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Nashua REPORTER

Vol. 116, Issue 32

11 August 2023

Nashua, IA 50658 • 75 cents

Drought concerns continue to grow

ISU Extension agronomist says crops 'hanging in there,' but rain desperately needed

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

If ISU Extension agronomist Terry Basol had any doubts about how the drought was affecting crops in and around Northeast Iowa, a drive by a soybean field the other day erased them.

"When you see the leaves flipped

over," he said, "that's when you know the plants are saying, 'Hey, I need a drink of water.'"

And corn and soybean fields throughout the Nashua area could use a nice, long drink as the drought that has plagued much of the state this summer continues.

"They're hanging in there," Basol said of the area's corn and soybeans,

"but there's a reason the guys and people like me are concerned. It's dry. Too dry."

The issue this growing season is that rain has been, at best, spotty, and unfortunately, the area in and around Nashua has seen numerous rain clouds pass by without dropping nary a raindrop.

The National Weather Service

station that is located just two miles from the city has recorded rainfall far below normal for the past five months, and as of Thursday, just .29 inches of rain have fallen in August, down from the inch or so the station normally receives

SEE DROUGHT, 2

Supervisors hope second time is charm for tower

Board votes to begin radio communications tower project anew, will ask Nashua City Council to approve a special-use permit

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors appear willing to try again when it comes to building a radio communications tower within the city limits of Nashua.

During Monday's regular weekly meeting, the board unanimously voted to direct County Attorney David Laudner to draft a new purchase agreement with Mike and Deb Franke and work with Nashua officials to obtain a special-use permit for the tower.

Supervisor Jake Hackman told his fellow board members that he has been in contact with Franke and that he would be agreeable to sell the county a parcel of land that he owns and is within the city limits of Nashua for a 300-foot radio tower near the Avenue of the Saints.

"Same price, same location, same quarter of an acre," Hackman said. "I'm wondering if we should sent it back to the City Council and have a special-use public hearing on this parcel again to see if there's any change in appetite ... We've spent all that work, all that research, all the engineering funds."

To build the tower, though, the county needs the Nashua City Council to issue a special permit, and in November 2022, the City Council tabled the matter after holding a public hearing in

SEE TOWER, 3

Cities strike out with supervisors

Board turns down requests from for cities for county ARPA funds

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

One by one Monday, Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Kuhn named off the requests for county American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars.

And one by one, the board rejected all four requests, less than a month after the county gave the city of Nashua \$50,000 of ARPA funds for engineering needs on the dam located in the city.

"I'm just going to say if we're going to give one city money," Kuhn said, "then I think we should give them all the same amount so it's across the board."

"All of their requests are valid and needs funding, in my opinion," Supervisor Steve Breitbach said.

But the three other supervisors — Travis Suckow, Scott Cerwinski and Jake Hackman — disagreed, although they made no comments as the board went through four separate motions and turned down requests made by Alta Vista, Ionia, Lawler and North Washington.

A pattern was set with the first request considered, one from Alta Vista for \$50,000 to help with projects costs for the reconstruction of South White and West Webster streets in the small town. The county and the city are working together to secure a federal grant for the project, but even if that comes in, city officials say the 70 to 80 percent funding will leave Alta Vista short on finishing the project.

SEE SUPERVISORS, 3



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Couples from near and far (above) renew their vows during the Little Brown Church's annual Marriage Reunion Sunday, and following the service, family members of the late Marlys Sinnwell (below) gather together to dedicate the church's new outdoor wedding venue.

SEE SINNWELL WEDDING GARDEN, Page 2

CELEBRATING 'C's' OF MARRIAGE

LITTLE BROWN CHURCH PASTOR EMPHASIZES 'CLARITY, COMMITMENT AND COMPASSION' DURING MARRIAGE REUNION

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Meredith and Quintin Becker sat in the famed little church Sunday and found inspiration all around them.

"When you hear 50, 60, 70 years," Meredith said after she and her husband, who had been married all of 22 days, "it is inspiring, that is the right word. Both our parents have been married a long time, our grandparents have been married for 50 years, so we have some great examples to follow. And now we have all these people, too."

And in the end, that's what the annual Little Brown Church Marriage Reunion, held Sunday on a gray, rainy day, is supposed to be all about. It celebrates all marriages — those that are

SEE REUNION, 8



Nashua couple continues to write an amazing story

There are days in this business that you just dread, and one of those took place on a beautiful sunny July morning back in 2020.

I woke that morning, knowing that Robin and Shelly Weiss were coming to the Tribune office, and as much as I love them — Shelly worked for us at the Nashua Reporter and Robin never tired of giving me good-natured grief at ballgames — I didn't want to do the story on



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

the battle Robin was just starting to fight.

He had been diagnosed with Grade IV Glioblastoma, an extremely aggressive type of cancer that occurs in the brain or spinal cord. The average life expectancy for those stricken with Glioblastoma is 12 to 18 months. Just 25 percent survive more than a year. A mere 5 percent survive for more than five years.

As I prepared for the interview that morning for the story that would tell Robin's tale and hopefully hype an upcoming benefit for him and his family, I figured it would be a somber affair.

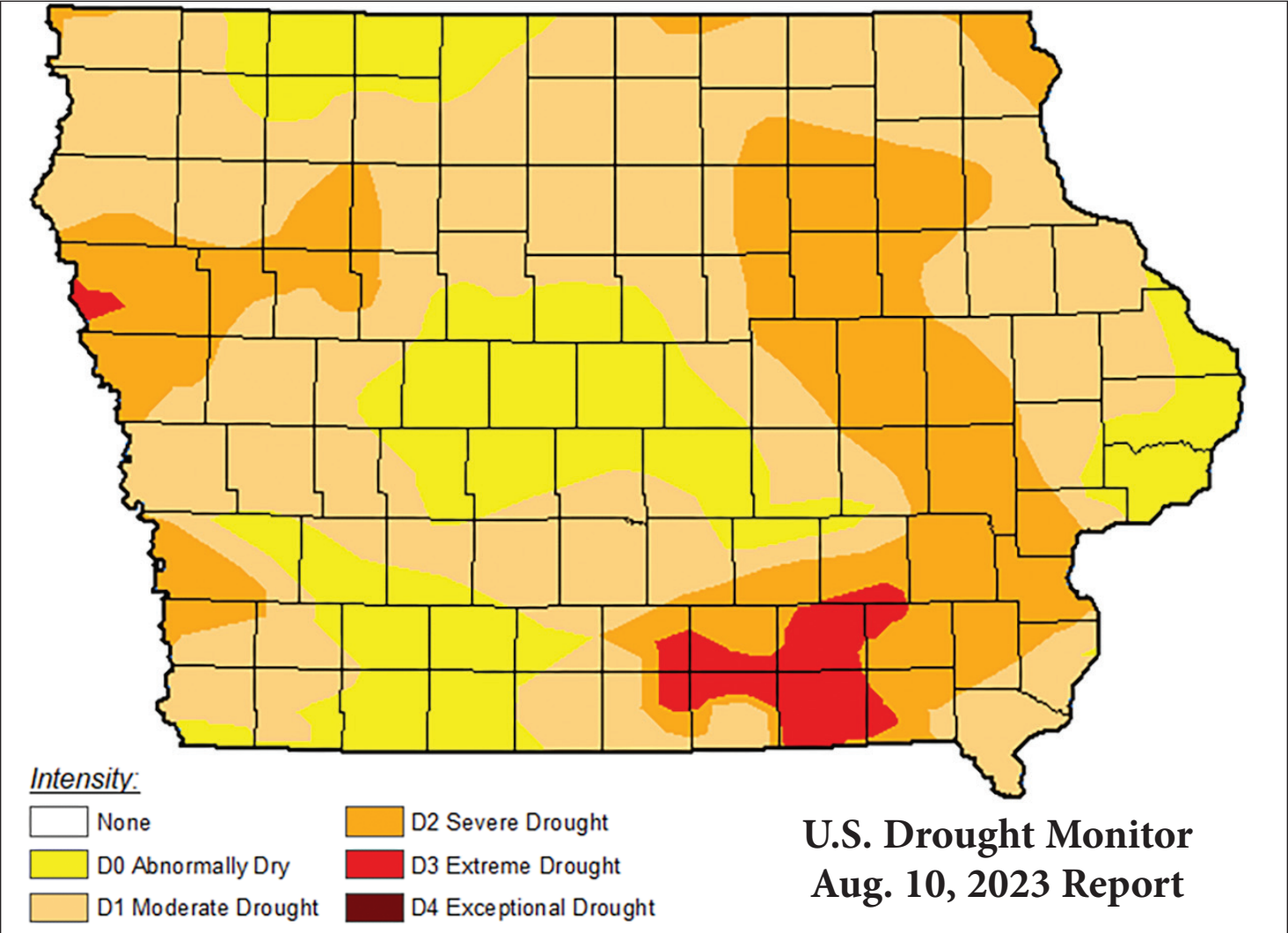
I. Was. Wrong. We talked for more than 90 minutes, and for at least half of

SEE WEISS, 5



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Nashua residents Shelly and Robin Weiss renew the vows they first made on Sept. 23, 1989 during Sunday's annual Marriage Reunion at the Little Brown Church.



Little rain that has fallen this summer has been ‘spotty’

DROUGHT: FROM 1
during the first 10 day of the month.

To prove how spotty rain has been recently, consider this: While Nashua had just 1.17 inches of precipitation in July, New Hampton’s weather station — located about 16 miles from Nashua’s — had an almost normal month of rainfall with 4.77 inches.

“It’s frustrating,” Basol said, “because it just seems like every time we’re going to get some rain, it goes this way, that way, and never our way. ...

“Look at Sunday, every fore-caster was saying we’re going to have an all-day rain and we ended up with what? A third of an inch? We need everyone to be doing a rain dance right now.”

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor report released on Thursday showed little change from the week before, but the picture isn’t pretty. All of

It’s BEEN A DRY 2023 HERE IN NASHUA			
Month	Precip	Average	% of Avg.
January	1.41	1.13	124.8
February	3.07	1.24	247.6
March	1.60	2.05	78.0
April	1.85	3.79	48.8
May	1.93	5.12	37.7
June	1.63	5.89	27.7
July	1.17	4.74	24.7
*August	0.29	1.03	28.2
* Both rainfall and average are for just first 10 days of August.			
SOURCE: National Weather Service Office, La Crosse, Wisconsin			

Bremer County and parts of Chickasaw, Floyd and Butler counties are enduring “severe drought” conditions while the rest of the area is dealing with moderate drought.

The weekly Iowa Crop Progress and Condition report that the USDA put out on Monday showed that 59 percent of the topsoil in the state’s Northeast District,

which includes Chickasaw and Bremer, was either “short” or “very short” of moisture while 78 percent of the topsoil in the North Central District, which includes Floyd and Butler counties was either “short” or “very short.”

Ditto for the subsoil moisture profile as the Northeast District had 54 percent of its subsoil “short” or “very short” while the

North Central District had 79 percent.

“Like I said, the crop is hanging in there pretty well right now, but especially with soils that are lighter and sandier, we’re getting to a point where it’s becoming critical,” Basol said.

“There’s still time to have a good crop, but rain’s a must and honestly, it can’t just be a one-time deal, either.”

Briefs

Field Day in Nashua to address impact of drought, smoke on crops

The annual fall field day at Iowa State University’s Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua will feature presentations on how drought and smoke have impacted crops, corn rootworm and short stature corn.

The event will be held Aug. 31, beginning with a complimentary meal at noon, sponsored by the Iowa Soybean Association, and run until 4:30 p.m.

Sotirios Archontoulis, Iowa State University associate professor of agronomy, will provide his insights on what the effects of drought and smoke have on corn and soybean, at 1 p.m.

Lee Burras, Iowa State University Morrill professor of agronomy, will discuss how the soil profile affects rooting depth and yield by the utilization of a soil pit. Company representatives from Bayer and Pioneer will provide updates and management considerations on short stature corn.

Erin Hodgson, professor in entomology and extension specialist in entomology at Iowa State, will give a corn rootworm research and management update.

The field day is free and open to the public. It starts at the Borlaug Learning Center Headquarters, located on the research farm. Certified Crop Adviser Credits will be available.

To help organizers plan for the meal, RSVP at neira@iastate.edu by Monday, Aug. 28. For more information about the event, call Terry Basol at 641-426-6801; or Josh Michel at 563-581-7828.

Relay for Life’s ‘Revvin’ up for a Cure’ set for this Saturday

The Relay for Life of Chickasaw County will hold an event on Saturday, Aug. 12 at Mikkelson Park, with the benefits going to the American Cancer Society.

There will be a car show, food, live DJ music, a quilt raffle, face painting, bounce house and luminaria ceremony at 6 p.m. The event will go from 2 to 7 p.m.

Luminarias may be purchased at First Citizens Bank before the event, or at the event.

Big band to play at Wilder Park

The Sugar Daddys “Big” Band will play at Wilder Park, Allison, on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. as the summer concert series sponsored by the Allison Park Board will come to a conclusion.

.Refreshments, including popcorn, walking tacos, maid-rites and are pie available, and those attending are asked to bring a lawn chair.

CEDAR VALLEY HOSPICE

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County to ask city to approve tower

TOWER: FROM 1

which one adjoining land owner spoke out against the project.

"This tower will forever change the development path of the neighborhood and diminish the property values of the immediate area," Delane Muller said during the Nov. 21 public hearing. "Real property is forever and that tower will be there for decades."

County officials say the Franke land is perfect for a radio communications tower that would be utilized by law enforcement, EMS, Secondary Roads, city workers and state agencies that use the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communication System (ISICS) because it provides a clear and transmittable signal to another ISICS tower located in Waverly.

Technically, the City Council did not turn down the request last November; instead, council

members tabled the matter and have not brought it back up.

Still, Laudner advised supervisors to "start over" on the purchase.

Supervisor Scott Cerwinski, a former Nashua City Council member whose district includes the city, was asked Monday if the "environment" had changed since last fall?

"I talked to the mayor just a little bit last week," he said. "His comment was to send it to him, but he reminded me that he does not have a vote."

Hackman, though, said he "didn't think it would hurt to go back."

Monday's vote to have Laudner begin the process of bringing the matter back to the council came less than a month after the Board of Supervisors approved giving \$50,000 of county ARPA funds to the city for engineering work on the dam that is located within the city.

Supervisors reject city requests on 3-2 votes

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

Breitbach made the motion and after several attempts to get a second were met with silence, Kuhn seconded the motion, only to see it fail on a 3-2 vote.

Ditto for the Ionia request of \$30,000 for improvements to the city park and ball diamond that city officials point out is used not only by city residents but also by programs that draw residents from much of the county.

Breitbach made the motion, Kuhn seconded it and it failed on a 3-2 vote.

Kuhn then brought up the \$50,000 request from Lawler, which requested \$50,000 to be used for city bridges and streets. In their request, Lawler city officials said the \$50,000 would cover 25 percent of the costs of to replace five box cul-

verts that would help prevent future flooding.

"I do believe Lawler's [request] is for infrastructure and would help them potentially in event of any flooding," Kuhn said. "If those houses got flooded ... that's going to affect the tax base, just like it did in Nashua [if the dam failed]."

Once again, though, the motion made by Breitbach and seconded by Kuhn failed 3-2.

Finally, the board considered a \$50,000 request from North Washington, which said due to buying a tanker for the fire department and the added costs of providing emergency services to its residents, it needed the money to seal coat its streets.

For a fourth time, Breitbach made the motion, Kuhn seconded it and the board voted — you guessed it — 3-2 against the motion.



Photo courtesy of Lillie Hines

Windbreak Award

SWCD Commissioner Randy Miller (right) presents Charlie and Susan Harrington the Chickasaw County Soil and Water Conservation District 2023 Windbreak Award. In 2015, they planted one row of Red Dogwood, two rows Dark Arborvitae, and two rows of Black Hill Spruce.

The Harringtons take great pride in their trees, and it shows in the well-maintained windbreak.

They planted a windbreak with the goal of having protection for their home and it has done just that, as well as beautified the area and provided food and shelter for wildlife. They look forward to watching the trees mature.

Briefs

New Hampton pool announces hours for final week of season

All good things must come to an end, and the swimming season at the New Hampton Municipal Pool is no exception.

The New Hampton Parks and Department has set the "closing week" schedule for the popular summer hangout, which will close for the season on Friday, Aug. 18. The pool will be closed this Sunday before wrapping up the season with five days of swimming next week, and the schedule is as follows:

- Monday, Aug. 14: Regular hours, adult swim from noon to 1:30 p.m. and open swim from 1:30 to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 15: Regular hours.
- Wednesday, Aug. 16: Open swim from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and no adult swim.
- Thursday, Aug. 17: Regular hours.
- Friday, Aug. 18: Open swim from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and no adult swim.

Rotary Club to hold annual computer recycling event Aug. 17

Need to get rid of that old computer that is gathering dust in one of your closets?

The New Hampton Rotary Club has just the thing for you as club members will host their annual computer recycling event on Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Carquest parking lot just off the intersection of Linn Avenue and Main Street.

Computers can be unloaded between 3 and 5 p.m. that day and Rotary Club members will be on hand to help load the computers inside the Goodwill truck.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors meet in the board room at the courthouse Monday morning and later in the day, they held a meeting at the county's Secondary Roads Department shop.

County takes plunge on family health insurance

During meeting with employees, supervisors vote 4-1 to take on some of employees' premium contributions

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Chickasaw County's employees made their pitch for the county to cover more of their monthly premiums for family health insurance, and after more than an hour discussion, the Board of Supervisors took the plunge and approved a plan that could cost the county hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

The board held a special meeting at the Secondary Roads shop Monday afternoon to hear the concerns from county employees about the county's contribution to family health insurance, which County Engineer Roman Lensing said has made it extremely difficult for department heads like himself to attract and retain employees.

"We're not attracting new employees, specifically those with families," Lensing said. "We have a fast decrease in applications for job openings as far as our department is concerned, and we're having preferred applicants turn down job offers. You know, you're reaching further down the pool basically just hoping someone bites. We've had people turn it down, and they've said it's because of that. They don't want to contribute that or they can't afford that or they have better options."

He added that he has lost two employees to surrounding counties and that both told him that "better health benefits" were the reason they took their new jobs.

Before 2017, the county paid 95 percent of a single health insurance premium and 75 percent of a family health insurance premium, but that year, the Board of Supervisors voted to change its contribution — upping its portion of the single insurance to 100 percent but only paying that single premium amount to a family policy.

Lensing said that that means today the county is paying just 41.69 percent of the monthly family insurance premium. The single insurance premium today is \$790.32 while the family premium is \$1,895.73,

which means employees who have family health insurance through the county pay \$1,105.41 a month.

Supervisors discussed the possibility of raising the county contribution for family insurance while also having employees pay a small part of their single insurance — an idea that did not sit well with Secondary Roads Foreman Tyler Thronndson.

"We do some pretty risky stuff in Secondary Roads. No one plows the road for us to get to work in the winter time," he said. "To me, 100 percent coverage is very fair for the single plan. ... I hate to see the guys who don't need the family suffer because of that."

County Attorney David Laudner agreed.

"So I'm just going to just say if the logic and the purpose of this is to attract and retain employees," he said, "which is what I'm hearing, why would you make it less attractive to a single person? Again, we're talking about the pie, let's not cut the slices differently, let's add more toppings to it and make it better for everyone."

Board members discussed different ideas — including bringing the county's share of family coverage up to what is found in the union contract with sheriff's deputies. Under state law, that is the only bargaining unit representing county employees that can negotiate insurance coverage in its contract.

Currently, the county pays a little more than 64 percent of family insurance premiums to Sheriff's Office employees covered by the union contract.

They also heard from several county employees who said that Chickasaw County ranks somewhere between 95th and 97th when it comes to employer contributions to family health insurance.

"We're not saying we have to be at the top," Thronndson said, "but when you look around us, we're just asking for you guys to treat us fairly."

Currently, the county has just six employees who are getting their family insurance through the county. That compares with 41

employees who were on the county's family health insurance plan in 2014.

Board members also discussed the possibility of having department heads to gauge interest from their employees on moving from single to family health plans so that supervisors would have an idea of how much it would cost the county to implement changes.

"Not to quote kick the can the road," Board Chairman Matt Kuhn said, "[but] I think it would be very [important for] the board to look at the numbers to see what's all changing before we walk into a firing squad."

Laudner pointed out that if 50 employees moved to the family health insurance plan, it would cost the county \$300,000 a year, and he also expressed concerns about the board asking employees if they would switch and then back out when it was time for a final decision.

"We've been down this road before," he said, "but if you say you're going to go down this road and then on Monday [at the next meeting] waver, I'm not sure what that does for you."

After more than an hour of discussion, Supervisor Steve Breitbach made the motion to have the county start paying 75 percent of family health premiums — or \$1,421.79 — beginning on Oct. 1.

Supervisor Scott Cerwinski seconded the motion, but before the board voted, Supervisor Jake Hackman, the lone board member who was also a supervisor in 2017, voiced his concerns, especially considering that a new state law could dramatically affect how much counties can tax, beginning in 2024.

"You're going to do this without a public hearing and a budget impact to the county? I think that's irresponsible of our jobs as supervisors," Hackman said. "Usually, in government, we get a fiscal impact and we have no budget impact today."

In the end, he was the lone nay vote as Kuhn, Breitbach, Cerwinski and Suckow all voted in favor of the motion.

Get ready to travel back in time!

The Northeast Iowa Antique Engine and Tractor Show returns this weekend to Pioneer Power Acres just outside of Fredericksburg as it kicks off its two-day run on Saturday, when gates open at 7 a.m.

The event will include outdoor activities and demonstrations — including grain threshing, straw baling, corn shelling and more, and it will also include a flea market both days.

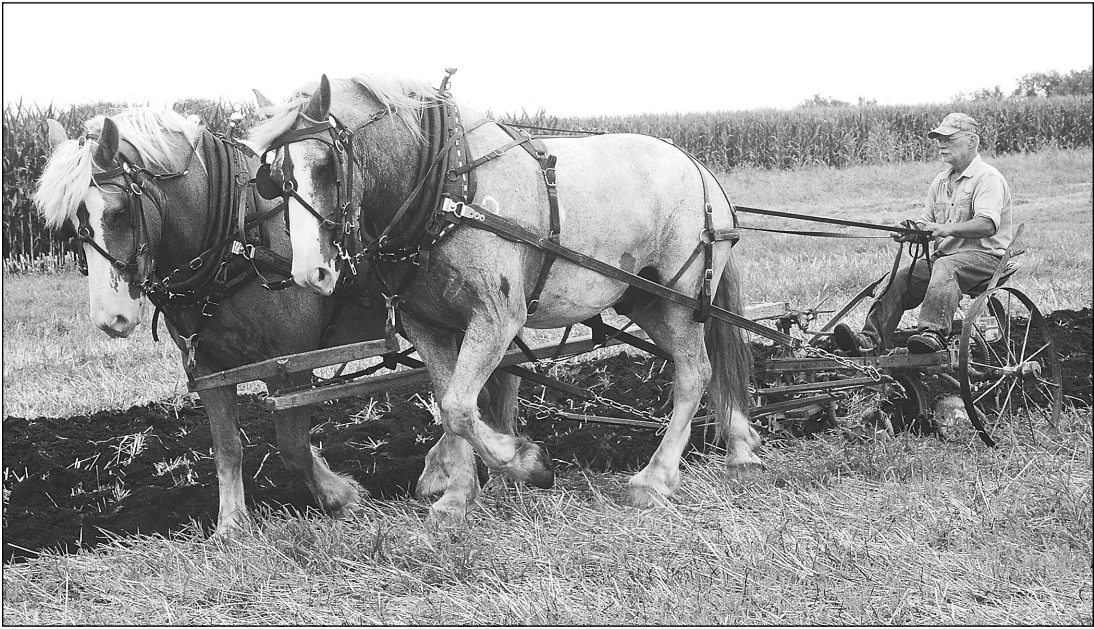
Among the special events on Saturday are a draft horse demonstration at 10 a.m., bluegrass music from noon to 2:30 p.m. and a tractor pull that commences at 4 p.m.

The show continues Sunday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and there will be a sanctioned kids pedal pull at 1 p.m., bluegrass music at noon and 2 p.m. and the raffle drawings at 2 p.m.

Admission to the event is \$5 and the food stand will be open on the grounds both days.

Dorothy Huber/Reporter

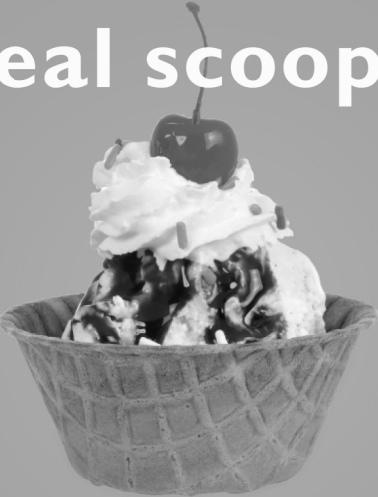
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Public Health
IOWA HHS

Charles City pool to go to the dogs before closing for the season on Sunday

By BOB STEENSON
Of the Charles City Press

Call it the Doggy Dip, the PAWS Plunge, Fido's Float – whatever the name, it's hap-

pening Sunday, Aug. 13, on the last day that the Charles City municipal swimming pool at Lions Field Park will be open for the season.
The Pup Paddle, or Water

Woofers, or Doggo Divers event – is an opportunity for humans and their favorite four-legged friends to share a swim before the pool is drained and cleaned for the season.

It has become a popular fundraiser for PAWS Humane Society in Charles City, which is the recipient for entry fees charged Sunday evening.
The Canine Cannonballers,

or Hydro Hounds, or Wagging Waders – will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Dog admittance is \$2 each and humans are \$1 each.

tions, according to information from PAWS.
Tyler Mitchell, the director of the Charles City Parks and Recreation Department, said the pool is closing this weekend because most of the lifeguards are involved in high school fall sports and practices are beginning, so there isn't enough guard staff available to keep the pool open



Charles City Press

A dog chases a tennis ball off the diving board at the Charles City municipal swimming pool during a past “Doggy Dip.”

Briefs

Rendezvous Days returns to Old Bradford Pioneer Museum Aug. 18-20

The Old Bradford Pioneer Museum will hold its annual Rendezvous Days next weekend on its grounds that are located just to the south of the Little Brown Church.

The park will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday, Aug. 18-20, and organizers say those who attend will learn about fur traders in the 1600s while having a chance to make rope, throw a hatchet, see a blacksmith, tour the Bradford Pioneer Village and many more activities.

Admission to the event is \$5.

New wind farm to hold ‘community celebration’ Aug. 24

The Chickasaw County Wind Farm, which is currently under construction will hold a “community celebration” from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 24.

The event will be held at “Turbine 14,” which is located on 120th Street just off of Highway 63 north of New Hampton.

Attendees will be able to see construction equipment and turbine components while learning about wind energy and the new farm that will eventually have 66 wind turbines.

Those attending are asked to wear “closed-toe” shoes to the site.

Big 4 Chamber gearing up for Sept. 2 Best Dam BBQ Challenge

The Big 4 Chamber of Commerce's Best Dam BBQ Challenge, which will be held during the Big 4 Fair for the first time, since 2019, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 2.

While the BBQ competitors will be at the fairgrounds for much of the day, they'll be serving food to the public, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the “VIP BBQ” ticketholders. Those tickets are \$30 and include one rib and one wing from each

griller, advance entrance to the event and a vote for the event's People's Choice Award.

At 5:15, the a la carte portion of the BBQ begins, and tickets for that can be purchased the day of the event and are \$10 for three ribs.

The chamber, meanwhile, is working on securing sponsors for the event, and those interested can visit the organization's website at Big4Chamber.org.

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CHICKASAW COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING 7/22/2023-8/2/2023	CALHOUN-BURNS,OUTSIDE ENGINEERING..... 10,195.40
20/20 FX LLC,SVC BLOCK FEE; PH ADAPTER..... 3,171.50	CHEMSEARCH,CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES..... 262.40
ACES,AUGUST MONTHLY SOFTWARE SVC..... 189.00	FOSTER GRANDPARENTS/CHARLES CITY,FY 23/24 BUDGET ALLOCATION..... 1,000.00
AHLERS & COONEY, P.C.,JULY23 HR SVCS..... 1,800.00	COLLECTION SERVICES CENTER,CHILD SUPPORT..... 15.69
ALLIANT ENERGY,IONIA SHOP ELECTRICITY..... 36.87	COMPRESSED AIR & EQUIPMENT DRAINS..... 131.99
ALTA VISTA, CITY OF,RUT FM TRANSFER AV MAY/ JUN/ JULY..... 4,159.26	CULLIGAN,COOLER RENT/ WATER..... 270.87
AMAZON SHERIFF UNIFORMS/TV MOUNT/SCALE/JAIL SUPPLIES..... 603.86	KRIVACHEK JANITORIAL,CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES - CO BUILDINGS..... 289.10
ANGELL ELECTRIC,ELECTRICAL NH SHOP BAY 9-11..... 2,968.05	DETECTACHEM,INVESTIGATION SUPPLIES-SHERIFF..... 165.96
ARMEL, RAY,CONT ED - MILEAGE..... 125.76	DIAMOND MOWERS,PARTS #86 & #85-STOCK PARTS..... 496.62
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AWARDS 'N TIME,DESK BARS..... 42.05	FASTENAL,HARDWARE #65B & BRIDGE MAINT SUPPLIES..... 257.04
AXON SHERIFF SUPPLIES..... 480.00	FAYETTE COUNTY,INMATE JAIL LODGING..... 3,000.00
BARKER COMM,CAMERA SERVICE @ SHERIFF OFFICE..... 300.00	FIVE STAR COOPERATIVE,L.P SAUDE SHOP 1100 GALS..... 1,617.00
BASSETT, CITY OF,RUT FM TRANSFER BASSETT MAY/ JUN/ JULY..... 922.55	FLOYD COUNTY SHERIFF,BOARDING INMATE - SHERIFF..... 390.00
BAXTER HEALTHCARE,EMS POLES, SOFTWARE & INFUSION PUMP..... 9,054.40	FRIEDRICH, TONI S,MEI SERVICES..... 264.30
BMC AGGREGATES LC,ROCK..... 3,979.88	GALLS PARENT HOLDINGS,SHERIFF UNIFORM..... 351.80
BODENSTEINER,PARTS #86 & LUBRICANTS..... 320.54	GLASS TECH,LABOR WINDSHIELD #1..... 279.00
BOEHMER, KATIE,JULY23 VA MTG..... 25.00	HACKMAN, JACOB J,MILEAGE..... 127.07
BOUND TREE MEDICAL,EMS MED SUPPLIES..... 186.40	HEMESATH, BARBARA,SHERIFF UNIFORM..... 84.99
BBRENNAN CONSTRUCTION CO INC07BROS-C019(109)-8J-19 ACC ID 39074 BLAZE&K BRIDGE..... 6,305.00	HERCULES MACHINERY,PARTS #203B..... 379.65
BBRUENING ROCK,ROCK..... 7,594.24	ICEOO,FALL CONFERENCE/ R CAREY..... 250.00
BUTLER-BREMER,JULY '23 INTERNET/PHONE..... 39.17	INRCOG,FY '24 DUES..... 2,630.92
	IONIA, CITY OF,RUT FM TRANSFER

No.23184
08/10/23 08/11/23

Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice	
CHICKASAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES July 31, 2023	OF SECTION 8, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 95 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., CHICKASAW COUNTY, IOWA. WHEREAS, ON THE 17th DAY OF JULY, 2023, the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council of New Hampton, Iowa met at a regular meeting and approved the final plat of Parcels 2023-14, 15, 16 and 17 all in Woodland Estates of Section 8, all in Township 95 North, Range 12 West of the 5th P.M., Chickasaw County, Iowa WHEREAS, ON THE 31st DAY of July, 2023 at a regular meeting by the Board of Supervisors, Chickasaw County, Iowa a minor subdivision plat of PARCELS 2023-14, 15, 16 AND 17 IN WOODLAND ESTATES OF SECTION 8, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 95 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., CHICKASAW COUNTY, IOWA was presented. WHEREAS, the minor subdivision plat of PARCELS 2023-14, 15, 16 AND 17 IN WOODLAND ESTATES OF SECTION 8, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 95 NORTH, RANGE 12 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., CHICKASAW COUNTY, IOWA has now been considered and should be approved. NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Board of Supervisors, Chickasaw County, Iowa that said Minor Subdivision Plat be approved, accepted and the Chairman is hereby directed to certify this Resolution of Approval. PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 31ST DAY OF JULY 2023. Roll Call: Ayes: Cerwinske, Suckow, Hackman, Breitbach, Kuhn. Nays: None. Motion carried. /ss/ Matthew Kuhn, Chairman, /ss/ Attest: Donna Geerts, Deputy Auditor. The full text of the resolution can be obtained at the Auditor's Office or online on county's website https://www.chickasawcounty.iowa.gov under Departments, Board of Supervisors, Resolutions.
The Board convened on Monday, July 31, 2023, at 9:00 AM with members Breitbach, Suckow, Hackman, Kuhn, and Cerwinske 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 Deputy Auditor Donna Geerts, Attorney David Laudner, Bob Fenske, member of the media, Assessor Raymond Armel, Engineer Roman Lensing, Treasurer Matt Ysbrand, Recorder Shirley Troyna, and representatives from ISG-Landon Cleary and Tiffany Kruizenga.	DEPOSITORY NAME LOCATION MAXIMUM BALANCE State Bank/becomes New Hampton Fidelity Bank & Trust, August 19, 2019 (County Auditor) \$ 75,000.00 State Bank/becomes New Hampton Fidelity Bank Trust, August 19, 2019 (County Sheriff) \$ 250,000.00 Luana Savings Bank New Hampton \$ 100,000.00 (County Recorder) CERTIFICATION, I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution of the Chickasaw County Depositories adopted at a meeting of the said public body, quorum being present, as said resolution remains of record in the minutes of said meeting, and it is now in full force and effect. PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 31ST DAY OF JULY 2023. Roll Call: Ayes: Cerwinske, Suckow, Hackman, Breitbach, Kuhn. Nays: None. Motion carried. /ss/ Matthew Kuhn, Chairman, /ss/ Attest: Donna Geerts, Deputy Auditor. The full text of the resolution can be obtained at the Auditor's Office or online on county's website https://www.chickasawcounty.iowa.gov under Departments, Board of Supervisors, Resolutions.
Motion by Suckow, seconded by Hackman to approve the agenda for July 31, 2023. Roll Call: Ayes: Hackman, Cerwinske, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn. Motion carried.	Motion by Hackman, seconded by Cerwinske to approve the meeting minutes from July 24, 2023 with corrections. Roll Call: Ayes: Hackman, Cerwinske, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn. Motion carried.
Motion by Hackman, seconded by Cerwinske to approve the meeting minutes from July 26, 2023 with corrections. Roll Call: Ayes: Cerwinske, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn. Abstained: Hackman. Motion carried.	No public comment.
Motion by Suckow, seconded by Breitbach to approve the meeting minutes from July 26, 2023 with corrections. Roll Call: Ayes: Cerwinske, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn. Motion carried.	Motion by Hackman, seconded by Cerwinske to acknowledge the retirement of Jane Wolf, part-time public health nurse effective September 29, 2023. Roll Call: Ayes: Hackman, Cerwinske, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn. Motion carried.
Discussion with Engineer Roman Lensing on department updates. Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to approve and authorize Chairperson Kuhn's signature on agreement for Iowa DOT initiated detour of primary highways on local roads for bridge replacement project on US Highway 18 (Section 11 T95N, R14W). Roll Call: Ayes: Hackman, Cerwinske, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn. Motion carried.	Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve and sign RESOLUTION 07-31-23-63 A RESOLUTION APPROVING PLAT OF PARCELS 2023-14, 15, 16, 17 IN WOODLAND ESTATES

Nashua couple should be the reason we ‘relay’

WEISS: FROM 1

that time, I laughed. I mean I belly laughed.

Fast forward more than three years to this past Sunday, when I covered the Marriage Reunion at the Little Brown Church. The "headline entertainer," if you will, was Dustin Weiss, the son of Robin and Shelly.

When I saw him enter the little "Church in the Wildwood," I quickly got up from my seat to say hi.

"How's your dad?"

"Ask him, he's coming in right behind me," Dustin said with a smile, "and I'm sure he'll give you a little crap if you're up for it."

And suddenly, there was Robin and Shelly, and I just wanted to cry — not sad tears because Robin was in a wheelchair but happy tears because he was, well, he was here.

Back in 2020, he told me he was ready for the fight of his life.

"Well, you know me," Robin said with a quick smile during our interview, "I never go half-speed at anything so right out of the chute, I was a Grade IV. It just makes it a little bit more challenging. That's all."

If I doubted him back then, his presence at the reunion reminded me I was wrong.

After the ceremony in which he and Shelly joined dozens of other couples in renewing their vows, we talked as he ate and this son sang.

And the inspiration he gave me three years ago grew ten-fold.

It's been tough, don't get me wrong. He's endured surgeries, treatments and so many scares, yet he's the same old Robin Weiss I first met when I was covering his daughter, Dallas, a standout athlete at Nashua-Plainfield High School.

"I think I told you a few

years ago that I'm going to enjoy every single day I have left," he said, "and for the most part, that's what I've tried to do. I'm not saying some days don't suck, but you know what? I've got a lot to be thankful for. I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy, but with Shelly, the kids, the friends we have ... man, I'm a lucky guy."

He admitted that he's not made for a wheelchair; after all, Weiss was a standout athlete in high school, and he never really lost his youthful vigor. Heck, he was still at his high school playing weight in his 50s, and as Shelly put in 2020, "Sometimes you just smack him for that."

Despite the wheelchair and despite the hardships he has faced in recent years, on Sunday, I realized that he hadn't changed much.

He still flipped me grief, he still laughed at my lame jokes, he still had that lively banter that he had in the Tribune office three summers ago.

Just once during our conversation did he get a little emotional and that came when I asked him about the vow renewal ceremony that had taken place just an hour or so before.

"Shelly and I have been together for 41 years," he said, "and I wasn't sure what to expect this morning. We've always talked about coming out here and doing this, but until today, we just haven't gotten it done. Dustin coming back, that obviously was a push."

He paused for a moment and smiled.

"And I'm so glad we did," he said. "I'm not going to lie, it was a lot more emotional than I thought it would be. Ask Shelly, we've been through a lot, but this, this has made us stronger than ever."

A few minutes later, Shelly returned to the table and I



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Dustin Weiss joins his parents — Robin and Shelly — in prayer during the annual Little Brown Church Marriage Reunion that was held Sunday.

posed the same question about how Robin's cancer journey has impacted their marriage. Her answer was succinct.

"Definitely stronger," she said. I waited for more and Shelly couldn't help but laugh.

"I know you want more, but that's really all I've got for you. Our marriage has never been stronger than it is today," she said. "I'm not saying every day is a picnic because, trust me, it's not, but there's no one I'd rather walk through life than this guy right here."

The Chickasaw County Relay for Life will be held Saturday at New Hampton's Mikkelson Park. The event is an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, but over the years, I've always felt the Relay was more than just a way to raise money for the ongoing

battle against cancer because the Relay gives us a chance to memorialize those who have been lost to the dreaded disease and support those who are battling it.

I've "relayed" in the past for my dad, who died from lung cancer in 2004, and for my mom, who passed away in 2015 just days after finding out she had colon cancer.

But this year, I will relay for Robin and Shelly Weiss and their adult children — Dustin, Megan and Dallas. Robin Weiss may be in a wheelchair these days, but he has this attitude, just like he did three years ago, that is, in a word, inspiring.

Three years ago, the sick man inspired the healthy one, and he did the same thing again on Sunday. And for that, I am grateful.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Fun times in Ionia

For the first time since Nashua's Water Over the Dam Days concluded, Chickasaw County was home to a town celebration this past weekend as the folks in Ionia held Fun Days that featured a host of activities — including a parade full of candy and a car show.



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City of Nashua
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
City Council Chambers, City Hall
The Nashua City Council met in regular session on August 7, 2023, in Council City Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with Mayor Alex Anthofer presiding. Council members present were Jake Johnson, Samantha Johnson, Harold Kelleher III, Tim Malven and Ernie Willsher. City employee(s) City Clerk John Ott, Zenda Viktorek Nashua Area EMS Director, Chad McCleary Water/Wastewater Operator, City Attorney David Skilton, and Police Chief Ryan Shawver were present along with 6 guests. Mayor Anthofer asked for consideration approving the regular agenda. Willsher/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C. RC: all ayes

Mayor Anthofer called for a motion to approve the consent agenda: Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting July 17, 2023; Alcohol Permits: Big 4 Fair; Building Permits: 307 Livingston; Fireworks: Water Over the Dam Days 2.0; Payment of Claims (see claims report); Total Claims to be Paid \$136,297.88 + Wages \$17,887.61. Willsher/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C. RC: all ayes

Mayor Anthofer asked if anyone had any public comments. There were none.

Mayor Anthofer opened a hearing to revisit an issue regarding a dangerous dog due to new information that had been brought forth. Attorney Skilton stated that with the new information the number of persons/animals that have been bitten by this dog is now three or more. Attorney Skilton stated that at the last hearing there was only one known dog bite and so he wanted to inform the council about the other incidents that have been brought forth to see if they wanted to head a different direction, but he didn't subpoena anyone because he thought the council and the dog owner would be able to come to an agreement. Prior to the present, and a have a new hearing; however, if everything can be agreed on like the last time, the council can decide by majority vote and if the solution is approved by the owner than that is fine and if not we would have to have another hearing. It may take more than one time to do it, but we do it right he said. There is no double jeopardy if the council approves a decision based on all the information. S. Johnson/M to have the dog moved out to the property owner's other very property outside city limits by September 5, 2023. Attorney Skilton stated that if the council votes and agrees and the owner agrees then they would not have to have another hearing, but if the owner does not agree then they will need to have another hearing. The owner stated that they will need to have another hearing as they are getting an attorney. Council member J. Kelleher mentioned that he is concerned with several nuisance properties who have been sent letters and nothing has been addressed yet.

J. Johnson noted that he would like discussion on LED lighting added back to the agenda for the next meeting.

Chickasaw County Sheriff Ryan

Shawver presented the monthly Sheriff's report for July. They spent 202 hours in Nashua in the month of July. They discussed parking at the beach. The council discussed putting two no parking signs up that say no parking between signs, but no decision was made. City Clerk Ott will look at the current parking ordinance to see what it says about parking at the beach.

City Clerk Ott presented the Welcome Center Monthly Report. The A/C unit went out at the Welcome Center. J. Johnson/M, S. Johnson/S, M/C to approve City Clerk Ott getting bids to replace the unit. RC: all ayes

City Clerk Ott presented the Park Board Monthly Report. Water Over the Dam Days 2.0 is scheduled for August 26th and there are a lot of fun activities planned to include a Band, Pop Producers Meal, Fireworks and Waterhawks ski team.

Chad McCleary from Ion Environmental Solution who is the current Water/Wastewater Operator presented his monthly report. He shared a lot of issues that he noted when he took over as the water/wastewater operator on July 1, 2023. There are numerous pieces of equipment in need of repair. He informed the council that they should be prepared to spend some money to get things where they need to be. He noted that he understands that repairs will be based on priority and not everything can be fixed at one time, but there are a lot of items that have needed repair and the previous operator failed to have them repaired and so the council will need to spend some money to get these items operating again.

Discussion/Action

The council discussed and took action on multiple items.

S. Johnson/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C to table further discussion on nuisance properties and the 657A process until the council creates a list of properties that need to be addressed. RC: all ayes

The council discussed the final payment to PeopleServices. Malven/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C to have the Mayor draft a letter and provide the letter to City Clerk Ott and Attorney Skilton to proof read. The letter will explain what PeopleServices will need to provide in order to receive final payment. RC: all ayes

The council will evaluate and subtract from the amount owed based on services not performed to fulfill the contract or resource hours that the city had to utilize that were not provided by PeopleService's in-kind hours.

J. Johnson/M, Malven/S, M/C to table discussions on amending the ordinance for water service until the council can gather more information. RC: all ayes

Willsher/M, S. Johnson/S, M/C to set the time and date of 5PM-7PM Tuesday October 31, 2023 for Trick or Treating. RC: all ayes

The council discussed the 28E Agreement revisions with NRFC (Nashua Rural Fire Company) adding vehicle ownership to the 28E Agreement so that there is a clear record of ownership. After discussion with the NRFC, the council concluded that the 2017 Freightliner (Tanker) should be 100% owned by the NRFC. After discussion, Malven/M, Willsher/S, M/C to approve the 28E Agreement after amending to change ownership of the 2017 Freightliner from jointly owned to being owned 100% by the NRFC. RC: all ayes. The new 28E

Agreement will be revised to state that the parties jointly own 3 vehicles (2008 International (Pumper), 2020 Dodge (Brush Truck), and 2008 (GMC) (Rescue Truck) and the city shall pay for licensing and insurance for the 2008 International (Pumper Truck) and the 2020 Dodge (Brush Truck)). The Nashua Rural Fire Company (NRFC) will pay for licensing and insurance for the 2017 Freightliner (Tanker) and the 2008 GMC (Rescue Truck). The parties will split the costs for maintenance and repairs as well as any sale proceeds for the 3 vehicles that are jointly owned (2008 International (Pumper), 2020 Dodge (Brush Truck), and 2008 (GMC) (Rescue Truck).

The council discussed the dilapidated building of 223 Main St. and barricading off Woodbridge St. or making it a one-way street. Volunteer Firefighter Josh Caster is going to look into getting cement pylons to close off ½ of Woodbridge St. by the dilapidating building.

S. Johnson/M, Willsher/S, M/C to approve installing a water line for the Garden Club. The Garden Club will pay for it, so it will not cost the city any money. RC: all ayes

The council discussed individuals that may be interested in purchasing some nuisance properties, but no decisions were made.

The council discussed mowing nuisance properties. City Clerk Ott will check with Steve Diers City of Charles City City Administrator on what policy they have.

J. Johnson/M, Willsher/S, M/C to approve the lowest proposal that Chad receives for the repair work proposed by Chad McCleary from Ion Environmental Solutions. RC: all ayes

J. Johnson/M, Malven/S, M/C to approve starting the process to sell the old dump truck via auction. RC: all ayes

Council member J. Johnson stated that he will look into Iowa DOT action information and council member S. Johnson noted that the next Iowa DOT auction is scheduled for September 30, 2023.

Willsher/M, Malven/S, M/C to approve the purchase of a new chain saw for approximately \$540. RC: all ayes

Other Business

Zade and Shea cut up some wood at the park for the Boy Scouts.

The city was notified that the D.A.R.E. sign is in need to removal or replacement. City Clerk Ott will get more information as it is located outside city limits and therefore the council was wondering if it would be the city's responsibility.

There was no other business. S. Johnson motioned to adjourn. J. Johnson/S, M/C. RC: 5 ayes. The meeting adjourned at 9:11PM.

Pending Approval by Council

John Ott

CLAIMS REPORT
(July 8-Aug. 2, 2023)
VENDOR, REFERENCE,
AMOUNT

BAKER & TAYLOR,LIB-BOOKS \$408.76

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS,LIB-BOOKS \$38.01

BOOK LOOK,LIB-BOOKS \$354.30

BROERS, SARA,LIB-BOOKS \$25.00

BUTLER-BREMER COMMUNICATIONS,LIB-PHONE JULY'23 \$37.58

CAPITAL SANITARY SUPPLY,LIB-TOWELS/TP \$110.46

CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT,LIB-

BOOKS \$47.25

CONSUMER REPORTS,LIB-SUB 1YR \$32.10

DISCOUNT SCHOOL SUPPLIES,LIB-PROG SUPPLIES \$123.63

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING,LIB-SUB 1YR \$37.42

GORDON FLESH COMPANY INC GFC,LIB-PRINTER LEASE 6/23-9/23 \$650.90

INGRAM,LIB-BOOKS/OTHER MATERIALS \$493.42

MIDWEST GAME AND FISH,LIB-SUB 2YR \$32.00

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY,LIB-PETTY CASH/USPS/ SUPPLIES \$91.82

OVERDRIVE,LIB-EBOOKS... \$625.71

PEOPLE,LIB- SUB THRU AUG'25 \$278.20

RAPID PRINTERS,LIB-SUPPLIES \$184.00

SOUTHERN LIVING,LIB-BOOKS \$37.91

THE FAMILY HANDYMAN,LIB-TIPS AND PROJECTS \$25.95

LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK,HSA \$1,900.00

ALTORFER CAT,SW-LBTY LIFT STATION GEN REPAIR... \$1,162.00

AVESIS,VISION-JULY'23 \$83.14

BOCKHAUS PLUMBING & HEATING,CH-AC REPLACED \$4,323.00

CRONIN, SKILTON, SKILTON, LEGAL-JUNE WOODBRIDGE/ LAKESHOR \$99.00

DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA,DENTAL INS JULY'23 \$309.04

HANNEMAN, MIKE,WA-PRIVATE LINE REPAIR DRIVEWA \$1,634.00

HENNINGS ELECTRIC LLC,CH-AC REPLACEMENT \$553.17

HINSON CONSULTING GROUP,WA/ SE-CREDIT CK J.S. \$50.00

INRCOG,CH-FY'24 DUES \$822.03

IOWA COMMUNITIES,AMB/EMT INS ADJUSTMENT ADDED \$734.00

MICK GAGE PLBG & HTG, INC-CWA-LEAK MAIN/PANAMA \$1,767.95

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY,PARK-GAS/ELEC JULY'23 \$21.36

MUNICIPAL PIPE TOOL CO.-SWR-SHANK FLANGE/HOOK/ NOZZLE \$236.44

OAKLAND CORPORATION,CH-LASERFICHE INSTALL \$4,025.00

QUALITY PUMP & CONTROL,SWR PLANT INFLUENT/RAZ PUMP... \$967.50

SHUCK BRITSON,DAM-PROJ REPAIR PLAN \$20,751.75

SHUTTLWORTH & INGERSOLL, WASTE WATER-EPA CONSENT ORD \$328.00

STAPLES CREDIT PLAN,PARK-RR SUPPLIES \$99.64

STRAND ASSOCIATES-SWR-PHASE2 WASTEWTR CONSULT \$1,250.00

U.S. POST OFFICE,WTR/SWR/GAR/ REC STAMPS \$351.00

BLUE CROSS WELLMARK,HEALTH INS-AUG'23 \$6,515.36

U.S. POST OFFICE,WTR/SWR/GAR/ REC AUG'23 \$224.74

ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY,STREET-CABIN FILTER WP10360 \$89.38

AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS CO.-SWR-SVC CALL 7/14 \$947.50

BODENSTEINER IMP. INC.,PARKS-MOWER Z930M ZTRAK \$8,286.28

DON BOSS,WC-CRAFTER COMMISSION 2ND QTR \$29.25

BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS INC PARKS-BANDSHELL DIRT/SRV FEE \$499.78

CITY OF NASHUA,CH-PETTY CASH \$91.15

COOLEY PUMPING,PARK-AUG'23 CEDAR VIEW PARK \$285.00

DIAMOND MAPS,WA/SE-UNLIMITED USERS 12 MO \$336.00

IOWA DNR,SWR-NPDES PERMIT FEE FY23/24 \$210.00

IOWA MUNICIPALITIES WORKERS WORKER'S COMPENSATION PREMIUM \$702.00

IOWA ONE CALL,LOCATES \$38.70

JENDRO SANITATION SERVICE GAR/REC JULY'23 \$12,552.05

JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL,ST/PRK/WW-BOLTS/TORCH,LOCK \$238.34

KAHN TILE SUPPLY LLC,ST-MAINT 30'X20' WALL NP \$1,280.00

KATRINA'S HELPFUL HOUSE CLEANI,WC-CLEANING JULY'23 \$798.00

MARC,PARKS-RR SUPPLIES \$200.58

MARINE SOLUTIONS INC DAM-DIVERS FOR INSPECT/ REPAIR \$31,847.50

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY,GAS/ELEC JULY'23 \$8,496.10

MURPHY, COE, AND SMITH CH-TREASURER MAY'23 \$165.00

NEW HAMPTON TRIBUNE NASHUA CH-LEGAL PUB JULY'23 \$218.55

ONE BEAT MEDICAL/TRAINING AMB-DEFIB/CASE \$7,822.00

PEOPLES INSURANCE AGENCY WODD-INSURANCE \$891.89

RILEY'S INC.,CH-COPY FEES JULY'23 \$184.98

S & T COLLISION,FD-BULB... \$53.78

THE MILL, INC. DAM-OIL \$1,200.00

ZENDA VIKTUREK,AMB-BREAK-AWAY VESTS \$114.32

IPERS,REGULAR IPERS \$3,767.23

IRS - USA TAX PAYMENT,FED/FICA TAX \$2,588.55

TREASURER STATE OF IOWA,STATE TAX \$400.26

CSG FORTE PAYMENTS,WTR/SWR-ACH BANK FEES JUNE'23 \$42.00

IOWA MUN FINANCE OFF ASSOC CH-UTILITY CLERK MEMBERSHIP DU \$20.00

IOWA MUN FINANCE OFF ASSOC CH-UTILITY CLERK MEMBERSHIP DU \$1.50

AMAZON,SWR-JET TRUCK LIGHT BOX \$57.67

Accounts Payable Total \$136,297.88

Payroll Checks \$17,887.61

REPORT TOTAL \$154,185.49

GENERAL FUND \$55,192.14

LAKE/DAM \$53,868.26

ROAD USE \$9,838.94

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT \$4,499.76

ARPA Funds Covid 19 \$4,873.32

WATER \$11,303.10

SEWER \$14,609.97

TOTAL FUNDS \$154,185.49

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Nashua native Dustin Weiss (above) sings “Believe” during the worship service at the Little Brown Church’s Marriage Reunion, where Pastor Drew McHolm (right) delivers his sermon that centered on the three “C’s” — clarity, commitment and compassion — of marriage.



Church dedicates its wedding garden in memory of secretary

REUNION : FROM 1

decades long and those that are — like the Beckers’ — in their infancy and been in place for a matter of a few weeks.

They were among dozens of couples from near and far who attended the two-day reunion that started with a pastor’s reception on Saturday evening and continued with a host of activities — most notably, the worship service that included the renewal of vows — this past weekend.

In many ways, it was a typical Marriage Reunion. Couples rang the church bell, listened to an always insightful sermon from the Rev. Drew McHolm, made new friends and celebrated the love they have for each other.

In other ways, however, this was a little different Marriage Reunion. The 2023 reunion marked the 70th year the “Church in the Wildwood” held its reunion, and let’s face it, any reunion



Bill Sinnwell, the late Marlys Sinnwell’s husband, has the honors (above) of cutting the ribbon during the dedication of the Marlys Sinnwell Wedding Garden while Meredith and Quintin Becker (right) renew the vows they made three weeks before at the Little Brown Church.

that ends in zero or five, is a biggie. It also featured a guest singer in

Nashua’s own Dustin Weiss, whose parents — Robin and Shelly — celebrated 41 years together by attending their first-ever Marriage Reunion.

And after the worship service, a family that has been such a large part of the Little Brown Church for so long gathered to dedicate the new Marlys Sinnwell Wedding Garden, the latest addition to a church where more than

77,000 couples have said “I do.” It may not have been perfect; after all, it did rain but as virtually every Little Brown Church member put it, “we need it.” And the less-than-ideal weather allowed McHolm to bring another of his staples — humor — to the service.

He talked about how he had prayed for good weather for the biggest event of the annual church calendar, but “God loves farmers more than pastors.”

BUT THE RAIN couldn’t put a damper on the event. Couples not only filled the small sanctuary but also were a part of the service via close-circuit televisions in the church basement and in the tents set up on the church grounds.

McHolm’s sermon was centered on how couples can keep “things fresh” and his suggestion was to always focus on the three C’s — clarity, commitment and compassion.

He pointed out that any relationship will involve confrontation, but he added that “confrontation is a huge part of relationships because confrontation that is done properly brings — guess what? — clarity.”

McHolm used his own marriage to talk about the two “buttons” couples have access to — the blessing one and the destructive one — and that even with his own wife, Jesse Boatright, it’s a learning process.

“Crumbs on the counter, who knew? I found out that’s a big thing,” he said before repeating himself. “Who knew?”

Boatright, from her pew, had a quick answer.

“Not you,” as the church erupted in laughter.

The lesson, though, is that clear communication brings clarity to a marriage.

When it comes to commitment, McHolm’s message centered on trust.

“Trust is real easy to develop,” he said, “and that is to make some promises and keep them. The simple ones, as well as the big ones.”

Finally, he touched on compassion,

FOR COUPLES WHO attended this year’s reunion, the words spoken by the Little Brown Church pastor resonated.

“We were really drawn to the history of this place, this church,” said Quintin Becker, “but we couldn’t have asked for a better pastor. What he said this morning, that was really impactful to us.”

To the Beckers’ right sat Doug and Rena Cling, who were married at the Little Brown Church in July 2018, just 10 days before McHolm became the full-time pastor, but they returned in 2019 for the Marriage Reunion and were back in the Nashua church on Sunday.

“We live in Urbandale,” Doug said, “but I can tell you if it wasn’t 2 1/2 hours away, we’d be here every Sunday. What I appreciate not just about Drew but really this whole church is the value it puts on marriage.”

His wife smiled as her husband talked, but she took his thoughts a step further.

“It’s just so real, too,” she said. “Every time we come here, we get something that makes our marriage even stronger. It’s not just because we were married here, it’s because this little church understands that everything isn’t always perfect, it takes work.”

YEAR AFTER YEAR, though, the reunion may be highlighted by the worship service and vow renewals but it also always includes plenty of entertainment, awards and, well, just good old-fashioned fellowship.

The 2023 reunion was no exception as Weiss, a headlining singer for years on cruise lines throughout the world, performed, as did McHolm and Boatright, aka Drew and Jesse.

But in between the food, the entertainment and the like, the Little Brown Church dedicated its new wedding garden in memory of Marlys Sinnwell, the longtime secretary at the church who both McHolm and Boatright said was great comfort to them when they came to the church five years ago.

“There was only one Marlys, and



Sunday’s Marriage Reunion worship service — like all services at the Little Brown Church — begins with the weekly “Sing-A-Long” (above), a couple (below left) “checks in” at the tent, which proved to be needed on a gray, rainy morning and Doug and Rena Cling renew their vows during the service.



God blessed us by having her here when we got here,” McHolm said, and after both he and his wife shared some great “Marlys stories,” they turned

over the honors to her husband to cut the ribbon opening a new “venue” for Little Brown Church marriages.

“It’s been a good day,” the pastor’s

wife said as the Sinnwell family posed for pictures in the garden. “Then again, they’re all good days when it comes to our little reunion.”

