 120-mile stretch from Fort Collins south to Colorado Springs. A gust of 119 mph was clocked at Davidson Mesa, east of Boulder and 106 mph at a shopping center in Boulder. At Denver's Stapleton International Airport officials reported 50 mph gusts 75 mph at the Denver Federal Center, 80 mph near the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant and 90 mph at square Mountain west of Evergreen.

Plate glass windows were blown out of United Bank buildings in Boulder and the Columbia Savings building in downtown Denver.

Spontaneous power outages were reported in Denver, Boulder, Arvada, Lakeside and Louisville. Power was out in Nival for several hours after lines leading into a substation were knocked down.

"The wind is tearing us apart," said a spokesman for Public Service Co. of Colorado.

The Boulder Turpuck was closed several times Saturday and there was at least one chain-reaction collision that sent several holiday travelers to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

The Colorado State Patrol stopped camper and trailer traffic on Interstate Highway 25 north of Greeley, because of high winds.

Wind damage was reported to trailers, sheds and fences. Street lights, television antennas and traffic signals in a one area along the eastern foothills. Extensive damage was reported to small planes at the Jefferson County and Arapahoe County airports.

A rash of traffic accidents in Michigan was blamed on high winds and slippery roads as residents braced for another snowstorm forecast for today.

A storm Friday was blamed for three deaths including those of two boys struck by a car when they slid into its path.

Snow blanketed a wide area and below-freezing temperatures combined with gusting winds to make it frigid throughout much of the state Saturday. The Detroit Race Course canceled its schedule because of the extreme cold and high winds.

Forecasters said a new storm was moving in and gale warnings were posted for Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair.

In New York, several thousand Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. customers were without power for a while Saturday, after a storm dumped up to 17 inches of snow in northern and western areas of the state. Wet snow and tree limbs snipped power lines in Watertown to Pulaski.

Northerly winds gusting to 40 mph and temperatures in the 20s made the air Arctic like a much of New York.

Record and near record low temperatures were recorded for the date Saturday in Minnesota and Iowa. Early Saturday it was 20 below zero at International Falls, Minn., Minneapolis-St. Paul reported a record breaking 16 below lowest since 7 below in 1898. In Iowa, Dubuque's 17-below record also set a record for the date.

The weather service said three major factors contributed to the subzero temperatures — fresh snow on the ground, extremely cold temperatures in the upper atmosphere and clear skies.



Comfortable

Thomas McCabe in a favorite pose — a cigar in one hand, a glass of Guinness in the other.

Mr. Mac's World

He Wants to Stay, But Reno Has No Place for Him

By DOUG McMILLAN

The world of Thomas Mac McCabe is limited to a 10 by 10 shack and a 10-foot stretch of downtown Reno.

From his tiny wooden bungalow in an alley off Ralston and Fourth streets he walks across the railroad tracks to Wingfield Park for a pause on a bench, then down to the bookie joint to place a bet on the horses and finally to his nightly haunt — the Stein — for a drink of Guinness stout from his native Ireland.

When you've been an immigrant, cowboy, ditchdigger, farmer, laborer, coast guard, man in World War I — lived through the Gay 90s, Rearranging the Depression and Trust Bowl — and still have friends who care about you, it's all the world a man needs, says Mr. Mac, as he is known affectionately, to drinking buddies half his age.

A few weeks ago, the younger men, who admit Mr. Mac can drink them under the bar any night of the week, gathered for his traditional birthday dinner of roast beef and Guinness. But McCabe had just received an inappropriate gift for an 88-year-old: An eviction notice.

His alleyway shack is marked for "dixies" and Reno just doesn't seem to have a place for an 88-year-old man living on a veteran's pension and Social Security.

It's not that Mr. Mac is asking for much. His present home at 436 Ralston St. is less than modest. It has "kitchen facilities," Mr. Mac proclaims. But they consist of an old refrigerator and hot plate.

There is no running water. He has to carry his dish and bathing water in pans from an outside pit at the back. He shares a toilet at the back of another house. Or at least he used to share it. His last neighbor in one of four similar bungalows died of a stroke three years ago.

But for the less-than-modest sum of \$22 a month, Mr. Mac did not complain.

Not the four other bungalows are padlocked, and Mr. Mac has been given until Thursday to vacate the premises, Word is, Mr. Mac said, that the owner intends to build a new modern apartment house, the kind that will be way beyond his income.

Unless Mr. Mac can find a place to live this week, he says, he will have to return to Wilsons a dusty farming crossroads in north central California. He left there for the bright lights and people-filled streets of Reno 17 years ago.

"I sure don't want to go back," Mr. Mac said through the gentle puff of his cigar smoke at the Stein, "because I'd be lonesome there. That's why

I left. There was nothing to do for retired people. All we had to do was chase stink bugs and flies.

Does he know anyone in Wilsons now?

Oh sure," Mr. Mac replied confidently. "I know a few people there." Clark Santini, brother of Rep. Jim Santini, sadly shakes his head, no. I'm sure in 17 years a lot of his old friends have passed away.

Santini and Stein bartender Clarence E. "Porky" Kingston have been searching desperately for a new habitation for Mr. Mac — another shack, a boarding house room with kitchen privileges, anything downtown.

"I'm looking for a cabin if I can get one," Mr. Mac said. He's willing and able to pay up to \$100 or so from his pensions as long as he's left "stew money."

This has really been an education to me, Santini said.

"I called one of those old hotels," he said, gesturing toward Lake Street. "It's not exactly Emperor Haile Selassie's residence. They wanted \$40 a week."

Santini has heard of a few places — single rooms or bungalows within walking distance of downtown — but they've been snatched up before he could get to them.

"I must have missed one — for \$110 a month — by 10 minutes this morning," he said, pounding his fist on the bar. "It was just a room with kitchen privileges and a shared bathroom. But it was on Center Street."

Mr. Mac shakes his head knowingly. On Center Street he would have been only four blocks from his social center, the Stein.

"I still get around good. There's nothing wrong with me," he said, tapping the mahogany cane he hooks over the edge of the bar each night.

"I'm just old and stiff. I ya' stumble and fall, ya' can't catch yourself like a kid. You're too slow. So you've got to have one of these," he said, putting the cane back on its ledge.

He still makes the 10-block jaunt from his tiny home to the Stein in 10 or 15 minutes.

Kingston found a possible place, too, about 11 blocks from the Stein on South Virginia Street. But the steps were too steep.

"Steps aren't too much trouble if there's a handrail," Mr. Mac assures.

The old man has been looking on his own, too, on his daily rounds, peering intently at every little house and bungalow — or "cabin," as he calls them. "I went walking around, but didn't see any signs," he said.

"By the time I get there, the signs are always gone."

(See MR. MAC'S, Page 3, Col. 3)

(Continued from Page 1)

research and is, as Nelson puts it, "very, very nosy". She says she had some advance information that Gov. Mike O'Callaghan was considering appointing her to fill Dick Scott's vacant seat on the Washoe County Commission... but not me.

She received the news early on a Monday morning. And if she was surprised, so was the rest of the community. Although she is well known among a coterie of community activists and by most government figures, she does not maintain a high profile.

"I am by nature rather quiet in a group. I guess I'll have to change that."

She's uncertain how she came to O'Callaghan's attention. She worked on Harry Reid's campaign for lieutenant governor in 1970 and suddenly found herself an O'Callaghan appointee to the Gaming Policy Advisory Commission.

She sees O'Callaghan perhaps three times a year, she says. And she has links with O'Callaghan staff members, particularly with Mike Metzger, who is director of the state Department of Human Resources and a neighbor of the Stoesses in Northwest Reno.

But O'Callaghan liked what he saw. He chairs the gaming policy committee and says, "She asked intelligent questions and doesn't let anybody side by with an answer. Her questions are very probing."

He was impressed with her intelligence, the quality of her preparation and her broad background in public affairs.

He also indicates the Washoe County Commission can benefit by a persnickety tough questions. Stoess' background should give her the equipment to ask tough questions.

She was raised in Oregon in a staunchly Republican but politically uninvolved family. She cast her first presidential ballot for Richard Nixon. She describes herself as "an intellectual and a knacker" in high school "a square peg in a round hole."

She worked her way through University of Oregon at Eugene, carrying 21 hours of honors courses while working full-time as a billing clerk for Consolidated Freight.

She majored in business and transportation and made almost a four point (A) average. She dropped out for a year to work in San Francisco, returned and went to graduate school and married Al Stoess.

She found the business world stimulating and had completed all the coursework toward a master's degree in business administration when she became pregnant.

She quit to take care of her child and help put her husband through school. "I typed a lot of masters' theses to make ends meet."

Did she resent sublimating her career to her husband's?

"I felt very torn. If we had to do it again, I'd make a more equitable partition of the type of work."

She became the typical married woman of the early sixties. "I used to sit home, watch television and wonder why my floors weren't clean enough. I admire women now who are able to complete their degrees and raise children together — because it's hard."

The Stoesses came to Reno in November, 1962, when the University of Nevada-Reno offered Al Stoess a position.

She stayed home and took care of her child (Craig, now 14) and two more who were born in Reno (Mark, 12, and Caryn, 10).

An offer to do volunteer secretarial work for United Way met indifference. She couldn't stir much enthusiasm for faculty wives aid.

Then in 1968, she noticed an office had opened across from J.C. Penney and Co. on Sierra Street by volunteers interested in changing state abortion laws.

She volunteered and learned to write press releases. She met Pat Hardy Lewis, who later was elected to the Reno City Council, and another politically active female, Barbara Thornton, who suggested she attend the Democratic County Convention.

The news that Jean Stoess was a competent volunteer worker spread. She was approached to serve on boards and committees.

She and another local woman, Carolyn Cuno, single-handedly organized and produced an environmental fair in 1971. They called it Eco-Operation and intended that it provide a forum for the public to talk with various organizations concerned with the environment.

At the same time, she began taking classes at the university. And journalism professor LaRue Gilliland suggested she work for a master's degree in journalism.

"I started to snowball," she says. It was a snowball of involvement in community affairs, involvement at the university (where she began teaching a basic journalism course in 1973), and a snowball of acquaintances that included many young people in the journalism department who were later to take jobs in the local media.

The net effect was that although Jean Stoess was not publicly known, she was making a great impression on inside circles of government and media in Northern Nevada.

Then came the Blue Ribbon Task Force reports. The reports were a milestone in the history of governmental planning in Washoe County. And they were also a milestone in Jean Stoess' career.

The task force was organized in June, 1973 by the Regional Planning Commission and the Area Council

of Governments, chiefly at the urging of Washoe County Commissioner Bob Rusk. Their purpose was to study the effects of growth on 10 areas.

Stoess was named to the executive committee and eventually became editor of the massive study which included sections devoted to water, air pollution, housing and public finance.

She says that from December, 1973 until April 1974, she practically took up residence in the offices of the Regional Planning Commission. Some chairmen turned in their reports loose in mania folders. One was submitted in a paper bag.

It was her job to meticulously compile and edit the reports and supervise final publication.

Completing the reports, she was to learn, was only the beginning.

Committee members were required to present them to local officials and hold public hearings.

The Reno City Council seemed openly hostile to the recommendations. "They were amazed that we would even consider such a thing as controlled growth. One elected official said anyone who talked about the problems of air pollution was trying to ruin the free enterprise system and the economy of Reno."

The task force reports did not, as was hoped, become a blueprint for directing growth in the Truckee Meadows. And despite the prestige of the committee and the breadth of its research, there are many who say the reports have been consigned to the classic dusty shelf reserved for revolutionary research.

Stoess has heard it all and disagrees. "We didn't have enough time to do them. The methodology could have been improved. But I'm always saying what we did is create an awareness."

She says attitudes have begun to change and she is convinced that the task force is greatly responsible.

During the controversy that developed in Reno over the sewer bond question in 1976, Stoess was targeted as a "no growler," probably as a result of her association with the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

She dismisses the tag contemptuously. "No one is in favor of stopping growth."

And for a woman who has been so deeply involved in regional planning questions, she was notably quiet during the sewer bond election campaign. She had become swamped with other activities.

After the task force reports, she continued to teach journalism and completed her master's thesis, and — she went to work for the Bureau of Land Management in 1974 as a public affairs specialist on a 700-hour contract.

— She edited physics professor Richard Sill's massive Pyramid Lake Task Force report for the Sierra Club.

She became Nevada manager of News Election Service which coordinates election return reporting for national media.

— And she was hired as a public relations consultant to the Elko City County Auditorium Authority. Her job was to create public awareness of the need for a convention center. The bond issue passed.

This year, she has been project director for a film about land use in Nevada for the Nevada Humanities Committee. And she was also project director and publicly director for a highly successful series of lectures and outings titled "September in the Park," designed to create awareness of area parks.

The state of drift and discord in the Reno City Council, provided a dull drumbeat in the background. "I felt helpless and appalled at all the fighting and bickering that was going on. I felt the whole city was foundering for lack of leadership."

She was in Los Angeles the primary election night of May 25 when voters defeated the bond issue which would have provided funds for expansion of the Reno-Sparks Sewage Treatment facility.

"I was amazed when it failed. They were all operating in their own little realms."

There were rumors Stoess would run for the city council in 1977. She might have done it if she had lived in any district but Bruno Mennicucci's. It was a practical choice. She knew she couldn't beat him.

She has also considered running for the Nevada Legislature at various times. In the end, she has always backed away from the political fray, preferring to work on the campaigns of more liberal candidates, particularly Assemblywoman Nancy Gomes and Sue Wagner.

Even now, she will commit herself to seeking reelection to the county commission in September.

Recently, Stoess opened an office in the Security National Bank Building on Liberty Street and hung out a shingle of sorts.

She describes her new venture as "free-lance management of special projects (preparation of reports, organization of meetings, programs, reporting election returns), and general public relations consulting."

But as a commissioner, she's uncertain how much time she'll be able to devote to her fledgling venture.

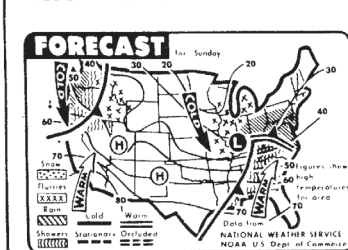
The new position will probably also cut into her time with her family, although her three children, she says, are prepared to assume chores and responsibilities. "I think that's preferable to waiting on them hand and foot."

She also has her husband to consider, who is director of program planning and employee relations for the University of Nevada system and a one-time candidate for the Washoe County Commission himself.

In addition to mastering the enormous amounts of information required for a commissioner, she admits she'll have to develop a thicker skin than the one she now possesses.

She also says it will take time to become accustomed to being interviewed.

The Weather



The National Weather Service forecast for today includes rain, showers or flurries in the Northwest and an area of flurries in parts of the Midwest. Rain is expected from Illinois to the East Coast and showers from the Gulf Coast north to Kentucky. AP Wirephoto Map.

Regional Forecasts

Northwest and Northeast Nevada: Decreased chance of showers and partial clearing today becoming mostly fair Monday. Northwest winds of 10 to 20 mph at times.

South Central Nevada: Occasional high clouds, otherwise fair through Tuesday, northwest winds.

Extreme Southern Nevada: Mostly fair through Monday, light winds increasing to northwinds of 10 to 20 mph late today.

Nevada Temperatures

Table with 3 columns: Location, High, Low. Includes Reno, Sparks, Carson City, and various regional locations.

National Temperatures

Table with 3 columns: Location, High, Low. Includes Albany, Anchorage, Atlanta, and various regional locations.

Mr. Mac's World

(Continued from Page 1)

"Generally, when these clubs start layin' people off, a lot of people go south," he said solemnly. "They might be a room then, but by then it might be too late."

Out of cigars, he pauses to roll a cigarette. "I used to do it pretty good," he says, chucking, "but my fingers are gettin' kind of shaky. He neatly wraps the tobacco in pink cigarette paper without spilling a shred."

Chicago Radioactive Shipping Point

CHICAGO (UPI) — The nation's shipping point for radioactive cargo became Chicago after New York City banned the cargo from its streets as a hazard to public safety, the Chicago Sun Times reported today's editions.

Weapons grade uranium is the cargo. It is so highly enriched that it would be ideal for any terrorist group bent on making atomic bombs or extorting ransom, the Sun Times said.

The uranium once was trucked to Kennedy International Airport in New York for shipment abroad. Now it is hauled to O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, the newspaper said.

More than two tons, 22 or 24 uranium shipments exported or imported since mid-1975, have gone through O'Hare, records of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission show. One shipment went out of Duquesne International Airport, Washington, D.C., and another out of the Columbus, Ohio, airport.

Most of the shipments originated at Goodyear Atomic Corp.'s uranium enrichment plant at Piketon, Ohio, the report said.

Leonard R. Solon, a New York health official, took a stand against armored trucks using New York routes to reach Kennedy Airport in 1975. A few weeks later, in August, large quantities of uranium began passing through O'Hare.

"We were concerned about accidents, sabotage and terrorist attacks," Solon said. "We did not want to increase the number of targets of opportunity for terrorists and crazies in our city."

Officials in Chicago said they knew nothing about the cargo going through O'Hare.

Always shipped to O'Hare by armored truck and escorted by at least one carload of heavily armed guards, the bulk of the highly enriched uranium being exported goes to West Germany, France, Italy and Canada for use in nuclear reactors, the Sun Times said.

FIRE CALLS

RENO 12:24 a.m. Furnace problem at 539 Ridge St. no damage. 12:12 a.m. Car fire at 278 Spotted St. damage to interior and car. 1:32 a.m. Inhabitant run over at 1470 W. 12:24 p.m. Car fire at 1090 Vine St. no damage. 10:10 p.m. Sanitary fire at 501 Grande and Prima Vista streets. Firemen located at 1470 Weeping Road, no damage. SPARKS 8:15 p.m. Fire at Woods Trailer Park. 8:45 p.m. Fire at 4780 Green St. CARSON 8:04 a.m. Inhabitant fire at 328 S. St. insured by A.I.S. 4:00 a.m. Inhabitant fire at Colorado Street and Baker Drive, no damage. 4:00 p.m. Structure fire, false alarm at 2049 Bowen's Lane.

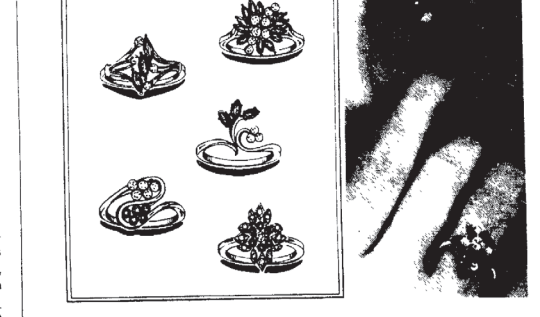
up New York City on the Fourth of July, 1969. Whisked through Ellis Island "they would just check your eyes and stuff and run you through," he said. "I don't think I'll stay. Because I don't think it'd be any use. They might be a room then, but by then it might be too late." His urge to roam took him to Buffalo, where he stoked the furnace at the old Loggans Hotel, then to Texas and Oklahoma, where he became a cowboy. By the time he reached San Francisco, World War II had broken out. He enlisted in the Coast Guard and was off the coast of France when the war ended. There was little celebration. "Hell, there was nothing left standing. What was there to celebrate?" Back in the states, Prohibition was soon invoked, but it didn't affect Mr. Mac and his hard-drinking friends.

Barth? Why, people would put clothespins on their noses and drink anything." The Dixie Bowl drought hit, and as he worked on irrigation projects on the Lower Colorado River, his friends would criticize him for blowing his money on "booze and women."

But his buddies lost their hard-earned savings in the Depression. "After the crash, I'd ask them, 'Well, I got a kick out of mine. What'd you get out of yours?'"

He was too old to enlist for World War II, although he tried. Hoping freight trains from California to Montana, harvesting wheat, vegetables or fruit, driving tractors and herding sheep, Mr. Mac finally ended up in Willow.

After 17 years in Reno, he's not eager to go on the move again. "The people are really friendly, here. I like to play a horse now and then... and I love my beer."



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County Commission has its first woman member



Congrats, commissioner

Jean Stoess is congratulated by Dick Scott today after she was sworn in to replace him on the Washoe County Commission. At

right is Commissioner Dwight Nelson. (Gazette photo by Larry Nylund)

Jean Stoess, first woman member of the Washoe County Commission, was sworn in today, and Commissioner Ken Gaunt was elected chairman of the board. Gaunt, replacing former Commissioner Dick Scott as chairman, said he'll "certainly try to carry on the job of Mr. Scott to the best of my ability."

Mrs. Stoess was appointed to the Regional Planning Commission, the Tahoe-Regional Planning Agency and the Washoe County Commission of Arts. On the TRPA she will fill the Washoe seat vacated by Scott, who resigned effective today to become vice president of Boomtown Casino.

Mrs. Stoess also will sit on the county Board of Equalization and the Washoe County Area Transportation Committee, filling seats Commissioner Dwight Nelson vacated this morning.

Commissioner Bill Farr was named to fill Scott's seat on the Reno-Sparks Convention Authority. Farr also was appointed to the Annexation and Public Works committees, filling seats vacated this morning by Gaunt.

Mrs. Stoess, who was appointed to the board by Gov. Mike O'Callaghan, was sworn in by Judi Kuhn, chief deputy county clerk.

"Welcome aboard and we are delighted to have the first woman on the Washoe board of commissioners," Vice-Chairman Nelson said after the brief ceremony.

Mrs. Stoess introduced her family, after which Gaunt quipped, "I'd like to ask Mrs. Stoess' family if they like TV dinners?" This was a reference to the frequently lengthy commission meetings.

Scott stood to tell Mrs. Stoess, "I know you are going to enjoy this. I know they gave you some dandy assignments — but that's because they have confidence in you."

Addressing the commission, Scott said, "A lot of good things have been accomplished during the past few years. Keep it up."

Commission agenda greets Mrs. Stoess with good item mix

By JACK McFARREN

Almost every kind of business was to face Washoe County's first woman commissioner during her initial meeting today.

Mrs. Jean Stoess was sworn in at 9 a.m. She replaces Commissioner Dick Scott who resigned recently to become vice president of the Boomtown Casino west of Reno.

Between that time and 4:15 when the last agenda item is scheduled to be considered, Mrs. Stoess was to hear requests ranging from approval of a tentative map for a large subdivision in Cold Springs Valley to a park for the Stead area.

The commission was to hear a recommendation for a review procedure for department heads to follow when an employee is suspected of illegal activity.

The hearing on denial by the Regional Planning Commission of a tentative subdivision map for a 224 single family development in Cold Springs Valley was set for 11:15 a.m.

Proposed by the Cold Springs Development Co., the project would be located on the north side of Reno Park Boulevard and north of Dry Lake in Cold Springs Valley.

In denying the project map, the planning commission reported that serious questions exist concerning the availability of water.

At 4:15 p.m., Hans Radtke, chairman of the Stead-O'Brien Park Advisory Committee, is scheduled to appear before the commission to discuss a regional park for the area.

In a letter to the commissioners, Radtke said Stead-O'Brien is a fast-growing area without recreational facilities for children.

He said residents of the area are "quite disturbed to see development of commercial warehousing and residential homes without any progress on much needed public services."

A master plan for a school and regional park has been drawn up and approved by the county, city of Reno and Washoe County School District, but no action has been taken on that plan, said Radtke. He said he will ask today that a member of the County Commission attend the advisory committee's next meeting at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 11 at the Stead school.

RENO EVENING GAZETTE

Phone (702) 786-8989

Reno, Nevada, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1977

Fifteen

School, health officials to meet to set new immunization deadline

By PAT O'DRISCOLL

Washoe County health and school officials will meet Thursday morning to set a new suspension deadline for public school pupils who haven't been immunized against preventable childhood diseases.

The original deadline was today, but public school and health officials extended the "grace period" for unimmunized pupils because of a backlog of in-school clinics to inoculate youngsters.

Even if the new deadline is scheduled within the next month or so, as many as 9,000 youngsters might be sent home from school until they update their immunization records, according to the coordinator of the county health department's immunization program.

Although the officials aren't in open disagreement, the 9:30 a.m. meeting is shaping into a showdown on the issue of public safety versus parent and student rights.

Health department immunization coordinator Caroline Ford says the pupils must be immunized in enough numbers to bring an 85 to 90 percent immunization rate countywide — the minimum "safe" level urged by national disease control experts.

"I want to make it definitely clear that we still have a health safety problem," she said today. "And we're coming into the critical season. Resistance (to disease) is low."

Robb, the school district's administrative assistant for student services, agreed this morning that health safety is important. But he said parents and students must have adequate time to respond to school health officials' pleas that the immunizations be received as soon as possible. He added that it is unclear whether enough local clinics exist, or even enough private physicians, to handle all the immunizations that must be given.

Robb said three or four physicians have phoned his

office already to say they can't handle all the immunization requests from their regular patients. He added that the difficult problem of tracing deficiencies in high school students' immunization records also could bottle up the program and cause suspensions.

Ms. Ford suggested that the immunization deadline be moved back a month from today. Robb said he isn't ready to suggest new deadline dates until after Thursday's meeting.

Once the deadline is set, Washoe County parents will have until then to get their children vaccinated against polio, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough and measles. If they don't, the children will be suspended from school until they've had all their shots updated.

A Washoe County District Health Department audit of local school immunization records this fall revealed dangerously high percentages of children who weren't completely immunized against those diseases. Since that audit — which revealed only a 19 percent immunization level — the health department and the Washoe County School District have conducted an intensive campaign of immunization clinics, letters to parents and even an immunization poster contest to heighten youngsters' awareness of the dangers of communicable diseases.

The result, according to the health department's immunization coordinator, still is only a 40 to 50 percent immunization rate — far short of the rate considered "safe" by disease control officials.

Ms. Ford said that even if the deadline is set back one month from today, the best that local officials can reasonably hope for is another 20 percent increase in fully immunized students. That would leave Washoe County anywhere from 15 to 30 percent short of the minimum safety goal. Translated into numbers of students, that would put at least 4,000 to 9,000 public school pupils under the threat of indefinite suspension from school.

Man dead in apartment fire in Reno

An unemployed Reno man died Monday night in an apartment fire blamed on smoking in bed.

The Washoe coroner's office identified the man as John E. Matthews, 44. He had been employed by two medical laboratories.

Reno Fire Department investigators said the fire was caused by smoking in bed. Firemen were called to the apartment at 800 Ryland St. at 10:50 p.m. They extinguished the blaze quickly.

The coroner's office said an initial autopsy failed to pinpoint the cause of death. Matthews' body was badly burned.

Laboratory tests must be done to determine if he died of burns or smoke inhalation.

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State prison lockdown eases slowly

CARSON CITY — Nevada State Prison's maximum security section began its fifth week in lockdown this week, but the facility is starting a gradual "unlocking," according to Warden Charles Wolff.

Wolff said he does not yet know when the lockdown will end, but he predicted that in the future the prison will employ lighter inmate control than it has in the past.

The warden said his staff has completed isolating those prisoners who have been the source of problems in the past, but the lockdown remains in effect because continuing shakedowns still are turning up contraband.

Burn victim still critical

Burn victim Donnalene Ware of Reno remained in critical condition today at St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Francisco.

The woman was burned Friday in a fire in her room at the Toscana Hotel on Lake Street. Cause of the fire, which was confined to the room, is under investigation.

Con men hope Santa will come to the door

By PHIL BARBER

It's the Christmas season and someone appears at your front door asking for a donation. What should you do?

If you're like a lot of residents, you'll give the person some change or a bill and wish him or her "Merry Christmas."

But, you could be victim of a con game, Reno police warn. Police suggest you check with them or the Better Business Bureau if you have any doubt about the solicitor's real identity or purpose.

If the solicitor is on the level, he won't mind waiting while you check, Reno police Lt. Bob Cavakis said.

Cavakis said police receive many complaints during the holidays. "Anyone who goes to your door to sell something or ask for a donation needs some kind of credential," Cavakis said.

The same thing goes for Sparks and the unincorporated area of Washoe County.

Don Cralle, manager of the Better Business Bureau in Reno, said most complaints to his office are from persons who have permits complaining about solicitors who don't. Both Reno and Sparks rely on the Better Business Bureau.

If you want a permit to solicit for a profit-making organization in Reno or Sparks, go first to the Better Business Bureau. It will verify the authenticity and reliability of the organization, then send you to the police department, which will take your fingerprints and photograph and check for a criminal record.

A profit-making solicitor's permit in Reno costs \$15 and is good for six months. In Sparks, it costs \$22 and is good for a year.

Reno Police issue badges, which must be worn and must be visible. Neither Sparks Police nor the Washoe County Sheriff's Department issues badges.

The only fee paid to the Sheriff's Department is \$4 for the cost of fingerprints, Capt. Glenn Vogler said.

There is no fee for a charitable solicitor's permit at either the Sheriff's Department or Sparks Police. Cavakis said this permit costs \$5 at Reno.

Cavakis said permits are important. He recalled a man in a wheelchair, who asked passersby for donations, then folded up his chair and drove away in a car.

Then, he said, there was the man who was selling little American flags for "for veterans." "It turned out the man was the only veteran."

Cavakis said there are persons who try to take advantage of your Christmas spirit by asking for donations for fictitious charitable organizations. His advice is, "Don't give unless you know who is getting the money."

Reno has a solicitors review board. Charitable solicitors must appear in person before the board for permission to go door-to-door, Cavakis said. At the conclusion of the drive, the solicitor must reveal how much was taken in and what happened to it.

If it's profit-making, the Better Business Bureau can recommend the person or group not be given a permit, Cralle said. That might be the case if the Better Business Bureau has received previous complaints about the group.

The Better Business Bureau also issues warnings to members if it knows of a complaint-causing group soliciting in the area, Cralle said.

Cralle said solicitors cause a continuing problem throughout the year, but particularly during the Christmas holidays.

Sandra Minch, the Sparks police clerk who processes solicitor's permits, said she tells solicitors:

"Let your face be the first thing they see when they open the door, but let your permit be the second."

Sliding power rate plan opposed

Gazette-Journal
Carson Bureau

Establishing an "inverted rate structure," under which the more power you use the higher rate you pay, was opposed today — at least for now — by the chairman of the Nevada Public Service Commission.

Heber Hardy told the Nevada Farm Bureau convention in Carson City that the commission recently switched to a system of flat rates under which all users pay essentially the same rate.

"We should let it sit for awhile," Hardy said, adding that before he votes in favor of an inverted rate, "I would have to have hard evidence it's in the best interest of the public."

Before the flat rate structure was adopted, Hardy said, larger users paid less. For example, one might have paid 9½ cents per kilowatt hour in the first of several rate blocks but 8 cent per kilowatt hour in the last.

Under the flat rate system, he said, Sierra Pacific Power Co. has only two rate blocks and Nevada Power but one.

Hardy said he isn't totally opposed to the idea of an inverted rate. a

concept now being studied by Southwest Gas. If that study indicates such a course is appropriate, he said, he would vote for it.

Hardy said the commission is considering reasserting its regulatory control over utilities and water companies with 25 or fewer customers and income of less than \$1,000 a year.

They were originally de-regulated because they were considered a

Safe theft investigated

Police are investigating the reported theft of about \$10,000 cash and loose diamonds valued at \$20,000 from the safe of Dahkren of Reno, 255 S. Wells Ave.

Officers said the theft was discovered at the start of the work day Monday when it was noticed that the door of the safe was open. Checks, money orders, and other valuables were left behind by the thief.

"headache" to control, but their exemption has proven a bigger headache, he said. Such a change would involve legislative action.

Some of them have not kept good records for the purpose of establishing a rate base and have engaged in "sloppy accounting procedures," he said.

Hardy told the farmers and ranchers gathered at the Ormsby House that he favored the present examination by a subcommittee of the Nevada Legislature into the possibility of abandoning regulation of those who had produced from the farm to where processing is begun.

He said the tendency has been to "self help" — that is, one farmer helping another — which is now "technically illegal."

Hardy said many segments of the community, including farmers, have asked for breaks in their utility rates.

While some breaks are granted and while "my heart bleeds for every customer," Hardy said, "the commission is in a position that if we grant concessions we have to adjust other rates accordingly."

Rivals may join Reno air service bid

CARSON CITY (AP) — The state Public Service Commission agreed Monday to let airlines intervene in a rival's bids to provide Reno-Las Vegas service — but also said no immediate action is forthcoming on the proposal.

The PSC said that no exact hearing schedule will be established yet for Trans World Airlines, which has applied for the run now handled only by Hughes Airwest.

The state agency said the idea is to wait and see what the federal Civil Aeronautics Board does with ap-

plications by four airlines to break the Airwest monopoly on the run between Nevada's two largest cities.

The PSC also granted petitions by Western Air Lines Inc. and American Airlines Inc. to intervene in the TWA application.

Both Western and TWA have applied with the state to provide the service.

The PSC also said Sierra Pacific Power Co. can proceed with plans to upgrade the transmission line between its Washoe station and Reno substation.



Sworn In

Jean Stoess takes the oath of office Tuesday as Washoe County's first woman commissioner. From left are Judi Kuhn, chief deputy county clerk who swore Mrs. Stoess in; Mrs. Stoess; commission chairman Ken Gaunt; Commissioner Dwight Nelson; Commissioner Bob Rusk, Chief Civil Deputy District Attorney Larry Struve, and Commissioner Bill Farr.

(Journal Photo)



First Woman Commissioner Takes Seat

Jean Stoess, first woman member of the Washoe County Commission, was sworn in today, and Commissioner Ken Gaunt was elected chairman of the board.

Gaunt, replacing former Commissioner Dick Scott as chairman, said he'll "certainly try to carry on the job of Mr. Scott to the best of my ability."

Mrs. Stoess was appointed to the Regional Planning Commission, the Tahoe-Regional Planning Agency and the Washoe County Commission of Arts. On the TRPA she will fill the Washoe seat vacated by Scott who resigned effective today to become vice president of Boomtown Casino.

Mrs. Stoess also will sit on the county Board of Equalization and the Washoe County Area Transportation Committee, filling seats Commissioner Dwight Nelson vacated this morning.

Commissioner Bill Farr was named to fill Scott's seat on the Reno-Sparks Convention Authority. Farr also was appointed to the Annexation and Public Works committees, filling seats vacated this morning by Gaunt.

Mrs. Stoess, who was appointed to the board by Gov. Mike O'Callaghan, was sworn in by Judi Kuhn, chief deputy county clerk.

Welcome aboard and we are delighted to have the

first woman on the Washoe board of commissioners," Vice Chairman Nelson said after the brief ceremony.

Mrs. Stoess introduced her family, after which Gaunt quipped, "I'd like to ask Mrs. Stoess' family if they like 'TV dinners.'" This was a reference to the frequently lengthy commission meetings.

Scott stood to tell Mrs. Stoess, "I know you are going to enjoy this. I know they gave you some dandy assignments — but that's because they have confidence in you."

Addressing the commission, Scott said, "A lot of good things have been accomplished during the past few years. Keep it up."



Gaunt: New Chairman

'Like an Ant Farm'

Reno Jail Inmates Hard to Keep Track Of, Policeman Claims

By PHIL BARBER
Keeping track of Reno City jail inmates is so difficult that one could disappear and not be missed for days, Capt. Ken Pulver, who commands the jail, acknowledged today.

But Pulver, police services commander, said he is "satisfied it's a well run facility."

No locked up inmate has disappeared since two fled through an air vent two or three years ago. But occasionally a trusty disappears, and a state work release inmate walked away Oct. 27.

After the latter incident, Pulver ordered a report on why the inmate's disappearance wasn't reported to him by jail personnel for five days. Pulver also tightened jail record-keeping procedures.

The problem is that the jail is like an ant farm, Pulver said. He said so many persons enter and leave and are half in and half out that it would be nearly impossible to keep track of all inmates all the time.

He said the Reno jail is unlike the state prison, where the inmate population is more static.

The Reno jail averages about 78 inmates in residence, he said. About half of the population changes daily.

Pulver picked up today's inmate roster. It showed 82 inmates and a turnover of 47.

There were 20 felons, 22 persons serving time for misdemeanors, two serving time on weekends, two awaiting continued action by Municipal Court, four awaiting other action by Municipal Court, four held for immigration authorities and 28 drunks held under civil protective custody.

Pulver said that when an inmate is booked, records are kept in the jail. When the inmate is to be released, he is called from the cell or tank to sign for return of his property.

The jail compares his signature with the one obtained in booking and lets him go.

If an inmate did disappear, he probably wouldn't be missed immediately, Pulver acknowledged. He said felony suspects are kept an average of four or five days. Drunks are released daily.

He said a particular inmate might be sentenced to 30 days on one occasion, 15 days another and one or two days another time. This is complicated by 13 jailers coming and going at different times, he said.

In addition, a misdemeanor inmate or one drying out from a drunk might be asked to carry out the garbage or carry in potatoes, Pulver said.

If he walks away, it might not be discovered immediately. However, since the law decriminalizing

drunkenness, drunks + suits are available as trustees work in the kitchen, the laundry and jail maintenance in general.

Since the work-release inmate incident, Pulver said, he has clarified responsibility for such inmates and firmed up general record-keeping.

Previously, a parole and probation officer could call the jail and say that a certain state inmate would be late reporting to the jail because he had to get a haircut.

Pulver said jailers no longer can accept that. Only a jail supervisor can.

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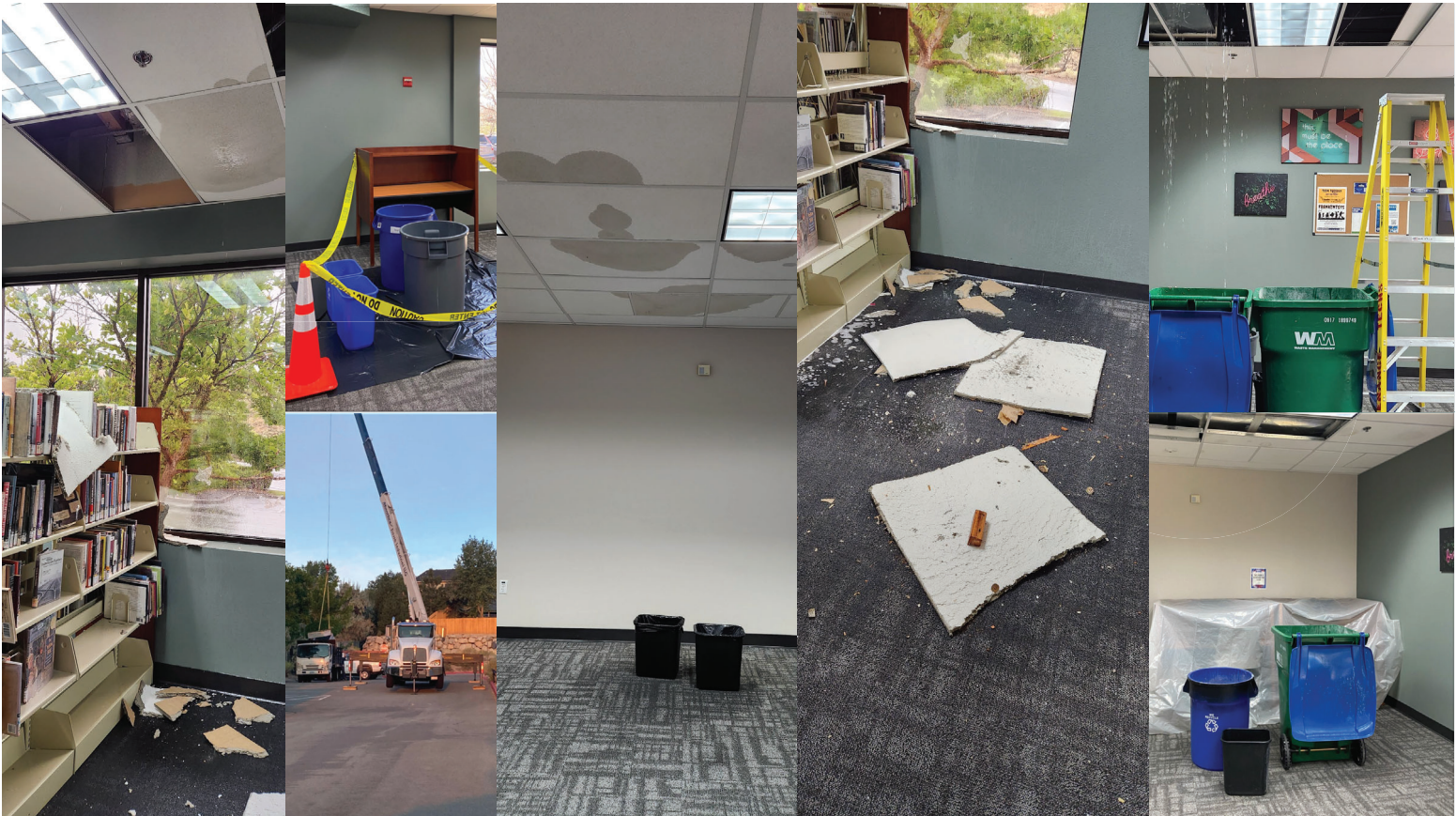
Library Director's Update - April 2023

This item will be provided as a verbal report.



Northwest Reno Library

APRIL 2023 — LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



Space Updates



Before...



After: New desk!

New Programs

- Family Trivia Night
- Making Cents
- Make it Crafterwork
- Senior Café
- Teen Tuesday

Pardon the Pawn
(chess program)



SaturYay and
Sunday Funday

Twisting Sprout
(children's movement program)



Special Programs and Collaborations

Share Your Story with Judith Schumer

Scholarly discussions with University of Nevada, Reno professors

How did you survive? Holocaust exhibit

The History and Culture of the Washoe Peoples



Snapshot: Programs by the Numbers

Program numbers from July 2022-April 2023

Family Story Time: 1,054 patrons

Toddler Time: 1,398 patrons

SaturYay: 672 patrons

Sunday Funday: 583 patrons





STEAM Fun (below)



Life-sized Land of Candy (top) and Gingerbread House Workshop (bottom)

Hands-on Gallery Exhibit (top)



Mini Maker Star Wars Craft Program (left)



Fun times at our branches



Early Voting

Northwest Library had
5,245 in-person votes and
1,995 mail ballots dropped off



Gallery

Ashley Gottlieb, *Wisdom of Rocks*
December 2022



Summer Reading Challenge

Total Minutes Read: 149,629

OR

2,493.8 hours

OR

103 days of reading!

Completed Activities:

2,000



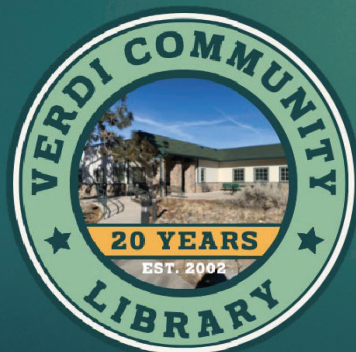
Verdi

Mini Maker programs

New carpeting

Verdi Community Library 20th Anniversary Party

More than 100 patrons in attendance!





LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - APRIL 19, 2023

Reference, Training, and Technology Team Report: Community Resource of the Week

In the fall of 2021, the Reference, Training, and Technology (RTT) service team identified a need for patrons seeking assistance to access community resources and technology support. This prompted the launch of our Book-a-Librarian service, designed to help patrons with tasks such as online job and unemployment applications, setting up an email address, applying for government assistance, and navigating tech devices.

As a subset of the Book-a-Librarian project, the team looked for ways to provide useful resources to front-line staff in support of those patron requests. We wanted to make it easier for staff to provide accurate and timely information for the benefit of the public.

To accomplish this, RTT looked to the 2022-2025 Washoe County Library System Strategic Plan, which directs RTT to assist with these components:

- **WELCOMING SPACES:** Enhance Washoe County Library System's spaces through renovations, spaces, furniture, fixtures, and equipment.
RTT Action Item: Ensure staff are aware of all library resources and specific community resources.

- **WORKFORCE BUILDING:** Provide workforce training and virtual space opportunities for a COVID and post-COVID environment.
RTT Action Item: Reviewing Community Resource project for expansion.

- **LIFELONG LEARNING:** Improve the welfare of and provide more resources for lifelong learners and seniors in Washoe County.
RTT Action Item: Ensuring seniors stay connected with community resources so they can get access to the assistance, events, and programs they need.

- **CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY:** Ensure we are serving and celebrating everyone in our community.
RTT Action Item: Commit to ensuring and enhancing services to our vulnerable populations.

Clearly, we needed to provide those community resources. We identified ways to communicate the details of existing community resources to staff in late 2021, deciding to highlight one resource each week by pushing it out as the Community Resource of the Week series. The list includes both internal (library resources) and external services. Entries provide the name of the organization; a link to the resource webpage; a short description noting any restrictions (men only, veterans only, etc.); and contact information.

On January 21, 2022, all Washoe County employees received this message through social networking service Yammer:

“The Reference, Training, and Technology (RTT) team at Washoe County Library is launching Community Resource of the Week in order to raise awareness among our staff to be able to better serve patrons in need. Each week, a community resource will be featured with links for further information. We have started a list of resources which can be found here [internal SharePoint link] on the RTT SharePoint page. We hope you find it helpful!”

On April 6, 2022, the first Community Resource of the Week was pushed out to all library staff, spotlighting the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation’s Dementia-Friendly Nature Walks at Idlewild Park in Reno.

Resources highlighted by RTT include a variety of local support services (pet food for limited income pet owners; on-campus food pantry serving the UNR community; free laundry services for low- to no-income individuals) as well as library resources (Discover & Go Museum Passes; free digital access to the Wall Street Journal and Consumer Reports).

The Community Resource of the Week initiative has garnered positive feedback from staff, including these comments:

“What a great resource!”

“This is so cool, I’ve never heard of it!”

“What a timely post; we have a patron here I will be providing this referral to.”

“This is a beautiful resource. Thank you for sharing.” Solace Tree

“This is great information, I never knew this was something they provided!”

“Excellent resource to know about!”

“Wow! How cool!”

“Wow, who knew this existed -- what an excellent program!”

“Great program, thanks for the information!”

“This is so cool! I didn’t know about this one.”

As of April 18, 2023, 39 unique resource posts have been shared, with all the details residing on the RTT SharePoint page for easy access. RTT team members recently reviewed the contact info and links for the resources they posted to ensure that they are up to date.

RTT also maintains a separate list of Community Assistance Ready Reference Links & Resources on SharePoint which is accessible to all staff in need of information when directing patrons seeking support, especially critical-need community connections for food, housing, etc.

Moving forward into 2023, RTT will continue compiling and sharing these useful resources every other week, instead of weekly, through the end of this year.

IV: Book a Librarian (50 minutes)

Get 50 minutes of assistance from a librarian at the Incline Village Library.

We can help you complete online job applications, file for unemployment, set up an email address, and apply for government assistance. Make an appointment, and a librarian will do their best to help you.

Please bring all necessary documents and materials you will need to complete your task. This may include logins and passwords, cell phone, and a flash drive or cloud-based storage drive (flash drives can be purchased at the library for \$6). Remember that library staff cannot assess, review, or complete items for you.

Get assistance with:

- Computers
- Phones and tablets
- Creating a resume
- Downloading ebooks
- Setting up an email
- Using the library catalog
- Filing for services
- Trying a virtual reality (VR) headset
- Submitting a 3D print request

NV: Book-A-Librarian (45 minutes)

We can help you complete online job applications, file for unemployment, set up an email address, and apply for government assistance. Make an appointment, and a librarian will do their best to help you.

Please bring all necessary documents and materials you will need to complete your task. This may include logins and passwords, cell phone, and a flash drive or cloud-based storage drive (flash drives can be purchased at the library for \$6). Remember that library staff cannot assess, review, or complete items for you.

NW: Book a Librarian

Get 50 minutes of assistance from a librarian at the Sparks Library.

We can help you complete online job applications, file for unemployment, set up an email address, and apply for government assistance. Make an appointment, and a librarian will do their best to help you.

Please bring all necessary documents and materials you will need to complete your task. This may include logins and passwords, cell phone, and a flash drive or cloud-based storage drive

(flash drives can be purchased at the library for \$6). Remember that library staff cannot assess, review, or complete items for you.

Get assistance with:

- Computers
- Phones and tablets
- Creating a resume
- Downloading ebooks
- Setting up an email
- Using the library catalog
- Filing for services

RN: Book a Librarian (50 minutes)

We can help you complete online job applications, file for unemployment, set up an email address, and apply for government assistance. Make an appointment, and a librarian will do their best to help you.

Please bring all necessary documents and materials you will need to complete your task. This may include logins and passwords, cell phone, and a flash drive or cloud-based storage drive (flash drives can be purchased at the library for \$6). Remember that library staff cannot assess, review, or complete items for you.

SC: Book a Librarian (50 minutes)

Get 50 minutes of assistance from a librarian at the Senior Center Library.

We can help you complete online job applications, file for unemployment, set up an email address, and apply for government assistance. Make an appointment, and a librarian will do their best to help you.

Please bring all necessary documents and materials you will need to complete your task. This may include logins and passwords, cell phone, and a flash drive or cloud-based storage drive (flash drives can be purchased at the library for \$6). Remember that library staff cannot assess, review, or complete items for you.

Get assistance with:

- Computers
- Phones and tablets
- Creating a resume
- Downloading ebooks
- Setting up an email
- Using the library catalog
- Filing for services

SP Book a Librarian (50 minutes)

Get 50 minutes of assistance from a librarian at the Sparks Library.

We can help you complete online job applications, file for unemployment, set up an email address, and apply for government assistance. Make an appointment, and a librarian will do their best to help you.

Please bring all necessary documents and materials you will need to complete your task. This may include logins and passwords, cell phone, and a flash drive or cloud-based storage drive (flash drives can be purchased at the library for \$6). Remember that library staff cannot assess, review, or complete items for you.

Get assistance with:

- Computers
- Phones and tablets
- Creating a resume
- Downloading ebooks
- Setting up an email
- Using the library catalog
- Filing for services

SV: Book a Librarian

We can help you complete online job applications, file for unemployment, set up an email address, and apply for government assistance. Make an appointment, and a librarian will do their best to help you.

Please bring all necessary documents and materials you will need to complete your task. This may include logins and passwords, cell phone, and a flash drive or cloud-based storage drive (flash drives can be purchased at the library for \$6). Remember that library staff cannot assess, review, or complete items for you.

Reference, Training, & Technology Team Report

April 2023

Community Resource of the Week



Community Resource of the Week: Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation

- Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation leads weekly Dementia-Friendly Nature Walks at Idlewild Park (weather permitting).
- Interpretive walks specifically designed for individuals living with dementia and their family care partners.
- Walks offered every Tuesday from 10-11am and start at the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation building at 50 Cowan Dr. in Idlewild Park. Walks are free, registration is not required.



Community Resource of the Week: Our Center

- Local nonprofit organization which provides Northern Nevada’s LGBTQIA+ community with access to advocacy, educational programs, services, and more.
- A wide range of inclusive activities, offering a safe and supportive space for local community members.



Community Resource of the Week: Northern Nevada Veteran's Resource Center

- Non-profit organization dedicated to rapidly rehousing homeless veterans and preventing veterans from becoming homeless.
- Provides assistance to veterans and their families including rental and utility assistance, help obtaining benefits and governmental ID, community referrals for employment, education, legal, health, childcare, food, transportation, and more.



Community Resource of the Week: The Solace Tree

- Non-profit organization that provides youth grievance support to children, teens, and their family members in the Northern Nevada area.
- Free services include peer support groups, grief workshops, cancer and grief camps, family consultations, and a large collection of books on grief and loss.



Community Resource of the Week: Nevada Talking Books

Network of libraries providing audio books and magazines free of charge, with no due dates, to:

- ✓ Individual who is blind or has a visual impairment that makes them unable to comfortably read print books
- ✓ Individual with perceptual or reading disability
- ✓ Individual with physical disability that makes it hard to hold a book, focus, or move the eyes as needed to read a print book

Digital players and access to BARD (Braille & Audio Reading Download) are available.



Library staff comments about

Community Resource of the Week



"This is so cool! I didn't know about this one."

"What a timely post; we have a patron here I will be providing this referral to."

"Wow, who knew this existed - what an excellent program!"

"This is a beautiful resource. Thank you for sharing."

"This is great information. I never knew this was something they provided."

7



Current RTT team members:

Corinne Dickman, Interim Chair
John Andrews, Internet Librarian
Jonnica Bowen (NV)
Brent Collamer (RN)
Jessica Fanaselle (NW/VE)
Toni Farris (SO)
Deborah Gunderman (SP/SC)
Laurie Newman (SV/DT)
Aurora Partridge (SS)
Tim Prentiss (TS)
Louise Whewell (IV)

Thanks to all RTT team members, past and present, who have contributed to this project!

