

Our Nevada

Iowa
September
2025

SCMC Adds New Position

Making same-day
care easier

PAGES 4-5

The Wall That Heals Recap

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Berry Patch Changes Hands

PAGE 3

New Nevada Teachers

PAGE 15



The Buzz

INCREASE IN SEWER USAGE CHARGES WILL HAPPEN THIS FALL

It's been a question on many people's minds for a while now — How will completion of the new Wastewater Treatment Facility impact my utility bill?

The DNR requires that all users of our facility to pay their proportionate share of the costs of operation, maintenance and replacement. The City has been working with those heavy industrial users to verify their loads and what they send to our treatment facility.

The new Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) required the City to undertake several State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans to pay for construction. Part of the requirement for these loans is that rates are set to provide enough revenue to pay for the operation and maintenance of the new WWTF and 110 percent of the City's SRF loan payment annually.

Customers will see an increase in their sewer user charges in the coming months. At the deadline for publication of this issue, we were uncertain of the exact amount.

The plan is for the City Council to consider an Ordinance (which will include the increase rate) at its first meeting in September, with the third reading to be held on the first meeting in October, which happens Oct. 13. The new rates would be added to bills for the October meter reading, with those bills going out on the first of November.

Customers will also see a new description on their bill. The Sewer Construction description will now be called a Sewer Service Charge. This will be funneled into an account to pay for the WWTF debt.

Please watch the City's website (www.cityofnevadaiaowa.org) and Facebook (@CityofNevadaIA) page as we plan to have examples of the rate increase and more information in the coming weeks.

Thank you!

ON THE COVER: Kara Buckingham, PA-C, will take on a new role at Story Medical Clinic. Read her story, starting on page 4.

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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.





Berry Patch changes hands

As quietly as the process of plants beginning to bud so too was the transitioning of ownership at one of Nevada's rural treasures, The Berry Patch.

After 50-plus years, ownership officially changed hands on May 1 from Dean and Judy Henry to Joe and Kristin Wakeman.

Back in the early '70s, Dean and Judy started The Berry Patch, which is located roughly four-and-a-half miles south of Nevada on 280th Street, just off county highway S-14.

Strawberries, and freshly grown produce, were a passion for the Henrys, who grew their first strawberries while living at Pammel Court at Iowa State University! They envisioned growing a big crop of them, open to the public, and were willing to do whatever it took to make it work. They started with strawberries and apples, and gradually got into other crops, one of the most successful being blueberries.

The Henrys had been thinking about selling their farm for a while. Dean being 90 years old and Judy in her late 80s, they needed to find the right buyer or buyers, and they felt themselves drawn to the Wakemans.

"Others had expressed interest in the farm, and they had the money, but they didn't have the dedication to the path we'd taken through the years of producing food and offering it to others at reasonable prices," Dean said.

They were also, and very importantly, looking for new owners

who would be willing to let their son Mike continue to work on the farm. Mike has been on the farm since he was 7 years old. The Wakemans are excited to have Mike on board.

Joe and Kristin feel honored to be able to carry forward what they call "a 50-year passion project for the Henrys." And it fits in well with their lifestyle. Both employees of the Nevada Community School District — Joe as technology director and Kristin in the business office — they love the outdoors and farming, and like the Henrys, they plan to continue full-time school jobs, while they run the farm.

"Our goal has been to keep things pretty much the same," Joe said. "The Henrys have had a recipe for happiness, and everyone loves coming out here. It's not about becoming a big commercialized farm. They've never charged admission, and that's one thing we'd like to not have to do. We want to have affordable family fun, although we may have to start weighing people when they come and go," he joked.

Along with the "you-pick" experience that many prefer, the Wakemans plan to continue to offer pre-picked items for those who don't have the time or physical ability to pick, and they also have expanded on the items for sale in the farm's Country Store. Iowa-made honey is one example of the types of things they will carry.

To learn more about this business transition, go to the City Website's Community News Reel to find an expanded story.



Care Delivered Fast, Friendly, Close to Home

Buckingham to Provide Same Day Clinic Care for Those with Acute Needs

Beginning later this month, Story Medical Clinic-Nevada will welcome Kara Buckingham, PA-C, into a brand-new same-day care provider role. Currently serving in the Emergency Department, Kara will transition to the clinic to help patients with acute—but non-emergency—care needs. These include things like sore throats, lacerations, sports injuries, or sudden illnesses when your primary care provider may be booked.

"I'll be available for patients who need timely attention but don't necessarily require an ER visit," Kara

says. "Things like urgent medication refills or quick evaluations—those are just a few examples of what I'll handle here."

Her mission?

To create access and avoid unnecessary Emergency Department visits, giving our community fast and convenient care.

Why This New Role Matters

Story Medical has offered same-day appointments in the past—with providers rotating a designated overflow day each week—to catch urgent cases when regular schedules were full. Now, Kara's dedicated role brings consistency and predictability.

"Previously, if a patient's usual provider's schedule was

full, we put them into an overflow slot and they saw whichever provider was available," says Brenda Smith, Director of Story Medical Clinics. "With Kara in this new role every day, we're covering that demand from the start, giving us room to better meet patients' needs immediately."

This setup enhances not just access for patients, but also improves scheduling flow for primary care providers.

"If a provider's schedule is full, we can offer an appointment with Kara instead of sending patients to urgent care or the ER," Brenda says. "That's ideal for things like earaches, sore throats, minor injuries—care that should happen in the clinic rather than the ER."

Bringing ER Expertise to the Clinic

Kara brings 12 years of experience in emergency medicine, urgent care, and orthopedic urgent care.

"I've sutured lacerations, stabilized fractures, and managed pediatric traumas—it's a wide variety," she says. More than that, she maintains all her certifications—Basic and Advanced Life Support, pediatric trauma (ATLS), and attends annual conferences to keep her skills sharp.

"That background gives me confidence that I can manage whatever walk-in need comes through the door," she says. "No day is the same—that's what I love about medicine. Helping folks through their acute concern, and knowing I made it easier for them to get care—that's what motivates me in my practice each day."

Kara is a familiar face to Story Medical, having filled in at

the Maxwell Clinic and serving in a part-time role in the Emergency Department over the past six years. Last year, she joined the Emergency Department full-time, drawn by Story Medical's small-community feel.

"I love working in a close-knit setting where everyone knows your name. Serving a small community means making a big impact," she says. "Sometimes, that's more rewarding than working at a big system."

Access, Flexibility, and Continuity of Care

This move reflects Story Medical's ongoing mission of delivering the "Best Experience Every Time." By providing same-day, non-emergent access in the clinic—even when primary providers are booked—patients benefit from:

- More timely access to care at the clinic
- Consistency of remaining within their clinic medical home
- Expanded availability for acute concerns
- Reduced strain on Emergency Department resources

Kara's arrival also streamlines clinic operations.

"Providers will benefit from a reduction in squeezing same-day patients into their already-full schedules," Brenda says. "Our regular appointment slots stay organized, and acute needs get handled swiftly in the right setting. That is a win for providers and patients."

Learn more about Story Medical Clinics at storymedical.org/clinics

About Kara Buckingham, PA-C

A graduate of Des Moines University's PA program, Kara holds certification from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants and full licensure in Iowa.

With more than 12 years of experience, Kara is a familiar face at Story Medical, having worked part-time at both the Emergency Department and Maxwell Clinic before joining full time.

At home, Kara and her husband

balance life with four children, spanning elementary school to adulthood. When she's not in scrubs, you'll likely find her planning the next family adventure with equal excitement and precision—to date she's been to an amazing 29 countries in her travels.

Kara's combination of clinical expertise, community dedication, and global curiosity make her an ideal fit for her new role at Story Medical Clinic-Nevada. Join us in welcoming her to the new role!



Electronic Recycling Drive

The Story County Go Green Team is excited to partner with Electronic Asset Security, of Urbandale, to host an Electronic Recycling Drive.

Bring old and unwanted electronics from home to the Story County Fairgrounds in Nevada on Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop off will be by the Sheep Barn on Second Street.

*Some items may incur a small fee for recycling or secure destruction. Fees can be paid with cash or debit/credit card. Electronic Asset Security will have a team member onsite to take payment. To view full pricing list, scan the QR code above or visit <https://electronicassetsecurity.com/pricing/>.



Accepted Items:

- ✓ Laptops, Desktops, Servers
- ✓ CRT Televisions and Monitors*
- ✓ LCD, Plasma, or OLED Televisions and Monitors*
- ✓ Keyboard, Mice, Speakers
- ✓ Printers*, Scanners, MFPs*
- ✓ Network Switches, Routers, Firewalls
- ✓ Phones, Tablets, e-readers
- ✓ Business Phone Systems
- ✓ UPSs and Battery Backups
- ✓ CDs* (for destruction only) and flash drives
- ✓ Cords (laptop and phone chargers, ethernet)
- ✓ Loose Lithium-ion, Alkaline, NiMi, or NiCAD batteries

Not Accepted Items:

- ✗ Household items such as cans, cardboard
- ✗ Paints, chemicals, solvents, automotive parts and fluids, fertilizers
- ✗ Fuel canisters or gas cylinders
- ✗ Appliances, Microwaves, Fans, Air Conditioners
- ✗ Anything that may contain refrigerant
- ✗ Light Bulbs and Fluorescent Lamps
- ✗ Fluorescent Ballasts
- ✗ High Voltage Industrial Transformers
- ✗ Anything else with hazardous waste, such as PCBs, Asbestos, Mercury, gunpowder, or other flammable substances

*Some items may incur a small fee for recycling or secure destruction. Fees can be paid by cash or debit/credit card.

PROPERTY TAXES DUE

The Story County Treasurer's Office is reminding you that first half of property taxes are due **September 30**. You should have received your annual property tax statement via mail at the end of July or early August. The county is required by law to mail these to all property owners.

Please note that while property taxes are due in September and March, they can be paid off in full or in partial payments at any time prior to the annual tax sale in June. If you have any questions on the notice or paying property taxes, please reach out to the Treasurer's Office at 515-382-7330.

2025 City, School Election Information

The Story County Auditor's Office reminds the communities that the candidate filing period began in August for both city and school board candidates. The filing period goes from Aug. 25 to Sept. 18. Petitions should be filed with the respective City Clerk for Mayor/Council candidates, and with the School Board Secretary for School Board candi-

dates. For candidate resources, please visit <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/640/Candidate-Resources>.

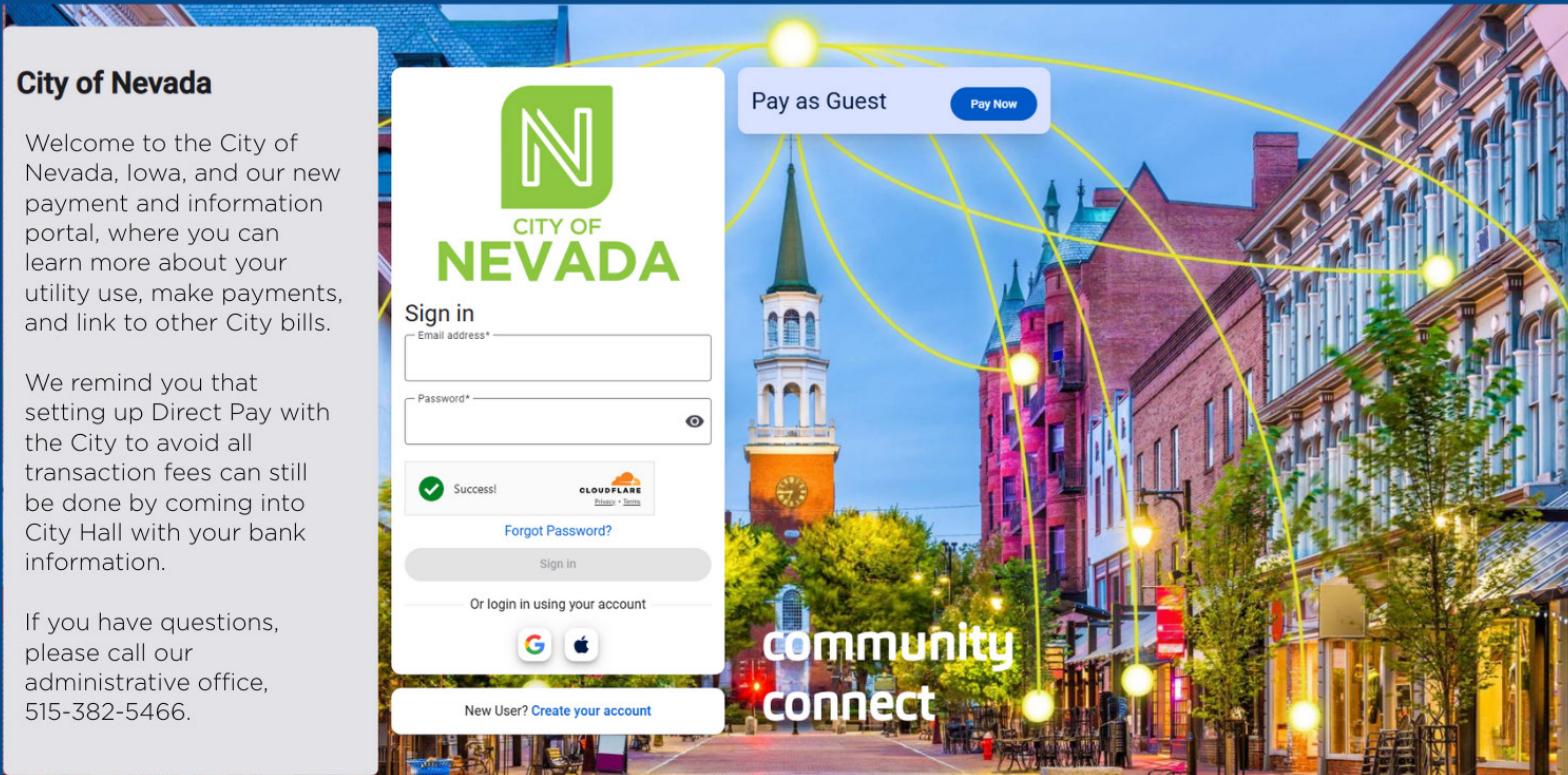
Aug. 26 was the first day to request an absentee ballot for the City/School Election. To request an absentee ballot, please visit <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/DocumentCenter>

[View/16333/Mail-in-Absentee-Request](https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/16333/Mail-in-Absentee-Request) or scan the QR code below.



Introducing Our New Utility Payment/Information Online Portal

<https://nevadaia.ourcommunityconnect.com>



City of Nevada

Welcome to the City of Nevada, Iowa, and our new payment and information portal, where you can learn more about your utility use, make payments, and link to other City bills.

We remind you that setting up Direct Pay with the City to avoid all transaction fees can still be done by coming into City Hall with your bank information.

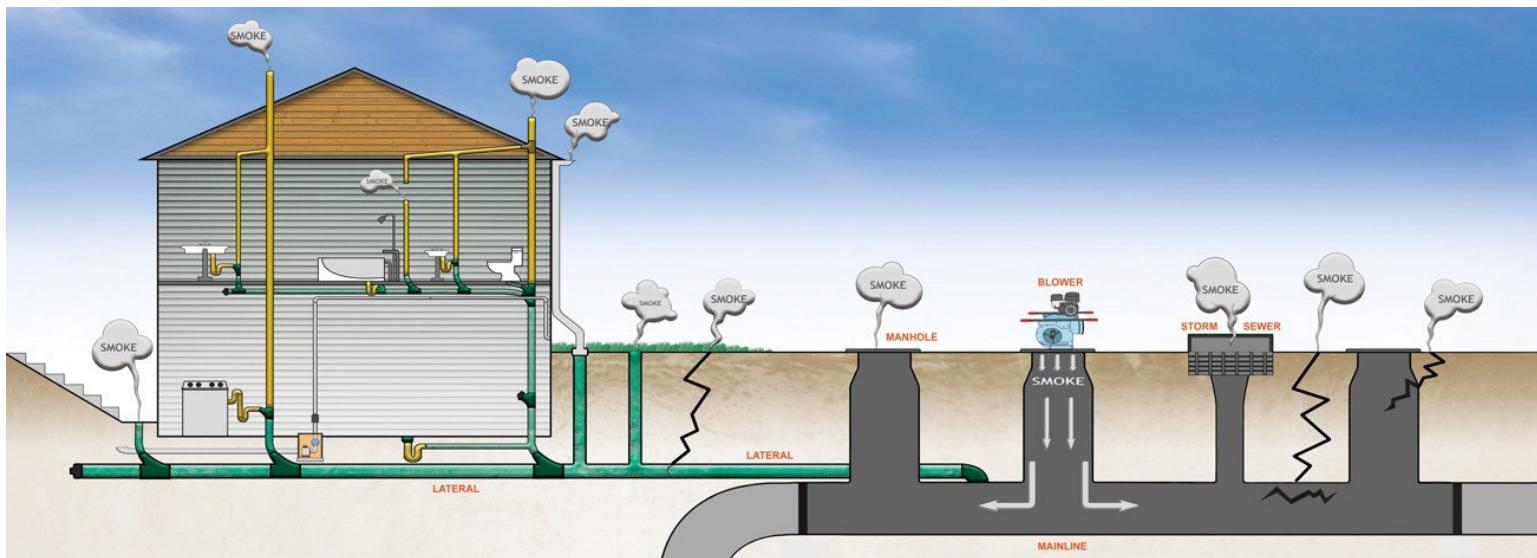
If you have questions, please call our administrative office, 515-382-5466.

Sign up to track your utility use and information about your account!

Use the system to pay online if you want!

Check out other City bills you can link to through this portal!

Learn more on the City Website News Reel or feel free to ask us about it at City Hall!



Smoke Testing of sanitary sewer system planned to start soon

The City of Nevada plans to do smoke testing of the sanitary sewer system between **Sept. 22 and Oct. 3**, weather permitting.

Sanitary sewer smoke testing involves field crews placing an industrial blower on a manhole and introducing low-pressure, nontoxic, nonflammable, residue-free smoke that fills the mainline and service connections. As the smoke travels through the pipes, any leaks—whether at manholes, cleanouts, street gutters, or even indoor fixtures—become instantly visible at the ground surface, revealing cracks, faulty joints, and unauthorized connections. This method is the most efficient, cost-effective way to pinpoint unauthorized inflow and infiltration that threaten proper wastewater treatment.

If smoke enters your house, remain calm, open windows to ventilate, note the entry point, and notify testing personnel. The smoke itself poses no health risk. Smoke in a house can indicate plumbing defects that allow sewer gases in. Any smoke will clear within minutes with proper ventilation. Smoke alarms may activate. **If smoke does enter a building, please call 515-663-9997.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does smoke testing work? Field crews blow air and smoke into the sanitary sewer system in the street and monitor where smoke escapes the system. The smoke under pressure will fill the main line as well as any connections and then follow the path of any leak to the ground surface, quickly revealing the source of the problem.

What are the benefits of smoke testing? Smoke testing is the most efficient and cost effective way to locate and identify where unauthorized water is entering the public portion of the sewer system and find areas of the sewer system that need improvement. Smoke testing is becoming a requirement nationwide for locating unauthorized water problems that are threatening the ability to properly treat wastewater.

How long will it take? While crews might be in your area for a few hours, each actual smoke test setup takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Most houses will only be within the testing area for one or two tests.

What should I do if smoke gets into the house? Do not be alarmed. Open the windows to allow ventilation and note the location of the smoke emission. Smoke will clear within a few minutes. If smoke does enter a building, please call 515-663-9997.

I am a pet owner and I will not be at home during the testing. Should I be concerned? The smoke is not harmful to pets. As long as

windows are left open, any smoke that enters the building will dissipate in a few minutes.

What does it mean if smoke enters my house?

If smoke enters your home during the test, it may indicate there are deficiencies in the plumbing that may allow sewer gases to enter. Plumbing fixtures in your home or business are connected to the sanitary sewer, therefore there is potential for smoke to enter if the drains are not connected properly. This happens particularly under the following circumstances:

- The vents connected to your building's sewer pipes are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed.
- The traps under sinks, tubs, basins, etc., are dry, defective, or improperly installed.
- The pipes, connections, or seals in the waste water drain system in and/or under your building are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

Simply run water down the drain for a minute to ensure that the trap is not dry. It is important to locate dry traps as they could allow sewer gases to enter the home.

Can the smoke testing activate the smoke alarms? Yes, smoke alarms may activate during smoke testing. If possible, open windows and/or doors for ventilation.

If smoke does enter a building, please call 515-663-9997.

Library News

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Toddler Time (0-pre-k): Tuesdays 10-11 a.m.

Tales (4th-6th grades): Wednesdays 3:30-5 p.m.

Teen Lounge (7th-12th grades): Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Steam Lab (K-3rd grade): Thursdays 3:15-4 p.m.

****Steam Lab registration recommended! We are asking parents to sign your kids up soon for Steam Lab to assist us in planning our activities and the number of staff members needed to help with the program! Thank you!**

SMALL TALK WITH RAISING READERS

Thursdays from Sept. 18-Nov. 20, 5-8 p.m. A meal is provided.

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 — 4th Thursday of each month at 10 a.m.

Sweet Reads Romance Book Club — 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Remember, we will be CLOSED Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day.

City Employee News

Rhonda Maier, who has served as the City's Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation since 2000, has been promoted to serve as the City's Director of Parks and Recreation. Maier is a graduate of Iowa State University, whose career in parks and recreation started as a Recreation Specialist in Webster City.



Department, and this is a return to City employment for Pratt, who worked in the Department from January of 2014 to October of 2017. Pratt most recently worked for Story County as an assistant mechanic. He said he's looking forward to the variety of tasks that working in the streets department offers.



Devin Cornish has been promoted to the position of Wastewater Supervisor. Cornish began his employment in the City's wastewater facility in August of 2021. In early 2024, he earned his associate's degree and graduated from DMACC's Water Environmental Technology Program.



Dennis Pratt has been hired as the newest member of the City Streets

Crystal Edwards of Nevada has been promoted to a new position at the Nevada Public Library. On Aug. 4, Crystal moved from her position as a clerk intern to being a circulation clerk lead. She started employment with the library in January of 2024, and in the clerk intern role she was processing books, shelving materials, working with patrons, cleaning, etc.



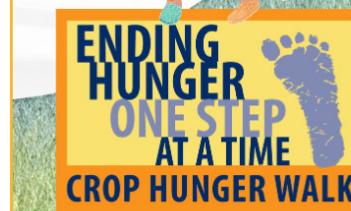
Now, in her new role, she will oversee other clerks, work on interlibrary loans, have more clerical duties, and do additional clerk duties.

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Nevada CROP Walk

Evergreen Lane, 1204 H Avenue
Walk begins at 1 p.m.

Come early to enjoy a light lunch and send-off service! Residents of all ages invited to take part!



The Wall That Heals makes lasting impact

It arrived in town with around 100 escorts, mostly on motorcycles led by one carrying local Vietnam Veteran Dennis Otto, a two-time Purple Heart recipient who served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971.

It closed with Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Site Manager Rodney Gonsalves telling the last of 400 volunteer shifts that if asked, would they make the decision to come to Nevada, Iowa again, the answer would definitely be, "Yes." From start to finish, despite occasional rain and gusts of wind, The Wall That Heals had a spectacular run in Nevada from its arrival on Aug. 5 to its final day, Sunday, Aug. 10.

During the Wall's time in Nevada, according to Cathy Vincent, a Legion Auxiliary representative and member of Nevada's Wall That Heals committee, more than 10,000 guests were greeted, helped, and comforted by those who came together to pay tribute to the more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War, to those who died later or suffered greatly from injuries of the War or the effects of Agent Orange, and to all those who served from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s in a War that divided the nation and saw soldiers treated poorly upon their return.

Vietnam Veteran Neil Muhlenbruch of Dows came to Nevada to visit the wall



Neil Muhlenbruch and his wife, Kathie, do a name rubbing of Jerry Ray Murphy.

with his wife, Kathie. He was doing a name rubbing of Jerry Ray Murphy. "He had less than one week left in the country (Vietnam) when he died," Neil shared about Jerry.

Both Neil and Jerry were crew chiefs for the Army Aviation Cobra Platoon and roomed next to each other. "He was Cobra 8. I was Cobra 7," Neil said, and recalled how he'd just spoken to Jerry before his friend died in an explosion while he was putting on a night recon light.

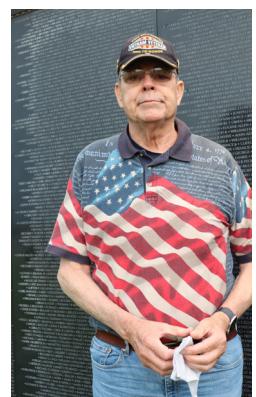
Neil served in Vietnam from September of 1965 to September of 1966, stationed at Vinh Long. He was shot on Feb. 4, 1966, and after 30 days in the hospital, he voluntarily chose to stay in Nam and finish his deployment. When he was asked about the treatment of Vietnam veterans back then and the respect they

are receiving today, he commented, "It's a long time past due."

Vietnam veteran David Smith of Waukee came to the wall with his friend, Nancy Vaught. He walked to the panels that included the names of those who perished in the early 1970s, and he was overcome with emotion, pulling a handkerchief out of his pocket to wipe away tears.

"These panels (three of them) have the names of all the guys who died when I was in the country," he said. "That's a lot."

David, who was in Nam in 1971 and 1972, said he made a previous trip years ago to the Wall in Washington, D.C., around Father's Day, and said there were notes along the wall from children of the Vietnam Vets. "I'll never forget one of the notes," he said, his voice cracking from emotion. "It read, 'Daddy, they say I look just like you.'"



David Smith stands next to the panels of those he served at the same time he did.

Nikki Arel, who joined Rodney Gonsalves as the other staff person on site for The Wall That Heals, was spending time giving tours to Wall visitors or

helping people find names on the Wall. As a Cadre for The Wall That Heals, Nikki also had her own unbelievable story to tell.

She was just 10 years old on a family vacation in Washington, DC, when she visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall and spent her vacation allowance on a bracelet from a vendor selling bracelets with the names of veterans who were MIA.

"I decided to pick one of someone from New York (which was her home state at the time), and who was in the Navy

(like her dad), and whose date of being lost matched the time when my dad served." The name on her bracelet was Richard M. Mancini.

She wore the bracelet always from that time on, and 19 years later, as a 29-year-old attending a friend's wedding in Albany, NY, she was in her hotel room when a teaser for the evening news came on about a Vietnam Veteran's remains being found. "I looked up, and it was his name, Richard M. Mancini, on the screen."

Between the festivities of the weekend, she was making calls, trying to locate Richard's family, leaving messages for Mancinis who lived in the area.

And it worked.

As she was preparing to leave the motel that weekend, she got a call from Rick Mancini, Richard's son, who was heading to Hawaii to pick up his dad's remains and invited Nikki to a memorial service two weeks later in Amsterdam, NY. At the memorial service, she gave the family Richard's bracelet. It was the first time it had come off her arm since she was 10. Nikki remains close to the Mancini family today.

She loves to hear other people's stories



The Wall That Heals Cadre Nikki Arel of Hartford, Conn., helps a Vietnam Veteran do name rubbings.

as they come to the Wall, and she notes that the reason most visitors come to the Wall is to pay respect. "A lot of those who were not alive during the Vietnam era, they really don't understand how Vietnam veterans were treated. They can't fathom it. And I love that they visit the Mobile Education Center (which travels with the Wall) and spend time learning. That's one of the most beautiful things, that we're able to teach and raise a little consciousness and awareness about the impact of war and what it means to serve your

country."

On Saturday evening of the Wall's visit in Nevada, there was a special service to recognize those who've died or suffered from the effects of Agent Orange, a herbicide and defoliant used by the United States military during the Vietnam War. Agent Orange helped remove vegetation to deny the enemy both cover and food.

But later, the effects of Agent Orange on the soldiers who were using it, had devastating consequences to their long-term health.

Connie Cook and Carol Baxter, both of Ames, displayed framed pictures of their departed husbands next to them as they attended the Agent Orange ceremony on the evening of Aug. 9, when the wall was illuminated with orange lights.

Ronald Baxter, who passed away in July 2020, was a member of what his wife said was called the "Brown Water Navy,"

which supplied troops up and down the De Neg River. His exposure to Agent Orange caused him to suffer neuropathy in both legs.

Jack Cook was in the Army and served in three spots near the jungles, where they used Agent Orange. His exposure caused Parkinson's Disease. Jack passed away in January of 2023.

Last year, Connie and Carol traveled to Washington, D.C., for a special Agent Orange ceremony in June. "It was a wonderful experience. We laid white roses on the wall," Carol said. Many white roses were laid at The Wall That Heals in Nevada. "I'm glad to be here and glad to honor him," Carol said. And she noted that her husband never regretted his service to the country. "He always said he'd do it all over again."

Nevada resident Kris Dugger, who retired from the Iowa Army National Guard in January of this year, after 32 years of service, was asked to be part of Nevada's Wall That Heals committee in 2024. "My role was to plan and organize the Escort (to bring the Wall to town)," Kris said.



Connie Cook, left, and Carol Baxter of Ames pay tribute to their late husbands, Jack Cook and Ronald Baxter, during the Agent Orange Ceremony.

He was able to start that Escort anywhere within an hour of Nevada. He chose the Iowa Veterans Home, where half of the current residents are Vietnam Veterans. Kris said it was the ideal location to assemble, stage and depart the Escort toward Nevada, via the historic Lincoln Highway.

"Onlookers showed their patriotism and support along the route from Marshalltown to State Center, to Colo, near Fernald, and into Nevada. A detour north from Colo was needed due to railroad bridge clearance," he explained. The Wall tractor/trailer is 13 feet, 6 inches tall, and the

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underpass between Nevada and Colo is 12 feet 6 inches in height.

"It was a great honor to be part of this effort, to see this great parade assemble, drive among the beautiful farm fields of Central Iowa and enter our town with outstanding support from our local citizens and entire community," Kris said. "Our Vietnam Veterans deserve our respect and appreciation, and The Wall coming to town was a great way to show

this love to this generation of servicemen and servicewomen."

Nevada Public Safety Director and Police Chief Chris Brandes, a member of the Iowa National Guard since 2003 who deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, said he was honored to give closing remarks on the last day The Wall That Heals was in Nevada. He noted how special it was during the Wall's time in Nevada to see veterans and members of the military from many other wars and conflicts and times of service coming to

pay tribute to Vietnam veterans.

His remarks were followed by closing thoughts from Cathy Vincent, who acknowledged all of the people, volunteers, and businesses that made generous contributions during The Wall's time in Nevada. And she paid a final tribute to those at the heart of it all. "To all Vietnam Vets, we see you, we applaud you, and we thank you for your service."

--Written by Marlys Barker



Opening Ceremonies were held on Thursday, Aug. 7, with Deputy Adjutant General Brigadier Gen. William F. McClintock giving the address.



Vietnam Vet Dennis Otto leads The Escort into Nevada on the cycle driven by Bill Couser.



Don Kockler of the Nevada American Legion played Taps at various ceremonies, echoed by Adam Byersdorfer of Story City.



Nevada becoming a hot spot for treasure hunters!

Thrifters are experiencing a major comeback among shoppers of all ages, and Nevada is quickly becoming a destination for those in search of unique finds and great deals. With the rising costs of brand-new goods and the thrill of discovering one-of-a-kind treasures, more people are turning to secondhand shopping, not just as a smart financial move, but as a fun and rewarding experience. For many, it's more than just shopping — it's a full-day adventure.

Nevada's growing reputation among thrifting enthusiasts recently got a boost with the arrival of Consignment Gallery, a well-established name in the world of upscale resale. The shop relocated to Nevada from Gilbert, where it had built a loyal following over nearly two decades. Owner Julie Keane, who purchased the business in 2020, is thrilled with the move.

"Moving to Nevada has been wonderful. I love it here," Julie shares. "We have new consigners and new shoppers from places like Nevada and Marshalltown. It is a great location that is easy to get to."

Located in our historic downtown, Consignment Gallery offers high-quality, gently used furniture and home décor. From living room staples to patio pieces, shoppers can furnish their entire home with stylish items at a fraction of retail prices. The store is known for carrying unique and valuable pieces that tend to move quickly.

"You never know what you'll find here," Julie says. "We receive many unique items. Things move fast — if you see something you like, grab it before it's gone!"

The store also features a rewards program, giving thrifters even more reason to indulge their shopping urges. As the busy season approaches—from September through December—consignment appointments will be required, but shoppers can still browse to their heart's content during regular hours.

And there's more good news for local bargain hunters.

Later this fall, Nearly New Consignment & Retail will open its doors on J Avenue. Owned by local couple Brian and Kelly Johnson, the shop will cater to families with a wide range of affordable, gently used essentials—from clothing for all ages, to books, toys, games, sports gear, and more. You'll even be able to find a section of both new and used Nevada Cubs apparel.

"We're excited to fill a need in the community," Kelly says. "We envision this as a place where families enjoy shopping together during downtown outings."

In addition to secondhand items, the shop will offer new retail products from Iowa-based makers and suppliers, including a fun selection of bulk candy and other gift-worthy items.

The Johnsons have been hard at work transforming their space over the summer, putting in long hours and personal touches. From tearing down walls to bringing back old flooring, they've invested serious sweat equity to create a bright, cheerful, and industrial-chic environment. Many of the shelving units and displays were even handmade by the couple.

Consignment at Nearly New will initially be available during set hours, and consigners can choose between payout options, which include boosted value in-store credit.

With two unique consignment shops — Consignment Gallery and Nearly New Consignment & Retail — Nevada is carving out its place in the growing thrifting movement. Whether you're on the hunt for vintage furniture, family essentials, or a quirky décor pieces, downtown Nevada just might be your new favorite shopping stop.



Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future



As a new school year begins, it is a fitting time to reflect on the journey that has brought Nevada Community School District to where it is today. For more than 160 years, education has been at the heart of the Nevada community. What began as small gatherings of students in private homes has grown into a vibrant, forward-thinking school district that serves generations of learners.

A Legacy of Learning: The Early Years

The community of Nevada, Iowa, founded in 1853 upon settlement by Johnson Edgar and named after the Sierra Nevada range, saw its first classes held in private homes. These informal beginnings gave way to a more structured educational environment in November of 1858 with the completion of the first dedicated school building. The Nevada school system was officially organized as an independent school district in 1867, marking the beginning of its formal educational governance.

Growth, Consolidation, and Expansion

From 1958 to 1961, Nevada expanded through several reorganizations with nearby communities, becoming the Nevada Community School District. Over the years, construction and renovation projects shaped the district's facilities, from early landmarks like the Old Central School (1876) and Dana School (1896) to the high school (1917), fieldhouse (1938), and a series of later additions. More recent improvements include the 2012 Josephine Tope Auditorium, the 2014 Cub Stadium renovation, and the 2021 acquisition of Gates Memorial Hall, where the north wall features large photographs celebrating the history of the district's buildings.

A Modern Vision for Education

Nevada Community School District continues to invest in modern, student-centered learning environments. In 2021, the district completed a significant remodel of Nevada Middle School, updating classrooms, collaborative spaces, and infrastructure to meet the needs of today's learners. This project also included the addition of a new wrestling room, expanding athletic opportunities for students and supporting the district's commitment to well-rounded development. These updates reflect Nevada's ongoing dedication to providing high-quality facilities that foster innovation, engagement, and a strong sense of community, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the future while honoring the district's rich history.

From the humble beginnings of one-room classes to a modern district equipped for 21st-century learning, Nevada Community School District has never stopped evolving. The combination of historic pride and forward-thinking vision continues to shape the educational experience for students today. By preserving its past and embracing innovation, Nevada ensures that the Cubs of tomorrow will learn, grow, and succeed in a community that values both heritage and progress.

Follow us on Social Media!
@NevadaCSD



New Teacher Spotlight

We have a few new teachers in each building this year.

Be sure to welcome and support them when you see them in and around the district.



ERIK BELL

Central Elementary
Physical Education



EMILY HOLM

Central Elementary
Special Education



ISABEL PERSHING

Central Elementary
Special Education



KAYLEE WEIGLE

Central Elementary
1/2 Multiage



TIFFANY DAY

Middle School
7th Science



TY KELDERMAN

Middle School
Physical Education



JOSEPH RICHARDS

Middle and High School
Talented and Gifted



JEN CORNELIUS

Middle and High School
Special Education

SCHOOL FOOD PANTRY

Cubbie's Cupboard is open to anyone the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 4-5:30 p.m., as well as by appointment. In addition, Cubbie's Cupboard is always accepting donations of food, food drives, and finances.

Learn more at
<https://bit.ly/CubbieCupboard>

REMINDER TO UPDATE CONTACT INFO

Warm weather will soon be gone and with cooler temps inevitably comes winter weather. Please log into the PowerSchool Parent Portal (<https://nevada.powerschool.com/public>) and verify that your contact information is correct — especially your email address and phone number. That's where emergency notifications, including weather alerts, are sent.

Postal Customer

Calendar of Events

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

AMERICAN LEGION TACOS & BINGO

Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
American Legion Post
Come early for taco supper (\$2-4 per taco choice). Stay to play BINGO, \$5 plays all games.

STORY MEDICAL BOARD

Sept. 4, 11:30 a.m.
Story Medical Center

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY

BOOK SALE
Sept. 5 & 6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Nevada Public Library

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Sept. 6, 9 a.m.
Renn's Cafe, 1001 6th St.

CAMELOT SHOW

Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Camelot Theater
Showing "The Land Before Time"

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

FARMERS MARKET

Sept. 7 & 21, 12-3 p.m.
1100 Block of Sixth Street

CARTOONS AT THE CAMELOT

Sept. 7, 12-3 p.m.
Camelot Theater

MUSIC ON THE PORCH

Sept. 7, 2-4 p.m.
Evergreen Lane on H Avenue
Enjoy local musicians, Sandy & Chris Clark. Free cookie & water

HARMONY CLOTHING CLOSET

Every Monday, 4-7 p.m.
1122 6th Street
Provides free clothing. Donations may be dropped off at this time.

CITY COUNCIL

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

AMERICAN LEGION MEAL

Sept. 12, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Hot beef sandwiches. Cost is \$12 per adult (\$5 per child, age 10 and under)

STORY COUNTY RECYCLING DRIVE

Sept. 13, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Story Co. Fairgrounds
Drop-off items by Sheep Barn on Second Street.

MOVIE: JAWS

Sept. 12 & 13, 7 p.m.
Sept. 13, 2 p.m.
Camelot Theater

NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Gates Memorial Hall

HOMECOMING WEEK AT NEVADA SCHOOLS

Sept. 15-20
Homecoming Parade Tuesday at 6 p.m., Coronation Tuesday at 7 p.m., Football Game, Friday 7:30 p.m., Homecoming Dance, Saturday 8-10 p.m.

2025 LEGION BLOCK PARTY

Sept. 20, 3 p.m. onward
1300 Block of 6th Street
Community invited to enjoy music, sandwiches and fellowship.

CARTOONS AT THE CAMELOT

Sept. 21, 12-3 p.m.
Camelot Theater

MOVIE: THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Sept. 26 & 27, 7 p.m.
Sept. 28, 2 p.m.
Camelot Theater

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEAL

Sept. 26, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Serving lasagna, garlic bread, salad, desserts and a drink. Cost is \$12 per adult (\$5 per child, age 10 and under)

CENTRAL IOWA JUNK JAUNT

Sept. 26-28
Friday & Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
A few Nevada shops are participating in this Central Iowa shopping event.
www.centraliowajunkjaunt.com