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Knox terminates Painted Rock Mine deal

by Kurt Hildebrand
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An ordinance prohibiting truck traffic on Fremont Street, East Valley and Sunrise Pass roads approved in June prompted a notice of default from the operators of

Painted Rock Mine.

Douglas County commissioners are being asked on Thursday how they want to handle a letter from the attorneys for Knox Excavations terminating the agreement with the county. Commissioners meet at the Douglas County Courthouse, 1616

Eighth St., Minden.

Staff is advising commissioners to formally advise the agencies permitting the mine that the agreement has been terminated and ask them to incorporate the county's recommended requirements into those permits.

County commissioners adopted the ordinance on June 4.

Commissioners Sharla Hales and Nate Tolbert voted against the ordinance. Commissioners Mark Gardner, Danny Tarkanian and Wes Rice voted in favor.

According to the letter from

Knox attorneys Womble, Bond and Dickinson, the county was notified on June 22 the approval was a material breach of the agreement, something the county denies.

"The county asserted that the

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Mural transforms cinema into arts center

by Kurt Hildebrand
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A mural, whose completion at Carson Valley Cinemas was celebrated Friday, might well be the last one requiring a special use permit from Douglas County.

At Friday's ribbon cutting, Community Services Director Brook Adie said that finding out in May that funding was approved by the state for artist Rafael Blanco to paint the mural in August prompted a rush to get on meeting agendas.

"We went on a tour of public meetings," she said.

Because current Douglas County code specifically requires approval of a permit to install a mural, she had to get approval for the mural from the county's Parks & Recreation advisors, Minden Town Board members and finally planning commissioners in early July.

That won't be required with the revision of the ordinance, which is due to be introduced on Thursday.

Blanco, who would definitely be defined as an artist under the code, painted the mural over the course of two weeks. The project was recorded and will be the subject of the second episode of a PBS special.

"Artist means a practitioner in the visual and design arts, generally recognized by critics or



KURT HILDEBRAND

Muralist Rafael Blanco and Community Services Director Brook Adie with a bunch of supporters cut the ribbon for the Community Arts Center project.

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SPORTS



Tiger Football

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Just Listed

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Welcome to this beautifully maintained, move-in-ready 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home in Carson City's desirable South Pointe neighborhood. Situated on a 0.15-acre corner lot, this 1,740-square-foot residence combines comfortable living spaces with thoughtful updates, and low-maintenance outdoor living.

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County will helm Genoa during manager search

by Kurt Hildebrand
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With less than two months until Candy Dance, Genoa Town Board members approved a contract with Douglas County to provide management services after the departure of Town Manager Jody Brunz.

The town board met last week with county officials to discuss a \$5,000 a month contract and approved having Parks Superintendent Ryan Stanton manage the town.

The appointment must still be confirmed by county commissioners at their Thursday meeting.

The contract expires on Sept. 30, the week after this year's Sept. 26-27 craft fair attracts around 30,000 visitors but can be extended on a month to month basis depending on how long it takes to find a new manager.

Community Services Director Brook Adie said that someone else will take over after Stanton's term expires.

"It is our intention to assist Genoa through Candy Dance,"

she said.

Toward that end, town board members decided to delay recruitment and discussion of the job description for the manager.

The job pays \$79,144 to \$110,801 a year, according to the county.

The town manager's job description was last updated in 2022.

Town Manager Jody Brunz resigned in July, saying she chose to embrace more positivity and believed a new manager would bring new energy.

Town Board members wrapped up some of the final Candy Dance business by approving a \$1,500 contract with the Genoa Cemetery Association for parking.

The cemetery along Jacks Valley Road is the site of the northern closure over Candy Dance weekend and is the smallest of the three lots, often filling before the event begins.

The Town Board voted to open advertising for a new member to replace Mark Keith, who died last year. The board has been operating with four members since

May 2025.

Three people filed for election and will take office in January, with only Town Board Chairman Gordon Pasley's term continuing. Town Board members will interview and recommend anyone selected to Douglas County commissioners.

The Genoa town board is elected by residents and the town has its own tax rate. However, like the town boards of the other unincorporated towns of Gardnerville and Minden, it is advisory to the county.

KNOX

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ordinance was not intended to target Knox, but the evidence proves otherwise," Reno attorneys Darren Lemieux and Lucy Crow wrote. "Before the board voted to adopt the ordinance, commissioners Gardner and Hales approached Knox to request and amendment to the agreement to restrict use of East Valley Road. When Knox declined, the ordinance followed."

According to the letter, the ordinance violated the agreement the county entered into with Knox in October 2024.

Under that agreement, East Valley Road was available for Knox to use for deliveries within the county and Sunrise Pass Road was a designated emergency access route for the company.

While the county replied that the ordinance still allows both, Knox attorneys

say the agreement "grants Knox the right to use East Valley Road for deliveries anywhere in the county, not merely to properties accessible only via that route. It also grants Knox the right to use Sunrise Pass Road during emergencies."

Knox claims the ordinance is unconstitutional and that at a July 7 meeting, Hales said the county could adopt similar rules for Johnson Lane if Knox terminated the agreement.

"Such retaliatory action would be unconstitutional for the same reasons Ordinance 2024-1641 (which was proposed before negotiations resulted in the agreement) was unconstitutional, and any resulting judgment against the county for violating Knox's constitutional rights could reach into millions of dollars."

Knox's attorneys said they were willing to negotiate the issue, but not if the county

interferes with operation of the mine.

Approval of the 2024 agreement with Knox was deeply unpopular with north valley residents, who started Protect Johnson Lane in response and gathered more than 600 signatures in two days in opposition.

The mine sits on land belonging to a Native American family and is held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Washoe Tribe has no jurisdiction over the roughly 300 different allotments covering 59,310 acres in Douglas County that were distributed to individual Washoe families just before the start of the 20th Century. Part of the access route crosses land held by the Bureau of Land Management.

The county has no jurisdiction over the mine itself or the road between it and the beginning of Johnson Lane.

First approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2020 without an environmental assessment, public outcry resulted in the withdrawal of the approval. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management issued a final finding of no significant impact and a decision record for the Painted Rock Mine project.

The county filed a protest of the finding and introduced an ordinance to prohibit truck traffic on Johnson Lane east of Nye Drive.

That led to the negotiations that resulted in the 2024 agreement Knox terminated last month.

DEATH NOTICES

Anthony Cueto III, 79, passed away August 14th, in Gardnerville, Nevada. Arrangements are in the care of Fitzhenry's Funeral Home, 775-882-2644.

Brian K. Munson, 68, passed away August 2, 2026, in Gardnerville, Nevada. Arrangements are in the care of Capitol City Cremation & Burial 775-882-1766.

Kimber L. Wasilchuk, 63, died August 2, 2026 in Reno, Nevada. Arrangements are in the care of Capitol City Cremation & Burial 775-882-1766.

OBITUARY

John Marte
August 10, 1939 – August 1, 2026

John passed away on August 1, 2026, at the age of 86 in Carson City, Nevada. John has lived in Nevada for the past 29 years.

John was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, to Nick and Savina. It was there that he had his first job as a paperboy.

John worked in the baking industry for 33 years, first at Hostess, then at Dolly Madison. John met his future wife, Marilyn, at Dolly Madison. John and Marilyn were married for 37 years.

John is survived by his wife Marilyn of Nevada, daughter Laura of California, stepchildren Cliff of Kansas, Leland and Melissa of California, 11 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and a host of family members and friends.

John is preceded in death by his parents, Nick and Savina; brothers, Charlie and Louie; sons, Nick and John; and 1 grandson.

John will be forever missed and always loved.

A private service will be at a later date.

OBITUARY



Patricia Rose (McAllister) Schwake
July 9, 1943 – August 6, 2026

Patricia Rose "Patty" McAllister Schwake was born on July 9, 1943 to George McAllister and Rose Borda McAllister. She was a second generation, Nevadan who was proud of her Basque and Scottish heritage.

On August 6th, 2026, with her family by her side, the Lord called her home. She was preceded in death by her parents George and Rose McAllister, Her grandmother, Augustine Borda; her beloved son Rick Canatsey; and several aunts and uncles.

Patty graduated from Douglas High in 1961. She met and married Richard Canatsey and they had three children together. After dedicating herself to being a mother and homemaker, she decided to fulfill her dream of becoming a nurse, and she returned to school at Western Nevada community college where she graduated and became a Licensed Practical Nurse.

She later found love again, and met the man who would become her beloved husband, Fred Schwake with whom she shared 42 wonderful years. Fred and Patty lived in Smith Valley where she was able to return to the lifestyle she loved -- living and working on a ranch.

Patty discovered a love for quilting, and everything having to do with fabric made her happy. She cherished her family and loved her pets. Patty treasured the precious lifelong friendships she had made over the years. Patty will be remembered for her sense of humor, warm heart, and kindness. She had a way of making people feel welcomed and accepted.

Patty leaves behind her loving husband, Fred Schwake of Smith Valley, her son, Robert Canatsey, daughter Christy Canatsey Nolting (Andy); Two stepdaughters, Bonnie Schwake Smith; Lena Schwake Reseck and her brother Mike McAllister (Carla). She is also survived by her granddaughters Dallyn Malarchuk, Brandi Carmona (Alex) Kasey Reseck Faul (Jacob); Her grandsons, Austin Smith, Beau Smith, Drew Reseck, and Bradon Dalton; three great granddaughters Liliyan & Lucy Carmona and Rebecca Faul; her nieces Michelle McAllister Hanson (Steve), Tara McAllister Lannom, and nephew Micheal McAllister Jr. (Michelle).

Patty will be forever loved, always remembered and missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held at St. Gall's Catholic Church in Gardnerville on Saturday September 12th at 11:00 a.m. Reception to follow.

MURAL

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peers as a professional in the field as evidenced by his or her artistic training," the code says.

Artwork under the code is an aesthetic production in any medium made by an artist.

The definition includes but isn't limited to paintings, sculptures, engravings, carvings, frescos, stained glass, mosaics, mobiles, statues, bas-reliefs, tapestries, photographs, digital art, video projections, drawings, fountains and monuments, in addition to murals.

Last week, Douglas County planning commissioners endorsed the proposed ordinance and a zoning text amendment for art in public places.

The ordinance formally establishes a Public Arts Advisory Organization and provides that muralists or other creators can get a project approved for a minimal cost and may obtain an EZ building permit for anything that requires a foundation of some sort, like the Dust and Wonder Trail

4-foot spike proposed for the arts center.

Planning Commission Chairman Paul Bruno asked whether that would include overtly political messages.

"Art is a form of speech, so it is a protected form of speech when not incorporated into any kind of commercial speech so there are really no political constraints on art and there cannot be under the Constitution," Deputy District Attorney AJ Hames advised the board.

"The mural at the Community Arts Center is a good example," Hames said. "It celebrates art, it celebrates music and dance. It's not a political piece."

The Carson Valley Arts Council Board of Directors would serve as voting members of the advisory organization.

"If we are engaged, I would like to think arts council is involved in that process in determining what would fly," President Brian Fitzgerald told the planning commission. "There's a process before it gets to the point of slapping something on the side of the building."