

Our Nevada

Iowa

March
2026

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The Buzz

CHANGE IS CONSTANT

We were thinking about skipping a year of putting out the Experience Nevada Guide to the Community. But ... as we looked through the last Community Guide, published at the beginning of 2025, it became apparent there were already a number of changes needed in the content.

What is the Community Guide, you ask? The Guide is a publication formerly published by the newspaper once a year to highlight "all things Nevada," including information about the town's history; information about service groups, events, and community resources; information about places to be entertained or eat; etc.

The City, Main Street Nevada and the NEDC joined forces to bring the Guide back two years ago. The current Guide is available for anyone to pick up at the Main Street Office, but is also a resource given to new residents in the Welcome Bag program, provided to company leaders from other places who want to know more about the community, made available at events where Nevada can be showcased, etc.

What changes have there been in our community since the last Guide came out in February 2025? Suffice to say, change is constant. Whether it's the closing of places to enjoy food or the folding of a longtime community service club, or changes in leadership, like a new mayor and council people, we've noticed enough ripples in the current content to know that we need to update this publication.

We will publish a new Guide this spring, and we invite businesses who want to purchase an ad in the Guide to contact Emily at the Main Street Nevada office, 515-382-6538, by **no later than Friday, March 13**, to be sure we can get you in.

If you have never seen a Guide and would like to have one, you can stop by the Nevada Main Street office in May to pick up a copy of the new Guide, free of charge.

ON THE COVER: Story County Auditor Lucy Martin conducts a random drawing to set the initial term lengths for the new district elected supervisor positions.

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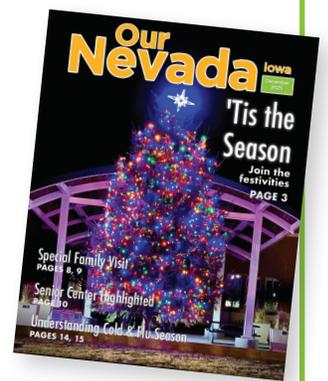
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CONTACT US

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ABOUT OUR NEVADA

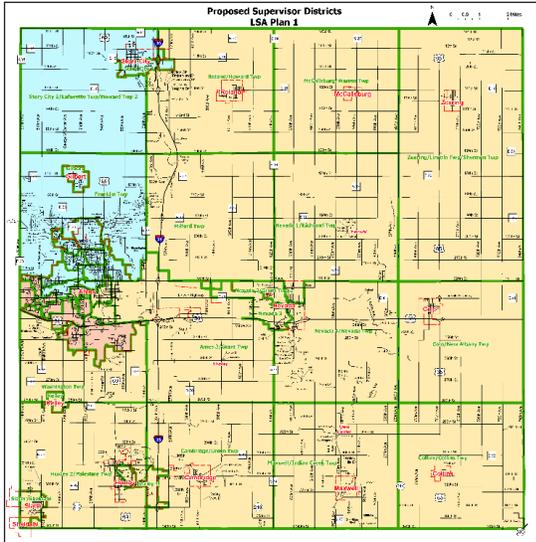
Our Nevada is a monthly joint publication between the City of Nevada, Nevada Community School District, Story County Medical Center, Story County, NEDC, and Main Street Nevada.



District-Based Elections

For the upcoming Primary and General elections, Story County will elect members of the Board of Supervisors by district, following changes mandated by Senate File 75, which passed in 2025.

Under Senate File 75, Story County will no longer elect its Board of Supervisors at large. Instead, voters will elect one supervisor from each of three districts. All three supervisor seats will be on the ballot for the 2026 Primary and General elections.



The Supervisor district map is as follows (District 1 is highlighted in blue, District 2 is highlighted in yellow, and District 3 is highlighted in pink):

Populations:

District 1 - 32,783

District 2 - 32,894

District 3 - 32,860

To return to staggered four-year terms, initial term lengths were determined by a random drawing conducted by Lucy Martin, Story County Auditor, on Jan. 27. Those initial term limits are as follows:

District 1 - 2-year term

District 2 - 4-year term

District 3 - 4-year term

The Iowa Legislative Services Agency prepared the district map. The Board of Supervisors approved the plan on Jan. 27, 2026. The map is contingent on approval by the Secretary of State.

New Link for Online Index Books

Effective Feb. 1, 2026, access to the Story County Online Index Books (OIB) has changed. The records will now be accessible after creating an account with RECORDhub. The account is free and access to the records is also still free. This change adds a layer of security to the site.

The new site can be accessed at <https://recordhub.cottsystems.com/>. Once you select "Iowa" and "Story County," the search function is the same as on the old site. This site can be accessed directly through your web browser. A link will also be provided on the Recorder's page on the Story County website, www.storycountyia.gov. This site has records available for both the Recorder's and Auditor's Offices.

STORY CO. CONSERVATION EVENTS

Animal Encounters

When? Thursday, March 19, 10-11 a.m.

Where? Conservation Center at McFarland Park

It's Spring Break! Meet and greet our educational animals. Get a brief introduction to Iowa's reptiles and amphibians, followed by a casual Q&A opportunity with the animals. Possible encounters include a turtle, salamander and/or snake. This event is free. No registration is required.

Nature Playdates: The Nest That Wren Built

When? Tuesday, March 24, 10 a.m.

Where? Conservation Center at McFarland Park

This is a casual opportunity to meet other families and play outside. Naturalist Bekah will read the children's book "The Nest that Wren Built" and provide a self-guided bird play and nest-building exploration activity. No registration is required.

THE GREAT GREEN GEOCACHE

Join Story County Conservation Tuesday, March 17, for a St. Patrick's Day adventure from 1-3 p.m.! Learn to use a handheld GPS unit before setting off on a self-guided quest through McFarland Park. Follow the clues and uncover a series of hidden waypoints tucked throughout the trails. And maybe, if you're lucky, find a bit of "gold" along the way! Register online by March 12.

Register for these events and find more conservation opportunities at: www.mycountyparks.com.

Rediscovering the Legacy of Bill Evans

If you look up into the rafters of the Nevada High School gymnasium, you'll see a single banner hanging solitary and proud. While many great athletes have donned the purple and gold, only one jersey has ever been retired in the history of our school.

For many in the community, the name on that banner is a mystery. To bridge that gap, the Nevada High School CubTV class has produced a new short film documentary titled "The Number That Stands Alone." By diving into the archives and interviewing those who knew him best, these students are ensuring the story of Bill Evans is never forgotten.

A Once-in-a-Generation Talent

The student-led project traces Evans' journey from our local Nevada gym to the national stage. In the early 1940s, Evans was a three-sport standout in football, basketball, and baseball, but it was on the hardwood where he became a legend.

The documentary highlights his staggering high school resume:

- **All-State Dominance:** Back-to-back First Team honors from the IDPA and Des Moines Register (1941 & 1942)
- **State Tournament MVP:** Named the Outstanding State Tournament Player in 1942
- **The Ultimate Praise:** Legendary sports writers Jack North and Bert McGrane once labeled Evans the "best high school basketball player ever."

Sacrifice and Service

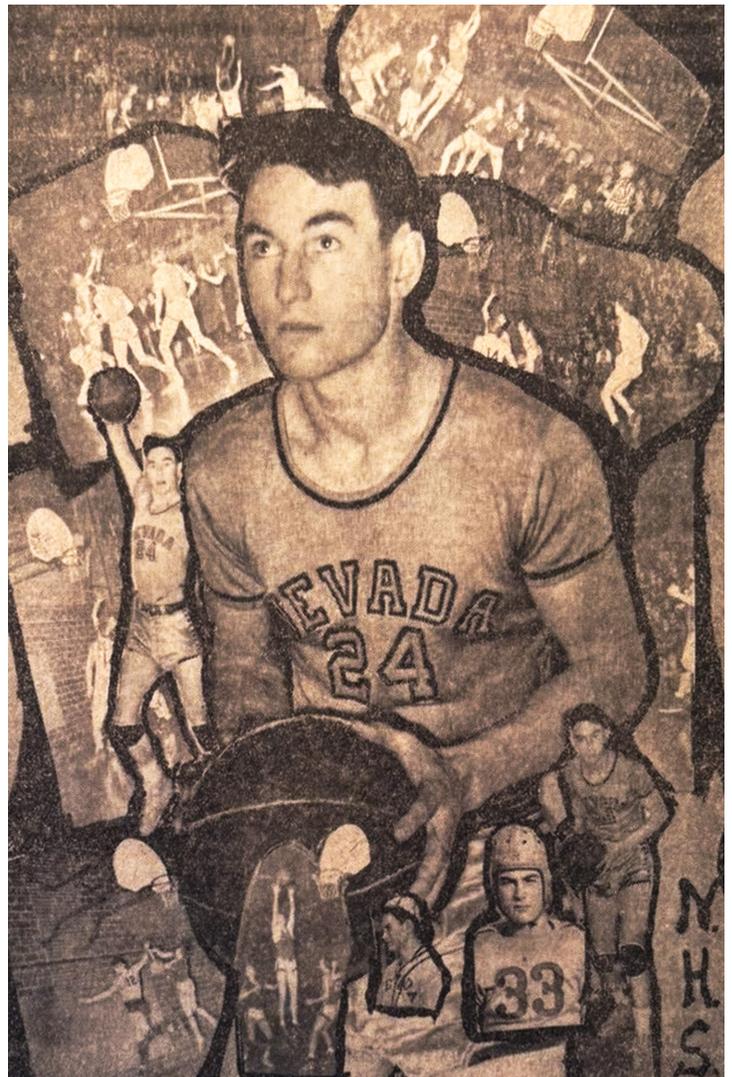
After graduating from Nevada, Evans went on to Drake University to play both baseball and basketball. Evans' meteoric rise at Drake faced a sudden and significant interruption. During his freshman year, where he was already a star player, Bill was drafted into the U.S. Navy.

He selflessly put his burgeoning athletic career on hold to serve his country during World War II. After the war, he returned to Drake with a veteran's perspective and a continued dominance on the court and field. He finished his college career earning All-Missouri Valley Conference honors all four years; an incredible feat of consistency across a disrupted decade.

National Recognition and Professional Offers

By 1949, Evans had reached the pinnacle of college sports. He was named Iowa's Athlete of the Year and was selected to play in the prestigious East-West All-Star Game at Madison Square Garden.

Perhaps the most incredible fact the students uncovered during this production is that Evans remains the only Nevada alumnus to receive offers to play professionally in two different sports: Major League Baseball and professional basketball.



Nevada alumnus Bill Evans is the only athlete in the history of Nevada to have his number retired. We was named at the top of the list of the all-time basketball greats in Iowa History.

A Legacy Beyond the Stats

The heart of the students' film, however, isn't just about the stats or the professional offers. Through moving interviews with Bill's daughter, Beth, and his mentee, Keith, the production explores why Bill turned down professional stardom. Instead of a pro contract, Bill chose a life of service, spending 35 years teaching in the Carroll school system. His character eventually led to his induction into the Iowa High School Hall of Fame and the Officials Hall of Fame.

Behind the Scenes: Students as Historians

Bringing this story to life was a labor of love for a few members of the Nevada High School CubTV class. These students acted as investigative journalists and historians. From the initial scriptwriting to the advanced editing techniques, the class spent over a month meticulously crafting the tribute. By diving into the archives and conducting professional-level interviews, these student creators have ensured that Evans' story will never be forgotten. Their work has turned a silent banner in the rafters into a living inspiration for every student who walks the halls today.

"Today, Bill Evans' banner hangs in the rafters; not just for what he accomplished in athletics, but for the legacy he left behind." — Film Narration

Watch the Documentary

We invite the entire community to learn about the man behind the banner through the lens of our talented student filmmakers. You can view "The Number That Stands Alone" and other student work on our official YouTube playlist: tinyurl.com/nevadacubtv.

A LIVING HISTORY: THE NEVADA WALL OF PRIDE

While the physical landscape of our school hallways continues to evolve, the stories and achievements of our alumni have found a permanent and expansive home in the Nevada Community Schools Wall of Pride. This interactive digital archive serves as a vibrant tribute to the three pillars that define our community: Academics, Athletics, and Fine Arts.



A LEGACY PRESERVED

The Wall of Pride was designed to ensure that no achievement is ever lost to time or limited by physical shelf space. Whether it is a record-breaking athletic performance, a prestigious All-State Speech selection, or a top-tier academic honor, these milestones are now preserved in a high-definition format. By transitioning our history to a digital space, we can share decades of Cub excellence with alumni and residents across the globe. This brings our storied past directly to your fingertips in a way that traditional displays simply could not accommodate.

HELP US COMPLETE THE RECORD

One of the most exciting features of this digital transition is the ability to constantly update and refine our history. We view the Wall of Pride as a growing project, particularly regarding our athletic milestones and historical honors.

- **The QuikStats Era:** Currently, many of the most readily available records date from the QuikStats era of 2008 to the present.
- **Filling the Gaps:** The Nevada Activities Department and local stakeholders are working tirelessly to research and verify records from prior to 2008. This ensures our legends from every decade are properly represented.
- **Submit Your Evidence:** We need your help to tell the full story. If you have documentation or evidence of records that deserve a spot among our current Top Ten leaders, you can submit that information directly via the submission link found within the site.

Rediscover our history, find familiar faces, and help us grow the legacy at: bit.ly/NCSDwallofpride



Movement Really Matters

For Ken and Jackie Meimann, everything changed in 2002.

Ken had just experienced a heart attack. In a moment, life stopped cold, forcing a reckoning neither of them had planned for. Recovery didn't end when Ken left the hospital. Instead, it became the start of a new routine, one rooted in movement, accountability, and showing up — not just for himself, but for each other.

After completing cardiac rehabilitation at Story Medical, Ken was encouraged to continue exercising through what would eventually become the Medically Oriented Gym (MOG). Jackie joined him, and more than two decades later, the Meimanns are still walking through the doors together multiple days a week.

"I never could have imagined 25 years ago that I'd be working out five days a week," Ken says. "That heart attack was a wake-up call. It helped me change habits, stay active, and feel better as I've gotten older."

Today, Ken credits regular movement with allowing him to live fully, from keeping up with his grandkids to taking fishing trips to Canada and handling the physical demands that come with those activities.

"I feel ready for the day after I work out," he says. "And you can tell when you miss it. If you stop, it feels like you're starting over."

Jackie's motivation came from a different place, but led to the same commitment. With a family history of osteoporosis and her own diagnosis of osteopenia, strength training became essential. Over time, she saw proof that movement was working, especially when breaks from exercise caused setbacks.

"It doesn't take long to lose it," Jackie says. "But when you're here, you keep going. You don't want to be the one who sits out."

That accountability is intentional. According to Michael



Melchert, MOG Supervisor, movement is foundational to quality of life, especially as people age.

"Movement makes all aspects of life better," says Melchert, who works cooperatively with A.J. Strottman to serve participants. "It's about being able to pick up a grandchild, go on a hike, or just move through daily life with confidence."

Unlike a traditional gym, the MOG is designed specifically for individuals with medical considerations ranging from heart disease to diabetes, hypertension, joint replacements, and more. Participants are guided through structured workouts that include mobility, resistance training, cardio, and balance, with blood pressure checks before and after each session.

Those daily check-ins matter.

"Blood pressure fluctuates," Melchert says. "Seeing it regularly helps people understand how their lifestyle choices are really impacting their health, not just what shows up at a doctor's visit every six months."

But the benefits extend beyond the physical. For many members, the MOG has become a social anchor. It's truly a place to connect. Jackie describes it as family.

"When someone's gone, you worry. If they're sick, you pray for them," she says. "It's our social life."

For the Meimanns, the shared commitment is key. On days when one doesn't feel like coming, the other provides the push. "I go for him, and he goes for me," Jackie says. "That's how we take care of each other."

More than 20 years after Ken's heart attack, movement remains the constant. And not as a short-term fix, but as a long-term investment.

"It doesn't cost much, but it's probably the best money you can spend," Ken says. "It's an investment in staying active."

To learn more about the Medically Oriented Gym, visit with your primary care provider or give us a call at 515-382-7114. Find us online at storymedical.org/mog.

News & Notes

STORY MEDICAL CLINIC PARTICIPATES IN VCF PROGRAM

Story Medical Clinics in Nevada and Maxwell proudly participate in the Vaccine for Children (VFC) program. Children 18 and younger who are eligible through the program receive a FREE flu vaccine.

Eligible children include those enrolled in Medicaid, those without health insurance, those with health insurance that doesn't cover vaccinations, and/or those who are American Indian or Alaska Native. Those enrolled in the program will be asked to present proof of eligibility before receiving the shot.

For more information or to schedule an appointment 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.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!

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



Meet the new Leadership class

These 11 participants represent 10 local organizations, all of which helped sponsor this class.

Aaron Mohr — Burke Corporation

Alex Deyoe — State Bank & Trust

Amanda Brewer — City of Nevada

Cary Peterson — 21st Century Rehab

Devin Cornish — City of Nevada

Jennifer Luengas-Otto — NEDC

Kourtney Vier — MidStates Companies

Kristian Einsweiler — NCSD

Mason Goffinet — Allen K. Kockler Co.

Stacey Kingsbury — Hertz

Stephanie Marsau — Story County Medical Center

Leadership Nevada has been around since the 1990s. Hundreds of participants have graduated from this local program and thus have learned more about the Nevada community. From city government, to our school district, to business and industry, there is so much to learn, even for those who have lived in Nevada their entire lives! Participants often discover how much collaboration has to happen in our community in order for projects and

programs to be successful. This often inspires them to become more involved.

In addition to learning about the community, participants are also required to volunteer 10 hours of their time and complete a community betterment project. Nevada has seen some great projects completed through this program. The bandshell in front of City Hall and forming the Community Band are two great examples!

We look forward to seeing what the class of 2026 brings to our community. Watch our Facebook page, [Main Street Nevada, IA](#), for updates.

Downtown Market gets a rebrand

Formerly called the Nevada Farmers Market, the "Nevada Downtown Market" is ramping up for a summer full of fresh ideas! For starters, the market will move back to Thursday evenings, from 5:30-8 p.m. Mark your calendars for EVERY OTHER Thursday, from June 4-Oct. 22.

The Downtown Market will also try a new location this year: K Avenue between 6th and 7th Streets. This will allow 6th Street to remain open.

The market committee is now taking applications for vendors. Follow them on Facebook: Downtown Market, or email the market manager at market@mainstreetnevada.org for an application.



This year's market committee is made up of market vendors, downtown business owners, and community volunteers. They are working hard to bring refreshed energy to this bi-weekly event.

Meet our new Finance Director/ Assistant City Administrator

Lucas Battani started Feb. 2 as the City's new Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator.

Battani is a graduate of the University of Iowa, where he majored in political science and received a certificate in entrepreneurship. His first job out of college was for Businessolver in West Des Moines, where he worked on benefits for employers, including public sector employers like school districts, cities, and universities.



Eventually earning an MBA from Iowa in business administration, Battani turned his thoughts to working in the public sector. "I have an uncle who's a city manager in Arizona, who's been a mentor that's encouraged me to pursue this profession," he said, and when Baxter advertised a job for a city clerk, Battani applied and was hired. **(He was not working in Baxter during the time for which the City has recently been under investigation. That all happened before he was hired.)**

After a short time as City Clerk, Battani was named Baxter's City Administrator, and he got more involved working with projects and grants in that role.

"I immediately felt like this (working at the forefront of city administration) was my calling. I no longer dreaded going to work. I was enjoying what I was doing. I had an amazing council (in Baxter) and am so grateful to them for the opportunity," he said.

The move to Nevada feels like the next step in Battani's career path, and he loves what he sees in Nevada, mentioning the great industrial base the community has and the work the City does with the Ames Alliance and

NEDC.

"When there's talk about tax reform in a city that has only residential (and no industry), the changes can greatly affect their budgets. In communities like Nevada with a strong industrial base, finances can stay a little more steady."

Battani plans to spend his first days in Nevada, not only getting to know the people who are part of the City staff and boards/commissions, but also getting a better understanding of where the City is financially. "Jordan (Cook, City Administrator) and I have talked about looking at how we can continue to be more efficient and have a bigger return on our investments for Nevada residents."

Battani said the one thing people need to know about him is his return on investment mentality. "I want to show an efficient operation. When you look at government, it can be difficult to see where the dollars go." He hopes to help people have a better picture of that.

Battani said he also likes to look at the community and think about where it can be 10 or more years from now. "I like to think of the future, and with the subdivisions coming in, the amazing school district ... there's so much potential."

Battani and his wife, Emily, met when they were both students at Urbandale High School (Lucas graduated in 2015). In fact, they both grew up in the Des Moines metro area and currently reside there with their soon-to-be-1-year-old daughter, Norah. Emily is a special education teacher in the Urbandale School District.

A FEW MORE POINTS OF INTEREST ABOUT LUCAS BATTANI:

A graduate of the University of Iowa, yes, he is a Hawk fan, and loves watching Hawkeye football, wrestling, and women's basketball. He also is a Chicago Bears fan and an Indiana Fever fan. His wife attended Iowa State University and is a Cyclone fan. He admits they are definitely a "house divided."

His favorite pastimes: "I love spending time with my family, my parents, and my wife's parents. We love to go to wineries and listen to live music. We also love taking advantage of great trails."

If he has an hour to watch TV: "I'd probably be watching Game of Thrones."

His favorite place visited outside of Iowa: New York City. "I liked the idea that when you're sleeping, there's always something else going on there. It's constantly going!"

His favorite place to visit in Iowa: "I love Iowa City, the campus and the walkability. There's always something going on. I love the memory of getting a breakfast sandwich at a little kiosk in the pedestrian mall and sitting along the river before class."

His favorite comfort meal: "My dad makes really good chicken strips, mashed potatoes and brussels sprouts. He makes the chicken strips really fried and salty. It's good."

A good book he's read in the past year: "The Ideal Team Player" "It goes over three categories you look for in an employee and if they have those three – being humble, smart and hungry" – then you can't go wrong!"

What would your friends say they enjoy most about you? "My sense of humor."

Are you prepared for the potential of a house fire?

In the words of Nevada Fire Chief Ray Reynolds, "Everyone believes fires happen to someone else. No one thinks for a minute a fire will occur in their home."

But if you do experience the tragedy of a fire, it is most likely you'll experience it in your home. And the question is, "Are you prepared?"

Reynolds has seen his share of home fires, and some have caused total destruction. "The reality is that home fires become the biggest life trauma for many people as they watch everything they've worked for go up in smoke." But, he continued, "most people do not think about fires until they have one."

Lacey and Garrett Johnson of Nevada lost their home and a beloved pet cat due to fire, and they are sharing their story in hopes of helping others.

It was April of 2020 when the Covid pandemic was just beginning that the Johnson's home at 905 C Avenue went up in smoke.

It was a Sunday, the first nice sunny day in a while, and the Johnsons were once again working on their total home remodel/renovation. "We'd just finished renovating the main area of the basement, and we had all the windows open to let in fresh air," Lacey recalls. "We had removed all the old wood paneling and put it in a pile under the attached carport to keep it out of the rain while waiting for a construction dumpster to arrive the next day."

They'd also been working on a bathroom that had a metal and glass shower door. "We leaned the glass door against the wood pile, careful not to shatter the glass," Lacey said.

They needed to make a trip to one of the home-supply stores in Ames. "As we got to the back half of the store, my phone rang, showing 'Nevada PD.' I immediately answered. They questioned if anyone was at home or if we had pets in the house."



Garrett and Lacey Johnson sit on the steps of their newly built home at the same location of the home they first purchased. Their pets, a cat, Paisley, who was rescued from the fire, and a dog, Mari, are shown with them.

Lacey told them of two pet cats. She asked if someone had broken in, or was there a fire. She got the answer 'yes,' and a few seconds later a dispatcher came on the line telling her the garage was on fire.

"We rushed to the front of the store and out to the car... Garrett got a call from our neighbor saying it wasn't the detached garage, it was the attached carport. Our entire world seemed to stop at that moment."

Getting back to their neighborhood, they saw their house surrounded by fire trucks and emergency vehicles. They parked as close as they could and ran to the house. "I just collapsed to my knees and screamed," Lacey recalls. "The whole house was black and smoking, firemen were on the roof and inside. It was unreal."

They hadn't lived there long enough to know anyone very well in the neighborhood, but as you'd expect in Nevada, the neighbors gathered and consoled them.



This is what remained of the Johnson's home at 905 C Avenue in 2020 after a fire broke out and caused total destruction, also taking the life of one of their pet cats.



The Johnsons chose to rebuild at the same location as the house that burned. They moved into their new home in February of 2021.

Firefighters/EMS members were trying to resuscitate one cat, Nala, and trying to find the other cat, Paisley. They asked Lacey where the cat might be, and she responded "under furniture, often under the master bedroom bed." They found Paisley and put her on a breathing machine, but soon they carried Nala to her, the cat wrapped in a towel. She didn't make it. "My heart was shattered," Lacey said. "She was my soulmate in animal form — endless love, snuggles, and someone to listen that was taken too soon. She was only 5."

The house was a total loss. Despite the fact it was still sort of standing, everything in it was fire, smoke or water damaged.

Lacey remembers firefighters asking if there was anything sentimental they could try to get out. She had some quilts made by family and her wedding dress that she asked them to gather, and said one of the firemen also noticed and thoughtfully

grabbed a wedding book and some musical instruments.

“Everything had to be thrown away,” Lacey said. Her husband was a collector of video gaming consoles and games. “It was really hard to lose it all,” he said. “Some were saved from childhood, given by family... they just can’t be replaced with the same feeling.”

In the immediate aftermath, the couple stayed with Garrett’s parents in Ames. “We ended up there for two weeks, until getting set up with an apartment through our insurance,” Lacey said.

They needed *everything*. She remembers going to stores and replacing personal hygiene items, buying clothes, getting phone charging cords, and getting a new laptop so she could work remotely again. The laptop, she said, was also very helpful for filling out insurance forms and doing research on what they needed to do.

They were both lucky to have some PTO time to use to have a few days to figure out insurance and map out their next steps.

When it came to insurance, Lacey said the hardest thing was listing all the losses. “The insurance company asked us to list every single thing, down to an ink pen, that we had in the house.” In addition to listing items, she said, she needed to give a quantity of each and list a comparable market item with a dollar value associated to it ... a lot of work.

And one of the hardest things they dealt with in the aftermath was the investigation. “We felt so guilty,” she said, knowing it is thought that the shower door next to the wood caused the fire. “We hadn’t the faintest thought that the shower door would turn into a magnifying glass to set the whole thing ablaze.” It wasn’t anyone’s fault, as the report concluded, but it still sat heavy in their hearts.

The day the recovery company brought a dumpster to the property to clear out the house was also very hard for them. “We did not visit the house again until after it had been demolished down to the foundation,” she said.

They made the decision to rebuild a new home at the same location. “We realized

how important our neighbors were to us and didn’t have any desire to leave Nevada. The community that stepped forward for us really had shown what an incredible town this was, and we wanted to keep roots here for many years.”

“People came to our aid when no one really knew us,” Lacey continued. And one man, she’s not sure who he was, came by the day of the fire as a calm presence, quietly putting his hand on their shoulders and asking if he could pray with them. “In that moment time and sound stopped. The prayer was peaceful and gave us light and hope in a dark moment.” He left them with a \$100 Fareway gift card and disappeared quietly. They’ll never forget his kindness.

They moved into their newly constructed home in February of 2021, but Lacey said it was probably 2024 before they got their lives back to a feeling of “normal.”

If she could offer any advice to others, it would be to create an emergency plan that guides you on where to go and what to do in case of a fire, and have a savings account. Once a year, she said, take pictures of everything in your house — including the things in cupboards and drawers. “Those photos will be much easier to look at if needed than when everything is burned.”

Also, don’t be surprised if your insurance carrier drops you after a fire. It happens after a big claim. But when it comes to insurance, she advises investing in comprehensive insurance that offers open-peril protection for both the structure and personal property, often with replacement cost coverage.

And seek a therapist. “Talking to a licensed therapist is so important to help give you mental health support and guidance, which insurance may help you with.”

The couple both strongly advises everyone to think about all the “things” you buy. Are you buying something that adds value or gives you joy or is it just another thing that you don’t really need? “We see life differently now,” Garrett said. “We spend our free time and money on trips and concerts, making memories ... living life to its fullest just feels different now.”

The Johnsons are always willing to talk to anyone who is going through the same

thing. Reynolds appreciates their willingness to share their story.

“One thing that is not lost on me and has shaped my life is seeing people who experience tragedy,” Reynolds said. “There have been several fires involving fire fatalities where family members literally didn’t know where they were going to get their next meal. I recall a fire in southern Iowa on Thanksgiving several years back. The family in a rural setting lost their 17-year-old son in a house fire, while the rest of the family escaped and were sitting in the ambulance. The father asked me, ‘What do I do?’ I didn’t understand the question. He said, ‘I’ve lost my son, I don’t have a house, I don’t have clothes, I don’t know where my next meal is coming from, I don’t have enough money to bury my son, and I don’t know where to go.’

“I was driving home that day about to spend Thanksgiving with my family. All I could do was think about the tremendous loss that family had on a day that was usually meant to be together. That experience and many like it have helped me work to build a team that cares for people who suffer fires in Nevada. Our Support Operations Team cares for people as the fire is occurring. Our fire department chaplain spends considerable amount of time with people after a fire. We also have a support operations person who helps people pick up the pieces by applying for state assistance until their lives can resume. It is so important to be the example of kindness to people during tragedies.”

If you have a question about planning ahead for a fire or about how you can help others who are going through this, please reach out to the Nevada Fire Department or to the Johnsons.

An Important Note: *Smoke alarms help notify occupants of a fire in the home, so make sure you have smoke alarms in all levels of the home, all bedrooms, and in all hallways. If you are building a new home, consider residential sprinklers. The time to add sprinklers is when a home is being built. While this adds an additional \$1.75 to the per-square-foot cost of a home, most people spend the equivalent in countertops. At the end of the day, early notification makes a difference in keeping an emergency small and manageable.*

Local recognitions at the 2025 Ames Regional Economic Alliance Annual Awards ceremony

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

OAK PARK TRAIL

Since 2007, Nevada residents have demonstrated strong support for quality-of-life investments through a voter-approved capital improvement trail levy. In 2025, the City of Nevada made another high-impact investment by partnering with Oak Park Estates, a new residential subdivision in south Nevada, to support a key trail extension.

This project creates a critical connection between the existing trail system on 8th Street and the north side of Highway 30. Designed with safety and accessibility in mind, the trail follows one of the most unique and scenic routes in Story County.



2025 AMES REGIONAL ECONOMIC ALLIANCE ANNUAL AWARDS



AREA YP 4 UNDER 40

SCOTT HENRY LONGVIEW FARMS

Scott Henry is being recognized not only for his impressive professional accomplishments in the agriculture industry, but for the meaningful economic development leadership and investment he provides throughout the Ames Alliance region. An active investor and Executive Board member of the Nevada Economic Development Council, Scott plays a key role in shaping growth in his hometown of Nevada.

Recognizing the need for diverse housing options, the Henry family launched the NorthView Subdivision, making land available for a multifamily housing development that supports community growth and workforce needs. As the Alliance has grown, Scott has consistently connected economic development teams with key agriculture contacts across the region, strengthening collaboration and opportunity.



2025 AMES REGIONAL ECONOMIC ALLIANCE ANNUAL AWARDS



ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD

LINCOLNWAY ENERGY, LLC.

Lincolnway Energy, located just outside of Nevada, reached a major milestone in 2025 by surpassing 100 million gallons of annual ethanol production, doubling the output the plant was originally designed to produce. This achievement reflects years of ongoing capital investment, technological advancement, and an unwavering focus on efficiency.

Founded in 2004 as a 50-million-gallon-per-year facility, Lincolnway Energy has steadily expanded while supporting hundreds of Iowa farmers and fueling the regional economy. Today, the company stands as a leader in renewable energy production, helping Iowa maintain its position as the nation's top ethanol producer.



2025 AMES REGIONAL ECONOMIC
ALLIANCE ANNUAL AWARDS

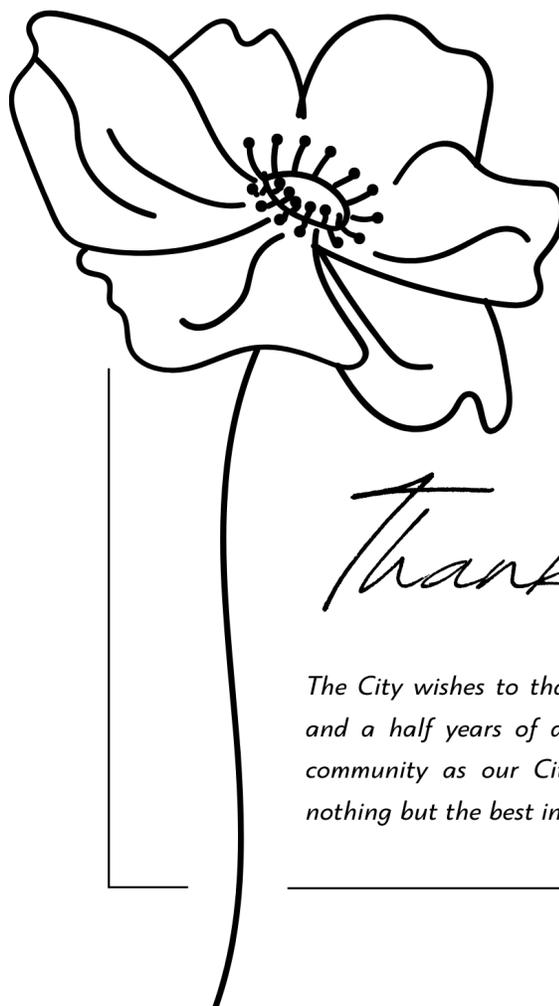


Support the Historical Society

The Nevada Historical Society is dedicated to preserving our community's history and historic properties. Annually, the volunteers of the organization ask for community support to raise the funds needed to support this ongoing work.

If you, your family, your organization, or your business would be interested in contributing to this mission, please find a link to a donation form on the Society's Facebook page: [facebook.com/NevadaIowaHistory](https://www.facebook.com/NevadaIowaHistory).

Along with financial support, the Historical Society also seeks volunteer help with giving tours of properties, hosting events, helping with maintenance of properties, helping with fundraising efforts, gardening, and in any other ways you feel able to contribute.



Thank you!

The City wishes to thank Kerin Wright on 13 and a half years of dedicated service to the community as our City Clerk. We wish you nothing but the best in retirement!

Nevada Public Library News

ADULT PROGRAMS

Monday, March 2, 6 p.m., **Adult Craft Night** (paint by numbers bookmarks), Registration Required (QR code provided)



Thursday, March 5, 8:30 a.m. @ Renn's Cafe, **Coffee, Coloring & Conversation**

Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m., **Grounds for Murder** book club



Monday, March 9, 6 p.m., **Soma Yoga**, Registration Required (QR code provided)

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m., **Books After Dark** book club

Friday, March 20, 10:30 a.m., **Movies at the Library**, theme is "Look, it's Raining"

Monday, March 23, 6:30 p.m., **Grow Like A Pro**, Registration Required — Grow like a Pro will be presented by, Alice McGary and Elena Ingram, from Mustard Seed Community Farm. They will show us how to best start seeds for our outdoor gardens, which seeds to start indoors, and when to start them, as well as which planting soil and pots to use. All materials will be provided for this event. Mustard Seed Community Farm is dedicated to ecological farming and creating a community in which everyone can participate in growing and eat-



ing delicious, healthy, locally produced food. (QR code provided)

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m., **Books on Tap** book club at Lincoln Tap

Thursday, March 26, 10 a.m., **Craft & Chat**

Friday, March 27, Noon, **There Will Be Books** book club

Monday, March 30, 6:30 p.m., **Make your own Rain Barrel**, Registration Required (QR code provided)



CITY EMPLOYEE NEWS

Parks and Rec employees **Zach Anderson** and **Sarah Makovec** have been officially named as Program & Facilities Coordinators for the department. Both will work out of the main Parks and Rec offices in the Nevada Field House.

Local pet owners, take note

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, reach out to Animal Control Officer Nancy Pritchard, at 515-382-4593, or if it concerns our parks and trails, reach out to Nevada Parks and Recreation, 515-382-4352.

New director for NEDC

The new Executive Director of the Nevada Economic Development Council says the most important thing she's learned about economic development is that it is relationship-based.

With that in mind, Jennifer Luengas-Otto, 27, said one of her first goals as she starts her job in Nevada is outreach to local businesses and industries.

"My approach is very human-centered, because projects work or don't work because of how relationships are maintained," Luengas-Otto said.

Born in California, but raised in Storm Lake since the age of 2, Luengas-Otto didn't attend college or plan on a career in economic development after graduating from Storm Lake High School. She actually started out with a job in a bank, after she and her boyfriend, now husband, Jordon, moved to Carroll, where he started his career in autobody. She took a job at Iowa Savings Bank in Carroll doing everything from bookkeeping to teller work.

Eventually, she moved into the bank's real estate department, processing mortgage loans. Then she moved to Availa Bank as a Real Estate Collateral Valuation Specialist, analyzing appraisals and valuations to minimize risk, and be sure they were in line with the policies of the bank.

"I learned a lot. Banking was probably one of the most foundational careers and has really helped me," she said.

Through banking, Luengas-Otto learned the importance of community networking and was able to be involved in community events and the local chamber. She volunteered with Centers Against Abuse and Sexual Assault (CAASA) and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and she also became involved with a leadership team for an entrepreneurial project, which ultimately changed the direction of her career path.

Project Hub 712 participants decided to



apply for a national competitive fellowship called "Economic Recovery Corps," which involves both a host organization and an individual fellow to work on an economic development project focused on economic resilience. After a six-month, competitive grant process, news came in December of 2023 that she had been named a fellow to work with the Carroll County Growth Partnership (which oversaw Project Hub 712).

The three things she was focused on in her new role were to help launch a physical co-working space in Carroll, build and maintain relationships across an eight-county region, and to make sure regional small businesses had more knowledge of the vast number of resources available to them.

"There's a lot out there, but entrepreneurs don't have the time to know all of what's out there, so we were trying to make resources more available to local business people."

Her grant-funded role lasted two-and-a-half years, a period in which she, for the first-time, traveled out of state for meetings, made multiple connections in the field of economic development, and learned so much about the needs and resources for small businesses in west-central Iowa.

"It allowed me to learn a lot about economic development and gave me access to other peers and partnerships across the country and federal partners, as well," she said.

And when the two-and-a-half-year time was coming to an end, Luengas-Otto learned through her connections about a full-time position with the Ames Economic Alliance that landed her where she is today. She and her husband have moved with their two young sons, ages 5 and 3, to Nevada. Her husband is now employed by Don & Sons Autobody in Ames.

Luengas-Otto's role will include not only directing the NEDC, but also working with smaller communities in the area on business attraction, retention, and expansion.

She is already involved in the current class of Leadership Nevada, and after January's first session she said she felt the passion people have for Nevada. "I think there's a great community here. I notice people actively trying to break down silos and move forward with what's best for the community."

As her predecessor in Nevada, Brenda Dryer, transitions from Nevada to working more with Boone and Slater, Luengas-Otto said she hopes to maintain the momentum Dryer started.

"I want to really listen and be very intentional about that as I get to know the community," she said. "I thoroughly believe a community has the answers to its own problems, but it's about how do we leverage it and work together to make good things happen."

When she's not at work, Luengas-Otto said she likes cooking, reading, and trying new restaurants, and she values anything she can do with her family. She wants to be involved in the community and looks forward to visiting and utilizing the Nevada Field House.

Postal Customer

Calendar of Events

HARMONY CLOTHING CLOSET

Every Monday, 4-7 p.m.

1122 6th Street

Provides free clothing. Donations may be dropped off at this time.

NEVADA FOOD AT FIRST

Mondays & Thursdays, 5:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 1036 7th St.

Find out more, set up delivery: <https://nevadafoodatfirst.com>

NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

March 2, 6:30 p.m.

Gates Memorial Hall

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Story County Admin. Bldg.

BINGO

Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.

American Legion Post

Light refreshments available

SENIOR CENTER WOMEN'S COFFEE

Every Wednesday, 9 a.m.

Senior Center, 1231 6th St.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

March 4, 1-6 p.m.

Gates Hall, 825 15th St.

SENIOR CENTER MEN'S COFFEE

March 5 & 19, 9 a.m.

Senior Center, 1231 6th St.

STORY MEDICAL BOARD

March 5, 10 a.m.

Story County Admin. Bldg.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

March 6 & 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Nevada Public Library"

AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY

March 6, 5-7 p.m.

American Legion Post

Alternate choice is baked spaghetti. Adults \$12, Children \$5

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

March 7, 9 a.m.

Renn's Cafe, 1001 6th St.

NEVADA COMMUNITY CUPBOARD OPEN

Every Saturday, 10-11:30 a.m.

1110 11th Street

Provides food for those in need

SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

March 9, 11:30 a.m.

Senior Center, 1231 6th St.

Bring a dish to share. A short program begins around 12:15 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL

March 9 & 23, 6 p.m.

City Hall

PERK BEFORE WORK

March 12, 7:15 a.m.

Renn's Cafe, 1001 6th St.

NCSD SPRING BREAK

March 16-20

AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY

March 20, 5-7 p.m.

American Legion Post
Adults \$12, Children \$5

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FISH FRY

March 27, 5-7 p.m.

American Legion Post
Fish or chicken breast with au gratin potatoes, cole slaw, rolls, dessert and beverage. Adults \$12, Children \$5

EARLY APRIL

AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY

April 3, 5-7 p.m.

American Legion Post
Adults \$12, Children \$5