

BACK TO SCHOOL

Nothing, and we mean nothing, beats Day 1

Todd Liechty will be the first to admit that he's been around education for a long time; heck, when he was hired as Nashua-Plainfield's superintendent back in April 2021, he joked that he was an "old fart."

His career began in the early 1980s when Liechty took a job as a high school science teacher and coach at Davis County in Bloomfield, and his career as a teacher, coach, administrator has taken him to New London, Fairfield, North Mahaska and Mount Pleasant.

Much has changed in education over the last 40 years, but one thing remains exactly the same for the top administrator at Nashua-Plainfield.

Nothing, and we mean absolutely nothing, beats the first day of school, and for Liechty, the first day of the school year isn't when teachers report back to work; it means the first day the kids come to school.

"I'm not kidding one bit," he said, "but I'm as excited as a little kid every year when the students come back. Nothing



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

against the adults — we've got a great staff — but there's just something about having kids back in the building."

He paused for a moment, and although we were talking over the phone, I swear I could see the wide smile lighting up his face.

"They're just always so doggone excited," he said, "and that goes for all the kids. Look, I know there are some kids who don't like school — remember, you just called me old so I've been around the block a time or two — but that first day, they're just glad to see everyone, be back and all that. There's that 'I-can-do-anything' feeling on their faces and I love seeing that."

He'll get his opportunity to witness those looks next week as Nashua-Plainfield holds its first day of classes for grades 6-12 on Wednesday and for grades K-5 on Thursday. The latter — the youngsters of the district — will have intake conferences and a picture day on Wednesday.

I've written this before I'm sure, so I apologize for repeating myself, but the fact is I'm a lot like Liechty.

It's been five years since I sent my last child off to his final first day of school, but Wednesday and Thursday mornings, I will scroll through Facebook, see all the pictures of the kids going back to school



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Kelly Terpstra's photo from the first day of the 2022-23 school year, in this columnist's opinion, captures the essence of the "first day of school."

and like them all.

Part of it is pure selfishness. The start of school means the long break that comes between the end of the summer sports season and the start of the fall sports one means I'll have games to cover.

And no offense to the Board of Supervisors, the city councils and the school boards, I always joke that getting to go to a Tuesday night cross country meet, a Thursday night volleyball match and a Friday night

football game is well-earned payback for sitting through and covering meetings.

And I'll be honest, if we're "short" a story for this week's paper, having school in session helps a lot. I mean you can't just show up in the middle of a town in the summer and ask "can you put together a quick festival" so I can fill the paper, right?

But it's more than that. Really, I know I'm selfish, but I'm not that selfish. Or at least I don't think I am.

The emotion on Day 1 is what gets me the most.

The kindergartner who's not quite sure she wants to let go of her father's leg and be left in that classroom all alone.

The big brother holding the hand of the little sister as they walk into that big school building — and remember, when you're 5, even a small school like Nashua-Plainfield's seems gigantic — gets me every time.

So, too, does the picture our sports editor, Kelly Terpstra, took last year and that accompanies this column. I love that "hey-I-see-a-friend" look, one

I've seen countless times in my almost 40 years of covering schools.

I can go on and on. I love watching teachers greet their students, I love seeing some kids dress to the "nines" while others — who remind me of my sons, Josh and Noah — look like they grabbed the first thing they could find.

The funny thing is five years ago I didn't think I'd miss it all that much.

I. Was. Wrong. So. Wrong.

When you're in the midst of being a parent to school-aged kids, back to school is, well, it's stressful. The shopping, the physical, the getting them to actually wake up so they can be there on time ... it's a grind.

But it was always worth it — from K through 12 — when Day 1 rolled around. At our house, the tradition was we'd get up early, go out to breakfast, take the "first-day-of-school" picture and go to school.

It's one I miss, and if I could take a day off next week, I'd drive 7 1/2 hours to Carbondale, Illinois, take Noah

out to eat before his first day of classes at Southern Illinois University and drive 7 1/2 hours back home.

Granted, over time, the boys became less inclined with the pictures and one year, when I had a pressing deadline at work, I had to bribe them with five bucks apiece to stop at the office before they went off to high school. On a side note, if you saw the poses I got from them that morning, you would immediately realize how much they fleeced me that day!

So as we get ready for Day 1 next week, my advice to parents is to enjoy the grind, the headaches and the cajoling it takes to get your kids off to the first day of school. Trust me, you'll miss it.

And my advice to you kids is this: Take the dang picture and smile.

It means the world to your mom and dad, and think about it, they do a heck of a lot for you, right?

In the end, take it from two "old farts" — Liechty and Fenske — nothing beats the first day of school.

School is almost here and it's time to get back into a routine with your kids.

Help give your child the best chance at learning. Here's a good guide for bedtimes based on your child's age.

What time should your kids go to bed?



WAKE UP TIME							
	6 a.m.	6:15 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	7 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m.
BED TIME							
AGE							
5	6:45 p.m.	7 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
6	7 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
7	7:15 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.
8	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.
9	7:30 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
10	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.
11	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.
12	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.

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Head Back to School Safely!

- Be smart about posting back-to-school first day pictures on your social media.
- Talk to your kids about being kind.
- Check in on digital and internet safety.

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Nashua REPORTER
Have a fun & safe school year!



Back To School Safety Tips!

- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school drop-off procedure.
- Safety starts at the bus stop. Your child should arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Talk to your kids about their behavior on the bus by staying in their seats and talking quietly.

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Back To School

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- Use Crossroads and Pedestrian Crossing

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Back To School Tip
Meet the new teachers. Allow them to become acquainted with new classrooms and try to find a way to meet with the teachers one-on-one.

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**BACK-TO-SCHOOL**
Tips For Parents

- Prepare a weekly meal planner and to-do list, including their outfits
- Communication is key

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BACK TO SCHOOL

School hopes for lower diamond bids next month

DIAMONDS: FROM 1

the district opened bids on the project and the lowest came in at \$4.5 million, 50 percent higher than the engineer's estimate for the complex.

"We have to find a way to keep it at \$3 million," Nashua-Plainfield Superintendent Todd Liechty said, "because that's the limit we can sell to pay off with our [SAVE funds]. So we went to work on it, came up with some changes and are hoping that with those and maybe better timing, we'll get there."

The district expects to open bids on the project early next month, and Liechty said he was still hopeful that the fields would be ready to be used by next summer. But he pointed out that one of the items removed from the bids the second time around was the "restrictions."

During the first bidding process, the district required contractors to begin working on the project as soon as the 2023 season ended and have them ready by the time the 2024 season commences in May.

Part of the issue with the high bids received in the spring was the fact that by the time contractors bid on the project, they had a "full season" of work on their plates. A fall bidding is usually advantageous because contractors are beginning to work on the following year's

schedule.

But Liechty said because of a dry summer, there may be contractors who have finished projects earlier than expected and still looking for work yet this fall.

"There just hasn't been that many 'lost days' this year when it comes to construction," he said, "so if they can start working this fall and finish it up in the spring, there could be a chance it would be ready for 2024. But right now, the important thing is the price and we're hopeful that we're going to get there."

He said among the changes in the call for bids this time around is the removal of some buildings, including a storage shed, moving the ticket booth and "crow's nests" for both diamonds from required to "options" and reducing the elevation of the two youth fields.

"The dirt to raise those diamonds wasn't the issue," he said, "but the trucking in of that dirt was really expensive, and I mean really, really expensive."

And although he was disappointed with the first bidding process, he said the project will still give Nashua-Plainfield what it needs.

"It's still going to be a very nice complex," he said, "and we think one that our communities will not only be proud about but also be well used."



Graphic courtesy of Mid-Prairie Community Schools

Let's be careful out there!

School officials and law-enforcement are reminding residents to be "school bus aware" as the academic year begins and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said that motorists need to understand what those school bus lights mean. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. You should slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle. Red flashing lights and extended stop arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. You must stop your car and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving, before you can start driving again.

Good news is first week of school is at least going to be 'short'

SCHOOL: FROM 1

Wednesday, is used by Nashua-Plainfield Elementary for "intake conference," in which parents and children bring their school supplies and meet their teachers.

This year, that day will also be used as the school's "Picture Day."

"We thought we'd give that a try so that parents can be there, make sure their kids

look good, you know, the hair is right and the collar is down and all that," Wurzer said. "The idea is that maybe this will help make sure parents get the pictures they really want."

If there's a positive about the start of the 2023-24 school year, it is the fact that it starts on a Wednesday. Under state law, schools can't start classes until Aug. 23, and when that date falls on a Monday, it

can be challenging for students, especially for younger elementary students.

"This is almost a perfect way to start the year," she said. "They'll come, meet their teachers and get their pictures one day and then have two days of classes. The start of the year is always tough on our littles. They're not used to sitting as long and honestly, a whole week during the first week can be exhausting for them."

BACK TO SCHOOL

AVOID BACKPACK OVERLOAD

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School Safety Tips

- Know and follow the school's safety policies.
- Always tell your parents where you plan to be before and after school.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Utilize cross walks.

Have a safe & wonderful school year!

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back-to-school

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BACK TO SCHOOL

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BACK TO SCHOOL

SAFETY TIPS

- 1, Don't Talk to Strangers.
- 2, STOP Before You Cross the Street.
- 3, Memorize Your Phone Number & Address.
- 4, Stand Up To Bullies.
- 5, Don't Keep Secrets From Parents.

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- Schedule ample time for Homework
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William Arthur Kunzman, 85

William Arthur Kunzman, age 85 of Charles City and formerly of Nashua died Tuesday, August 14, 2023, at Floyd County Medical Center in Charles City.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, August 23, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Nashua with Pastor Todd Burrichter officiating.

Military honors will be held at the church following the service.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at Hugeback & Johnson Funeral Home/Olson Chapel in Nashua and one hour prior to services at the church on Wednesday. A Masonic service will be held following the visitation by the Tyrrell Lodge No. 116.

Online condolences for the Kunzman family may be left at www.hugebackfuneralhome.com.

William, affectionately known to all as Bill, was born on Feb. 23, 1938, in Dubuque. Bill was a beloved figure in his community, known for his loving nature, thoughtful actions, and passionate dedication to the betterment of those around him.

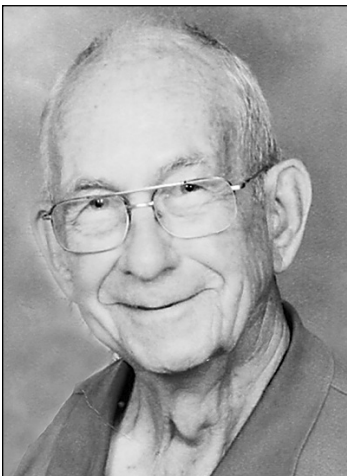
Raised in Dubuque, Elkader, and Strawberry Point, Bill's early education took place at the Strawberry Point School District, where he graduated in May of 1956. He then pursued higher education, earning a bachelor's degree in math and physics from Upper Iowa University and a master's degree in science from the University of Northern Iowa. His love for education and imparting knowledge would later steer him toward a fulfilling career in teaching.

Following his graduation, Bill served in the US Army from 1961 to 1963, a testament to his commitment to his country. He then embarked on his professional journey at Jessens Super Value in Strawberry Point, where he worked from 1953 to 1966.

In 1969, he found his true calling when he became a teacher at the Nashua/Nashua-Plainfield School Districts. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1997, touching countless lives and inspiring generations of students.

Bill's dedication to his community was evident in his active participation in various organizations. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Nashua and held several offices in the local NSEA, including president, vice-president, and membership chairperson. He was a member of the Strawberry Point Jaycees, where he served as president, and he was affiliated with the NNEA, ISEA and NSEA teachers union. He served a term on the Nashua City Council and chaired the Nashua Park Board for over a decade, playing a crucial role in developing the park system, campground, boat ramps and Veterans Park.

As a lifetime member of the Nashua VFW Post, Bill was



Bill Kunzman

instrumental in the establishment of the tank and howitzer in Veterans Park. He and his wife, Phyllis, volunteered for the Nashua Ambulance Service, where he drove and she attended to patients. They also delivered Meals-On-Wheels to shut-ins, reflecting their shared commitment to community service.

Bill was the secretary of Bradford Lodge No. 129, a 32-degree Mason, and a member of the Iowa Consistory. After retirement, he became involved in Mabel's Building Mission and eventually took charge of the organization, leading a group of retired senior citizens in building homes for impoverished families in Mexico during the winter months.

Away from his work and community service, Bill enjoyed spending time outdoors, camping, and fishing. He was an ardent fan of golf and the Hawkeyes. He cherished his morning coffee sessions with the boys and loved taking his science club students on trips to Chicago, the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone.

In his lifetime, Bill was a beacon of love, thoughtfulness, and passion. He left an indelible mark on his community and the lives of those he touched. He will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by all who knew him.

Bill is survived by his wife Phyllis; step-son, Steven (Brenda) Thein of Austin, Minnesota; sister, Shirlee (Glen) Davidson of Brentwood, Tennessee; grandchildren, Tonia (Phillip) Knighten of Charles City, Trevor (Devinee) Thein of Mason City, Coty Hemann, and Dakota Thein of Maple Grove, Minnesota; great-grandchildren, Jalen Jones, Akil Knighten, Malik Knighten, Ana Knighten and Safiya Knighten all of Charles City, Asher and Kaylee Hemann of Maple Grove, Minnesota, and Everlee Thein of Mason City; sisters-in-law, Shirley Chesmore of Manchester, Carolyn (Tony) Kipper of Monticello, and Linda (Steve) Moritz of Manchester.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lowell and Ruby Proctor of Strawberry Point and William and Arlene Kunzman of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and brothers-in-law, Dick Swartz of Manchester, Curt Chesmore of Manchester, and Steven Moritz of Manchester.

William F. Wadey Sr., 86

William F. Wadey Sr., age 86 of Nashua, died unexpectedly on Friday, June 30, 2023, in an automobile accident.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 3, 2023, at United Methodist Church in Nashua with Russ Nesbit and Jerry Jennings presiding.

Interment followed at Oak Hill Cemetery with Chad Wadey, Jason Wadey, William F. Wadey Jr, Luke Wadey, Cameron Wadey and Landen Wessels serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Shawn Hauser, Olivia Rademaker, Belinda Swenson, Elizabeth Mahan, Brandie Rogers, Alicia O'Neil, Justin Marvin, Amanda Keyes, Ashley Hunstinger, Larissa Smith and Lakiesha Wessels.

Friends greeted the family from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 2, 2023, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua. Visitation continued an hour prior to the service on Monday at the church.

Online condolences for the Wadey family may be left at www.hugebackfuneralhome.com.

William was born on July 30, 1936, on a farm near Plainfield, the son of John and Martha Wadey.

He graduated from Plainfield High School in 1954.

After school he married the love of his life, Betty Hall Wadey, on May 21, 1955. To this union, five children were born. They eventually made their home on the family farm near Nashua where they lived for several years before retiring to their current home in town. He worked numerous jobs throughout his lifetime to provide for his family.

William loved the outdoors and spent countless hours fishing, hunting, and gardening. One of his greatest enjoyments came from spending time with his family and friends, including the monthly family potlucks.

William accepted the Lord as



William Wadey

his personal Savior on October 16, 1966 by simply trusting that "Jesus died for me." He was in fellowship at the Antioch Gospel Hall near Clarksville, for several years, until he was no longer able to attend services due to his health.

William is survived by his wife of 68 years Betty Wadey of Nashua; three sons, Bill (Jackie) Wadey of Allison, Wes (Terri) Wadey of Charles City, and Doug (Kim) Wadey of Clarksville; one daughter, Lisa (John) Wessels of Allison; 17 grandchildren, Shawn (Aaron) Hauser of Greene, Bill Jr. (Maegann Townsend) Wadey of LeGrand, Luke (Krystal) Wadey of Allison, Olivia (Devan) Rademaker of Greene, Chad Wadey of Charles City, Jason (Sheila) Wadey of New Haven, Belinda (Jason) Swenson of Little Cedar, Elizabeth (Josh) Mahan of Nashua, Brandie Rogers of Charles City, Cameron Wadey of Greene, Alicia (Nate) O'Neill of Nashua, Justin (Michele) Marvin of Indianola, Amanda (Josh) Keyes of Charles City, Ashley (Patrick) Hunstiger of Mukilteo, Larissa (Matthew) Smith of Waterloo, Lakiesha Wessels of Cedar Falls, and Landen Wessels of Allison; 40 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Rhonda Aswegan in 1986.

Agronomist frets over heat's effect on crops

HEAT: FROM 1

Reduce, eliminate or reschedule strenuous outdoor activities until the coolest time of the day. Those particularly vulnerable to heat such as children, infants, older adults (especially those who have preexisting diseases, take certain medications, living alone or with limited mobility), those with chronic medical conditions, and pregnant women should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.

Dress for summer by wearing lightweight, loose fitting, light-colored clothing to reflect heat and sunlight.

Eat light, cool, easy-to-digest foods such as fruit or salads. If you pack food, put it in a cooler or carry an ice pack. Don't leave it sitting in the sun. Meats and dairy products can spoil quickly in hot weather.

Drink plenty of water (not very cold), non-alcoholic and decaffeinated fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty. If you are on a fluid-restrictive diet or have a problem with fluid retention, consult a physician before increasing consumption of fluids.

Use air conditioners or spend time in air-conditioned location.

Do not direct the flow of portable electric fans toward yourself when room temperature is hotter than 90 degrees, because the dry blowing air will dehydrate you faster,

endangering your health. Take cool baths or showers.

And maybe the most important tip is this one: Be a good neighbor. Check on your neighbors, especially older, sick, or frail people who may need help responding to the heat. Each year, dozens of children and untold numbers of pets left in parked vehicles die from hypothermia. Keep your children, disabled adults, and pets safe during tumultuous heat waves.

Maybe the most distressing part of the short-term forecast is the fact that it doesn't come with a single mention of rain, which means the drought situation in the area will continue to worsen.

While parts of Northeast Iowa saw decent rainfall last week, Nashua's official weather station reported receiving .94 inches of rain — far below the 2 inches of precipitation that was recorded just 16 miles away in New Hampton.

"It's not favorable forecast, not by a long shot," ISU Extension Agronomist Terry Basol said. "I'm a little concerned because we don't have the reserve moisture that you need going into a heat wave. And then the lack of storms; at least if you get that, you have a chance to recoup a little.

"So maybe a little concerned isn't the right way to say it. We're very concerned and all we can do right now is hope for the best."

New Service: Concussion Baseline Testing for the General Public!

Taylor Physical Therapy is proud to be providing baseline concussion assessments to the general public, aimed towards our youth student-athletes involved in competitive and recreational sports! Our goal is to help you gather information now to help with recovery later!

What is baseline concussion testing?:

Concussion baseline testing gathers information before a concussion that is then used during the rehabilitation process after a concussion occurs. Having baseline information prior to the concussion provides the therapist with the athlete's personal "norm" and a goal to work towards during the recovery process. It improves the understanding of when the athlete's brain has returned to pre-injury function and allows the therapist to center the treatment plan specifically around that athlete's unique needs. Obtaining baseline testing is the gold standard to promote the best possible outcomes for a student athlete who obtains a concussion.

How does baseline concussion testing take place?:

Our athletic training and sports medicine staff will take your sons and daughters through baseline concussion testing utilizing Sway Medical, a platform created to test, organize and store baseline concussion data that can then be utilized in the case of a future head injury.

After registration, your son or daughter will download the "Sway Medical App" on their phone to perform the testing. The assessment consists of a series of tests

which will gather information on your child's:

- balance
- cognition
- reaction time
- inspection time
- impulse control

Where will testing take place?:

Testing will take place at Waverly Health Center at Tendrils Roof Top Garden.

When will testing take place?:

Testing will take place at 7 pm on:

-Thursday, August 31st

-Thursday, September 7th

***Please arrive at least 15 minutes early with the Sway Medical App already downloaded on your personal phone

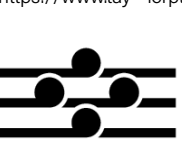
Who is eligible to sign-up for baseline concussion testing?:

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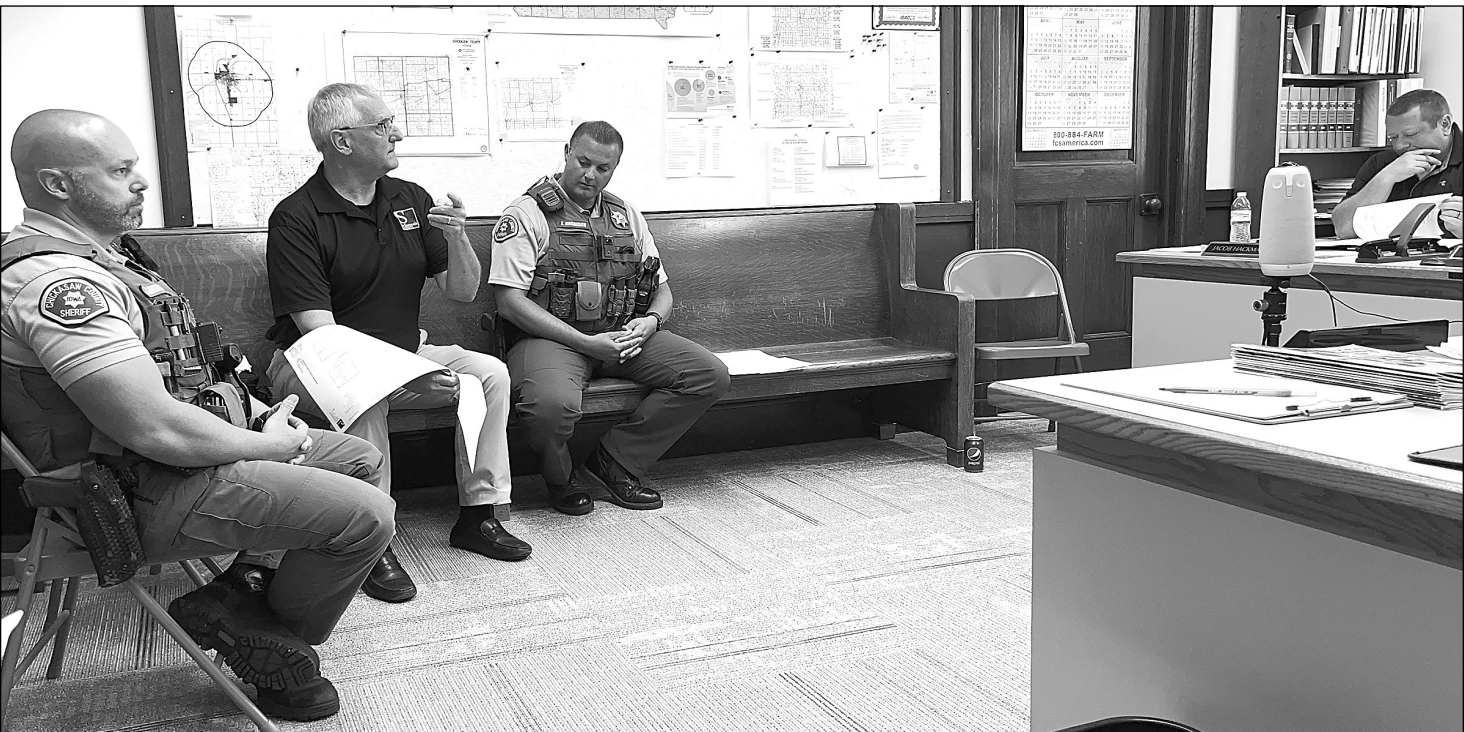
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The Samuels Group's Greg Wilde discusses his company's proposal for the Chickasaw County Sheriff's Office as Sheriff Ryan Shawver (left) and his chief deputy, Zach Nobsch, listen during Monday's Board of Supervisors meeting.

Board chair asks if county should 'tap brakes' on insurance

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

facility and a 24-hour holding center at a cost of \$13.24 million, of which \$2.81 million would be paid for by the city.

While New Hampton officials were willing to proceed on that proposal, supervisors balked at the joint facility and instead asked the Samuels Group to do another study and come up with a cost for a project that would use the 65-year-old Sheriff's Office and the adjacent parking lot.

Wilde returned on Monday and said the costs his company had come up with included architect/engineer fees, construction management fees and a 10 percent preliminary design contingency. He also added that Samuels Group calculated 8 percent for an "escalation factor" because of the increased cost of construction.

That total was just a little more than \$6.35 million, but Wilde said the Samuels Group also "highly recommend" that the county also put in new HVAC and electrical systems in the remodeled building, which would have an estimated \$564,500 to the project.

Wilde said the new building that would be constructed in the parking lot just to the north of the building would include five holding cells — two larger ones, two smaller ones and one that would be padded.

It would also include a "sally port" that would offer more safety and security to law enforcement officers.

Chickasaw County Sheriff Ryan Shawver said he would favor taking the plan to voters this year for a couple of reasons. Waiting a year, he said, "could potentially add half or three-quarters of a million dollars to this number."

Shawver said the plan would satisfy concerns the state's jail inspector has long had about the current jail facility, but he said the sooner voters could weigh in on the matter, the better.

"I know November of this year is a tight timetable to work with," he said. "I know there's concerns about voter turnout, I just don't want this to get swallowed up in a big general election in '24. I want this vote to be done on the merits of the project and people who come to be educated on what they're voting for."

Shawver handed out information he asked Chickasaw

County Assessor Ray Armel to compile on what the tax impact would be if voters approved a \$6.35 million referendum.

Armel in a note emphasized his figures are "subject to change" but he estimated on a 10-year bond the tax impact would be about \$1.182 per \$1,000 valuation for "county rural" and \$0.814 per \$1,000 valuation for "county general." Those numbers would drop to \$0.707 and \$0.487 if the bond was sold to be repaid over 20 years.

Wilde told supervisors that a new law passed by the Iowa Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Kim Reynolds earlier this year has reduced the county's options.

In the past, the county could have held a special election in either March or September, but bond referendums, thanks to the new law, must be decided during a general election.

But to get the question on this year's ballot means supervisors will have to make a decision in all likelihood this month or, at the latest, early next month.

"I would prefer that this option go on the ballot for this November," Supervisor Jake Hackman said. "That's just my two cents."

The jail discussion was part of a meeting that lasted for more than 3 1/2-hours and included its chairman wondering aloud if the board should "tap the brakes" on a decision it made just a week earlier.

During a meeting with county employees on the afternoon of Aug. 7, board members voted 4-1 to begin contributing 75 percent of each employee's family health insurance premium, beginning Oct. 1.

Currently, the county pays 100 percent of single premiums and puts that amount to family plans, which works out to 41.69 percent of the family health plan premium.

Department heads, especially County Engineer Roman Lensing, have said the lack of

county contribution to the family health has made it difficult to attract and retain employees.

But Board Chairman Matt Kuhn said he was worried about the financial impact to the county and despite voting for the motion on Aug. 7, wanted to know "if the board wanted to tap the brakes just a minute and look at this."

Department heads reported to the board that at least 16 employees will in all likelihood switch to the family health plan with the changes approved Aug. 7.

That would mean the number of county employees with family health plans would jump from six to 22, with the possibility of nine additional employees who are considering the move.

"If you felt comfortable enough to set it at 75 percent, budget be damned," said County Attorney David Laudner, noting that supervisors knew the consequences and knew "you had to find the money ... what changed from then to today?"

That led Kuhn to reply that "there are other reasons that I can't share with the door open."

But two of the board members — Steve Breitbach and Scott Cerwinske — who supported the Aug. 7 motion both said they believed the board needed to stand by its decision to bump the county contribution up for family health insurance.

Hackman said he worried about how the county's "partial self-funding" (PSF) mechanism would handle the addition of so many family members, and he requested that the board meet with its insurance company to discuss the best way to protect the county's PSF, which he pointed out has already shown signs of strain.

Lensing, though, cautioned supervisors about vacating the Aug. 7 vote, saying morale of employees would take a "huge

hit."

In the end board members did not make any decisions, except agreeing to meet this Friday morning to discuss the issue further.

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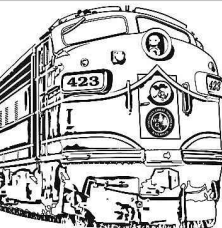
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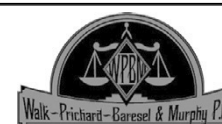
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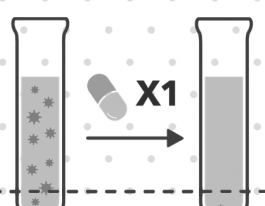
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Chickasaw County Relay for Life ‘revs’ up for a cure

Although event isn’t as large as it once was, American Cancer Society fundraiser is still ‘really meaningful’

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Landon Lechtenberg’s stern facial expression didn’t waver one bit Saturday afternoon as Olivia Eichenberger painted his face.

Until, that is, he got a chance to see the end result of the New Hampton High School student’s artistic smile.

All of a sudden, the 4-year-old New Hampton boy’s face lit up with a smile that could have lit up Mikkelson Park.

“Cool,” he said as he looked over at his parents, Dustin and Jessica Lechtenberg. “I look awesome.”

Yes, he did, and when the story was repeated to American Cancer Society Senior Development Director Hannah Mitchell, her face, just like Landon’s, lit up.

“That’s what the Relay for Life is all about,” she said. “It’s supposed to be a celebration of life. We’re celebrating today the people who have taken on this dreadful disease and we’re remembering those who may have lost their battle but who also gave us so many wonderful memories.

“Raising money, obviously, is important, but celebrating, to me at least, is more so.”

So for a few hours, folks did both. They celebrated and they raised funds during the 2023 Chickasaw County Relay for Life, dubbed this year “Revvin’ Up for a Cure.”

So while little Landon and his older brother, 8-year-old Levi, were getting their faces painted, there was much more going on in the corner of the park that hosted the 2023 event.

The “Latecomers” team was selling raffles to two beautiful quilts — one for fans of the University of Iowa Hawkeyes; the other for fans of the Iowa State Cyclones — luminary bags were being decorated with pictures and messages, folks were taking in the sparkling cars and motorcycles, kids were enjoying the bounce house and



Bob Fenske/Reporter
A luminary bag (above) celebrates the Relay for Life event, where young Landon Lechtenberg (right) likes the end result of his face painting completed by Olivia Eichenberger.

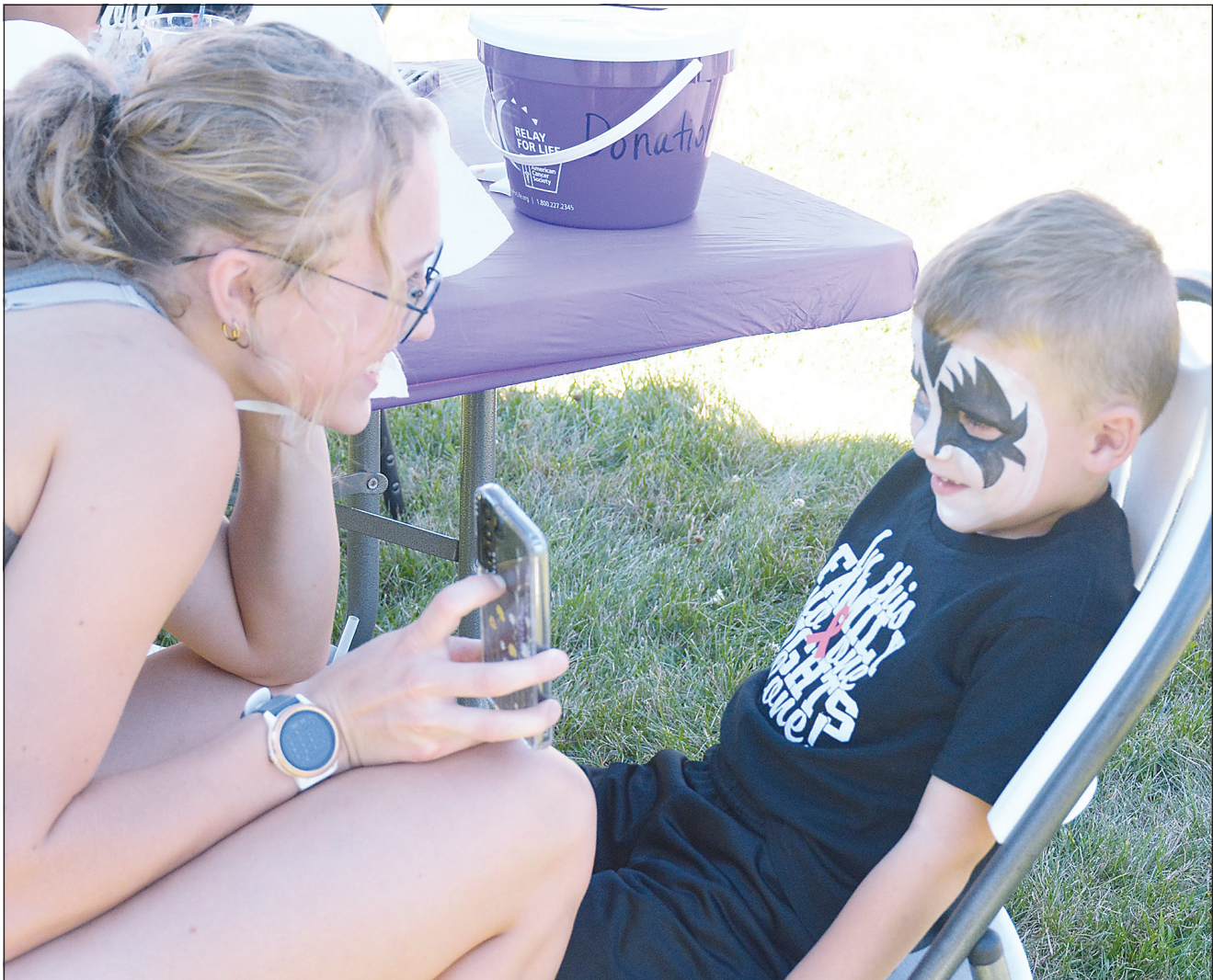
participants of all ages were partaking in some tasty food.

It may not be the all-night party it was years ago, but for those attending the 2023 version, the Chickasaw County Relay for Life still holds a special place in their hearts.

“It is different from the first time we were here,” said Norma Hackman, a member of the Latecomers team that got its name when it showed up for its first Relay back in 2010 without a name, “but it’s still very meaningful for all of us.

“We’ve all been touched by cancer, and we all know how important it is to raise money for this cause.”

The team got its name way back when because when they arrived, they



were asked what their team name was?

“They said we have to have a name and since we barely made it here before it started,” Hackman said with a laugh, “we were the Latecomers and it just kind of stuck.”

Over the years, the group has come up with some unique ways to raise money. There were the four years in which they held its “Kiss a Pig” fundraiser, one that team member Sue Prosser estimates raised \$150,000 for the fight against cancer.

There have also been the selling of kolaches. And we’re talking a lot of kolaches.

“We figured we’ve sold 3,800,” Prosser said before pausing for dramatic effect. “And that’s 3,800 dozens, not just 3,800 kolaches.”

She laughed and pointed out the obvious. “That’s a lot of calories, but it’s also a lot of money for the American Cancer Society.”

The Relay for Life, of course, has changed dramatically over the years.

At one time, most relays were 24-hour affairs in which participants walked around a track in an effort to raise money for cancer research and to help families going through battles against the disease.

While many of relays used high school tracks, Chickasaw County’s relay used Ring Road in Mikkelson Park as its “track.” In recent years, though, relays, including the one in Chickasaw County, have become more condensed.

Saturday’s event began at 2 p.m., the opening ceremony was at 4, the luminaries were lit at 6 and the closing ceremony closed out the festivities.

“It is different these days,” Mitchell said, “but it’s still really important, really meaningful, to celebrate the people and the families who are going through this.”

Charles City voters to vote on \$28.5 million referendum this fall

If approved, the measure would fund a major renovation to high school, along with the construction of an auditorium

By **TRAVIS FISCHER**
Of the Charles City Press

The \$28.5 million bond measure to fund the Charles City High School renovation and auditorium project will be on the ballot this November.

The Charles City Community School Board unanimously approved a resolution Monday ordering an election to issue a bond that will fund a major renovation and remodeling project for the district high school along with the construction of a brand new auditorium addition to the building.

“We have our signatures,” said board member Pat Rottinghaus.

The district has collected, at last count, 582 signatures for the petition that would allow them to move forward with the bond measure, comfortably above the threshold needed to put the measure on the ballot.

To inform the community about the bond measure, the district has established a web-

site, charlescitybond.org, which features details about the construction plans, the impact it will have on area property taxes and the history of both the renovation and auditorium projects.

Rottinghaus suggested another method to demonstrate the importance of moving forward with the high school renovations, which includes installing a new HVAC system, would be by inviting the community to visit the building during the first week of school as temperatures are expected to exceed 100 degrees.

“I challenge the community to come up to the high school and feel what that feels like,” said Rottinghaus.

Superintendent Dr. Anne Lundquist also noted that she is available to personally discuss the details of the bond measure with anybody that wishes to know more.

“I have a full set of resources available,” she said.



Bob Fenske/Reporter
A group of men get a log ready to be cut in the saw mill at Pioneer Power Acres near Fredericksburg on Sunday while the rainy, drizzly morning kept the grounds (below) relatively quiet during the second day of the annual Northeast Iowa Antique Engine and Power Show.

Power Show folks won’t argue with rain

After decent first day, weather holds down attendance at event celebrating area’s farm heritage

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

If there is a “target audience” for the Northeast Iowa Antique Engine and Power Show, it is those who farm or, at the very least, have an affinity for farmers.

So no one on the grounds of Pioneer Power Acres just outside of Fredericksburg was complaining about the drizzle and rain showers that fell Sunday morning on the annual event that takes attendees back in time to how farms were run nearly in the 20th century.

“We need the rain, period, so you’re not going to hear a lot of whining from the guys out here,” said club member Leo Deutsch. “It obviously hasn’t helped attendance today, and we’re a little limited on what we can do today, but again, we



need it so we’ll take it.”

The two-day festival opened on Saturday under clear, sunny skies and those who were on the Pioneer Power Acres saw a number of demonstrations ranging from corn shelling to grain threshing to straw baling to hay loading to ensilage cut-

ting, just to name several.

“It was obviously better yesterday,” Deutsch said Sunday about the show’s attendance, “but we also faced a lot of competition these days. You got the State Fair, a bunch of events around the county, we’re kind of fighting for a piece of the pie.”

Sunday’s rain made for a relatively quiet day on the grounds, although guys like Ralph Schultz Steve Deutsch, Fred Murray, Ken Steege and Mitch Grahman were busy in the “saw nukk.”

Schultz is a Pioneer Power Acres “rookie,” and he was the first to say he doesn’t have any regrets about joining the group.

“I needed some logs cut up,” he said, “and came out here to see if I could get that done and I realized right then and there that this is something I wanted to be a part of. We meet for

coffee once a week or so and then we go to work. I love the camaraderie, that’s something I’ve missed in retirement, just hanging out with the guys.”

For a while around noon Sunday, Schultz and his buddies were virtually the only “game” on the grounds, and the Beckers — a family of five from Cedar Falls — enjoyed the show and learned a thing or two in the process.

“We came up last year because the boys’ great-grandpa told them stories about what it was like to farm back when he was a youngster,” Jim Becker said, “and they actually loved it. I think the ice cream helped, but seriously, if you don’t remember your heritage, that’s not good. We were hoping the rain would hold off, but hey, we’ll be back and we’ll pay more attention to the forecast next summer and come on the nice day.”

Nashua-Plainfield schools to join Leader Valley this fall

Leader Valley, a school-based initiative designed to empower students, has announced its expansion with three new schools, including Nashua-Plaifnfield Elementary and Middle/High School this fall.

Leader Valley Executive Director, Dr. Melissa Reade, states, “We are thrilled to be expanding the Leader Valley family! These schools have been in the Leader in Me process for a few years but recognized the importance of being a part of something greater for the benefit of their students. We are excited about what the Leader Valley collaboration can offer these schools to level up their Leader in Me efforts and are thrilled about the experience and expertise they’ll bring to our other schools.”

Leader in Me is a school-based initiative designed to empower students with the mindsets and skillsets necessary for success in academics and leadership. Partnering with PreK-12 schools, Leader Valley assists educators in integrating Dr. Stephen Covey’s 7 Habits of Highly Effective People into the school’s culture, fostering leadership learning at all levels.

Through Leader in Me, students of all ages learn to set and accomplish goals, assume ownership of their learning, contribute to school decisions, and hold leadership positions. These experiences cultivate vital employability skills such as work ethic, time management, teamwork, responsibility, and effective communication.

Nashua-Plainfield Elementary Principal, Shannon Wurzer, emphasized the significance of empowering children with leadership skills for their overall development. “We recognize that empowering children with leadership abilities from an early age is crucial for their development. By joining Leader Valley, we aim to create an environment where every student is encouraged to discover their unique potential, take initiative, and positively influence their peers and the wider community.”

With the additions of the two schools in Nashua-Plainfield and Grundy Center, Leader Valley now has a membership of 37.



Wurzer

Legal Notice - Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CHICKASAW COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM F. WADEY, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR 003134 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of William F. Wade, Deceased, who died on or about June 30, 2023:

You are hereby notified that on August 14, 2023, the Last Will and Testament of William F. Wade, deceased, bearing date of February 19, 2010, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and there will be no present administration of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the dis-

trict court of the county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Dated on August 15, 2023.
William R. Wade, Proponent
Christine B. Skilton, ICIS#: AT0007262, Attorney for the Estate, Cronin, Skilton & Skilton, P.L.L.C., 205 Brasher Street, P.O. Box 39, Nashua, IA 50658-0039, cskilton@csskiltonlaw.com
Date of second publication: 08/25/23

No. 23220
08/18/23 08/25/23

Nashua-Plainfield enjoys stellar FFA Breeding Beef Show at State Fair

One hundred-sixty exhibitors showed 214 animals on Thursday, Aug. 10, competing for top honors in the FFA Breeding Beef show at the 2023 Iowa State Fair.

And when it was over, Nashua-

Plainfield students had claimed individual awards and the school's chapter had placed second overall in the chapter standings, trailing only the Agri-Power FFA of Eddyville-Blakesburg.

Kael Chapman of Tipton FFA, was

awarded Champion Breeding Heifer.

Riley Janson of Sioux Center FFA won the Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer.

Third Place Overall Breeding Heifer was awarded to Tanner Curtin of

Williamsburg FFA.

Nashua-Plainfield won two individual awards as Hunter Brase was the reserve champion for Red Angus and Luke Paplow won the same honor for Simmental.

Other FFA chapters that finished among the top 10 at the show included Pleasantville, Southwest Valley, Williamsburg, Clear Lake, Cedar Rapids Prarie, Creston, Tipton and South Central Calhoun.

Tonight's the night to meet our Huskies

The Nashua-Plainfield Booster Club will be serving up some great food next Friday evening when the school will hold its fall sports Meet the Huskies Night.

Boosters will be serving a meal that will include pork burgers and Harrington sweet corn, beginning at 5 p.m. Cost of the meal is a freewill donation to the club that supports the Huskies in a variety of ways.

At 6 p.m., the coaches will introduce the members of the Nashua-Plainfield football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading squads before the Huskies take to the gridiron for a scrimmage against Waterloo Columbus that is scheduled to kick off at 6:30 p.m.

ON TAP FOR OUR NASHUA-PLAINFIELD HUSKIES

- 
- TUESDAY**

Varsity and JV volleyball vs. Jesup and New Hampton at Jesup, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 24

Varsity volleyball at Rockford, 6:30 p.m.

Varsity football at Postville, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUG. 28

JV football at Postville, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUG. 29

Volleyball vs. Northwood-Kensett, JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 31

Cross country at Charles City Invitational, Wildwood Golf Course, 5 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Mason City Newman, JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1

Varsity football vs. North Tama, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

Cross country at Wartburg Max Cross Country Course, 4:50 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Central Springs, JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

JV football vs. North Tama, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 7

Cross country at Union Invitational, La Porte City Golf Course, 7 p.m.

Volleyball at St. Ansgar, JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

Varsity football at BCLUW, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

Varsity volleyball at Aplington-Parkersburg Invitational, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 11

JV football at West Fork 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

Cross country at Osage XC Invitational, Mitchell County Nature Center, 4:30 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Osage, JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 15

Varsity football at AGWSR, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16

Varsity volleyball at Nashua-Plainfield Invitational (teams include Clayton Ridge, North Linn, Rockford, South Winneshiek and Starmont), 9 a.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 18

Cross country at Denver Invitational, Willow Run Golf Course, 4:30 p.m.

JV football at AGWSR, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 19

Volleyball at North Butler, JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 21

Cross country at Central Springs Invitational, Pioneer Town and County Club, Manly, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

Varsity football vs. Saint Ansgar, 7 p.m.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Hanging around football training camp, Husky style

Reporter Sports Editor Kelly Terpstra spent his late Wednesday afternoon watching Nashua-Plainfield's football team continue preparations for its 2023 season opener, which will take place this coming Thursday when the Huskies travel to Postville to take on the Pirates in a non-district game. Among the shots Terpstra captured were Navarai Williams (above) trying to catch the ball in traffic, assistant coach Chase Sudol (below left) taking a turn at quarterback, Dylan Blanchard (below right) staying hydrated and a group of future Huskies (bottom) listening to their YSF coaches during a practice.





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Although Rinken fails to medal at nation's premier youth wrestling tournament, he vows to 'keep improving and keep getting stronger'

Rinken – the younger brother of Garret Rinken, a two-time state champion for Al Frost's Huskies and current UNI Panther – went 3-2 in his freestyle bracket and 2-2 in his reco-Roman weight class. Jayden

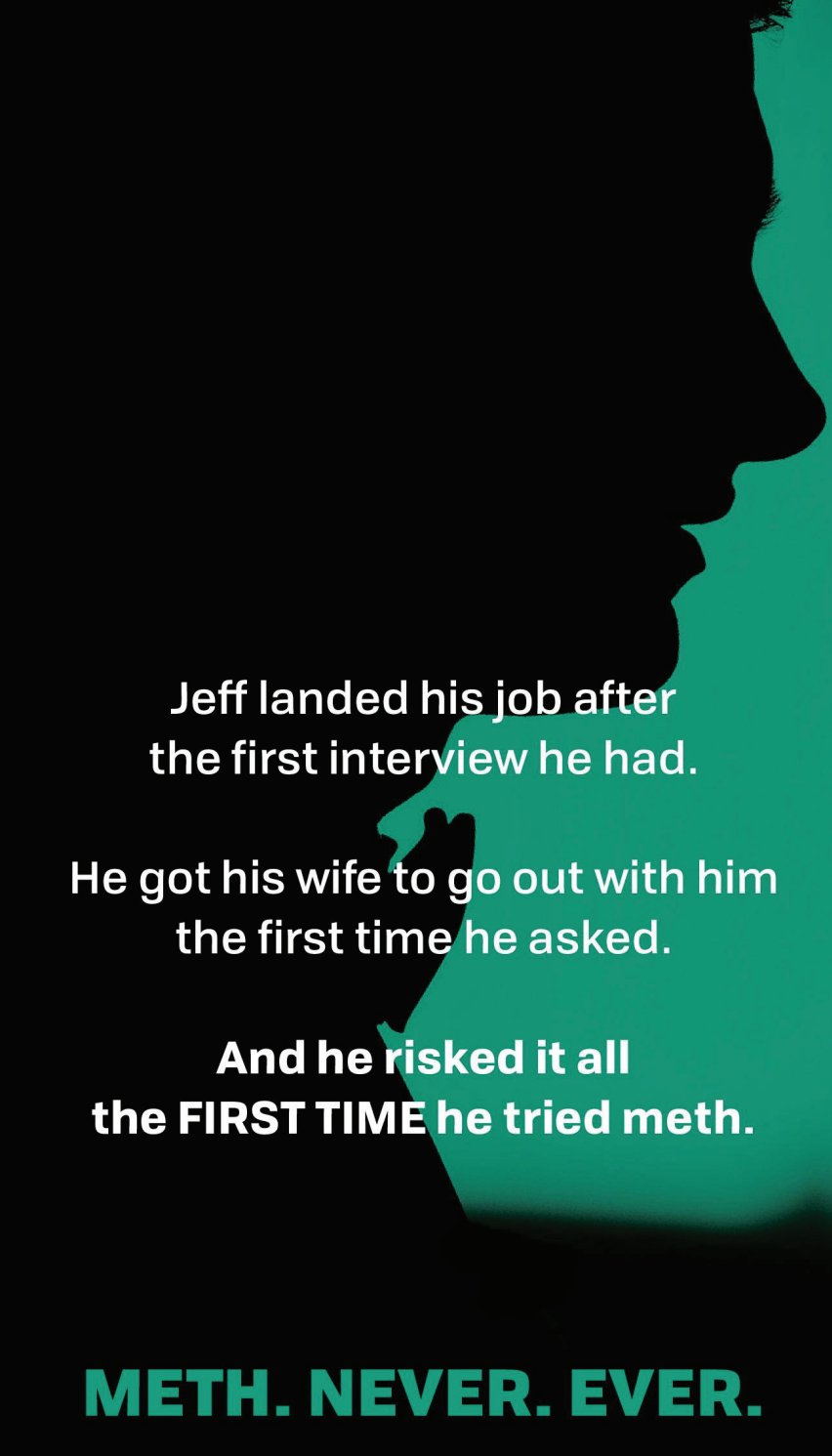


Jayden – wrestling for Team Iowa – went on to pin Isaiah Torres of Hawaii in the Round of 64 after leading 3-0. Rinken stuck his Aloha State

That meant Rinken squared off against Blaze Van Gundy of Ohio in

two-time state champ) and Kade Blume, who won two state titles while wrestling for Roland-Story. Another grappler that also wore the Iowa singlet that Rinken has worked out with is Dawson Youngblut, who has competed for Don Bosco in previous

He's already proven that. And I guarantee you he'll prove it again.



Jeff landed his job after
the first interview he had.

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the first time he asked.

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04/2023