

Our Nevada

Iowa

August 2023

Lincoln Highway Days Turns 40!

This year is the 40th anniversary of the town's longest-running celebration

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Our Nevada Iowa

August 2023

The Opener

By Tim Hansen
Director of Parks and Recreation



Many of us have been watching the construction of the new Field House happen in the SCORE Park this year. I am pleased to report that construction is going well.

Construction milestones would include having all the concrete in, interior framing done, interior block work started, interior electrical starting, and hopefully by the time you read this, completion of the roof and sidewall panels.

As we get into late summer/early fall, one of the major items will be monitoring concrete moisture levels, which is critical to determine when the sports flooring can be installed.

It won't be long until we're also ready to install indoor playground equipment, and begin moving things into the storage and office spaces, prior to opening.

Opening of the facility to the public is anticipated for late October, early November if there are no unforeseen delays.

Our staff is excited, as this facility has been something dreamed about in this community for years.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank a few important people and businesses who have taken part in the construction process:

RMH Architects Jeff Harris and Michael Garcia, who have been overseeing this project since its first drawings.

Contractor Harold Pike Construction and local resident Don Wells, HPC's onsite superintendent. Wells has paid attention to every detail, and the company overall has done an excellent job.

Central Iowa Building Systems for their work putting up the metal building structure.

And, all of the subcontractors, many of whom employ local residents, who take such pride in working on a project where they live.

The excitement for this project and the care and local tie-ins happening during construction, have been wonderful to see. We are excited for the future as we experience and learn about what this new facility can fully mean for the residents of Eastern Story County.

On the Cover: An aerial shot of the new Field House under construction. Photo courtesy of RMH Architects

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CONTACT US

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ABOUT OUR NEVADA

Our Nevada is a monthly joint publication between the City of Nevada, Nevada Community School District, Story County Medical Center, Story County, NEDC, and Main Street Nevada.





Lincoln Highway Days turns 40

Lincoln Highway Days celebrates its 40th anniversary this August, on Aug. 25 & 26! The theme for this commemorative event will be "Back to the 80's". Find a full schedule of events online at lincolnhighwaydays.org/schedule.



MID-STATES COMPANIES

MID-STATES MILLWRIGHT & BUILDERS MID-STATES MATERIAL HANDLING AND FABRICATION MID-STATES IA US CRANE & TRUCKING

Lincoln Highway Days began in 1983, in conjunction with the celebration of the finished railroad overpass west of Nevada. The overpass spanned the new connecting lines between the east-west and north-south railroads.

This year's celebration will bring back a few old favorites like the car show and a truck pull.

New events you'll see this year are a Lincoln Highway Days Block Party hosted at Sports Bowl, a 1980's movie at The Camelot, vendors in the air-conditioned Community Building and more.

The Nevada Community Rodeo will be back again this year, along with other traditional events like the beer garden, teen dance, and carnival rides. Saturday will kick-off with a 5k, followed by a crowd favorite, the parade.



Photos by Marlys Barker



Nevada names new Chief of Police

On Monday, July 10, Nevada Mayor Brett Barker swore in Chris Brandes as Nevada's new Chief of Police.

Brandes, who began his career with the Nevada Public Safety Department as an officer in April of 2013, is also a member of the Iowa National Guard. His career in the National Guard and the Nevada Public Safety Department is impressive.

Since September of 2003, the 2004 graduate of AHSTW Community School District in Avoca, Iowa, has served as a National Guard Health Care Specialist. He provided care for members of his battalion while deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While deployed with Operation Iraqi Freedom, Brandes earned his combat medic badge. This badge recognizes that Brandes performed combat medic tasks while directly under enemy fire. He has continued to serve the National Guard as a Combat Medic Instructor.

As a member of the Nevada Public Safety Department, Brandes was on patrol for two years, and then was selected as a training officer in addition to working patrol. In January of 2016, Brandes served for two years as an investigator for the Department, and then in 2018, he was promoted to Patrol Sergeant with the Department.

As a Sergeant, Brandes was in charge of day-to-day functions and operations for the Department in the absence of the Public Safety Director. His certifications and credentials include being a graduate of the Leadership Nevada Class of 2022, receiving the Sullivan Brother's Award for an Act of Valor in 2015, being named a Sergeant First Class with the United



Nevada's new Chief of Police Chris Brandes was joined by his family when he took the Oath of Office on July 10. Pictured with him are his wife Jessica and their sons, Easton and Hunter.

States Army in 2013, and completing instruction with the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety Staff and Command. He also serves the Department as a defensive tactics instructor, an ASP baton instructor, a fire-arms instructor, a patrol rifle instructor, and a weapons armorer. Brandes also earned his bachelor's degree while working for the City's Public Safety Department.

Brandes is a resident of Nevada along with his wife, Jessica, and their two young sons, Easton and Hunter. Jessica is a nurse/educator and a certified birth doula-hypnodoula.

The Brandeses have enjoyed being active in their community and attending community events. They have participated in the Runners United Nevada 5K races. Chris has also coached fastball, coached for the Nevada Soccer Club, coached little tykes' basketball, and been a member of the Nevada Fire Department, the Pizza Pie Looza committee, the Lincoln Highway Days Committee, and a Nevada coed slow-pitch softball team. He previously served on the Eastern Story County Youth and Shelter Services Board.

Mayor Barker is pleased about the City's newest leader. "I'm excited for the next chapter of our public safety department under the leadership of Chris Brandes," Barker said. "Having strong internal candidates is a testament to the leadership development of our department. Chris brings a depth of knowledge and community connections that will bring him success in his new role.

Brandes will succeed the current Director of Public Safety Ricardo Martinez, who plans to step down later this year.

The Giving Continues

Businesses and organizations continue to give to the Nevada Fire Department for the purchase of a new fire engine. Chief Ray Reynolds said, as of July 3, the fire department is just \$50,000 away from its goal of completely funding the 2025 Toyne fire engine, valued at \$686,000. The new fire engine will replace the department's 1997 Spartan fire engine, which was previously used for rural response. If your company or organization wishes to help the Nevada Fire Department fund its new truck, please reach out to Fire Chief Reynolds at rreynolds@cityofnevadaiaowa.org.



Recent contributors include (top left photo) State Bank & Trust Co. donating \$25,000; Midwest Insurance Corporation, donating \$10,000; and (bottom photo) Trustees of the Milford, Grant, Nevada, and Richland Townships, donating \$20,000.

The new truck is expected to be delivered to Nevada in July 2025.



Fire Chief's Letter of Commendation has deeper local meaning

Nevada Fire Chief Ray Reynolds received a Letter of Commendation from the Polk County Sheriff at a ceremony on June 20.

Polk County Sheriff Kevin Schneider shared details that ended up having an even deeper Nevada connection.

Reynolds was working at his part-time position as a lieutenant with the Bondurant Fire Department when he responded to a residential fire. While conducting an investigation upon arriving at the scene, an individual being questioned by PCSO Deputy Alex Good attempted to leave the scene and then physically confronted Good. Good is a Nevada High School graduate, whose parents live in Nevada where his father Charlie runs the

Good & Quick business along Lincoln Highway.

During the altercation, the individual attempted to disarm Deputy Good, causing a struggle to ensue. When Good attempted to use his radio to call for backup, the subject grabbed the radio cord, wrapped it around Good's neck, and was pulling on it to try to choke him.

Reynolds noticed what was happening and jumped in to assist Good in gaining control of the individual.

Due to developments at work, Good was unable to attend the ceremony, but said later, "I'm just glad Ray was there... I enjoy working with Ray. He's very knowledgeable."

Reynolds is also glad he was there — not because it resulted in a Letter of Commendation, but because he was able to offer valuable assistance and become connected with someone he hadn't known before. "Alex and I have gotten to be friends now, and I really appreciate that aspect of it," Reynolds said. "I admire what it takes to do his job."

Sheriff Schneider also noted during the presentation that Reynolds was injured during the altercation, as the subject decided to bite into his arm. Schneider thanked Reynolds. "Thanks to your quick thinking and swift actions, the subject was apprehended and Deputy Alex Good and you were able to walk away with only minor injuries."

Three seats up for election in Nevada this year

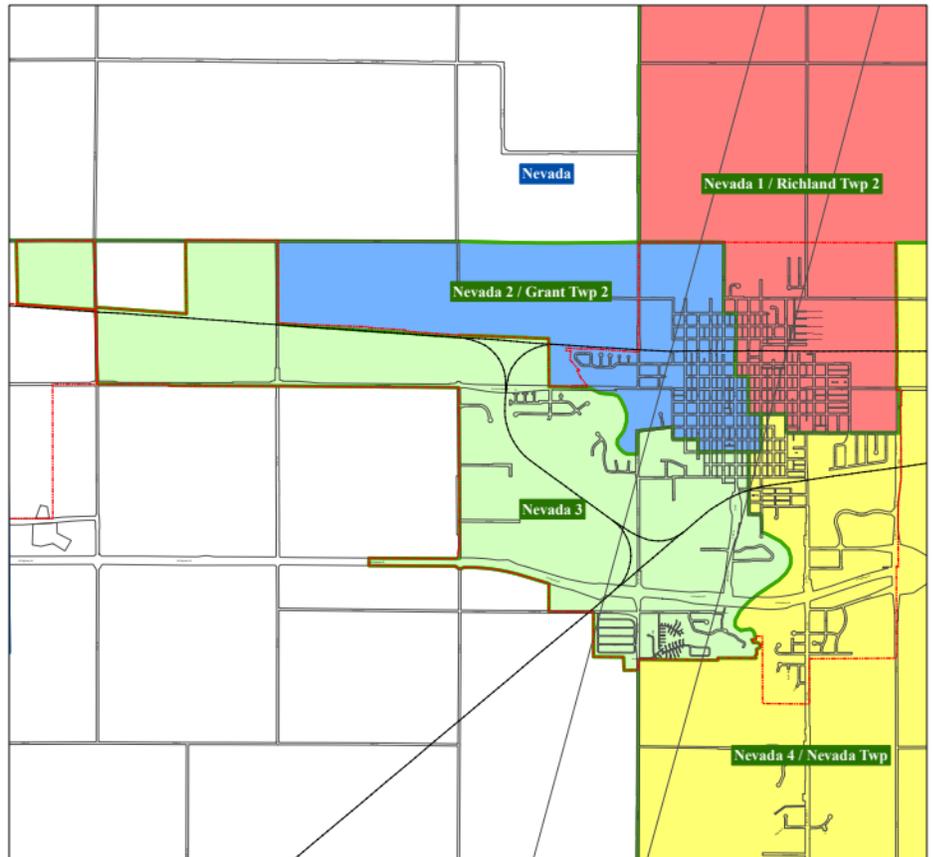
It's a City election year and the filing period for three seats that will be up for election on the Nevada City Council this year begins this month.

Monday, Aug. 28, is the first day for candidates to file; Thursday, Sept. 21, by 5 p.m., is the final day for candidates to file for the Nov. 7, 2023, election.

The three seats up for election this year are currently held by Barb Mittman, Ward I; Sandy Ehrig, Ward 3; and Jason Sampson, at-large.

Nomination petitions and affidavits of candidacy must be filed with the City Clerk or a designee in Clerk's office by the deadline. Affidavits must be notarized.

More City election information will be forthcoming on the City website. Please watch our election page, found under the City Clerk Department tab.



All residents can help address the problem of blocked railroad crossings

City and County leaders are continuing to work with UP officials to address the issue of blocked railroad crossings and other railroad concerns in our communities, but we need residents to help!

Residents are asked to start or to continue reporting all instances of blocked crossings. Even if you aren't comfortable reporting from your phone, sit down at your computer and report the blocked crossing when you have time.

To report online, go to: https://c02.my.uprr.com/ui/rmc_ext/#/report-incident/2

To report by phone, call: 1-800-848-8715

These links are also available by using the City Website's "How Do I" menu at the top of the home page. "Report a train blocking tracks" is one of the options under the Requests and Reporting section.

UP officials tell us that resident reports help them to log data and see patterns about what time of day these blocks are occurring and where.

Other useful information about the UP Railroad is also available. For FAQs and helpful Union Pacific links, go to: www.up.com/community. For Public Safety Information, go to: <http://www.upcares.com>.

SAVE THE DATE

Organizers of this year's CROP Hunger Walk in Nevada are planning a **Sunday, Oct. 1**, walk for this fall.

Once again, the walk will be held at SCORE Park with a free "walk"ing taco meal beforehand.

While 75 percent of the funds raised by donations given to and by walkers go to Church World Service's global anti-hunger efforts, the remaining 25 percent is given to local hunger agencies. Last year, the Nevada Community Cupboard, Cubbie's Cupboard at the school, and Food At First each received over \$200.

All residents of Nevada (and non-residents!) are invited to come together for this activity. Watch for more information to be coming out soon (via Facebook and the September issue of Our Nevada) about how you and your family and friends can be involved in the Oct. 1 event!



The Nevada Public Library received a \$6,000 grant from the Story County Community Foundation this year to erect a "Story Stroll" around the City's trail loop at the west side of town. The Library worked with Nevada's Parks and Recreation Department to make this happen. Library Director Erin Coughlin said the "Story Stroll" starts and ends near the soccer fields on the trail, where about 22 story posts have been put up for a half-mile walk as you go from post to post to read the pages. The first featured book is "Time To Roar," a picture book written by Olivia A. Cole and illustrated by Jessica Gibson that shares the importance of raising your strong voice to defend what you love. The Nevada Kiwanis Club is the sponsoring organization for the first Story Stroll book. On July 14, representatives of the Story County Community Foundation, the Nevada Public Library Board and staff, and the Parks and Recreation Department gathered to celebrate the project's completion. Nevada's Story Stroll will promote reading and exercise for families with young children. The library hopes to change out stories every six to eight weeks during warmer months of the year.

Join library staff for 'Touch a Truck'

Join Nevada Public Library staff members at SCORE Park for a family event on Saturday, Aug. 12, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

We are assembling a variety of trucks from our community. Kids will be able to be up close and touch trucks that are both big and small. They will learn about what each truck is used for, and maybe even get the chance to sit in some of them!

Among the trucks on display will be a firetruck, a garbage truck, an ambulance, and even an ice cream truck! All participants will receive a ticket for one free ice cream treat, thanks to our sponsor Story County Medical Center.

Bring the entire family to this free learning event!



Notice to public

Due to staff AED training, the library will open one hour later on Friday, Aug. 25; and the library is closed Saturday, Aug. 26, for the Lincoln Highway Days celebration.



UNIQUELY NEVADA... GIFT BOX LOVE IS A BUSINESS GEM

Ashley and Ryan Houck love to take their three sons on “day trips” in Iowa. Last Christmas, they gave the boys a Monopoly board of Iowa’s most iconic places to visit.

“We’ve always enjoyed our Iowa trips, because there are so many interesting things to see in Iowa,” Ryan said.

It’s true, Iowa is full of intriguing places and hidden gems. Many might agree that the Houcks, themselves, own one of Iowa’s most interesting business gems, Gift Box Love.

The City of Nevada, IA is home to this unique business that has an incredible story of becoming a success basically overnight as the pandemic of 2020 was starting.

“I had actually prayed for Ryan’s work (he was an appraiser) to have a slow period so he could help me with search engine optimization (SEO) on the website,” Ashley said. And just prior to the pandemic, Ryan’s business slowed up enough for him to help her with what was, at the time, a very new business.

The Gift Box Love concept was based, quite frankly, on Ashley’s love of putting together and giving gift boxes to friends. She especially liked including candles and hand-written notes.

This wasn’t Ashley’s first business venture, but it has become the family’s most successful business.

Eight years earlier, 2012, Ashley first stepped into the online business world when her youngest son was 3 months old.

She had a cousin who was selling stamped jewelry on Etsy, and Ashley picked her brain, because she wanted to make a little extra money. “My goal was to make enough to cover piano lessons, soccer, and things like that.”

Ashley did online research and came up with a plan of repackaging and selling colorful drinking straws, which weren’t available yet on Amazon or in stores. Under the name Fancy That Love, she’d buy 20,000 straws, repackage them in packs of 25, and list on Etsy. Straws were so low cost, she added, that if it

bombed, she wasn’t out much.

“My original goal was to make \$500 a month... I think we made that in like the first two days,” she said with her husband nodding in agreement. “I was like, ‘Holy cow, this (way of selling on Etsy) could be something.’”

“Her hidden talent,” Ryan said of his wife, “is finding trends and knowing how to make them work.”

They made a lot of money until the straw trend started to wane.

Her next idea for Fancy That Love was to sell temporary tattoos for bridal parties, a trend that was gaining huge popularity. “We were doing so well that we thought, maybe we could both work together and do this. We had hired hand models, the whole works,” Ashley said.

But after only seven months, their photos and all that they were doing to promote sales on Etsy, was being copied by someone in China. “We were actually losing to our own product online, and it’s very hard to go after (someone in China),” Ashley said.

She was hooked on being in business, hooked on the online business model, but needed something more stable. She started researching and thinking about what that business might be, and it was while shopping for things to put in a gift box for a friend that the idea of selling gift boxes hit her.

"I bought a candle making kit from Hobby Lobby to make candles, and they didn't suck," she laughed. She began working on the other ingredients. In her mind, a gift box isn't a gift box without a candle and matches, a hand-written note, a little plant, and maybe a sweet treat.

She started on Etsy with two basic gift boxes based on those items, the plant being a small succulent. The larger of the two boxes included the sweet treat — specialty caramels made in Minnesota. And the name of the business, Ashley admits, was strategically crafted for search engine optimization, while also including the word love, as her first business had.

Ryan was helping her with a few things just prior to the pandemic, and one of those things was to launch their first business ads on Facebook. "We went from selling 10-15 boxes a day to overnight having 400 boxes ordered," Ashley recalled.

Then the pandemic hit; everything was shutting down except their business. Orders were flying in, and the Houcks took advantage of having their boys out of school, and teachers and friends who had spare time. They masked everyone up and were learning quickly how to get more orders out the door from a 300-square-foot building on their acreage northeast of Nevada. It was chaotic, but it was great!

The biggest challenge, Ashley and Ryan said, was finding the supplies they needed to keep their new business going at a time when it was hard to find many things. "We had to find a back-up for a back-up for a back-up," Ashley said. Because of delivery interruptions, they sent Ryan's dad to Minnesota to

pick up their caramels and boxes.

By the end of April 2020, things were so busy that Ryan gave up his appraisal job, except for a few he'd agreed to do prior to that. "He was working 4 a.m. to midnight (doing both)," Ashley said.

Looking back, they both agree the decision for him to leave a stable, full-time job was nerve-wracking, and they'd have probably hesitated more if they weren't so busy with their business. But with business growing quickly, it was a decision they needed to make, especially with a feature in *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine happening that same month.

"That (reaction to the feature in a national magazine) was beyond bonkers," Ashley said. "We had to shut off our website for a couple nights, because we couldn't keep up." The print feature was followed with a national news television interview.

Talk about hitting the big time while going through a pandemic! It was unplanned brilliance. Everyone was trying to find ways to reach their loved ones and doing pretty much all their shopping online.

The Houcks rode the pandemic wave all the way to May of 2021 and say that it was after Mother's Day 2021 when they noticed a slight dip in orders as people returned to in-store shopping. Still, they were seeing profits and business has continued to be good.

They've learned a lot, they say, about how to plan for and work through busier times like Christmas vs. slower times.

They've added to their line of gift boxes and now have around 20 options for people to choose from.

They're working on their website and will, in the near future, have that site as the only place to order their product.

They've hired the best marketing people they can find, employing Pinterest, Facebook, and Google marketing specialists.

And a year ago, they moved into a building space — on N Avenue in Nevada (the former Chitty's Garbage main office building) — that is much better space for their work flow.

They considered other communities for their headquarters. "A year ago, I would have said there's not much difference, but now, we're so grateful we chose Nevada, because of the support from the community and the downtown," Ashley said. The couple wants to start jumping in and getting more active in the community. They recently joined Main Street Nevada, which they are excited about.

The Houcks, who met while they were students at Iowa State University, finish each other's sentences at times and give off energetic, loving vibes as they talk about their business and their life together. They say working together is one of the things they love the most about how their lives have changed since 2020.

"I grew up in a farming family," said Ashley, daughter of Nevadans Keith and Marce Huhn, "and I always saw that my parents and grandparents were each other's best friends and co-workers, and I thought that was so neat. And like that, with our business, our children can work alongside us."

Ryan said as all of this "success" was happening for them, he and Ashley took the time to read a book about "what is success for you?"

"We stopped listening to what success is to everyone else," he said. "We focused on what is the number of boxes we need to sell each day to have balance for our business, our home and our family. We've scaled back a bit and found our sweet spot."

And one more thing the Houcks are immensely grateful for — the family and employees who have helped them make the business what it is today. "We have a really good team," Ryan said. "They make this so easy."



Hertz inducted into the NCSD Academic Hall of Honor

Randy Hertz, a 1972 Nevada graduate, was recently inducted into the Nevada Community School District Academic Hall of Honor.

After high school, Randy continued his education at Iowa State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science. Activities included freshman student government, Block and Bridle, Animal Science Meats judging team, Ag Council, Campus 4-H, Student Alumni Association, University Honors Program and FarmHouse Fraternity. He took part in the International Farm Youth Exchange program as an exchange student to the Philippines and took the ag travel course to Europe in the summer of 1974. Honors included achieving Dean's list all quarters, Cardinal Key and FarmHouse Outstanding Senior. His next step was to continue his education at

Harvard University, earning a Master of Business Administration, where he helped to start the Agribusiness Club at the Business School.

Upon completion of his master's degree, Randy returned to Iowa and joined Hertz Farm Management in Nevada, where he has spent 45 years in a variety of roles, currently serving as board chair and CEO. He has been actively involved in his profession both locally and nationally. He is an Accredited Farm Manager and a Certified Financial Planner. As part of the REALTORS Land Institute (RLI), he has received national accreditation and has served in a myriad of leadership roles, including National President. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the National Association of REALTORS. For his long-time service to the industry he has received numerous awards and has been

recognized as the Iowa RLI Broker of the Year, the National Farm and Land Broker of America, and the National RLI - Educator of the Year.

Randy has also been actively involved in the community. He was a founding member of a local Trees Forever group and helped improve access to the internet with NevadaNet (now MidlowaNet). As a member of the local Rotary Club, he has served in a variety of leadership roles. He and his wife Liz headed up the Rotary Youth Exchange Program in Nevada for nearly twenty years. He's active in the First United Methodist Church, UnityPoint Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, and the Iowa State University Foundation Board of Governors. He has served on the Iowa State University Alumni Association Board of Directors, United Way of Story County board (Chair); and the ASSET board

of directors. In 2015, he and his family received the Story County Philanthropy Award.

The NCSO Hall of Honor was established in 2012 to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves based upon academic excellence and achievement, career accomplishments, community service, personal excellence, and dedication to lifelong learning. Beginning in 2023, oversight of the selection process shifted to the Nevada Foundation Board of Directors as a service to the school district.

Criteria and nominations for the NCSO Academic Hall of Honor can be found here:

<https://www.nevadacubs.org/activities/activities-wall-of-pride/hall-of-honor-nomination/>

Members of the NCSO Academic Hall of Honor can be found here:

<https://www.nevadacubs.org/activities/activities-wall-of-pride/>

SCHOOL SUPPLY ASSISTANCE

Does your family need help getting supplies for the start of next school year? Our Family Services team has you covered! Visit <https://bit.ly/3l0xiep> to learn more.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS & NOTICES

The District is required to post annually required statements & notices. Those may be found to review at <https://bit.ly/3O3sEww>

ACTIVITIES UPDATES

Starting this fall, NCSO & the Heart of Iowa Activities Conference will be moving exclusively to www.gobound.com for activity communication, ticketing & activity registration. Here are some of the biggest changes

you will see at NCSO in regards to activities.

Activity Calendar/Schedules

NCSO community members will now find schedules on www.gobound.com/ia/schools/nevada. The general activity & school calendar can be found here as well.

Cashless Entry

NCSO & the Heart of Iowa Activities Conference will be cashless entry to events effective August 1, 2023.

What does this mean?

For entry to an NCSO event, fans will need one of the following:

- Paid Online Ticket from Bound Ticketing

Ticket links will be found under the Nevada Bound webpage for all NCSO activity events. Click "Tickets".

- Debit or Credit at the Gate

All NCSO events will have card readers for quick cashless entry.

- Passes

Purchased passes will be accepted at events.

Passes can be obtained in the following ways:

NCSO Passes - \$75 for Adults & \$50 for students

Purchase during registration or in the HS office at any point during the year.

Booster Club Passes by visiting nevadaboosterclub.com.

All Booster Club Memberships \$200 & higher include two (or more) NCSO passes.

Senior Passes can be obtained

at the HS Office for community members 65 & older.

- Cash Tickets at HS/MS Office During Business Hours

If a community member cannot purchase a ticket online, use a debit/credit card, or obtain a pass, they can buy a ticket at the HS or MS office during regular business hours (8:30-3:30). Cash at the gate for events will not be accepted.

Admission Prices

NCSO & the Heart of Iowa Activities Conference have increased admission prices for the 2023-2024 school year.

- All HS Events - \$6 for school aged & above
- All MS Events - \$5 for adults & \$0 for students

Rising costs of athletic officials, event support, supplies, equipment, uniforms, etc. are a driving force for raising admission prices. At these rates, admission prices are still lower than or equal to peer conferences around the State of Iowa.

Activity Registration

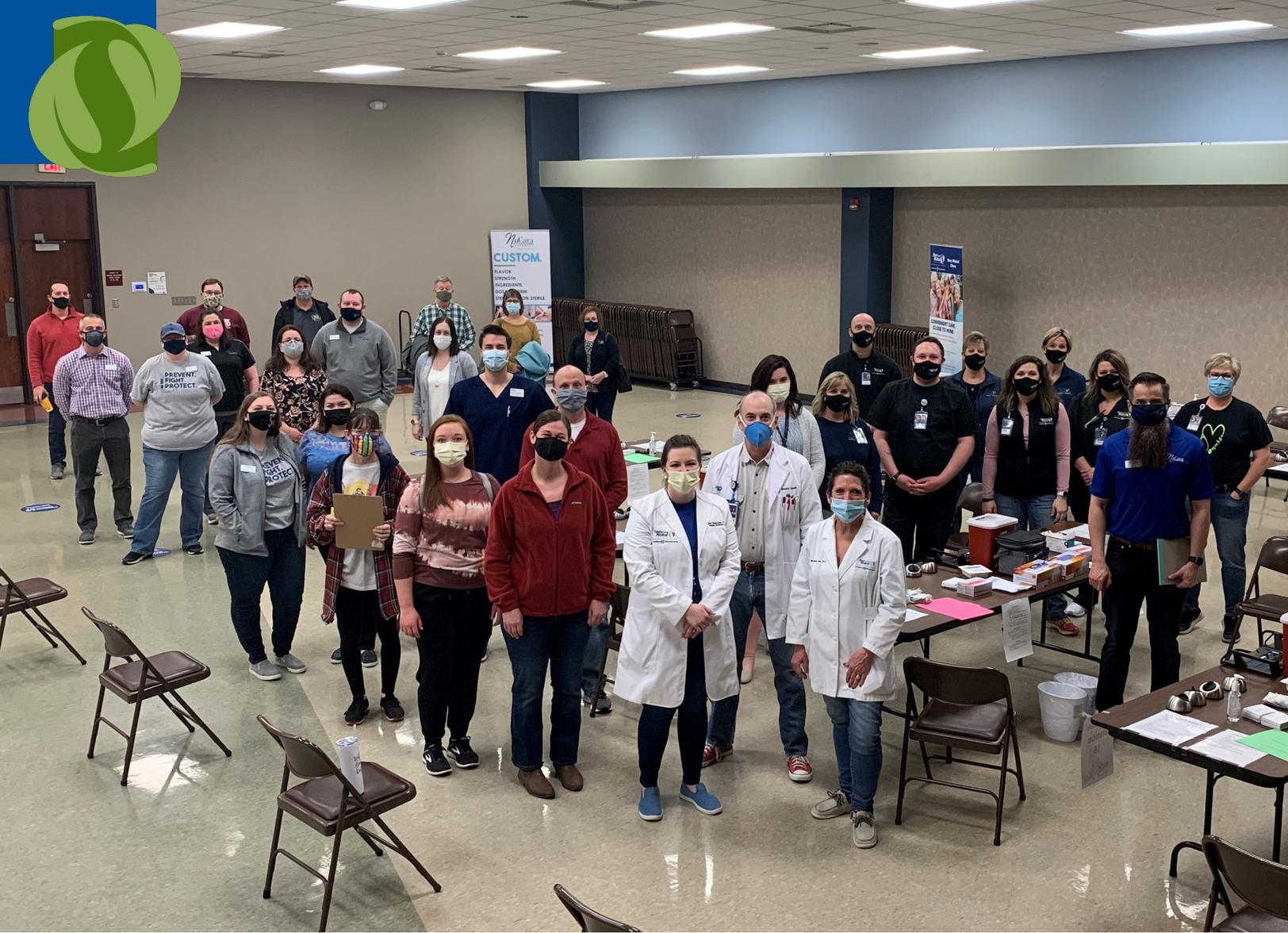
As NCSO moves to the Bound platform, we require parents to register their student-athletes for NCSO activities. This will help with streamlined communication for NCSO notifications. Information will be sent to all HS & MS parents in late July/early August on the registration process for NCSO activities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

HS AD - Dustin Smith
dsmith@nevadacubs.org

MS AD - Vanessa Huber
vhuber@nevadacubs.org

Activities Admin Assistant - Kristin Cook
kcook@nevadacubs.org



Story Medical Honored for Vaccine Partnership

Iowa Pharmacy Association cites Story Medical's role in aiding with COVID-19 vaccination clinics

Pictured above, members of a community coalition supported by Story Medical prepare for the first of a series of COVID-19 vaccine clinics in March 2021.

The Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA) has recognized Story County Medical Center as its 2023 recipient of the Patient Care Partner Award. The award was presented at the association's 2023 Annual Meeting on June 15 in Des Moines.

The Patient Care Partner Award recognizes an innovative and creative practice that has demonstrated an enhanced level of care. The award is presented to a physician, medical practice, clinic, or other health care provider who has developed a patient care program that works cooperatively with pharmacists to optimize patient care.

Story County Medical Center was recognized by IPA as an innovator in patient care, serving a vital role in helping vaccinate Central Iowa communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Brett Barker, Pharmacist at NuCara Pharmacy in Nevada, nominated Story Medical for the award. The nomination read:

"Story County Medical Center was vital to our community vaccination efforts. We had access to procure Pfizer COVID-19, but we had to accept entire pallets of roughly 1,200 doses. We had the will and the desire to vaccinate our

community with these doses, but not the manpower. SCMC donated staff time from EMTs, nurses, physicians, ARNPs, PAs, and administration as a critical partner to do more than 12 community COVID-19 vaccine clinics through Story County in spring of 2021. We were one of the first mass vaccine clinics in the state and vaccinated Iowans from a wide area. The Story County Health Department used our model as a template for future vaccine clinics in the county."

"As providers, we are proud of the way we work cooperatively with other healthcare professionals and local businesses in the community," says Audra Poterucha, DO, Story Medical Clinic physician. "Story Medical has a long tradition of service to those in Nevada and beyond. When NuCara approached us about partnering on a large scale clinic we were all-in. Our team was committed to doing all they could to support the effort."

In addition to working cooperatively with community partners throughout the pandemic, Story County Medical Center was cited for its continuing cooperation with area pharmacies on pharmaceutical case management cases, collaborative practice, vaccination protocols, and other clinical initiatives.

IPA noted that this work brings Iowa healthcare providers together and allows Iowa pharmacists to provide enhanced care and services for their patients.

"Iowa pharmacists are grateful for Patient Care Partners like Story Medical," says Kate Gainer, Executive Vice President and CEO of IPA. "Collaboration improves healthcare access and outcomes, particularly in our rural communities."



Pictured above are Kate Gainer, IPA; Nate Thompson, Story Medical; Dr. Audra Poterucha, Story Medical; Brett Barker, NuCara; and Cheri Schmit, IPA.

News & Notes

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES OFFERED AT STORY MEDICAL CLINIC

Story Medical Clinic in Nevada partners with Central Iowa Psychological Services (CIPS) to offer mental health services and counseling for children age 2 and up, adolescents and adults.

Counseling services are provided by Emily Loynachan, LMSW. Medication management is overseen by Daniel Bench, MSN, PMHNP-BC.



Loynachan



Bench

For more information on Mental Health Services at Story Medical, visit storymedical.org/mentalhealth. To schedule a consultation, call Story Medical Clinic - Nevada at 515-382-5413.

WORK AT STORY MEDICAL

If you are looking for a new career in a friendly work environment, look no further than Story Medical. We are always recruiting and currently have a number of clinical and non-clinical positions open. Learn more about what is available and fill out an online application at storymedical.org/careers.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!

You can keep up with all that is happening at Story Medical by following us @StoryMedical on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!



Plugging into Prairie Partnerships

Through a new partnership with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Story County Conservation (SCC) will soon reap benefits of producing prairie

seed in-house for native plantings county-wide. This will increase habitat for a variety of wildlife.

At one time, nearly 80 percent of Iowa was covered with natural prairie including as many as several hundred individual plant species. Story County, too, was primarily dominated by prairie in the mid-1800s, including a 25-acre remnant still intact, located just south of Nevada—Jennett Heritage Area. This remnant is now surrounded by an additional 145 acres of reconstructed prairie and wildlife habitat. The area is open for public hunting and fishing.



SCC works actively year-round to effectively manage and protect the county's existing prairie habitat and create additional prairie restorations on both SCC properties and in county right-of-way areas (roadsides). Protecting this prairie heritage through prescribed burns, invasive species removal, seed plantings, and other management practices creates a resilient landscape by increasing biodiversity, filtering run off, and expanding wildlife habitat.

Through the Prairie Seed Cooperative, SCC recently partnered with IDNR's Prairie Resource Center to produce prairie seed at a new plot located at Hickory Grove Park. SCC will work alongside other counties in producing seed for a small number of native species. Seed will be harvested and sent to the co-op, where IDNR will clean it and in return, provide SCC with a diverse seed mix. This seed will be planted on SCC owned and managed public lands for habitat improvement. As with all partnerships, both entities share a goal: Produce high-quality prairie seed at minimal cost.

SCC staff are not the only ones involved in maintaining high quality prairie in Story County. Natural Resource Specialist Brandon Clough, who will oversee this project at Hickory Grove Park, received assistance from several volunteers in planting the initial 1,700 pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) and prairie coreopsis (*Coreopsis palmata*) plants.

Seed for many species, especially rarer plants, come with steep prices. Each year, volunteers play a large part in offsetting these costs by hand harvesting prairie seed at a number of seed collection events. If interested in learning more about prairie plants, while also playing a part in restoring Iowa's natural prairie heritage, be sure to follow Story County Conservation on social media for communication about upcoming seed harvest events this fall.

All seed produced through this co-op has roots to an Iowa prairie remnant, so it will have benefits of local origin seed adapted to Iowa's climate and soils. Clough explains it is important to have diverse, yet local genetics in SCC's seedings to ensure plant health in its fragmented prairie pockets.

"This will be a great way to supplement seed that we harvest from our local Story County remnants and reconstructions," Clough said, "as well as adding to seed we purchase from trusted local seed vendors. We're excited to have this additional seed source and inventory at our disposal."

Partnerships like this carry value for all entities involved, allowing each to contribute to a shared goal, while pooling resources, expertise, and the reach of programs along the way. The Prairie Seed Cooperative is just one of many partnerships SCC utilizes in order to effectively spread its limited resources as far as possible toward improving habitat in Story County.

Missing in America Project



The last benefit we can give a Veteran is a military burial. The possibility of helping one of these forgotten Veterans to their final resting place could begin with you!

Story County Veterans Affairs would like your help in locating Veterans who have been forgotten. We would like to identify and set up military honors and burial for our forgotten Veterans who may be located here in Story County. Helping with this project, is just one-way to honor the Veteran and get them to their final resting place.

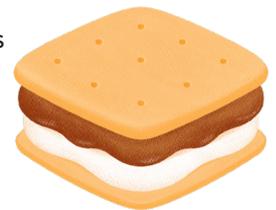
On June 30, 2023, 12 Veteran urns were located in the Black Hawk and Polk County areas and were laid to rest at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery with military honors. Unclaimed urns may be in funeral homes, storage units or located at estates or maybe even in your home that has been passed down to you. Please reach out and we can help you with a final resting place. If you know someone or need assistance identifying and setting up military honors, please contact Story County Veterans Affairs Director Brett McLain at 515-956-2626.

For more information about Missing in America and how you can be involved, please go to www.miap.us.

Campfire Creating & Gourmet S'mores

Campfires are a wonderful gathering place to enjoy the outdoors! Join us for an evening of campfire-building skills and tasty gourmet s'mores to celebrate National S'mores Day!

All ages are welcome for this free event on Thursday, Aug. 10, from 5-6:30 p.m. at Hickory Grove Park's Oriole Ridge Lodge



Goodwill donations will be accepted. Please register by Monday, Aug. 7. To find more Story County Conservation Programs, visit our website: www.story-countyiowa.gov.

Nevada's Frontline BioEnergy trending in the right direction



Frontline BioEnergy, located in Nevada, Iowa, sits at the intersection of two global trends: the increasing demand for cost-effective energy and the need for energy resources that are sustainable and environmentally friendly.

They are a project developer and technology provider to a renewable industry that is specifically interested in converting biomass into energy and products. What is biomass? Biomass is biological material derived from living, or recently living organisms, such as wood or agricultural residues. This material contains stored energy from the sun that can be utilized through a process called thermal gasification.

Between 2006-2008, the team built their first commercial project that was also their proof-of-concept design.



Capture the energy > Release the potential

This included the technical success and demonstration of the use of wood chips on a large scale. Although a technical success that included several patent approvals, the timing aligned with the price drop of natural gas, which made the economic appeal of investing in this new technology less compelling.

Since that time, the team has spent years redefining the company and advancing the technology. Today, Frontline BioEnergy uses their gasification process and takes this residue — forest and tree residue, among others — and uses it as an energy source. They design systems and proprietary equipment that is used across the world. Today, they have projects in California and Canada, and are pursuing other projects in the US, Europe, and Thailand.

Located at 1521 West F Avenue, in the Nevada West Industrial Park, Frontline BioEnergy has 26 full-time employees, several part-time employees, and is planning to grow in the near future. Part of that expansion is their properties. In December they completed the purchase of their current location, and more recently the acquisition of an adjoining property from the Nevada Economic Development Council.

The Nevada location is home to Frontline's engineering, fabrication, and a pilot plant that demonstrates how a commercial plant operates converting biomass into useful products. It provides information to customers about the output and the economics of a commercial design utilizing their biomass. Over the past two years, much of the fabrication and assembly work has taken place locally.

This facility expansion will allow Frontline BioEnergy to expand the engineering, fabrication, and assembly of their equipment, which can then be transferred to any location across the globe.



Postal Customer

Calendar of Events

VOLUNTEER FAIR

August 1, 6-8 p.m.

Nevada Public Library
Connect with a variety of organizations in need of local volunteers and get more information on ways you can help. Free hot dog supper to be served by the American Legion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Story County Admin Bldg,
Nevada

FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Main Street District

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

August 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

August 5, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nevada Public Library

DEADLINE FOR PARKS & REC FALL YOUTH PROGRAMS

August 7

Youth must be registered by this day for football and volleyball programs at <https://nevadaia.recdesk.com/Community/Home>

NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

August 7 & 21, 6:30 p.m.

Gates Memorial Hall
Auditorium

AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

August 11, 5-7 p.m.

American Legion Post
Fish Fry or baked chicken. Cost is \$12 for adults (\$5 for children age 10 and under)

SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

August 14, 11:30 a.m.

Senior Center (by City Hall),
1231 6th St. Bring a dish to share.
Program will begin around 12:15 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL

August 14 & 28, 6 p.m.

City Hall

MAIN STREET NEVADA MIX-N-MINGLE

Aug. 16, 4-6 p.m.

Being held at Something Blue,
516 K Ave. location

CAMELOT THEATER FDTN CLASSIC MOVIE

August 20, 6:30 p.m.

Showing "Back to the Future"

Admission: \$5 (& concessions available)

NEVADA SCHOOL DISTRICT BEGINS CLASSES

August 23

NEVADA LIBRARY AUTHOR TALK

August 23, 6-7:30 p.m.

Library Meeting Room
Meet with Author Ann Hanigan-Kotz, a former Waukee School District English teacher, and discover Iowa's Norwegian history.

COUNTY BROWN BAG LUNCHEON SERIES

August 25, 12-1 p.m.

Story County Admin Bldg,
Topic will be "Recreational Trails"

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE CAMELOT THEATER

August 24, 7-8:30 p.m.

Your opportunity to perform!
Free admission

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEAL

August 25, 5-7 p.m.

American Legion Post
Pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, sweet corn. Cost is \$12 for adults (\$5 for children age 10 and under)

LINCOLN HIGHWAY DAYS

August 25 & 26

5K Run, Parade, Rodeo, Food Vendors, etc.

Find a full schedule of activities at: www.lincolnhighwaydays.org/schedule

RICOCHET CONCERT

September 1, 7 p.m.

Camelot Theater
Admission is \$25 to \$40 for adults (depending on seat location); kids are \$12.50 to \$20
Ricochet is an ACM award-winning country band.