

# The Record-Courier

50¢ | Volume 137, Issue No. 14

Douglas County's Hometown Newspaper since 1880

Sunday, January 31, 2016

## FORECAST



High  
30s  
Low  
teens

Snow likely

## SPORTS



### DHS Alumni

UNR's Palmer grabs fourth Diver of the Week title

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## COMMUNITY



### Art class

Local artist's watercolor class starts Thursday

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## Werner agrees to interim county manager job

by Kurt Hildebrand  
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Johnson Lane resident Larry Werner agreed to be interim county manager pending approval by county commissioners on Thursday.

Werner served as interim county manager before the hiring of Jim Nichols.



Werner

with his company, BHC Consultants, that is up for consideration

According to the county, Werner will be paid \$172,008 with a car allowance of \$700 per month

He would start work March 7 under a contract

by county commissioners.

"The human resources department is taking this matter very seriously and we wanted to reach out to Mr. Werner as soon as possible to discuss and negotiate an agreement suitable for both parties to be presented to the board," said Human Resources Director Wendy Lang. "Mr. Werner comes with years of experience and

public administration knowledge that could provide steady leadership through this transition."

Commissioners voted 3-2 to have Lane and Deputy District Attorney Doug Ritchie approach Werner about the job.

County Manager Jim Nichols' official last day was Friday.

WERNER, 4

## Radon testing can help sell a home

by Kurt Hildebrand  
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While a positive test for radon has to be disclosed if you sell your home, more homebuyers are requesting a test beforehand in areas they know are hotspots.

But testing and mitigating for radon if it's too high can be a marketing plus for homesellers, officials said on Wednesday.

Certified radon mitigator Norm Denny said that fixing a high test in a home with a crawl space averages about \$3,800, though he's seen homes that cost quite a bit more.

"Our homes suck," he said to a crowd of about 30 Carson Valley residents at the CVIC Hall.

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas created when uranium in the soil breaks down.

Because homes are generally kept at negative pressure, it seeps into living spaces through microscopic cracks.

While crawl space vents tend to clear that area of radon during the summer, it's not practical in Northern Nevada over winter because it lets cold air into the crawl space increasing energy costs and freezing pipes.

For crawl spaces, Denny said his company, Pinnacle Construction, installs a plastic barrier that seals the space, and then a fan and a vent to the roof.

Nevada State Health Division Radiation Control Supervisor Adrian



Minden resident Norm Denny of Pinnacle Construction talks about radon mitigation Wednesday night at the CVIC Hall in Minden.

KURT HILDEBRAND

RADON, 4



# RADON

From page 1

Howe said that just sealing cracks won't stop the radon from seeping into the house, because it can pass through cracks the eye can't see.

Even concrete slabs will allow radon through and can be mitigated, Denny said.

Douglas County has the highest percentage of homes tested for radon in the state.

As of June 30, 2015, 3,424 out of 23,677 Douglas County homes have been tested for radon. While that's less than half the 7,553 homes tested in Washoe County, there are nearly eight times as many homes in Washoe. Of those, 1,410 have had 4 picoCuries per liter or more, the EPA action level.

The highest percentage of homes testing above the level in Douglas County is at Stateline with 70.5 percent, but homes have tested positive all over the county. The 89460 zip code has had 48.3 percent of homes tested come up positive.



PHOTOS BY KURT HILDEBRAND

**Adrian Howe answers a questions about radon at a presentation in Minden on Wednesday.**

## MORE ONLINE

[www.RadonNV.com](http://www.RadonNV.com)

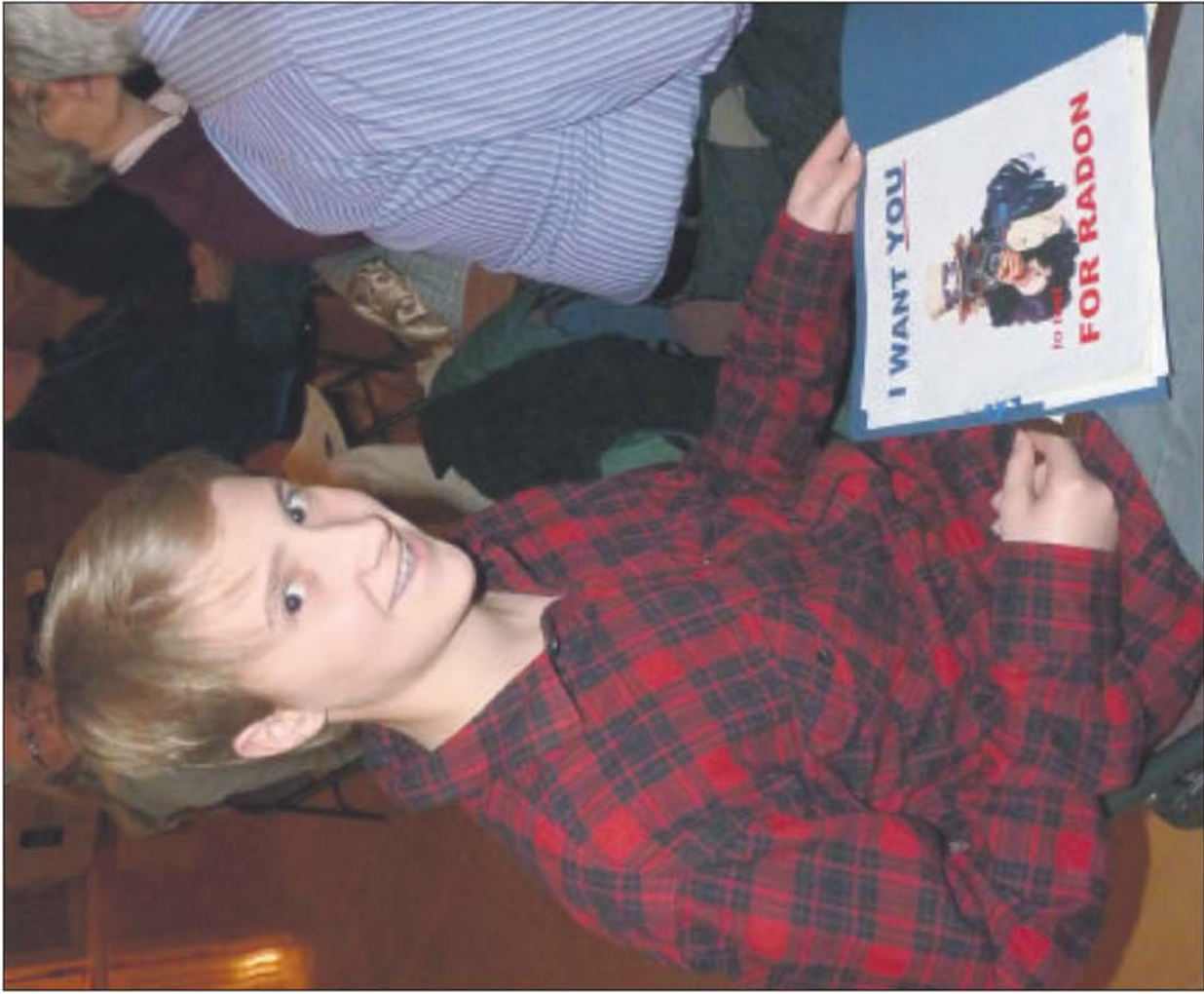
Extension Office, 1325 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville.

On Wednesday, Carson Valley Middle School student Chris Rowe received checks for \$1,075, a plaque from Gov. Brian Sandoval and certificates for his poster.

Only Genoa has had less than 20 percent of the homes tested positive in the county.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and the leading cause among nonsmokers.

Free radon tests are available through the end of February at the Cooperative



Chris Rowe with his award winning poster.