

Our Nevada

Iowa

January
2024

Field House To Open Soon

Get ready for a new era
of 'SCORE Indoor' Recreation!

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Our Nevada Iowa

January 2024

The Opener

**By Tim Hansen and Rhonda Maier
Director and Assistant Director of Parks and Rec**

Anticipation is building! Without any additional delays, the new Field House at 1625 Fawcett Parkway is set to open to the public this month! Watch the Nevada Parks and Rec or City of Nevada, IA Facebook pages for the announcement.

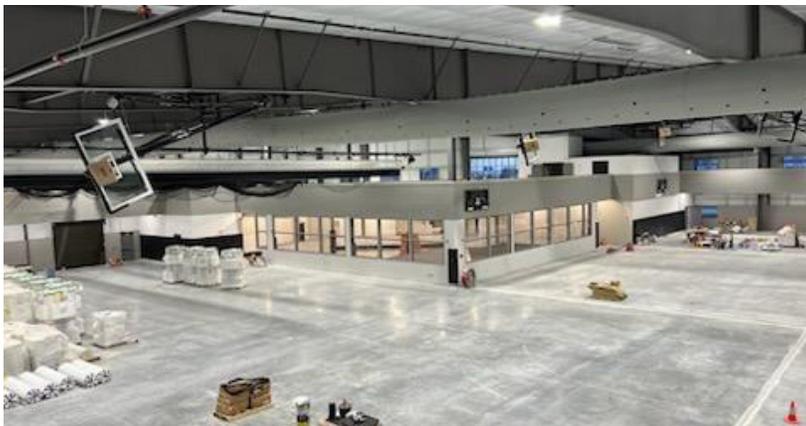
We have been planning for this moment for more than 20 years! We believe the long wait to see it become a reality was worthwhile, because in the end, the project evolved to fit the changing needs of the Nevada community.

The Field House will accommodate all current programming and create various new opportunities for all segments of our population, including children of all ages, adults, and our senior population. The Field House will also, because it's operated and maintained by Parks and Recreation, allow for more scheduling consistency with all programming.

Our Parks and Recreation offices will be located inside the new facility. Once the Field House opens, we encourage you to stop by and talk with us. We'll be happy to give you a tour, talk you through ways to utilize the building, and set up a pass for you through our RecDesk system.

Thank you to everyone who played a role in this project. Whether you filled out a survey, donated, or helped raise funds, we appreciate your support!

We are excited about the potential of the new Nevada Field House and know it will serve generations of Nevadans for years to come!



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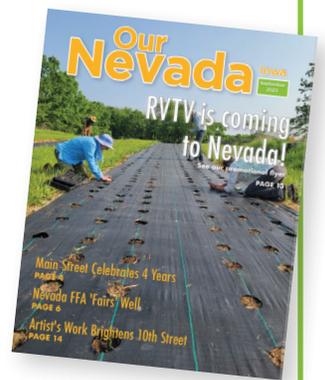
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CONTACT US

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.



Cassabaum wins first-ever Spirit of Nevada award

A new award was introduced during this year's annual meeting of the Nevada Economic Development Council, Nevada Foundation and Main Street Nevada. The Spirit of Nevada Award, to be presented annually by the Nevada Foundation, was created to honor individuals who have made significant philanthropic contributions to the Nevada Community over a period of time.

Michelle Cassabaum, the inaugural recipient of the prestigious award, certainly embodies the "spirit" of this award.

Since moving to Nevada in June of 1995, Michelle, who is the Chief Operating and Financial Officer for 21st Century Rehab, a business started by her and her husband, Steve, has made a significant impact on the Nevada community.

Here's a list of some of the major things Michelle is or has been involved with during her years in Nevada:

- St. Patrick's Catholic Church — served as chair of Parish Council, Capital Campaign and taught religious ed for many years
- Nevada Chamber of Commerce — Past President and Board Member
- Leadership Nevada Steering Committee — 25 years
- Krysalis Advocacy Board
- SCORE Capital Campaign
- Story County Planning and Zoning
- GRIP Mentor
- Nevada Vision Committee
- Story County Compensation Board (currently)
- State Bank Board of Directors (2004-present)



Michelle Cassabaum, pictured with Mayor Brett Barker, is the inaugural recipient of the Spirit of Nevada Award, which recognizes philanthropic greatness.

- Ames National Board of Directors (2019-present)
- NEDC Board — Past President, Investment Chair (2016-present)
- Rotary - Past President, and Past Assistant Governor (member since 2002)
- Story County Medical Center Foundation Board (1999-present)
- Boys and Girls Club of Story County Board (2018-present)
- Nevada Foundation (currently)

As Mayor Brett Barker announced Michelle as the first-ever recipient, he called her one of the community's visionaries behind the SCORE park and, more recently, the "SCORE indoor" Field House fundraising efforts.

When Michelle spoke recently at a dedication ceremony for the Field House, she shared one of her favorite quotes, which she had also used when involved with Leadership Nevada: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, com-

mitted citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." —Margaret Mead

When asked why she has become so involved in her community, Michelle said she feels she's been called to do it. "I believe it is one of the reasons God put me on this earth. I feel so blessed and feel called to share those blessings," she said, and she offered another quote that has deep meaning for her:

"Wealth isn't always measured in dollar signs. We each have time, talent, and creativity, all of which can be powerful forces for positive change. Share your blessings in whatever form they come and to whatever level you have been blessed." —John Huntsman

Said Michelle, "I love the people of Nevada; they have made it my forever home. The people here made it a place that I wanted to raise my family and now it is a place where I look forward to watching my grandkids and, God willing, my great-grandkids grow up."



Celebrating local accomplishments

The Nevada Economic Development Council, the Nevada Foundation, and Main Street Nevada, held their joint Annual Meeting on Nov. 16, 2023, at Gatherings.

Drew Conrad, (pictured at right) Director of the Institute of Decision Making at the University of Northern Iowa, provided the keynote address. Conrad has nearly three decades of experience in statewide economic development planning, research, and technical assistance to his leadership role, where he facilitates strategic planning and regional economic research for communities and economic development organizations.

Over 130 community and business leaders registered for the event that celebrated the year that was and what the future holds for the community. Those in attendance received information from the various organizations, including the Nevada 2040 Plan. This joint effort includes goals and strategies to be accomplished by the year 2040. Categories include Housing, Downtown Development, Community Events & Activities, Culture of Collaboration, Connectivity, Aesthetics, Foundation for Families, and Business Development.

The night concluded with the announcement of award winners from Main Street Nevada and the Nevada Foundation.



Walkner, Augustus win awards during annual dinner meeting

Ron Daehler Memorial Businessperson of the Year

Scott Walkner, owner of Sports Bowl, received the Ron Daehler Memorial Businessperson of the Year award. This award goes to a Main Street Investor who shows development of creative business methods, products or services, has effective and imaginative marketing, provides a positive community impact and is a leadership role model for the local business community as well as the community at large.

Scott has taken over a long-time niche service in Nevada and found ways to revitalize it to fit the needs of the community. He has made his business a place people want to patronize and even brings people from out of town. He provides services for all ages of our community and is always open to new ideas. In fact, give him an idea and he will start working on it immediately. Scott is here for whatever the community wants out of him, which makes his business' presence impactful to Nevada and his leadership appreciated.

Scott is married to Jessica, who you will also find working at the bowling alley. They have three children. In addition to owning and operating Sports Bowl, Scott is a full-time City of Nevada employee.



Emily Schaack, left, Director of Main Street Nevada, and Evie Peterson, right, outgoing President of Main Street Nevada, with Scott Walkner, winner of the Ron Daehler Memorial Businessperson of the Year Award.



Emily Schaack, left, Director of Main Street Nevada, and Evie Peterson, right, outgoing President of Main Street Nevada, with Jon Augustus, winner of the Harold Fawcett Community Involvement Award.

Harold Fawcett Community Involvement Award

Jon Augustus, co-owner of Allen L. Kockler Co., received the Harold Fawcett Community Involvement award. This award is given to an individual who has taken time from their personal and professional life to contribute toward the good of the community.

Jon serves on the Nevada Economic Development Council Executive Board and the Main Street Nevada Executive Board. He was among the leaders who worked tirelessly for several years to complete the application for Nevada to become a Main Street community. He also single-handedly plans the Main Street golf outing, which is a large fundraiser for the organization.

Jon has been active in the Nevada Jaycees since 2010 and is also very active on the Lincoln Highway Days committee. He is the man in charge of the parade. He is also a Rotarian, who rarely misses a meeting.

Additionally, Jon is a Masonic Lodge Member, Za-Ga-Zig Shrine Member, Indian Creek Country Club Member, and is involved with United Way of Story County.

Aside from all the organizations he is part of, Jon has also taken the initiative to make improvements to his downtown building, knowing that it will have a great impact on our downtown district, particularly with the addition of upper-story housing.

Jon is married to Katie, and they have three young children. To add to all of his accolades, Jon is the 2024 President of Main Street Nevada.



Pictured, from left, are Taylyn Angus, Key Club president at Nevada High School; Fire Chief Ray Reynolds, Police Chief Chris Brandes, Sgt. Andrew Henderson, and Nevada Key Club member Olivia Axmear, as boxes of cookies with thank-you notes signed by all Key Club members were presented in December.

Nevada High School Key Club says 'Thank You'

In December, Key Club members at Nevada High School presented a "sweet thank you" to members of the Nevada Public Safety Department, including both Nevada Police and Nevada Fire/EMS.

According to Meg Frideres, advisor to the Key Club, the students have been doing some of their service projects during monthly meetings held during seminar at the end of the school day. It's the one time some of the members, most busy with other activities, love to come together and do something to "give back" to their community.

Taylyn Angus, a senior and president of the Key Club this year, said members came up with the idea of what to give public safety servants. "When we were thinking of a service project for November, we immediately knew that decorating cookies was the right an-

swer," she said, adding, "We recognize how much work they put in behind the scenes to keep our town safe, especially during the holiday season. Our cookies are just a small token of our gratitude for all they do for our town!"

Olivia Axmear, a senior member of Key Club, said the members agreed that they appreciate the work of Nevada police officers and firefighters. "We thought (cookies) was a good way to show our appreciation and spread some holiday cheer!"

Axmear said she loves being part of the Nevada Key Club, a junior program of the adult Kiwanis Club, because the group is active in serving the community. "Over the past year, I've seen students continue to join Key Club to help serve," she said.

Angus also loves being a member

and seeing the club grow. "I love that Key Club is for everyone. No matter if you're a sports kid or a music kid or even someone who doesn't participate in extracurriculars, Key Club is a place where we all come together to do something good for our community and world."

Angus said Key Club has given her opportunities that she wouldn't have gotten from other clubs. "From serving on the Nebraska-Iowa District Board to flying across the country to attend the International Convention, I am forever grateful for this service organization."

Police Chief Chris Brandes was humbled by the Key Club remembering members of public safety in this way. "We don't do what we do for recognition, but being remembered is certainly special," he said.

Do we have your property?

If the Nevada Police Department has seized property from you in the past and you believe you have the authority to claim it, please contact us to schedule an appointment. To schedule an appointment for property release, reach out via email to: NPSD@cityofnevada-iowa.org or call 515-382-4593. **Any property that is not claimed within 90 days from this publication will be deemed abandoned.** All property seized as evidence by the Nevada Police Department is held until cases have been adjudicated or a release order has been obtained by the Story County Attorney's Office. A state issued identification card is required for you to pick up property.

Happening at the Library

ADULTS, ARE YOU UP FOR A READING CHALLENGE IN 2024?

The Nevada Public Library introduces its new year-long Adult Reading Challenge 2024. Here are the details:

All you have to do is read one book a month (12 total) from one of our 18 categories and log your progress. There are also six bonus categories that will be revealed individually in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Avid readers who read more than 12 books can qualify for different prize levels based on how many they read. Prizes will be announced later in the year.

The contest begins on Jan. 1, 2024 and ends Dec. 31, 2024. Reading logs are available at the front desk and online.

More info can be found here: <https://www.nevada.lib.ia.us/books/adult-reading-challenge>.



COLLECTING GAMES

The Nevada Public Library is a drop-off site for the collection of gently used or new board games for the Youth and Shelter Services' Summer Camp and after-school Teen Club programs.

If your kids got new games for Christmas, and you are looking to get rid of a few older ones, please consider donating them to this cause.

Summer Camp is a six-week program; Teen Club is an after-school program for middle school to high school students. This Game Drive will happen Jan. 1 through Feb. 15. Drop off items during the library's regular hours.



The City congratulates the following employees on their five-year incremental service anniversaries happening in 2024:

Harold See, Waste Water Department, 30 years

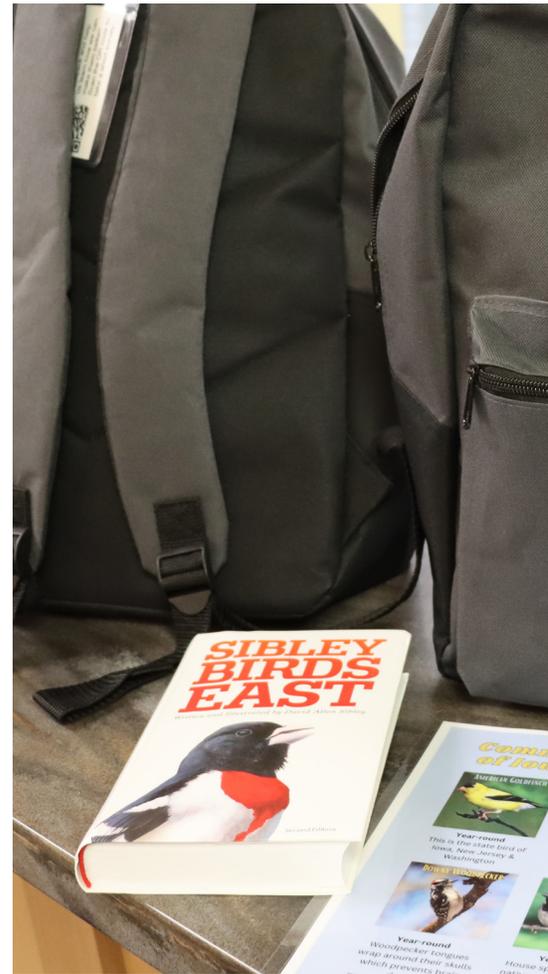
Ray Reynolds, Public Safety Department, 10 years

Matthew Celentano, Public Safety Department, 5 years

Brittany Dueker, Library, 5 years



Tyler Harms, Executive Director of Iowa Young Birders, presented two new Iowa Birding Backpacks to Nevada Library staff in December. The backpacks, filled with resources, were made possible with funding help from the Outdoor Alliance of Story County. Accepting the donation are library staff members, Kathy Solko-Manternach and Erin Coughlin, library director.



Library has new birding resources t

A unique donation was recently made to the Nevada Public Library, and it will have lovers of our feathered friends rejoicing.

Tyler Harms, Executive Director of Iowa Young Birders, said Nevada's library is the 11th library in the state to receive "birding backpacks" since the backpack program started earlier in 2023. In December, when two backpacks were presented at the Nevada Public Library, Harms said he was expecting to make presentations to two more libraries in 2023. He looks for the backpack program to expand in 2024.

"Birding has rapidly grown in popularity in recent years and is now one of the most popular non-consumptive recreational activities," Harms said.

When talking about why there is so much interest in birding today, Harms

points to convenience.

"You can find birds anytime, anywhere. This accessibility makes birding a great vehicle for encouraging people, especially kids and their families, to engage with and enjoy nature," he said.

Library employee Kathy Solko-Manternach is a member of the Iowa Young Birders Board of Directors. She said, "We gave our grandson a membership one year... and have taken all of our grandchildren on trips (for birding)." Solko-Manternach loves that bird watching is an activity that can bring families together for adventures and trips all over the state and/or country.

The birding backpacks, according to Harms, were developed by Iowa Young Birders to enhance the experience of birding, as they contain various resources, including a great pair of binoculars.

The Outdoor Alliance of Story County helped provide funding for the two backpacks received by the Nevada Public Library, and Harms said the Outdoor Alliance is working with him to get more grant dollars so that all libraries in Story County can have a backpack.

Nevada Public Library Director Erin Coughlin said the backpacks are available to be checked out for one week by Nevada Library patrons. They can be found at the front desk.

Coughlin knows Nevada-area residents have interest in birding, because she's seen birding interest in books that are checked out. In fact, she said, "we recently received a memorial donation in memory of Grace Miller to add other bird books to the adult and children's collections."

Coughlin said the Nevada library staff



o check out

plans to make a “Booklist of Birding Books” (find it on the catalog under “Booklists”) to go with the backpacks to help people easily access those materials.

Harms, who lives in Ames, is excited to see what kind of use the backpacks will get, and what kind of experiences they will help create.

“These backpacks allow families to engage with nature wherever they are most comfortable doing so, whether that be in their backyard or local park. Ultimately, our goal with all our programs is that we help youth find an appreciation for nature that will lead to the development of a conservation ethic,” he said.

For more information about Iowa Young Birders, visit them online: www.IowaYoungBirders.org.

NEVADA FIRE JOINS WITH STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ON LOW-COST WAY OF PREVENTING HOME OXYGEN FIRE DEATHS

After the Nevada Fire Department experienced a deadly fire on April 22, 2023, involving the use of home oxygen and cigarettes, the department was determined to reduce these incidents in both Iowa and nationwide. The state’s Department of Health and Human Services is the first in the nation to release an informational letter covering the cost of a device for Medicaid patients. The Department of Veterans Affairs implemented a thermal fuse mandate for all veterans who are prescribed home oxygen.

On Nov. 30, Iowa Medicaid officials released guidance to home medical equipment suppliers regarding thermal fuses and Medicaid reimbursement for installation of these safety devices in home oxygen therapy cases.

Thermal fuses are bidirectional valves placed at the oxygen concentrator and in the oxygen tubing near the patient. When fire reaches these devices, the flow of oxygen is stopped, reducing the intensity of the fire. Thermal fuses cost approximately \$4.45.

Nevada Fire Chief Ray Reynolds says, “This is monumental news for lowans and the rest of the nation. Our fire department is leading efforts in Iowa and in the U.S. to get Medicare and the private insurance industry to follow suit. People are being injured and dying in oxygen-rich fires as a result of home oxygen use.”

According to information provided by the American Thoracic Society, 1.5 million people in the U.S. are prescribed home oxygen for various respiratory illnesses. Reynolds says as many as 50 percent of home oxygen users continue to smoke because of their nicotine addiction.

Iowa officials informed Reynolds they would follow a direction similar to the Department of Veterans Affairs coming short of mandating thermal fuses. However, making them reimbursable as medical equipment will likely see other states follow suit. Reynolds is working with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and a working group of U.S. fire and medical experts, hoping to eventually see the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) mandate thermal fuses for all home oxygen therapy patients. Reynolds says a decision of that magnitude will likely reduce U.S. fire deaths by 12 percent and have a cost savings for Medicare in the neighborhood of \$500 million currently being spent on burn care for those who survive their burns from oxygen use and smoking.

As a reminder, smoking cessation, having working smoke alarms, and the use of two thermal fuses are recommended for people who are prescribed home oxygen. Residential sprinklers are also a best practice in protecting lives during a fire event.



This picture shows the use of a thermal fuse, which is a bi-directional valve placed at the oxygen concentrator and in the oxygen tubing near the patient. When fire reaches this device, the flow of oxygen is stopped. They cost approximately \$4.45, a small price to pay for this type of safety.



Is Back Pain Limiting Your Quality of Life?

Pain Management Care Offered at Story Medical

Pain, a universal human experience, often prompts us to seek relief to regain our quality of life. Dr. Keith Barnhill, PhD, CRNA, ARNP, of Heartland Pain Management, offers specialized care at Story Medical. He says understanding pain is vital for his patients.

“Pain is a deeply personal and subjective experience,” Dr. Barnhill says. “Unlike objective medical measurements, pain relies entirely on individual perception and description. As healthcare providers, we depend on patients’ reports and descriptions for assessment and treatment. The more we can build a trusting relationship with our patients, the more likely we are to have a successful outcome.”



Types of Pain

Pain comes in various forms, including muscle pain, nerve pain, visceral pain (related to organs), and bone pain. Recognizing the specific type of pain is crucial for effective treatment.

Chronic Pain Prevalence

Dr. Barnhill says that one in three individuals experiences chronic

pain for more than three months, emphasizing the need for specialized care. While acute pain responds to simple measures, chronic pain often demands a tailored approach.

Pain Management Approach

Dr. Barnhill outlines a comprehensive pain management approach with three key components:

- Conservative Therapy:** Many patients benefit from conservative measures like over-the-counter anti-inflammatory drugs, physical therapy, and chiropractic care. These treatments aim to reduce pain and improve function.
- Interventional Procedures:** When conservative therapy falls short, interventional procedures become an option. These include injections, such as epidurals for different regions, joint injections (shoulders, hips, knees), and radiofrequency ablation, which

numbs painful areas by burning tiny sensory nerves.

- Holistic Approaches:** Focusing on lifestyle changes, holistic approaches include adopting an anti-inflammatory diet, regular exercise, and stress-reduction techniques like relaxation exercises. These lifestyle changes significantly impact pain management.

Home Pain Management

Dr. Barnhill emphasizes the importance of diet and exercise in managing pain.

“An anti-inflammatory diet, such as the Mediterranean diet, proves beneficial,” he says. “Regular exercise, especially for muscle strength and mobility maintenance, is crucial. Staying hydrated to flush out toxins and maintaining social connections to combat the emotional toll of chronic pain are also recommended.”

Consulting a Pain Specialist

For persistent or chronic pain, Dr. Barnhill recommends you consult your primary care provider first. They can evaluate your condition, order necessary tests, and provide initial guidance. If conservative therapies prove insufficient, a pain specialist can offer a more tailored approach.

“Seeking professional help and adopting a holistic approach can empower individuals to regain control over their lives and reduce the impact of chronic pain,” Dr. Barnhill says. “Remember, pain management is a personalized journey, and understanding the type and cause of your pain is the first step toward relief.”

To make an appointment with Dr. Barnhill, please call the Story Medical Outpatient Clinic & Surgical Services Department at 515-382-7738.

News & Notes

STILL TIME TO GET YOUR FLU VACCINE!

You are encouraged—especially if you fall into a high-risk category—to get your shot as soon as possible. The shot is currently being offered at Story Medical Clinics in Nevada and Maxwell.

“Flu season typically peaks between December and February, but significant activity can occur earlier than that,” says Dr. Arthur Check, Story Medical Clinic, Nevada. “We are especially encouraging those in high risk categories, including older adults, young children and those with chronic conditions to get vaccinated now.”

The CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. Those falling in high-risk categories include young children, pregnant women, people 65 and older and people with certain medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes or heart disease.

In addition to the flu shot, Story Medical Clinics will

offer the RSV vaccine to adults 60 years and older. Those with Medicare part D will need to get this vaccine from their pharmacy.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call the Nevada Clinic at 515-382-5413 or the Maxwell Clinic at 515-387-8815.

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!



Central Elementary and Iowa State University Partner on Behavioral Study

With an increase in the mental and behavioral health needs of children, Central Elementary has partnered with Iowa State University in a study that is looking at various levels of behavioral support both within the school and in collaboration with outside services and parent involvement. A core component of this study includes an evidence-based therapy called Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT).

PCIT was designed specifically for caregivers and children ages 2-7 who are experiencing difficult or challenging behavior and is widely used as the most effective treatment for challenging behaviors. It is now also used to develop a variety of skills beyond behavioral issues. It can help in language development, sustaining attention, increasing attachment, and increasing parent confidence in discipline procedures.

As part of the study, some parents were offered PCIT from trained therapists from Central Iowa Psychological Services. This involved parents receiving weekly, one-hour sessions with a certified PCIT coach who guides them through a bug-in-the-ear device as they play and interact with their child. During the first phase of therapy, parents are coached on using a specific set of skills called the PRIDE skills to interact with their child. During the second phase of PCIT, parents learn a specific procedure for discipline and are coached in how to handle when their child displays an unwanted behavior. The length of therapy can depend on the needs of the family. Through the study, 16 weeks is used as an average treatment time.

Treatment results can show many improvements, including an increase in compliance to adult requests,

attention span, self-esteem, security/attachment, decrease in tantrums, defiance, and aggressive behaviors. Skills that parents are taught and coached in therapy are able to be continued and utilized in their home. Parents who have completed PCIT have shared that they found the therapy to be effective and have seen a positive change in their child's behavior.

Other core components of the study include Classroom Check Up, an evidence based classroom and behavior management tool, and TCIT, or Teacher-Child Interaction Training, both of which complement PCIT skills and are being utilized to help decrease problematic behaviors in the classroom and building. Central has limited openings left for PCIT this year, but a community team is working on ways to sustain and strengthen these programs and

opportunities after the study with ISU is completed. If you'd like to learn more about PCIT and the opportunity for Central families to participate, contact Counselor Emily Kruse, ekruse@nevadacubs.org.

SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR NEVADA CSD HALL OF HONOR

The Nevada Community School District Hall of Honor has been established to recognize alumni who have distinguished themselves based upon academic excellence and achievement, career accomplishments, community service, personal excellence, and dedication to lifelong learning.

Applications are due by April 15th. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/3uKuVs6>

BID OPPORTUNITY

Nevada CSD has surplus items available for public bid.

1. 4' tall band conductor stand
2. Curtis air compressor
3. Air compressor
4. Snow blower
5. Carpet Tiles
6. (5) White Boards

Sealed bids are due to the NCS District Office at Gates Hall by 9am on January 15, 2024. 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.

For more information, including photos, visit <https://bit.ly/NevadaSurplus>

NEVADA FFA ATTENDS NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Eleven Nevada FFA members and their advisor Kevin Cooper attended the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis in November. The students joined four other area chapters on a charter bus. Upon arriving in Indianapolis, the students attended the main opening session in Lucas Oil Stadium featuring several speakers and entertainment from the National FFA band and chorus.

Tours included the Apache Sprayer Company, and the Southside Landfill. Students also attended several

sessions in Lucas Oil Stadium including Juan Bendaña, who is a renowned speaker, author, and DJ, who lights up high school and university campuses worldwide.

Bendaña, founder of The 100 Day Playbook, promotes students to forge better habits, enhance productivity, and optimize their lives.

While at convention the students also participated in the college fair, and an industry trade show featuring ag related companies that offer career opportunities.

NEVADA FFA ATTENDS IGNITE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Nine Nevada FFA members participated in the Iowa FFA Ignite Leadership conference held at the Iowa FFA Enrichment Center. Sessions included the endless opportunities in agriculture, FFA opportunities, managing emotional fuel, servant leadership and service planning, and leading with integrity.

Josie Kelly, North Central State vice-president, facilitated the Ignite conference.

LINGUISTICS CHALLENGE

Nevada High School students participated in a Linguistics Challenge held at Iowa State University.



This event consisted of multiple puzzles that challenged students to analyze patterns and syntax in a wide variety of languages. They were also able to interact with many students and staff in the Linguistics department and see the beautiful ISU campus.



Follow us on Social Media!
@NevadaCSD



What you need to know about Radon

You can't see or smell radon. Testing is the only way to know your level of exposure.

Radon is a radioactive gas that forms naturally when uranium, thorium, or radium, which are radioactive metals, break down in rocks, soil and groundwater. People can be exposed to radon primarily from breathing it in air that comes through cracks and gaps in buildings and homes. Because radon comes naturally from the earth, people are always exposed to it.

Radon is the number-one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. Overall, radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. About 2,900 of



Test Your Home. Protect Your Health.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

these deaths occur among people who have never smoked.

Story County Environmental Health will be giving away 50 radon test kits to Story County residents on a first come- first served basis throughout the month of January. (Limit one per resident)

Radon test kits can be purchased for \$10

year-round at the Environmental Health Department (located in the lower level of the Administration Building at 900 6th Street, Nevada).

A random drawing will be held for those who receive radon test kits for a prize bag containing a radon test for a friend or loved one along with other goodies (\$40 value).

Apply for 2024 Citizen's Academy

The Story County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for its 2024 Citizen's Academy. The three-hour sessions (6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.) begin March 7, 2024, and continue on Thursday evenings for 11 weeks with graduation on May 17, 2024. In the Citizen's Academy, participants learn about the Story County Sheriff's Office and what it takes to provide law enforcement services to the citizens of Story County. The sessions include presentations from Administration, Communications, Support Services, Field Services and Jail Division. Topics include firearms, traffic safety, dive team, emergency response team (ERT), hostage negotiations, drug investi-

gations and much more. There is no cost to participate and meals are provided each week.

Applications may be obtained on the Story County Sheriff's Office website at www.storycountyiowa.gov or may be picked up at the Story County Sheriff's Office. Completed applications must be returned to the Sheriff's Office by no later than Feb. 12, 2024. Class size is limited and seats fill up quickly.

For more information, you may contact Sgt. Liz Quinn @ 515-382-7473, equinn@storycountyiowa.gov.

Donate to the Veterans Home Supply Drive

Story County Veterans Affairs is again doing a Veterans Home Supply Drive during the month of January. You can drop off at the Veterans Affairs office in the Human Services Center in Ames at 126 S Kellogg Ave., Ames, IA 50010 or the Treasurer's Office in the Administration Building in Nevada at 900 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201. The donation period will be from Tuesday, Jan. 2-

Friday, Feb. 2. They only accept new items.

Items that could be donated include: Long sleeved shirts, men/woman sweatpants, size 10 men tennis shoes, personal care items such as soap, lotion, shaving cream, tooth paste, and other items such as postage stamps, coloring books and puzzles.

Harter returns to P & D

Leanne Harter, a Story County employee since 1998, has returned to the Planning and Development Department. Previously serving as Director of the Planning and Development Department from 2000-2014, in 2014 Leanne switched to the County Outreach and Special Projects Manager position. She is an American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)-certified planner, as well as a Certified Floodplain Manager. We are excited to have Leanne in this role!



Nevada Church continues grant program

Fourteen years after its introduction, the Memorial Lutheran Church Endowment Fund continues to impact lives.

This year, the church gave out 29 grants totaling \$37,074 in gifts. Pictured above are representatives of the organizations that received awards, along with church representatives, who presented the awards at a special ceremony in November.

Twenty-one of the 29 grants given have connections to the local community.

Jodi Heeren, accepting the \$4,000 gift for the Nevada School District's Student Assistance Fund, said the money provided through the Ministry Endowment Fund has saved people's lives. "And I'm not exaggerating," she said.

To see a full story on the awards given, please go to the City website: cityofnevadaiaowa.org, and click on the "Community News" tab in the Recent City News section of the home page.

Scouts Derby Car Race set for Jan. 20

Nevada's Pack 128 Annual Derby Car Race is scheduled for Jan. 20. We invite the Nevada community to come and watch these young scouts show off their pinewood derby skills at Central Elementary School at 1 p.m. There will be an open class for those who wish to participate. Donations are appreciated! Contact either Ryan Condon at 515-450-4850 or Jenny Angus at 563-357-1853 for more information.



The Nevada After Prom Committee is holding a Dueling Piano Event to raise funds for After Prom, which creates a safe environment for Nevada students.

The piano event will be held at the Camelot Theater on Sixth Street in Nevada, from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door that evening.

Performers for this event are PJ Gartrell and Libby of EPIC Dueling Pianos. Order

tickets by calling or texting Tasha Vorm at 515-231-3055 or Tracy Spykerman at 515-290-1293. Or, you can Venmo: @NevadaAP24 – put your name in the comments with the number of tickets you want.



Dueling Piano Event

Saturday, January 27, 2024

7 to 10 p.m.

Camelot Theater

Postal Customer

Calendar of Events

LEGION TACO NIGHT

January 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

January 5 & 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Nevada Public Library

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

BINGO

Every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.
American Legion Post
\$5 a packet plays all games

CITY COUNCIL

January 8 & 22, 6 p.m.
City Hall

NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

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

CAMELOT THEATER FDN CLASSIC MOVIE

January 7, 2 p.m.
A Matinee Showing of "Despicable Me."
Admission: \$5 (concessions available)

SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

January 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

January 8 & 22, 6 p.m.
City Hall

AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

January 12, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Fish Fry, with alternate of baked chicken. Cost is
\$12 per adult (\$5 per child, age 10 and under)

MAIN STREET NEVADA MIX-N-MINGLE

January 17, 4-6 p.m.
at KB Cabinets, 639 N Ave.

SCOUTS DERBY CAR RACE

January 20, 1 p.m.
Central Elementary School

CAMELOT THEATER FDN KARAOKE AT THE CAMELOT

January 26, 7 p.m.
Free, open mic
(concessions available)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEAL

January 26, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Hot Beef Sandwich. Cost is \$12 per adult
(\$5 per child, age 10 and under)

AFTER PROM FUNDRAISER

January 27, 7-10 p.m.
Camelot Theater
Dueling Pianos
Tickets \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door

AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

January 30, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Baked Potato Bar. Cost is \$12 per adult
(\$5 per child, age 10 and under)