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# Nashua REPORTER

Vol. 116, Issue 14

7 April 2023

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Page 8



## Council OKs budget, reconsiders water

Nashua leaders vote to create a full-time public works employee position to fill vacancy, doesn't close the door on ION

By KELLY TERPSTRA  
*Of the Reporter*

The Nashua City Council covered a lot of ground in its regular session last Monday inside the Council Chambers.

One of the top agenda items was the FY '24 budget, which Council members approved.

The tax levy rate for Nashua was set at \$16.47. That is a decrease of almost two percent from last year's tax levy rate of \$16.56. The total amount of taxes levied on property is estimated to be at \$798,000 for the FY '24.

The estimated tax levy rate for \$1,000 valuation on agriculture land was passed at \$3.

The Council approved the max tax levy for Fiscal Year '24 earlier this year. The total maximum levy for affected property tax levies is \$669,436, an increase of 3.82 percent. The max tax rate for FY '24 is \$13.17843.

The total amount of revenues and other sources for the city for the 2024 tax year is \$4,470,000. That

is a substantial decrease from almost \$5.4 million for the estimated FY '23 budget.

A big increase for Nashua's expenditures came in the category of public safety – which was over \$2 million. A large portion of that

SEE CITY COUNCIL, 2

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## Bickering ends busy two days for supervisors

Hackman, Kuhn battle over what was said during meeting recess on Monday

By BOB FENSKA  
*Of the Reporter*

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors covered a lot of ground during a pair of meetings that were held on Monday and Tuesday, but the final four minutes of the board's week was, in a word, strange.

Board Chairman Matt Kuhn and Supervisor Jake Hackman argued back and forth over comments that Kuhn said Hackman made – with the latter denying most of them – during a recess Monday.

"You were yelling at me after the meeting when nobody else was in here," Kuhn said.

"That was just discussion," Hackman replied.

"You were calling me names," Kuhn said, and Hackman quickly denied the accusation. "I never called you names," he said.

"You kept saying you're a crappy chair, you're a crappy chair," Kuhn said.

"That's not facts," Hackman said, and Kuhn cut him off and said, "You said you're running out on the county. I don't even know what that's supposed to mean."

Back and forth, the board chairman and the man who served as board chairman from 2018 to 2020.

The exchange was the second of the week between the two. On Monday, Hackman chided Kuhn for allowing MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center CEO and President Aaron Flugum to talk for "15 minutes" and told him that Chickasaw Ambulance Service owner Jeremy

SEE SUPERVISORS, 3

## Easter Egg Hunt set for 10 Saturday morning

The Nashua Women of Today will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday morning at the Husky Wellness Center.

Club member Jennifer Lantz said the hunt

will start at 10 a.m. sharp, and that there will be a number of age divisions.

And rumor has it, Lantz said, that the Easter Bunny, as it usually does, will make an appearance at the event.

## CHAMBER CELEBRATION!

Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Area residents (above) take part in the first-ever Big 4 Chamber of Commerce Awards Night, which included remarks (below) by Chamber President Val Johnson.

## BIG 4 HONORS THOSE WHO GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

By KELLY TERPSTRA  
*Of the Reporter*

Friends, fellowship and food.

Attendees of the first-ever Big 4 Chamber of Commerce Awards on Friday night were able to enjoy all those cherished memories and moments at the Nashua Town & Country Club.

A select few even got to bring home a little hardware for their tireless work and involvement in the community of 1,500 that rests on the picturesque Cedar Lake.

The event was emceed by Big 4 Chamber President Val Johnson and Vice President Ben Beirschenk. The awards ceremony brought the communities of Nashua and Plainfield together to support and honor individuals, businesses and organizations that help make the town a great place to live and work.

SEE AWARDS, 3



## Law enforcement center, jail will remain joint affair

New Hampton City Council unanimously votes to enter into negotiations with county to create a Joint Authority Board

By BOB FENSKA  
*Of the Reporter*

The New Hampton City Council on Monday agreed to "enter negotiations" with the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors to set up a Joint Authority Board, an action that would lead to a referendum on a new "holding" jail and law enforcement center that would include both the Sheriff's Office and the city's Police Department.

The action came two weeks after the Samuels Group,

the council and supervisors, recommended that the two entities spend \$13.2 million – actually more because that figure doesn't include bond costs or architect fees – to build the center.

The question for council members Monday was simple: In or out.

If the city's in, its residents

would be responsible for the

\$2.8 million part of the building

that would house the police

department. If the city's out, the

county would have to decide if

SEE JAIL, 4



## Nashua-Plainfield teacher honored by governor

Nashua-Plainfield National History Day advisor Suzan Turner poses for a photo with Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg, Gov. Kim Reynolds and Iowa Department of Education Director Chad Aldis during the Outstanding Iowa Teachers Recognition Luncheon that was held Wednesday in Des Moines.

Turner was honored for receiving the 2022 Iowa History Teacher of the Year Award that was sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Photo courtesy

of Iowa Department of Education

# Council covers plenty of ground in latest meeting

## CITY COUNCIL: FROM 1

cost went towards construction and repair work done on Nashua's hydro dam.

Nashua's total expenditures/transfers out was \$4.3 million and its ending fund balance on June 30 is estimated to be at just under \$4.1 million.

Nashua unanimously voted to create a full-time Public Works employee position that would replace outgoing and current Water/Wastewater Superintendent Nick Henningsen, whose contract with PeopleService was not renewed. His last official day with PeopleService will be June 30 of this year. Henningsen has been Water/Wastewater Superintendent for the past eight years.

The city of Nashua did not renew its contract with PeopleService – a water and wastewater company based out of Omaha. PeopleService was asking for a new contract that would come out to over \$22,000 a month that the city would have to pay for its services on a yearly basis.

Last month Council members voted to retain the services of ION Solutions – a Muscatine-based water/wastewater operator – to help run its Water/Wastewater Department. The city has also been deliberating on whether or not to hire one or two city employees that could also help perform all or some of those duties.

Council members voted on Monday to delay voting on approval of the ION agreement for two weeks until some of the language in the contract can be finalized.

The ION services proposal would charge \$7,385 a month to conduct such operations as daily data collection at Nashua's water/wastewater facility. ION would conduct routine maintenance and report data via collection samples to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The company would also be on-call for all emergencies at the plant.

Nashua is currently under contract with PeopleService to do those tasks with the water/wastewater facility.

The city would still be responsible for customer shutoffs, flushing and locates.

New Council member Jake Johnson said there is a 60-day out provision in the contract should the city choose to remove itself from the agreement with ION.

"Maybe we're better off hiring somebody to do our water and wastewater – instead of going with a third party anymore," said Johnson. "In my opinion, if we're going to do it, now's the time to do it, too. I think you got a chance to beat out some big towns and get a good employee."

Nashua Mayor Alex Anthofer then asked a question to all five Council members in attendance.

"Can you find one or do we go with a year and search?" said Anthofer.

Johnson stated the position that the city would be hiring would require at least five years of experience and require a two-year degree. City officials discussed paying that prospective city employee a pay range from all the way from \$20 an hour to as much as



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

**New Nashua City Council member Jake Johnson looks over documents during Monday night's meeting.**

\$35 an hour.

"We're looking at hiring somebody to do all the extra stuff that People's has done," said Johnson. "If you hire somebody at \$20 an hour and then with ION – you're still at \$160,000, what it's costing the city. If we hire one person that can do all of it – even if we pay them \$35 an hour – we're going to be underneath that."

Samantha Johnson had this to say about filling the important position to help oversee Nashua's water and sewer departments.

"I like the idea that we have a city employee person, versus an outside company," said Council member Samantha Johnson. "I think we should still use ION, but get somebody in here to work towards it."

Nashua also took a big step forward for its volunteer ambulance service, as all 25 volunteers of the Nashua Area EMS were approved by Council members in a vote.

Currently the city of Nashua has a 28E Agreement with AMR (American Medical Response) to provide emergency aid as part of a six-month contract for backup service that runs out on June 30, 2023. The cost for the service is \$10,000 and is split 50/50 between Charles City and Floyd County – which is each paying \$100,000 annually in monthly installments to AMR for service.

That contract was signed last December, but Zenda Vilkurek – the crew chief and paramedic for Nashua Area EMS – said she is optimistic that the city-operated EMS would be fully functional before that contract with AMR runs out.

Vilkurek said once the title on the ambulance that Nashua purchased is worked out, then the startup EMS can begin filing for Medicaid and Medicare numbers.

Nashua City Clerk John Ott said that a

rough estimate of \$41,000 per year would be required for Nashua to continue its service with AMR once that six-month contract expires.

Approximately \$237,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds have been allocated to Nashua. Council members voted late last year to use that federal money to help fund its volunteer EMS.

Vilkurek said there are 13 EMTS that have all passed their tests in order to provide the city of 1,500 with life-saving capability. The rest of the 25-person volunteer crew is comprised of drivers.

"A lot of the drivers are firemen that will just step in when we need them," said Vilkurek.

Vilkurek is thankful for the participation, along with the hard work done by several citizens in their certification process that should get the EMS on its feet soon in order to save lives.

"The interest really surprises me and the amount of people that said, 'yeah, we'll help out,'" said Vilkurek.

The Council also amended the code of ordinances regarding the use of ATV's or UTV's within the city limits.

The amended section states – ATV's and UTV's may use the travel portion of the State Highway 346 bridge only to cross the river and must enter or exit State Highway 346 at the nearest intersection to the bridge.

Part B of the amended code says ATV's and UTV's may cross the state highway at any intersection, provided they comply with five different requirements in the code concerning the crossing.

The tentative date for opening the campground is April 20. Council members decided to keep the camping and shelter rates the same.

## Everybody Hurts putting on its annual 5K run/walk/ride April 28

Everybody Hurts is looking forward to its third annual 5K, which will be held on Friday, April 28 at Mikkelsen Park in New Hampton.

This event is open to anyone. Check-in will begin at 4:30 p.m. that day and the event will start with the opening ceremony at 5:45. The race promptly begins at 6 p.m.

There will be a free meal and a silent auction from about

4:30-7:15 p.m.

This year there will be a little twist to the event as a 5K Walk, Run, or Ride is being introduced.

"We have been listening to feedback and have decided to add the bike piece this year," said the press release. "We will also have the shorter route for those who still want to participate, but may not be able to do the longer distance."

Everybody Hurts is a regis-

tered 501(c)(3) non-profit who helps educate the community on suicide prevention and mental health awareness and also provides scholarships to area residents pursuing a career in mental health.

If weather is a factor, the race will be held on Saturday, April 29 at 9 a.m.

"We would love to see the community come out and support this event. If you would like

more information or would like to volunteer or donate you can contact us on Facebook under Everybody Hurts <https://tinyurl.com/3vx8yz9r> or call 641-330-4687."

## Briefs

### IFA honors Lincoln Savings Bank as state's top home lender

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) recently recognized the top Iowa lending institutions throughout the state who assisted the most homebuyers through IFA programs in 2022. Lincoln Savings Bank was named the top lender, assisting 134 homebuyers.

"The Lincoln Savings Bank team is honored to be named IFA's Top Lender of 2022," said Erik Skovgard, President and CEO of Lincoln Savings Bank. "As a community bank, we pride ourselves on being solution-seekers and relationship builders and offering IFA's mortgage down payment assistance programs allows us to do just that for many Iowans who may not have believed that homeownership was within reach."

IFA offers affordable mortgage and down payment assistance programs for eligible homebuyers through a network of hundreds of valued participating lenders across the state. These partnerships allow Iowans the convenience of working with their local lender and access to IFA's unique homeownership programs.

LSB officials say the bank works hard to connect individuals and families to IFA programs that offer down payment assistance, first-time homebuyer advantages and what they call "extra friendly" mortgage loan rates.

For more information about Lincoln Savings Bank and IFA's homeownership programs, visit [mlysbs.com/ifa](http://mlysbs.com/ifa).

### 'Understanding Dementia' benefit to be held April 14 in New Hampton

On Friday, April 14 a benefit dinner will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the Chickasaw Event Center in New Hampton with the program "Understanding Dementia."

The benefit dinner – with proceeds to go to Chickasaw Chassis Improvements – will include dessert and there will be guest speakers and a silent auction.

Those attending are asked to RSVP to Morgan at 641-394-3173. Organizers are also seeking table sponsors.

### Conservation scholarships available to high school seniors

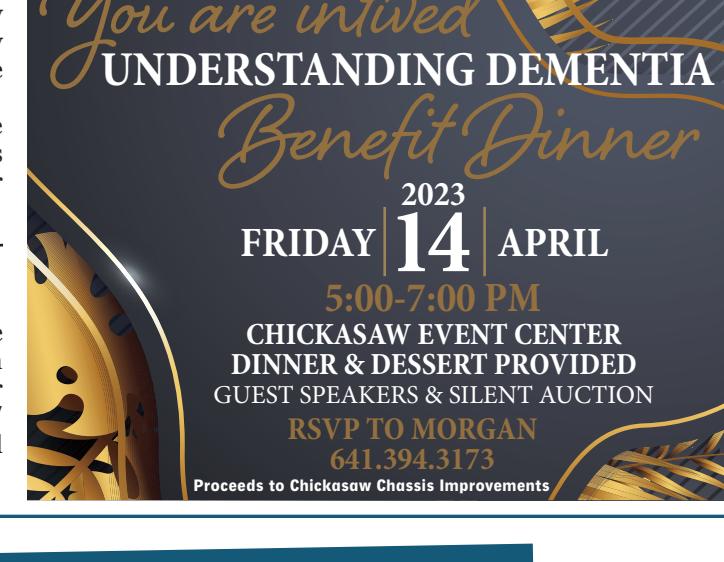
Two scholarships in the amount of \$750 each will be available for high school seniors to apply for, sponsored by the Chickasaw County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Fidelity Bank & Trust, Bank Iowa, Luana Savings Bank, Security State Bank, Farmers Win Coop, First Citizens Bank, and Lincoln Savings Bank.

Selections will be made based on leadership, character, career, scholastic achievement, and conservation message and will need to be submitted to the Chickasaw SWCD at 420 W. Milwaukee Street, New Hampton, Iowa by May 1.

High school seniors can apply for the 2023 scholarship by visiting the website at <http://www.cdiowa.org/awards.html>.

### Mobile Food Bank in county April 20

The Northeast Iowa Mobile Food Bank will make its monthly distribution in Chickasaw County on Thursday, April 20. Food will be given out between 4 and 5:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hampton.



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## Nashua Reporter/Weekly Nashua Post

USPS 371-380

Official Newspaper:  
Chickasaw County and City of Nashua

Known office of publication

18 E Main St, Suite 2

New Hampton, IA 50659

Published Fridays by

Enterprise Media Inc.

Periodicals postage paid at

Nashua, IA 50658

POSTMASTER: Address changes to

Nashua Reporter, 801 Riverside Drive

Charles City, IA 50616

Christopher Hall.....Publisher

Bob Fenske.....Editor

Kelly Terpstra.....Sports Editor

Dorothy Huber.....News/Sports

Laurie Tiemessen.....Sales

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# Supervisors are open to 'donated' building for Chickasaw County EMS

**By BOB FENSK**  
Of the Reporter

The director of Chickasaw County EMS told the Board of Supervisors Monday that he believes a non-profit organization that has yet to be created could finance and build a new ambulance station within the city limits of New Hampton.

He proposed the idea during an almost hour-long discussion on a permanent location for the county-owned ambulance service.

And that discussion came after county leaders learned it might cost \$1.9 million to move EMS, EMA and Public Health to the Chickasaw Heritage Building Center.

The board has discussed a permanent home for the service a number of times, and despite objections from Director Joel Knutson, the board appeared to be leaning toward the Heritage just south of New Hampton.

Knutson has said housing the service outside the city would lead to fewer employees and higher costs because EMS personnel would not be able to respond from their places of employment and would have to report to the Heritage as soon as the "first truck" responded to a call.

"We have a lot of support in this community that want to help," Knutson said. "I'll just ask then, is there any, if the EMS association is formed and we choose to fundraise and to build the building on our own, is that something the board would be interested in, could support something like that?"

"It alleviates a lot of the red tape or what, but it gets us a building built to our specs with the majority of fundraised dollars. It's a win for the taxpayer, and I think it's a win for how we want it built."

Knutson said that he has talked to other publicly-owned ambulance services and the process they've used is to form a 501c3, build the building and then donate it back to the county or municipality.

"It is something that is routinely done," he said, "I will say that."

The EMS director said that the contractors he has talked to said a new building would cost \$100 and \$125 per square foot. He said he expected the building to be somewhere between

## Charles City, Floyd County look at the possibility of public EMS

**By BOB STEENSON**  
[bsteenson@charlescitypress.com](mailto:bsteenson@charlescitypress.com)

Charles City and Floyd County are again looking at the possibility of starting a public ambulance company as a way to keep the cost to provide ambulance service under control, although those involved say they realize it's not something that can be done quickly.

The possibility has come up again because the cost to subsidize AMR ambulance to provide countywide service will more than double starting July 1, going from the current \$200,000 per year in the third year of a three-year contract that ends June 30, to \$415,000 in the next year beginning July 1. It would continue to increase each year after that.

The Floyd County Ambulance Commission, which is charged with making recommendations to the Charles City Council and Floyd County Board of Supervisors regarding providing for ambulance service in the county, discussed the possibility of creating a new public ambulance service at its meeting this week.

The commission is made up of Floyd County Supervisor Jim Jorgensen, Charles City Council member Keith Starr, Floyd County Medical Center CEO Dawnell Willis, Floyd County Medical Center Emergency Services Director Rachel Conrad, Charles City Police Chief High Anderson, Floyd County Sheriff Jeff Crooks, and Charles City Fire Chief Marty Parcher.

Dawn Staudt, the station manager and supervisor of AMR ambulance service in Charles City, is an ex officio (non-voting) member, and Steve Diers, the Charles City city administrator, works with the commission in an advisory capacity.

At the commission meeting, Diers said it wouldn't be possible to start a new service by the

2,800 and 3,800 square feet and that he would like to see it built in the vacant lot to the east of the Community Services Building.

"I'm for it, if we can get donations to build most of it," Supervisor Steve Breitbach said. "I've said it before, EMS needs to be in the center of town, just because of the volunteers."

Fellow Supervisor Scott Cerwinski wasn't so sure, however.

"I'm still not really [in favor] of having it in the middle of town," he said. "I think we lose sight of it is a county ambulance, not a New Hampton ambulance."

Cerwinski said having the ambulance at the Heritage — or at least not in the middle of New Hampton — would allow the service to be "closer to a lot of the communities."

New Hampton resident and MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center CEO and President Aaron Flugum vehemently disagreed.

"No, it's not," he said. "That's a lie. It's not closer to all the communities. ... From what I've listened to all your meetings, that's not the data that's been shown."

Flugum was referring to a presentation Knutson made during a March 13 meeting in which the EMS director told supervisors that a software program he used showed that the "county would have a 74 percent slower response time for 67 percent of our calls if the station" is built at the Heritage.

"You've guys have been able to do an amazing thing here," Flugum said, referring to the start-up of the county-owned service.

"But you hire people in these departments to be experts in what they do. And that's what Joel is; he's your content expert on EMS, just like [Engineer] Roman [Lensing] is your content expert on roads ..."

Flugum took the supervisors to task for micro-managing EMS to the "point where you're logically impossible to make it a successful business."

Supervisors, though, did remain open to the idea of exploring the 501c3 option and agreed to talk with County Attorney David Laudner, who was unable to attend Monday meeting in person.

## Supervisors are open to 'donated' building for Chickasaw County EMS

time the current contract ends June 30, so the only option for the immediate future is to continue to subsidize AMR.

"I guess no service is an option," he said.

Starting their own ambulance service "looks like maybe we could find some stability in an unstable world, but we need to figure out something in the short term," Diers said.

Supervisor Jorgensen, the chair of the commission, said the group needs to consider which direction they want to go.

"I think everyone agrees we need ambulance service," he said.

City Council member Starr said he hadn't been in favor of starting their own service last year when the topic came up as part of the EMS Essential Services tax levy referendum process, based on the AMR subsidy level at that time and what was expected to be a \$226,000 subsidy cost in the first year of a new contract.

But when the number from AMR came in at \$415,000, Starr said, "it looks more likely."

The group discussed a new contract with AMR, and Starr said it needs to go at least as long as it would take to start their own service, meaning probably at least two more years, and maybe three years with the option of buying out the third year of the contract if a new public service is ready to take over.

The subsidy cost under the current AMR contract has been split equally between Charles City and Floyd County, although with the recent communication from AMR regarding the new subsidy rate the Floyd County Ambulance Commission has requested that the Floyd County Medical Center consider also helping pay the subsidy.

The Ambulance Commission agreed to form a committee consisting of Starr, Jorgensen and Parcher to gather information.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Cedar Valley Sales and Storage was named the Emerging Business of the Year at the first-ever Big 4 Chamber of Commerce Awards Night that was held last Friday at the Nashua Town and County Club.

## Chamber honors businesses, LaRue family

### AWARDS: FROM 1

"Our businesses that pay the taxes and make the towns what they are ... obviously these awards will give back to say, 'hey, you are doing something for us and it does mean a lot to us,'" said Johnson.

Johnson — who became Big 4 Chamber President in 2019 — helped spearhead the event. She also won the first award handed out on the evening.

She selected as the "Chamber Champion," an honor to a Chamber member that has been the most active in the past year.

Johnson was able to take home a beautiful bouquet of roses, along with a plaque for all her hard work and dedication to make the Chamber's theme this year — "Revive" — come alive.

And no, she didn't vote — that's against the Chamber rules.

Johnson said the idea of having an awards banquet was first bantered around when the Chamber officially changed its name a few years back to include the Big 4 Fair in its name. Johnson then informed Big 4 Chamber members and the Nashua Community Foundation about the awards that the non-profit organizations planned on handing out.

The first award selected drew a quick response.

"Immediately when I read that definition, somebody spoke up and said, 'well, that's you.' They said you don't have a choice. I was under strict rules to accept it and say thank you," laughed Johnson.

The winner of the "Emerging Business of the Year" award went to Cedar Valley Sales and Storage. The company has been in operation for around five years and has expanded multiple times. The growth of the business has allowed its owners to add several new employees to its staff.

"They have contributed to the economic vitality and have demonstrated unusual faith in the business future climate," said Johnson. "They have been nationally recognized for their outstanding leadership skills and business management."

MBS Family Farms — run by co-owner Karmen Mehmen and her family — was bestowed with the "Distinguished Business of the Year" award. Beirschenk said MBS Family Farms has helped raise \$40,000 that has gone to the "Help Save the Cabin" undertaking as well as having been an important creative cog in the continued development of Nashua.

"They have continuously gone beyond their business duties to provide extraordinary opportunities for others in our community by volunteering numerous hours," said Beirschenk. "They've contributed to every project that the Chamber has put forth."

The family of Don LaRue graciously accepted the "Lifetime Achievement Award." LaRue founded Iowa Base in 2000, a precast concrete firm in Nashua. He passed in 2021.

"He was a kind soul, always willing to lend a hand. He was a mentor that I can say I aspire to be," said Johnson.

The two-tiered Chamber and Foundation have joined hands to be a part of numerous activities and projects within the community, like the "Help Save the Cabin" fundraiser that is restoring a 1937-built Boy Scout log cabin in Nashua.



MBS Family Farms (above) was named the Distinguished Business of the Year while the family of Don LaRue (below) accepted the Big 4 Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award for the late Iowa Base owner's commitment to the community.



There's also the ever popular "Best Dam BBQ Challenge" that took place last fall and the "Red Mailbox" project, which involves Nashua-Plainfield High School seniors.

Most recently, Nashua took part in a City Logo contest, which was conducted online. The deciding vote to come up with a winner for submitted logo entries was cast by N-P Schools.

Johnson also said the Chamber distributed \$450 in Chamber bucks, which can be spent at participating businesses in town.

Johnson mentioned that she thought it was a good idea for the awards ceremony to take place to keep open lines of dialogue between citizens of Nashua to help make the community grow and prosper.

"One of the other reasons, of course, is communication and that's been lacking in Nashua for a long time. This is another way to get communication out there that we're not just sitting back and doing anything — we are doing things," said Johnson.

Johnson said her colleagues, along with the Chamber Foundation, are trying to come up with one, 10 and 25-year goals to pave a path of community-led improvement projects to help the area prosper.

Johnson said she received positive feedback about the awards banquet, so much so that one attendee was interested in participating in another ceremony relatively soon.

"We had somebody say we should hold these quarterly just because it was fun," said Johnson.

Live music and a murder mystery dinner show are just some of the possibilities that could be included in future awards ceremonies.

"We talked about having something more entertaining to keep the momentum going while we're having fun, while we also reward communities," said Johnson.

Johnny's Southern Seafood Grill and Seafood, as well as A Kneaded Break, provided the various meals for dinner guests.

## Supervisors, department heads discuss county handbook

### SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

McGrath should get the same time allotment.

"You're not the chair now," Kuhn said to Hackman Monday morning. "I'll handle the meeting the way I want to."

Tuesday's bickering back and forth didn't end when Kuhn asked if there were any other "future agenda items" to be considered. Hackman said he wanted to talk about "rules of conduct of the Boards of Supervisors."

"Does that include swearing at board members," Kuhn asked.

"Yeah, go ahead and add that. You've got to be consistent when people talk, too, from the public. Sometimes you

allow two minutes, sometimes you allow 15. Let's have that in the rules of conduct for Board of Supervisors meet."

After a few more barbs, the board finally adjourned, ending a week in which board members spent a considerable amount of time discussing the county-owned ambulance service (see story on this page).

They also discussed a potential grant that Chickasaw County and Alta Vista are in the running for that would be a part of Engineer Roman Lensing's proposal for major work on County Road V-18 from Highway 18 to the Chickasaw County line and into Howard County.

The board also met for more than an hour with department heads to discuss the county

handbook with the county's HR attorney, Ann Smisek of Ahlers and Cooney.

That meeting was held in exempt session, even though the week before in open session, board discussed issues some members had with department heads giving new hires vacation even though the handbook says the county will only grant vacation days after one year of service.

After the exempt session, which Kuhn opposed, Smisek summarized the discussion.

"Because, in my opinion, things have been brought up to the public already," Kuhn said before the session. "I feel like we're giving the appearance of trying to hide something if we do that."

Smisek said the current vacation policy in the handbook was discussed.

"We got feedback from the department heads on whether the vacation policy should be changed going forward," she said, "and to reiterate to all department heads and elected officials that they should follow the current policy as written, unless and until the board adopts a change to vacation policy and that goes for all policies in the handbook actually."

She added that the board was receptive to department heads approaching the supervisors when they have a "difficult-to-fill" position or a lack of applications where they think deviation from the current policy would be beneficial.

# City of New Hampton will stay 'in' with county on jail project

## JAIL: FROM 1

it wanted to proceed with a referendum to build the holding cells, booking area, dispatch center and a new sheriff's office.

Council members had a number of questions for both Board of Supervisors Chairman

Matt Kuhn and board member Jake Hackman, who were both in attendance and whose districts include the city of New Hampton.

The City Council was reminded that if a bond referendum passes with the city involved the tax impact for county residents would be about 66 cents per \$1,000 valuation while New Hampton residents would see a tax impact around \$1.30 per \$1,000 valuation.

Council members also wanted to know when the referendum would be held, and while Kuhn said that he has been told there is enough time to put the question on the ballot and "educate" voters for a September question, some council members, especially Cory McDonald wondered why the vote couldn't be had in November during the municipal-school elections.

"They were saying that if it goes to a special election," Councilwoman Katie Fisher said, "it's the only question, vot-

ers can focus on it and people are usually well informed about that."

McDonald, though, said he struggled with the county spending between \$12,000 and \$15,000 for voters to cast ballots in September when there is already an election set for two months later.

"We as a council, and we've been looking underneath every rock for this dollar and that dollar for this past year for [the] budget," he said. "For \$12,000 to \$15,000 ... I guess I don't understand why we wouldn't have it in November."

Sheriff Ryan Shawver said that after talking to Samuels Group owner Sid Samuels, he felt confident that the prices quoted at the March 20 joint meeting would hold through the end of the year.

"March would be iffy," he said. "November of 2024 they'd have to go back to their estimating team."

Shawver also said that if

the city would choose to move forward, "we'd like to get the Samuels Group back here to help us with the education portion of this," for a cost around \$35,000.

"We've got one chance to do this," the sheriff said, "and we need to put every foot forward that we can to get the best education out there, whether people want to vote no, we want to make sure they understand why they're voting no and what that means. And if they want to vote yes, they fully understand what that means."

He said if the city would pay 25 percent of those education costs, which would work out to \$8,750, and City Clerk Karen Clemens said the city does have enough ARPA funds to cover that costs if the council wants to go that route.

Former Police Chief Zach Nosbisch, who is now Shawver's chief deputy said he understood the angst some residents have over building a new jail, but he

also pointed out that the current jail no longer comes close to meeting state standards.

"You're always going to have those individuals that it's going to be hard on," Nosbisch said. "I mean we're never going to get away from that, but eventually, like now, comes the time where you have to do something, especially on the county side, but the city has the opportunity to maybe save a little money actually moving out there as well."

But before the council voted to move forward on creating a Joint Advisory Board — which would include one representative from the city, one from the county and one jointly agreed to by both entities — one resident asked city leaders how long they thought the city of New Hampton "will be able to take its own PD?"

Nosbisch said the biggest issue in the past for the police department had been the relatively low wages the city paid and the fact that the city required employees to live within 10 miles of the city, but last year, the city upped wages and

increased the radius to 50 miles and "we were able to hire officers pretty quickly."

New Hampton Mayor Bobby Schwickerath, meanwhile, said he did not see a day when the city wouldn't have a police department.

"I don't think the discussion's been had [of having the Sheriff's Office cover the city] outside of looking into the possibility of it," he said. "I don't see us going that route just because of the expense and with more expense, we'd have less coverage. I'm not speaking for the council, but I will speak for myself and say I don't see us doing that within the 20 years."

After he made his comments, the City Council unanimously moved forward with setting up a Joint Authority Board.

Under state law, if only the county or the city brings a referendum to the voters, it must receive more than a 60 percent approval rate.

However, if a Joint Authority Board puts out a referendum, it needs just a simple majority to be successful.

## Legal Notice

City of Nashua  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Nashua, Iowa located at Nashua City Hall 402 Main Street in Nashua, Iowa at 7:00 pm on April 17, 2023. The purpose of this hearing is the first reading for an update to Ordinance(s) pertaining to water meter fee rates.

Any persons wishing to be heard on this matter will be afforded the opportunity to be heard. Written comments will be accepted through the day of the public hearing at the Nashua City Hall PO Box 38 Nashua, Iowa 50658. Oral questions or comments can be directed to City Hall at 641.435.4156.

A full copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall

No. 22885  
04/07/23

## Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice

CHICKASAW COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'  
MINUTES  
March 27, 2023

The Board convened on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 9:01 AM with members Breitbach, Suckow, Kuhn, Cerwinski and Hackman present in the Boardroom on the 2nd floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa. Chairperson Kuhn called the meeting to order.

Also present were Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Attorney David Laudner, Kathy Shekleton, Kennan Seda, Terry Johnson, Darren Steilage, Assessor Raymond Armel, Sheriff Ryan Shawver, Engineer Roman Lensing, Bob Fenske, member of the media, Deputy Sheriff Zach Nosbisch, Director Chad Humpal, Henry M Adkins Representative Mark Fredericks.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to approve the agenda for March 27, 2023. Roll Call: Ayes-Breitbach, Suckow, Kuhn, Cerwinski, Hackman. Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to approve the 5:30 PM meeting minutes from March 20, 2023 with changes. Roll Call: Ayes-Breitbach, Suckow, Kuhn, Cerwinski, Hackman. Motion carried.

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**Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice**

**Ordinance 348  
ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES  
AND SNOWMOBILES**

**Section 1. SECTION MODIFIED:**  
Amend Chapter 75.05 Subsection 1  
Operation of All Terrain Vehicles to add  
two additional paragraphs (A and B).

Current Ordinance Reads:

The operators of ATVs shall comply with the following restrictions as to where ATVs may be operated within the City:

1. Streets. ATVs and off-road utility vehicles may be operated on streets only in accordance with Section 321.234A of the Code of Iowa, or on such streets as may be designated by resolution of the Council for the operation of registered ATVs or registered off-road utility vehicles. In designating such streets, the Council may authorize ATVs and off-road utility vehicles to stop at service stations or convenience stores along a designated street.

Amend Section 75.05 Subsection 1 to add paragraphs A and B.

A. ATVs and UTVs may use the travel portion of the State Highway 346 bridge only to cross the river and must enter or exit State Highway 346 at the

nearest intersection to the bridge.

B. ATVs and UTVs may cross State Highway 346 at any intersection provided they comply with Subsection 6 of this section.

Subsection 6 of Section 75.05 reads as follows:

6. Direct Crossing. An all-terrain vehicle or off-road utility vehicle may make a direct crossing of a highway provided all the following occur:

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 321.10(5))

A. The crossing is made at an angle of approximately ninety degrees to the direction of the highway and at a place where no obstruction prevents a quick and safe crossing.

B. The all-terrain vehicle or off-road utility vehicle is brought to complete stop before crossing the shoulder or main traveled way of the highway.

C. The driver yields the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic which constitutes an immediate hazard.

D. In crossing a divided highway, the crossing is made only at an intersection of such highway with another public street or highway.

E. The crossing is made from a street, roadway, or highway designated as an

all-terrain vehicle trail by a state agency, county, or city to a street, roadway, or highway designated as an all-terrain vehicle trail by a state agency, county, or city.

**Section 2. Severability**

If any of the provisions of this ordinance are for any reason illegal or void, then the lawful provisions of this document, which are separable from the unlawful provision, shall be and remain in full force and effect, the same as if the ordinance contained no illegal or void provisions.

**Section 3. Repealer.**

All Ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Section 4. Effective**

This ordinance shall become effective upon its passage, approval, and/or publication as provided by law.

Publication Date: March 17, 2023

1st Reading: April 3, 2023

2nd Reading: Council voted to forego.

3rd Reading: Council voted to forego

No. 22878  
04/07/23

**Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice**

**Nashua-Plainfield Board of  
Directors  
Special Meeting  
March 27, 2023  
MS/HS Commons**

The March 27, 2023 special meeting of the board of directors was called to order by President Patrick Lentz at 7:30 p.m. Also present were directors Cody Jensen, Chris Hagen, and Lara Lawrence; Board Secretary Brittany McNeil; Superintendent Todd Liechty, two visitors, and ten representatives from the Nashua-Plainfield Education Association and Nashua-Plainfield Education Support Professionals Association. Absent from the meeting was director Laura Folkerts. The purpose of this meeting was for the Board of Education to receive the initial bargaining proposals from both association groups.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Lawrence to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hagen, seconded by Jensen to approve the security improvement bids in the amounts of \$39,467.05 (elementary) and \$45,876.13 (MS/HS) from Electronic Engineering. Bids include installing additional security cameras and

upgrading outside doors with key fobs access. The upgrades will happen this summer. Funding provided by the Governor's school safety initiative plan will be used towards the upgrades. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Hagen to reject both bids for the athletic baseball and softball complex. Two bids were submitted in the amounts of \$4.6 million and \$5.1 million. The plan is to make some changes, look at different options and take the plans back to be re-bid. The board is committed to doing the project within the parameters of staying fiscally responsible. Motion carried unanimously.

The NPESP presented their initial bargaining proposal which included a 6% salary increase on the base wages, \$6.00 per day increase for bus drivers, and \$1.20 per hour increase for staff members above and beyond the salary schedule wages for the 23-24 school year. Minor contract language changes were also presented.

The Nashua-Plainfield Board of Education presented their initial proposal, which included a 3% wage increase on the base salary for each support staff cat-

egory and an additional \$.05 per hour for staff members listed above and beyond the salary schedule.

The Nashua-Plainfield Education Association presented their initial proposal which included a total package increase of 4.02% (\$1,450 on the base wage) for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years. NPEA also asked to maintain existing Master Contract and Master Handbook language for the next two contract years except for Article XVI: Wages and Salaries shall be open to negotiate for the 2025-2026 year and all following years.

M. Liechty presented the Board of Education's proposal which includes maintaining the current base salary, reducing contract work (professional development) days from 11 to 8, and removing Article XI, letter D "Additional Monthly Salary Allowance". In addition the proposal includes a plan to provide \$700 in a monthly benefit for health insurance with the intent to phase out the payment to \$300 per month by fiscal year 2025-2026. New certified staff members beginning the 2023-2024 years and beyond will only receive the option to purchase district offered health insurance with no additional funds provided for not

taking insurance. Additionally the board intends to edit Article II "Reduction/Realignment of Staff" in the certified handbook.

Motion by Jensen, seconded by Hagen to enter into exempt session to discuss negotiations. A roll call vote was taken; all yeas. Motion carried unanimously. The board entered into exempt session at 8:08 p.m.

Motion by Lawrence, seconded by Jensen to return to open session at 9:19 p.m. A roll call vote was taken; all yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hagen, seconded by Jensen to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes published are unofficial until approved by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled board meeting.

Patrick Lentz, President  
Board of Directors  
Brittany McNeil  
Board Secretary

No. 22879  
04/07/23

The council discussed issues brought up by Nick Henningsen Water/Wastewater Supervisor at last month's meeting regarding the generator's low fuel alarm at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Johnson/M, Willsher/S, M/C have Nick camera the line at Howard Street where the city had a large blockage several weeks ago. RC: all ayes.

The council discussed paying for an AirBNB for attendees of the Iowa Rural Summit that are going to represent Nashua; however, council member J. Johnson noted that public funds can not be used to pay for lodging that has not had appropriate sex trafficking training. Malven/M, S. Johnson/S, M/C have

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# Nashua-Plainfield plays first home golf meet this Tuesday

## Boys Golf: From 8

N-P fired a team round of 224 – a decent ways back of the runner-up Comets (191) and the meet-winning Green Devils (168).

Husky sophomore Dawson Glaser shot a 53 to lead N-P. Which is a pretty good score for the up-and-comer multi-sport athlete at N-P that is just starting to realize his potential out on the links. It's especially good when you throw in the fact that he had a blow-up hole of disastrous proportions on one hole where he carded a 15. Lucky for him the meet rules stipulated that golfers would work with a 10-stroke limit on each hole.

Regardless, Glaser is a heavy hitter off the tees for N-P, much like several of his teammates that should be in store for some exciting rounds of golf this year. "Those are the positives that we've got to look at and we just gotta build on that part of it – knowing that you have to eliminate extra strokes that they gobble up," said Trost. "A blown chip here, not a very good first putt on long putts – any number of things. I refer to them as throw-away strokes."

Glaser shot a 63 at Cedar Ridge as a freshman. Another golfer back this season for N-P that saw plenty of action last year is Ty Berger. Like Glaser, he lowered his score from last year's opening

meet at CC by a large margin – like by 22 strokes. Berger shot a 54 last Monday, compared to his 76 fired as a freshman at Cedar Ridge.

Cal Levi carded a 56 and like Berger is a sophomore. He shot a 71 at Cedar Ridge in 2022.

With a year under their belts, that sophomore trio has more confidence – which means a more business-like approach to getting that little white, dimpled ball into the cup.

"Last year as freshmen, they were just kind of happy to be out," said Trost. "They really didn't know what competitive golf really takes to play. They'd play with their parents or with their buddies. It's more of a good time than it is a competitive kind of thing. Now they've got to play their misses. Each shot gets magnified a little bit better. Now they all count."

The Huskies head to Sunny Brae Golf & Country Club in Osage on Monday, then N-P hosts the home opener on Tuesday versus Clarksville, Dunkerton and Tripoli.

### BOYS TEAM RESULTS

Osage 168, Charles City 191, Nashua-Plainfield 224.

Medalist - Leo Klapperich (O) 39.

N-P scores - Dawson Glaser 53,

Kendrick Huck 76, Cal Levi 56, Ty Berger 54, Devon Griffin 72, Tyler Zimmer 61, Kaden McMichael 68, Devon Blanchard 64.

N-P JV scores - Trent Rodruck 89, William Lindeland 64, Bradie Woodman 75, Blake Wahl 68, William Clark 86.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

**Nashua-Plainfield's Ty Berger chips the ball onto the green at Cedar Ridge Golf Course in Charles City, where the Huskies opened their season on Monday.**

## Nashua-Plainfield senior finishes fourth at Charles City triangular

## Girls Golf: From 8

Monday's season-opening meet held at Cedar Ridge in Charles City. That was four strokes better than medalist-runner-up Leah Hauge of Osage, who fired a 54.

Franzen carded a 54 last year as a freshman at this same meet.

Senior Autumn Nelson fired a 57 at the triangular with Osage and the host Comets. Nelson carded a 63 at this same meet a year ago as a junior. She has been on the varsity roster for four years – but could not compete as a freshman as COVID-19 wiped out the spring sports

season that year in Iowa.

"I'm excited where we're at. We made big improvements over last year at this same meet," said Trost. "We're already at a lower level already with where we were from a year ago. We just need to keep improving and keep doing the things that we need to do to get better."

N-P placed runner-up (240) to the Green Devils' first-place total of 236.

The Huskies are still stinging a tad after last year's sectionals at Tripoli – where N-P didn't play as well as they would have liked to.

"They realized that we didn't play to their potential in that

regional first round," said Trost, in his 43rd year. "I think they had higher expectations going in because we had a decent season overall. That was some fuel for them for the summer," said Trost.

That meant Trost witnessed a lot more of his golfers this summer and in the fall that took the time to get better by playing more in the offseason.

"I saw them out on the golf course more than I'd seen them in a lot of years. A lot of times they'd get to that May meet and get done with it and that's the last you would see any of their golf clubs until we started up in March again," said Trost.

Sophomore Faith Franzen equaled the total she shot last year at Cedar Ridge with a 61. Natalie Sinnwell and Payton Howland – each juniors – rounded out the Huskies' scoring with cards of 72 and 80, respectively. Sinnwell sliced off eight strokes from her previous effort at Cedar Ridge and Howland lowered her nine-hole round at Cedar Ridge from last year by 10 strokes.

N-P senior Ellie Woodman is also out for the squad, but did not play on Monday. She is the only team member who did not play on the squad last year.

High expectations are one thing, but proving your worth

really does come down to making shots.

It can't get any more simple of a formula for success.

"Again, you gotta put it out on the golf course," said Trost.

"What's potential and actuality is you got to perform when it's time," said Trost.

The N-P girls played the back nine at Cedar Ridge, while the boys took on the front nine at the co-ed meet.

### GIRLS TEAM RESULTS

Osage 236, Nashua-Plainfield 240, Charles City 244.

Medalist - Paige Franzen (NP) 50.

N-P scores - P. Franzen 50,

Autumn Nelson 57, Faith Franzen 61, Natalie Sinnwell 72, Payton Howard 80.

## Trapshooters pick up win in triangular

The Nashua-Plainfield trapshooting team opened the season with two strong showings – a third-place finish at a home invite this past Saturday at the Nashua Fish and Game Club and a first place showing on Tuesday.

New Hampton Red won the invite squad title with a 231, 14 shots better than Charles City 1, while Nashua-Plainfield's five shooters combined for a 206 to top New Hampton's Black by one shot for third place.

Nashua-Plainfield was led by Nic Brase and Dawson Demro, who both fired 45s. Micaiah Groothuis finished with a 41, Jonathan O'Neill added a 39 and Cameron Cleveland had a 36.

Nashua-Plainfield put together a 221 to win the triangular on Tuesday as it fired a 221, six shots better than Charles City 2.

Demro and Groothuis finished in a tie for second as both shot 46. Brase came in with a 45, and both Cleveland and O'Neill had 42s.

## ON TAP FOR OUR HUSKIES

### MONDAY

Boys and girls golf vs. Osage and West Fork, Sunny Brae Golf and Country Club, Osage, 4 p.m.

### TUESDAY

Boys and girls golf vs. Dunkerton, Tripoli and Clarksville, Nashua Town and Country Club, 4:15 p.m.

Boys and girls track at Nashua-Plainfield Coed, 4:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY

Boys and girls golf vs. North Butler, Rockford and Clarksville, Round Grove Country Club, Greene, 4:15 p.m.

Boys and girls track at New Hampton Coed Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

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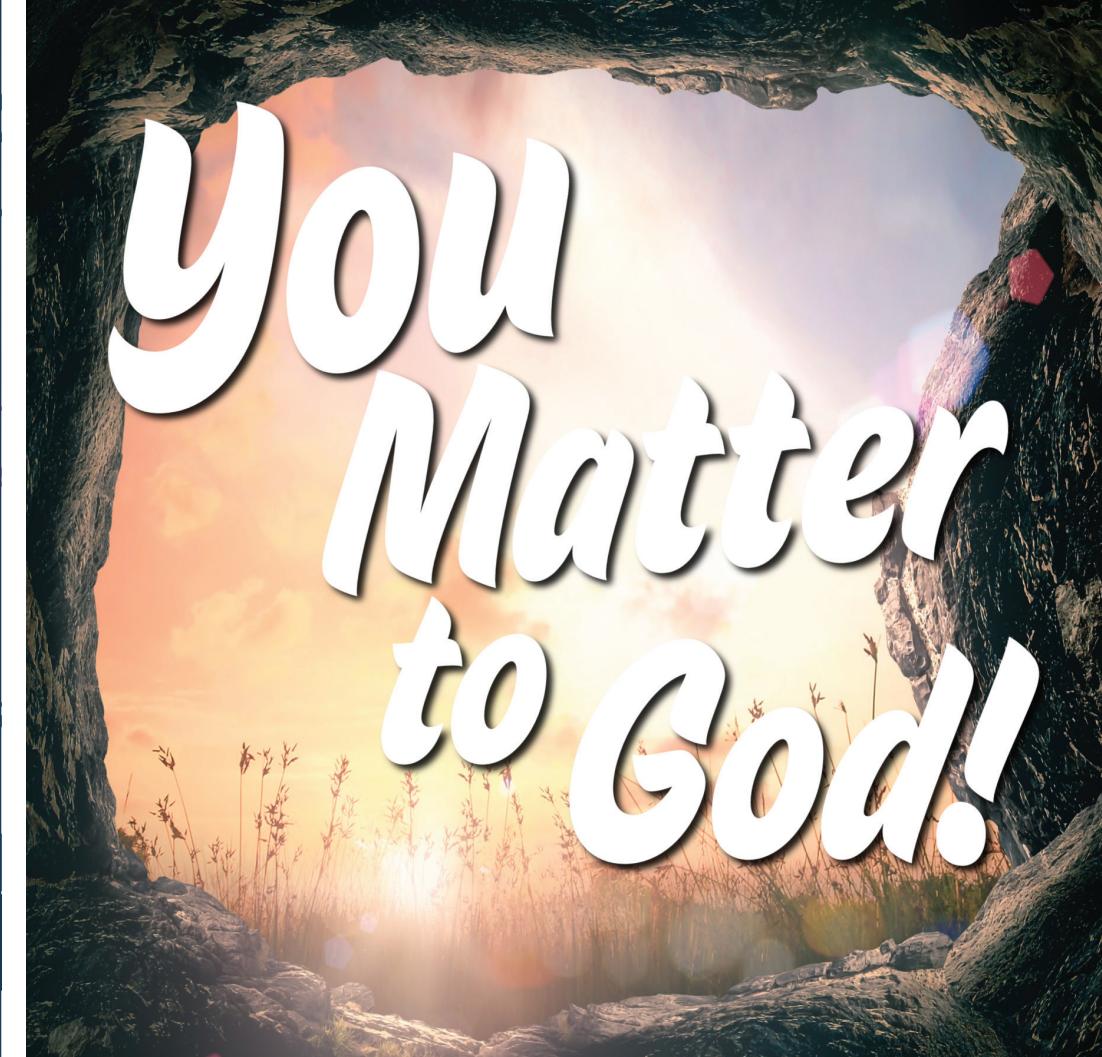


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Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield's Paige Franzen (above) watches her chip shot head to the green while Payton Howland (below) follows her putt during the Huskies' season-opening triangular this past Monday.

## N-P girls takes second in opener

Franzen nabs medalist honors as Huskies start season at triangular in Charles City

By KELLY TERPSTRA  
Of the Reporter

It won't be hard to remember the names of the Nashua-Plainfield girls golf team if you keep tabs on their progress this spring.

That's because there's only six on Jeff Trost's roster.

Their names, by the way, are Paige, Autumn, Faith, Natalie, Payton and Ellie.

That group has increased in numbers from two years ago – when the Huskies sported just three linksters.

That means last season and this spring – N-P individual rounds count toward a team score.

While the Huskies are relatively low on numbers – they have the same total of golfers out this spring as last – they're improving by leaps and bounds.

N-P sophomore Paige Franzen was the meet medalist with a 50 at

[SEE GIRLS GOLF, 7](#)



## Trio of sophomores leads Husky boys at triangular

By KELLY TERPSTRA  
Of the Reporter

Golf is one of America's favorite leisure time activities.

But when the scorecards are officially tallied – any linkster out on the fairways and greens wants to be a winner.

Competitive rounds count.

That's one of the reasons that the Nashua-Plainfield Huskies and head coach Jeff Trost are taking a very serious approach to lowering their scores this spring.

With five returnees back that sport some semblance of experience, the Huskies are already headed in the right direction in terms of smaller digits getting scribbled onto one's scorecard.

N-P opened the season in a triangular with Osage and the host Charles City Comets at Cedar Ridge Golf Course on Monday. The co-ed meet saw the boys tackle the front nine,

while the girls played the back nine.

Members of the Husky team that played the course last spring brought a little bit more of a cheery demeanor into the clubhouse than the previous round at Cedar Ridge in 2022.

Almost everyone of Trost's top returnees improved their score at Charles City from at this same time a year ago.

A year older should also mean a year better – at least that's the plan for Trost and his Huskies.

Trost began his 43rd season of guiding his girls and boys golf programs in northeast Iowa earlier this week at the meet that saw an overcast sky and lower-than-expected temps force most of the golfers to bundle up.

No matter the weather forecast, this year should once again provide plenty of positives for an N-P squad that is young and inexperienced.

[SEE BOYS GOLF, 7](#)



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield's Dawson Glaser sinks a short putt during the Huskies' meet on Monday.



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