







Bob Fenske/Tribune

Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jake Hackman (second from right) goes through budget numbers during a session with department heads that was held Monday during the board’s weekly meeting.

# Board members may need more budget reductions

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

balance to float this county forward?”

For more than an hour, though, the board made little movement on the budget, although they, along with a number of department heads, bandied about several ideas.

Conservation Board Director Chad Humpal asked board members to set their goal on cutting \$363,000 from the GB budget and then continue to budget-process cutting for the 2026-27 year.

“I’m just going to pick on myself. Let’s say there’s four of us, you’re going to tell me I have to get down to three people,” Humpal said. “That would give me a year and a half, right, to make that decision so I could say, ‘Listen, one of the four of us has to find a job.’ That gives us a year and a half for myself or one of my three guys to go find a job.”

Board members, though, didn’t believe they could wait another year without looking at reducing the number of people the county currently employs.

“We can trim the 363 and we’re still in the same boat next year,” Supervisor Travis Suckow said. “We’re just kicking it down the road.”

“I think we’re to the point where us as a board is going to have to tell them,” fellow board member Issac Carter said, “because nobody’s going to volunteer and say, ‘Yeah, I will lose somebody.’ Of course, they’re not going to do that. We’re just going to have to do it. ... Otherwise, we’re going to be here another week, doing the same thing, and the next week doing the same thing and we’re going to be right up to end and not have a decision.

“... It is what it is. Nobody wants to do, no one. We don’t want to do it; none of you guys want to do it. ... But it has to be done.”

**AT TIMES, THE** mood in the room was one of frustration.

County Attorney David Laudner expressed concern that little progress has been made on a budget solution for GB and that supervisors either didn’t present the department heads options or know how much savings would come from ideas like instituting a hiring freeze.

“So a month ago we sat here and the problem was GB,” Laudner said, “and it’s still GB. So we sharpened our pencils. What are the options? Have you guys talked about options, I mean do you have plans A through F and which ones are the best, the worst options? I don’t think any of us are going like any of the options, but do you have options on the table?”

Later in the discussion, he said that part of his frustration “is we don’t know what the options are going to save us. We have three options right now but we don’t even know what they’re going to save us.”

Hackman said his ideas included some layoffs, the sale of a county building or two to save on maintenance costs and taking a hard look at the county’s home care programs.

When it comes to the number of buildings the county owns, the board chairman referenced the number of non-county offices that are located in the Heritage Center.

“I hate to say to these non-profits, ‘Go find your own buildings’ and just take care of the county departments,” Hackman said.

He also said while he understood the importance of home care services, he wasn’t sure the county could justify what he called the \$428,000 “gap” between Public Health and Home Care Services’ expenditures and revenues.

Supervisor Scott Cerwinski said the difference was \$35,000 during the 2014-15 budget year and will be \$428,000 this year.

“The gap is just getting bigger,” Cerwinski said, “and at what point do we say we have to quit this? ... We don’t know what the federal government is going to do with Medicare, Medicaid. At what point do we call it?”

Public Health Director Lisa Welter,

## Reducing number of supervisors comes up during budget meeting

It’s come up before and it will almost for sure come up again, but part of the budget discussion, albeit a small one, during Monday’s Board of Supervisors meeting Monday centered on the number of officials sitting “around the table.”

In short, should Chickasaw County reduce the number of supervisors from five to three?

“We’re all talking about all departments so you guys are one as well,” County Engineer Roman Lensing said. “Personally, I don’t want that to happen, but I think it’s at least a discussion point.”

In Northeast Iowa, only Chickasaw, Mitchell and Winneshiek County have five members on their board of supervisors; the rest of the counties have three representatives.

In the past, those who have been proponents of shrinking the size of the Board of Supervisors have touted the cost savings that would include cutting salaries and benefits by 40 percent.

But it would also mean a supervisor would be representing 4,000 county residents, instead of 2,400.

Current Board Chairman Jake Hackman said he knows that there are those who would like to reduce the number of supervisors, and he cautioned them to make sure if they petition for the question to be brought to voters that the document is written correctly.

“I understand if the money is an issue,” he said, “but you have the districts or at-large [question]. ... I would not want all three members from a city, I’d just say good luck so just make sure you get your petition right, whoever’s watching and be ready for the consequences.”

But those cost savings would be years in the future. The earliest the question could come to voters is in 2026 and if that bid was successful, a three-member board would not begin until after the November 2028 election.

— By Bob Fenske

though, asked the board to give her time to work on a way to keep home care part of her department, and Board of Health member Jeremy McGrath, too, said that cutting home care entirely would cost the county thousands of dollars in revenue.

McGrath asked about the possibility, in an effort to save jobs, of the county adopting a furlough program in which employees would have to take one week off a year, pointing out that “a lot of companies do that.”

When Suckow proposed eliminating two “nurses,” Welter said that would gut home care services.

“I can guarantee that our revenue, you can cut that in half,” Welter said. “I’m not opposed to looking at people and seeing where we can cut, but two nurses is huge to cut.”

Suckow also said that he’d favor eliminating a position in the Treasurer’s Office, another one in the Recorder’s Office and finding a way to share the county’s Environmental Health director — either with another department head or another county.

That irked Recorder Shirley Troyna, whose office has just two employees.

“You’re going to cut my one person, but you’re going to leave four in Sheila’s office,” she said, referring to the Auditor Sheila Shekleton. “Seriously, do you look at my revenue?”

**CARTER THEN** said he felt at least

four jobs needed to be eliminated and suggested that the cuts in the courthouse come from the treasurer’s and auditor’s office, and supervisors also discussed the need for a “floater” who can cover work in all three elected officials’ offices that are located in the courthouse.

Supervisor Steve Breitbach told Sheriff Ryan Shawver that he would probably be “in the mix, too,” and board members also said that even though Engineer Roman Lensing’s budget does not come from GB — its taxpayer funds comes from Rural Services Basic (RSB) — that he was probably correct that county leaders would take a hard look at hiring replacements when workers, regardless of what department, leave the county.

In short, more than one supervisor indicated favoring a hiring freeze, one with few exceptions.

Board members also agreed to cut a part-time home care aide position and also asked Welter to layoff a full-time home care worker or take two full-timers and have them work part-time.

But during a special meeting on Thursday, it appeared cutting the 4 1/2 positions wouldn’t be enough to even save the \$363,000 needed to get the ending fund balance to 25 percent.

Although Shekleton did not have updated budget figures to share with board members, Shawver said that his one position cut would save GB about \$50,000 and GS about \$28,000.

There were questions, too, on just what the supervisors wanted to cut from the proposed budget. Laudner put it point blank: “Do you want the 363 or do you want the 749?”

And the answers from the five-member board showed that the board still has some work to do. Suckow and Hackman both indicated they preferred a “balanced budget,” meaning the \$749,000. Carter and Breitbach favored the \$363,000 to buy the county time, while Cerwinski said “we have to at least get 363, and I’d like to see a little more to get a start on next year.”

**BOTH SUPERVISORS** and those who head county departments know the budget issues aren’t going away anytime soon.

“The thing is we know we got the GB that we can only take in so much money, but Des Moines is going to want to cut that even more,” Breitbach said of state lawmakers, “so we’re probably going to have to make hard decisions now so we can operate in the future. They want to cut property taxes and that’s what we survive on.”

He asked Lensing what would happen, for example, if his Secondary Roads Department wasn’t able to fill potential vacancies because of retirements or resignations.

“It’s going to cut services,” Lensing said. “Can we operate? Yeah. Are we going to offer the same amount of services? No. I mean that’s a simple equation.”

Bretibach, later in the meeting, agreed. “We have no choice,” Breitbach said. “We’re not going to be able to provide the services that we’ve been able to provide for the last how many years.”

And Laudner said he believes the county leaders have more to do.

“If you look at these numbers, there’s no way to continue to run the next year, two, three years, even with small raises and cutting around the edges,” he said. “You’re going to have to take on more work or people are going to have to merge positions. Period, end of story. There’s no mathematical way to do it. Sorry, that’s not what people want to hear but that’s reality.”

And the county attorney also hinted that a wage freeze might not be an answer.

“I would rather have 80 employees who are happy, moving forward in their jobs and getting increases and advancing than a 100 who are limping along just to limp along,” Laudner said. “Maybe that’s easy for me to say because I’m down to two people.”

# State auditor acknowledges city of Nashua now owns dam

DAM: FROM 1

controversy over who owned the dam was finally cleared up with the filing of the quit claim deed.

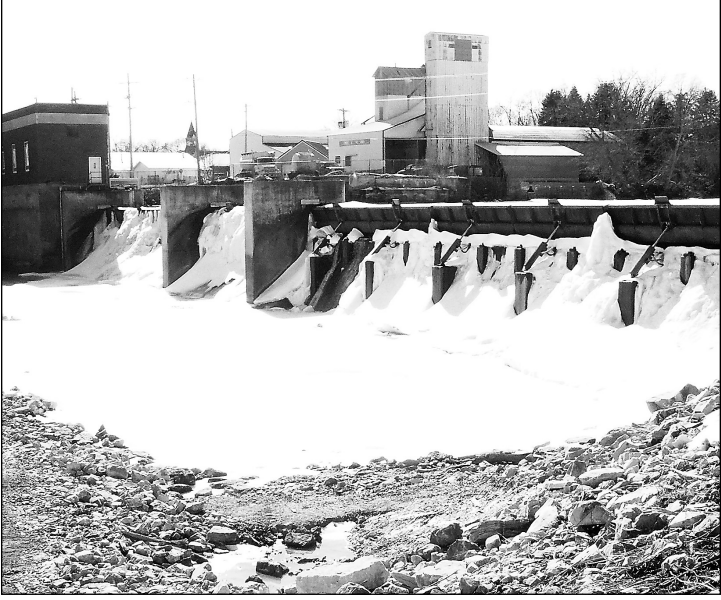
The filing of the deed appeared to finally end the question of dam ownership that had festered since 1988 when the State Auditor’s report said that city “was to acquire the dam as a gift” from the Iowa Public Services Company (IPSC), a forerunner to MidAmerican Energy.

But the report noted that in an April 1991 filing of a quit claim deed, “ISPC did not quit claim deed the hydro-electric plant or the dam to the City of Nashua.” The report noted that despite not having ownership of the dam, “the City contin-

ued to repair and maintain it” and “believed it owned the dam during this period.”

The report, though, found no fault with the city for making repairs to the dam because it had “entered into a lease agreement in which stated ‘during the lease term the City would repair, maintain and keep the Hydro Plant and Dam structure in good repair and keep the dam and floodgates in good repair and operation condition,’ [thus] the City would be responsible for the repairs and maintenance.”

When it came to the ARPA funds, the State Auditor’s recommendation was that county officials “should work with legal counsel to determine the propriety of the \$50,000 awarded to” Nashua.



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

The Nashua dam is caked in snow and ice on Tuesday afternoon, the day after the State Auditor’s Office released a reaudit report that stated Chickasaw County “improperly awarded” the city of Nashua ARPA funds.

## Briefs

### Big 4 Chamber officials decide to postpone annual banquet

The Big 4 Chamber of Commerce is pushing back its annual banquet, officials announced earlier this week.

“Given that today is the deadline for the banquet and many other community events have evolved for next weekend,” Big 4 Chamber volunteer Val Johnson wrote, “we’ve made the decision to postpone the banquet until later this year. This will allow us to better serve you all. Please stay tuned for further updates.”

The banquet was set for Saturday, March 8, and Johnson said that a new date will be announced.

Chamber officials, though, said the organization’s annual meeting will be held next Wednesday at noon at the Old Bradford Pioneer Museum and that new officers will be elected during the meeting.

### Deadline for residents to apply for heating assistance is April 30

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) is taking applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through April 30.

LIHEAP customers will need to provide the following when applying for LIHEAP:

The social security number of each household member, regardless of age; a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill; and documentation of gross income for everyone living in the home for the previous 30 calendar days, the most recent 12 months or for the previous calendar year.

To qualify for the program, residents must meet income guidelines that are 200 percent of poverty. A household of one must have an income of \$30,120 or less, and for each additional member of the household, add \$10,760 to determine eligibility.

For more information, Chickasaw County residents should call 563-379-8761 while those who live Bremer County should call 319-352-4532.

### MercyOne scholarship applications due April 1

MercyOne New Hampton is accepting applications for Friends of MercyOne Healthcare Scholarships, in the amount of \$750. Five scholarships are available to graduating seniors or non-traditional students who reside in the MercyOne New Hampton service area.

Applicants must plan to further their education in a health care field. Some qualifying fields of study include but are not limited to medical records technicians (transcription and coding), pharmacy and pharmacy techs, laboratory techs, radiology techs, dietetics, physical / respiratory therapy, psychology/mental health, as well as nursing and pre-medicine.

The scholarship will be awarded to students who exemplify character through academic achievement, volunteerism, and extra curricular participation. In awarding the scholarship, strong consideration will be given to students with financial need. However, the scholarship may be awarded to a promising student regardless of financial need.

Students interested in the scholarship may download an application at [www.mercyone.org/newhampton](http://www.mercyone.org/newhampton) (search “scholarship”). The completed form must be returned no later than April 1 to MercyOne New Hampton, Friends of MercyOne Scholarship, 308 N. Maple Ave., New Hampton IA 50659. For more information, please contact Jennifer Monteith at 641-394-1626.

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## Edward Alfred Mahlstedt, 88

Edward Alfred Mahlstedt, age 88 of Nashua, died Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, at MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center surrounded by family.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel, in Nashua, with Pastor Drew McHolm presiding.

Interment followed at Greenwood Cemetery in Nashua.

Friends greeted the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, at the Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua. Visitation continued an hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Thursday.

Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua has been entrusted with arrangements.

Born on Jan. 15, 1937, in New Hampton, to Edward and Marie (Wendt) Mahlstedt, Ed's life was a testament to the simple pleasures of love, faith and the great outdoors.

Ed's infectious smile and perpetually tousled hair, which seemed to defy the confines of a hat, became his trademark among those who knew and loved him. He found his greatest happiness in the company of family, cherishing every moment spent with his children and grandchildren.

An avid fisherman, Ed's fish-



Ed Mahlstedt

ing trips were less about the catch and more about weaving enduring memories with his loved ones, a tradition that was cherished deeply by his family.

He was a man of faith, steadfast in his love for Jesus. Sundays were sacred to Ed, and even when attending church wasn't possible, his home was filled with the sounds of gospel music as he sang along to the hymns broadcast on the radio. His devotion was a constant source of strength and inspiration to his family and friends.

Ed was known for his love of card games, a pastime that brought out his competitive spirit and playful nature. His family fondly recalls the flying cards that marked his losses, as well as the triumphant grin that accompanied his final victory at the card table.

His enthusiasm extended to the racetrack, where he was a devoted fan of his son and grandsons' racing endeavors. Ed's presence at the track was a symbol of his unwavering support and pride in his family's achievements.

At home, Ed was the epitome of readiness and care, often surprising his wife with dinner preparations well before the evening meal was due. His knack for cooking resulted in abundant feasts, sometimes enough to last for days, a reflection of his generous heart and joy in providing for his family.

Ed's legacy is one of warmth and kindness, a man who was as friendly as he was handy. His ability to fix and build was only matched by his capacity to forge lasting relationships with those around him.

Ed is survived by his wife, Cathy Mahlstedt of Nashua; sons, Edward (Kathy) Mahlstedt of Bagley, Iowa and Eric Mahlstedt of Charles City; daughter, Emily (Troy) Schnurstein of Fredricka; grandchildren, Bryant, Kayla, Andy, Tommy, Shelby (Shane) Harken, Sam and Shawn; great-grandchildren, Liam, Rhett and one on the way; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Marie (Wendt) Mahlstedt; brothers, Gilbert, Alvin, Lester and Marcus Mahlstedt; and sisters Dorothy and Mary.

## Ronald Dietz, 88

Ronald Dietz, age 88 of Nashua, died Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, at Hillcrest Homes in Sumner.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, March 2, 2025, at the Douglas Den (1195 Hilton Avenue) in Plainfield.

Burial will take place at a later date at Greenwood Cemetery in Nashua.

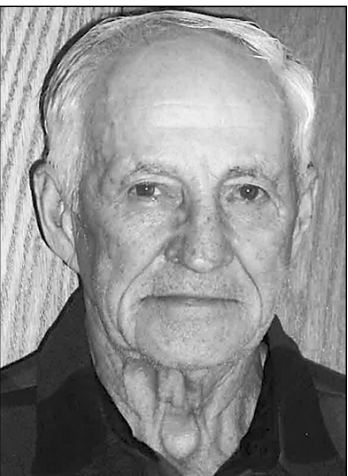
Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua have been entrusted with arrangements.

Born on the 11th of February, 1937, in the small town of Nashua, to George and Mary (Swinton) Dietz, Ron was a man whose life was deeply rooted in the rural landscapes that he cherished. He was a loving husband, a dedicated father and a passionate farmer who lived a fulfilling life, rich with the joys of the land and family.

Ron's early years were spent in the close-knit community of Nashua, where he attended Gilland Country School followed by Nashua High School, building the foundation of knowledge and strength of character that would define his life.

His love for farming was inherited and nurtured as he worked alongside his parents on their family farm. The passing of his father in 1978 marked a significant moment in Ron's life, but he continued to honor his father's legacy by tending to the land with the same dedication and care.

The year 1965 brought Ron



Ron Dietz

the love of his life, Dee Lite Hicok, a neighbor girl with a shared passion for farming and a desire to build a family. They married on April 7, 1968, and together, Ron and Dee cultivated not just crops, but a family, raising three beautiful children. Their partnership extended beyond the home and into the fields, where they worked side by side for nearly 57 years, living a life they both adored and embraced with open hearts.

Ron was the epitome of a loving, handy, and passionate individual. His quiet yet firm presence made him a loving father who took immense pride in the accomplishments of his children. He instilled in them the values of hard work, integrity, and the importance of family.

Ron's passion for farming was evident to all who knew him, and it was this passion that fueled him every day, a testament to the man who found

his purpose in the rhythm of the seasons and the growth of the land.

In his downtime, Ron could often be found enjoying the simple pleasures of life. His love for sports led him to spend many an afternoon or evening watching racing on TV, cheering on his favorite drivers as they sped across the track. Local tractor pulls were a special delight for Ron, where the roar of engines and the thrill of competition echoed his own love for machinery and farming life.

Ron also cherished the times spent playing the card game 500 with his family and friends. These moments of laughter and friendly competition were a staple of his social life, where the bonds of community were strengthened over hands dealt and tricks won.

Ronald Irven Dietz lived a life marked by the love he had for his family, the passion he held for farming, and the joy he found in the simple moments. His legacy is one of quiet strength, unwavering commitment, and a life well-lived.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Dee Dietz of Nashua; son, Cassidy (Julie Harford) Dietz of Nashua; daughter, Julie (Rick) Johnson of Greendale, Wisconsin; grandchildren, Riley (Rob Guelnder) Johnson, Asia Johnson, Bailee Johnson, Suri Johnson and Maverick Dietz; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Mary (Swinton) Dietz, and son, Nicholas Dietz.

## Lyle Arden Davidson, 87

Lyle Arden Davidson, age 87 of Charles City and formerly of Nashua, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, at 99th Street Chautauqua Guest Home in Charles City.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church with Pastor Russ Leeper officiating.

Burial will follow at Sunnyside Memory Gardens in rural Charles City.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. until the start of the service at the church on Saturday.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church to help with the upcoming parking lot renovation.

Lyle was born on June 16, 1937, to Alfred and Nora (Skogen) Davidson in Charles City. He was baptized on July 18, 1937, and confirmed May 6, 1951, at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church.

He attended school in Charles City, graduating on June 3, 1955.

Lyle married Alice Vera Mae Bunston on September 28, 1957. To this union three



Lyle Davidson

children — Cynthia, Mark and Timothy — were born.

They lived in Charles City until the summer of 1968 and then bought a house in Nashua.

Lyle worked a variety of jobs including George P. Smith, Hydrotile and Featherlite. He installed floors in the Featherlite trailers. His most memorable moments at Featherlite were when he got to meet racecar drivers whose trailers he worked on.

He took pride in his workmanship. He always had a neat and clean yard. When the kids

and grandkids started playing ball he would attend their games. He had lots of patience when it came to problem solving and he would work until it was solved.

Surviving family members include his sons, Mark (Cindy) and Tim (Julia); grandchildren, Matt Davidson, Jennifer (Matthew) Holschlag and Alyssah, Jordan and Spencer Davidson; two great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Shirley Davidson and Sharon Davidson; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Vera in 2018; daughter, Cindy Hahn in 2018; grandson, Chad Hahn; brothers, Irving (Elaine), Glen (Ruth), Allan, Alvin and Oscar; sisters, Marion (Raymond), Gen (Dean) and Arlette (John); and niece, Ellen.

A special thank you to the staff at 9th Street Chautauqua for the care you gave Lyle. It is all greatly appreciated.

Hauser Weishaar Funeral Home of Charles City is in charge of local arrangements. Online condolences may be left on the Tribute Wall for the family at [www.hauserfh.com](http://www.hauserfh.com).

## Briefs

### Mid-Winter Concerts set for Tuesday at Nashua-Plainfield

Nashua-Plainfield Junior High and High School students will perform their annual Mid-Winter Concert this coming Tuesday in the school gymnasium.

The junior high concert is set for 6:30 p.m. while high school students will begin performing at 7:30.

### Meeting at Learning Center in Nashua discuss tariffs, soil health

Chad Hart, extension crop marketing specialist, Melissa Miller, project director of the Iowa Nitrogen Initiative, and Kelly Garrett, co-founder of XtremeAg will speak at the annual meeting of the Northeast Iowa Agricultural Experimental Association (NEIAEA) at the Borlaug Learning Center, ISU Northeast Research Farm, Nashua on March 19.

The program starts at 9:30 a.m. with a Call to Order for the board meeting. Chad Hart will start with his presentation at 10 a.m. titled "Tariffs, Trade, and the Economy."

In the next hour, Melissa Miller and Lauren Schwarck will discuss "The Iowa Nitrogen Initiative: 2024 Results and an Introduction to the N-FACT Decision Support System."

During lunch, Ken Pecinovsky, Farm Superintendent, will review 2024 research trial results conducted at the NE Research Farm and discuss future research plans.

Kelly Garrett will wrap up the presentations at 1 p.m. as he shares his insights on "Regenerative Farming and the Benefits of Balancing Your Soil Health."

A free lunch will be provided, sponsored by Corteva. Following Garrett's presentation, the NEIAEA board of directors will meet. The day's sessions qualify for four free CCA credits (3 CM, 1 NM).

The meeting is free and open to the public. The program will be held at the Borlaug Learning Center on the ISU Northeast Research Farm. For more information about the event, call Terry Basol at 641-426-6801.

### Fruit tree pruning and grafting workshops offered in March

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering two fruit tree management workshops on fruit tree pruning and grafting.

As spring approaches, fruit trees in Iowa should be pruned and trained. A Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop will be held Wednesday, March 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Dan and Mary Burkhardt's orchard located at 28500 Granite Rd, Ossian.

Participants will hear a presentation on why and how to prune fruit trees by ISU Extension and Outreach Commercial Horticulture Specialist, Patrick O'Malley.

It is also a great time to try

your hand at apple tree grafting for homeowners, gardeners, or horticulture enthusiasts. A Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 25, at Jim and Sue Updegraff's home located at 20315 Lincoln Rd, West Union, presented by Patrick O'Malley. Space is limited and pre-registration is required before March 18.

Check in will start at 5 p.m. and beginning at 5:30 p.m., each participant will watch a grafting demonstration and then practice a whip and tongue graft with apple rootstocks, taking home two grafted trees. "We will also provide information on how to care for grafted trees in your landscape," said O'Malley,

The grafting workshop registration fee includes rootstocks, scions, and equipment needed to self-graft two apple trees to take home for \$50 per person. Limited amounts of additional apple rootstock will be available for an additional cost.

Bring a lawn chair if you would like to sit.

To register contact Deb Kahler at [dkahler@iastate.edu](mailto:dkahler@iastate.edu) or call 563-425-3331.

For more information or questions about the workshops contact Patrick O'Malley at [omall@iastate.edu](mailto:omall@iastate.edu) or 319-337-2145.

### Sustainable farming, maintaining profits discussed March 11

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be hosting a Soil Health Economics workshop on March 11 in New Hampton.

The program will be held at the St. Joseph Community School gym and will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around 3 p.m.

The aim of the event is to discuss investing in a sustainable future on the farm.

Keynote speaker Rodney Rulon, an Indiana farmer, will discuss how he's developed a successful no-till/cover crop program on his farms while maintaining production economics.

Two local farmers, Tim Daly and Knute Severson, will then discuss their soil health journeys with economics in mind.

This workshop is a free event and open to the public. Dough & Joe Bakery donuts will be offered in the morning, followed by a complimentary lunch from U2 BBQ.

For more information visit your local NRCS office or call Ann Voelker at 641-228-2725, extension 3.

**WE TAKE A LOOK AT N-P'S TALENTED MUSICIANS IN NEXT WEEK'S REPORTER**

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### Nashua-Plainfield students will get a couple of days off from classes

Nashua-Plainfield students have a couple of four-day weeks on tap as we flip the calendar to March.

Students will not have classes next Wednesday, March 5, because staff members will be taking part in professional development.

And both students and staff will have Friday, March 14, off as a "comp day" for parent-teacher conferences.

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# Rinken stays focused on way to state title; Brase bounces back to finish third

STATE: FROM 8

that wouldn't have happened if I was fully healthy," said Rinken. "Early in the season I teched him when I had two good arms."

Fast forward to this year and that pivotal driving force of falling short of his dream helped him join his older brother Garrett Rinken as his school's only two-time state champs – at least for N-P.

Actually the number is three "two-timers for N-P if you include Plainfield. Vince Miller won two state titles for Plainfield in back-to-back seasons (1986, 1987). Miller won his state crowns at 132 and 138 pounds.

Rinken won a state title at 106 pounds as a sophomore in 2023 and placed third at that weight class as a freshman. He talked about getting the job done in his final go-round as a Husky.

"Through the whole season I knew I should be the favorite the entire season, knowing what I did sophomore year and what I was able to do before getting hurt," said Rinken. "I knew I was hopefully going to be the leading favorite, but ignoring that fact and being able to wrestle my matches and not let that kind of get ahead of me, just staying focused was key."

As is the case with many upper-tier athletes – stress and pressure can be your friend if you deal with it correctly and in a proper and positive fashion. That's exactly what Rinken did to reel in another state crown.

"There was definitely a lot of pressure to make sure I actually perform at my best. I've had that stress on me for a couple years now, so I've been able to deal with it better and better each year," said Rinken.

N-P has now won 12 state individual wrestling titles after Jayden's latest historic achievement, with Plainfield and Nashua's state crowns included prior to consolidation of the schools in the 90s.

Rinken had won by major decision (8-0) over Anderson (44-6) at state duals. He scored a takedown in each of the first two periods in the rematch, worked an escape with 1:09 left in the finals match and added on one last three-point move for good measure with 48 seconds left to go.

Like almost all his opponents last week at state that Rinken faced, they tried everything in their power to throw Rinken off this game.

"If you saw him wrestle at the state tournament, at least three wrestlers tried to break his style – tried to break his concentration, tried to break his composure by bouncing around, fake shots, in-and-out, all over the place," said Frost.

Rinken did not earn a pin at state, but he was scored against just once – an escape by J.J. Callahan of Alburnett in an opening match that ended in technical fall, 16-1.

Frost elaborated on the "off-the-wall" game plans of wrestlers that stood in Rinken's way of claiming his second state title.

"They were really kind of "spazmatic" on him. Jayden didn't flinch. Jayden stood his ground and he didn't panic. He probably stayed as controlled as I've seen any wrestler ever do. He was not going to buy into the fact of wrestling his opponent's style. He finally eventually made them wrestle his style," the N-P coach added.

Rinken shut out No. 4 seed Brayden Scheffers (42-5) of I-35 by a score of 4-0 in the semis on Friday.

"He was a very difficult wrestler. He was on one knee all the time and on a hand – just continuing to do some goofy things," said Frost. "He stuck with the plan and got it done in very fine fashion."

Rinken ended his career as an all-time Iowa great, at least in terms of wins piled up. Rinken finished with a career mark of 208-7 – one less victory than his older brother Garrett, who racked up a career record of 209-4. The brothers are now members of an elite group in the state as approximately only 30 wrestlers have accomplished that feat of 200 wins in a century of high school wrestling in Iowa.

While N-P senior Nic Brase's goal of a state finals appearance and championship at 113 pounds was shattered on Thursday, he made a legendary run on the backside to secure a third-place finish. Brase (54-6)

went 5-1 in the four-day tourney as the No. 1 seed, but fell short of reaching the semis after getting upset by No. 9 seed Cael Stricker (42-12) of Lisbon, who caught Brase in the final period and put him on his back for a stunning, 10-7 win. Brase led 7-1 at one point in the second period.

"After that match I was pretty devastated. I just couldn't quit. I knew I had to wrestle my butt off the rest of the tournament," said Brase, who is now a three-time placewinner at N-P with fifth and seventh-place finishes at 113 pounds in prior runs at state.

Brase pinned Stricker at the Tripoli Invite in January in just 1:34. Stricker would go on to place sixth at state.

"I think it put a little pressure on him," said Frost about Brase being the No. 1 seed in his weight class. "Obviously, he didn't have the best quarterfinal match. You could just see some things were just turning in that match. That's usually due to pressure-thinking and stuff that wears a guy out."

Much like Rinken's 2024 state loss – the setback against Stricker re-energized and re-focused Brase. He finished out his tournament and career strong with championship-caliber displays of power and one final clutch takedown.

He stuck Maxon Monat (North Tama), Atlee Dewitt of Alburnett and Jensen Dyer of Martinsdale-St. Marys to set up a much-anticipated rematch with No. 2 seed Lucas Oldenkamp (52-3) of Lake Mills in their medal match. Oldenkamp, also a senior, defeated Brase, 7-2, in the only other time they faced – a dual when the pair were sophomores.

Brase was able to wrestle loose and carefree after the stunner versus Stricker.

"The thing about that is Nic had enough composure and stamina – maybe pressure relieved. I don't know what you want to call it, but he came back and wrestled in some wrestle-back matches and just had some phenomenal performances," said the N-P head coach.

The Oldenkamp match was one for the ages as Brase scored a takedown for a thrilling 5-4 decision with literally one second left on the clock according to Frost.

"As we try to train 15-second drills in the practice room, right down to the last second counts – you can still score," said Frost. "He was in a position a couple times with about 15 seconds to go. He lost that position, got in on a new one and scored basically with one second left on the clock."

Brase – down 4-2 against Oldenkamp with the clock winding down to zeroes – knew he needed to come up with an offensive shot, make it stick and do it in a rather timely and quick fashion.

"I knew I needed a takedown. I was in on the takedown. I didn't know that it was that close to the end of the match. I think I heard Frost yell 'five seconds!'" smiled Brase.

Frost was beyond pleased about Brase's heroics. Brase – like some of Frost's other placewinners over the years – did not miss a day of practice in his four years with the program.

"I couldn't have been prouder no matter what he did in that match because Oldenkamp's a quality wrestler," said Frost. "He might have a little bit of bitterness in the back of his mind that he wasn't in the state finals, but you know what, you can't take one thing back from the success he's had."

Brase put the wraps on a terrific mat career with a career mark of 181-37.

"It feels good to end my high school career with a good, close match," said Brase. "It was a really hard-fought match."

The wins were especially satisfying for Frost as this state tournament was his last week of coaching his Huskies as he retired at the end of the season.

"He's had a pretty big role in my high school wrestling career," said Brase. "He coaches us to be the best we can possibly be. He's pushed us to get where we are. We probably wouldn't be there if we didn't have him."

**TOP-10 N-P AND M-P SCORES**  
Don Bosco 225.5, Alburnett 144.5, Wilton 109, Osage 100.5, Woodbury Central 93, Jesup 75, Hinton 73, Lake Mills 73, Nodaway Valley 71, Denver 69, 11. Nashua-Plainfield 68.

**NASHUA-PLAINFIELD RESULTS**  
106 - Lincoln Huck did not place. Champ. Round 1 - Huck dec. Cooper Frost (Wapsie Valley), 4-2. Champ. Round 2 - Ethan Humphrey (West

Branch) pinned Huck, 0:46. Cons. Round 2 - Huck dec. Josh Nelson (Nodaway Valley), 13-10. Cons. Round 3 - Landon Bell (Highland, Riverside) pinned Huck, 4:48.

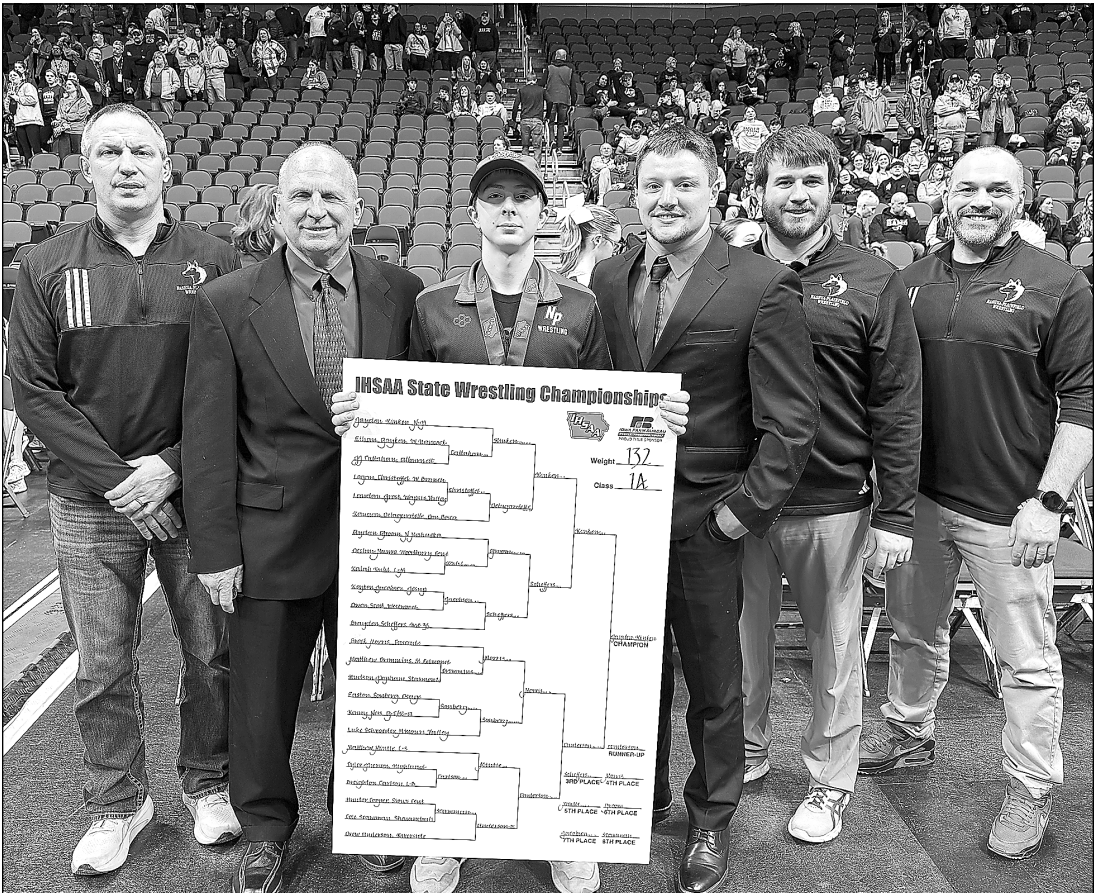
113 - Nic Brase placed third. Champ. Round 2 - Brase pinned Hunter Hodina (BGM), 2:46. Quarterfinal - Cael Stricker (Lisbon) dec. Brase, 10-7. Cons. Round 4 - Brase pinned Maxon Monat (North Tama), 2:13. Cons. Round 5 - Brase pinned Atlee Dewitt (Alburnett), 3:03. Cons. Semi - Brase pinned Jensen Dyer (Martinsdale-St. Marys), 5:44. 3rd Place Match - Brase dec. Lucas Oldenkamp (Lake Mills), 5-4.

120 - Jagger White did not place. Champ. Round 1 - Taylor Kibbee (Janesville) maj. dec. White, 13-0. Cons. Round 2 - Max Millage (Earlham) tech. fall White, 16-1.

126 - Kolbie Vance did not place. Champ. Round 1 - Davis Bramman (Riverside, Oakland) pinned Vance, 3:08. Cons. Round 2 - Jasper Sonberg (Osage) pinned Vance, 1:39.

132 - Jayden Rinken placed first. Champ. Round 2 - Rinken tech. fall J.J. Callahan (Alburnett), 16-1. Quarterfinal - Rinken maj. dec. Kanaan Delagardelle (Don Bosco), 11-0. Semifinal - Rinken dec. Brayden Scheffers (I-35), 4-0. 1st Place Match - Rinken maj. dec. Drew Anderson (Riverside, Oakland), 10-0.

157 - Devon Blanchard did not place. Champ. Round 1 - Blanchard maj. dec. Carter Wilgenbusch (East Buchanan), 12-4. Champ. Round 2 -



Jenn Kalainoff

**Nashua-Plainfield's Jayden Rinken poses with his Huskies' coaches after he claimed the 132-pound title at the Class 1A state tournament Saturday night.**

Zane Mullenix (Pleasantville) pinned Blanchard, 0:58. Cons. Round 2 - Blanchard pinned Ethan Bauer (Coon Rapids-Bayard), 3:18. Cons. Round 3 - Blanchard dec. Caden Gibbons (Central Springs), 9-5. Cons. Round

4 - Chase England (Lenox) pinned Blanchard, 4:51.  
190 - Eli Kalainoff did not place. Champ. Round 1 - Hayden Heun (Underwood) won in sudden victory over Kalainoff, 10-7. Cons. Round 2 -

Kalainoff tech. fall Caleb Christensen (Nodaway Valley), 17-1. Cons. Round 3 - Kalainoff pinned Lucas Olson (Woodbine), 1:00. Cons. Round 4 - Ryan Wirtz (Emmetsburg) pinned Kalainoff, 5:12.

2025 NASHUA

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# Frost's wrestlers go undefeated on last day of his coaching career

FROST: FROM 1

dedication, work ethic, commitment and blood, sweat and tears that has went into the Husky program year after year,” said the N-P coach.

Frost – who led his Huskies to the pinnacle in the small-school class with state dual titles in 2004 and 2012 – wrapped up his 11th and last state duals tournament appearance earlier this month. The dual meet format is Frost’s favorite and the state of Iowa began holding state dual tourneys in 1987. Two years later Frost would take the head wrestling coaching position at Plainfield after being an assistant for the powerhouse grappling program of Wartburg College. Plainfield would later consolidate with Nashua to form N-P in the 90s.

Frost talked about those head-to-head dual competitions, where everyone in the lineup matters – from the top to the bottom. That individual and singular approach to what can be a knock down, drag out team fight, perhaps best personifies Frost’s style of coaching, where he wants to get everyone involved.

“You need every individual in dual meets. We’ve been very fortunate to have kids buy in to the dual meet aspect as well. We’ve had some good success to that,” said Frost.

Frost also understands that success is relative – meaning a regular season win might hold as much weight for one team member as does clinching a victory at state to earn a medal. It’s one of the keys to the development of his program and his team’s dominance. Frost began his final run out on the mat this winter as fifth-best all-time in career coaching dual victories in the state and finished with a remarkable 564 victories after it was all said and done.

“As you look back, being a successful wrestler can be defined in many different directions,” said Frost. “A state championship for one kid is a successful season. For other kids, having a .500 record is a successful season because they’re busting their butt off just as hard as the kid that was a state champion.”

## N-P state Y swimmer wants to take to the pool when he’s in high school

SWIMMING: FROM 8

has been on the CC YMCA Swim Team several seasons longer than Paplow, had qualified for YMCA State before.

A Charles City resident, Blakewell recently finished his first high school swimming season as a freshman member of the Mason City Riverhawks.

“I’ve found out that it’s a lot more competitive in high school,” said Blakewell, who like many Charles City residents/ Mason City swimmers before him, was forced to make long

Frost himself wrestled on the next level at college, first at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge.

He later transferred and helped the legendary Dan Gable and the Iowa Hawkeyes win a NCAA championship in 1981. Frost first started competing in the sport he so dearly loves in middle school.

“It’s been my whole demeanor for basically 50 years,” said Frost. “I started out as an athlete myself and then it grew through the fact of my desire to maybe get wrestlers to accomplish things that maybe I didn’t get to accomplish as a wrestler – to have kids accomplish and reach their dreams and goals,” said Frost.

Frost coached six individual state champs at N-P in Mitch Norton (145 pounds, 2005), Cody Johnston (130 pounds, 2008), Caleb Wilken (285 pounds, 2010), Andy Glaser (182 pounds, 2012), as well as two-time state champ brothers Garret Rinken (113 pounds, 2021, 126 pounds, 2023) and Jayden Rinken (106 pounds, 2023, 132 pounds, 2025).

Frost’s final traditional state tournament saw Rinken snare title No. 2 and fellow senior Nic Brase climb to the third step on the podium stand with a third-place finish at 113 pounds. Brase finished off his sterling mat career as a three-time state placewinner and bounced back with two impressive wins in consolation matches this past Saturday after getting upset in the quarters earlier in the tournament. Rinken’s second state crown was icing on the cake.

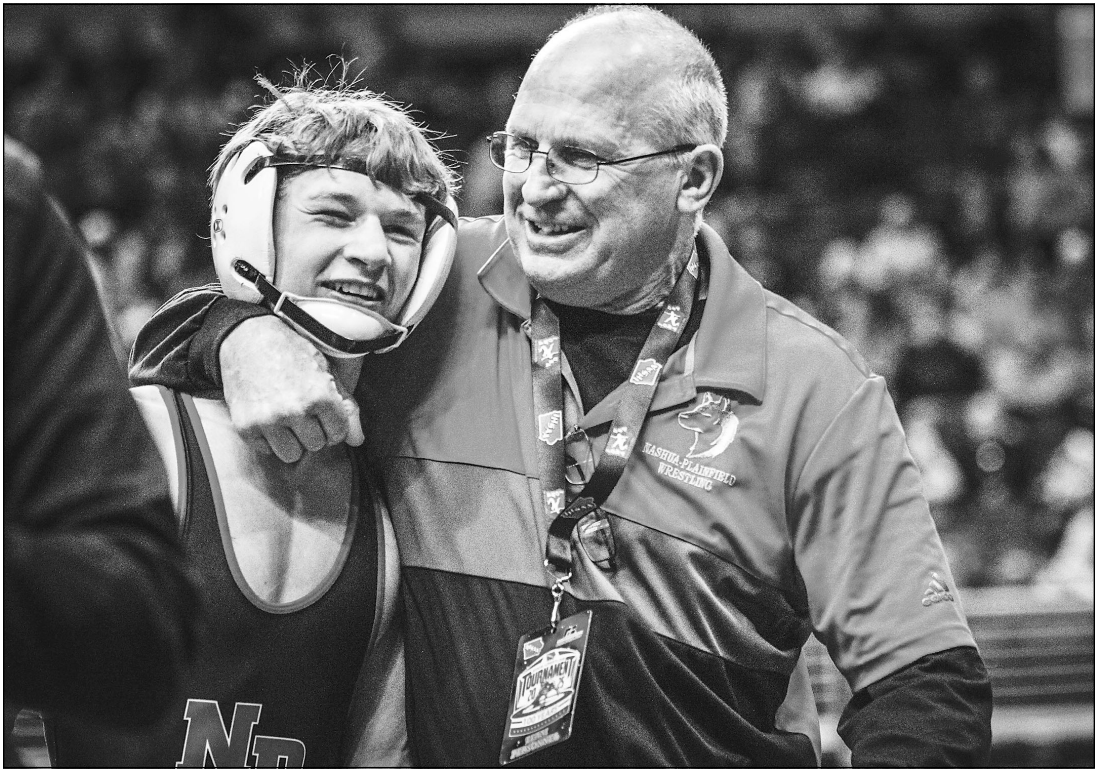
“It was a very high note to finish, basically with our three last matches at the state tournament,” said Frost about Saturday’s state matches. “The last three matches were incredibly satisfying with how I was able to finish up with my coaching career.”

Frost’s final dual record is 564-231-6, including a 28-7 record and a sixth-place finish at this past year’s dual state tourney held in Coralville. He propelled his Huskies to two third-place finishes at the traditional state tournament in 2004 and 2023, as well as a run-

commutes to and from practices and meets.

Paplow lives just inside the Nashua-Plainfield School District zone. He plans to swim in high school, but since N-P doesn’t have a swimming pool or team and Charles City no longer has a pool and team, it will likely be at Mason City or somewhere else.

The Charles City YMCA Swim Team is coached by Sydney Kiefer, who used to swim for Charles City when it did have a team and home pool at the old middle school.



Nashua-Plainfield coach Al Frost and Nic Brase celebrate a victory at the Class 1A state wrestling tournament this past weekend.

ner-up finish in 2012. He has been named Class 1A Coach of the Year by the IWWCA (Iowa Wrestling Coaches & Officials Association) three times (2003, 2009, 2022).

Don’t think Frost will stray too far from the sport of wrestling, though, after he finally said good-bye to his fellow Husky wrestlers and decorated coaching staff that is also one of the best in the state.

“I’ll go watch wrestling rather than having to be the guy that has to get things ready and organized and everybody on top of their game,” said Frost. “It is their team now and that’s basically how I look at it. I’m not going to be in a position where I’m going to step on people’s toes.”

As far as what will be different after he’s gone and who the new coach will be – he said that will be left up to the school board and the powers that be that control those kind of things.

“I’m sure things will be changed. I’m looking forward to some changes,” said Frost about who will be the successor to his perennial-power program in Class 1A. “I’ll be the first one to admit that I’m probably too much ‘old school’ and we got a

### Legal Notice

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS PROJECT M-2025-01

Chickasaw County will receive sealed bids for LIMESTONE RESURFACING until 10:00 A.M., CDT, on the 24th day of March 2025, at the Office of the County Auditor, Courthouse, New Hampton, Iowa, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Specifications and bidding documents may be obtained from the Office of the County Engineer, Courthouse, New Hampton, Iowa 50659.

A certified check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid, or satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable Surety, shall be submitted with the bid.

The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive technicalities, or to readvertise for bids, if the best interest of the County will be served thereby.

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lot of young guys that need to bring in a lot of ‘new school.’”

With that said, Frost said he wouldn’t rule out helping the new coaching staff if they needed a “fill-in” coach or somebody to help facilitate a practice during a professional development day at N-P or something along those lines.

Frost retired as teacher at N-P prior to the start of this school year, but he still helps substitute teach in the physical education department. Frost also keeps busy as he drives school bus for the N-P School District.

Frost said he has a grand-

daughter that wrestles and he mentioned he’ll be attending the Iowa Super Pee Wee State Wrestling Championships in Waterloo that will be held on March 8-9 down in Waterloo.

So Frost will obviously have some more time on his hands – especially during the winter months – as he’ll scale back his involvement in wrestling. He will keep busy, but that’s not going to stop him from picking up a tackle box and a rod and reel, that’s for sure.

“I’m just going to be doing some things I’ve wanted to do. I do want to get some fishing in,” smiled Frost.

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#### CHICKASAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES FEBRUARY 18, 2025

The Board convened on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 9:07 AM with members Breitbach, Carter, Cerwinski Suckow and Hackman present in the Boardroom on the second floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa.

Chairperson Hackman called the meeting to order. Also present were Board Secretary Sheila Shekleton, Bob Fenske, member of media, Terry Johnson, Conservation Director Chad Humpal, Sheriff Ryan Shawver, Stapleton Township Trustees: Paul Mashek, Steve Kuennen, Tom Brincks and Clerk Donald Arens, Custodian Dave Gorman, Assessor Office Laura Wickham, Treasurer Shirley Troyna, IGHCIP Denise Ballard

Board chair tried the YouTube channel three times and it did not work

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Cerwinski to approve the agenda for February 18, 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Carter to approve minutes for meeting on February 10, 2025 and February 11, 2025. Motion amended to approve minutes for meeting on February 10, 2025. Roll Call: Ayes: Breitbach, Carter, Cerwinski, Hackman. Abstained: Suckow. Motion carried.

Motion Breitbach, seconded by Carter to approve minutes for meeting on February 11, 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Public comment. Supervisor Hackman wanted to share what a budget session is. That when the supervisors are in budget session a lot of ideas get thrown out but not acted on.

Iowa Governmental Health Care Plan Board (IGHCP) Denise Ballard present different scenarios of health insurances for Chickasaw County Employees.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Cerwinski to approve compensation up to six meetings for Stapleton Township clerk and three trustees. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by

Breitbach to approve Resolution 02-18-25-05 for Competitive Highway Bridge Program 28 E Agreement. /ss/ Hackman, Chair, Ayes: Suckow, Breitbach, Cerwinski. Carter ATTEST: /ss/ Sheila Shekleton, Auditor. Detailed document on file at Auditor’s office and on county’s website https://www.chickasaw-county.iowa.gov

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Suckow to approve Resolution 02-18-25-06 FY2025 County Five Year Program Amendment Version 1.0. /ss/ Hackman, Chair, Ayes: Breitbach, Suckow, Cerwinski. Carter. ATTEST: /ss/ Sheila Shekleton, Auditor. Detailed document on file at Auditor’s office and on county’s website https://www.chickasaw-county.iowa.gov

Secondary Road updates by Engineer Roman Lensing.

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Carter to approve carpet bid from Midwest Floors, LLC for \$2,508.02 to come out of the building budget for the Sheriff Department. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Cerwinski to approve RESOLUTION 02-18-25-04 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAT OF: Parcel 2025-4 IN the Nw1/4 OF THE NE1/4 OF section 9 all in Township 95 NORTH, Range 11 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., Chickasaw County, Iowa WHEREAS, ON THE 18th day of February, 2025 at a regular meeting by the Board of Supervisors, Chickasaw County, Iowa a minor subdivision plat of Parcel 2025-4 IN the Nw1/4 OF THE NE1/4 OF section 9 all in Township 95 NORTH, Range 11 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., Chickasaw County, Iowa has now been considered and should be approved. N O W THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Board of Supervisors, Chickasaw County, Iowa that said Minor Subdivi-

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| MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE, ARCHITECTURAL FEES             | 3,671.86  |
| MASON CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, TUITION                       | 50.00     |
| McCONE FOODS, INC., FUNDRAISING SUPPLIES                    | 2,624.00  |
| MENARDS, MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES                               | 116.73    |
| MICK GAGE PLUMBING & HEATING, MAINTENANCE SERVICE           | 200.00    |
| MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, ELECTRICITY                             | 6,415.09  |
| MILES, JAMES  | 80.00     |
| MILLER, BENJAMIN, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                         | 100.00    |
| MILLER, JOHN, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                             | 140.00    |
| NASHUA-PLAINFIELD FOOD SERVICE                              | 3,277.70  |
| NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION, DUES/FEES                        | 396.00    |
| NEW HAMPTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL, OPEN ENROLLMENT               | 130.00    |
| NORTH BUTLER COMMUNITY                                      |           |

# Bienemann excited for Huskies' new baseball diamond

BIENEMANN: FROM 8

know anything about no three-win team, let’s just go kick some [butt].”

One thing for sure is that Bienemann will definitely be back at Wartburg next year. The every-other-year deal is over.

“I’ve got two years left and I’m going to make the most of it,” he said. “I love these guys, I love playing and hopefully this run lasts for a while, but absolutely, I’ll be back.”

But he’ll be coming home this season; Bienemann, who coached JJV baseball the past two seasons at Nashua-Plainfield, will be new Husky baseball head coach Mason Hyde’s top assistant in 2025.

He may be a Knight, but he’s still got a lot of Husky in him, especially when it comes to the upcoming diamond season when Nashua-Plainfield will move into its new home in Plainfield.

“I got the JV job, and the new baseball field – oh my God, it’s going to be a treat,” he said. “Life is good, man, and I know it’s not the straightest road I’ve taken with basketball, but I’ve learned a lot the past few years. And that’s a good thing.”

Read the Legals ... It's Your Right To Know!

sion Plat be approved, accepted and the Chairman is hereby directed to certify this Resolution of Approval. PASSED AND APPROVED on this 18th DAY of FEBRUARY, 2025. /ss/ Hackman, Chair, Ayes: Suckow, Cerwinski. Breitbach. Abstained: Carter. ATTEST: /ss/ Sheila Shekleton, Auditor. Detailed document on file at Auditor’s office and on county’s website https://www.chickasaw-county.iowa.gov

Motion by Cerwinski, seconded by Suckow to set public hearing for March 3, 2025 at 9:10 AM for the Amendment #2 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget and direct auditor to publish Notice of Public Hearing—Amendment of Current Budget in the New Hampton Tribune on February 20, 2025 and Nashua Reporter on February 21, 2025. Roll call: Ayes: Cerwinski, Suckow, Breitbach, Carter, Hackman. Motion carried.

Recessed: 10:37 AM  
Convened: 10:42 AM  
Budget work session  
Consensus of the Board of Supervisor to have General Supplement Levy at 1.92.

Consensus of the Board of Supervisor to have Rural Services Levy at 3.55.

Committee assignments.  
Supervisor Carter, February 12, 911 Service Board

Supervisor Hackman, February 12, Emergency Management Commission  
Supervisor Suckow, February 6, Workforce Development  
February 7, Iowa Governmental Health Care Plan Board (IGHCP)

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Carter to adjourn at 11:50 AM. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Jacob Hackman, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors  
ATTEST: Sheila Shekleton, Secretary to the Board

No. 24680  
2/27/25 New Hampton Tribune  
2/28/25 Nashua Reporter  
www.iowapublicnotices.com

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#### NASHUA-PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Board Meeting February 10, 2025 Nashua-Plainfield JH/HS Commons 6:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order (Quorum)

President Patrick Lentz called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Present: Laura Folkerts, Cody Jensen, Lara Lawrence, Patrick Lentz. Absent: Chris Hagen. Also Present: MS/HS Principal Deann Youngblut, Elementary Principal Shannon Wurzer, Superintendent Jay Marley, and School Board Secretary Ashley Ratliff.

II. Receive Communication and Visitors (Including Board Members)

None

III. Approve the Consent Agenda  
Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Cody Jensen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion by Lara, second by Cody to approve the minutes from the January 13 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Bills for Payment

Motion by Lara, second by Lara to approve the monthly bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Monthly Financial Reports

Motion by Lara, second by Cody to approve the financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Personal Recommendations

Motion by Cody, second by Lara to approve the hires of Sharon Vaupeal as the MS/HS Special Education Instructor/7-12 Athletic Director, Cheyenne Behrends as the Elementary Teacher

Austin Bienemann as the Assistant Baseball Coach, and Michael Stille as a Volunteer Baseball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Spotlight in Education

The Elementary Lighthouse team

shared with the board the vital role they play in our school community. They presented what they do and the impact it makes amongst the elementary students.

The students did a great job with their presentation.

V. Administrative Reports

The principals shared their administrative reports with the board.

VI. Review and Consider Approving IASB Policy Primer 2nd Reading Vol. 33

#2 Policy

Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the IASB Policy Primer 2nd Reading of Volume 33

#2 Policy. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Review and Consider Approving FY 2025-26 the Budget Guarantee Resolution - Under Section 257.14 Code of Iowa

Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Cody Jensen to approve the FY26 Budget Guarantee Resolution to levy property taxes for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Review and Consider Approving Senior Music Trip Out of State to Chanhassen MN. (Board Policy / Insurance Purpose)

Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the Senior Music Trip to Chanhassen, MN. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Review and Consider Approving Potential Out of State ICDC DECA Trip to Orlando, FL.(Board Policy & Insurance Purpose)

Motion by Cody Jensen, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the DECA Trip to Orlando, FL. Motion carried unanimously.

X. Review and Consider Approving District Agreement with Northwestern College Teaching Program

Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the Agreement with Northwestern College for Student Teaching. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Review and Consider Approving Proposal for Frontline Time & Attendance

Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Cody Jensen to approve Frontline Time & Attendance for the FY26 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. Review and Consider Approving Exempt Session for Preparation for Collective Bargaining per Iowa Code~ 20.17 (3) (Negotiations Strategy)

Motion by Lara Lawrence, Second by Cody Jensen to approve the ability to go into an exempt session in preparation for collective bargaining. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Review and Consider Approving Des Moines Independent Community School District INTER-AGENCY CONTRACT SpEd Program

Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the Inter-agency Agreement with Des Moines Independent School District. Motion carried unanimously.

XIV. Review and Consider Approving MS Lighthouse Dance Fundraiser

Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the MS Light-

house Dance fundraiser. Motion carried unanimously.

XV. Review and Consider appointing Laura Folkerts as Chickasaw County Board Rep.

Motion by Lara Lawrence, Second by Cody Jensen to approve Laura Folkerts as the Chickasaw County Board Rep. Motion carried unanimously.

XVI. Review and Information ONLY (2) Open Enrollment Out to Janesville FY 26

Mr. Marley shared with the board 2 Open Enrollment Outs to Janesville. No motion was made.

XVII. Review and Information ONLY Capital & PPEL Funds

SBO Ashley Ratliff and Superintendent Jay Marley shared with the board a detailed outline for both PPEL and SAVE funds, including the yearly expenditures from each fund and where we would be at the end of the fiscal year. Ashley also shared a few examples for the Certified Budget on how to pay down debt quicker and where the Management Fund needs to be. No motion was made.

XVIII. Review and Information ONLY Baseball & Softball Complex Update

Mr. Marley gave an update on the Baseball and Softball Complex. No motion was made.

XIX. Review and Information ONLY School Marketing / Open Enrollment Trends

Mr. Marley went over a brochure the Labor Management Team alongside Central Rivers AEA developed as a marketing tool for our district. No motion was made.

XX. Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Marley went over his report with the board.

XXI. Set Meeting Dates: Monthly Board Meeting, Monday March 10, 2025

Motion by Laura Folkerts, Second by Lara Lawrence to set the next board meeting to Monday, March 10 at 6:00 pm in the JH/HS Commons. Motion carried unanimously.

XXII. Adjourn

Laura Folkerts adjourned at 7:36 pm, seconded by Lara Lawrence. Motion carried unanimously.

Ashley Ratliff SBO/Board Secretary  
Pat Lentz Board President  
Nashua-Plainfield Comm. School  
District 02/24/2025  
BOARD VENDOR REPORT  
Vendor Name, Vendor Description  
Amount  
AGVANTAGE FS INC GAS & DIESEL, FUEL 6,076.43

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC                               | 1,530.03  |
| ANDERSON ERICKSON DAIRY CO., MILK/DAIRY                    | 10,652.65 |
| ANDERSON’S PROM, SUPPLIES                                  | 2,826.78  |
| ARMEL, RAYMOND, OFFICIATING                                | 140.00    |
| ATLANTIC COCA-COLA, CONCESSIONS/ALA CARTE ITEMS            | 1,181.81  |
| BERGMAN, SCOTT   | 95.00     |
| BLICK ART, MATERIALS ART SUPPLIES                          | 89.97     |
| BREHMER, ISAAC   | 140.00    |
| BUSINESS SOLVER  | 23,136.54 |
| BUTLER-BREMER COMMUNICATIONS, TELEPHONE/FAX/INTERNET       | 189.93    |
| CAMP, BOB, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                               | 140.00    |
| CAROLINA BIOLOGICAL SUPPLY CO SCIENCE SUPPLIES             | 52.50     |
| CDW GOVERNMENT INC TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES                     | 65.78     |
| CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL, WRESTLING ENTRY                  | 30.00     |
| CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING INC, CLEANING SUPPLIES/EQUIP     | 1,930.00  |
| CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | 5,558.52  |
| CENTURY LINK, TELEPHONE/FAX                                | 485.42    |
| CINTAS CORP, CLEANING SERVICE                              | 192.96    |
| CITY OF NASHUA, WATER & SEWER                              | 2,282.82  |
| CITY OF PLAINFIELD, WATER & SEWER                          | 420.17    |
| COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING COMPANY                         | 807.45    |
| COMPRESSED ART & EQUIPMENT CO                              | 3,854.88  |
| DECKER SPORTING GOODS, ATHLETIC SUPPLIES                   | 537.75    |
| DEUTMEYER, DEAN, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                         | 140.00    |
| DILAURA, DON, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                            | 175.00    |
| DINGEL, DENNIS, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                          | 100.00    |
| DRIVEWISE, DRIVERS EDUCATION                               | 395.00    |
| DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, DISTRICT                         | 11,778.30 |
| EIFFEL, JUSTIN   | 440.00    |
| EPIC FURNITURE & INSTALL                                   | 750.00    |
| FABRY, DOUG, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                             | 140.00    |
| FAIR, RYDER  | 170.00    |
| FAREWAY STORES, INC., FOOD/SUPPLIES                        | 379.47    |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| SCHOOL, ENTRY FEE / EDUCATIONAL SERVICES                         | 100.00     |
| NORTH IOWA GOLF, LLC   | 624.00     |
| NUEHRING, CALEB, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                               | 140.00     |
| OSAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES                     | 150.00     |
| PAN-O-GOLD BAKING NUTRITION FOOD                                 | 1,018.27   |
| PATHWAYS BEHAVIORAL SERVICES, COUNSELING SERVICES                | 450.00     |
| PEDERSON PLUMBING, PLUMBING SERVICES                             | 641.74     |
| PETERSON, JR   | 100.00     |
| PIERCE, JAKE   | 175.00     |
| PUMP, MARTY, ATHLETIC OFFICIAL                                   | 100.00     |
| ROGSTAD, GABE  | 185.00     |
| S & T COLLISION TRANSPORTATION, REPAIRS/PURCHASES                | 414.44     |
| SCHUETH ACE HARDWARE, GENERAL/MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES               | 127.73     |
| SILBER, LYNN   | 605.01     |
| STAPLES SUPPLIES   | 39.25      |
| STOREY KENWORTHY, SUPPLIES                                       | 118.26     |
| SUDOL, COLLIN, REIMBURSEMENT                                     | 130.00     |
| T & K TRACTOR REPAIR, TRANSPORTATION REPAIRS                     | 3,384.28   |
| TIMBERLINE BILLING SERVICE LLC, MEDICAID BILLING SERVICE         | 962.56     |
| TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, TECHNOLOGY-ADMINISTRATIVE               | 140.30     |
| TRIPOLI COMMUNITY SCHOOL, ENTRY FEE / EDUCATIONAL SERVICES       | 309.11     |
| US CELLULAR CELL, PHONE  | 175.16     |
| VITALSOURCE TECHNOLOGIES LLC                                     | 706.91     |
| VRIEZE, JON, OFFICIATING   | 110.00     |
| WASTE MANAGEMENT GARBAGE COLLECTION                              | 291.94     |
| WAVERLY-SHELL ROCK SCHOOL DIST, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES / ENTRY FEE | 1,730.76   |
| WEST MUSIC CO BAND/VOCAL SUPPLIES                                | 169.50     |
| WINONA CONTROLS, INC. PREVENTATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT             | 1,100.10   |
| WINTERS, JOEL  | 265.00     |
| Grand Total:   | 166,223.02 |

No. 24679  
2/28/25 Nashua Reporter  
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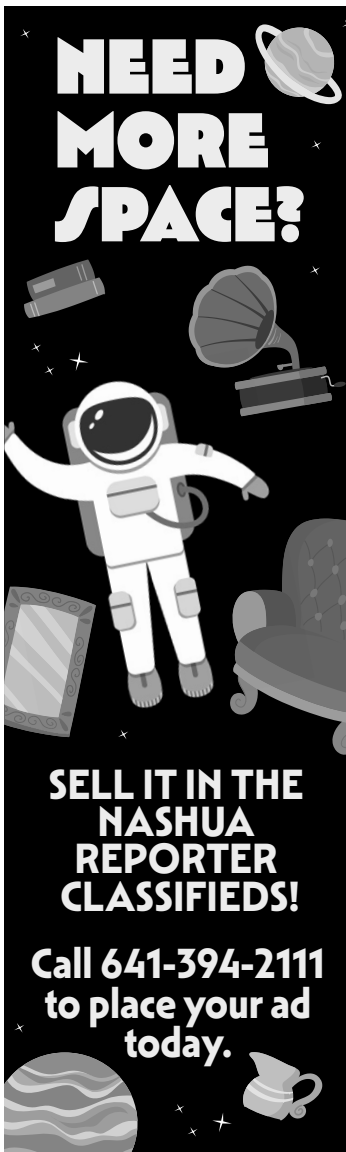
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Bidding closes | Thursday, March 13, at close of live event

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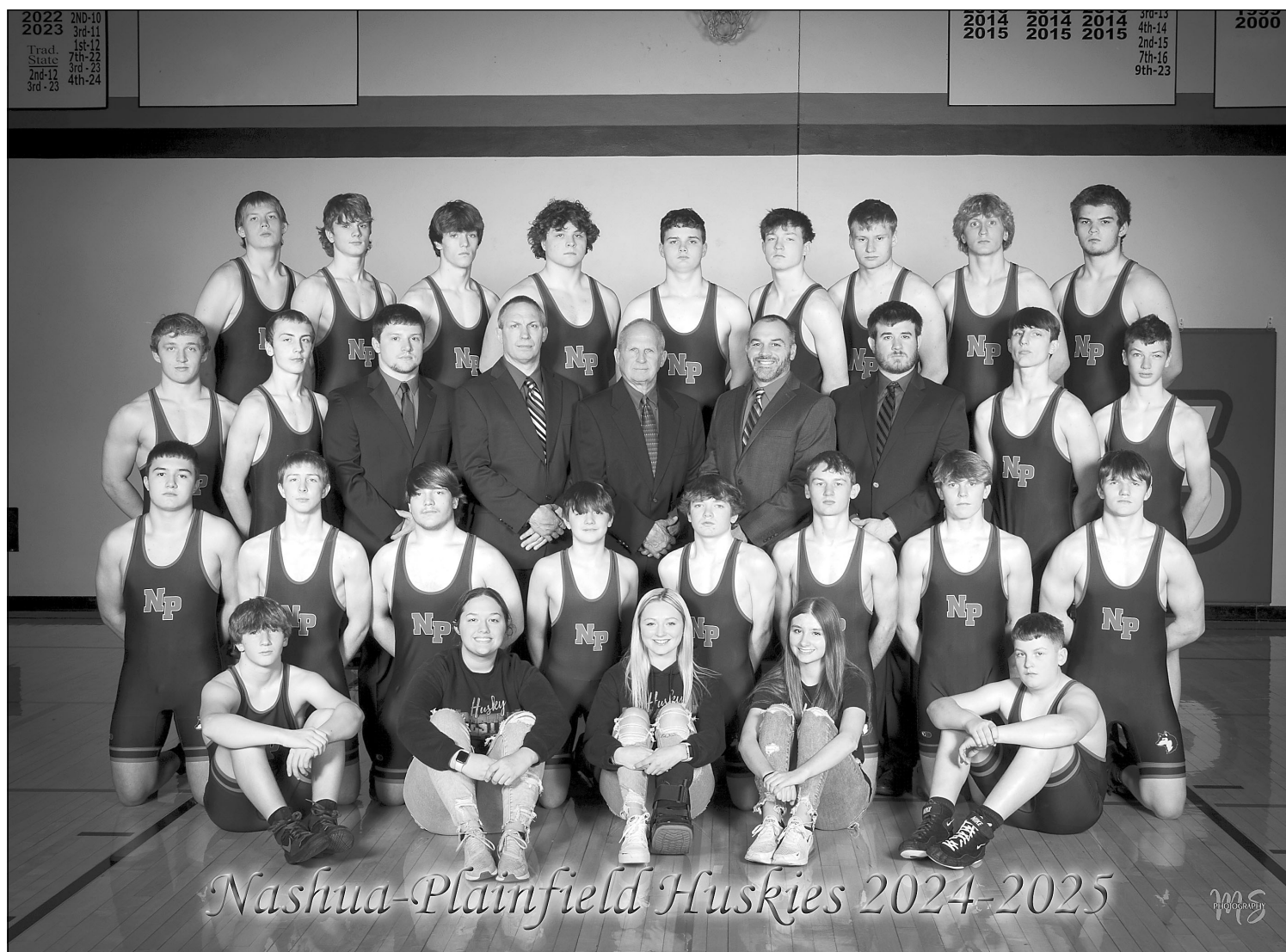
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# A job well done representing the Huskies this winter!

We salute our winter sports season's student-athletes and coaches who represented Nashua-Plainfield on the mat and the court

The Nashua-Plainfield boys wrestling team included (front row, from left) Keldan Munn, managers Alexis Harrington, Jalissa White and Tatum Nelson, Hunter Brase, (second row) Aidyn Iriarte, Jayden Rinken, Elijah Cerwinski, Lincoln Huck, Jagger White, Nic Brase, Luke Zwanziger, Tyler Hobert, (third row) Aiden Gelner, Kolbie Vance, assistant coaches Jason Fisher and Ben Kalainoff, head coach Al Frost, assistant coaches Shane Huck and Taylor Wedeking, Wyatt Bearman, Connor Sullivan, (fourth row) Michael Stroud Jr., Lucas Sinnwell, Devon Blanchard, Isaac Jones, Jesse Ross, Jackson Carey, Maverick Dietz-McDonald, Dalton Downing, Jaxon McDonald, (absent) Eli Kalainoff and Tyler Zimmer.



The Nashua-Plainfield girls basketball team included (front row, from left) Bailey Bond, Paige Franzen, Callie Jensen, Eva Foelske, Marleigh Lowe, (second row) Manuela Jimenez, (second row) Emeri McCumber, Elayna O'Neill, Kadence Huck, Kelly Cerwinski, Natalie Feldman, (back row) Josslynn Glaser, manager Rachel Paplow, head coach Josh Smith, assistant coaches Chaya Feldman and Jennah Winters and Victorious Mirembé

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The Nashua-Plainfield boys basketball team included (front row, from left) Cole Scharnhorst, Jackson Mehmen, Carson Mundorf, James Corathers, Nick Hulbert, Navarii Williams, Ethan Franzen, (second row) Matthew Malven, Jase Hansen, Landon Foelske, Braeden Mitchell, Andrew Schmitt, Ty Berger, Brexton Bird, Tucker Jacobs, (third row) assistant coach Bo Harrington, Trent Rodruck, Jake Smith, Avery Mueller, Clarence Ensign, Cal Levi and head coach Matt Mueller



The Nashua-Plainfield girls wrestling team included (from left) head coach Reece Reams, Klaire Marshall, Lily Jones, Emerson Franzen, Makynlee Dana, Jayla Patten, Nevaeh Bloker, Hailey Wilkens and assistant coach Taylor Wedeking.

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Nashua-Plainfield’s Jayden Rinken works for a takedown during his 132-pound state championship match against Riverside’s Drew Anderson at the Class 1A state wrestling tournament on Saturday.

Jenn Kalainoff

# BACK ON TOP OF THE PODIUM!

HUSKIES’ RINKEN CLAIMS SECOND STATE WRESTLING TITLE; BRASE TRAVELS BACK SIDE TO CLAIM THIRD

By Kelly Terpstra  
Of the Reporter

Jayden Rinken didn’t transform into a marathon runner this past summer, but he sure did pound the pavement.

Let’s just say his running shoes got quite a workout.

The Nashua-Plainfield star wrestler jogged and trained when he couldn’t be out on the mat – that’s a year-round endeavor when you’re one of the state’s best like the Husky senior is.

That work ethic, coupled with a steely-eyed resolve, not to mention a cool-and-calm demeanor, helped propel Rinken (58-0) to great heights this winter as he was crowned a two-time state champ after he thoroughly locked down and dominated Riverside sophomore Drew Anderson, 10-0, in the Class 1A 132-pound title bout in Des Moines last Saturday.

This was Rinken’s “Revenge Tour” – plain and simple.

“I don’t think I ever heard this come out of Jayden’s mouth, but he was going to make this season the ‘revenge tour,’” said N-P Hall of Fame coach Al Frost, who finished out his final season of coaching in style on “Championship Saturday” with Jayden’s run to glory and immortality achieved in prep state wrestling lore in Iowa.

After suffering a shoulder injury at last year’s state duals as a junior – Rinken’s dream of becoming a “three-timer” at state was cut short after he medically forfeited the rest of the tournament. He lost for the first time since his freshman year at state.

He went under the knife and a doctor repaired the shoulder with surgery. Then this rehab started.

“After surgery I knew I was going to have to get stronger – make sure to strengthen up my shoulder and make sure to stay healthy,” said Rinken. “Even in the summer, I’ve never been a big runner or a fan of running – but I couldn’t wrestle all summer.”

That pain of a loss he literally had no control over dug deep and hurt. If you witnessed Rinken’s opening round loss at the 2024 traditional state tournament, you felt and experienced the uncharacteristic frustration from the Husky legend as he left the mat feeling less than a champion.

“I think that match just kind of pushed me to run all summer when I couldn’t be wrestling,” said Rinken.

That state loss – a defining moment



Nashua-Plainfield senior Nic Brase works near the edge of the mat to secure a takedown in his third-place match at the state tournament.

in Rinken’s storied career, which includes only seven losses in 215 matches – came at the hands of Central Springs’ Dawson Jacobsen, whom he miraculously beat with essentially one arm at districts that year in come-from-behind fashion, 7-6. Jacobsen sprung perhaps the upset of the state tournament a week later as he shocked Rinken and onlookers in the stands with a 3-2 win. Rinken had majored and tech failed Jacobsen in prior matches during the reg-

ular season. Rinken was a defending state champ and No. 1 seed at 120 pounds that year.

“After that match I was frustrated. I was definitely frustrated with myself, but I couldn’t really do anything about it because I couldn’t wrestle very good. I was just kind of disappointed. He celebrated after the match. I think he really knows deep down

SEE STATE, 4

## Nashua youngster is heading to the YMCA state swim meet

By John Burbridge  
sports@charlescitypress.com

Watersports can warp time and space as effectively as they can refract images of swimmers streamlining below the surface.

So when Joel Paplow relates the story of how he came up 2 seconds shy of qualifying for the state meet last season in the 50-yard backstroke, you have to realize that 2 seconds in swimming can be compared to the running time of a Ken Burns documentary.

But Paplow “feels good” about his prospects at this weekend’s (March 1-2) YMCA State Swim Meet at the Marshalltown YMCA.

Yet it’s not because he qualified in the aforementioned 50 back.

“I missed it by two-tenths (0.20) of a second,” Paplow said of closing the gap considerably from the season before.

Though Paplow didn’t make the 50 back cut, he qualified in two other events: the Boys 11-12 50- and 100-yard breaststrokes.

“With me qualifying in two events and almost qualifying in a third gives me a little more confidence,” said Paplow, who has been swimming with the Charles City Family YMCA Swim Team for six years. This will be his first trip to state.

He will be joined by longtime teammate Damian Blakewell, who qualified to state in the Young Men’s 15-21 50-yard breaststroke. Blakewell, who

SEE SWIMMING, 5



John Burbridge/Charles City Press

Pictured with their Charles City YMCA Swim Team head coach Sydney Kiefer, Joel Paplow (center) and Damian Blakewell qualified in several events for the YMCA state swim meet to take place this Saturday and Sunday at the Marshalltown YMCA.

## Former Husky is star happy to be back ‘hooping’

Bienemann returns to Wartburg court, helps Knights to a ‘turnaround’ season

By Bob Fenske  
Of the Reporter

Austin Bienemann is pretty up front when it comes to his college basketball odyssey.

In short, the 2021 Nashua-Plainfield High School graduate and budding Wartburg College star believes he’s grown up a lot the past few years.

He gave up the game he loves for a year after high school and then headed to Wartburg College in 2022-23. But he wasn’t sure about college so he sat out the 2023-24 season, only to return to the Waverly college this past fall.

“I decided school’s probably the best route,” he said this past Saturday evening after leading the Knights to an impressive 80-61 win over Coe that clinched Wartburg a spot in the American Rivers Conference basketball tournament. “And I missed basketball, I missed all the guys.”

Here’s the rub, though — Bienemann had to sit out the fall semester. He’s brutally honest on the reason why, too.

“I wasn’t very successful my first year in the second semester so I was ineligible first half this year,” he said. “Not to get corny, but it was one of the hardest times of my life working through that, but it’s my fault so I had to learn through it and grow from it. I learned a lot but it makes me want to hoop that much harder.”

And he’s hooping quite well these days.

Against Coe, he hit 7 of 9 shots from the floor, including 3-for-4 from beyond the 3-point line, and finished with 20 points that assured Wartburg that spot in the ARC tournament. The win gave the Knights a 15-10 regular season mark a year after they went just 3-22.

On Tuesday night, Bienemann was at it again as he scored 20 points in sixth-seeded Warburg’s 96-86 win over third-seeded Loras in the opening round of the tournament. The former Husky star hit 7 of 10 shots, was 4-for-6 from long range, grabbed five rebounds, dished out three assists and had three blocked shots to send the Knights into a ARC semifinal game that was played at Nebraska Wesleyan Thursday night after this edition of the Reporter went to press.

But it wasn’t like Bienemann didn’t pick up a basketball in his year away from college.

“I didn’t stop hooping,” he said. “I didn’t stop hooping just because I wasn’t in college. I was at the rec center all the time.”

In 17 games, Bienemann is averaging 12.4 points, which ranks second on the Warburg scoring list, and 3.8 rebounds a game, and he’s gotten better as the season has progressed. In Wartburg’s last six games, he is averaging 16.2 points and 4.3 rebounds a game.

He talked about the effort he made to ease his way back into the lineup after becoming eligible.

“I wasn’t going to be that guy taking 10 shots,” he said. “I was trying to find my spot on the team. It’s a team game in college; it’s definitely a different mindset.”

But on Saturday, with Wartburg star Marshun Williams, who is averaging 22 points and eight rebounds a game, in foul trouble, Bienemann at times took over the starring role.

“Oh my God, Marshun is amazing,” he said, “but he was in foul trouble and it was like, ‘OK, I’ll take some of those shots.’ I think that’s what made us good this year is we have guys who step up.”

Being part of Wartburg’s “turnaround” season has been gratifying, yet Bienemann said as much as he ached for his former and future teammates a year ago, “I also think it helped in the sense that I didn’t go through that, so I have a different perspective. It’s in the rear view mirror, let’s fricken go. I don’t

SEE BIENEMANN, 5



Wartburg’s Austin Bienemann works to get by Coe’s Deuce Walters during a game played this past Saturday in Waverly.