

Our Nevada

Iowa

July 2026

RAGBRAI RETURNS

NEVADA PLANS
FOR RETURN
OF THE BIG RIDE
PAGE 4

Electronic 'Rides' & Safety
PAGES 6-7

Historic Hotel Update
PAGES 10-11

Meet Your Current School Board
PAGES 14-15

Our Nevada Iowa

The Buzz

THERE'S NOTHING BORING ABOUT LIVING IN NEVADA, IOWA

Sometimes we don't appreciate what we have in the community where we live. We think the grass is always greener on the other side.

But if anything can convince you that Nevada, Iowa is a great place to live, we believe it's the month of July! From the 4th of July celebration to the excitement of RAGBRAI coming through town, this month has so much going on that it's hard for anyone to plan to get away, because honestly, why would you want to be out of town and miss all the fun!?

We covered the full package of 4th of July activities in our June issue, but if you're looking to refresh yourself on the plans, go to the Our Nevada Facebook page where we posted a full rundown!

July also features not two, but three Downtown Markets (see page 16) for residents to enjoy, and remember that the Markets are being held in conjunction with live music socials outside of Bricktown Popcorn and Bakery on Sixth Street. Start at the Market, finish at Bricktown!

July 15-19 Nevada hosts the annual Story County Fair at the fairgrounds on the west side of town. For those who aren't familiar with our county fair, it caters to the youth. Lots of livestock shows and displays, free admission to the grounds, and great food from vendors, including the long-standing tradition of the Methodist Church Stand. This year the fair will offer free live music on Friday and Saturday evenings, from Jordan Beem and Casey Meussigman! The fair is also honoring "America 250" this year!

Throughout the month, there are several shows and movies planned at the Camelot Theater, which is a great place to get out of the heat and cool down with entertainment!

Then we get to the biggest event of all — the day RAGBRAI comes through Nevada with thousands of riders. Wednesday, July 22, is a day that will be worth hanging out in the downtown area or sitting along the Lincoln Highway to welcome and visit with people from all over the state, nation and world. Nevada's RAGBRAI committee has come up with wonderful Vegas-themed activities for the day, and as the committee has said, they want "what happens in Nevada to LEAVE Nevada," so everyone will know what a great place our community is.

Be sure you appreciate what we have in Nevada, Iowa, and take part in the fun this July!

ON THE COVER: This photo was taken by Marlys Barker in July of 2018 when RAGBRAI riders last passed through Nevada, Iowa.

Contents

JULY 2026 IN THIS ISSUE

RAGBRAI in Nevada.....	3-4
City Finances.....	5
E-rides Feature.....	6-7
City News.....	8
Story County News	9
Historic Hotel Feature	10-11
Story Medical Ready for RAGBRAI....	12-13
School Board Feature.....	14-15
July Calendar.....	16

CONTACT US

Email us at
communitynewsletter@nevadacubs.org or
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.



Nevada ready to give a Vegas-style RAGBRAI welcome

When RAGBRAI 53 comes through Nevada on Wednesday, July 22, visitors and residents alike are in for a VEGAS-style celebration.

Mayor Ryan Condon is excited to welcome thousands of riders to our community and showcase Nevada's great people. "There's honestly so much to look forward to, from the street performers, to the bands, to the belly dancers ... no one will want to miss the fun. I hope many of our local residents come out to greet the riders and enjoy the day with us."

Condon is one of several City leaders to serve on a committee, put together by Main Street Nevada, to organize for Nevada being a "meeting town" during RAGBRAI's July 22 ride from Boone to Marshalltown.

Main Street Nevada Executive Director Courtney Sisson says four blocks of the Main Street District will be closed to regular traffic on July 22, as the downtown area will host many vendors and special activities.

"We expect the bulk of riders to be in town from 10:30 a.m. until about 2:30 p.m.," she said. But she noted that residents should expect the downtown area to be closed most of the day, starting at 6 a.m.

"We are going to have great food, lots of live music, a deejay, and live art," Sisson said. She and the Mayor also shared that in true Vegas style, they're looking forward to a chapel in the downtown area where anyone can renew or exchange vows during RAGBRAI's ride through Nevada. "Start planning now and get your marriage license," Sisson said.

RAGBRAI riders will also be treated to an Eiffel Tower replica, built by the Nevada High School Drama Club. Condon said the 10-15-foot-tall structure will have a hose running up through it and sprinkle water out of the top. It will be located at the corner of Lincolnway and Sixth Street.

The Camelot Theater Foundation will use the opportunity to continue raising funds for ongoing renovations at the historic theater. Drinks and concessions, including walking tacos, will be sold with an extended beer garden in front of the theater. They are getting help from the Rotary Club on this fundraiser.

Along the Lincoln Highway, which will take riders through

town as they come in from the north on S-14, the Nevada Firefighters will have the fire station open to serve as a "cooling center" with shade and water to refill water bottles. The cooling center will also include a porta-tank plunge for riders who want to really cool down!

"We will be giving away frozen 'Uncrustables' (peanut butter and jelly sandwiches), and we'll have a deejay, some characters for photo ops, along with backgrounds of the giant flag and fire engines both old and new," said Fire Chief Ray Reynolds.

Most importantly, Reynolds said, the firefighters will greet and assist riders, all while crews and teams are set up to respond to any emergencies on the event route or within the fire district. "It takes a highly coordinated effort, but we're ready for it," Reynolds said.

It was 2018 when RAGBRAI last came through Nevada, and many Nevada residents remember the day well.

"We had a blast," said Evie Pederson, owner of Gatherings. "We served Bloody Mary's with a fill your skewer bar, and it was fabulous."

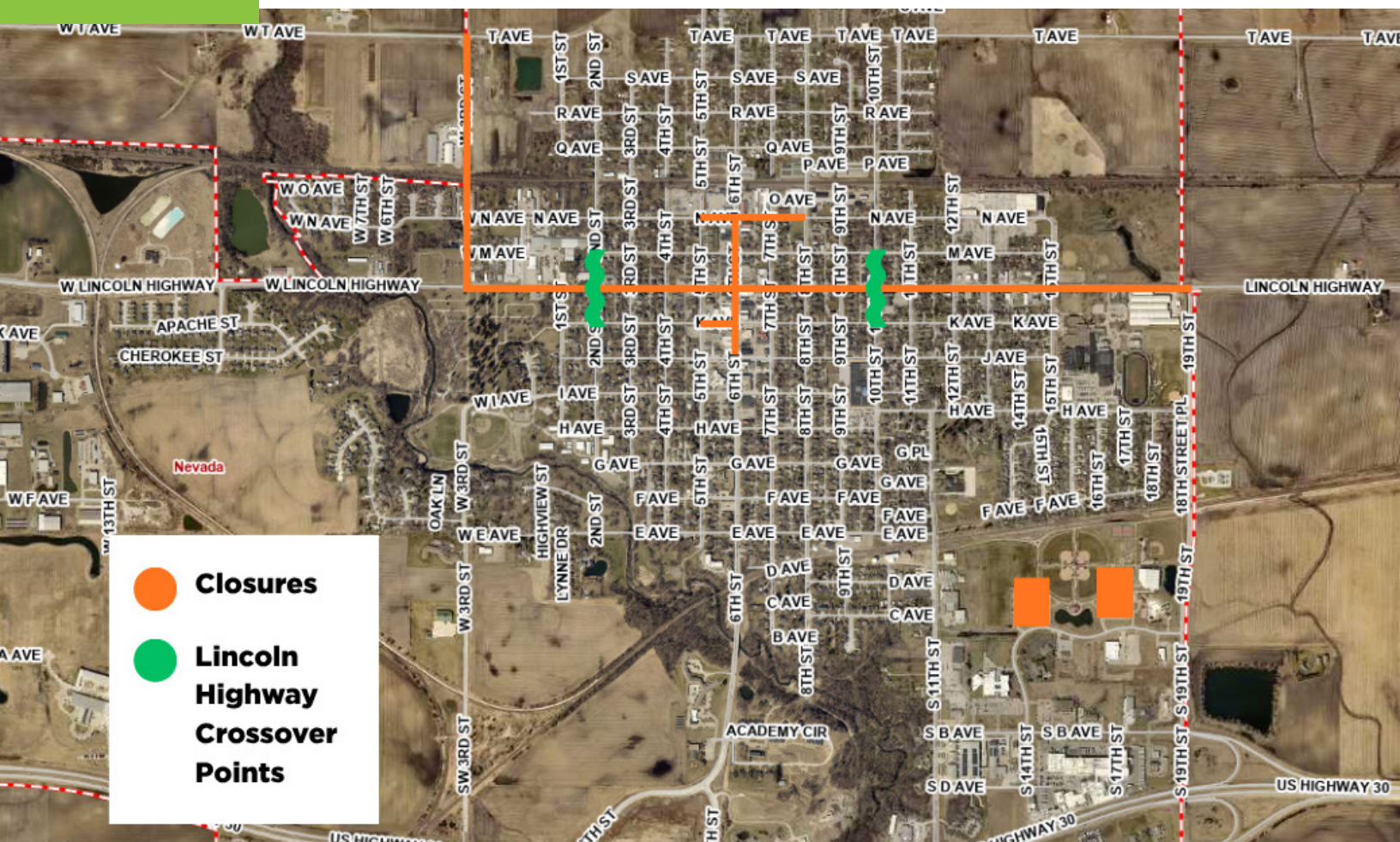
Having experienced it once, Pederson said her staff will be even more ready this time for the rush. "We are kind of all adrenaline junkies and this is our jam! We had a great experience last time with the people. We felt respected and appreciated."

Sara Clausen, director of Communications and Member Relations for KEY Cooperative, was volunteering with the Rotary Club the last time RAGBRAI came through Nevada. "I participated by handing out stickers. Who would have thought riders would be so excited to receive a little sticker?" But they wanted them, she noted.

"Serving as a pass-through community," Clausen said, "is so impactful for both the riders and the citizens and businesses of Nevada. We get to show off all the great features we love about our town, and our businesses and organizations have the opportunity to generate some added income while having a lot of fun!"

To find out more about RAGBRAI in Nevada, visit the RAGBRAI Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/RAGBRAINevada>.





HOW TO NAVIGATE NEVADA DURING THE DAY OF RAGBRAI

On July 22, RAGBRAI will enter Nevada from the north on S-14/West 3rd Street coming to Lincoln Highway, where riders will head east on Lincoln Highway all the way through town, enroute to Colo.

Prior to going under the railroad bridge over S-14/West 3rd Street, the northbound lane of S-14 will be closed, and bike riders will be shifted into that northbound (east) lane of the highway. The southbound (west) lane of the highway will be utilized for traffic needing to come in and out of the Knoll Ridge area.

Volunteers will be working to help direct Knollridge traffic, as it will be only one

lane to go in and out of that neighborhood for much of the day.

How to get from north to south and south to north in Nevada on July 22:

The City will have volunteers at 2nd Street and 10th Street who will help vehicles get across the Lincoln Highway.

During the earlier hours of the day, the preferred and possibly quicker crossing will be 10th Street (prior to noon). During the later hours (after noon), the preferred and possibly quicker crossing will be 2nd Street. But both crossings will be manned throughout the busiest time of the day (approximately 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)

Other Notes:

- We expect increased traffic on 19th Street and South G Avenue as support vehicles come into town from about 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. to park at SCORE and as they depart from town in the afternoon. The high school parking lots may also be used for support vehicle overflow.
- With so many road closures, and limited barricades, vehicles may be parked across some streets to help indicate the closures.
- Watch the City of Nevada, IA and Nevada Iowa Police pages on Facebook for updates throughout the day!

July 22 Street/Parking Closures:

S-14/West 3rd Street from Lincoln Highway to T Avenue

Lincoln Highway from S-14 to 19th Street (all the way through town)

Sixth Street from the north side of J Avenue to N Avenue (will close by 6 a.m. for vendors to set up)

K Avenue from 5th to 6th Street

Both parking lots at SCORE (where RAGBRAI support vehicles will park)

N Avenue from 5th to 8th Street (due to City Construction Project)



Where Your City Dollars Come From

How city money is sorted, spent, and stewarded

A city budget isn't one big checking account. By state law, your tax dollars arrive sorted into separate funds — “buckets” — each with its own rules about what it can pay for. Understanding the buckets is the key to understanding nearly everything else about how your City operates.

The Buckets

FUND	WHERE IT COMES FROM	WHAT IT PAYS FOR
General Fund	Property tax + local fees	Police, fire, parks, library, recreation, city operations
Road Use Tax**	State fuel & road use taxes	Streets and roads only
Debt Service	Separate debt levy	Bond payments (e.g., street reconstruction)
Utilities	User fees — not taxes	Water & sewer systems (self-supporting)
Capital Projects	Grants, bonds, donations	Large one-time projects

**Each fund has a dedicated purpose. Road Use Tax covers ongoing street maintenance, but the annual state allocation alone can never fund full reconstruction, which requires bonding. The City bonds for major street work roughly every three years, at amounts carefully sized to avoid dramatic increases in the debt levy and your property tax bill. Rebuilding every street at once would require *far* more borrowing, *dramatically* raising taxes while pulling General Fund dollars away from police, fire, parks, and the library.

Your home's value exploded. Your City tax didn't.

Story County — not the City — assesses your home's **market value**. Iowa's residential rollback then limits how much of that assessed value is actually taxed. For FY27, the rollback is 44.5345%, less than half. That's why the City portion of your property tax stays nearly flat even as home values climb.

	Assessed value	City tax paid
Jan. 2021	\$140,500	\$1,111
Jan. 2025	\$175,400	\$1,139

Assessed value up about 25%. City tax revenue is up about 2.5%.

Strong financial position.

AA– Bond Rating*
S&P Global Feb. 2026

116%
cash reserves (policy floor: 35%)

Every \$1 of city property tax is linked to ~\$96 in local value (Iowa League of Cities, Jan. 2026)

*Nevada has held an AA– bond rating for years — per our bonding consultant, the highest achievable for a city of our size.

What your ~\$94.93 per month buys:

Based on Nevada's median assessed home (\$175,400) at the FY27 levy rate of \$14.58276 per \$1,000 taxable value.

\$35.50
Police, Fire, EMS

\$36.45
Parks, Rec, Library

\$16.34
City operations

\$2.85
Community & econ. dev.

\$3.80
Capital projects

City of Nevada

1209 6th St, Nevada, IA 50201 · (515) 382-5466 · cityofnevadaiaowa.org

Published in Our Nevada July 2026 Edition



Image generated by ChatGPT

The changing 'rides' landscape

FROM OUR POLICE CHIEF ON WHAT THE STATE OF IOWA SAYS:

Iowa's definitions for motor vehicle laws are in chapter 321.1.

The term "bicycle" also refers to "low-speed electric bicycle." Thus, low-speed electric bicycles are considered the same as bicycles.

Scooters are commonly being defined by cities as "micro-mobility devices." This is because scooters share characteristics of both the bicycle and the electric personal assistive mobility device, but do not truly fit either category.

Speeds of the electric assisted devices are getting attention at the state level. The low-speed electric bicycles have three stages, and stage 3 can exceed 25 mph. This has drawn attention about where these bicycles operate; however, as of this time there has not been a State requirement different from bicycles.

Electric motorcycles (E-motos) also have high rates of speed. These are covered under the moped definition, and moped law requires a license, registration, insurance, and safety equipment.

In May, the Nevada City Council heard concerns from a resident about motorized scooters. Her fear was that a serious accident could occur and a young person could get seriously hurt due to the speed of travel and unpredictable path of travel that this resident had witnessed of some youth on these devices.

Nevada Public Safety leaders acknowledge that motorized scooters and electronic bicycles have added new safety challenges for the community as these devices become more popular.

"I attended a presentation in Texas, and they are showing a 200 percent serious injury increase (from youth riding electronic devices)," said Fire Chief Ray Reynolds.

For those who haven't seen them or experienced them, Police Chief Chris Brandes explains that electronic scooters and bikes are not manually powered by the rider. "Instead, they are powered by an electronic motor and a lithium battery. (See more about lithium battery/fire concerns on these pages.) They are throttle-controlled and would typically travel faster than a foot-powered device. The increase in speed on smaller wheels of a scooter present a control concern. In addition, kids can ride them wherever a bicycle goes, and because of a smaller youth's size, this often reduces visibility of the rider."

Why are these motorized devices so popular? Reynolds said they have created a new youth status/culture. "Kids might say, 'Do you ride?' They are developing the freedom to travel

and socially interact as these mobility devices expand their footprint in the community.”

It's not giving kids more freedom and movement that is a concern; it's the speed that kids can travel on these motorized scooters and bikes — some as fast as 40 mph — that causes the worries, along with the fact that Iowa is more relaxed on helmet laws than other states.

Brandes emphasizes the importance of wearing helmets while on all bikes and scooters. “Head injuries drastically go down in an accident when a properly fitted helmet is worn.” Reynolds also added what he learned about injuries at a recent presentation: “The E-scooters are two wheels and the increase in injuries are from going over the handlebars. The E-bikes are producing massive head injuries, while the E-scooters are producing more mandible (jaw) injuries.”

As far as where you can and cannot ride, currently these devices are treated just like bicycles. “Nevada does not allow for riding of bicycles, skateboards, scooters, etc., on the sidewalks in the downtown area. This would be 6th Street from J Avenue to N Avenue. Signs are posted only on the sidewalks where this is not allowed. Bicycles and related devices are allowed on all other City sidewalks and trails.”

Bicycles, when on the streets, must follow the same rules on the roadway as motor vehicles. “This means stopping at stop signs, yielding right of way, signaling lane changes, traveling on the correct side of the roadway, etc.,” Brandes said. “Likewise, drivers must be vigilant in watching for bicycles as they present a smaller visual indicator.”

Reynolds re-emphasizes the point about drivers. “I have recently seen E-scooters and E-bikes blow off of a sidewalk and into the street. If I were not attentive, it would have been a crash, so following the law and stopping BEFORE crossings at sidewalks is important.”

E-bike/E-scooter Tips from our Public Safety Department

- 1) Charge the E-bikes and E-scooters in a garage.
- 2) Sheetrock construction in a garage may minimize fire damage if a fire event occurs.
- 3) Unplug devices when they are charged. With any lithium-ion battery (like cordless drills, E-bikes, power tools, E-scooters), leaving them charging or leaving batteries in a charger wears down the battery maintenance system and is more likely to eventually cause the battery to overheat and go into “thermal runaway.”
- 4) Have the conversation with your young riders about following traffic laws and reducing speed. Just because your bike can go 28 mph, doesn't mean some riders can handle those speeds.
- 5) Consider setting speed restrictions and geographical boundaries with new inexperienced riders.
- 6) Just because you can ride a pedal bike, does not mean an E-bike is the same to handle.
- 7) Never modify the battery components.
- 8) Wear full protective equipment when riding to include a full facial protecting helmet.
- 9) Never buy “compatible with” batteries or components. Always buy from the original manufacturer of the bike.

LITHIUM BATTERY/FIRE CONCERNS

From our Fire Chief: Many people bring E-bikes and E-scooters into their homes for safekeeping. The problem is the battery cell is a Lithium-ion battery. The fire service has not found a solution to fighting Lithium-ion battery fires.

Any bike or scooter when overcharged has a potential to start a home fire due to “thermal runaway.” Thermal runaway, caused from damage to the bike or scooter from abuse, over charging, or failure of the battery maintenance system (BMS), can cause all the cells in the lithium-ion battery to overheat causing a chain reaction that starts with super toxic gas discharge followed by a rapid, very intense fire.

Because people charge these devices in their home, their normal path out of the home may also be blocked during a fire. Current data shows that people normally have less than 3-5 minutes to escape a home fire before the chance of survival greatly diminishes. With a lithium-ion fire caused by an E-bike or E-scooter, escape times are now less than 1-2 minutes before an escape is impossible.



Personal Fireworks rules reminder

The City of Nevada does allow residents to shoot fireworks during the following dates and times only:

July 1 & 2: 6-10 p.m.

July 3: 9 a.m.- 10 p.m.

July 4: 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

A few more important rules about fireworks, as outlined in the City Code, include:

- You must be 18 or older to discharge a DOT 1.4 class consumer firework without parental supervision.
- Any person discharging

fireworks assumes responsibility for their operation and the consequences thereof. Do not discharge them in a reckless manner or manner likely to cause death, injury, fire, or property damage. Do not set off fireworks on a public street.

- Discharge fireworks only on property you own or property where the owner's consent has been given and the owner of the property is present.

- No one can discharge fireworks who is showing visible signs or is determined to be intoxicated or under the influence of a drug or narcotic.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Memorial Lutheran Church in Nevada is now accepting applications for ministry and community projects that bless neighbors near and far. Following the example of Jesus, Memorial Lutheran especially seeks out projects that serve the overlooked and neglected. Projects can be seemingly small or large, and all are welcome to apply. If you or someone you know is interested in applying, the application can be viewed by scanning the QR code. Applications will be accepted until Friday, Aug. 7, 2026 at noon.



City offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of the 4th of July holiday. Offices will re-open on Monday, July 6, at 8 a.m.

Nevada Library Events

YOUTH PROGRAMS

All Ages

- July 1, 10 a.m.: Author Kelly Crull (at Nevada Middle School)
- July 8, 10 a.m.: Robison Reptiles (at Nevada Middle School)
- July 8, 1 p.m.: Robison Reptiles (in Library Meeting Room)
- July 17, 6 p.m.: Family Nerf Battle (registration required)
- July 31, 6 p.m.: Summer Finale Foam Party

Kids (Registration Required)

- July 2, 10:30 a.m.: Rain Sticks
- July 9, 10:30 a.m.: Fossils
- July 15, 11 a.m.: Garden Tea Party (for

kids and a grown up)

- July 16, 10:30 a.m.: Chalk Paint
- July 23, 10:30 a.m.: Windchimes
- July 30, 10:30 a.m.: Rock Painting

Tweens (Registration Required)

- July 6, 1 p.m.: Clay Figurines
- July 13, 1 p.m.: Tie Blankets (for the Story County Animal Shelter)
- July 20, 1 p.m.: Cookie Decorating
- July 27, 1 p.m.: Trashion Show

Teens (registration required)

- July 3, 11 a.m.: Escape Room
- July 10, 11 a.m.: Paper Making
- July 17, 11 a.m.: Homemade Ice Cream

- July 24, 11 a.m.: Teacup Fairy Gardens

- July 31, 11 a.m.: Emotional Support Chickens

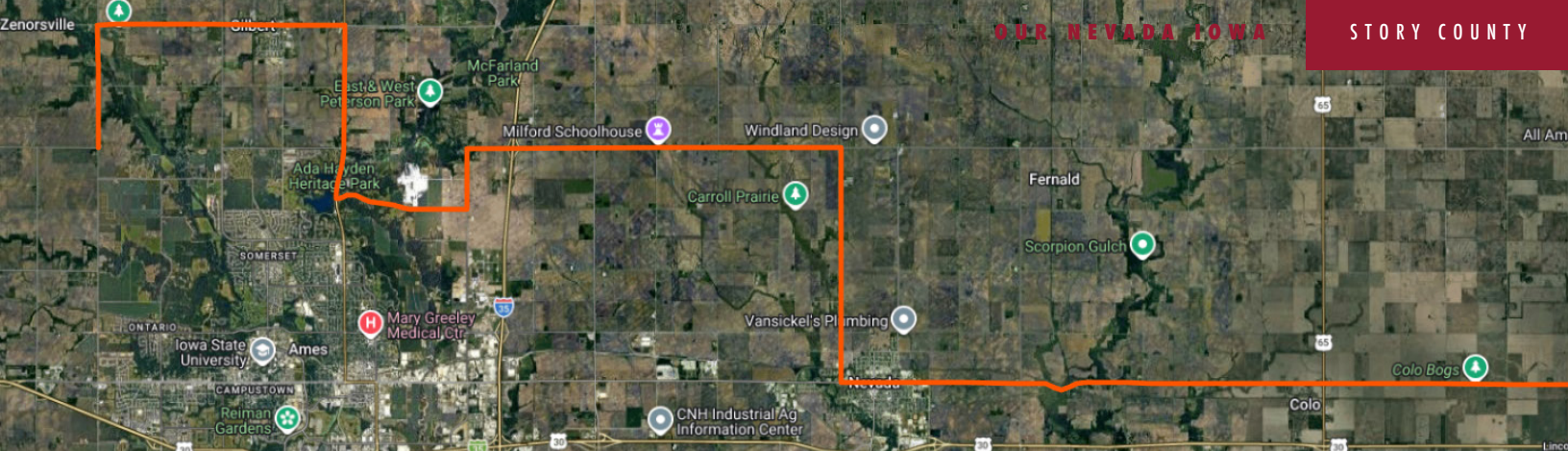
ADULT PROGRAMS

- July 6- Adult Craft Night, 6 p.m.

- July 10- Soma Yoga in the Park (in front of City Hall), 10:30 a.m. (Rain/weather location will be 1 p.m. in the library meeting room)

- July 13- Ghost Towns of Story County, 6 p.m. Dave Baker, essayist and photographer of "The 29th State" will be in Nevada to talk about Story County Ghost towns, railroad stations, and communities of yesterday. Dave Baker is an Iowa author, photographer, and speaker based in Ankeny.

- July 27- Soma Yoga, 6 p.m. library meeting room (Registration Required due to space)



RAGBRAI route through Story County

RAGBRAI passes through Story County on July 22, with the route entering Story County on 190th St. and 500th Ave. The ride continues north on 500th Ave, east on 170th St., south on US Highway 69, east on W Riverside Road to East Riverside Road, north on N Dayton Ave., east on 190th St., south on 620th Ave., and finally east on Lincoln Highway into Marshall County. While in Story County, the ride will stop in three towns: Gilbert, Nevada, and Colo.

As the ride moves through the County, there will be stops along the way for riders to relax, refuel, and enjoy everything Story County has to offer.

During the day of the ride, there can be 20,000-plus riders on the road, so getting through the County may take a bit longer than normal. Public safety agencies will be along the route and in towns to help ensure a safe ride for the cyclists and minimal disruptions to the rest of the County.

If you would like to know more about the ride or what the communities have planned and/or to stay updated on the latest RAGBRAI news, please check the RAGBRAI website: <https://ragbrai.com/> or the community Facebook pages, GilbertRagbrai2026, RAGBRAI Nevada, and Colo RAGBRAI.

A day in the life of...

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT BIOLOGIST TY HAMIEL

What does a typical day look like for you?

The lion's share of our work is re-seeding areas and spraying for weeds out in the roadsides. So, a typical day would be getting to the office, checking the weather, and deciding which projects in which areas would be the most effective with what the weather is doing. Once we get a battle plan, we're out in the field for the rest of the day.

What is the hardest part or area of your job? And where do you excel the most? We

stay pretty busy 10 months out of the year, so trying to get as much done in short weather windows is tough. Also, interactions with the public sometimes can be challenging as some don't agree with our work practices. However, we do put in a large effort to keep all Story County citizens informed and always welcome any comment or input from the public. One could say we excel in that department.

What is your favorite part about your job? My favorite part is the seasonality of our job duties throughout the year. We do a lot of different things for a few weeks at a time, so nothing ever truly gets boring or monotonous. You also never know what a day could bring so it makes coming to work interesting every day!



SIGN UP FOR ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATIONS

Do you want to receive road closure notifications, so you are prepared for your commute to work or busy schedule? You can sign up to receive email notifications when Secondary Roads plans to start a project. Sign up by going to this link: <https://www.iceasb.org/roads/county/story> or scan the QR code. The "subscribe" button is in the top right corner.



Closing July 3 for Independence Day

Story County offices and buildings will be closed Friday, July 3, 2026, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Regular hours will resume on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 8 a.m.

Nevada's historic hotel has a new owner

Whether you know it as the Story Hotel, the Nevada Community Hotel, the Grand Old Lady, or some other name, the historic building at the corner of Sixth Street and J Avenue has a new owner as of April this year.

Nevada native Chuck Peebles, a 30-year plumbing and mechanical tradesman, is now the proud owner of the Nevada landmark that he saw as “the strongest historic building money can buy.”

“The basement is 100 percent concrete, which you won’t find much of in Nevada’s downtown. You also won’t find buildings that have 10-11-foot ceilings in the basement and concrete structures on every floor,” Peebles noted, and he knows, because he’s plumbed in pretty much every building in the downtown at one time or another.

The Nevada hotel was built in 1925, making it 101 years old, and Peebles said it’s a building that has stood the test of time and will continue to stand. “It will still be here 100 years from now.”

Peebles had been looking for a new project, after finishing a home construction project last year. Someone mentioned the old hotel to him. It looked like a fun and interesting challenge, and also a place where he could house his business — Today’s Affordable Plumbing — in the basement.

Peebles admits, “I like to stay busy,” and his background affords him the ability to tackle every aspect of work that will be needed in the historic hotel building as he pursues completing more apartments on both the second and third stories.

At this time, two units are rented as

residences on the third floor. The building also has five commercial spaces, and of those, four are in use and one, where Blue Moon used to be, is available to lease.

Peebles plans to continue work on the residential units over the coming year. He envisions a total of 11 residential units, and would like to have nine more units available for rent by next May if his finances will allow.

Right now, he, his one full-time employee, Tobin McKinney, and Peebles’ son, Dylan, who helps at the business, have been busy sorting through and cleaning the building, as well as getting to know their tenants and doing any projects they’ve needed. He said they recently removed the decrepit awning to repair and repaint it, and will soon reinstall it to the framework over the main door.

“I’ve been working on the permitting process with the City, and I’m working with both Main Street Nevada and the NEDC on possible funding sources,” Peebles said. Sadly, he just missed the deadlines for some bigger grant funds. But he’s not deterred.

He believes strongly that the hotel is worth continuing to upkeep and preserve. “This building is the treasure of the downtown. I’d love to see the community get involved in helping us find funding to preserve it, and letting me know what possibilities might be out there.”

In a story written about one of the previous owners of the building, Roger Samson, it was noted from old newspaper articles, appearing in 1925, that the “Nevada Community Hotel” was “the greatest project the City had undertaken in years.” A total of \$100,100

was raised by people and civic clubs who were supportive of the hotel and what it would mean to Nevada.

It was one of Nevada’s earliest economic development endeavors — not to mention a great enhancement of the Main Street District — to bring to the community a “modern hotel,” that would serve as the headquarters for all kinds of things over the years. It was, in its earlier years, the bus stop and ticket center for bus travel. It had a restaurant and reception hall, which were utilized for many types of gatherings and dinners. It had club rooms for meetings.

In looking through the digital newspaper archives, the Nevada Community Hotel or Story Hotel (as it was formally named for many years), you will find the hotel mentioned by name around 1,000 times from the 1920s to 2000, and many of those mentions were in stories about events and meetings being held at the hotel.

“If people have stories or things they’d like me to know about the hotel, I’d like them to stop in and visit with me,” Peebles said. One thing he’d really like to know is “what happened to the old Story Hotel hanging sign” that was above the hotel entrance for years.

He also invites people who are newer to the community and have never been in the hotel building to stop in. The lobby has tables and chairs where you can relax with a cup of coffee or food from Sweet & Savory, which is located in the building.

“When you sit down in this lobby, just by looking at the terrazzo floor,” Peebles said, “you can feel the vibe of this beautiful old building, and understand why it’s worth preserving.”



Chuck Peebles is the new owner of Nevada's historic main street hotel, known for many years as The Story Hotel. He hopes to continue finishing new apartment units in the hotel over the coming year.



Ready for the Ride: Prepping for RAGBRAI

Story Medical coordinates with local partners to help ensure riders have a great experience

When thousands of cyclists roll into Nevada as part of RAGBRAI this summer, they'll bring energy, excitement, and a celebration unlike anything our Story County town sees on a typical day.

Behind the scenes, however, months of planning have taken place to ensure that if a medical emergency arises, Story Medical and its community partners are ready to respond.

While RAGBRAI maintains its own medical team, ambulance resources, and physicians to care for registered riders, an event of this size requires a broader network of support. With tens of thousands of cyclists, support personnel, volunteers, visitors, and local residents all concentrated in one area, the potential

exists for incidents that exceed the resources of any single organization.

That's where Story Medical comes in.

"We are working with the community to coordinate a medical response for emergencies, as needed," says Andrea Bacon, BSN, RN, Emergency Services Director. "RAGBRAI has an excellent medical team, but with the volume of riders and visitors, there is always the possibility of a larger-scale injury or illness event that requires additional resources."

As a Level IV Trauma Center with a full-service Emergency Department and the county's only hospital-based helicopter landing pad, Story Medical plays a critical role in the regional emergency response system. During RAGBRAI, the organization has been identified as one of the healthcare resources available to receive and treat injured or ill participants when higher levels of care are needed.

The planning effort has extended far beyond the walls of

the Emergency Department.

Story Medical's Emergency Services and Emergency Preparedness teams have spent months coordinating with local government leaders, law enforcement, fire departments, emergency management officials, and other community partners. Internally, representatives from departments across the organization have contributed to preparations, ensuring the hospital is ready for everything from increased patient volumes to larger emergency situations.

The scale of the event demands that level of preparation.

On a typical day, Nevada serves a community of several thousand residents. During RAGBRAI, the population could swell dramatically as riders and visitors pass through town during one of the busiest days of the event.

"With as many as 50,000 riders and countless support staff, family members, volunteers, and community members gathered in one place, we have to be prepared for a much higher volume of patients than we traditionally treat," Bacon says. "Our goal is to provide the same high-quality care people expect from us, regardless of the circumstances."

For Michelle Stapp, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, one of the most rewarding aspects of the planning process has been the opportunity to strengthen relationships throughout the community.

"What a privilege it has been," Stapp says. "We are communicating and coordinating with other emergency response agencies on a regular basis, learning their abilities and limitations while they learn ours."

Those relationships will benefit the community long after the final rider leaves town. The planning process has created new connections and

a stronger understanding among agencies that may be called upon to work together during future emergencies.

In many ways, the preparations serve as a real-world exercise of Story Medical's Emergency Operations Plan. Teams are reviewing procedures, testing communication systems, and refining response strategies in a way that few planned events can provide.

Yet amid all the logistics and preparation, there is also excitement.

RAGBRAI is one of Iowa's most beloved traditions. And while the ride has come close with a recent overnight stop in Ames, this is the first time Nevada has welcomed the ride since 2018, when thousands of cyclists filled the community during an overnight stop. This year's visit offers another opportunity to showcase the hospitality, teamwork, and community spirit that define Story County.

"Our staff have been asking for months how they can help and how they can be part of such a big day for Story County," Stapp says. "It's exciting to see so many people come together to make the event successful."

Ultimately, the work comes down to a simple mission: ensuring riders, visitors, and community members can enjoy the celebration knowing that experienced professionals are prepared for the unexpected.

"It is an absolute honor," Bacon says. "Patients place a tremendous amount of trust in their healthcare providers during times of need. Our responsibility is to be ready if that moment comes."

When RAGBRAI rolls through Nevada, Story Medical hopes its preparations will go largely unnoticed—which, in emergency preparedness, is often the best outcome possible.

News & Notes



Pictured at top with Story Medical Foundation Coordinator Liz Zuercher (left) is Kaydence Reyes. Directly above is Foundation Board member Tricia Crain with Lillian Frideres (center) and Sophia Martinez.

FOUNDATION DELIVERS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Story County Medical Center Foundation is celebrating the next generation of healthcare professionals by awarding three \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding high school seniors pursuing careers in healthcare.

This year's scholarship program marked a record-breaking year for applications, showcasing an impressive group of students passionate about making a difference in the lives of others. This year's winners are:

- **Sophia Martinez** of Nevada High School,
- **Lillian Frideres** of Nevada High School.
- **Kaydence Reyes** of Colomesco High School.

Congratulations to this year's honorees. We wish each success in their academic and professional pursuits!

Meet Your School Board

The dedicated community members
helping shape the future of our schools



Members of the Nevada Community School District Board of Education are pictured above. They are (from left to right): Tom Maier, Vice President; Emily Schaack, Board Member; Marty Chitty, President; Leanne Harter, Board Member; and Tori Carsrud, Board Member.

Behind every successful school district is a dedicated group of community members who volunteer their time, talents, and leadership to help shape the future of local education. Our Board of Education plays a vital role in setting district goals, making important decisions, and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

While many community members recognize the names of our board members, they may not know the individuals behind those titles. In this special feature, we invited each of our five board members to share their perspectives, experiences, and motivations for serving our district. Their responses offer a glimpse into the people who help guide our schools and demonstrate the commitment they have to our students, staff, and community. You can learn more about them on our district website: nevadacubs.org.

We hope you enjoy getting to know the dedicated leaders who serve our district and work to make a positive difference for current and future generations of students.

What Does a School Board Do?

- Sets district goals and policies
- Oversees finances and budgets
- Hires and evaluates the superintendent
- Represents community interests
- Focuses on student success

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO SERVE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD?

Emily Schaack

I find the inner workings of a school very fascinating and wanted to be involved in the district in a broad role that would allow me to learn and be part of decisions affecting our students and staff.

Tori Carsrud

I really enjoy volunteering and professionally I work in education so I knew serving on the school board would allow me to combine my passion for education with volunteering.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT SERVING?

Leanne Harter

The one activity I enjoy most is Graduation Day. Every board meeting, I think about how our decisions lead up to that day for students. Beyond that, I enjoy the act of learning itself, and with each meeting of the school board and materials we review leading up to that and other information we are given, I have learned about the education system and how the many wheels turn to make it work.

Tom Maier

I would have to say that it was the board members I got to serve with that I enjoyed the most. I've had the fortune and pleasure to serve with a diverse and knowledgeable group of individuals during my time on the board. Every one of my fellow board members have contributed greatly to the success of our board and to our district over the years. I have learned a great deal from each and feel that our interactions and the way we complemented each other's knowledge and abilities contributed to making my time so special.

WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WISH THE COMMUNITY KNEW MORE ABOUT REGARDING THE DISTRICT?

Marty Chitty

One thing I wish more people knew is that we've been very purposeful about paying down our long-term debt. Come July 1st, 2030 (in just a little over four years) we'll have paid off all the bonds used to build our current facilities. That will free up roughly two million dollars each year for the district to use in new ways. This was a long-term, multi-administration effort to give our students the facilities they need while still paying our bills on time. That financial freedom will open up exciting possibilities for the next generation.

Tori Carsrud

School finances. They are complex!

Tom Maier

The time and effort so many put in, often behind the scenes, to making our children's school year a success. I have witnessed, at every level, extraordinary efforts being made, in some of the most challenging times for education, that made all the difference to the experience the students in this district receive.

WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL TO YOU?

Leanne Harter

The students and the excitement they bring day one when they enter our doors, and then the teachers and staff that greet them and lead them through the education journey. And, I cannot forget the facilities, which create the environment for students to be present, and be engaged in and learn from the experiences brought to them.

Marty Chitty

Both my wife and I, along with our three children, are products of Nevada Community Schools. Many of my friends and people I grew up with share that same story. That's why my commitment to this district runs as deep as it does to my own family. I don't take it lightly, and I'm never indifferent to anything that could help our schools succeed.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU MOST ABOUT TODAY'S STUDENTS?

Emily Schaack

I am constantly in awe of Nevada students today. From their leadership capabilities to the way their social-

emotional skills are positively displayed, I think NCSD is providing some great opportunities for our students to be who they want to be.

Postal Customer

Calendar of Events

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

July 1, 1-6 p.m.
Gates Hall, 825 15th St.

SENIOR CENTER MEN'S COFFEE

July 2 & 16, 9 a.m.
Senior Center, 1231 6th St.

DOWNTOWN MARKET

July 2, 16 & 30, 5:30-8 p.m.
K Ave, between 6th & 7th
July 2 event features pre-4th "Stars, Stripes & Small Business" theme
Also enjoy Music Social gatherings in front of Bricktown Bakery/Popcorn, bring your lawn chair

250TH BIRTHDAY ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

July 3, 7 p.m.
First United Methodist Church

COMMUNITY 4TH OF JULY

Morning & Evening Activities
See full schedule on the Our Nevada Facebook page

NEVADA COMMUNITY CUPBOARD OPEN

**Saturdays (except for July 4),
10-11:30 a.m.**
1110 11th Street

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>

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.

SKETCH COMEDY SHOW

July 5, 6 p.m.
Camelot Theater
A Story Theater Company fundraiser

COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

July 7, 7 p.m.
In front of City Hall
No admission, Final concert of season

PERK BEFORE WORK

July 9, 7:30 a.m.
Renn's Cafe
Learn about volunteer opportunities

FRIENDS OF LIBRARY BOOK SALE

July 10 & 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Nevada Public Library

AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY

July 10, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Alternate choice of baked chicken. Adults \$15, Children \$8. Everyone welcome!

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

July 11, 9 a.m.
Renn's Cafe, 1001 6th St.

SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

July 13, 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

July 13 & 27, 6 p.m.
City Hall

STORY COUNTY FAIR

July 15-19
Story Co. Fairgrounds, Nevada
No admission to the grounds, Special observance of America's 250 years, Free Live Music Friday and Saturday evenings

NCSCHOOL BOARD

July 20, 6:30 p.m.
Gates Memorial Hall

RAGBRAI ROLLS THRU NEVADA

July 22
See pages 3 and 4 for details

HOUSES OF THE HOLY

July 25, 7:30 p.m.
Camelot Theater
Led Zeppelin Tribute Band

CAMELOT MOVIE

July 28, 10:30 a.m., 2 & 7 p.m.
Showing "The Croods"

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY MEAL

July 31, 5-7 p.m.
American Legion Post
Adults \$12, Children \$5