

Our Nevada

Iowa

December
2025

'Tis the Season

Join the
festivities

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Our Nevada Iowa

The Buzz

December 2025

ANOTHER YEAR REACHES ITS END

As we look back on this year in Nevada and the surrounding area, the sponsoring agencies of this publication celebrate accomplishments.

The City of Nevada saw completion of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant/Facility south of town, along with another expansion of the city's trail system (in and near Oak Park Estates). Several big events were once again successful in our community, including the Nevada Foundation's Pizza Pie Looza, Parks and Rec-hosted Angels in the Outfield (a fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis research), Main Street Nevada's Lincoln Highway Days, and Nevada Community Historical Society's Music at the Mansion.

Main Street Nevada takes pride in the recent completion of a downtown mural on the side of its building, along with completion of a patio behind its building for all to enjoy. It finished wayfinding signage throughout the town, and successfully hosted The Wall That Heals in August, a significant undertaking for our community and many volunteers who gave of their time.

Story Medical began construction on a new MRI suite, welcomed a dedicated mental health provider, Dr. Kennedy LaVille Thoren, to fill the gap regarding mental health services, and doubled its provision of free grab-and-go meals for children in a nearby school district.

The Nevada Schools celebrated three individual state champions in three different sports: Ashlyn Leslie (wrestling), Parker Rodgers (golf), and Connor Kunze (track).

Story County celebrates the completion of 21 miles of continuous pavement on the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail (HOINT), connecting Slater, Huxley, Cambridge, Maxwell and Collins! The County also hired a Housing Stability Case Manager/Liaison to collaborate with service providers in the community to best serve the unhoused or at-risk of becoming unhoused population.

The NEDC saw significant progress in the number of new housing units added in the community. In partnership with the City of Nevada, the NEDC supported construction of 194 market rate rentals, 33 new housing lots, and 21 new homes being built.

ON THE COVER: Main Street Director Emily Schaack captured this photo of last year's beautiful Christmas Tree in the Lincoln-Jefferson Highways Heritage Park in front of City Hall. The trees for three years have been donated by the Josh and Sarah Wirtz family of rural Nevada. Several organizations and businesses have supported putting up, lighting, and taking down the tree, including Main Street Nevada and the City of Nevada.

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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.





LION'S CLUB
BREAKFAST
WITH
SANTA

Enjoy breakfast, Santa and Christmas activities for the kids!

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6
GATES HALL
7:00AM - 11:00AM

Free Will Donation
PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGE, HASHBROWNS

Event Partners:
CITY OF NEVADA
PARKS AND REC
MAIN STREET Nevada

Take photos with our Christmas characters at the Main Street Nevada office during the Hometown Christmas Saturday afternoon!



A HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS SNOW PLACE LIKE HOME

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

5-7 PM - SANTA AT **BRICKTOWN BAKERY**
7 PM - "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" AT **CAMELOT THEATER**
7 PM - HOLIDAY PUB CRAWL BY **BUS GUYS LLC***
STARTS AT **AMERICAN LEGION** *MUST BE 21+ EVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

7- 11 AM - **LIONS CLUB** BREAKFAST W/ SANTA AT GATES HALL
1 PM - COOKIE WALK AT **AMERICAN LEGION**
2-4:30 PM - SANTA AT **CAMELOT THEATER**
2-4 PM - HAY RIDES BY **THE BERRY PATCH**

2-5 PM - BUSINESS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSES
STEP INSIDE LOCAL SHOPS FOR FESTIVE TREATS, SPECIAL SALES, AND HOLIDAY CHEER.

2-4PM - CHRISTMAS TREE WALK AT **SOMETHING BLUE**
FEATURING LIVE MUSIC BY
CHRIS & SANDY CLARK'S BAND "ONE MORE TIME"

2-5PM - LIVE NATIVITY - **7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**

5 PM - TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AT **CITY HALL**
ENJOY FREE HOT COCOA

6 PM - "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" AT **CAMELOT THEATER**
7 PM - SNOW GLOBE POP-UP BAR AT **SPORTS BOWL**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

12-3 PM - MERRY & BRIGHT AT **SHIPLEY SCHOOLHOUSE**
2 - 7 PM - CHRISTMAS AT **THE MILFORD SCHOOLHOUSE**

ATV/ORM/ORV & Snowmobile Registrations due Dec. 31, 2025

The Story County Recorder's Office would like to remind everyone that ATV/ORM/ORV and snowmobile registrations are open until Dec. 31, 2025. 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.

SNOWMOBILING ON TWO COUNTY TRAILS

Story County Conservation has implemented new regulation changes regarding snowmobiling on Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and Praeri Rail Trail. Scan the QR code to view Story County Conservation's full rules and regulations.

Snowmobiling Reminders:

- Snowmobiles are allowed only when there are 4 inches or more of snow
- Speed limit of 35 mph
- No studded tracks
- Snowmobiles must yield to all pedestrians, bicycles, equine, and other traffic
- Snowmobiles must not travel side by side or engage in



drag racing

- No towing unless all the following conditions are met:
 - the tow sled is specifically manufactured for towing behind a snowmobile.
 - the tow sled is attached with a metal bumper hitch and metal sled tongue.

- Snowmobiles must not be operated on trails managed by Story County Conservation between 10:30 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Those who operate snowmobiles on properties managed and approved for snowmobile use by County Conservation assume all liability for any harm or damage caused or incurred by snowmobile activities. Snowmobiles must be operated in conformance with all State Statutes.

Questions? Contact Story County Conservation at 515-232-2516

Upcoming Conservation Programs

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MYCOUNTPARKS.COM

WILD TOTS: NATURE AT NIGHT: Sunday, Dec. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. Conservation Center at McFarland Park. Get outdoors this winter! We'll learn about animals that wake up when the sun goes down! Program includes story, craft, a short hike, and nature activities. Program intended for toddlers (ages 18 months to pre-kindergarten). Register online by Dec. 7.

HOLIDAY CREATIONS: Saturday, Dec. 20, 1-3:30 p.m. Conservation Center at McFarland Park. Oh what fun it is to... create handmade crafts! This workshop includes: Wood burning a tree cookie ornament, pinecone gnome ornament, and a hand-painted welcome board. All skill levels welcome. Enjoy cozy vibes, creative company and hot cocoa. Register online by Dec. 7.

HIDDEN CANDY CANE HIKE: Monday, Dec. 22, 12-4 p.m., McFarland Park. Bring the family out on the trails in search of hidden candy canes. This is a self-guided hike, so come and go as you please. Check yourself in inside and receive a map and instructions. How many candy canes will you find?! Fun for all ages. No registration required.

PUZZLE TUESDAYS: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays starting in December, Conservation Center at McFarland Park. Cozy up with a warm drink and enjoy birdwatching while building jigsaw puzzles. Coffee and hot chocolate are provided. Available on first and third Tuesdays, December thru February. No registration required, come and go as you please.

Story County Iowa Alerts has been upgraded with new features such as severe weather alerts from the National Weather Service! If

you still have a published landline phone, that phone will be automatically registered to receive basic emergency alerts. If you sign up online through QR code here, you can register your whole family in one place and select specific alerts you want to receive.



TO CHECK IOWA ROAD CONDITIONS - CALL 511 OR GO TO 511IA.ORG.

Strong partnership yields strong results

The NEDC continues to partner in community and economic development with the City of Nevada.

We have matched the City's annual contributions to the NEDC with a total of \$399,420 in private donations from in and around Nevada. In addition, we have collected \$68,000 in donations and gifts from individuals and businesses to establish a Legacy Fund to support future long-term strategic and economic development investments in Nevada.

We'd like to highlight some of the partnership successes of the last five years.

BUSINESS RETENTION:

It is a priority to take care of and provide support for existing industry. We have completed a total of 67 official industry visits since July 1, 2020.

BUSINESS EXPANSION:

We have supported and celebrated business expansions at 14 Nevada businesses since 2020: ALMACO, Buckaroos, Burke Corp., Cutting Edge (two projects), Dollar Fresh, Elkhart Properties, Frontline BioEnergy, Lincolnway Energy, Mid States Companies (two projects), M&R Properties, OnTrack Construction, Syngenta, Verbio and WorkIt Enterprises. These businesses represent an estimated \$123.5 million in new capital investment and 238 new jobs.

We've also assisted Main Street Nevada in efforts to attract and retain business in the downtown district. We joined forces with the City and MSN in the small business grant pilot.

HOUSING:

With the City, we conducted a Rural Housing Readiness Assessment through Iowa State University in 2021 and a full Housing Needs Assessment in 2024. Knowing housing of all types was a strong community need, we have partnered with the City on eight housing projects, creating 327 new units of housing in five years' time.

We've also supported the utilization of funds from the Story County Housing Trust Fund to conduct owner occupied

repairs to those who qualify.

VALUATION GROWTH:

The City has seen almost \$100 million growth in total taxable valuation, going from \$289,117,550 in 2019 to \$365,539,747 in 2024.

WORKFORCE:

In 2023 we created a NEDC workforce committee and dedicated a seat on the NEDC Executive Board for this role. We have partnered with the Nevada schools to host business visits and tours, breakfast round tables, mock interviews, and youth leadership programs. We added an available Nevada jobs link on our NEDC website.

EXTERNAL FUNDING SUPPORT:

We've worked with partners, including the City, to attract external funding/grants to support community and economic development in Nevada. During the last five years, we've helped attain \$6,730,242 in State funding support in Nevada.

OTHER:

In addition to \$1,792,001.07 of funding to support the community and community events, we are applying for and/or negotiating at this time on an additional \$557,000 in grants and support for Nevada projects before this year ends and into 2026.



NEVADA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



**CITY OF
NEVADA**



Local groups benefit from gifts

In November, Memorial Lutheran Church in Nevada through its Endowment Fund Grant Awards program, gave \$37,462 to 30 non-profit programs that help with worthwhile causes in our communities and globally. Here we highlight the most local/community organizations among those who received support.

The Jordan Project of Memorial Lutheran received \$750 to empower students and parents in the community to foster a culture of “anti-bullying.” Funds will be used to bring in a speaker on the topic, who will lead a workshop to educate and develop skills to proactively resist bullying behavior.

Anchored Hope of Ames received \$500 to facilitate programming for the group’s Life Skills Workshop series, which helps women who’ve aged out of foster care to develop essential skills, including financial literacy, cooking, job readiness, goal setting, and healthy relationships.

Nevada Community School District received \$900 to purchase supplies for projects completed during the annual Dr. Heather Ludwig Day of Service.

Harmony Clothing Closet in Nevada received \$1,816 to make safety, accessibility, and efficiency improvements, including waste disposal service and vinyl basket trucks.

Friendship Ark of Ames received \$1,400 to install a wheelchair lift in one of their homes.

Foundations Learning Center of Ames received \$500 to use as part of a campaign to develop a facility that is on a CyRide bus route to better serve their target population.

Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 128 in Story County received \$1,400 to help with the expenses of Scouting for kids facing financial difficulties.

Martha’s House of Hope in Ames received \$750 to help fund a full year of the BrightCourse, which offers Christ-centered principles for pregnancy and parenting, empowering women with spiritual support, education, and practical life skills.

Nevada Community Cupboard received \$2,500 to help stock the pantry, particularly during the holiday season.

The Legal Aid Society of Story County received \$1,400 to support legal representation for clients with mental health concerns.

Raising Readers in Story County received \$1,000 to increase volunteer recruitment, training, experience feedback, and volunteer appreciation.

Nevada Food at First received \$850 to be used toward volunteer management software and hardware to streamline communication and more with those who help do the work of Food at First.

YSS Summer Enrichment in Story County received \$1,200 to help at-risk students from surrounding areas who participate in the program that gives students safety, structure, and food when school is not in session.

The RedShirt Foundation in Story County received \$1,000 to help with guest speakers, program materials, guided activities, and more as it works on the mission of mental health and suicide prevention programming.

Nevada Community Schools Student Assistance received \$4,000 to assist families in various ways, including providing emergency support with rent, utilities, property taxes, medical bills, and other essential expenses, as well as programs such as Nevada’s Angel Tree and Thanksgiving meals.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Story County received \$1,500 to be used for the “Kids Cafe,” which provides meals to students at the Nevada Club, located at Memorial Lutheran Church.

The Salvation Army of Ames & Story County received \$1,500 to purchase pantry items, including hygiene items and cleaning items.

Nevada’s Camelot Theater Foundation received \$1,000 for its continued work on the historic theater. These funds will enhance the green room and stairs.

City of Nevada, Iowa

SNOW/ICE EMERGENCIES

What you need to know before the first snowfall happens!



How it works

The City Snow/Ice Emergency is automatically in effect when 1 inch or more of snow and/or ice falls in the city. So you need to:

- Pay attention to the weather forecast
- Have a plan in place for where you will move vehicles to get them off of city streets and out of public parking lots during a snow/ice event of 1 inch or more

Why must I move my vehicle?

During a Snow Emergency, and depending on the timing and amount of snow or ice that will accumulate, our City crews will have plows out to remove snow off of City streets and parking areas. Keeping streets cleared helps everyone in the long run, but if vehicles are left in the way, they impede the process. Also, vehicles that have not been moved get snow pushed around them, making them even harder to move.

When can I move my vehicle back?

Vehicles must be kept off of City roads/alleys/parking areas until 48 hours have passed or ice has ceased to fall and/or accumulation has been removed, treated, or plowed.



When Do Plows Go Out?

It depends on the timing of storm. When it snows at night, plows generally get out by 3 a.m. with a goal of clearing all streets by 7 a.m.



What fine will I face if I don't move vehicle?

If not moved, vehicles can be ticketed, and the fine is \$55 per vehicle.



About fire hydrants!

The Nevada Fire Department appreciates residents clearing the snow around nearby fire hydrants in case of emergency.

Gathering At The Cabin



On the beautiful autumn afternoon of Oct. 15, members of the Child family — a surname cemented in Nevada's history — visited our community to see the log cabin built by their descendants and thought to be the town's third official dwelling.

George and Lavina Child, who built their cabin in 1854 (the year following Nevada's founding), would likely be pleased to see how their great-great-grandson, Frank Child, and members of his family were paying tribute to the past.

Frank, 100 years young, and most of his family, including son, Tom, and daughter, Sarah Heltman, and their own children and grandchildren, made the trip to Nevada, Iowa, on Oct. 15. Sarah said one of her children, daughter Emily, lives in Texas and was back in Iowa visiting, which prompted the family outing.

"It's close to 30 years, 1997, since I've been back here to visit the cabin," Frank said, noting that during that visit, the cabin was in a different location. Nevada Historical Society members Kris Corbin, Jenny Helland, and Dorian Myhre were on hand to share history and answer questions. They shared with Frank and the others that the cabin was, at that time, on property near the fairgrounds, but was moved to its current location at Evergreen Lane when the Nevada Historical Society was gifted the large piece of property in the center of town.

Dorian said it probably wouldn't have been moved, but for the fact that it had been moved several times over the course of history, after being first built on the west side of town at the corner of 4th Street and J Avenue.

Dorian shared that the cabin was

originally a home, later used as a storage building, and then as part of a more modern home that was built around it. "When that home caught fire in 1976, they discovered the cabin was within its shell, and the Nevada Rotary Club took on [restoring it] as a bi-centennial project. It was known as the Rotary Log Cabin for a long time," she said.

The Nevada Historical Society was established due to interest spurred by the bicentennial, and it became an entity to which Rotary could gift the completed log cabin for maintenance as part of Nevada's history.

The Child family learned about all of this, as well as other information the Historical Society has compiled on the community's earliest Child settlers.

George Child was born in Bath, NH,



Frank Child, 100, the great-great-grandson of two of Nevada's earliest settlers, George and Lavina Child, traveled to Nevada in October with his son, daughter, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to visit the historic cabin, originally built by his ancestors.

in December 1832. He met Lavina Hall in Galena. The two came to Nevada, Iowa, in 1854, where they had 11 children, with only seven of them living long enough to outlive their father.

George served as the Sheriff of Story County for seven years and resigned to join the Union forces in the Civil War in 1862. He was chosen First Lieutenant of the 32nd Iowa Infantry. He served under another well-known Nevada man, Col. John Scott. He was honorably discharged in 1865, and he became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Nevada Lodge No. 99 of Masons.

George had several endeavors. He owned a dry goods business but was

chiefly a drayman, someone who used horses to deliver goods, even things like water to fires, Dorian explained.

Dorian also shared, "George would brag that he had the best and fastest horses in town. JC Lovell took him on, and said, 'No,' that he did. So, they put up a parcel of land on a bet and raced the horses. Well, George lost, and lost the plot of land."

That ending brought some sad sighs from the Child family as they listened.

But Dorian wasn't quite finished. "Then George ended up buying Lovell's horse, and then he had the fastest horse in town," she said. That got some smiles and even

a few chuckles. Frank's great-grandson, Oliver, one of several great-grandchildren who came to Nevada to see the cabin, shared how impressed he was that George finally got the fastest horse in town.

Frank's great-grandchildren also noted how small the inside of the cabin was and found the mechanics of the bed to be interesting. They were also intrigued by the idea that the log cabin had been a "house within a house," as was discovered after the fire.

Frank's son, Tom, shared that his grandfather, Frank Child Sr., completed his education in the eighth grade while living with his uncle, Bert, in Nevada. Frank Sr. moved to Des Moines and purchased the Des Moines Rubber Stamp Works in 1919, a company founded in 1880 and listed as the 20th oldest in Des Moines. It is now owned by Tom's son, Mark, the fourth-generation owner in the family.

Frank Sr., Tom shared, had many wonderful memories of Nevada, Iowa, many of them shared in an autobiography he wrote for his family, "Memories of a Happy Life."

The family didn't stop at the cemetery on this year's trip, but has visited George's gravesite there on previous trips. "I have his journal he wrote while fighting in the Civil War," Tom said, and "my dad has his sword."

Tom was thankful for the photos and story being written for Our Nevada. "Your attention to our story," he said, "reminds me of how remarkable Nevada, Iowa is."

—Written by Marlys Barker

Senior Center is a nice place to spend time and make friends

The Nevada Senior Center has something going on most every day of the week for the area's senior population. If you're 50+, retired or not, currently active seniors at the center would love to see new faces for any of the activities they put on.

The Nevada Senior Center, completed in 2011, is located at 1231 6th St., and shares a parking lot with City Hall.

The most popular monthly activity at the Center is the potluck, held the second Monday of every month, beginning at 11:30 a.m. To participate, just bring a dish to share by 11:30. A short program of interest takes place around 12-12:15, but most of the event is dedicated to enjoying good food and visiting.

Week to week, you will find the following activities usually held (with the exception of holidays or unplanned problems):

Mondays: Along with the potluck, Mondays are set aside for Senior Center Board meetings on the first Mondays, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Anyone with a matter of concern, a comment, or a new idea, is welcome to attend.

Current members of the Senior Center Board are: Sherri Sorem (chair), Teresa Haaland (vice chair), Jan Kitchen (treasurer), Ray Jones (secretary), Becky Jones, Linda Mjelde, and Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch. Due to recent action by the Nevada City Council, this board, made up of volunteers appointed by the

active Senior Center members, is the Center's only recognized board. What used to be a separate City-appointed board has been dissolved to simplify management of the Center.

On the last Monday of each month, Senior Center volunteers meet around 9 a.m. and stuff the water bills to be mailed for the City. "We usually have around 20 people, both men and women helping," Kitchen said. Snacks are provided for the helpers and work is usually completed by 10:30 a.m. For this work, the Center receives \$225 a month from the City. In turn, the Center pays rental of \$125 a month to the City.

The \$100 revenue each month helps pay for the Center's supplies and/or saved for other activities/needs.

Tuesdays: The Center is open in the mornings for chair yoga, a popular activity led by Nevada resident Peggy Bruns during the months that school is in session. Those taking part can come at 8:30 or 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays: The Center is open in the morning for the very popular and long-time Women's Coffee gathering. Usually there's a breakfast treat to go with the coffee and visiting.

On Wednesday (and Friday) afternoons, cards are played at the Center, starting at 1 p.m. The most popular games are Hand and Foot, Canasta, and 500, but as Sherri Sorem shares, "It just depends on who's playing."

Verla Fitzgerald said playing cards is her favorite activity of the week at the Center.

Thursdays: What used to be a day with no scheduled events is now the day for a new (or resumed from the past) activity, Men's Coffee, starting at 9 a.m. Like the ladies, it is a time for men to gather, converse, and enjoy coffee and a breakfast treat.

Fridays: Just like Wednesdays, card games begin at 1 p.m.

Nevada's seniors are proud of the Senior Center. Last year, Sorem and Kitchen shared, the facility received a paint refresh throughout, new curtains and a new door. Upgrades were covered by memorials left to the Center or the City.

Sorem and Kitchen believe the Senior Center not only benefits Nevada's senior population, but also benefits the community at-large, as it is rented many weekends and holidays for special gatherings. Graduation season is probably the busiest time for the Center to be rented.

"It's a nice place to be," said Ray Jones, who became active at the Senior Center last year and now serves on the board with his wife. "You meet a lot of different people, and they all tell stories." Jones said the stories are interesting to him because his wife was born and raised in Nevada.



Chair Yoga, led by Peggy Bruns, is a popular Tuesday activity at the Senior Center.

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Thursday, December 25, 2025

Thursday, January 1, 2026

Nevada Library News

ADULT ACTIVITIES

Coffee, Coloring, and Conversation

When: Thursday, Dec. 11, 10-11 a.m.

Where: Renn's Cafe

Join Assistant Library Director Danielle for an hour of coffee, coloring, and conversation. This is a "come-and-go-as-you-please" event.



gifts and a roll or two of wrapping paper to share, and we will provide the space, snacks, and music. This is a "come-and-go-style" event.

Holiday White Elephant Bingo

When: Monday, Dec. 29, 6-7 p.m.

Where: Library meeting room

Please bring a gently-used item wrapped or in a gift bag. No food items.

Movies at the library

When: Friday, Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m. start time

Where: Library meeting room

Enjoy popcorn, donuts and a holiday movie. We will be watching National Lampoon's "Christmas Vacation."

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS PARTICIPATION

The Nevada Public Library will participate in the Hometown Christmas activities by doing DIY ornaments at the library from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Holiday Wrapping Party

When: Monday, December 22, 5:00-7:30 pm.

Where: Library meeting room

Needing a space to wrap gifts for the holidays with no little eyes peeking in? Join us for an adult-only wrapping party. Bring your

CANCELLATIONS

Craft and Chat is cancelled for Dec. 18

Children's programming is cancelled the weeks of Dec. 22 and Dec. 29. This includes no Toddler Time, no Teen Lounge, no TALES, and no STEAM Lab for those two weeks.



Nevada High School students, Luke Hassel and Dane Spykerman compete in a Rock, Paper, Scissors contest, while another attendee cheers them on.

High School Students Attend Heart of Iowa Leadership Workshop with Kelly Barnes



Kelly Barnes, national speaker and leadership trainer, shares a leadership message with high school students from the Heart of Iowa Conference.

A select group of student leaders from Nevada High School, along with students from other conference schools, recently attended the Heart of Iowa Conference Leadership Workshop featuring nationally recognized speaker and leadership trainer Kelly Barnes. This annual event rotates to different schools, and this year, Nevada hosted it at the Nevada Field House. The workshop is designed to bring emerging student leaders together from across the conference to learn new skills, build supportive connections, and strengthen their overall leadership mindset.

Barnes is known for his energetic storytelling and powerful, relatable message. Throughout the day, he challenged students to think deeply about their future and the kind of leaders they hope to become, both during high school and in the years beyond graduation. He encouraged attendees to reflect on how their daily decisions shape long-term success and highlighted three key factors that influence who a person will be 20 years from now: 1) their habits and inputs such as the music they listen to, 2) the books they read, and 3) the media they consume, as well as the people they choose to surround themselves with.

Drawing on his own experiences as an elected leader in the Oklahoma FFA and at Oklahoma State University, Barnes shared how intentional choices and small daily actions can have significant impact over time. His presentation blended humor, personal stories, and practical life lessons that kept students engaged and motivated throughout the workshop. Students also expressed appreciation for how he broke down leadership growth into simple, relatable steps that apply in school, on teams, activities, and within organizations, and at home.

Nevada junior, Olivia Clausen, took away some integral leadership qualities. She learned, "In leadership, you have to be, to get. You must embody integrity, vision, and service before you can earn respect or get results. But, once you have done that, you get to be the kind of leader who inspires others to do the same."

In addition to the keynote, student representatives from across the Heart of Iowa Conference participated in a series of interactive breakout sessions that focused on leadership, teamwork, communication, and character development. These sessions allowed students to collaborate, reflect, and exchange ideas with peers from surrounding communities. Many of the activities challenged students to look at leadership not just as a title, but as a daily set of behaviors that influence culture, build trust, and create opportunities for others.



Isla Martin, junior, and her partner participate in a leadership activity at the Heart of Iowa Leadership Conference.

"Getting to be a part of the leadership conference was very eye-opening in how leadership can come from many different people, but yet everybody is able to add value to the group. It was amazing to see everyone come together," stated junior Isla Martin.

The Leadership Workshop provided a valuable opportunity for students to make new connections, gain meaningful perspectives, and return home eager to apply their learning in their schools, classrooms, and activities. Nevada High School leaders came back from the event energized and ready to continue growing as leaders who positively shape the Cub community.



Olivia Clausen, junior, completes an activity with her leadership partner from another HOIAC school district.

Nevada After Prom Fundraisers: Supporting Safe & Fun Traditions for Our Students

The Nevada After Prom Committee is excited to kick off this year's fundraising efforts, and we're asking our community to join us in helping create a safe, substance-free, memorable prom night experience for our Nevada High School students!

We have simple ways the community can support our 2026 After Prom right now:

Donate Your Cans & Bottles at the Nevada Redemption Center

If you're already dropping off your cans and bottles, turn them into After Prom support!

Just take your redeemable cans and bottles to the Nevada Redemption Center and let them know you'd like the funds placed into the Nevada After Prom account.

This is an easy, ongoing fundraiser and every 5 cents donated adds up fast.

Small change = big impact for our students.

Monetary Donations

If you'd simply like to make a financial contribution, monetary donations are always appreciated and can be given directly to the Nevada After Prom Committee.

Dueling Pianos Night: January 31, 2026

We are thrilled to announce our main fundraiser event, which is a high-energy night of entertainment featuring Dueling Pianos!

2026 Nevada After Prom
@NevadaAP26

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, January 31, 2026

Time: 7-10 p.m.

Location: Willow Brook Barn, Colo, Iowa

Tickets: \$40 each

Purchase: Venmo – @NevadaAP26



This event will be an upbeat, interactive night of music, comedy, and requests, which is perfect for a friends' night out, date night, or staff gathering. Seating is limited so grab your tickets early!



FLU SEASON

Breathe Easy this Cold & Flu Season

Your Quick Guide to Navigating Common Respiratory Viruses

Scratchy throats, stuffy noses, lingering coughs—every fall and winter, viruses like RSV, influenza, COVID-19, and the common cold jockey for attention in classrooms, workplaces, and living rooms. Knowing which symptoms matter, how (and when) to vaccinate, and when it's time to see a clinician can spare you unnecessary worry and potentially serious complications.

"Think of respiratory health like layers of winter clothing," says Dr. Audra Poterucha, family physician at Story Medical Clinic— Nevada. "Vaccines form the thermal base layer, healthy habits add insulation, and timely medical care is the waterproof shell that keeps danger out."

The Cheat Sheet: Cold vs. Flu vs. COVID vs. RSV

Here's a quick guide to help distinguish among common respiratory illnesses:

- **Common Cold:** Symptoms come on gradually. Fever is rare or low-grade, body aches are mild, and coughs tend to be light and hacking. Loss of taste or smell is uncommon. Seek care if symptoms last longer than 10 days.
- **Influenza (Flu):** Symptoms start suddenly, often within 24 hours, and typically include high fever (100–104°F), intense body aches, and a dry, persistent cough. Watch for red flags such as chest pain or shortness of breath.
- **COVID-19:** Onset can vary (2–14 days). Fever may be mild or absent, but loss of taste or smell can be sudden and complete. Coughs can be dry or productive. Seek care if oxygen saturation drops below 94% or confusion occurs.

- **RSV (Adults):** Symptoms usually develop gradually. Fever and body aches are mild, and coughs may sound wheezy. Rapid breathing or cyanosis (bluish skin tint) are warning signs requiring medical attention.

"If symptoms don't match the cheat sheet—or escalate quickly—call your primary care provider," Dr. Poterucha says. "Early intervention can shorten illness and prevent hospitalization."

Vaccine Timing and Boosters

- **Flu shot:** Best taken in the fall to allow time for immunity to build prior to the peak of flu season.
- **COVID-19:** Available now.
- **RSV:** Adults 60+ and pregnant women at 32–36 weeks benefit most; discuss timing with your doctor.
- **Pediatric combinations:** Ask about flu/COVID dual appointments to reduce the number of needle sticks.

"Vaccines are like training drills for your immune system," Dr. Poterucha says. "They won't guarantee you never get sick, but they make the illness milder, keeping you off the sidelines and out of the hospital."

Home-Care Playbook

- **Rest and hydrate:** Aim for 7–9 hours of sleep and drink 8–10 glasses of water or electrolyte fluids daily.
- **Fever control:** Acetaminophen or ibuprofen can ease aches; follow dosing instructions by weight or age.
- **Zinc lozenges:** May shorten a cold's duration if started within 24 hours of symptom onset.
- **Stay home:** You're most contagious in the first 48–72 hours—mask or isolate to protect others.

When to Seek Care—Don't Delay

Call your provider right away for:

- Fever greater than 103°F or lasting more than three days.
- Shortness of breath, chest tightness, or oxygen saturation below 94%.
- Confusion, persistent vomiting, or signs of dehydration.
- Infants showing flared nostrils, grunting, or fewer than six wet diapers per day.

"Never worry about 'bothering' us," says Dr. Poterucha. "We'd rather reassure you early than treat complications later."

Bottom Line

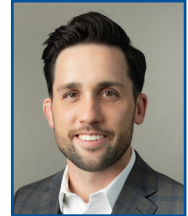
Layer up your defenses: get vaccinated, recognize warning signs, practice considerate hygiene, and keep your care team on speed dial. A little preparation now means healthier holidays ahead.

Need a vaccine or same-day appointment? Call Story Medical Clinic—Nevada at 515-382-5413 or visit storymedical.org/appointments.

News & Notes

OVERBEY JOINS STORY MEDICAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Story Medical recently welcomed Keegan Overbey, ARNP, as the newest provider in the Emergency Department. Overbey joined the team full-time this fall after serving in a part-time capacity since 2023.



A nurse practitioner since 2018, Overbey brings experience in both intensive care and emergency medicine, having spent four years in the Surgical Neuro ICU at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics before transitioning to emergency care with UnityPoint Health in Des Moines.

"I've always enjoyed working through what's really going on with a patient," Overbey says. "Emergency medicine challenges you to think quickly and act decisively—sometimes one intervention can change the whole trajectory."

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 apply 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!

Calendar of Events

NEVADA COMMUNITY CUPBOARD OPEN

Every Saturday, 10-11:30 a.m.
1110 11th Street
Provides food for those in need

AMERICAN LEGION BINGO

Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
American Legion Post
Doors open at 6 p.m. \$5 plays all games. Snacks available. Dec. 30 is White Elephant BINGO; bring a wrapped gift!

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>*

HARMONY CLOTHING CLOSET

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

SENIOR CENTER WOMEN'S COFFEE

Every Wednesday, 9 a.m.
Senior Center, 1231 6th St.

NCSD SCHOOL BOARD

Dec. 1 & 15, 6:30 p.m.
Gates Memorial Hall

SENIOR CENTER MEN'S COFFEE

December 4 & 18, 9 a.m.
Senior Center, 1231 6th St.

STORY MEDICAL SENIOR CARE BOARD & TRUSTEES

Dec. 4, 11 a.m.
Story Medical Center
Hospital Board follows Senior Care Board

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

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

CAMELOT MOVIE

Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
Dec. 7, 2 p.m.
Dec. 11, 2 p.m.
Showing "It's a Wonderful Life"

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

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

LIONS CLUB BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Dec. 6, 7-11 a.m.
Gates Hall

A HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS

Dec. 6, 1-5 p.m.
Main Street District
1 p.m. - Cookie Walk at Legion
5 p.m. - Tree lighting in front of City Hall

CHRISTMAS AT THE CAMELOT

Dec. 6, 1-5 p.m.
11 a.m.-5 p.m., Christmas cartoons & animated classics
11 a.m.-5 p.m., Santa Store open
2-4:30 p.m., Photos with Santa
6 p.m., "It's a Wonderful Life" movie

SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

Dec. 8, 11:30 a.m.
Senior Center, 1231 6th St.
Bring a dish to share. A short program will begin around 12:15 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL

Dec. 8, 6 p.m.
City Hall

AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY

Dec. 12, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Alternate choice is beef stew. Adults \$12, Children \$5

CAMELOT SHOW

Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
Brad & Kate (Live Show)

CAMELOT MOVIE

Dec. 14, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Showing "The Polar Express"

CAMELOT MOVIE

Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
Dec. 20, 7 p.m.
Dec. 21, 2 p.m.
Showing "Elf"

CAMELOT MOVIE

Dec. 26, 7 p.m.
Dec. 27, 7 p.m.
Dec. 28, 2 p.m.
Showing "Love Actually"