

# Our Nevada

Iowa

December  
2024

## Leadership Nevada

Another group completes  
successful class year

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# Our Nevada Iowa

## The Opener

December 2024

**By Emily Schaack**  
**Main Street Nevada Executive Director**

The beginning of the Christmas season marks the ending of another year. 2024 in Nevada brought a lot of good things. We celebrated the opening of the Field House, along with an award for the project! We saw thousands of visitors in our downtown for the third annual Pizza Pie Looza festival! Lincoln Highway Days had record attendance at some events! Seven new businesses opened in the Main Street District! Several local businesses celebrated milestone anniversaries and a few more expanded their operations! Two new housing subdivisions were started and more upper-story housing became available downtown. Our trail system was expanded, and the Harrington Park landscape received improvements.



Let's wrap up a great year by enjoying the sights and sounds of the season together. Take a friend to a holiday movie or concert at Camelot Theater, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with your neighbor, shop locally for gifts for your loved ones and gather with the community downtown during the Christmas on Main festivities on Saturday, Dec. 14, from 3-6 p.m. This year's event theme is "Take a *Christmas Vacation* with Us," and we encourage you to "Light it like Clark (Griswold)" by bringing your bright, twinkly, lights and personalities to the forefront! Dress up your car, your clothes, your dog ... and have the "hap-hap-happiest Christmas!"

Have a safe, happy holiday! Best wishes for the New Year!

**ON THE COVER:** Horse and Carriage Rides during Christmas On Main have been a very popular attraction during the past two years. The Marc Olson Real Estate, MORE Team at RE/MAX Concepts will once again sponsor this attraction during this year's Christmas On Main, Saturday, Dec. 14, from 3-6 p.m.

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## CONTACT US

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



## Leadership Nevada Class of 2024

### *Congratulations, Graduates!*

Brian Bappe	NEDC*
Terence Beaston	Burke Corp.*
Muriel Burnett	Availa Bank*
Emma Cassabaum	21st Century Rehab*
Erin Coughlin	City of Nevada*
Tyler Davis	State Bank & Trust*
Amanda Grismore	Hertz*
Emily Holm	Nevada Comm. Schools*
Mike Kunkel	South Story Bank*
Holly Manternach	HR Green*
Erin Mousel	City of Nevada*
Dane Nealson	Nucara
Justin Ott	Almaco*
Audra Poterucha	Story Medical*
Chris Scobba	Allen Kockler Co.*

\*Leadership Nevada Sponsor



Pictured are the 2024 Leadership Nevada graduates: (sitting, from left) Emily Holm, Terence Beaston, Dane Nealson, (standing, from left) Erin Coughlin, Chris Scobba, Audra Poterucha, Muriel Burnett, Brian Bappe, Amanda Grismore, Mike Kunkel, Justin Ott, Tyler Davis, Emma Cassabaum, Holly Manternach and Erin Mousel.

# Another Leadership Success

Leadership Nevada 2024 has come to an end. Our 15 participants had an outstanding year of learning about our community! Six of them grew up in Nevada and were surprised how much they DID NOT know!

In addition to attending 11 sessions, this group had three requirements as part of the program this year. They each had to attend a city council meeting, volunteer 10 hours of their time to a Nevada organization and complete a group project. One-hundred-fifty volunteer hours came out of this group! They helped with Pizza Pie Looza, the Nevada Farmers Market, Camelot Theater Foundation, Nevada Parks and Rec, Food at First, and so much more.

Nevada now has a caution sign near Billy Sunday field, a Wellness Fair and an upcoming alleyway patio thanks to the group projects.

Congratulations to our Class of 2024 Leadership Nevada graduates! We hope you will continue to make the Nevada community a great place to be!

**"Leadership Nevada made me aware of how much the community relies on each other to be successful. When one business or organization succeeds, so does the entire community. I did not know the level of collaboration among community partners before Leadership Nevada."**

**—Brian Bappe**

**"I was amazed to hear from our city employees about the sheer volume of tasks that they manage in such small teams. We owe our clean drinking water to just a couple of people and our clean winter streets to just a handful. I am so appreciative of our great city teams and all the hours and care they put in for all our benefit!"**

**—Emma Cassabaum**



# USDA Rural Development awards \$2.2 million for Clean Energy Projects

## LINCOLNWAY ENERGY RECEIVES \$1 MILLION

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director in Iowa Theresa Greenfield announced in October that USDA is providing \$2,214,291 in funding for five projects in Iowa. Funds will be used to expand clean energy systems and help create new market opportunities and jobs for U.S. farmers, ranchers and agricultural producers. The grants come from the Rural Energy for America (REAP) program.

"Today's REAP announcement will help support rural communities, small businesses, and producers as they transition to clean energy systems on their properties," said Director Greenfield. "The Biden-Harris Administration is working to secure our energy future by investing in clean, renewable power so that agricultural producers and small businesses throughout Iowa can

lower costs and grow their businesses."

Lincolnway Energy LLC received a \$1,000,000 grant to install a grain-to-alcohol conversion system at its ethyl alcohol manufacturing facility near Nevada. This project will generate 223,700,000 kilowatt hours per year, amounting to \$18,300,000 in savings per year. This is enough electricity to power 20,643 homes.

### LINCOLNWAY ENERGY STATS

**Start of Production:** 2006

**Owner:** Husker Ag Majority

**Current Employee Count Nevada:** 44

**Nameplate Production Capacity:** 50 MG

**Current Production Capacity:** 90M plus  
goal is 100M in 2025



Inside the ethanol plant at Lincolnway Energy, USDA Under Secretary Alexis Taylor (center) and USDA Rural Development State Director Theresa Greenfield (right) toured the facility and spoke with company leaders on Feb. 10, 2023. PHOTO COURTESY OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



# Winter is upon us!

## 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.

• Have an emergency kit for your car.

• Have a fully charged cell phone and let someone know your route of travel. If you go in the ditch, stay with your car and clear the tailpipe of snow.



## SEVERE WINTER WEATHER AND OUR RURAL ROADS

Driving a snowplow is one of the toughest jobs around. Operators must maneuver a 27' truck with a 10' plow, while dealing with foggy windows, swirling snow, slippery roads, icy intersections, and everyday traffic. Story County Secondary Roads drivers are covering all of Story County during winter snow events, so please, "Give 'em a brake!"

- During snow storm conditions, snowplows are considered, and should be treated as, an emergency vehicle.
- Keep a safe distance when following snowplows. This is critical because snowplows create a swirl of snow that can blind the driver of a

car following too closely or cars approaching from the opposite direction.

• As they are plowing snow, trucks may also be spreading material to melt snow and ice and provide traction for driving safety.

• Don't stop too closely behind a stopped snowplow. The operator may be preparing to back up and may not see you.

• Don't pass a snowplow unless your visibility is perfectly clear and it is completely safe for you, the snowplow driver, and other vehicles.

• Patience is necessary during snow season. The snowplow operator is working to provide safe road conditions for you and your family.



**To check Iowa road conditions, call 511 or go to [511ia.org](http://511ia.org)**

## ATV/ORM/ORV & snowmobile registrations due Dec. 31, 2024

The Story County Recorder's Office would like to remind everyone that ATV/ORM/ORV and snowmobile registrations are now open until Dec. 31, 2024. 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.

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.

## HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

Story County offices and buildings will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Regular office hours will resume Thursday, Dec. 26 at 8 a.m.





# Byte-Size Learning

## GROWING YOUNG MINDS IN NEW COMPUTER SCIENCE CLASSES

This school year, Central Elementary is excited to introduce a new computer science class for all students from early kindergarten through fourth grade. In response to recent state legislation mandating computer science education from kindergarten through high school, Nevada Community Schools has taken the initiative to ensure that all students have equitable access to foundational computer science experiences. Now, each student participates in this program every six school days, promoting consistent engagement with key computer science skills.

Prior to this year, exposure to computer science varied by grade level and class. Recognizing the importance of a leveled playing field, our district prioritized a comprehensive, inclusive approach that offers every student hands-on experience with technology. This new program, taught by Corey Barloon, aims to build a strong foundation in computer science, allowing students to explore the technology that shapes their world—from everyday devices to the software that brings them to life.

The curriculum introduces students to essential concepts, including computing systems, programming,

data collection, and the societal impacts of technology.

To kick off the year, students explored the question: "What makes a computer a computer?" Through this exploration, they examined hardware, software, and the basics of inputs and outputs. Some grade levels even constructed model computers, gaining a deeper, hands-on understanding of these concepts. Third and fourth grade students also added in the internal components of the computer.



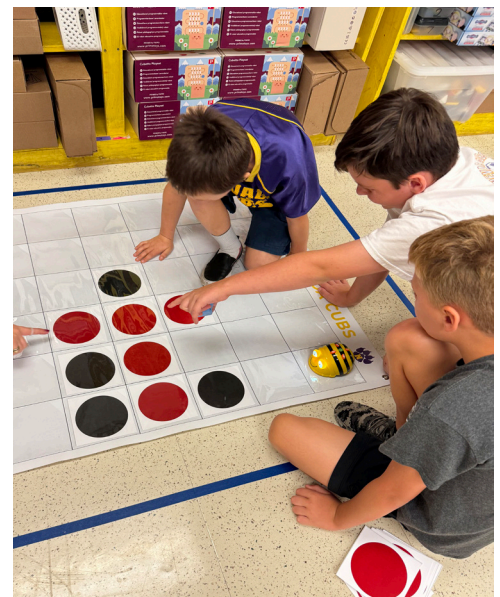
Currently, students are delving into programming through engaging software and robotics activities. This element of the program is particularly exciting, as it introduces students to the fundamental logic of



algorithms and programming. In learning to create, follow, and decompose algorithms, students are honing problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that are highly transferable across disciplines. They experiment with sequences, loops, and variables, building a strong coding foundation while discovering how to break down complex problems into manageable steps. This hands-on approach allows them to design, debug, and refine their algorithms, bringing their characters or robots to life through their own programming efforts.

Through these programming activities, students also develop the important soft skills of teamwork, perseverance, and problem-solving. When students collaborate on coding projects, they learn to communicate their ideas, share responsibilities, and work through challenges collectively. By sharing different perspectives, this often leads to more creative solutions and a stronger understanding of the material. Debugging code and solving complex tasks require students to approach challenges with patience and persistence. Each error becomes a learning opportunity, reinforcing that setbacks are part of the learning process. Furthermore, programming is a continuous exercise in problem-solving, as students must break down complex tasks, analyze issues, and design step-by-step solutions. Together, these skills not only enhance students' success in programming but also equip them with lifelong abilities to collaborate, overcome obstacles, and think critically in any field.

This computer science program is not about teaching students a specific programming language; it's about empowering them with a foundational understanding of computers and logic, along with the essential skills of problem-solving, teamwork, and perseverance that will serve them in any path they choose. This new computer science program is an inspiring leap forward in preparing our students for the digital age. We look forward to fostering their curiosity, watching them develop confidence with technology, and empowering them to grow into the tech-savvy problem-solvers of tomorrow.

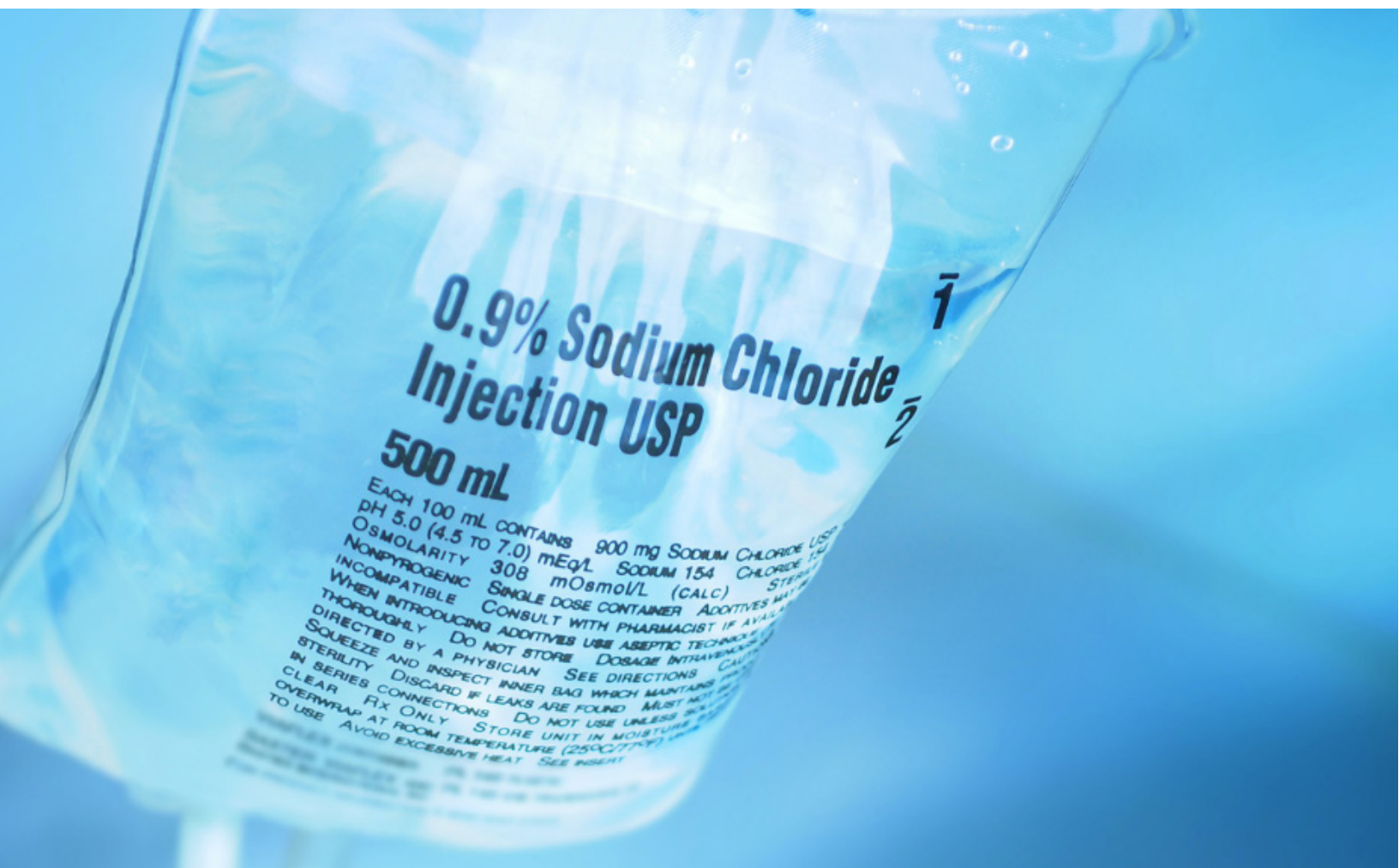


## NEVADA FFA ATTENDS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Twelve Nevada FFA members, along with their advisor, Kevin Cooper, traveled by charter bus to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. They attended the opening session at Lucas Oil Stadium and participated in leadership workshops, an ag career fair, and additional convention sessions. The group also toured Trader's Point Creamery, an organic farm producing organic dairy products, and visited the Integrated Bioprocessing Research lab at the University of Illinois on their return journey. Other FFA chapters included were Collins-Maxwell, Colo-NESCO, and East Marshall FFA.

Follow us on Social Media!  
@NevadaCSD





# Story Medical Effectively Manages IV Fluid Shortage

Like healthcare providers across the country, Story Medical is experiencing the effects of a national IV fluid shortage. The shortage stems from the impact of two major hurricanes—Helene in North Carolina and Milton in Florida—that led to the temporary closure of major IV fluid production facilities. While this shortage is affecting hospitals across the nation, Story Medical has been proactive in implementing measures to address the shortage and is managing the situation effectively.

The shortage has not compromised the high-quality care provided by Story Medical, but it has required adjustments to ensure responsible use of resources. The medical team is taking steps such as:

- Evaluating Patient Needs: Before automatically administering IV fluids, Story Medical clinicians are carefully evaluating patients to determine if IV hydration is necessary.
- Reviewing Antibiotic Use: For patients requiring antibiotics, the staff is assessing whether the medications can be administered without IV fluids, allowing for more strategic use of the IV supply.
- Encouraging Oral Hydration: In cases of mild to moderate dehydration, oral hydration methods, such as the use of Gatorade, are being used as a safe and effective alternative to IV fluids.

Despite the challenges posed by the shortage, it is expected that the current measures will be short term and that normal IV fluid supplies will be restored by the end of the year.

Story Medical continues to provide excellent care during this time, and is committed to keeping patients informed about the adjustments being made to manage this temporary supply issue.



# 'Tis the Season: Get Your Shot!

Story Medical Clinics in Nevada and Maxwell are now offering flu, RSV, and COVID-19 vaccines for the 2024 season by appointment. Current patients are encouraged to schedule their vaccines as soon as possible by calling the clinic or using MyUnityPoint to book online.

For those who have not yet established care with Story Medical, you can still receive your vaccines—just call to schedule an appointment.

"Getting vaccinated early is key, as flu season typically peaks between December and February," says Dr. Arthur Check, Story Medical Clinic, Nevada. "Along with flu, RSV and COVID-19 can also have serious impacts, especially for those in high-risk categories, such as older adults, young children, and people with chronic conditions. Vaccines offer a safe and effective way to protect yourself and your loved ones."

## Why Vaccines Are Important

- **Flu:** The flu causes hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths every season. Vaccination can reduce flu-related illnesses, doctor's visits, and hospitalizations.
- **RSV:** This vaccine is particularly important for adults 60 years and older, as RSV can cause severe respiratory issues and lead to hospitalization.
- **COVID-19:** Staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines can prevent severe illness, hospitalizations, and even death, especially with the ongoing circulation of new variants.

The flu vaccine, specifically, is highly recommended for those in these high-risk groups:

- Children aged 6 months and older
- Pregnant women
- Adults 65 and older
- People with chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart disease
- Caregivers of high-risk individuals, including babies too young for vaccination

"Vaccines are safe, easy, and provide vital protection for you and those around you," Dr. Check emphasizes.

To schedule your vaccines, please call Story Medical Clinic in Nevada at 515-382-5413 or Maxwell at 515-387-8815. Current patients may also schedule in MyUnityPoint.

## News & Notes



### INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We offer a HUGE thank you to everyone who came out on November 4 to celebrate our new Senior Care facility. The support that this community shows never ceases to amaze us and we are grateful to be a part of it. Our residents are now living in the new facility and we are excited to have this space available to care for our community.

### WORK AT STORY MEDICAL

Learn more about our career opportunities and fill out an online application at [storymedical.org/careers](https://storymedical.org/careers).

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!

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

# Nevada Mayor Recognized

Nevada Mayor Brett Barker was presented the Rhonda Wood Smith Award by the Iowa League of Cities during the Awards Banquet at its Annual Conference & Exhibit in Sioux City.

The Rhonda Wood Smith Award was created to recognize the exemplary work of young city officials and those new to city government. Award criteria include innovation, bold leadership, commitment, and sacrifice. The award was named for Rhonda Wood Smith, a single parent who served as mayor of Garner while working as a municipal consultant. She succumbed to cancer early in 1997 after establishing an outstanding reputation as a civic-minded person committed to her community.

Barker was elected Mayor in 2017, and has been actively involved in groups such as Main Street Nevada, the Nevada Economic Development Council, and the Nevada Community Band.

While serving Nevada, Barker worked toward strengthening the City through economic and community development, Main Street revitalization, and improving quality-of-life opportunities. He has consistently committed his time and energy to speak up for the needs of cities like Nevada at the State Legislature, to help initiate the Nevada Foundation, and to lead his city in recovery from the 2020 derecho.

Congratulations, Brett Barker!



Nevada Mayor Brett Barker is presented the Rhonda Wood Smith award by Ashley Vanorny, League President.

## Leadership change coming in Nevada

Nevada Mayor Brett Barker was elected to House District 51 in November, which means changes are in store for our City government as Barker will resign his position by the end of this year.

Barker has been part of Nevada's City government since 2010, when he first served on the City Council. He was elected as Mayor in 2017, and began that post in 2018.

"I really love this community, so my time in city government has been about getting everybody on the same page and seeing the results. All of our stakeholders are working in the same direction, whether that's main street revitalization, economic development, housing... we're all working toward the

same goals," Barker said.

The decision to run for House District 51 was something others encouraged Barker to do and something he prayed over. "I agonized on it, because I really love what I do with the City," he said. "But I feel like we've got a lot of pieces in place, some of which didn't even exist in 2018, like Main Street Nevada, the Nevada Foundation, the NEDC/Ames Alliance, and we're moving forward on the 2040 plan for Nevada. We've got a great city council and city staff, and those things will continue."

Barker said ultimately, he felt that the things he's learned in City government translate well to serving at the state level. "I'm thinking about property

taxes and how those impact cities and making sure there are no unintended consequences."

He will also bring his professional and personal experiences to the statehouse, like "what I know about healthcare (in his position as a pharmacist) and about the adoption process (he and his wife adopted one of their five children). To me, one of the reasons we have 100 elected state representatives is to get diverse backgrounds that have expertise in many areas."

At the deadline for this issue in mid-November, the council had not yet discussed how to fill the mayor's seat for the remainder of the current term, which ends in December 2025.



## BE. A. LEGEND.

Nevada Legends is a grassroots effort to give athletes the opportunity to develop skills outside of scheduled recreational program time.

Nevada Legends has athletes developing and fine tuning skills in football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball. The program offers some amazing coaches utilizing their knowledge for the development of athletes. The program involves coaches and athletes from Nevada and the surrounding communities.



Currently, coaches include Dan Tuhn (basketball), Misty Sano (volleyball), Lily Goos (volleyball), Lori Stephenson (volleyball), Travis Harrison (football), and also several parent volunteers for baseball and softball, who work on hitting, pitching and team development.

In order to participate in Legends activities, athletes must have a **Legends Pass**. This pass gives an athlete extra time in the gym or on the turf for skill development. Pass holders also have access to the facility after school, and during early morning and evening hours when accompanied by an adult access pass holder.

There have been several opportunities already, and we look forward to continuing to grow the program over the next year by offering additional opportunities for our Legends Pass holders.

For more information, contact Rhonda Maier at 515-382-4352 or [nevadarecreation@gmail.com](mailto:nevadarecreation@gmail.com).

Registration for winter/early spring baseball and softball training/team development is taking place this month (December), and additional sport-specific camps and other opportunities will be announced on RecDesk. For additional information you can also like our Facebook page: **Nevada Legends — Iowa**.

# What you need to know about city streets and winter rules

Winter arrives officially this month, and throughout the winter/spring season (until May 31), the City of Nevada has parking restrictions for snow removal.

Anytime 1 inch of snow or more falls, the snow emergency is automatically in effect. This means no vehicle can be parked on or in a City street, City alley, or a City parking lot until the snow is removed.

The snow emergency helps City crews to remove all snow from these areas. It also reduces the risk of snow and ice buildup in these areas.

Streets Department leaders put it this way: "Please help us to help you."



If vehicles are moved, the roughly four-hour snow removal process involving seven trucks, can be completed efficiently. It is also important that people don't push their snow into a cleared street.

"We usually try to be out by 3 a.m. with a goal of having streets cleared by 7 a.m.," said Joe Mousel, City Streets Superintendent.

Depending on snow timing, trucks can be out at any hour working on snow removal during snow events. Signs are posted throughout the City with the snow emergency information. The City does not send out any type of broadcast or alert that a snow emergency is in effect. "Automatically in effect" means if an inch of snow is on the ground, we are in a snow emergency.

So, it's best to plan ahead and pay attention to the forecast.

Vehicles that are parked on the city streets, alleys, or in parking lots during these events face possible fines and/or having their vehicle towed at the owner's expense.

One more note about snow and how you can keep your neighborhood safe: It is greatly appreciated for residents to clear the snow around nearby fire hydrants. Although this is not a requirement, it can save valuable time for firefighters which can have a large impact on safety as well as reduce the amount of time it takes to put the fire out.



***From all of us who work for the City of Nevada,  
we wish you a blessed holiday season!***

***City Administration  
Parks and Recreation  
Water Department  
Wastewater Department  
Streets Department  
Public Safety Department  
Nevada Public Library  
Planning and Zoning  
Communications***

# Public Library Happenings

## REGULAR YOUTH PROGRAMS

Youth programs take a break in December, but will return in January!

## REGULAR MONTHLY ADULT EVENTS

Grounds for Murder Book Club — 1st Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Books After Dark Book Club — 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Craft and Chat — Thursday, Dec. 19, at 10 a.m.

Sweet Reads Romance Book Club — Saturday, Dec. 28, at 1 p.m.

## 6-ON-6 GIRL'S BASKETBALL IN IOWA: TRADITIONS, TRANSITIONS, AND LEGACIES

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. Come hear about the history of the popular girls' sport!

## INTERACTIVE HOLIDAY MOVIE MATINEE

Visit our website or Facebook page to find out what we'll be showing on Saturday, Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m.

## FESTIVAL OF TREES

Saturday, Dec. 14, 12:30-4 p.m. — Come take a walk through a winter wonderland of trees decorated by local businesses!



### Holiday Closures

The library will be closed on the following days:

**Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Wednesday, Jan. 1**

### December Book Sale

Sponsored by Friends of the Library

**Friday, December 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Saturday, December 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**





# Digital speed displays may help slow us down

You may have noticed one, two, or even all three of the new digital speed displays in Nevada that were put up in early November.

Currently, two are posted along H Avenue — one facing eastbound motorists between the elementary and high school and the other next to the high school football field facing westbound motorists. A third is positioned on N Avenue west of the GFS building (former Donnelley Marketing), facing eastbound motorists.

Police Chief Chris Brandes said the displays were purchased through a three-way partnership, which includ-

ed a grant from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, a donation from Midwest Insurance Company, and Police Department funds.

The mobile displays, which can and will be relocated periodically, have the ability to collect data on the speed of motorists passing them and the number of vehicles going by them. But the biggest goal of the displays is to increase people's awareness about their own speed of travel.

"It's a good visual reminder to drivers about what speed they're going and what speed they should be going, especially with the two that are in

the school zone, which is a 20 mph speed limit," Brandes said.

The locations where these displays have first been posted were chosen based on data collected through previous traffic safety projects and the department's mobile speed trailer. "We identified areas with a high level of vehicle traffic, where people often exceed the speed limit, and where we also see a higher concentration of pedestrians and bicyclists," Brandes said.

Brandes thanked the City's Streets Department employees for putting the digital displays in place.

## December City Office Closures

**City offices will be closed Tuesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday.**

**City offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1, in observance of the New Year's holiday.**



Christmas  
On Main  
NEVADA TOWNSHIP 2024

ENJOY A  
CHRISTMAS  
VACATION  
WITH US!

❄️ LIGHT IT LIKE CLARK!

2 P.M. UGLY SWEATER RUN ON MAIN STREET &  
COOKIE WALK BEGINS AT LEGION HALL

3 P.M. SANTA & MRS. CLAUS ARRIVE,  
OPEN HOUSES, TREATS, SHOPPING,  
CAROLERS, CARRIAGE RIDES, CHRISTMAS  
VACATION TRIVIA, SCAVENGER HUNT &  
MORE HOLIDAY MAGIC IN THE  
DOWNTOWN!

7 P.M. CHRISTMAS SHOW AT THE CAMELOT



**DEC 14TH 3-6 PM**

IN NEVADA'S MAIN STREET DISTRICT



# Raising Readers in Story County needs volunteers to serve youth

Raising Readers in Story County is active in Nevada through multiple programs at no cost to participants. Community Bookshelves, Read to Succeed, Reach Out and Read, and Little Free Libraries offer free books in medical clinics, schools, and other spaces where children and families often wait. Small talk offers caregiver guidance to boost language and literacy among the youngest learners in Nevada.

Reading Buddies and Story Pals programs offer volunteer opportunities for the Nevada Community and excellent programs for Nevada's youth.

## **Story Pals (Wednesdays at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m. at Central Elementary)**

Story Pals is an innovative program for 4- and 5-year-olds. The program uses evidence-based practices to promote language, increase school readiness, and spark the joy of reading.

Volunteers are trained to work with students using a research-based method to develop background knowledge and vocabulary, grow spoken language skills, and encourage children to retell stories and make connections to books.

Volunteer shifts are 90 minutes long once a week for 10 weeks. Subs are available. Spring session is from February to April. One 90-minute training and a background check is required before volunteering. Site facilitators are available during sessions to support volunteers.



## **Reading Buddies (Mondays & Wednesdays 3:45-5:15 p.m. at Memorial Lutheran Church)**

Reading Buddies is a literacy program with trained volunteers who provide individualized support for their student Buddies. Students' skills are tested at the beginning of the program cycle to create individualized lesson plans for each student. Sessions also include learning activities and shared reading time to practice the learned skills in new ways.

Reading Buddies is offered to students in first and second grades. These 45-minute sessions are held twice a week with RRSC site facilitators available for support.





Postal Customer

## Calendar of Events

### CAMELOT THEATER MOVIE

**December 1, 2 & 6 p.m.**  
**December 3 & 4, 2 p.m.**  
Showing "I Heard the Bells"

### TACO TUESDAY

**December 3, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
American Legion Post  
First Tuesday of the month

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

### NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

**December 2 & 16, 6:30 p.m.**  
Gates Memorial Hall

### SCMC BD OF TRUSTEES

**December 5, 12 p.m.**  
Story Medical Center

### FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

**December 6 & 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
Nevada Public Library

### NEVADA COMMUNITY CUPBOARD OPEN

**Every Saturday, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
1110 11th Street  
Provides food for children, families, &  
seniors in need in our community

### AMERICAN LEGION BINGO

**Most Every Tuesday, 7-9 p.m.**  
American Legion Post  
\$5 plays all games  
\*There will be NO BINGO on Christmas  
Eve and New Year's Eve, Dec. 24 and 31

### CAMELOT THEATER MOVIE

**December 6, 7 p.m.**  
**December 7, 2 & 6 p.m.**  
Showing "It's a Wonderful Life"

### SANTA POP-UP SHOP

**December 7, 1-7 p.m.**  
**December 14, 3-7 p.m.**  
Shop the Foley Santa collection for special  
treasures! Located in building next to  
theater.



### CAMELOT THEATER MOVIE

**December 8, 2 & 6 p.m.**  
**December 10 & 11, 6 p.m.**  
Showing "Christmas Vacation"

### SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

**December 9, 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 9, 6 p.m.**

### MIX-N-MINGLE

**December 11, 4-6 p.m.**  
At Anytime Fitness, 1818 Fawcett  
Parkway

### AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

**December 13, 5-7 p.m.**  
American Legion Post  
Fish Fry with alternate breaded pork  
tenderloin Cost is \$12 per adult (\$5 per  
child, age 10 and under)

### CAMELOT THEATER SHOW

**December 13, 7 p.m.**  
Joseph Hall's Elvis Christmas Tribute

### LIONS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**December 14, 7-11 a.m.**  
Gates Hall  
Cost is a free-will donation

### UGLY SWEATER RUN

**December 14, 2 p.m.**  
Starts at corner of 6th Street/K  
Avenue

### COOKIE WALK

**December 14, 2-6 p.m.**  
American Legion Post  
Pick out your favorites while supplies last!

### CHRISTMAS ON MAIN

**December 14, 3-6 p.m.**  
Main Street Nevada District "Take  
a Christmas Vacation With Us" in the  
heart of Nevada. Enjoy gathering with  
friends and community members, treats,  
business open houses, a scavenger hunt,  
Christmas Vacation Trivia, along with  
Santa, carolers, carriage rides, vendors  
and more. It's a holiday event for the  
families and residents of all ages!

### CAMELOT THEATER SHOW

**December 14, 7 p.m.**  
Brad & Kate's Little Holiday Spectacular

### CAMELOT THEATER MOVIE

**December 15, 2 & 6 p.m.**  
Showing "Polar Express"