



## Director advocates for Yucca waste dump

Duarte says storage facility would help Nevada economy

By **Steve Ranson**  
LVN Editor Emeritus

The director and founder of the U.S. Nuclear Energy Foundation said Wednesday it will take a grassroots effort to convince politicians to open a nuclear repository at Yucca Mountain.

Invited to address members and guests at the monthly meeting of the Churchill County Central Republican Committee, Gary Duarte said storing spent nuclear fuel at Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada and operating nuclear plants are safer than using other forms of energy.

The Nye County site 90 miles north of Las Vegas remains designated as a permanent waste repository. Duarte, though, advocates the opening of Yucca Mountain as a viable location for storing spent nuclear fuel, and in the interim, favors a single or central above-ground temporary storage facility.

"This would be an ideal transfer location when we advance Yucca Mountain," Duarte said, adding a good, interim location would be located in the desert like the Hawthorne Army Depot south of Fallon.

Duarte said the economy would be beneficial for a rural community like Hawthorne if a central location was established.

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ALY LAWSON / LVN

In the new office taking shape on Reno Highway, Lumegent CEO and longtime Fallonite Billy Thompson chats with employees. The business launched nearly a year ago and was operational day one, Thompson said.

## Helping redefine local business

Lumegent forges partnerships big, small

By **Aly Lawson**  
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How does having more national dollars flow through Fallon and Churchill County sound? Local marketing business Lumegent is doing just that.

The local company works with large clients — 200-300 locations usually — nationwide, but found that Fallon was the

place to call home.

"We're founded on the core concepts of family and connection," said owner and president, Billy Thompson. Thompson grew up in Fallon, met his wife here and worked locally before heading out on his own with an idea, executive team and other talented professionals.

Thompson shared how being part of a smaller community is what Lumegent prides itself on. In addition to local economic support and a solid, savvy business approach, Lumegent will soon provide on-site childcare and youth programs.

"We know we spend more time at work

than we do with our own families," he said. "It's a unique environment you probably won't see anywhere else and we take a lot of pride in that. We knew we wanted a local community to support that and we wanted people who chose that."

Chief financial officer Brook Allen also spoke to how Nevada is business friendly.

"Our business does not receive any of the special state-specific tax breaks that the large tech industry receives," she said. "But in general, the fact that Nevada is free from personal and corporate income tax,

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