

# Our Nevada Iowa

July  
2024

## Running Toward a New School Year

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important new events  
for 2024-25 school year

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# Our Nevada Iowa

## The Opener

**By Dr. Steve Gray**  
**NCSD Superintendent**

"It takes a village to raise a child" is a proverb that means an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

While we are busy preparing for the upcoming school year, I am excited to share our planning for a community learning experience that will take place outside of our classrooms. A concept that was initiated at the Main Street Nevada board table, our 2024-25 community learning series will be hosted at the Camelot Theater. The series will consist of three evenings throughout the school year aimed to better educate our community to assist our youth in navigating various issues in today's world.

The first event will be aimed at suicide awareness and prevention on Oct. 21. The evening will consist of a viewing of the movie "My Ascension," with a panel discussion to follow. The movie is an inspiring look at Emma Benoit's story, and includes first-hand experiences of families, friends, school officials, and suicide prevention experts. Nevada High School students will have the opportunity to speak with Emma Benoit earlier that day.

On Nov. 14, we will offer the movie "Screenagers, Growing Up in the Digital Age." This award-winning film probes into the vulnerable corners of family life and depicts messy struggles over social media, video games, and academics.

Finally, we'll conclude the series with a viewing of "Screenagers, Next Chapter, Addressing Mental Health in the Digital Age" on the evening of Feb. 25, 2025. "Next Chapter" discovers solutions for improved adolescent stress, anxiety, and depression in the digital age.

It certainly takes a village to raise a child and we are thankful to our following partners for helping to make this learning opportunity happen: Main Street Nevada, Camelot Foundation, Story Medical, United Way of Story County, and the Redshirt Foundation.

Look for promotional materials with more information as we kick off the school year!

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## CONTACT US

Email us at  
[communitynewsletter@nevadacubs.org](mailto:communitynewsletter@nevadacubs.org)

## 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.





School Board members present Board Salute to ALMACO. Pictured L to R: Tom Maier (NCSD School Board), Christian Clem (ALMACO), Marty Chitty (NCSD School Board), Joe Anderson (NCSD School Board), and Amici Hayek (NCSD School Board).

## ALMACO Makes Donation to School

ALMACO, a leading manufacturer in Nevada, recently donated a Miller LiveArc Welding Performance Management System. This equipment will give students in Nevada High School's welding program real-world experience with instant valuable feedback on welding technique to help build their skills. The machine measures the five components of what the welder needs to be in tolerance to perform a good weld including work angle, lead angle, joint positioning, contact to work distance (CTWD), and travel speed.

The machine is very user friendly, and the operator won't have to wait for feedback from the teacher/instructor. ALMACO purchased this in early 2015, and it was the first machine sold globally.

Thank you, ALMACO!

## Free Summer Meals!

Breakfasts and lunches are available at no cost to children 1-18 this summer.

Open to the public - you do not have to be a NCSD student to get a free meal. Bring your kids, grandkids, etc. Any child ages 1 through 18 eats free! All meals are served on site and must be eaten on site. No grab-and-go options are available.

**Monday-Thursdays June 10 - July 18 (closed July 4), NHS Cafeteria**

**Breakfast - 8 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.**

**Lunch - 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.**



## 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/4aqGRPD> to learn more.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

The 2024/25 School Calendar has been approved by the school board.

View it here: <https://bit.ly/Cal2425>

## FCCLA SUCCESS AT STATE CONTEST

Earlier this year, a group of students represented Nevada High School at the State FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) Conference held in Cedar Rapids, and they brought back some impressive achievements.

Students participated in a variety of activities at the conference, including attending interest sessions and competing in Iowa events and Star events. Among the highlights of the team's success are the following:

**Food Truck Design:** Aloria Cornelius and Payton Klein teamed up and showcased their creativity in the Food Truck Design category. They impressed the judges with their innovative breakfast food truck concept, complete with a mouthwatering quiche that left a lasting impression. Their hard work earned them a well-deserved bronze medal.

**Cake Decorating:** Bella Tamburo wowed the judges with her cake decorating skills, particularly her design of a 3D shoe for the theme "A Walk in Their Shoes," which supports children suffering from cancer. Her heartfelt creation and dedication to the cause were truly commendable.

**Sports Nutrition:** Eddie Garcia and Cael Ferguson showcased their project in sports nutrition at the FCCLA Star events, earning bronze. Their project centered around a student athlete for whom they crafted a nutrition plan aimed at optimizing performance on competition days. Through research, they provided strategies to enhance the athlete's physical and mental stamina, ensuring peak performance during competition.

**Event Management:** Natalie Emery, Sam Garcia, and Kaitlyn McGaffin demonstrated teamwork and leadership in the Event Management STAR event, earning themselves a gold and qualified for Nationals. Inspired by their volunteer work during Health and Wellness Day at the elementary school, they devised a mock-up event that captured the essence of their experience

and showcased their passion for promoting health and wellness in our community.

**Repurpose and Redesign:** Payton Klein showcased her ingenuity in the Repurpose and Redesign STAR event, where she earned a gold and secured her spot at Nationals. Her project involved transforming Nevada's old band uniforms into stylish and functional tote bags and zippered pouches, which were received positively by students and alumni alike during homecoming.

In addition to these outstanding achievements, all four students who competed in Star events have qualified for Nationals where they will compete in their events, network with peers from across the country, and deepen



their knowledge of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS).

## BAKER RECEIVES TRIPLE THREAT AWARD

Jackson Baker, a Junior at Nevada High School, recently earned the Triple Threat Award at the 2024 Iowa High School Musical Theater Awards Showcase held in Des Moines. Jackson received his award for his performance as Ren McCormack in the musical Footloose.

Triple Threat awards are given to students who demonstrate "excellent acting, dancing, and vocal talents," according to the IHSMTA. Eighty students auditioned for the awards this year.

Jackson, along with Mackenzie Crawford of Sioux City, will represent Iowa at the National High School Musical Theater Awards in New York City.

Congratulations, Jackson!





HAPPENING AGAIN IN THE CITY OF NEVADA, IA

# STORY COUNTY FAIR

**JULY 17-21, 2024**  
**STORY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

## FEATURING

LIVESTOCK SHOWS, EXHIBITS AND  
DISPLAYS, FOOD VENDORS AND THE  
TRADITIONAL METHODIST CHURCH STAND,  
BARNYARD RELAYS, LIVE WOOD CARVING,  
PAINTING CLASS, KICKBALL TOURNAMENT,  
BAGS TOURNAMENT, PEDAL TRACTOR  
PULLS AND MORE!

**No Gate Admission!**

## QUEEN CORONATION

Wednesday, July 17, 7:30 p.m.

Dueland Pavilion

## RIBBON AUCTION SALE

Sunday, 3 p.m.

**Find Out More:**

<https://www.facebook.com/scyouthfair/>







# Ensuring Access to Healthy Meals

Story Medical joins effort to support nutrition needs of children during the summer

Pictured above, left to right, are Story Medical's Valerie Tendall, Anna Riley and Kevin Lo. At right, Riley and Tendall prepare to distribute meals.

In an ongoing effort to ensure that every child in Story County has access to nutritious meals, Story Medical Center has teamed up with the USDA, Iowa Department of Education, United Way of Story County, Food at First, and rural school districts to provide summer meals for kids and teens.

On June 4, children and teens aged 18 and under began receiving free grab-and-go meals in the Collins Maxwell School District.

Given the significant level of food insecurity in our community, exacerbated by the discontinuation of the Summer EBT program, there's an even greater sense of urgency to bridge these gaps.

In response, Story Medical Center is stepping in to address these needs within the Collins Maxwell area by offering weekly grab-and-go meals, with deliveries every Tuesday and Friday.

Dr. Audra Poterucha, D.O., a Nevada Clinic physician, emphasizes the medical center's commitment to comprehensive healthcare.





"At Story Medical Center, we are not only dedicated to quality health care, but to ensuring that children have access to nutritious food," Dr. Poterucha says. "We know that consistent meals are important for a child's mental and physical well-being and are a key social determinant of successful health. Our duty as a community hospital is to care for all our community members, regardless of their circumstances."

Story Medical CEO, Nate Thompson, adds that the medical center is proud to work with partners to make nutritious meals available.

"We are happy to be a part of this important program to feed children in our area," Thompson says. "By participating in this program, Story Medical Center is doing more than simply addressing a need. We are making an impact on the well-being of our community."

"It's about living out our healthcare mission," he continues, "by caring for our patients, neighbors, friends, family and our community as a whole."

# News & Notes

## MEDICALLY ORIENTED GYM OFFERS YOUR PRESCRIPTION TO BETTER HEALTH

The Medically Oriented Gym (MOG) is coordinated by an interdisciplinary team focused on providing individuals who need or want to maintain an optimal level of health through activity, exercise, education and medical monitoring.

Each member is personally assessed to identify specific health and wellness needs, allowing MOG staff to create safe and comprehensive life-improving programs to help members move better, feel better and live better.

Members of the MOG regularly meet with specially-trained staff to ensure progress toward goals. Our staff provides:

- Initial evaluation and quarterly re-evaluations.
- Individualized treatment based upon comprehensive evaluation.
- Blood pressure assessments and tracking.
- Symptom management (shortness of breath, angina, etc).
- Cardiac monitoring and weight gain tracking.
- Direct communication with physicians.
- Clinical protocols guiding safety with exercise.
- Onsite medically-trained staff to check vitals, answer questions and facilitate care.

To learn more or inquire about membership rates, visit with your primary care provider, or give us a call at 515-382-7114.

## WORK AT 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](https://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!



## The Ho



Above: Ken Heid talks through some plumbing/joist issues in the kitchen area, which is now stripped down. At left, one set of pocket doors are shown. The home has three of them.



# House at 1207 7th Street

*(This feature is a follow-up to a story Marlys Barker first wrote for the Nevada Journal in October of 2015.)*

The house at 1207 7th Street (behind and across the street from City Hall) continues to be a “work in progress.”

Ken Heid, a native of southern California and a longtime construction worker with licenses in electrical and plumbing, has been working on improvements to the house since he purchased it in November of 2014. In recent years, he’s completed most of the work on the exterior of the house that many Nevadans have always called “the old Smalldridge House.” Smalldridge was a chiropractor who lived and saw patients in the house years ago.

When Ken bought the structure, it was in a considerable state of disrepair. It had been cut up into nine apartments for a number of years, and was eventually condemned due to safety concerns brought about by the City’s fire chief. While sitting empty, it had become home to various critters. A neighbor at the time said squirrels, cats and other rodents had gotten into the house, chewing holes into soffits and creating messes. Many in the community felt it should be taken down.

But where others saw nothing of value, Ken saw considerable potential. He’d purchased the home off the online auction site, eBay, for \$25,500 after touring the house just one time. He’d come through Iowa while traveling to properties he owns and rents in Indiana and Ohio, and he fell in-love with the old house.

His goal is today what it was in 2015 — to make the home into a single-family residence and to live in it. He’s had some health setbacks over the past nine years, but he’s never lost sight of the dream.

Working on the house as a retiree is “a blast,” he said. “It’s like a puzzle,” something he’s focused on one piece at a time.

The exterior was his first focus. It needed to be repainted and have new windows installed. Ken also rebuilt the back porch, where a previous owner had added a rental addition that Ken described as a poorly constructed, two-story “box.” He took that off and resurrected a beautiful porch with artistic details to match the rest of the house. All of the exterior work has made a visual difference and has not gone unnoticed. “People will come by and tell me, ‘It looks so good.’”

For Ken, paying attention to the architectural, artistic elements of the house is important. “I love them,” Ken said.

When he added a shed in the back yard and a post for his mailbox out front, he paid attention to the smallest artistic elements.

Now, he’s moving to the interior, where thus far the work has been to “demo” and start to rebuild.

Looking at the south part of the house, which is where he’s working now, he fixed a staircase, and is working on plumbing, electrical and repairing joists.

He pulls out the plans for the south end of the home, which show a spacious kitchen and family room area and where all the appliances and counters will be. “I’ve given the City all these drawings and plans. I’m too close (to City Hall) to try to cheat,” he laughed.

He’s stripped the entire area and loves to talk about how things will look when it’s completed. He also points out that he’ll have a unique feature on this house, an exterior entry bathroom for the back porch, which is right outside of the kitchen.

Just as he described back in 2015, he’s keeping three historic pocket doors on the main level, which will, in addition to the kitchen/family room area, have a formal dining room, an office space/bedroom, one bathroom and a front room and entryway. The upstairs will have at least two bedrooms and two bathrooms with an additional bedroom or office space.

The attic, which at one time included two apartment dwellings, will be strictly storage space when he finishes. The basement has already been cleaned out for storage, he noted.

Ken never knows exactly where a day’s work will take him, and he always has to fit in a bike ride. But his hope is that the coming days will be productive enough that he can complete soffit and plumbing work soon and have a livable kitchen, family room, bedroom and bathroom on the main floor by the end of this year.

With exterior work done and new windows keeping out the drafts, he can focus on working indoors no matter what the conditions are outdoors.

And, he made a promise to Marlys at the end of the interview when she noted she may retire in seven years. “I’ll have it done by then, and I’ll invite you back in to see the completion,” he promised. Therefore, stay tuned for a third installment of “The House at 1207 7th Street!”





Hanna Bell, volunteer coordinator for Raising Readers of Story County, and Nevada Police Officer Madison Dicks pose with some members of the Nevada Kiwanis Club, as all of them celebrate the new Little Free Library to be located in front of the Nevada City Hall and Public Safety Facility.

## Officer works with others to have a new Little Free Library

Officer Madison Dicks has always loved learning about people and learning about resources available to help them.

"It's called 'community policing,'" said Dicks, who has particularly loved becoming an advocate for children and families.

In a chance meeting with Hanna Bell, who grew up in Nevada and is now a volunteer coordinator with Raising Readers of Story County, the two began thinking about a way to give back to families. They partnered with the local Kiwanis Club that happened to have a Little Free Library container already constructed and sitting in storage.

The new Little Free Library will be placed in front of the Nevada City Hall and Public Safety Facility, and the Kiwanis Club has already donated the first books it will contain.

People are encouraged to donate to or borrow from this little free library. Dicks believes its placement in front of City Hall will blend nicely with the many events held there. She also hopes as kids use the Little Free Library, they'll pop inside to

the Public Safety Offices to meet officers and get one of the stickers they have on hand for children.

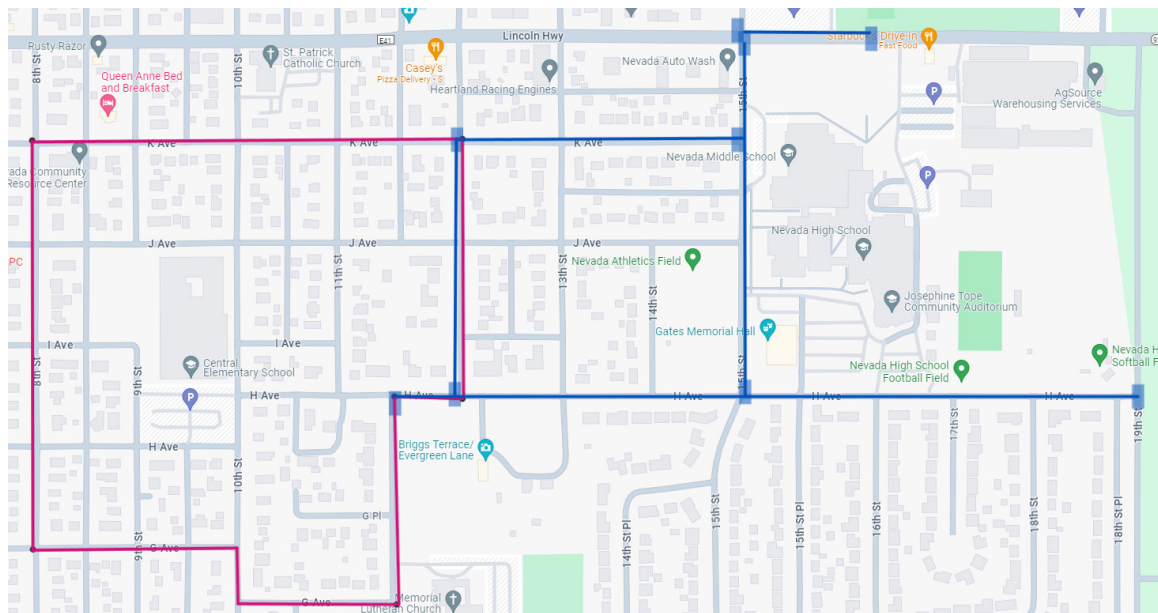
"I want to have kids get to know us (officers) and us get to know them, because that's what 'community policing' is all about," she said.

### Parks and Rec's fall program schedule coming out soon

Nevada Parks and Recreation will be finalizing its fall program schedule in early July. Watch for registration and program information for both youth and adult programs and activities via our program registration website: <https://nevadaia.recdesk.com/Community/Member/Login> and also through our email and social media outlets.



This map shows both the elementary school zone (pinkish red lines) and the middle/high school zone (blue lines) where traffic violations will carry enhanced penalties, due to the City's newly approved school zones ordinance. The City hopes the increase in possible penalties will keep people more aware of their driving habits in these areas that often include higher pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle traffic. (Base Image is from Google Maps)



# Slow down and pay attention OR pay a stiffer penalty

In an effort to increase safety on the streets near to our schools, the Nevada City Council has adopted a new traffic regulation. The new regulation, outlined in Ordinance No. 1056, will create "school zones" in proximity to the community's two main education centers — Central Elementary School and the high school/middle school complex.

Under the guidelines of Ordinance No. 1056, penalties and/or fines will increase for traffic violations within Nevada's two school zones, which

actually overlap along 12th Street, between H Avenue and K Avenue.

"The violations we see most in the school zones area include speeding, stop sign and yield sign violations, and texting while driving," said Public Safety Director Chris Brandes.

Brandes said the establishment of school zones is common in many communities and provides law enforcement with another tool to deter traffic infractions.

"These areas have a lot of increased traffic and transportation, as well as pedestrians. The areas also include main driving routes within our community," Brandes said. "As a department, we can't stress enough how important safety is in these areas."

Residents can view the full Ordinance regarding school zones on the City's website, [www.cityofnevadaiaowa.org](http://www.cityofnevadaiaowa.org). Click on "Departments" > "City Administrator" > "Code of Ordinances."

## Residents can help with Safety Action Plan

The City of Nevada is participating in a regional Safety Action Plan to enhance roadway safety. The purpose of the plan is to identify solutions for all people using the road, including drivers, passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and people with disabilities.

A public meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 16 from 4 to 6 p.m. at City Hall**. The meeting will be held in an open house format with no formal presentation.

The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan is being developed for Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA) region. The Plan includes the incorporated cities

within Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story, and Warren Counties. The unincorporated portions of the counties are part of a separate project.

The project is funded by a competitive Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant provided through the US-Department of Transportation.

Use this QR code to link to a survey and give us your input on local road-related safety issues.





# What's happening at the Nevada Public Library?

**A reminder to residents, the library will be closed on Thursday, July 4.**

*The following events are coming up in July:*

## FOR ADULTS:

July 2, 6:30 p.m. — A Program, "Gladys Black: The Legacy of Iowa's Bird Lady" will be presented by Larry Stone, who knew and worked with Gladys during his 25 years at the Des Moines Register. This program is free and co-sponsored by Humanities Iowa.

July 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. — Our Midwest Author Series continues with Rachelle Chase, who wrote two nonfiction books about the town of Buxton, Iowa, the black utopia founded in 1900. This author talk will be good for young and old alike who are interested in Iowa history. Chase also has a new middle-grade historical fiction novel to be released later this year, "The Time I was Susan Clark."



July 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m. — A program, "Lawyers in Libraries: The Basics of Wills, Trusts, and Probate" will be given by Ames attorney, Merlaine Mosley. Her program will focus on the powers and limitations of a last will and testament, the basics of probate, information on how court costs are calculated and an overview of how trusts work and when it may be helpful to use one.

## FOR ALL AGES:

The July Friends of the Library Book Sale will be later than most months due to the 4th of July holiday. The book sale will be held the following week on Friday, July 12 and Saturday, July 13 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

July 11, 10 a.m. - Will Stuck's Adventure into the Absurd — Will uses combinations of comedy, music, storytelling, and more. High energy, entertaining and packed with audience participation!

July 18, 10-11 a.m. — Dr. Bechtel's Exotic Animals program. Meet amazing creatures in this hands-on presentation, sponsored by Community Veterinary Clinic, Nevada

July 25, 10-11 a.m. — Blank Park Zoo program

July 26 — Ice Cream Social and Outdoor Movie Night, sponsored by Story County Medical Center; Ice Cream Social is 7-8:45 p.m., movie begins at 9 p.m.

## RECAP OF WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

- Mondays: Teens (6th-12th grade) — Registration required for all events. Find times and details of each week on our website.
- Tuesdays: Toddler Time, 10:30 a.m., at the library.
- Wednesdays: Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade - 10 a.m. - Registrations required — details on our website!
- Fridays: Summer Story Time for all kids, 10 a.m., in the meeting room.

## LOOKING AHEAD:

**Take Note: Youth programs take a break in August!**

And since it's coming up quickly, we'll add this August event to our July news:

On Aug. 1, at 6:30 p.m., we are hosting the program, "Iowa Scenic Views by Foot with Tyler Sullivan." When you think of Iowa, what are things that come to mind? Did you know that Iowa has 99 counties, and 101 courthouses? Tyler has been to 96 out of the 99 counties, and has been to 1,229 cities across the state. He also is running at least a mile in all these communities and to make it more memorable, and he forms a poem for each of the counties he visits. Come and listen to the adventures he has experienced across Iowa.

**Nevada City Hall and Public Safety Facility, along with other City Offices, will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of the holiday. City offices will re-open Friday, July 5, at 8 a.m.**

# New Leadership Welcomed



Zachary Skelton

Story County would like to welcome our newest leadership, Veterans Affairs Director Zachary Skelton and County Outreach and Special Projects Manager Crystal Davis.

Skelton has been with Story County since 2007, previously working in Vocational Rehabilitation with Story County Community Life and more recently as a Detention Officer in the Story County Sheriff's Office.

Previously working as the Ames Main Street Director for the Ames Chamber of Commerce, Davis joins us as our County Outreach and Special Projects Manager. This role involves working directly with the Board of Supervisors, developing and implementing a communications plan, grant management for the County, and managing and developing strategic and on-going plans that strengthen the future of Story County.



Crystal Davis

## Update from Secondary Roads Department

Construction season is upon us and a lot of projects will take place. This summer includes several culvert/bridge projects along with paving projects of S14 (Nevada city limits South to Polk/Story line (340th St) and S27 (Highway 30, North to E29 and east 1 mile).

Information regarding upcoming projects will be on the Engineer's web page prior to the beginning of the project. Road closure information can also be found by going to Road Closures/Construction Projects located on the left side of the Engineer's web page at [www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov).

## Adopt a Barn Cat

Working cats or barn cats are feral or semi-feral cats that are taken into the shelter as strays. These cats are very independent and would prefer to limit their interactions with humans. These cats would not do well in an indoor home environment but would thrive in a working environment where they can patrol a barn, shed, or outbuilding. These cats can live a fulfilling life with a family who will care for them and get the added bonus of a rodent-free property.

You would need the following: Shelter for the cat such as a barn, outbuilding, garage, shed, or other structure that would provide adequate protection from weather extremes, daily food and water, veterinary care as needed, a secure place such as a completely enclosed building, kennel, or appropriately sized crate to keep the cat for the first two to three weeks while they get used to your property and you. To adopt a barn cat, please follow this link <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1486/Adoption-Application>.

## Upcoming Conservation Programs



### EVENING PADDLING

**Tuesday, July 23, 5:30-7 p.m., at Hickory Grove Park**

Interested in getting out on the water with some fun canoeing and paddle boarding? Bring your family out to try these water sports with naturalists Bobbi Donovan and Clair Pfantz. Little to no experience is not a problem! We will walk you through how to use these exciting water crafts (provided). Enjoy a warm summer evening with us connecting to nature.

Registration required by July 22. Register online at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com).

### TWILIGHT PADDLE

**Tuesday, July 23, 7:30-9 p.m., at Hickory Grove Park**

Interested in getting out on the water with some fun canoeing? Bring your families out to try this water sport with naturalists Bobbi Donovan and Clair Pfantz. We will walk you through how to use this exciting water craft (provided) while you enjoy the warm summer twilight with us connecting to nature.

Registration required by July 22. Register online at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com).



# Burke Corporation Electric Shag Trucks

## WITH BRANDON KOEHLER, VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

This year, Burke Corporation is celebrating 50 years as one of the leading manufacturers of customized crumbles and meatballs in the pizza industry. In 1973, Bill Burke, Sr., had a vision that has evolved into one of the premier economic development success stories of the region.



The company started with three employees and 3,000 square feet in a Quonset hut in Ames and now has over 500,000 square feet and more than the 550 team members in Nevada. In 2020, Burke opened its \$150 million expansion, which extended its existing facility in Nevada.

As a growing company with a national sales base, Burke has always been on the front end of logistics technology in the manufacturing space. The company's latest technological decision was the adoption of electric shag trucks, used locally to move trailers quickly and safely for loading and unloading goods.

"When we made the decision to purchase our first electric truck, there were several grants and rebates making the cost to go this route similar to diesel," said Brandon Koehler, Vice President of Operations for Burke. Koehler also cites electric as a cleaner alternative as a factor in their initial decision to explore this option. "Our traditional diesel shag trucks spend a lot of time idling and burning diesel when not actually working, especially during the cold winter months and hot summer months," he said. "The electric option eliminates

that waste."

It's a shift in thinking for an industry that continues to rely on traditional fuel sources. Through a grant, Burke acquired its first Orange EV truck in 2020 and was able to install the needed infrastructure to support electric vehicles. In 2023, the company purchased a second truck, but this time without any grant support. The cost of the second truck was nearly double the cost of a diesel truck for the same purpose.

"We had such a great experience with the first truck, and we were able to see cost savings in other ways. So getting that second truck, even though it cost more, was the right decision for us," Koehler said.

The Orange EV trucks require little maintenance, and when they do, due to remote diagnostics, repairs can be pinpointed quickly. Additionally, Burke already had the infrastructure to charge the vehicles, which was another cost savings.

Koehler started his career in the food industry as a dry sausage production supervisor for Hormel Foods in 2007. He progressed through various super-

visory positions at the Austin, Minn., plant, and in 2022, Koehler joined the Burke team in his current position, overseeing plant production at the Nevada facility. He relocated his family to Ames and is actively part of the business community in the region.

Koehler grew up in a diesel truck-driving family, making the move to an electric vehicle noteworthy. "We did the research and now we have the experience to suggest this decision to other manufacturing companies," he said. Several companies in the region have approached the Burke team to gain insights about this move to electric.

Burke produces over 1,200 different meat and non-meat crumbles that are used across the United States and all over the world. The company ships nearly 100 truckloads of product every week out of Nevada, and Burke products can be found in over 10 countries in both foodservice and retail outlets. Burke currently has 1,248 active SKUs. As it relates to the new electric vehicles, these trucks handle over 200 million pounds of supplies and finished goods annually. Typically, there are 85 or more trailers on site at any given time.



# What do we do?

*Creating a community-friendly atmosphere downtown is one part of Main Street Nevada's Mission Statement. We hear from current and former residents all the time, who say, "The downtown feels so vibrant." Last year, the downtown held nine events! This year will be similar. The downtown district is a great place to meet up with friends and family or get to know strangers.*

## MAIN STREET NEVADA IS WHERE THE FUN HAPPENS

What do Nevada Farmers Market, Downtown Trick-or-Treat, Christmas on Main, and the Homecoming Tailgate all have in common? Not only did they happen downtown, they were all planned by Main Street Nevada volunteers! Additionally, Main Street Nevada assists with Pizza Pie Looza and Lincoln Highway Days. While Main Street Nevada has many goals, providing fun for the community is one of our favorites!

Monthly Mix-N-Mingles are another way Main Street Nevada provides regular social events for anyone to attend. We'd love to see some new faces at these events, so come on out and join us — there is usually free food! Follow Main Street Nevada, IA on Facebook to learn where this event is located each month, or check the calendar on the back of this publication.

Another fun thing this organization provides to NEW community members is a "Welcome" gift. A "Welcome to Nevada" tote bag, filled with information from the city and swag from local businesses, is delivered right to the front door of our newest Nevadans.

## MAIN STREET NEVADA EDUCATES!

Lunch-N-Learns, while often targeted to businesses, are open to anyone! We've even had out-of-town guests in attendance. These events are free to the community, and we hope you will take advantage of them and learn a new skill.

Main Street Nevada offered CPR training last year and created a flyer showing the locations of AEDs in the community. You can also find this information on the app, Pulse Point, thanks to Fire Chief Reynolds.

A new community series on youth issues will be coming this fall. This is a collaboration between Main Street Nevada and the Nevada Community School District. We hope you will join us at the Camelot for these sessions as we know "it takes a village" to raise the youth in our community.

## MAIN STREET NEVADA IS VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN

Main Street Nevada is proud to promote community involvement. If you have a passion for seeing the Nevada community gather and enjoy each other's company, we'd love to have you join our Promotions Committee. Please email us at [promotions@mainstreet-nevada.org](mailto:promotions@mainstreet-nevada.org) for more information on volunteer opportunities.

Main Street Nevada is a non-profit. The organization receives a majority of its funding from investors. If you've enjoyed the events put on by MSN and would like to help the organization continue to provide fun things for the community, please consider an investment to the organization by scanning the QR code.





Postal Customer

## Calendar of Events

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.**  
Story County Admin Bldg, Nevada

### BLOOD DRIVE

**July 3, 1-6 p.m.**  
Gates Memorial Hall, Nevada

### 4TH OF JULY IN NEVADA, IOWA

**6:30-10 a.m.**  
Breakfast at the Fire Station, free-will donation  
**10 a.m.**  
Parade on 6th Street from E to N Avenue  
**11 a.m. (after parade)**  
Chicken Noodle Dinner at American Legion Post, 1331 6th St., \$10 for adults (\$5 for children age 10 and under)  
Root Beer Floats, free-will donation  
**8 p.m.**  
Pre-fireworks treats at Rasmusson-Ryan Funeral Home & Crematory including popcorn, sno-cones and bottled water  
**Dusk**  
City Fireworks Show, shot from the west side of SCORE Park (soccer field area)

### SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

**July 8, 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

**July 8 & 22, 6 p.m.**  
City Hall

### FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

**July 12 & 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
Nevada Public Library

### AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

**July 12, 5-7 p.m.**  
American Legion Post  
*Serving Tenderloins. Cost is \$12 per adult (\$5 per child, age 10 and under)*

### CAMELOT THEATER FDN ELVIS TRIBUTE

**July 13, 7 p.m.**

### NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

**July 15, 6:30 p.m.**  
Gates Memorial Hall Auditorium

### SAFETY ACTION PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

**July 16, 4-6 p.m.**  
City Hall  
*Residents will be able to help identify road safety issues within our community.*

### STORY COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

**July 17-21**  
Story County Fair Grounds, Nevada  
*See details on page 5 of this issue*

### CAMELOT MOVIE

**July 21, 2 & 6 p.m.**  
**July 25, 10:30 a.m. and 2 & 6 p.m.**  
"The Land Before Time"

### CAMELOT MOVIE

**July 28, 2 & 6 p.m.**  
**July 30 & 31, 2 p.m.**  
"The Man Who Knew Too Much"