

Our Nevada Iowa

March
2024

Gaining Experience

Nevada High School student talks about his apprenticeship at local business, ALMACO.

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Local people, programs, projects awarded
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Helping people 'feel like themselves'
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Iowa Prison Industries building Nevada home
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Our Nevada Iowa

March 2024

The Opener

By Kody Asmus
Associate Superintendent of School Improvement

"Preparing Students Today for Tomorrow" remains the mission statement of the Nevada Community School District. However, the experiences provided to students have changed over the past decade. In addition to reaching the "finish line" (graduation), the district has prioritized providing students with personalized learning opportunities that prepares learners for life after high school. We aim to ensure each individualized learner engages in creative and critical thinking experiences while remaining flexible and continuously adapting as their learning needs change. Our faculty and staff are committed to having a student-first mentality while providing all students with a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment.

The Career Occupation Related Experiences (CORE) program at Nevada High School exemplifies the district's focus on preparing students for life after high school. CORE allows students at Nevada High School to participate in work-based learning experiences that prioritize students who graduate high school and are both college and career-ready. Engaging in quality work-based learning opportunities allows our students to gain experiences that will make them better informed about potential careers of interest to them, better qualified to apply for those careers, and ultimately allow them to demonstrate and apply the knowledge and skills they have learned while attending the Nevada Community School District.

Through the CORE program, high school students have multiple pathways to experience work-based learning and explore careers of interest to them while still in high school. CORE also provides ongoing support as students explore and learn about career opportunities of interest to them that are available within central Iowa. Collaboration between the district and community partners leads to a mutually beneficial work-based learning experience for our students and community. CORE offers work-based learning experiences through Service Learning (Silver Cord Hours, Dr. Heather Ludwig Day of Service, and LAUNCH), Business Internships, Student Enterprise, Pre-Apprenticeships, and Registered Apprenticeship opportunities.

The Nevada Community School District has two Registered Apprenticeship opportunities for juniors or seniors at Nevada High School. The district partners with ALMACO and PMI through the Welding Apprenticeship, and ALMACO is the sole partner through the Industrial Manufacturing Technician (agriculture emphasis) Apprenticeship. Through the Registered Apprenticeship program and other work-based learning opportunities within CORE, we are committed to creating meaningful learning experiences to actively engage all learners and ensure we prepare Students Today for Tomorrow.

For additional information regarding the Career Occupation Related Experiences (CORE) program within the Nevada Community School District, please contact me at 515-382-2783 or by email (kasmus@nevadacubs.org).

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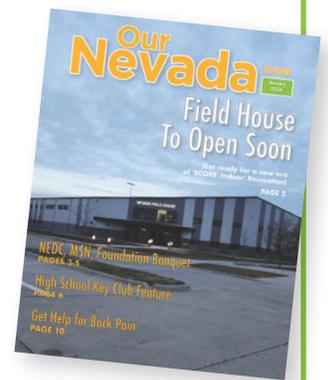
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CONTACT US

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.



Nevada High School Drama Presents...

Footloose

The Musical

March 1,2,3

Josephine Tope Community Auditorium

Tickets available at <https://nevadahighdrama.seatyourself.biz/>

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN SIGNUP

Central Elementary is now taking signups for preschool and kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year!

If you have a child who will be 4 (preschool) or 5 (kindergarten, not currently attending Nevada) by Sept. 15, please call Central Elementary to get your child signed up at 515-382-2383.

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

Nevada CSD is looking for substitute teachers! Did you know that you don't need to be a licensed teacher to sub? We pay \$140 per day, up to \$150 per day after 30 total days of subbing in the District per school year. Long-term subs can earn \$175 per day.

Are you interested in becoming a sub? There are a couple of requirements:

1. At least 21 years old
2. Hold an Associates or Bachelors Degree, Paraeducator Certificate, or 60 semester-hours of credit from an accredited postsecondary institution.
3. Complete the AEA Substitute Authorization Course (<http://bit.ly/AEASub>)

To apply, visit <http://bit.ly/NCSDSub>

NEVADA FFA ATTENDS LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

FFA members from across Iowa converged on the Iowa State Capitol in Des Moines to build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism, and patriotism. More than 700 high school students from 118 schools visited the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines at the end of January, including 8 students from Nevada, as part of the 39th Annual Iowa FFA Legislative Symposium and FFA Day at the Capitol.



Students visited with legislators, exhibited skills learned in the agriculture classroom, and learned the importance of citizenship.

In the morning, FFA members gathered and enjoyed a brief message from Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, who then presented the FFA Week Proclamation which officially declares Feb. 17-24 as FFA Week in Iowa. The morning program also provided opportunities for FFA members to hear from Mike Naig, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, about the importance of agriculture in Iowa and abroad.

Nevada students also met with State Representative Dave Deyoe, and Josie Kelly, North Central State FFA Vice-President.

Student apprentice getting hands-on training

Seventeen-year-old Nevada High School senior Jack Condon (pictured) is making the most of his last year in high school.

Thanks to the “registered apprenticeship” program offered through a partnership between the Nevada Community School District, DMACC, and the Department of Labor, Condon is working as an industrial manufacturing technician apprentice at ALMACO.

“We have two welders who have worked through the apprentice program, but Jack is our first industrial manufacturing technician apprentice,” said Ellen Hines, Human Resources Manager for ALMACO.

Condon describes himself as someone who has always liked working with his hands, so this apprenticeship fits him well.

“I’m working in the service department, fixing combines, tractors, and the like,” he said. When machinery comes in, Condon said the first thing he usually does is give the piece a good cleaning. After that, he could be putting on parts, painting parts, doing oil changes, changing filters, making hydraulic repairs, replacing hoses and batteries ... whatever is needed of him.

At ALMACO, Condon reports to Zac Frederick, Central Service Supervisor. “Jack is a meaningful and valued member of the service team, and

everyone likes Jack," Frederick said. "He has grown so much since he started, and gained a lot of confidence in his work."

Condon started the apprenticeship this past summer, working full-time hours until school started. With school in session, he's worked afternoons at ALMACO, which is basically the equivalent of three school class periods.

He said the school/work balance has worked well for him. He also likes that he is paid for his time at ALMACO.

"Really, I get to learn a lot of stuff that, if I hadn't been doing this apprenticeship, I'd probably have had to pay for it," Condon said, "and instead, I get to learn hands on and make money."

A specific skill Condon worked on in his position at ALMACO is the use of a torque wrench, and the importance of not over or under tightening fasteners. In fact, he said, it was when using a torque wrench that he realized one of the most important life lessons this apprenticeship is teaching him — asking for help.

"If you try to keep working at something, and it's really not working, it's better to ask for help so you're not wasting your time."

Condon's future plans are to pursue a career in mechanics, and eventually work for the Iowa Department of Transportation to help maintain its fleet. "I'd like to stay at ALMACO for another two to three years," he said. He is also considering the pursuit of a diesel mechanics degree from DMACC.

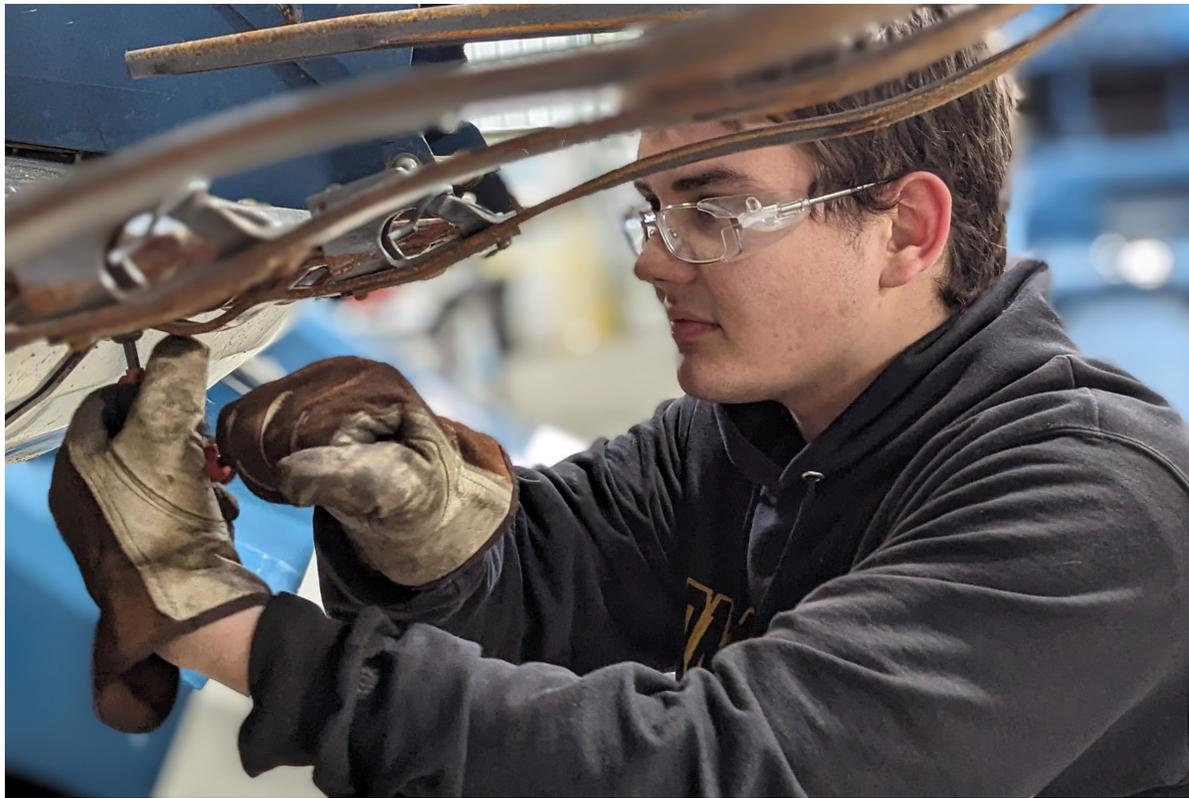
To be able to step into his present apprenticeship, Condon noted that he has taken two years of ag mechanics at Nevada High School. He's also presently taking a welding course, offered by DMACC at Nevada High School. That course is taught by Dustin Johns, who is Condon's advisor for the registered apprenticeship program.

Outside of school, Condon, who is the son of Ryan and Marilyn Condon, has been active in the Scouting program in Nevada, working his way up to Eagle Scout. If you visit Robison Wildlife Acres, south of Nevada, you'll see some of Condon's work

dle of it all in Central Service. "You don't see people his age in that kind of job every day."

In addition to Condon, ALMACO employs several other students who are or were apprentices through different programs:

- **Caelin Tscherter is a welder fabricator who started as a welding apprentice**
- **Kyler Clark is a welder fabricator who started as a welding apprentice**
- **Kamryn Linder is a production welder who is working part-time while attending school**



on building benches and a cubicle around the latrine.

ALMACO has been happy to give hard-working students the opportunity to learn more through various school to work opportunities.

Chief Solutions Officer and one of ALMACO's owners, Christian Clem, said he met Jack during his interview and is excited to see Jack in the mid-

Condon encourages younger students to think about this possibility. "It's a really good opportunity, and you'll get experience with a company that makes stuff here in town. ALMACO makes pretty specialized equipment, so you'll learn both general and specialized things, giving you the ability to work on a lot of machines."

Officers are 'egg'cited for March!

One of our favorite past activities is back this spring!

In anticipation of Easter, on March 31, members of the Nevada PD are going to be looking for kids to put out their bunnies/rabbits so that we can 'egg' your house!

If you want to participate, here's how it works:

- Have kids decorate on the front of the house, porch or yard with bunnies/rabbits. These can be pictures that are colored and taped to windows or doors, inflatables, stuffed animals in a window, or whatever creative way you can think of to bring bunnies/rabbits in view.
- Once you have your bunny/rabbits ready, a parent or guardian needs to send an email to mbarker@city-ofnevadaiaowa.org. Be sure "Egging Activity" is in the subject line, and then be sure to include your address and the number of kids who are participating at your household.
- Your kids can then watch for "eggs" (the candy kind) to be placed somewhere in your front yard area by one of our officers, and just to be sure you know our officer stopped by, the parent who emailed in will receive an email from us letting you know we were



there!

Remember, this activity is happening through the month of March only. And we thank our great business sponsors: **NuCara** and **State Bank & Trust**, who purchased the candy for this community endeavor!

Contain your pets as you get out this spring

Thankfully, spring weather is just around the corner, and that means more humans and our four-legged friends will be out enjoying the sidewalks and trails.

The Nevada Parks and Recreation Department reminds pet owners of a few simple courtesies when utilizing the City's sidewalks and trails, and when making visits to our City parks and City cemetery with your pets.

Please be sure to pick up after your pets with a pet waste bag. We have pet waste bag stations placed at most entrances to the City's trail system. If you do not bring a bag with you, please take one of ours.

Pets must be restrained at all times. Failure to restrain your pet may result in a citation as outlined in the City of Nevada's Municipal Code of Ordinances. This is a safety issue for all park users,



as well as for each pet.

Pets are not to be let out on any of our sports playing fields. The Parks and Rec staff works very hard to provide quality athletic fields for our community sporting events. Kids, coaches, and spectators involved in these activities deserve a clean and sanitary venue for

their activities.

Finally, dogs are allowed in the cemetery if they remain on a leash and stay on the roadways. At no time shall anyone allow their dog to run at-large in the cemetery. We have pet waste bag stations at the cemetery for you to use, if needed.

Everyone likes to have positive outdoor experiences and enjoy clean environments. Please be a responsible pet owner so everyone can enjoy Nevada's outdoor public spaces.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your pet and City ordinances, please reach out to our Animal Control Officer, Nancy Pritchard, at 515-382-4593, or if it concerns our parks or trails, please reach out to Nevada Parks and Recreation at 515-382-4352.

Nevada Public Library events

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS-SENIORS

March 2 at 11 a.m.

Join us in the meeting room for an informal conversation to help us plan for the future of our library. We want to hear from you! What are we doing right? What should we do differently? Is there anything you'd like to see in the library that we don't currently have or do? What prevents you from coming in or utilizing the services we offer?

PLANNING & PLANTING A KITCHEN GARDEN

**March 5
at 6:30 p.m.**

Come join us at the library and learn how to plan and plant your own kitchen garden with host Nicole Jonas of Red Granite Farm. You'll be able to snip and harvest herbs and veggies right outside your door all summer long.



ADULT CRAFT NIGHT: MARBLED MUGS

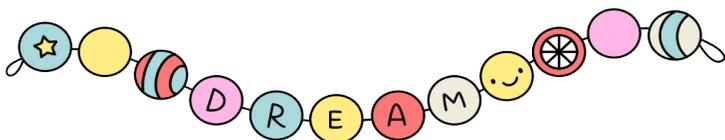
March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Looking for a fun night out? Join us for our new quarterly program, Adult Craft Night! We'll provide attendees with everything to make their own unique DIY craft project and better yet, have a lot of fun making it. In March, we'll be welcoming spring with a fun water-marbled mug project.

LET'S MAKE BRACELETS!

March 25 at 1 p.m.

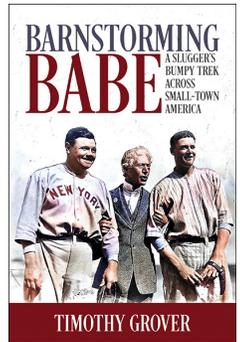
Enjoy your day off school at the library! We will have everything you need to make your own bracelets including clay beads, pony beads, and charms! Don't want to make a bracelet? That's okay! We encourage you to get creative and make whatever you'd like using the supplies provided. This activity is for teens, 5th-8th grade.



MIDWEST AUTHOR TALK: TIM GROVER

March 26 at 6:30 p.m.

The Nevada Public Library is pleased to announce its 2024 Midwest Author Series. The library will be hosting a variety of authors from various genres at the library from February to October. Get ready for baseball season, with this author talk by Tim Grover. Author of *Barnstorming Babe: A Slugger's Bumpy Trek Across Small-Town America*, Tim will talk to us about his book and the history of Babe Ruth and Bob Meusel's barnstorming tour that kicked off in Perry, Iowa! This is great for sports fans, history buffs, and those interested in learning more about Tim's other writings. Tim Grover is an accomplished writer, blogger, videographer, award-winning photographer, and published poet. His feature articles have appeared in *The Iowan*, the state's bimonthly magazine; the *Des Moines Press-Citizen*; *Skywalker*; *Des Moines magazine*; and the *Cedar Falls Sun*.



Nevada Community Garden renting plots and seeking volunteers

Want to plant some fresh flowers or veggies but don't have the space? The Nevada Community Garden has both raised and in-ground beds available for rent for the coming season. Plots are 4x12 ft. and cost \$30 for a raised and \$20 for an in-ground bed for the season. Spaces are filling up. To reserve your plot, email NevadaCommunityGarden@gmail.com.

Got an itchy green thumb? Want to help give back to the community while enjoying fresh air? The Nevada Community Garden is looking for people interested in helping work in our donation garden this coming season. All produce goes toward providing fresh vegetables to our local food banks and free meal organizations. All skill levels are welcome; no experience is required! Contact us by email at NevadaCommunityGarden@gmail.com.

Proud of our community!

Local people, programs, projects receive Ames Chamber 'Impact' awards

NEVADA FIELD HOUSE – ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD

The Nevada Field House is a community development project, focused on many wellness and recreation functions used for multi-generational activities and events. It is located north of the Fawcett Family Aquatic Center in the SCORE park and has been creatively dubbed “SCORE INDOOR.”

This facility houses a gymnasium space, a children’s indoor play area, an elevated walking/running track, flex space courts, turf areas, batting cages, social space, a multi-purpose area, and the offices of the City’s Parks and Recreation Department.

The \$7.7 million community development project was funded with \$4.5 million from the City of Nevada, \$450,000 from the State of Iowa, and \$400,000 from Story County. The remaining \$2.4 million came from individuals and businesses from across the region.

In February, the highly anticipated 55,000-square-foot Nevada Field House opened to the public.

FLUMMERFELT – HOUSING IMPACT AWARD

Flummerfelt Enterprises is a generational business in Story County, and currently operates eight manufactured home communities between Ames and Nevada, serving more than 900 families.

In 2022, Flummerfelt Enterprises purchased the Homemakers Mobile Home Park in East Nevada. The park was in great disrepair and a concern for the City of Nevada. Today the park is known as Sunridge Estates. In partnership with the City of Nevada, many upgrades have been made, with more than 30 old, dilapidated homes having been removed and

some now replaced with new homes. The roads inside the park have been paved. The community has become a sense of pride to those who live there.

NEVADA IJAG – BUSINESS & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Iowa Jobs for America’s Graduates, otherwise known as iJAG, is a program provided in some schools to help students develop career readiness, including leadership skills, training, career education, and employer engagement.

Working with the Nevada Economic Development Council, the Nevada program, taught by Tanner Koder, started a workforce committee that collaborated on a Career Day and College Fair, along with a Business Etiquette luncheon over the past year. With just those two events, all seniors who graduated through the iJAG program have successfully secured jobs. The collaboration between the school district and those who are investing in the community has been successful, and we look forward to many more years of this partnership.

MID-STATES – ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD

Mid-States Companies manufactures grain material handling systems, structural support metal fabrication for towers, catwalks, and balconies. Their customers are located across the country in ag sectors.

In 2023, Mid-States Companies began construction on their new Corporate Headquarters and expansion of their manufacturing area. The project will result in the creation of new jobs and support the company’s projected growth over the next five to 10 years in Nevada.



Flummerfelt Enterprises Team

Nevada woman recognized as 'FUEL: 4 under 40' winner

Melissa Muschick lives by the philosophy that "together is better" through collaboration and connecting with everyone she meets! She is the epitome of a servant leader, excelling at connecting business leaders to create the greatest impact. In a new role as the Director for Partner and Business Development for Discover Ames, Melissa continues to grow her influence throughout the Ames MSA. A mentor to many and advocate for the community, Melissa's an Ambassador with the Ames Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the Business Solutions Group, is on the board for Friendship Ark Homes and Community Services, is president of the Nevada Booster Board, and previously served as a FUEL Board Member.



Tanner Koder, Nevada School District



Tim Hansen & Jordan Cook
City of Nevada

ARC Award accepted by Tricia Crain of Nevada

Tricia Crain of Nevada, accepted the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award for The Arc of Story County. The Arc is an advocacy based non-profit organization serving Story County. The Arc partners with local businesses, providers, and community members to enrich the lives of people with disabilities. The organization has three focus areas: Healthy Lifestyles and Special Olympics, Respite Care, and Project Search.



Randy Vier, Mid-States Companies



A Unique Perspective on Mental Health Care

New provider takes holistic approach to help patients 'feel like themselves'

Pictured above is Jena Weissenburger, ARNP, PMHNP-BC

It was in seventh grade that Jena Weissenburger, ARNP, PMHNP-BC, decided she was going to dedicate her career to helping those struggling with mental health. Today, she has realized the goal she formulated at such a young age, caring for patients as a member of the team at Central Iowa Psychological Services (CIPS).

Weissenburger works alongside CIPS providers Daniel Bench, MSN, PMHNP-BC; and Emily Loynachan, LISW, to provide counseling and medication management services at Story Medical Clinic - Nevada.

According to Weissenburger, the unique perspective shaped by her experiences dealing with severe inattention as a child prove valuable in her practice.

"I struggled," she recalls. "It was so bad that there were times doing my schoolwork where I would read the same page five times and be in tears because I couldn't remember anything. After trying for years to work with the school systems and figure out why I was having such a hard time, I finally saw a provider."

It took a significant amount of time, along with some trial and error, before Weissenburger began to see some progress. The journey served as a driving force for her to

News & Notes

KIDS CLINIC AVAILABLE IN NEVADA AND MAXWELL

If your child wakes up not feeling well, you don't have to wait all day for an appointment.

Story Medical's Kids Clinic offers same-day appointments for infants to children up to 18 years old between 8 and 9 a.m., Monday - Friday. For an appointment call 515-382-5413 (Nevada) or 515-387-8815 (Maxwell).

STORY MEDICAL SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR COUNCIL

The Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) is looking for people like you who are committed to improving the patient experience. We are looking for patients and family members who can:

- Share their perspective
- Collaborate with hospital staff and other PFAC members
- Improve quality, patient safety, and health outcomes

For more information about joining the Story Medical PFAC contact Jessica Howe, Patient Experience Specialist, at jhowe@storymedical.org or 515-382-7726 or fill out an application at storymedical.org/PFAC.

IMMUNIZATIONS AREN'T JUST FOR KIDS

We are all familiar with the critical role vaccines play in protecting our children from a host of serious illnesses. But did you know that there are also vaccines that adults should receive?

Beyond the seasonal flu vaccine

and the COVID vaccine and boosters, there are a handful of others adults should have. See what vaccines are recommended for you and your children at cdc.gov/vaccines.

To schedule an appointment at Story Medical Clinic to get up-to-date on your vaccines, call 515-382-5413 in Nevada or 515-387-8815 in Maxwell.

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.

explore more than just medication, including integrative medicine, and things like incorporating exercise, diet, herbs, and supplements in managing her condition.

The insight she gained continues to guide her practice today. At Story Medical, she primarily offers medication management services for those six years of age and older. Weissenburger takes special delight in working with school-aged children and credits her playful personality for helping her connect with kids.

"Being able to play with them while talking to them to try and get them to build that rapport is at the heart of my practice," Weissenburger says.

She also has specialized training in serving women experiencing perinatal and postpartum depression and mood disorders.

Across the spectrum of her patients, she takes an approach that is holistic, recognizing that mental health care is not one-size-fits-all. She combines medication management with therapy, being careful to explore any options that might lead to a breakthrough for her patients, including nutrition, exercise, supplements and more.

In addition, Weissenburger says collaborative care

is integral to her practice. She maintains close communication with primary care providers at Story Medical Clinic. At CIPS she works together with her peers to ensure patients are receiving the best in care. Together the trio serving patients at Story Medical Clinic - Nevada is committed to ending the stigma around mental health services and helping patients get back to feeling good.

"About half of people take meds to address a mental health issue," Weissenburger says. "It's not a big deal. In my practice, I want to help enhance who you are. I want you to have the better life, even while you may still be working on things. I want my patients to be comfortable and to feel like themselves."

In helping her patients, Weissenburger says she finds a special kind of joy.

"Seeing people get better, seeing people stop struggling, whether it's work, school, being a mom, being a dad, provides a tremendous sense of satisfaction."

To make an appointment with a member of the Mental Health Services team please call Story Medical Clinic - Nevada at 515-382-5413.

NEVADA 2040/Goals & Strategies

You may have heard about the Vision process that City and community leaders work on and then use as a guideline for planning and decision making. But, have you ever taken a look at exactly what the Vision plan says or considered the progress the community is making in regards to it?

Last month, we outlined the top five goals, and this month, we are highlighting goals 6-10.

CONNECTIVITY

Goal 6: In 2040, Nevada's neighborhoods, business and entertainment districts and amenities are easy to find and safely navigated.

Work to be Done:

- Gateway and wayfinding signs
- Sidewalk improvements
- Southwest quadrant of town connectors
- New Interchanges

You may view the full 2040 plan on the City website: <https://cityofnevada.iowa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Final-Draft-Nevada-2040-Plan.pdf>.

AESTHETICS

Goal 7: In 2040, a sense of pride is obvious throughout Nevada as demonstrated by attractive neighborhoods, well-maintained properties, and welcoming gateways.

Key Accomplishments:

- Rental Code Adopted

Work to be Done: Neighborhood associations, community clean-up, public art

FOUNDATION FOR FAMILIES

Goal 8: In 2040, Nevada has exemplary schools with growing enrollments.

Goal 9: In 2040, Nevada's population has increased to at least 8,000 and is meeting the needs of its families/households.

Key Accomplishments:

- "Experience Nevada, Iowa" (community guide) distributed in first quarter of 2024
- Welcome Program/Bags

- Leadership Nevada

Work to be done:

- Childcare needs & action plan
- Welcome receptions, new residents



Nevada, Iowa

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Goal 10: In 2040, Nevada has a strong economy with diverse businesses and industries offering quality employment opportunities for all educational levels and interests.

Key Accomplishments (July 1, 2023-October 31, 2023):

- Capital Investment (\$14.93 million)
- Job Creation (58 new jobs)
- Business, Retention, and Expansion visits (10 visits)
- Analysis on a new industrial area

Goal Achieved!

2024 Community Guide has published

It's been five years since a comprehensive community guide has been printed to promote the attributes, history, service organizations, resources, etc., in the City of Nevada. This publication, which can be viewed at the Nevada Public Library & online, targets new residents, community visitors, and prospective businesspeople and residents, helping them learn more about our great community! Advertiser dollars spent in this issue are also helping support the continued printing of the Our Nevada community magazine. Thank you to all the entities involved in this important project!



Connect with Main Street Nevada

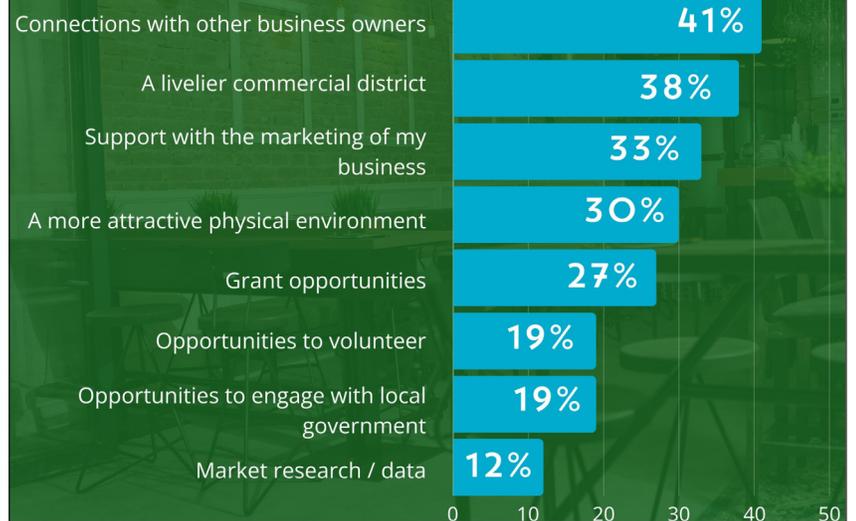
Main Street Nevada has been in existence for four years. In this short time, we have already seen the benefits of this program to a town like Nevada. The grant programs have allowed us the ability to rehab two buildings, with three more to be completed this year. Our Design Committee has dressed up our downtown with light pole banners and planters. Our Economic Vitality committee has offered classes for businesses.

But possibly the best thing Main Street Nevada is doing happens behind the scenes, where our volunteer-driven organization is really good at making connections. Connections between business owners, connections for community organizations, connections from outsiders to a Nevada business, etc. We have connected job seekers and hiring employers, connected tenants to landlords and connected a business owner with an idea that fills a void in the community.

Main Street America, our national organization — which Main Street Nevada is an accredited member of — surveyed small businesses from Main Street programs in the United States in 2023. According to the survey results, the number-one thing these small businesses found to be a benefit of being part of a Main Street program, is the connections.

A great place to catch some Main Street Nevada volunteers to discuss an idea you need connections for, is at

What benefits does the Main Street Network provide you?



the monthly Mix-N-Mingles. These are free to attend, and everyone is welcome! The dates for these events are always located on the calendar on the back of this publication, as well as on the Main Street Nevada, IA Facebook page. Let us help connect you!

MAKE THIS THE YEAR YOU VOLUNTEER!

There are nearly 30 organizations in Nevada who utilize volunteers! Every organization is in need of more help. The current volunteer base in Nevada is small, making it harder and more time consuming to complete projects and carry-out ideas. We would love to see more community members join in the efforts to continue making Nevada a place we are proud to call "home."

In the book, *For the Love of Cities*, Peter Kageyama says it best:

"The city, as a whole, is made by a relatively small number of 'co-creators' who — in their roles as entrepreneurs, activists, artists, performers, students, organizers and otherwise 'concerned citizens' — create the experiences that most of us consume. They make the experiences that we delight in, and they have a disproportionate impact in the making of the city."

Main Street Nevada has the list of volunteer organizations in Nevada. If you're looking for more volunteer opportunities, stop into the Main Street Nevada office or send an e-mail to director@mainstreetnevada.org.

CAN YOU HELP ONE OF NEVADA'S VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS?

VOLUNTEERS DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME, THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART.

-Elizabeth Andrew



Story County Housing Trust plans to build house in Nevada

The Story County Housing Trust (SCHT) is a 501c3 non-profit organization with the goal of improving affordable housing in Story County. Since its inception in 2017, the efforts of the SCHT have been focused on providing funds to organizations that are actively involved in affordable housing activities across Story County.

When American Rescue Plan funding was made available by the Story County Board of Supervisors, the SCHT Board elected to pursue funding to expand their affordable housing activities. The SCHT was successful in an application to the Board of Supervisors for funding to construct a Homes for Iowa house.

Homes for Iowa houses are built by Iowa Prison Industries in Newton and are transported to the site nearly complete. At the site, the house is placed on a basement and connections to utilities are made. After placement, site-built structures like the garage and deck

are constructed. The result is a new, affordable home.

The Homes for Iowa program produces an affordable house and also provides training in a trade for the members participating in the program. The mission of Homes for Iowa is to provide state-of-the-art building trades training and re-entry employment assistance to reduce recidivism while constructing quality homes for sale to Iowans across the state.

In Nevada, with help from the NEDC, a site was identified at the corner of D Avenue and 10th Street. The house for this site will be a 1,200-square-foot, 3-bedroom 3-bath, with an attached

garage. Delivery is expected in late April. Shown with this story are renderings of the house and the floorplan.

Because of the funding and nature of this program, the purchase price will be capped based on costs, and the home will only be made available to a household making less than \$113,000/year.

As the project progresses, please keep an eye out for more information on the SCHT website, storycountyht.org. If you have questions about the project, please contact SCHT administrator Lucas Young at lyoung@midiowaplaning.org or at **515-644-6337**.



Broadband For All

THE WORK CONTINUES

Providing adequate broadband to residents and businesses in our rural areas continues to be one of Story County's highest priorities. In 2021 Story County received a total of \$7.75 million in funding for broadband expansion through Iowa's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO). This money funded projects in southern and far northern Story County.

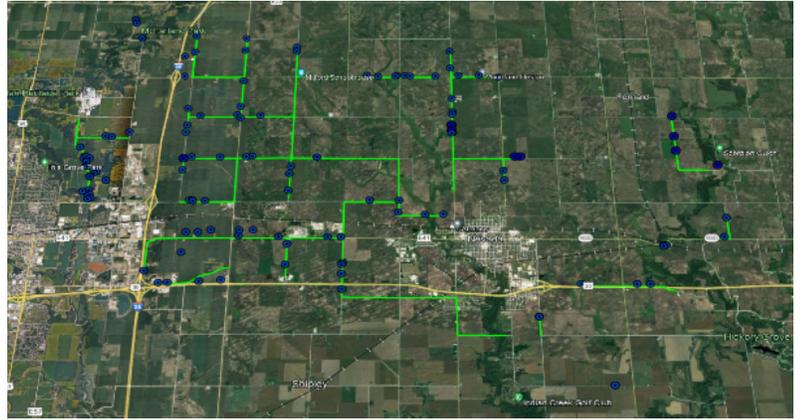
But several areas of rural Story County remained unserved or underserved. According to the OCIO, most of our unserved or underserved locations are in north-central Story County (north of Nevada, extending up to County Road E-18) and northwestern Story County.

In an earlier edition of *Our Nevada*, we reported that last spring Story County submitted two applications to the OCIO, with the goal of these areas of the county being designated as Broadband Intervention Zones (BIZ). (The northwestern area application was submitted in conjunction with Boone County and also includes eligible locations in northeastern Boone County.) Both areas were accepted as Broadband Intervention Zones and became eligible to apply for upcoming funding opportunities.

The next funding opportunity, referred to as Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) 8, was open only to providers of broadband service, not to units of local government. We worked with service providers to assess interest and determine how the County can help them move forward in securing funding to increase fast, reliable and affordable broadband in rural Story County. Applications were due by Aug. 25, 2023. ICS Advanced Technologies applied for the northwest Story area and Colo Telephone applied for north-central Story area.

The OCIO recently announced the awards for NOFA 8. The awards are listed on the OCIO website: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/empower-rural-iowa-broadband-grant-program-notice-funding-availability-008>.

Of 91 applications, only 39 were accepted for funding. The



proposal submitted by (ICS) for BIZ 62 in northwest Story County and eastern Boone County was not selected for funding.

Colo Telephone was awarded \$2.5 million for Broadband Intervention Zone (BIZ) 12 in north central Story County. Because their original request was for \$5.3 million, they needed to scale back their proposed project significantly. However, they will be able to serve many new customers. The above map shows their route and the locations to be served.

According to Shane Bellon, Manager of Colo Telephone, "With the help of this grant, we will be able to empower more rural residents of Nevada and Ames to bridge the digital divide with access to our 100 percent fiber optic, high-speed internet."

Although this round of funding did not do everything we wished, it is certainly progress, and we thank the service providers who submitted proposals as well as staff from Story County, Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance (MIPA) and the Ames Chamber of Commerce who assisted in these applications, and all of the elected officials and local businesses and agencies who wrote letters in support of these applications.

We will continue to work with our service providers to secure additional funding to complete the Story County Broadband picture. We anticipate an announcement soon regarding the application process for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) funding that is part of the federal Infrastructure bill.

Reminders from the Treasurer's Office

The Story County Treasurer's Office is reminding property owners that second-half taxes are due March 31, 2024. Think ahead to avoid late penalties, as the 31st is on a Sunday. To pay property taxes, you can go online to

[iowaTreasurers.org](https://www.iowatreasurers.org) or mail payments to PO Box 498, Nevada, Iowa 50201.

The Treasurer's Office will be closed to the public for staff training and development on Tuesday, April 2. The

office will not be open to the public or answering phone calls or emails for the day of April 2. Regular hours will resume at 8 a.m., Wednesday, April 3.

Postal Customer

Calendar of Events

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

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

NHS SPRING MUSICAL

March 1 & 2, 7 p.m.
March 3, 1:30 p.m.
Presenting "Footloose"
Josephine Tope Community
Auditorium

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

March 2, 5 p.m.
at the Dyer-Dowell House
*To inquire about cost and participa-
tion, call Kris Corbin, 515-509-7241
or Linda Wright, 515-290-7939*

CAMELOT THEATER FDN CLASSIC MOVIE SUNDAY

March 3, 2 p.m.
Space Jam, \$5 admission (conces-
sions available to purchase)

NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

March 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

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

BINGO

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

SCMC BD OF TRUSTEES

March 7, 11:30 a.m.
Story Medical Center

AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

March 8, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
*Fish Fry & Meatloaf. Cost is \$12
per adult (\$5 per child, age 10 and
under)*

NCSD SPRING BREAK

March 11-15

SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

March 11, 11:30 a.m.
Senior Center (by City Hall), 1231
6th St. *Bring a dish to share. Pro-
gram will begin around 12:15 p.m.*

CITY COUNCIL

March 11 & 25, 6 p.m.
City Hall

AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

March 15, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
*Fish Fry, no alternate. Cost is \$12
per adult (\$5 per child, age 10 and
under)*

VETERAN AFFAIRS OUTREACH

March 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Nevada City Hall
Story County Veteran Affairs
Director Brett McLain will be
available to meet with veterans
and veterans' family members. No
appointment necessary.

ST. PATRICK'S FISH FRY

March 22, 5-7 p.m.
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
*Cost is \$15 for adults; \$7 for kids age
5-12, and free for kids under age 5*

MAIN STREET NEVADA MIX-N-MINGLE

March 27, 4-6 p.m.
at the American Legion

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEAL

March 29, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
*Fish Fry with alternate choice. Cost
is \$12 per adult (\$5 per child, age 10
and under)*

CAMELOT THEATER FDN KARAOKE AT THE CAMELOT

March 29, 7-9 p.m.
Free, open mic
(concessions available to purchase)

EARLY APRIL

CAMELOT THEATER FDN CONCERT

April 6, 7 p.m.
Major Blues and the Mugshots, the
band that played during RVTV in
2023, will return to the Camelot
Theater for a fundraiser concert for
theater improvements. Find out
more online:
camelottheaterfoundation.org