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11 March 2022

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City proposes changes to law enforcement contract

Council members want a 'right-to-terminate' clause and also seeking a way to arbitrate disputes between city and Sheriff's Office

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

The city of Nashua wants to protect its own interests.

That was made readily clear at last Monday's Council meeting when city officials discussed the proposed law enforcement services contract that has yet to be agreed upon with the Chickasaw

County Sheriff's Department.

While no changes were made to the 2,400 yearly total voted on by the City of Nashua in the rough draft last month, substantial changes were presented to Chickasaw County Sheriff Marty Hemann.

Chickasaw County has provided law enforcement services for over three-and-a-half years for Nashua – which

does not have a police force.

A major change proposed by the Council dealt with an out clause to terminate the proposed one-year contract by the City for cause should it deem the County did not fulfill its portion of the agreement. That would include reimbursement by the County back to the city for the greater of all expenses incurred by the City to provide police

protection or the agreed upon sum of \$142,800.

That amount is what the City would pay the County for 12 months of law enforcement services, which amounts to approximately 200 hours a month – depending on how the County chooses to utilize those hours to patrol the streets of Nashua.

There is already a clause in the con-

tract for the County to back out of the contract for cause.

"This might probably be the one that you might see the most push-back," said Hemann, who said he will discuss the proposed changes with the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors and Chickasaw County

SEE LAW ENFORCEMENT, 3



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield High School student Cameron Cleveland (above) takes to the drums during a performance by the Jazz Band while Abbie Hyde and Jennifer McLeland (below) "mug" for the camera before the Concert Choir performs at the annual Mid-Winter Concert that was held last week in the high school gym.

See MID-WINTER CONCERT PHOTOS, Page 8

Ambulance interviews to be 'private'

Board of Supervisors expects to have the final report back by June

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Chickasaw County leaders and residents should know the results of an ambulance feasibility study by sometime in June, the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors learned during a meeting Monday.

Supervisor Jake Hackman, who also sits on the Chickasaw County Ambulance Council, told his fellow board members that a committee representing the Ambulance Council was told by SafeTech Solutions' officials during a meeting last week that it would take three months from the initial interview process until the presentation of the final report.

SafeTech will be in the county March 21-22 to conduct interviews with leaders from both the county and its cities, EMS personnel, school superintendents, EMS personnel, law-enforcement officers, fire chiefs and others.

Hackman stressed that those interviews will be closed to the public and shared what each interviewee will be presented by interviewers from SafeTech Solutions, which the Ambulance Council is paying \$30,000 to conduct a feasibility study that will include the potential of a county-owned ambulance service.

The verbiage of the statement was sent to

SEE AMBULANCE, 2

N-P does it right with music

School should be an example to others when it comes to getting kids involved

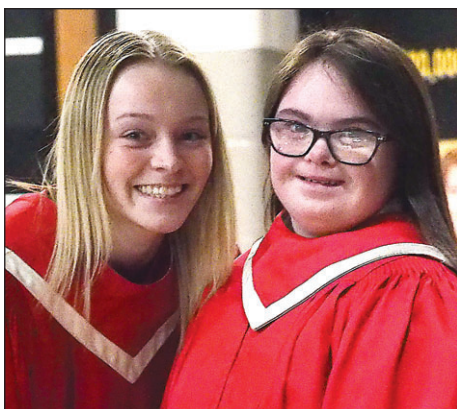


Bob Fenske has been the editor of the Nashua Reporter since 2010, and he can be reached by email at editor@nhtrib.com.

I may not be able to sing — OK, ask my boys and they'll tell you "Dad can't sing a lick" — and I may not have exactly been a star in band way back when, but make no mistake about it, I love music.

And I love music programs that get kids excited, which is why I think Nashua-Plainfield should just bottle up whatever they're doing and share it with the rest of the state's schools.

Seriously, our little school district, for years, has produced top-notch bands and choirs, and what is most gratifying to this old reporter is that it is doing so with a cross section of students who may not share the same interests — for example, some are athletes while others couldn't give a rat's you-know-what about games



— but come together to produce beautiful music under the tutelage of Band Director Scott Stroud and Choir Director

Melanie Johanningmeier.

I've been doing this journalism thing for a fair amount of years — 37, to be exact — and one of the saddest trends I've watched over the years is the devaluation of music in schools.

Maybe that's not the right way to put it, but there are places in Iowa, too many, where being a musician isn't considered to be all that cool.

That's, in a word, depressing.

The good news is that in Nashua-Plainfield, music remains cool, thank God.

That's a credit to Stroud and Johanningmeier. And it speaks volumes

SEE MUSIC, 2



Extra daylight!

Next week at this time we'll be basking in "longer days" as Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday, when we spring ahead an hour at 2 a.m.

City Council learns about broken clarifier at plant

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

The city of Nashua hopes a broken clarifier at its waste water treatment plant is covered by insurance after the settling tank froze recently because of frigid temps.

Nashua City Clerk John Ott informed the City Council of the bad news at last Monday's meeting.

"There's four bolts that hold it down. They were going to clean it out. It froze. The bolts broke off. It shot through. We're hoping it's an insurance claim, but if not, it's hundreds of thousands of dollars," said Ott.

Clarifiers at waste water treatment plants help with the treatment and removal of solid sewage by sedimentation.

with the insurance company to determine if the claim is covered.

"It's going to be hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix it regardless of who fixes it," said Ott. "It is required by the DNR to get that fixed as soon as possible."

Council members approved a resolution to adopt the Fiscal Year '22 amended budget and also voted unanimously to accept the Fiscal Year '23 transfers.

The Council also heard from Ott who informed them that a Nashua citizen would like to place a modular home at the intersection of Lakeshore Drive and Chickasaw St. The citizen

SEE CITY COUNCIL, 3



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield Boy Scout leader Mike Caswell, with Scouts' Wyatt Burchichter (left) and Caden Wallin, lead the Pledge of Allegiance before the start of Monday's City Council meeting at Nashua City Hall.

It's official: Board will remain same after close election

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

It turned out that the absentee ballots that hadn't arrived by the time the polls closed in last week's special election for the District 1 Board of Supervisors seat didn't matter.

A change in state law meant that ballots that weren't in the Chickasaw County Auditor's Office by the time polls closed on March 1 could not be counted even if they had arrived before the board canvassed the election, which it did on Monday afternoon.

That meant the two-vote margin held for Steve Breitbart, the quasi incumbent, and he will now finish out the term that was originally won by the late

SEE SUPERVISORS, 4



Photo courtesy of Scott Stroud

A superior day for junior high band!

Nashua-Plainfield Band Director Scott Stroud conducts his 7th and 8th Grade Band during the Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Association Large Group Band Festival that was held at Waverly-Shell Rock Middle School late last month.

The band prepared two contrasting selections to perform for a panel of two adjudicators. The adjudicators judged on the following categories: tone, intonation, technique, rhythm, balance, interpretation, and stage presence. After the band performed, the adjudicators administered a brief clinic, then gave the band a superior rating.

"This group of students were very focused and worked hard to receive their rating. I am so proud of them," Stroud said. "They are keeping the tradition of excellence in our band program strong. I look forward to having them all in high school band in the near future!"

Conversation reminds reporter that music matters

Music: From 1

about everyone from school administrators to teachers to athletic coaches (trust me on this folks, there are schools where coaches tell their athletes not to bother with choir or band). It's also a credit to you, the parents of Nashua-Plainfield students.

Kids, believe it or not, do listen to their parents, and so many of you have not only encouraged your children to give band, choir or both a try, but you've also supported them along the way.

I wish I had taken some coaching from you several years ago when both my sons gave up band in middle school and Josh gave up choir before his senior year of high school.

I tried, but I never found the right words to keep Noah playing the saxophone and Josh the tuba, but both of them will tell you today that their biggest high school regrets have nothing to do with losing a football playoff game or not getting all-state in this sport or that sport. No, they wished they had stayed in band and choir.

Over the years, I've covered plenty of stories about Nashua-Plainfield music students, but as

much fun as I've had writing those pieces, a new No. 1 moved to the top of the list last week.

Knowing that it was National Music in our Schools Month and knowing that Nashua-Plainfield had its annual Mid-Winter Concert last Thursday night (and truthfully, realizing I needed another story for the March 4 Reporter), I penned an email to Stroud and Johanningmeier asking them if I could come to school to talk with a few "music seniors."

It was definitely last minute, but I think our music directors have realized that anything to do with Bob Fenske is last minute so they graciously agreed to get some students for me to interview.

So at 10 a.m. on March 3, 9 1/2 hours before the high school portion of the Mid-Winter (can we please change that name, by the way, because if March 3 is the middle of winter, I'm moving) began, I was sitting in the music room with five Nashua-Plainfield High School seniors — Makenzie Foelske, Abbie Hyde, Caitlyn McDonald, Jordan Schneider and Brynn Wright.

I turned my phone's recorder on and told the quintet that basically we were just going to have a conversation about music, and it worked, or

at least, in my opinion it did. "Music matters" graced the front page of the paper, and it's one of my all-time favorite stories.

They told me why music does indeed matter to them, and along the way, we shared a few laughs.

The moment I will always remember is this: Schneider was telling me about how for so long he lacked confidence in his singing voice, and before he could talk, Hyde interrupted him. "Jordan can sing, and I mean really sing."

Maybe I misread the look — one that was so appreciative and grateful — in young Jordan Schneider's eyes, but I don't think I did.

For 30 or so minutes, we just talked music, and I was struck that every one of the five said they'll appreciate that they were in band, choir or both when they're old and gray, like the reporter in the room.

Even now, a week later, I can't help but smile about the conversation we had that morning in the Nashua-Plainfield High School music room. It taught me — or maybe a better way to put it is it reminded me — that our kids are still the most valuable resource this country has and music matters music matters.

Briefs

Nashua-Plainfield schools to take spring break next week

Nashua-Plainfield Community Schools students and teachers will take its spring break next week.

Classes will be held on both Monday and Tuesday before heading into spring break that will run from Wednesday through Sunday before students return to classes on Monday, March 21.

2022 Robert D. Blue Scholarship applications being taken

State Treasurer Michael L. Fitzgerald reminds Iowa students the application for the 2022 Robert D. Blue Scholarship is available online at RDBBlue.org.

Students of any Iowa high school who plan to pursue, or are currently pursuing, higher education in the state for the 2022-2023 academic year are eligible to apply.

Awards are based on financial need, an original essay, academic achievement and recommendations. Robert D. Blue Scholarship applications are only accepted online and must be submitted by May 10.

Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging offers monthly caregiving meetings

Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A) has resumed monthly in-person support group meetings. The meetings will

be held on the third Monday of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Education Room of the Spectrum Network building, located at 607 Washington Street, in Decorah.

This month's meeting will be held on March 21. Masks are recommended, and anyone experiencing COVID symptoms should stay home. A phone-in or Zoom option is also available for convenience.

Supervisors hoping to give residents chance to weigh in on EMS

AMBULANCE: FROM 1

members of the committee, which includes Hackman, Emergency Management Director Jeff Bernatz and Ambulance Council Chairman Mark Muetterthies, last week and is as follows:

"Thank you for participating in the interviews for the assessment of the emergency medical services needs of your community. The goal of this assessment is to assist Chickasaw County in the development of a system which is reliable, viable and sustainable long into the future. Your comments are private and will be held in confidence by representatives of Safe Tech Solutions.

"We encourage you to be as open and honest as you are comfortable being. There will be no direct quotes taken, however, general themes will be reflected in the final report and presentation. Representatives of SafeTech Solutions are prepared to address any questions you may have related to this process."

Hackman said he believed it was important that those who will be interviewed know that they can speak openly and freely when they're talking with SafeTech officials.

"I think with the way the climate has been and with being such a hot-button issue," Hackman said, "people have to know that they're not going to say, 'Well so-and-so said this.' I think we have a very good company coming here to help us."

Bernatz agreed, pointing out that "they're all 35-plus years of paramedic experience."

County Attorney David Laudner queried Hackman on how other residents could make their feelings and opinions known to SafeTech officials.

"If I don't wear any of those hats or have any clout," Laudner said, "is there a way I can be heard?"

Supervisors wondered aloud if there was any way that residents could e-mail "written comments" to SafeTech, and Hackman said he would contact officials with the Minnesota-based firm to find out what options residents not included in the interview list would have to express their opinions.


Scholarships available from area bank

Fidelity Bank & Trust has announced that scholarship applications are now available for the 2022 College Scholarship Program.

The forms are available at all locations of Fidelity Bank & Trust or visit www.bank-fidelity.bank. Applications must be returned by March 31.


Under the program, twenty nine \$500 scholarships will be awarded to area high school seniors who plan to attend a two or four year college or vocational school. The students and their parents are not required to be Fidelity Bank & Trust customers.

Interested high school students should contact their high school guidance office or Fidelity Bank & Trust for further assistance in completing the scholarship application.



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City would like to make quarterly payments

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: FROM 1

Attorney David Laudner at a later date.

Nashua Mayor Alex Anthofer responded that he feels the changes are necessary should the county not live up to its end of the bargain — contingent on the contract being signed and approved by both parties.

"We're just trying to find ways to protect the city, I guess," said Anthofer. "There's no fail safe for us. This would give us a fail safe."

The new language in the rough draft would also include quarterly payments by the city to the county of \$35,700. The payments were previously made semi-annually, but because of cash flow purposes, the city would like to adjust those intervals of payment.

"Since we get a lot of tax revenue in the spring and the fall, it would help break some of that up," said Anthofer.

There was also a stipulation made that in the event the Sheriff's Department is unable to perform according to the agreement, though no fault of their own, the county shall refund the City of Nashua any payment made for the period of non-performance in proportion to the contract price.

Another substantial change to the contract would allow a third-party review or arbitration by either party to resolve a dispute regarding the extent or manner of performance of law enforcement services provided. That would include a majority vote by either the Board of Supervisors or the Nashua City Council.

This big question was raised by Hemann.

"Who would that third party be," said the sheriff during Monday night's meeting.

Nashua is intent on having a Sheriff's Deputy present to patrol at the beginning of the school day at Nashua-Plainfield Community Schools and when those kids are let out.

Hemann said after breaking down last month's law report that there was a law enforcement presence in 15 out of the 17 school days at N-P in February.

"That's almost 9 out of 10," said Hemann. "We do certainly make the most attempts that we can to be down here. My goal is always to be keeping the city, the school, the citizens happy as much as I can."

Hemann said there could be a problem arise should there be an accident or 911 call. That would require a deputy to provide assistance on scene at the same time school starts in the morning or is ending. He also stated another deputy may not be close to the school and is in another part of the county while that emergency call is being attended to.

Hemann said his staff clocked 253 hours of patrol time last month in February. Nashua's two-year contract of approximately 240 hours a month of law enforcement service provided by Chickasaw County runs out on June 30 of this year.

"We have always in the last three-and-a-half years that we've done the Nashua contract, I've always seen to it that we meet and/or exceed our hours every single month," said Hemann.

Council member Rhonda Dean also stated that after the Council conducted some research on current contracts in other towns — mainly what the city of Plainfield pays to Bremer County for its law enforcement services — that that rate came out to approximately \$60 per citizen. Dean said Nashua's rate per citizen for law enforcement services was broken down to \$92 per person with this new proposed contract.

One of Hemann's closing remarks on Monday when discussing the changes initiated by the city to the rough draft sounded like he wants to make it work for both parties involved — regardless of disagreements between the County and City.

"You guys are the eyes and ears of Nashua way more than I am," said Hemann. "You guys are going to hear a lot more than I am."

"It's important to me that the city is happy so that we continue to have this good working relationship."



Dorothy Huber/Reporter

Pawsome Pets help SNAP

Nashua Reporter and New Hampton Tribune Editor Bob Fenske presents a check for \$500 to longtime Chickasaw County Spay and Neuter All Pets volunteer Gayla Hugeback earlier this week. The check represented part of the proceeds from the Pawsome Pets section that ran in the March 11 Reporter.

N-P FFA has big day at district contest

Nashua-Plainfield's FFA chapter had an outstanding day at last Saturday's district contest as four entries earned trips to the state contest that will be held next month in Des Moines.

The state qualifiers included the following:

- Treasurer's book, Bo Harrington, first place.
- Chapter website, Joel Winters, first place.

The website committee also includes Aiden Lamborn, Jackson Zwansiger, Harrington and Landon Pratt.

- Secretary's book, Kara Levi, first place.
- Extemporaneous speaking, Aiden Sullivan, second place.

Also earning a gold medal was Cale Jensen in creed speaking while three chapter members — Jaycie Bilharz, Emarae Carey and Levi earned academic achievement awards.

And two Nashua-Plainfield students, Pratt and Bilharz, were named voting delegates during the district contest.

Seniors adapt, even embrace, high-tech cars

By DOROTHY HUBER
Of the Reporter

When car shopping at the Vern Laurs dealership some years back, Jim Haeflinger wanted a basic vehicle, without all the options and add-ons. But the 2017 van he purchased had some of those bells and whistles anyway. Now, years later, he wouldn't be without them.

"I do like the features I did get," he said. "I think that stuff's really nice, it's saved me a couple times."

He was talking about some of the safety features that, while many of them aren't new, are getting to be standard on vehicles now.

"When you're backing up and there's something in your way, there will be a voice that will warn you, that's a really nice safety feature. It'll show you how close you are to something. It's nice to have."

Those of us over a certain age may have a bit harder time adapting to new technology than the younger generations, but that's where Laurs' salespeople, including Donald Broer, come in.

"Things are always changing," he said, "even for us. We're always taking different classes online to try and educate ourselves the best we can. If people have questions on stuff after they take their vehicle home, we don't want them to feel bad if they have to come back. We will go over things with them, several times if that's what it takes."

A salesman since 2013, Broer has seen plenty of changes in that period of time.

"The back-up cameras, when I started, were just small screens in the rear-view mirror. Then you had four-inch, then eight-inch screens, now probably most of the screens are typically 12 inches. Most systems run by touchscreen now, and using Apple Car or Android Auto you can interface with your phone, make calls and play music that's stored on your phone. In '18 or newer cars your Google Maps will come up on the screen and you can look up restaurants, gas stations or other businesses."

Outside mirrors that make you aware of drivers that are in your blind spot are now in many vehicles.

"We also have what they call adaptive cruise control — once you set your cruise control



Today's vehicles offer a variety of high-tech help, including and "lane keep" assistance to help all drivers be more safe on the road.

speed and you're driving down the road, it'll automatically slow you down when there's a car in front of you and speed up again when it's safe. A lot of people really enjoy that feature going through cities on interstate highways."

Settings can be switched between long, medium and close, depending on how comfortable a driver is to having a car directly in front of them. A forward collision alert uses a sensor in front of the vehicle to sound an alarm if a driver gets too close to a car in front of them "There's three different colors that appear, it goes from green, to yellow, then red," Broer said with a smile, "once it gets to red, it beeps really, really loud. It gets your attention."

Loud is good, especially for those of us that have gone into the hearing-challenged department.

There's also a lane keep assist feature. "So, what that does — if you're going 34 miles per hour or faster — it will alert you if you get too close to the center line or yellow line, unless you're using your turn signal. They also call that a lane change alert feature, it's the same thing." In 2020 or newer models, he said, the steering will correct the vehicle somewhat, but prompts the driver to "put your hands on the wheel."

Keyless entry is not just good for older adults, but anyone who has fumbled with a key trying to open a car door in a dark parking lot late at night. "You have to be 2-3 feet from the vehicle in order to open it, if you're not close, no one else is going to be able to get in." And for the forgetful, the car will not lock if the remote is in the vehicle.

While most of the

Chickasaw County Conservation Board will hold GPS event March 17

The Chickasaw County Conservation Board will hold a "Pot O' Gold" GPS event on Thursday, March 17, at the Twin Ponds Nature Center.

The event will run from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and will be hosted by the county's naturalist, Matt Crayne.

Crayne said that one GPS unit will be available for each group or family, and because there are a limited number of units available, they will be handed out on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information about the event, call Crayne at 641-394-4714.

Marie Bigelow, 93

Marie Bigelow, age 93 of Nashua, died Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at her home surrounded by her family.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at the United Methodist Church in Nashua with the Rev. Sarah Namukose presiding.

Friends greeted the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 7, 2022, at the Hugeback Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua. Visitation continued an hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday.

Online condolences for Marie's family may be left at hugebackfuneralhome.com.

Marie was born on May 2, 1928, to Jerry and Daisy (Snow) Stewart in the central Illinois town of Hillsboro, and her family moved to Iowa when she was young. Her parents farmed near Blairsburg, and Marie joined her siblings in helping them with various chores on the farm.

She was an excellent student at Blairsburg High School, and after graduating, she attended Iowa State Teachers College, which is now the University of Northern Iowa, where she studied to be a teacher.

Marie taught for four years at schools in and around Blairsburg, Kamrar, Stanhope, and Floyd.

While attending college, she met Bert Bigelow, and he was a persistent fellow who finally won Marie over. They began dating, fell in love, and were married on June 23, 1951, and they settled in Bert's hometown of Nashua.

The couple had four boys — twins James and Jerry, Rodney and Michael — and they had a marvelous mother; in fact, their friends often told the Bigelow boys that "they wished their mom was like our mother" because she was so kind and caring, an excellent cook and the kind of person who always would lend an ear to those who needed some advice or just a good conversation.

Marie was a Cub Scout den mother, an outstanding crocheter, and a Bible School teacher who touched the lives of not only her boys but scores of Nashua residents.

The loss of her husband 26



Marie Bigelow

years ago was a terrible blow to Marie, but she persevered and remained active in so many ways. She and her friends would go to garage sales, not so much to buy things but to get crafting ideas! Wednesdays were reserved for her Bible Study group, and if it was a Friday, Marie was playing cards with her friends.

She was a longtime member of the United Methodist Church in Nashua, where she was active in the United Methodist Women and in the church's Mentorship Program.

Marie adored her eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren and loved spending time playing games with them.

This remarkable woman lived a long and full life, and maybe her sons put it best when they said "we were pretty lucky to have the mom we had." And, so too, were her friends, her church, and community, for she epitomized caring and kindness to all who knew her, and while they will mourn her loss, they know she is at home and reunited with Bert today.

Marie is survived by her four sons, Jerry (Ann) Bigelow of Round Rock, Texas, James (Remy) Bigelow of Bellevue, Nebraska, Rodney (Doralyn) Bigelow of Nashua, and Michael (Deb) Bigelow of Forest City; eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Margaret Mumm of Reinbeck.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bert; two brothers, Lewis and Harry Stewart; and two sisters, Mildred and Mabel Stewart.

Boy Scouts would like to do Pledge of Allegiance before each meeting

CITY COUNCIL: FROM 1

long as city ordinances were adhered to in the placement of the dwelling and it was a permanent structure, they did not have a problem with it.

A second resident of Nashua also informed city officials if it was all right to keep some of the wood from trees that are being cut down at the park. It was decided upon that the Council will talk to the employees that are doing the work to find out what is being done with the wood.

A Welcome Center board member or volunteer is now allowed to earn \$15 an hour to clean that tourist spot in the absence of the regular cleaning person after council members approved this action.

The City also gave the go-ahead to purchase of a \$30 map of Nashua to replace the old in the Welcome Center. The old map doesn't include the Avenue of the Saints.


The Council approved the

purchase of gWorks' FrontDesk software program to help with efficiency in utility billing for a price tag of \$3,760.

The City Council also made the decision to receive another quote on the potential purchase of 96-percent efficient, 75,000 BTU furnace to replace the current 90-percent efficient model at City Hall.

Ott stated the city has received the new windows that will be placed at the fire station. The cost of the windows was almost \$8,000. He said they still need to be installed.

Mike Caswell, with the local Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts organizations, was present with Scout members to ask if the Nashua City Council was interested in reciting the Pledge of the Allegiance before every meeting. He said the Plainfield City Council starts every meeting with the solemn oath. There was no decision made as to what route the Council would take after the request.



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Floyd supervisors reduce max levy

Board lets residents vent their frustrations; former supervisor says county spending 'not sustainable'

By Bob Steenson

bsteenson@charlescitypress.com

After another two hours of letting county residents vent their frustration over proposed property tax increases and county spending levels, the Floyd County Board of Supervisors passed a "maximum tax" resolution with numbers lower than those originally proposed.

The approved max tax resolution sets the maximum tax that can be collected next fiscal year in the general services fund at potentially 18.71% higher than the current fiscal year.

That's down from the 30.69% increase originally proposed.

The approved maximum tax that could be collected in the rural services fund was set at a possible 8.11% increase over the current fiscal year. That's down from the 8.33% possible increase first proposed.

General services is the tax that all property owners in the county pay. Rural services is an additional tax that rural property owners pay to cover the cost of things like the Sheriff's Office and secondary roads and bridge construction and maintenance, just as people who lives in cities pay a city property tax to cover similar city services.

Added together, the two county funds could collect a maximum of \$8.053 million property tax dollars, an almost 7% drop from the previously proposed max tax, but still a 15.5% increase over the current fiscal year.

Most of the decrease in the maximum tax is due to the county making use of some of the \$3.04 million it is getting in American Rescue Plan Act funds, to pay for expenses in the current fiscal year and proposed for next fiscal year.

One current budget projection calls for spending about \$2.4 million of the ARPA funds on the law enforcement center (LEC) and courthouse projects and other expenses, leaving about \$640,000 available for other uses.

The maximum tax resolution sets the maximum amount of property taxes the county can collect in the general services and rural services areas. It does not require the county to collect that amount, and supervisors said they would continue looking for ways to reduce spending

Floyd County Approved Maximum Property Tax Levy

GENERAL SERVICES	Current Budget		Maximum Tax	Change
	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23		
Taxable valuation	\$991,040,483	\$972,717,955	-1.85%	
Requested tax dollars	\$4,853,764	\$5,761,691	+18.71%	
Estimated tax rate	\$4.89764	\$5.92329	+20.94%	

RURAL SERVICES

Taxable valuation	\$631,373,623	\$627,768,413	-0.57%	
Requested tax dollars	\$2,119,559	\$2,291,355	+8.11%	
Estimated tax rate	\$3.35706	\$3.65000	+8.73%	
Total tax requested	\$6,973,323	\$8,053,046	+15.48%	

NOTES: General services taxes are paid by all property owners in the county, rural services taxes are additional taxes paid by people owning property in non-incorporated parts of the county. Tax rate is per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. Additional county taxes include debt service levy and other levies.

Source: Floyd County Auditor's Office

Press Graphic by Bob Steenson

Floyd County Maximum Property Tax, FY 2022-23

GENERAL SERVICES	Original proposal	Approved	Change
Maximum tax dollars	\$6,343,580	\$5,761,691	-9.2%
Estimated tax rate/\$1,000	\$6.52150	\$5.92329	-9.2%

RURAL SERVICES

Maximum tax dollars	\$2,296,063	\$2,291,355	-0.21%
Estimated tax rate/\$1,000	\$3.65750	\$3.65000	-0.21%
Total maximum tax	\$8,639,643	\$8,053,046	-6.79%

NOTES:

- Chart shows the difference between the original published maximum tax and the actual max tax rate approved by the county Board of Supervisors on March 7.
- Maximum tax is the maximum amount of property tax that could be collected, but the actual amount collected could be less, depending on the final county budget.
- General services taxes are paid by all property owners in the county, rural services taxes are additional taxes paid by people owning property in non-incorporated areas.
- Tax rate is per \$1,000 of taxable valuation.
- Additional county taxes include debt service levy, disabilities services levy and others.
- County taxes represent only a portion of the total property tax bill.

Source: Floyd County Auditor's Office

Press Graphic by Bob Steenson

as they finalize the county budget for the next fiscal year.

The maximum tax rate that could be charged actually increases more steeply than the total amount of taxes that can be collected because the total county taxable property valuation declined from the previous year.

As part of the meeting Monday, the board set the public hearing for the county budget for the next fiscal year at 4:45 p.m. Monday, March 28, in the emergency operations center in the (LEC).

In a late afternoon meeting that stretched 3½ hours into the evening, Supervisor Chair Doug Kamm started the maximum tax resolution discussion by telling the 20 or so people attending, "We're not going to have a hearing - we had the hearing the other day. We're just going to pass this resolution."

Nevertheless, the board let the people attending the meeting talk just about as long as they wanted to before voting to pass a lower maximum tax resolution than the one originally

proposed.

Many of the people at the meeting were the same as had been at the actual max tax public hearing a week earlier, and many expressed the same sentiments, voicing serious concern about the ability of people in the county to pay the higher proposed taxes.

They also repeated their urging for the supervisors to cut much more deeply into county spending, and again laid blame for the county's financial situation at least in part on the board's decision several years ago to continue with the LEC and courthouse update project even after bids came in significantly higher than initial cost estimates.

Mark Kuhn, a former Floyd County supervisor, said county spending and taxing have been on an uphill trend that is not sustainable, especially if property valuations should continue to decrease as they did this year.

But County Auditor Gloria Carr pointed to a chart that shows the county tax rate on a downward trend for more than a dozen years before spik-

ing upward in fiscal year 2020 because of the more than a dollar extra debt service levy that voters approved to pay for the LEC and courthouse project.

Even at the current proposed levy the county property tax rate is lower than it was in fiscal years 2007 through 2009, the chart shows.

Kuhn said one of the reasons the tax rate could drop was that the property valuations had been continually increasing. Even though the levy dropped slightly, the county was continuing to collect more taxes each year because property was being valued higher.

That situation was one of the main reasons the maximum tax public hearing and resolution were added to the budgeting process for counties and cities three years ago by the state Legislature, Kuhn said.

"This is a tidal wave that is coming back on the property tax payers," Kuhn said.

Carr and the supervisors have said that one reason for the higher potential tax asking in the next fiscal year is because of what happened during last year's budget process for the current fiscal year, when an error in the wording of the maximum tax resolution that was written by Carr and passed by the board resulted in the county being able to collect only the same amount of taxes as it had in the previous year.

As a result, the general supplemental fund will end this year with a negative balance, requiring getting some money from the general basic fund.

A low carry-over balance in the county's funds can leave it in a precarious situation, because it has to pay bills during the first quarter of the new fiscal year before new property tax payments start coming in, and because it needs funds on hands to deal with emergencies, Carr and the supervisors have said.

Kuhn asked why the board was trying to hide that error being part of the current problem, costing the county \$1.2 million it couldn't collect in the current fiscal year.

But Carr said nobody was trying to hide anything, noting that one of the reasons given for the proposed increase in the maximum tax was "work toward increasing fund balances to 20% carry-forward."

Chickasaw supervisors facing insurance quandary

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

Rick Holthaus in the 2020 election.

In the past, absentee ballots that had been postmarked by the Feb. 28 deadline and arrived in the Auditor's Office by mail before the canvass could be counted, but a Republican-backed bill that was signed into law by Gov. Kim Reynolds requires absentee ballots to be in the hands of the auditor no later than when the polls close on an election day.

Mashek told supervisors on Monday afternoon that her office had audited the election results late last week and that the final results released on election night remained the same with Breitbach, the Democrat who was appointed to the seat in late January, with two more votes than Republican Mike Winter. David Tilkes, the former supervisor who ran as a no-party candidate, was a distant third with 66 votes while two other no-party candidates, Mark Knoll and Larry Laues, received 17 and 11, respectively.

Speakers at Nashua's ISU Research Farm March 16

Dr. Keith Schilling, state Geologist and director of the University of Iowa's Iowa Geological Survey and Ann Johanns, an ISU Extension ag and natural resources program specialist, will speak at the annual meeting of the Northeast Iowa Agricultural Experimental Association (NEIAEA) at the Borlaug Learning Center, ISU Northeast Research Farm, Nashua on March 16.

The program starts at 9:30 a.m. Schilling will discuss "Challenges and Opportunities of Carbon Storage and Sequestration in Midwest Landscapes" and Johanns will share information on "Carbon Market Options for Producers."

After lunch, Ken Pecinovsky, the Northeast Iowa Research Farm superintendent, will review 2021 research trial results conducted at the farm and discuss future research plans.

Lunch is served at the meeting is the 2021 Research Farm Report.

Lunch is served as a fund raiser. The day's sessions qualify for two free CCA credits.

During the canvass, Mashek was asked how much the special election would cost the county and she said it would be around \$1,700.

Breitbach's win in the special election means he will represent District 1, which covers the northern part of the county and includes the cities of Ionia, North Washington and Alta Vita, through Dec. 31, 2024.

The canvass wrapped up a long day for the supervisors on Monday as they discussed a number of issues, including wrestling with how much it wants to insure the 24 buildings the county owns.

Many of the buildings haven't been valued since 2011, and supervisors expressed concern if they had enough insurance to replace buildings like the courthouse, the sheriff's office, the county shop and the Heritage.

Premiums with the Heartland Insurance Risk Pool are due by August, and County Attorney David Laudner said he believes Heartland officials should be helping the

county determine replacement values for its buildings.

"You insure your house or your boat or something and your insurance agent sits down and helps you out," Laudner said. "We're paying them thousands and thousands of dollars. Don't they have someone that can sit down with us and go through all this and say here's what other counties are doing, here's what we're suggesting you do."

Supervisor Tim Zoll said that an agent will be coming sometime this summer to look at buildings and set appraisal values in 10 counties that are part of the pool, but that the reports on those buildings will not be due until October.

"Great service," Laudner responded. "It's disappointing."

Supervisors agreed to have Zoll contact Heartland and see if supervisors could meet with Heartland officials before moving forward on how much insurance the county will buy.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield middle-distance runner Jennah Carpenter competes at the Cowpath Relays last spring.

Nashua-Plainfield travels to Wartburg on Tuesday

GIRLS: FROM 7

personal-best time with a clip of 5:07. She finished 13th overall in the 45-person field.

N-P competes in the indoor meet on Tuesday at Wartburg College.

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NASHUA-PLAINFIELD RESULTS

60 prelims - 9. Makenzie Foelske

8.09, 63. Abbie Hyde 8.72, 147.

Hannah Lechtenberg 10.13.

60 finals - 8. Foelske 8.12.

60 hurdles prelims - 99. Bailey

Fisher 11.96, 119. Ryan Reams

12.64, 128. Shey Bergmann 14.73.

200 - 118. Marleigh Lowe 31.32,

143. Brieley Gerholdt 32.88, 145.

Rylee Weiss 33.51.

400 - 91. Jordyn Frost 1:12.04,

126. Maci Malven 1:19.37, 130.

Grace Geiner 1:21.86.

800 - 82. Kara Levi 2:57.45, 99.

Emily Becker 3:14.58, 103. Braylee

Schaufenbeul 3:25.36.

1,500 - 13. Kadence Huck 5:07.86.

3,000 - 31. Emma O'Neill 15:28.

24.

4x200 - 33. Foelske, Frost, Weiss,

Hyde 1:59.43.

4x400 - 20. Jennah Carpenter,

Ellie Eick, Fisher, Huck 4:36.95.

4x800 - 30. Carpenter, Levi,

Amberly Gerholdt, Eick 11:48.64.

Shot put - 2. Breanna Hackman

39-4.75, 85. Myranda Webster 24-11.

Long jump - 17. Foelske 15-7, 88.

Weiss 11-2.

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Thanks again,
Evelyn Kapping

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Nashua-Plainfield girls welcome new track coach

Mahnesmith says she's excited to take the reins of a program that has experienced plenty of success in recent years

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

Kristi Hannemann had a way of getting the best out of her Nashua-Plainfield track athletes. That's the mark of any good coach out there – regardless of sport. Hard work and dedication is the bedrock of success in track and field. It also helps to have a little fun along the way as well. There was Hannemann's "Motivating

Mondays" and "Fun Fridays" – a successful attempt to make practices and workouts fun, but at the same time achieving your goals. Those coaching approaches that helped make N-P a winner under the direction of Hannemann will definitely be utilized by her successor – first-year



Mahnesmith

Husky head coach Jessi Mahnesmith. "A lot of it was just the traditions that Kristi built," said Mahnesmith. "She made it more than just about running." Mahnesmith takes over this spring for Hannemann – a 2000 N-P grad that accepted the position as PK-12 Principal at Clarksville High School last year. Hannemann guided the Husky girls track program for many seasons and she helped make the transition a smooth one for Mahnesmith.

"I reached out to her to just come and watch her high school practices. I made sure to try to align my coaching style with hers," said Mahnesmith. "She was very helpful. She helped provide me with a lot of info to get me started." The Huskies shouldn't miss a beat this spring with their new head coach at the helm – a 2008 Charles City High School grad that loves running. Mahnesmith started a youth cross country club in Charles City for kids

in the first thru the sixth grade titled Solar Powered. She's looking to do the same in the area with a youth track team. Mahnesmith will incorporate plenty that she learned from Hannemann when she was the junior high track coach at N-P in 2018 for one season. Her mentor showed her the ropes back then and Mahnesmith is eager and excited to once again lead a Husky

SEE COACH, 5

Huskies show potential at the Dickinson Relays

Hackman, Foelske both bring home top-10 finishes from indoor meet at the UNI-Dome

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

Makenzie Foelske was flyin' on Monday at the UNI-Dome. The senior Husky sprinter produced a terrific time in the 60-meter dash at the Dickinson Relays. That's where the season-opening indoor competition took place and brought schools from all over the state to attend the meet on the University of Northern Iowa's campus in Cedar Falls. Foelske placed eighth in a time of 8.12 in the finals of the event. Foelske finished ninth out of 157 runners in the 60-meter dash prelims with a time of 8.09 to advance to the sprint finals. "She rocked her 60," said first-year N-P head coach Jessi Mahnesmith. N-P senior thrower Breanna Hackman placed second in the shot put with a heave of 39-4.75. Hackman beat out all but one of the 110 throwers in the field. Denver senior Sydney Eggena won the shot put with a

toss of 39-6.75. Hackman is N-P's school record holder in the shot put and is a UNI recruit. "She's going to throw for UNI so that's her stomping grounds," said Mahnesmith. "She showed up." Hackman placed state runner-up in the shot put last year as a junior in Class 1A and engineered a fourth-place finish in that same event at the Drake Relays. "She's really taking initiative, too. She trains herself and the other girls," said Mahnesmith. N-P's 4x400 relay of senior Jennah Carpenter, sophomore Ellie Eick, junior Bailey Fisher and freshman Kadence Huck placed 20th in a time of 4:36.95. Carpenter's split of 1:07 was a PR. "That was a great way to start our season off," said Mahnesmith. Huck was the top runner out of all Class 1A competitors in the 1,500 run as she tied her

SEE GIRLS, 4



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Makenzie Foelske, shown here at last year's state track and field meet, was one of a number of Nashua-Plainfield track athletes who got their seasons off to strong starts at Monday's Dickinson Relays.

ON TAP FOR THE HUSKIES

TUESDAY

Boys and girls track at Wartburg Indoor, 2 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 29
Boys and girls track at St. Ansgar Early Bird Coed, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

Boys and girls golf vs. Charles City and Osage at Cedar Ridge Golf Course, Charles City, 4 p.m.
Boys and girls track at Osage Coed Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Boys and girls golf vs. Central Springs and Northwood-Kensett, Nashua Town and Country Club, 4:15 p.m.
Boys track at Hudson Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Girls track at Hampton-Dumont Relays, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

Boys and girls golf vs. St. Ansgar and North Butler, Acorn Pork Golf and Recreation Club, St. Ansgar 4:15 p.m.

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N-P boys make debut at 'crowded' indoor meet

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

Chase Sudol was pleasantly surprised after he left the UNI-Dome on Tuesday and headed back home. That's not always the case for the Nashua-Plainfield boys track coach after the first indoor meet of the season is put in the books.

"Some of the guy's times were just as good as how they finished off last year," said Sudol. "Their times are some of the best times I've seen for this early in my six years of coaching." The Huskies had their moments at the Dickinson Relays – which kick started the indoor season for a bevy of prep teams that traveled to Cedar Falls to compete in the stacked field.

N-P placed 30th overall in the 4x400 relay with the team of Sam Fundermann, Max Hillegas, Jackson Carey and Aiden Geiner. That pairing ran to a clip of 3:52.27. The Huskies' 4x800 squad, which consisted of Drew Wilken, Devin Johnson, Caleb Lentz and Bo Harrington, placed 32nd among 59 entrants. That team's time

SEE BOYS, 5

ST. BERNARDS CHURCH
ST. PATRICK'S 36TH DRIVE-THRU SUPPER
SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH

(SNOW DATE MARCH 20TH)
ALTA VISTA MUNICIPAL HALL • 3:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Tickets: Adults & Children: \$14 in advance, \$15 the day of
Tickets available from parishioners or New Hampton Fareway, Security State Bank New Hampton, AV Express-Alta Vista, Peoples Savings Bank-Elma

RAFFLE TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE.
Raffle sponsored by Catholic Order of Foresters St. Joseph's Court # 878

MENU:

Grilled Pork Chop, Dressing, Green Beans, Potatoes and Gravy, Coleslaw, and Pie

New Hampton Tribune & Nashua Reporter
Presents The

FARM LIFE PHOTOS

For Ag Week

Submit Your Favorite Farm Life Photos by March 17, 2022.

Email your photos to: accounting@nhtrib.com as a jpeg file format.
Free to enter and no entry limit.
Please include your name and phone number.

The photos will be displayed on our website nhtribune.news and some will be featured in the March 24th issue of the New Hampton Tribune and the March 25th issue of the Nashua Reporter during Ag Week.

From the entries we receive, your name will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win \$30 in New Hampton Chamber Bucks.

Call the New Hampton Tribune office 641-394-2111 with questions

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Filling the gym with beautiful music!

Nashua-Plainfield Junior High student Madeline Hennings (above) takes the microphone for a solo while Maverick Dietz-McDonald plays the saxophone with the High School Jazz Band during the Mid-Winter Concert that was held last week.



Dawson Petersen (left) plays trumpet with the Junior High Band while Megan Bottorff (above) plays trumpet and Chandler Vilmain (right) is on cymbals with the High School Concert Band.



Connor Sullivan and Carson Mundorf (above) sing with the Junior High Choir while Jordyn Frost (right) focuses on her music as she plays the flute with the High School Concert Band.



CONCERT PHOTOS BY THE REPORTER'S KELLY TERPSTRA



Members of the Nashua-Plainfield High School Concert Choir (left) perform a song while Titus Cerwinske (above) plays his alto saxophone with the Junior High Band.