

Our Nevada

Iowa

December
2023

Celebrate the Season

Christmas on Main shopping at our small businesses, shows at the Camelot ... lots to do this holiday season!

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Our Nevada Iowa

December 2023

The Opener

By Emily Schaack

Director of Main Street Nevada

This time of year has many of us reflecting on the blessings in our lives, sharing with others and gathering with special people. Our 3rd annual Christmas on Main event aims to do all of these things.

The Main Street Nevada Promotions Committee has been planning for months to make this a vintage-feeling holiday event. With some elements from the 1946 film, "It's a Wonderful Life," combined with some local favorites, like Santa and Mrs. Claus riding in on the fire truck, we hope this event will bring joy to your holiday season.

Shop, take photos with your favorite Christmas characters (the Grinch, Olaf, and Buddy the Elf will be strolling the event area!), take a ride in the horse carriage, indulge in festive treats, join the ugly sweater fun run... We have lots of activities, along with business open houses, planned for all ages to enjoy.

The Camelot Theater is a great place to take in vintage Christmas this month with a showing of the original "It's a Wonderful Life" movie on Dec. 3 and a classic country concert with holiday carols on Dec. 9. The Polar Express will also take the big screen on Dec. 10.

As you are making your gift lists for the holidays this year, remember to support our local businesses. Our small business owners are supporting our community in so many ways, and we need to make sure we are supporting them. From coffee to car washes, many businesses in town offer gift cards. Making a local purchase is both a gift to the merchant and the recipient!

Christmas On Main Schedule:

2 p.m. Ugly Sweater Run, Main Street District

3:55 p.m. Santa, Mrs. Claus and "friends" arrive by fire truck coming through the Main Street District to the City Hall parking lot.

4-7 p.m. Main Event in the Main Street District with open houses, carriage rides, carolers, cookie walk, and more.

7 p.m. An Acoustic Christmas with Wade Hayes at the Camelot Theater

ON THE COVER: Tasha and Akrin Vorm were ready for the Ugly Sweater Run during the 2022 Christmas On Main celebration. The Ugly Sweater Run returns to this year, along with many other fun activities!

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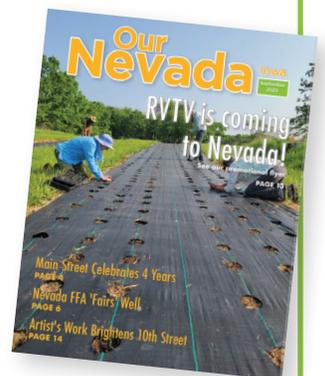
CONTACT US

Email us at

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.





CHRISTMAS ON MAIN BINGO CARD

Just for fun, see how many BINGOs you can get when you attend this year's Christmas On Main, Saturday, Dec. 9!

<p>1</p> <p>GIVE SANTA & MRS. CLAUS A HUG</p>	<p>2</p> <p>SIP HOT COCOA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>TOUR THE DYER DOWELL HOUSE</p>	<p>4</p> <p>WARM YOUR HANDS WITH THE BARRELS BY CITY HALL</p>	<p>5</p> <p>STOP AT A BUSINESS OPEN HOUSE</p>
<p>6</p> <p>DROP OFF A CARD FOR SENIORS</p>	<p>7</p> <p>LISTEN TO OUR CHRISTMAS CAROLERS</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PLAY THE BELLS WITH MEMORIAL LUTHERAN</p>	<p>9</p> <p>ENJOY FIREFIGHTER'S CUP OF CHILI</p>	<p>10</p> <p>SHOP OUR BUSINESSES & VENDORS</p>
<p>11</p> <p>SHOP THE COOKIE WALK AT THE LEGION</p>	<p>12</p> <p>TAKE A HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDE</p>	<p>13</p> <p>VISIT THE NEW 360 DEGREE PHOTO BOOTH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>HIGH FIVE BUDDY THE ELF</p>	<p>15</p> <p>EAT A CHRISTMAS TREAT!</p>
<p>16</p> <p>DO THE UGLY SWEATER RUN</p>	<p>17</p> <p>TAKE A SELFIE WITH OLAF</p>	<p>18</p> <p>GET YOUR PET'S PHOTO TAKEN!</p>	<p>19</p> <p>WATCH SANTA ARRIVE BY FIRE TRUCK</p>	<p>20</p> <p>SAY SOMETHING NICE TO THE GRINCH</p>
<p>21</p> <p>TAKE A SELFIE IN FRONT OF A BIG TREE!</p>	<p>22</p> <p>ATTEND THE CAMELOT CONCERT AT 7 P.M.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>VISIT A BUSINESS YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN BEFORE</p>	<p>24</p> <p>GET YOUR PICTURE TAKEN BY MARLYS!</p>	<p>25</p> <p>MAIL YOUR LETTER TO SANTA</p>

Raising charitable giving awareness is the goal of new annual campaign

As we celebrate a current “season of giving” with the holidays ahead, members of The Nevada Foundation introduce a new campaign — starting in 2024 — which is all about giving.

“When we established the Foundation, a key priority was to foster a culture of philanthropy in Nevada,” said Mayor Brett Barker, current president of The Nevada Foundation. “We know there are many great organizations doing incredible work, and our goal is to aid them in their missions to serve Nevada.”

To do this, members of The Nevada Foundation divided the calendar year by quarters, and in each three-month period, they will focus on different charitable needs in our community. For example, quarter one is “Helping Hands,” and the focus will be on food, clothing, and shelter needs, and supporting the organizations that concentrate on these types of needs.

In the diagram that accompanies this campaign and this story, you can see the focuses of the other three quarters of the year.

Looking at just the first quarter, Nevada School District employees Elizabeth Gindt and Jodi Heeren, who work with students and families in need, can attest to just how important it is for the community to provide “Helping Hands” support in the areas of food, clothing, and shelter.

“I feel at this time, our school district is mirroring the broader social issues facing families across the nation,” Gindt said. “There are consistent issues arising in the area of basic needs.”

Even in a community as vibrant as Nevada appears to be, Heeren said poverty is an issue. “Some families are

barely making it, or not making it. There are many families working numerous jobs and still barely making it.” Heeren said we have families living in unsafe environments, because it’s what they can afford.

And if they can barely afford housing, then for many families, food insecurity and other basic needs are also factors. “There are more children and families being served by Cubbies Cupboard, the weekend food program, Food at First and the Community Cupboard than we have ever seen, the only exception being during Covid,” Heeren said.

Gindt said, “My guess would be most community members do not know we are working daily with, and connecting families to, area resources.”

The agencies that are helping to meet the needs of families include, according to Gindt, all of the following: Food at First, Kids at First, Boys and Girls Club, Cubbie’s Cupboard, The Bridge Home, The Community Cupboard, Harmony Clothing Closet, The Mobile Crisis Unit, NCRC, and The Nevada Human Service Fund, plus others who provide funds and scholarships to help cover needs.

With Seasons of Giving, people can give to the Nevada Foundation, who will, in return, distribute the funds to organizations who fill the focused-upon needs of each quarter.

The mayor hopes the year-round focus on a variety of needs in the community brings awareness and help for a variety of nonprofits. “Our Seasons of Giving campaign will allow those who care about Nevada, both near and far, to make annual contributions and legacy gifts to support ongoing projects in our community,” Barker said.

Nevada Foundation Board members include:

Executive Committee: Brett Barker, president; Dr. Steve Gray, vice president; Lisa Oxley, secretary/treasurer; Michelle Cassabaum and Mary Handsaker

Standing Board members: Jordan Cook (City), Marlys Swanson-Brehm (Nevada Community Historical Society), Brenda Dwyer (Nevada Economic Development Council), Steve Gray (Nevada Community School District), Emily Schaack (Main Street Nevada), Christa Skaggs (Camelot Theater Foundation)

At-Large Board members: Lisa Oxley, Marty Chitty, Brian Hanson, Sara Clausen, Sharon Johnson, Brett Barker, Michelle Cassabaum, Ken Nelson, Tim Hansen, Mary Handsaker

THE NEVADA FOUNDATION

PRESERVING OUR PAST
October/November/December

HISTORICAL REHABILITATION

HISTORICAL RECOGNITION

STORY TELLING

Examples may include Historical Society, Record Digitization, Lincoln Highway Signage, Historical Markers, Evergreen Lane, etc.

HELPING HANDS
January/February/March

CLOTHING

FOOD INSECURITY

SHELTER

Examples may include Cubbies Cupboard, Nevada Food at First, Fill the Foyer, Good Samaritan, Community Garden, Salvation Army, Harmony Closet, etc.

CAPTURING KIDS' HEARTS
July/August/September

Examples may include Student Lunch Accounts, School Supplies, Student/Family Assistance Fund, IJAG Program, NCRC Childcare Scholarships, etc.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

CHILDCARE

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

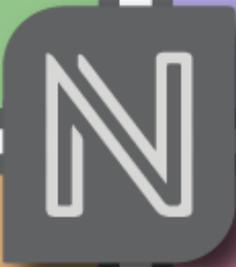
BUILDING NEVADA
April/May/June

Examples may include Mainstreet Improvements, Trail Systems, Camelot Theater Restoration, Gateway Signage, etc.

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION & REVITALIZATION

ARTS & RECREATION

ESSENTIAL SERVICES



Seasons of Giving
100% of Donations Go Towards the Cause
Donations may be tax deductible. Auto debit available.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



RETIREMENT *Reception*



*Please join us for a
farewell reception to
honor the contributions of
Nevada Public Safety
Director Ricardo
Martinez.*

Monday
December 11

From 4:30-5:30
City Council Chambers



Refreshments to be served

City Offices holiday closings

City Offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25; Tuesday, Dec. 26; and Monday, Jan. 1, during the holiday season.

Public Library holiday closings

The Nevada Public Library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 23, through Monday, Dec. 25, and Saturday, Dec. 30, through Monday, Jan. 1.

May the Peace of the Season
be with You



From all of us at the Nevada Police Department: pictured (kneeling, from left) are officers Madison Dicks, Ryan Hutton, Lane Vanderhart, Kellan Sydnes, and Nicholas Walleses; (standing, from left) Detective Matt Celentano, Sgt. Josh Cizmadia, CSO Nancy Pritchard, Public Safety Director Ricardo Martinez II, Police Chief Chris Brandes, Fire Chief Raymond Reynolds, PSDAA Cathy Jager, Sgt.-Detective Andrew Henderson, and Officer Matt Mardesen. Not available at the time of the photo was Senior Patrol Officer Sean Seymour.

Fill the Foyer to return for 9th year

Fill the Foyer 2024 will start on Tuesday, Jan. 2, when City offices re-open after the New Year's holiday. During Fill the Foyer, which runs through Wednesday, Jan. 31, residents are invited to bring in donations of money and/or non-perishable food items, cleaning supplies, toiletries, and "winter gear."

Items collected are given to Harmony Clothing Closet, Nevada Community Cupboard, Cubbie's Cupboard, and Nevada Food at First, entities that help families in need within our community.

When it comes to wearable items, Harmony is asking people to donate only "winter gear" during Fill the Foyer. This includes hats, gloves, coats, snow boots, snow pants, and scarves. If you have clothing and other items, those may be dropped off directly to Harmony during regular Monday evening hours.

This year, Food at First is asking for the following donations:

2-gallon zipper storage bags, 1-gallon zipper freezer bags, quart zipper freezer bags, zipper sandwich bags, and full-size aluminum steam table pans and lids.

Items may be dropped off in the City Hall foyer during regular business hours, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. If you are bringing in a cash donation, please leave it with one of our City Hall employees in the administrative office.

Fill the Foyer started as a way of keeping the "giving" spirit surrounding the holidays going for an extended time period.

Seasons Of Giving, as you can read about on pages 4-5 in this publication, will also focus on helping families with these same types of needs, and is the focus of the campaign during the first three months of this year.

"It's all about giving and helping families in our community who need assistance," said Mayor Brett Barker, who started Fill the Foyer nine years ago.



Nevada Friends of the Library members Jane Punke, left, and Jean Watts, next to Jane, assist a book sale shopper at the check-out table.

Deals on older books and more help 'Friends' support the library

These days, virtual “friends” are just a click away on social media; but another type of “friend” — one very much needed in Nevada — is “Friends of the Library.”

Nevada’s Friends of the Library organization has been around for longer than most can remember, and many of the public library’s offerings that our community enjoys are made possible through the work and the donations of the Friends of the Library group.

Take this past year, for example. Friends of the Library has donated to or purchased all of the following:

- New skateboard rack
- Large popcorn machine for special events (saving staff lots of time)
- Adventure Passes, which are passes library patrons can reserve to take their family to the following for free: Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines Children’s Museum, Iowa Arboretum & Gardens, Reiman Gardens, and Science Center of Iowa
- Coffee and supplies for the library coffee corner
- One set of book club books
- A Story Walk book
- Speakers/special programs, particularly for kids
- The popular Book Page magazine – found at front desk and free

for patrons

- “Beanstack” online service for the summer reading program (approximately \$900)

- Conferences and/or continuing education for library staff

*Friends of the Library also usually helps with summer reading program prizes, but this past year, the library was able to secure sponsors to cover those prizes.

The biggest fundraisers for the Friends of the Library, according to current Friends board president Maryann Ryan, are the monthly book sales, held in the library’s basement.

If you’ve ever been to a Friends of the Library book sale, you know the sale offers more than just books. Book sales also offer puzzles, games, DVDs, CDs, and audiobooks. All items are sold for \$1.

The book sales have lots of loyal customers. Among them are Mitch and Connie Gronemeyer of Ames. Mitch is a retired automation control worker, and Connie is a retired school cook. They both love to read. Mitch said he loves histories and biographies. Connie loves the authors, Patterson and Sanford. She also likes puzzles and often buys one or two at the sales.

“We love getting home with a full bag of books to read,” Mitch said. The couple reads and enjoys, and then donates a big bag of books back to the sales, so they can be sold again.

Kris and Debbie Corbin were present at a recent library book sale. Kris, a retired school teacher who is active in the Nevada Community Historical Society, said he's always looking for anything that deals with Iowa's history. Debbie looks for a very different type of book.

"I'm mainly into elementary illustrated books, children's books," she said. "I love a good illustrator."

Debbie also picks up books for craft projects, explaining that she can use different parts of books in unique crafts.

Friends of the Library members help work at the sales, which are held the first Friday and Saturday of each month. (*Dates generally run on the back calendar page of this publication.*) At a recent sale, Jean Watts and Jane Punke were helping people at the check-out table.

Jane said her mother-in-law was a children's librarian, "so we've always had lots of books to read. I love to read." When she shops at the book sales, Jane likes buying a good hardback book. "I just love the feel of a hardback book."

Jean, who is a former Friends president and current board member, said her favorite thing to shop for at the book sales

is biographies and autobiographies, along with historical fiction. She also looks for books that might interest her children.

Both Jean and Jane love that the Friends group helps the library fund many items and programs that are over and above what their budget can afford.

The Friends of the Library group is in need of members and board members. To become a board member, you first need to become a member.

There is a form to fill out to apply for membership. You will find the form at the front of the library, where various pamphlets and information are located. The form can also be found at the book sales, at

the check-out table. And, the form is available online on the Nevada Public Library's website: www.nevada.lib.ia.us/support-library/friends-library.

If you have questions about Friends of the Library, becoming a member, or becoming a board member, or if you have questions about the book sales or donating items for the book sales, please reach out to Friends of the Library at its email: friendsofnevadapl@gmail.com.



Library News Briefs

Youth Programs Note

Regularly scheduled youth programs are on hiatus in December. Toddler Time, STEAM Lab, and Teen Lounge will return the week of Jan. 2, 2024!

Discuss Inclusivity

On Saturday, Dec. 2 at 1 p.m. a Community Conversation about LGBTQ+ Inclusivity will be held at the library.

The Nevada Public Library staff wants to hear from you on how they can better serve the local LGBTQIA+ community here in Nevada, whether it's with resources, services, or programs. Join us for an open conversation. Refreshments will be served.

Iowa State Theatre Presentation

Nevada Public Library is happy to welcome the Iowa State University Theatre for a production of The Velveteen Rabbit on Wednesday, Dec. 6, starting at 7 p.m.

This is a delightful, all-ages show that features shadow puppetry with the use of a "crankie" and rod cut-out puppets performed by Iowa State University student actors/puppeteers. Student narrators will retell this timeless classic with original music.

Interactive Holiday Movie

Bring your family and friends to an interactive movie at the library on Sat-

urday, Dec. 16, at 10:30 a.m. We will provide all of the props, popcorn, and hot chocolate! To make it even cozier, you are invited to wear holiday pajamas or bring a blanket to cuddle up with! For movie info, visit our website at nevada.lib.ia.us.

Celebrate the New Year

It's never too early to start celebrating the New Year! Join Nicole at the library on Friday, Dec. 29, from 6-8 p.m. for a party just for teens; no adults or kids allowed! Bring your friends and enjoy music, games, and food to ring in the New Year! This activity is for teens in 7th-12th grades.



Addressing Addiction with Billion Pill Pledge

Providers, Surgical Services team recognized for efforts aimed at reducing abuse of prescription pills.

Pictured above are Dr. Erin Nelson, DPM (front left) and Cathy Haley, RN, Director of Outpatient Clinic and Surgical Services (front right) with members of the Story Medical Surgical Services team.

At a recent press conference, Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird and Story County Medical Center proudly announced their participation in the Billion Pill Pledge program, launched in conjunction with Goldfinch Health.

Surgery has long been known as a gateway to long-term opioid painkiller use and dependence. Studies show approximately 9% of surgery patients who have never used an opioid become long-term users of opioids after being legally prescribed opioids after a surgery.

"My greatest hope for all of this, which I think is well within reach, is this: that Iowa can lead the way to show other states how you can have a great hospital like this that's doing a great job with patient care. There was no problem here. But, you can take the best and you can make it even better," Attorney General Bird says.

The mission of the Billion Pill Pledge is to reduce leftover opioids after surgery in the United States by 1 billion pills each year, thereby avoiding those pills being possibly diverted to unauthorized use by others.

Through the Billion Pill Pledge program, Story County Medical Center has enhanced its surgery protocols and optimized pain management around surgery. These industry-leading approaches are designed to enhance

patients' preparation for surgery, better manage any surgery-related pain, and minimize opioid use both before and after surgery.

"We are excited to launch this critical first dose prevention program at our hospital," says Nate Thompson, Story Medical CEO. "Opioid challenges are not just patient challenges. They are community challenges. The Billion Pill Pledge program will help us to better serve our community."

As a part of this program, patients will receive a "Prepared for Surgery" care package prior to surgery. This box includes a number of items key to optimizing a patient's surgery experience, including an opioid disposal bottle, pre-surgery drink, ice packs and more. Nurses from Goldfinch Health are supporting patients during the critical period before and after surgery to help increase the use of opioid-minimizing surgery protocols.

"The support provided by Goldfinch Health is critical to our success in optimizing patient care, especially when our resources are stretched," says Cathy Haley, RN, Director of Outpatient Clinic & Surgical Services at Story Medical. "This program means our patients have access to the resources they need to confidently prepare for and successfully recover from surgery."

Goldfinch Health is an Iowa City-based company dedicated to enhancing surgical outcomes, improving the surgery experience for patients, and reducing opioid use. Late last year, Goldfinch Health launched the Billion Pill Pledge—an opioid first dose prevention program.

LEARN MORE

For more information about the Billion Pill Pledge program visit billionpillpledge.com or email Meredith.Allan@goldfinchhealth.com.

Haley Recognized as BPP Champion

Following the Billion Pill Pledge (BPP) event at Story Medical (story at left), Cathy Haley, RN, Director of Outpatient Clinic & Surgical Services at Story Medical, was recognized as a BPP Champion.

The BPP Champion offers an opportunity to recognize the efforts of individuals within partner hospitals who have contributed significantly to implementing, supporting and providing leadership surrounding the BPP program.

Cathy has been instrumental in the advancement surrounding surgical and pain management protocols related to the BPP at Story County Medical Center.

Specifically, Cathy has worked hand-in-hand with the surgical services team to implement the primary objectives of BPP, which have contributed significantly to the health and safety of Story Medical patients and the community.



News & Notes

MANAGE YOUR CARE ONLINE WITH MyUnityPoint

MyUnityPoint is an online tool especially for Story Medical patients that offers direct access to portions of the electronic health record and more. By creating a MyUnityPoint account, patients can:

- View medical information securely via the Internet.
- Stay in touch with physicians.
- Request prescription refills online.
- Manage appointments, and view details of past/upcoming appointments.

Learn more and create an account at <https://chart.myunitypoint.org/mychart>.

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!



Pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony are Cutting Edge Painting's (from left) Kathy Walker, office manager; Tad Walker, vice president of operations; Mike Wieszorek, president; Jeanie Feight, office assistant; Lanny Feight, president of industrial division; and Steve Wilson, shop manager.

Breaking Ground

CUTTING EDGE PAINTING CELEBRATES A NEW HOME FOR OPERATIONS IN NEVADA

On Sept. 27, Cutting Edge Painting broke ground on a new facility in Nevada that will be home to their operations when it opens in 2024.

The event was commemorated with a ceremony led by the Nevada Economic Development Council (NEDC) and included representation from the City of Nevada. Mike Wieszorek, owner of Cutting Edge Painting, and others, provided remarks that highlighted the unique partnerships between organizations across the community that made this project come together.

City of Nevada Mayor Brett Barker noted that he loves watching local businesses grow and expand. "This is a great example of that," said Barker. "We're really excited about the project



here and together for what it will do for the community."

Cutting Edge Painting is a professional paint company and epoxy floor coating company that services central Iowa. From residential interior and exterior, commercial jobs, epoxy flooring, and more, they do it all. Wieszorek noted that Cutting Edge has grown steadily over the past several years and currently employs just over 30

people.

The land is located in the Nevada West Industrial Park and was previously owned by the NEDC. The NEDC sold it to Cutting Edge for this project. Brenda Dyer, NEDC Executive Director, said, "It was our pleasure to work with the City of Nevada and Cutting Edge Painting to make this project a reality."

The new facility will be home to the company's entire operation and allow for continued growth in Nevada and across Central Iowa. In his final remarks, Wieszorek thanked the NEDC and City of Nevada for their support of the project. "We've searched other properties, other places, and other cities, and we're excited to be able to stay here and put our roots down."



Students at Central Elementary are busy integrating computer science standards into their learning this year. Over the past few weeks, students have been learning about inputs and outputs by using robot cars.

Nevada FFA harvest yields results

The Nevada FFA Chapter finished harvesting last month. The program yielded 8,072 bushels of corn, and 308 bushels of soybeans.

After harvest, a fall application of anhydrous ammonia was applied to help next year's corn have the nitrogen it needs to thrive.



Verbio recently communicated interest in harvesting stover from the FFA corn fields which would provide additional income for the chapter.

A cover crop of rye was seeded in September on one corn field. Winter cover crops are grown off-season to reduce soil compaction, help prevent erosion, aid in suppressing weeds and pests, and boost soil fertility.

Thank you to all of the volunteers

and companies that assisted with this year's FFA test plots.

BID OPPORTUNITY

Nevada CSD has surplus items available for public bid.

1. Carlisle Plastic Serving Station
6'x2'
2. Cambro Plastic Serving Station
5'x2'
3. (2) Brown Slotted Side Trays
64"
4. Cambro (Top-only) Serving Station
5'

Sealed bids are due to the NCS District Office at Gates Hall by 9am on December 15, 2023. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Bids should indicate item(s) bidding on, name, address, email, and phone number. Winning bidders will pay in full prior to removal from premises, will remove within 24 hours of notification, and will be

responsible for their own loading.

LANDFORMS

Central Elementary students learned about different landform types. Working with partners, they got to choose one landform to research more, and then got to build that landform out of salt dough.



Follow us on Social Media!
[@NevadaCSD](https://www.instagram.com/NevadaCSD)



Safe Winter Driving Tips

- Drive slower and increase your following distance.
- Break early when coming to an intersection or stop.

• Approach bridges and overpasses slowly as they may remain icy after the rest of the road is clear and dry.

• If you begin to slide do not hit the brakes. Keep a firm grip on the steering wheel and steer the car in the direction you want the front to go.

• If your car has anti-lock brakes, press and hold the brake to the floor. Do not pump the breaks. Let the anti-lock braking system take control of the breaking.



To check Iowa road conditions, call 511 or go to 511ia.org.

ATV/ORM/ORV registration is open until December 31

The Story County Recorder's Office would like to remind everyone that ATV/ORM/ORV and snowmobile registration is now open until Dec. 31, 2023. Any renewals received after that date will incur a \$5 penalty per vehicle. To save taxpayer dollars, the Recorder's Office is no longer mailing courtesy reminders to recreational vehicle owners. Please provide a current e-mail address when renewing to ensure you receive a courtesy e-mail reminder each year.

In addition to the registration, all snowmobiles operated on public land must display a separate user permit. This permit can be purchased at the Recorder's Office as well as several other vendors throughout Story County.

The Story County Recorder's Office is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, please stop into the office or call us at 515-382-7230.

Story County Organizational Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2029

In the spring of 2023 the Story County Board of Supervisors invited leadership across all County offices and departments to participate in developing a new strategic plan to serve as the County's priority and resource road map over the next five years.

Input was gathered through a survey to identify strengths, opportunities, and weaknesses. Those involved then met in two, half-day planning sessions to identify priorities which were aligned to the County's mission and values. This work led the County to six focus areas:

- 1) Community wellbeing
- 2) Quality of life infrastructure
- 3) Recruitment, development and retention of Story County team members
- 4) Communication and information on services and programs
- 5) Leveraging technology
- 6) Fiscal responsibility



As the County looks ahead to the next five years, these action steps will guide and inform program and budgetary decisions. They will be the foundation for how different functions within county government work together under a shared vision, to achieve consistent and measurable progress for the benefit of all people in Story County.

To view the strategic plan in full, please go to <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1096/Strategic-Planning> or scan the QR code.

Memorial Day planning group needs younger generations to help

The Nevada Patriotic Council puts on an exceptional Memorial Day observance for our community every May. But this dedicated group of volunteers desperately needs new members, especially those from a younger generation.

"We have members of this group who are in their 90s," said Sue McCaskey, who at age 67 is one of, if not the youngest member of the Patriotic Council.

On Memorial Day of 2015, Sue got involved with the group because her father, Louie, was failing in his health and was still the person in charge of lining up all of the cars for the procession. "I could tell he was struggling, so I went over to help him," Sue said. Then on May 1, 2016, Louie died, and with Memorial Day just 30 days away, Sue decided to take his spot on the Council. She has stayed on ever since.

Louie was one of the military veteran members of the Council; there are a few. But Sue makes it clear that being a veteran isn't a requirement. "We just need people who really want to show our veterans and active military personnel their appreciation," she said.

The Nevada Patriotic Council has one job: Memorial Day — planning for it and carrying it out. Those on the Patriotic Council have about five or six meetings a year, all occurring between February and the end of May.

"We have some pretty intense meetings for two or three of those, when we're trying to get everything set up and make decisions about who our dignitaries will be," Sue said.

They then get busy on the weekend of Memorial Day, which includes finding volunteers to help put up flags and serve a breakfast for all the volunteers on that Saturday. They appreciate contributions from Fareway and Dollar Fresh this past year for the breakfast, Sue noted. She said flags are put up in both the City Municipal Cemetery and the Catholic Cemetery.

"We are quickly approaching flag capacity," Sue added. She explains that every flag put up in the cemeteries represents a veteran from this area. All of those veterans are



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—Sue McCaskey

Patriotic Council Member

listed on the program, another task of the Council which has been efficiently handled for many years by Linda Beem. "This means we're going to soon need to find more places for flag poles," Sue said. "We don't want to discourage anybody from having a flag put up, because we want all of our veterans to be represented."

The Sunday of Memorial Day weekend has just a few small tasks, and then the work of putting on the service happens Monday morning.

"We have a member who gets the sound system ready at the cemetery, and this past year, we were fortunate to have Dane Neilson do our sound at the Story County Administration building. That was really nice," she said. There is also set up at the cemetery. Chairs are provided by Justin Rasmusson, owner of the local funeral home. "We are thankful for him giving us the chairs to use."

The Council invites those going into the military to be honored at the early service in front of the administration building, where there is also a flag raising.

As the procession that morning takes dignitaries of the day to the City Cemetery, Sue said Council members help get everyone seated for the main services there.

"On Memorial Day, I get goosebumps. It makes my heart swell," Sue said of all the flags, the wonderful attendance of community members, the young people in the high school band, and the beauty of the Nevada Municipal Cemetery. "Nevada probably has one of the most beautiful cemeteries I've ever been in, and our City Parks and Rec Department does such a marvelous job getting it ready."

The beautiful, sunny Memorial Days provide the best memories and the biggest goosebumps, but Sue noted that the Council also works with the Story County Fair Association to be sure the nearby Community Building or Christy Hall are available in case of inclement weather. "They're always wonderful to give us that option as a back-up," she said.

The present members of the Patriotic Council want to be sure the tradition of Nevada's Memorial Day observance continues for generations to come. "The biggest thing we need immediate help with is people with the muscle to do things like putting up and taking down flags," Sue said. The local Boy Scouts are always great helpers, but they can't do it all. "A lot of our Patriotic Council members can't lift and do all of the things they used to do."

If you can't attend the meetings, but would like to serve on the Council by being part of the weekend preparations, Sue said, that too, is an option.

"There are many ways to be involved," she said. "If people have an interest, they can attend one of our meetings to see what we are all about and then make a decision."

Sue said she often thinks back to the tragedy of 9-11 and the days that followed. "We were all so patriotic... We need those patriots now. We're open to new ideas. We just need people with a desire to present a program that is dedicated to our veterans and to eulogize the ones who have gone before."

If you are interested in becoming part of the Patriotic Council in 2024, please reach out to Sue McCaskey at s.mccaskey@aol.com.

Postal Customer

Calendar of Events

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

December 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
December 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Nevada Public Library

CAMELOT THEATER FDN CONCERT

December 1, 7 p.m.
"Elvis" Christmas Show with Joseph Hall. Admission: \$20-30 (concessions available)

CAMELOT THEATER FDN CLASSIC MOVIE SUNDAY

December 3, 6:30 p.m.
Showing "It's a Wonderful Life," the theme of this year's Christmas On Main! Admission: \$5 (concessions available by Rotary Club)

NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

December 4 & 18, 6:30 p.m.
Gates Memorial Hall
Auditorium

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

LEGION TACO TUESDAY

December 5, 4:45-6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post

BINGO

Every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.
American Legion Post
\$5 a packet plays all games; Dec. 26 will be "white elephant BINGO"

STORY CO MEDICAL CTR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 7, 11:30 a.m.

AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

December 8, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Fish fry or baked spaghetti. Cost is \$12 per adult (\$5 per child, age 10 and under)

UGLY SWEATER RUN

December 9, 2 p.m.
Main Street District, corner of 6th Street and K Avenue
A one-mile fun run in the downtown area. This event is untimed and encourages participants to wear their ugliest Christmas attire. Proceeds benefit Nevada's Food At First program.

CHRISTMAS ON MAIN

December 9, 4-7 p.m.
Main Street District
Come to the Main Street District again this year because "It's a Wonderful Life in Nevada, IA!" Enjoy business open houses, holiday shopping, treats, chili feed, cookie walk, carriage rides, carolers, roaming characters: Santa and Mrs. Claus, the Grinch, Olaf, and Buddy the Elf, a new 360-degree photo booth, and so much more! Santa and friends arrive by firetruck at City Hall parking lot around 4 p.m.

WADE HAYES CONCERT

December 9, 7 p.m.
Camelot Theater
American country music artist Wade Hayes presents "An Acoustic Christmas" concert. Admission: \$7.50 up to \$30 (concessions available)

CAMELOT THEATER FDN CLASSIC MOVIE SUNDAY

December 10, 6:30 p.m.
Showing "The Polar Express." Admission: \$5 (concessions available by Rotary Club)

SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

December 11, 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

December 11, 6 p.m.
City Hall

MAIN STREET NEVADA MIX-N-MINGLE

December 13, 4-6 p.m.
Hosted by the Nevada Community Historical Society at Dyer-Dowell House, 922 5th St.