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Nashua REPORTER

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Dozen
Huskies reap
all-district
honors

Page 11



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Veterans stand as their branch of service is called during the annual Veterans Day observance that was held Monday morning in the Nashua-Plainfield High School gymnasium.

IT'S A SPECIAL DAY FOR OUR VETS

PLAINFIELD MAYOR WHO SERVED IN AIR FORCE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY BY GIVING ADDRESS AT VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
Of the Reporter

Monday was a special day for Tom Geise. The Plainfield Mayor celebrated his 24th wedding anniversary to his wife Paula and he also got to speak about a day that means an

awful lot not only to himself, but to the communities he's engaged in.

Veterans Day.

A time to remember and a moment to reflect and give gratitude to all military veterans that have served and continue to do so to help protect the United States and allow the freedoms

that each and every American is afforded.

"I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to your service and the contributions you've made to our great country," said Geise, speaking to the veterans from the different military

SEE VETERANS DAY, 7

Elementary students once again hit a home run with their program

BY BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

A couple of veterans made their way into Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School on Monday morning and as they did, they talked about the program they were about to see.

"I thought you weren't coming today."

"You know what? I wasn't feeling the best, but this program is one of my favorites and I didn't want to miss it."

And on cue, the children of Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School did it again.

They delivered another winner with their Veterans Day program.

"They do such a good job," longtime Nashua VFW Quartermaster Dan Bilharz said, "and

SEE ELEMENTARY, 7



Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School students (from left) Haley Biekert, Lily Noack and Kash Goddard lead Monday's program at their school.

'Mid-year raises' stick in craws of supervisors

Board says no to county safety coordinator but has little say with raise for auditor's deputy

BY BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors reiterated its opposition to giving county employees pay raises in the middle of a fiscal year during a meeting on Tuesday morning.

But when the meeting ended, one county employee received a so-called "mid-year" raise while another left the meeting empty handed.

Then again, board members had no choice on one of the pay-raise requests, but they still expressed their frustrations about raises occurring during the middle of a fiscal year.

"I've said this over and over," Supervisor Jake Hackman said, "but I am not comfortable with mid-year raises. ... I think it sends the wrong message."

The issue came up on two separate occasions during the meeting that was held on Tuesday because of the Veterans Day holiday the day before.

After spending almost 45 minutes with supervisors going over the progress she has made since becoming the county's safety coordinator, Ranae Carey, who works as the administrative assistant in the Engineer's Office and for the Secondary Roads Department, asked board members to consider raising her pay for the coordinator position from 96 cents per hour to \$5 per hour.

"I know money's an issue, but I mean I'm working my hardest at this. It's like I own this business, I mean I care about it, and I'm trying to do everything that I can," Carey said. "I do a lot of stuff on weekends or in the evenings because I have a full-time position at the county. ... It's like another part-time job."

Carey was named the county's safety

SEE SUPERVISORS, 6

Chamber putting final touches on its annual Holiday Promotion

Promotion set to start Wednesday and run through Dec. 17; Nashua and Plainfield to hold Christmas events on Dec. 7

BY BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

The idea behind the Big 4 Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday Promotion is really simple.

The promotion promotes shopping local.

"Our businesses in Nashua and Plainfield are the ones that not only help us as a chamber," Big 4 Chamber volunteer Val Johnson said, "but they're the ones who support our schools, our organizations and our communities. That's why we do this."

As of Thursday, 22 businesses in the two towns were on board with the 2024 Holiday Promotion, and Johnson was hoping to nab a few more "stragglers" before the promotion begins this coming Wednesday.

Those shopping and doing business at promotion participants can have punch cards "punched" and for every \$100 spent, a card will go into a drawing.

During the promotion, there will be "double-punch" days on specific event days, and while most businesses are current chamber members, the promotion is also open to businesses that aren't chamber members.

"We charge \$25 for non-members to take part," Johnson said, "but if they become members, we credit the Holiday Promotion fee to their chamber dues."

Punch cards need to be turned in to businesses by Dec. 16, and the following night — when the Nashua-Plainfield

SEE HOLIDAYS, 6



Photo courtesy of Jenn Kalainoff

Signing on the proverbial dotted line

As her family — from left) Lincoln, Jessica, Shane and Kendrick look on — Nashua-Plainfield High School senior Kadence Huck makes it official and signs her letter of intent to attend and run track at Oklahoma State University See STORY, Page 11

CORN & SOYBEAN

ON THE FARM: SOME GOOD, SOME NOT

HARVEST MAY BE DONE BUT THERE'S STILL WORK TO DO FOR THOSE WHO GROW CORN AND SOYBEANS

BY BOB FENSKA
Of the Reporter

Sobolik said area farmers were positively bullish when it came to their soybean fields.

Instead, yields on average were in the low to mid 50 bushels an acre. Not horrible, but not the bin buster that growers thought this summer they might reap.

They, in short, ran out of gas, although Sobolik was more precise.

"They ran out of water," he said. "They were coming along perfectly, but soybeans are made in August and that's when it stopped raining."

A wet spring didn't help because that meant the roots of soybean plants were "shallow."

"It's farming," Sobolik said, "but I think disappointing is the right word when it comes to the beans. You go back to July and everything was shaping up so well with soybeans. You can't change it, but when

"You know, in June and July we were hoping for 180 bushel corn," he said, "and we came in — at least the people I work with — above 200."

That was the good news when it came to 2024. But as surprising as the corn yields were, it was countered by the disappointment when it came to soybeans.

Heading into August,

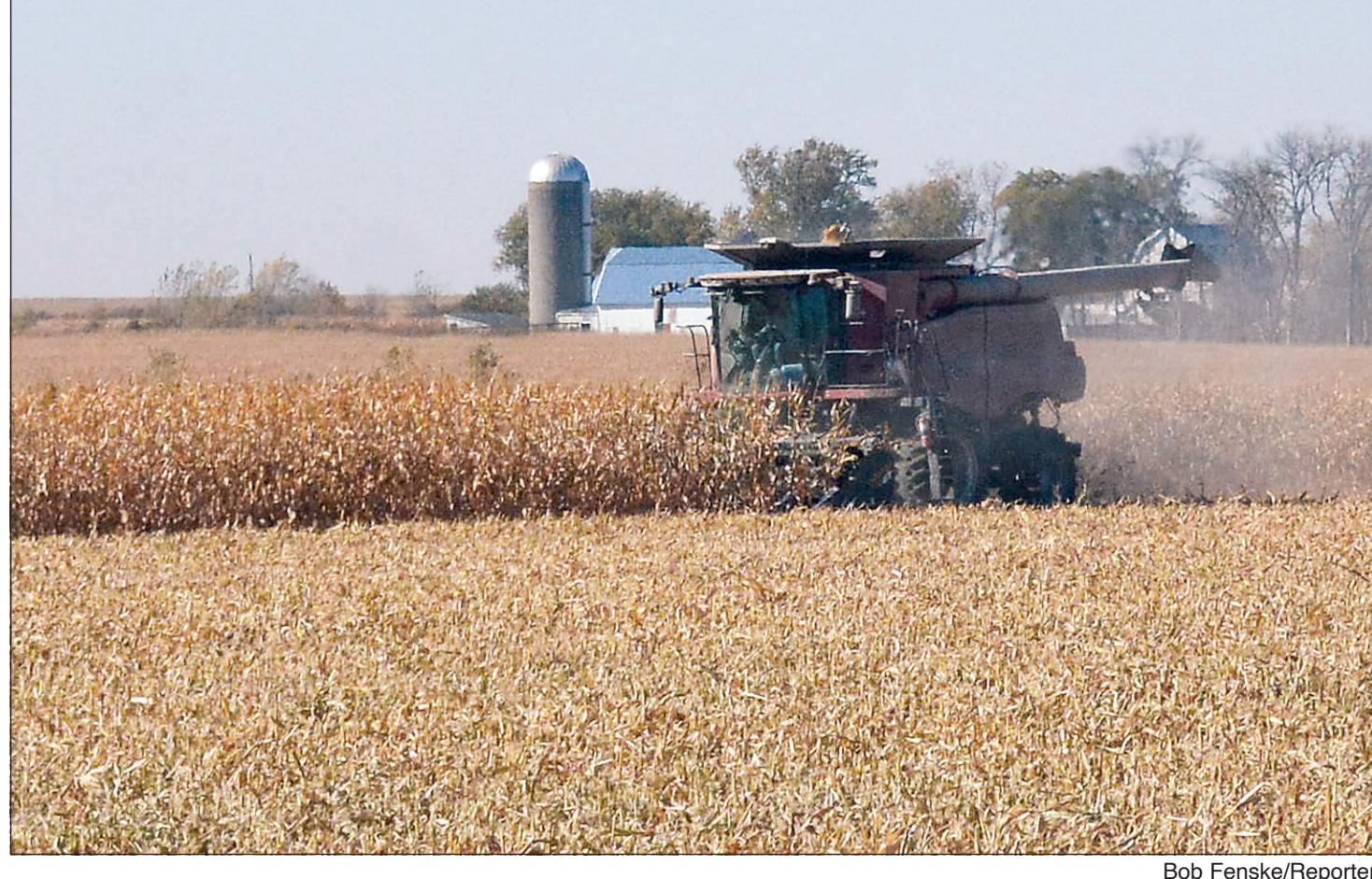
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Bob Fenske/Reporter

In almost perfect harvest weather conditions, a farmer harvests a cornfield in Chickasaw County last month.

you saw all the pods, you're thinking, 'Man, this is going to be a great year.' We just couldn't quite get them to the finish line."

Still, all in all, it was a solid

year for the men and women who grow crops in and around Chickasaw County.

"Considering where we started with all the moisture we had in the spring, it wasn't bad,"

ISU Extension Agronomist Terry Basol said. "I know the guys wanted more from their beans, but all in all, this was a pretty challenging year to be a farmer."

It sure was; after all, we went from thinking we might need Noah to build us an ark to a fall that was, pardon me,

SEE CORN & SOYBEANS, 3



While corn yields were — on average at least — better than expected, the same could not be said for soybean yields in and around Chickasaw County.

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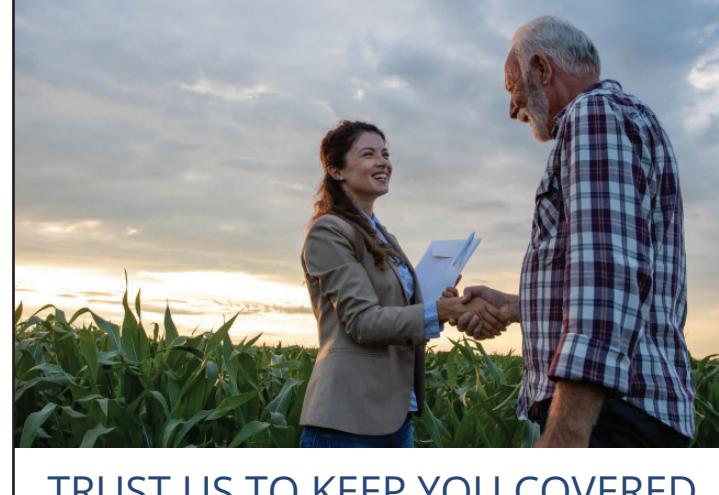
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CORN & SOYBEAN

A little primer on Iowa corn

HOW MUCH CORN DOES IOWA PRODUCE?

Iowa farmers produced around 2.4 billion bushels of corn for grain and harvested 12.9 million acres according to the U.S. Department of Agricultural Statistics Service.

IS ALL THE CORN GROWN IN IOWA SWEET CORN?

Only one percent of corn planted in the United States is sweet corn. 99 percent of corn grown in Iowa is "Field Corn." When Iowa's corn farmers deliver corn from the field, it's "field corn." Not the delicious sweet corn you might enjoy on the cob or in a can.

Field corn is the classic big ears of yellow dented corn you see dried and harvested in the fall. It's called "dent corn" because of the distinctive dent that forms on the kernel as the corn dries.

While a small portion of "Field Corn" is processed for use as corn cereal, corn starch, corn oil, corn syrup and nearly 4,000 other products for human consumption, it is primarily used for livestock feed, ethanol production and manufactured goods. It's considered a grain.

Sweet corn is what people purchase fresh, frozen or canned for eating. It's consumed as a vegetable.

Unlike "field corn," which is harvested when the kernels are dry and fully mature, sweet corn is picked when immature.

WHAT STATE PRODUCES THE MOST CORN?

Iowa has been the king of corn for almost two decades. In an average year, Iowa produces more corn than most COUNTRIES!

Seriously, Iowa grows about three times as much corn as a country like Mexico. And Mexico is huge! Just goes to show Iowa grows a substantial amount of corn. We like to say, you might think Iowa just grows corn, but the truth is corn grows Iowa!

Corn has been the top crop in Iowa for more than 150 years running! And that's not because Iowa farmers just can't think of anything better to grow. It's because Iowa is the best place on the planet to grow corn.

Iowa has a growing season that is long enough and warm enough to suit corn production.

Iowa usually receives enough rain to support healthy corn production.

Iowa has deep, rich soils that suit corn's needs.

Iowa also produces lots of livestock whose waste includes nutrients that are key to fertilizing fields for better corn production.

A wide variety of corn hybrids are available that do especially well in Iowa's environment.

HOW MANY FARMS ARE IN IOWA?

Iowa has approximately 86,900 farms. More than 97 percent of those farms are owned by farm families.

WHAT ELSE DOES IOWA GROW AND RAISE?

Iowa ranks number one in producing corn, hogs, eggs, ethanol and Dry Distillers Grain Solubles (DDGS) which serve as a primary source of protein for livestock.

It also ranks among the top three in soybeans and fourth in beef cattle.

SOURCE: Iowa Corn Growers Association



Graphic courtesy of Iowa Farm Bureau
2022 USDA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

While not every single farm in Iowa grows corn and soybeans, the vast majority do, and anyone who doubts the importance of agriculture to the state's economy only need to look at this graphic.

Corn, soybeans go into numerous products

CORN & SOYBEANS: FROM 2

cliche, bone dry.

The drought that plagued Iowa in 2023 dissipated and then returned with a vengeance and by the time most farmers were completing the harvest, much of Northeast Iowa was dealing with severe drought.

There were positives, if you will, for sure.

Drying costs were at a minimum, and for those who had brought in their corn before the rain spigot was turned on again in late October, they were non-existent.

And the harvest weather was almost perfect.

"It almost went too fast," Sobolik said with a laugh. "We certainly didn't have to wait for those windows, that's for sure. The whole month of October was a harvest window."

Still, there's plenty of work to be done. As Sobolik put it, his cooperative's grain department is returning "to normal"

while the folks in agronomy are going to be busy for a while.

Fall anhydrous needs to be applied; so, too, does fall fertilizer.

Farmers, too, have plenty of post-harvest work to complete, but many of them made a conscious decision to hold off on fall tillage.

"They wanted to wait for the rain," Sobolik said, "and I don't blame them because it was dry out there. The ground was rock hard in a lot of places."

Most of the corn and soybeans harvested in Northeast Iowa remained close to home.

Sobolik estimated that 95 percent — "heck, it's probably close to 100 percent" — either goes to making ethanol or to feed plants and that most soybeans are taken to bean processing plants in Shell Rock and Mason City.

The Five Star employee, though, said it continues to amaze him just how many products contain corn or soybeans.

"It's fascinating to look at a list and see all the products," Sobolik said. "When you're talking about hand sanitizer, for example, who would think that? You never know what they're going to come up with next."

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CORN & SOYBEAN

It's a record year for conservation

To The Tribune

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, working with Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts and farmers and landowners, shattered a record for conservation and water quality practice adoption within Iowa during the last fiscal year.

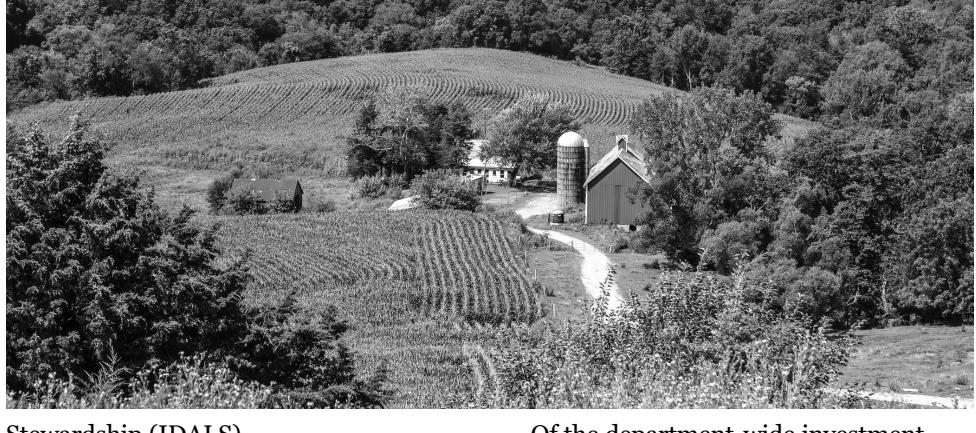
Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig said, "For the third year in a row, we have set a record for conservation adoption in Iowa. I want to thank everyone who has said 'yes' to adding proven water quality practices on their land during the past year."

Public and private partners are joining with farmers and landowners to add these practices, helping the pace of implementation to continue to accelerate, Naig said.

"We have come a long way, and still have far to go, but Iowans continue to demonstrate that they are committed to conservation and water quality," he said.

"Whether you live on a farm or in the city, we can all play a role in protecting our natural resources and I encourage all Iowans to add even more practices in the year ahead."

During the last fiscal year, which ended on June 30, state cost-share leveraged \$56.42 million in practice implementation, an increase of nearly \$3.8 million over the previous record year. For every dollar the state contributed, farmers and landowners matched that with \$1.15 in investment, according to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land



Stewardship (IDALS).

A decade ago, state cost-share leveraged \$34.12 million in conservation practice adoption, proving that the pace of implementation continues to accelerate, IDALS said.

These totals do not include other conservation and water quality funding paid by farmers and landowners, other government entities and other private partners. They also do not factor in other programs at IDALS, including the department's wetlands program, batch and build projects that install saturated buffers and bioreactors, Abandoned Mine Land reclamation projects and others.

During the fiscal year \$26.26 million in total cost-share was paid, which leveraged the total spending of \$56.42 million in practice implementation.

In the previous fiscal year, which was also a record, \$21.86 million and \$52.67 million were the respective totals. This is an increase of nearly \$3.8 million leveraged over the previous record year.

In addition to the record number of cost share dollars spent, the department also processed more than 6,700 cost-share claims per year in each of the past two years.

Of the department-wide investment total, more than \$16.38 million was paid through the Water Quality Initiative. This is up from \$12.59 million last year, an increase of approximately \$3.8 million.

IDALS said that 4,855 practices were funded this past year through WQI, a number that has grown significantly from approximately 1,000 practices a decade ago.

Iowa was the first state to appropriate state cost-share funds for conservation practices back in 1973 through the Iowa Financial Incentive Program commonly known as "cost share." Still going strong after 50 years, the IFIP program continues to see strong demand across all 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the state.

More than 90 percent of the IFIP funding is used for permanent structural practices, such as terraces and basins, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures and more.

IFIP provided financial assistance for 865 practices with cost share of \$6.58 million.

To keep the momentum building, Naig encouraged farmers and landowners to utilize department cost-share funds to add more proven practices this year.

Iowa Soybean Association here to help state's farmers

The Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) is driven to deliver increased soybean demand through market development and new uses, farmer-focused research and results, timely information and know-how and policy initiatives enabling farmers and the industry to flourish.

Founded in 1964 by farmers to serve farmers, ISA is governed by a board of 22 farmers to advocate on behalf of the state's nearly 37,000 soybean producers, including 15,000 ISA farmer members and industry stakeholders.

ISA invests checkoff dollars to deliver programs and services that meet the needs of Iowa soybean farmers. From soybean research to transportation, market development to communications, ISA is home to a suite of programs that provide information and assistance to help farmers be more competitive.

Soybeans & Iowa

The soybean is a species of legume that originated in Southeast Asia and was first domesticated by Chinese farmers. Its popularity among U.S. farmers took root in the late 1800s.

By the early 1900s, acres planted to soybeans increased dramatically after George Washington Carver (a graduate of Iowa State University) discovered that soybeans are a valuable source of protein and oil and beneficial to soil quality when planted in rotation with other crops.

Quick Facts

- Today, more than 30 states have a soybean production industry with Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Indiana and Nebraska among the nation's top producers.
- Iowa soybean farmers produced 573 million bushels in 2023, or nearly 14% of the U.S. total.
- Iowa farmers rank second nationally in soybean production.
- The value of Iowa's soybean crop routinely exceeds \$4.5 billion.
- A 60-pound bushel of soybeans yields about 48 pounds of protein-rich soybean meal and 11 pounds of oil.

SOURCE: Iowa Soybeans Association, iasoybeans.com

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CORN & SOYBEAN

Iowa Corn Growers Association touts the benefits of ethanol

Good for the Environment

Mother Nature is all about biofuel because it's biodegradable, nontoxic and cleaner burning. Ethanol is a low-carbon biofuel that can reduce GHG emissions by nearly 50% compared to petroleum gas. The 15-billion gallons of ethanol produced to date has reduced GHG emissions by a whopping 54.5 million metric tons. That's like removing 12 million cars, and their tailpipe emissions, from the road!

Ethanol is made from a corn plant, which basically turns sunlight into 4,000 everyday products including ethanol fuels. It makes sense that it's better for the environment!

Good for Your Wallet

Ethanol is a more affordable option at the pump. Unleaded 88, or E15, costs between 5 to 10 cents less per gallon than Super Unleaded, E10. Plus, when you fill up with ethanol, you're supporting Iowa's economy and corn farmers. The renewable fuels industry (including biodiesel) supports 57,000+ Iowa jobs, keeping dollars in our state's economy.

Good for Your Engine

Higher blends of ethanol provide a great source of octane for a vehicle's engine. In fact, pure ethanol has an octane rating of 113! So, if you're looking for homegrown, clean-burning power for your engine, fuel up with Unleaded 88.

Good for More Than Just Fuel

When corn goes to an ethanol processing plant, it doesn't come out just as fuel. Ethanol plants use every part of the corn kernel. The starch becomes ethanol fuel, and the protein becomes distillers grains to feed livestock. The distillers grains are an excellent source of livestock feed rich in protein, fat, minerals and vitamins that animals need.

Winter forecast is anything but clear

BY JEFF HUTTON

Iowa Soybeans Association

Will there be snow-covered fields this winter to help replenish some of the needed moisture Iowa farmers are asking for? Or will mild temperatures and a lack of precipitation mean drought conditions will continue into early 2025?

If you ask the meteorologists, the prognosticators or just about anyone with an opinion, the answers are vague at best when it comes to predicting Iowa's winter forecast.

According to the latest three-month (Dec. 2024 through Feb. 2025) forecast from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS), a slowly-developing La Niña is favored to influence conditions for the upcoming winter.

Come December, NOAA predicts wetter-than-average conditions for the entire northern tier of the continental United States, including the Great

Lakes region. Meanwhile, drier-than-average conditions are expected from the Four Corners region of the Southwest to the Southeast, Gulf Coast and lower mid-Atlantic states.

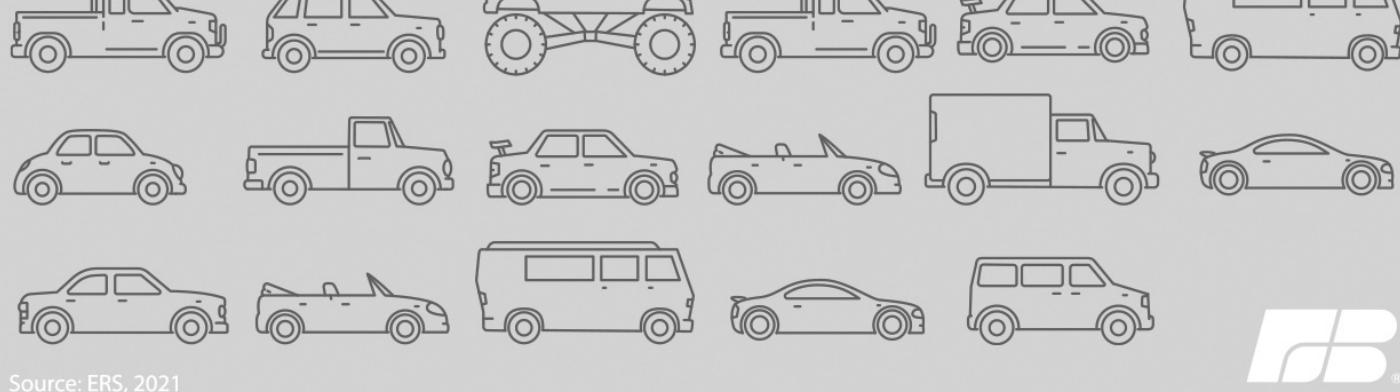
Stuck in the middle is Iowa where the forecast calls for equal chances of below-normal, normal or above-normal precipitation and temperatures.

La Niña conditions are expected to develop in the next several weeks which typically lead to a more northerly storm track during the winter months.

And while the forecast is not clear as to Iowa's winter weather fate, NOAA forecasters do expect drought conditions to persist and worsen across the central and southern Plains.

"Unfortunately, after a brief period in the spring of 2024 with minimal drought conditions across the country, more than a quarter of the land mass in the continental United States is currently in at least a moderate drought," says Brad Pugh, operational drought lead with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center.

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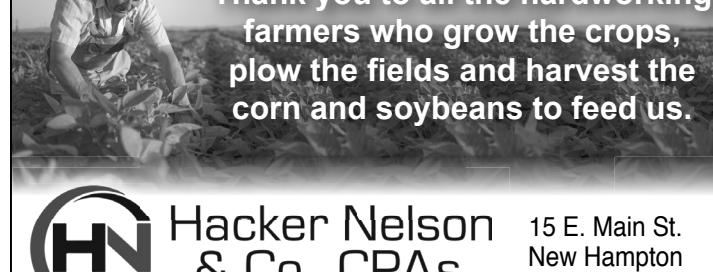
Source: ERS, 2021



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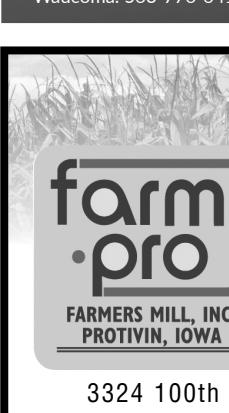
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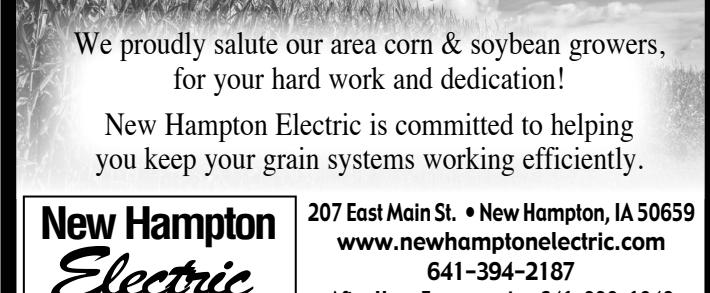
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Grace McGregor, 92

Grace McGregor, age 92 of Nashua, died Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024, at Cedar Vale Assisted Living in Nashua.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, at The United Methodist Church in Nashua with the Rev. Sarah Namukose officiating.

Interment will be held at Greenwood Cemetery, Nashua, with Aaron McGregor, Phillip McGregor, Alex McGregor, Ben Bierschenk, Matthew Wright, Brian Bierschenk and Tracy Wright serving as pallbearers.

Friends may greet the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua.

Visitation continues an hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Grace Maude McGregor, a beacon of faith and creativity, passed away peacefully on Nov. 10, 2024, at Cedar Vale Assisted Living in Nashua. Born on Aug. 20, 1932, in the pastoral settings of rural Bremer County, Grace's early years were imbued with the simple joys and hard work characteristic of farm life.

A lifelong learner and educator, Grace completed her elementary education at a rural Butler County School before graduating from Plainfield High School in 1950.

Her thirst for knowledge and commitment to teaching led her to Iowa State Teachers College, where she earned her degree in 1951.

Grace started her teaching career as an elementary school teacher in Plainfield, until she married in 1955. She returned to teaching in 1975 when she and Margaret Campbell co-founded McBell PreSchool located at the Nashua United Methodist Church, where she was a cherished member. She continued to mold young minds for 21 years until her retirement in 1997.

Grace's service to her church was extensive. She taught Sunday School, Bible School, and Confirmation classes and was instrumental in the Puppets Ministry. Her involvement with the United Methodist Circles and Church Council reflected her deep commitment to her faith and community.

Her interests were as varied as they were rich. A woman of deep spirituality, faith was the cornerstone of Grace's life. She found immense joy in traveling, with a trip to the West Coast in a Nash Car being among her most treasured experiences. Grace's roots in farming never left her, and she fondly recalled cattle drives, fetching parts for machinery, and the meticulous task of farm bookkeeping.

Grace's hands were rarely still, as she found solace and expression in tending to her flower gardens, immersing herself in the worlds within books,



Grace McGregor

and capturing beauty through sketching, painting, and photography.

Her artistic talents shone through in her quilting, sewing leather gloves, and creating exquisite prom dresses and cowboy shirts. "My Silent Partner" was her favorite poem, a reflection of her introspective nature, while the hymn "Amazing Grace" captured the essence of her spiritual journey.

Her love for Iowa was well-known, and she often engaged with the literary work "Love of Iowa."

Those who knew Grace would describe her as faith-filled, passionate, and creative. She lived her life with a sense of purpose and a deep love for her community. Grace's legacy is one of inspiration, having touched the lives of countless individuals through her tireless dedication to teaching and her unwavering commitment to her faith.

Grace's life was a testament to the power of passion and belief. She inspired those around her to pursue their interests with zeal and to live a life anchored by faith. Her memory will be cherished and her impact, indelible.

Grace is survived by three sons, Steven (Ann) McGregor of Charles City, Roger (Mindy) McGregor of Van Meter, and Clark McGregor of Nashua; two daughters, Ruth (Brian) Bierschenk of Nashua, and Susan (Tracy) Wright of Omaha, Nebraska; grandchildren, Aaron (Jen) McGregor, Phillip McGregor, Elizabeth (David) Charlson, Emily McGregor, Alex McGregor, Mariah (Stephen) McGregor, Megan Bierschenk, Kelly (Kyle) Popp, Ben (Kailey) Bierschenk, Natalie (Anthony) Hable and Matthew Wright; and great-grandchildren, Gabriella McGregor, Reagan McGregor, Tyler McGregor, Wesley Carlson, Eva Carlson, Myles Carlson, Ashton Olson, Huntleigh Kofron, Koen Popp, Kabri Popp, and Finn Hable;

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ronald in 2019; one grandson, John McGregor; and two sisters, Marion Ackerman and Lenora (Keith) Aikey.

Barbara Joan Bigelow, 88

Barbara Joan Bigelow, age 88 of Nashua, died Monday, Nov. 11, 2024, at Denver Sunset Home.

Funeral service will be held 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua with certified funeral celebrant Andy Hugeback presiding.

Interment will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Nashua.

Friends may greet the family from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home.

Tour of Homes returning to Christmas in Nashua

HOLIDAYS: FROM 1

wrestling team hosts a quadrangular that includes New Hampton, North Fayette Valley and Janesville — prizes totaling \$450 in "chamber bucks" will be drawn.

The Holiday Promotion is a reminder

that Christmas is fast approaching, and both Nashua and Plainfield will host their holiday celebrations — Christmas in Nashua and a Main Street Christmas in Plainfield — on Saturday, Dec. 7.

Johnson said although the exact schedules for the annual holiday celebrations

haven't been set, one thing that is returning to the Nashua celebration is a Tour of Homes.

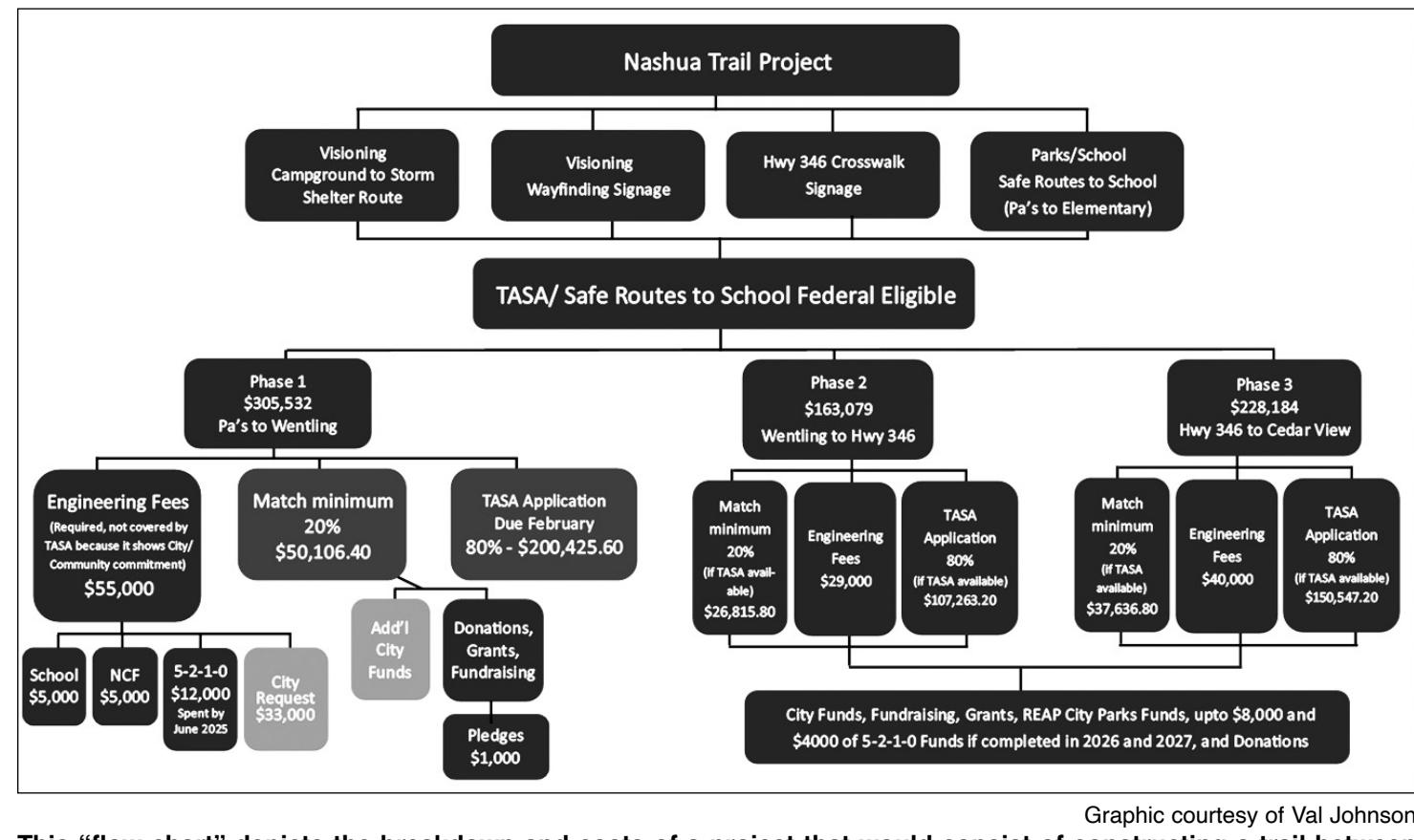
"We're really excited about that and we have five homes so far," she said. "It's something people have wanted back and this year is the year."

As temperatures go down during fall and winter, furnaces and heaters work harder and use more energy to help keep us warm and comfortable.

MidAmerican Energy reminds customers who struggle with wintertime heating bills that there may be financial help available.

State agencies that administer home heating assistance through the federally funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, are accepting applications for energy assistance.

To be eligible for LIHEAP in Iowa, the total household income



Graphic courtesy of Val Johnson

This "flow chart" depicts the breakdown and costs of a project that would consist of constructing a trail between Pa's Playground and Cedar View Park in Nashua.

Backers to pitch trail to Nashua City Council Monday

BY BOB FENSKE

Of the Reporter

Proponents of building a 1.29-mile trail that would connect Pa's Playground and Cedar View Park in Nashua will make another pitch to the City Council this coming Monday.

The Big 4 Chamber of Commerce and the Nashua Community Foundation are proposing to merge their signage projects with community-driven projects, Big 4 Chamber volunteer Val Johnson said.

She said the trail would establish essential signage, provide a safe route to school as well as to campers at Cedar View Park who need the storm shelter at the welcome center and enhance tourism by minimizing hazardous intersections in the city.

Those initiatives have a combined cost exceeding \$100,000, which makes the project eligible to apply for federal funding through the TASA Safe Routes to School 80/20 Program.

Those in favor of the trail are proposing a three-phase approach. Phase I of the trail would run from Pa's Playground to Wentling Street near Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School, Phase II would run from Wentling to Highway 346, and the final phase from the highway to the park.

Proponents of the trail are asking the city to provide \$33,000 for engineering costs on the trail that over the three phases is estimated to cost \$696,795.

In a memo Johnson prepared, she said proponents will talk to the council on Monday to seek approval for the project

and discuss potential city funding.

This project is contingent on city approval and is supported by time and financial commitments from the Nashua Community Foundation, Nashua-Plainfield Schools, the 5-2-1-0 Health Program and private donors," the memo stated. "If you would like to show your support for the project, please consider discussing your support with your council persons or making a pledge to the project."

Johnson also pointed out that TASA funds must be used on transportation items while money from the 5-2-1-0 HEALTH program must be used to promote "healthy eating and active lifestyles," which means a trial would qualify.

Monday's City Council meetings begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Board members willing to consider raises at the beginning of fiscal year

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

coordinator, a position created by the Board of Supervisors because its insurance carrier mandated it, on April 24, and during Monday's meeting, board members lauded the work she has done in the position after she went over the progress of the program, reviewed assessments and discussed various safety trainings she has organized.

"I think we discussed that to get this started, it was going to take a lot more work," Supervisor Steve Breitbach said, "but I think it's going to take a lot more work so I think some [kind of] pay raise is warranted."

But Breitbach also joined his fellow supervisors at the meeting — Matt Kuhn was unable to attend — in questioning if the raise should be granted when the fiscal year begins on July 1.

"The next person that walks in here and I've been doing more and I want a pay raise," Supervisor Travis Suckow said when asked his opinion, but Carey said that "if they took on a whole other job, I think you would [consider it]."

While Hackman said he would consider a raise at some point for the safety coordinator position, he wanted a smaller amount than Carey was requesting and also wanted a raise to only be granted at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Board Chairman Scott Cerwinski said he appreciated the work that Carey has put into the position but agreed with his fellow board members.

"I think it's great, the work you're doing," he said. "I'm not opposed to doing an increase in pay for the position, but like Jake kind of said before, I don't like doing pay increases mid-year. It's going to create a line out our door next Monday and every Monday to follow if we keep changing someone's pay rate every week."

"I would be more than happy to look at a raise or an increase

in pay at the beginning of next fiscal year, but right now, I don't think I can support it."

A half hour later, though, board members had little choice when it came to acknowledging a pay increase for one of Auditor Sheila Shekleton's deputies.

Under state law, the Board of Supervisors control the pay of clerks but elected officials can pay a percentage of their salaries to their deputies.

Shekleton told board members that was going to raise Deputy Commissioner of Elections and Real Estate Gina Fangman from 65 percent to 70 percent of the auditor's salary — raising her hourly pay from \$26.51 to \$28.55.

Shekleton said when she took office in 2022, she cut the percentage from 70 percent to 65 percent.

"The conservative person in me was saying go lower and see about it," Shekleton said, "but after this election and everything and after checking my budget, I think the election deputy should be back up to 70 percent."

Although Shekleton said the pay raise won't require a budget amendment, Hackman spoke out against the increase.

"I talked to the county attorney about this and we can not stop you from doing this," Hackman said. "I go back to the comments I heard this morning about people coming through the door asking for a pay raise in the middle of the fiscal year. I don't like those adjustments, I never have."

"So the only power that I have and this board has is to eliminate that deputy position and make her a clerk again. [I] don't know what the appetite is across the board on that issue."

Board members discussed the issue, and Shekleton asked the board to take a short recess to consider if she would go forward with the increase.

Five minutes later, when the board reconvened, the auditor said "I think I'm going to go forward with this."

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Photo courtesy of Heather Hackman

Nice grant for library

Nashua Public Library Director Heather Hackman (left) accepts a \$1,500 Thisen's More for Your Community Grant from Charles City store manager Kristi Hammond. The \$1,500 grant will go towards the library's programs for children, teens, adults and families.

for an applicant must be at or below 200% of 2023 federal poverty guidelines. For example, a single-person household is eligible with an annual gross income at or below \$30,120. A family of four is eligible with an annual gross income at or below \$62,400.

The program accepts applications through April 30, 2025. Eligible customers who need help with energy bills should apply for LIHEAP at a local community action outreach office.

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services has additional information about the program. Eligibility requirements information is also available by dialing 211.

As temperatures go down during fall and winter, furnaces and heaters work harder and use more energy to help keep us warm and comfortable.

MidAmerican Energy reminds customers who struggle with wintertime heating bills that there may be financial help available.

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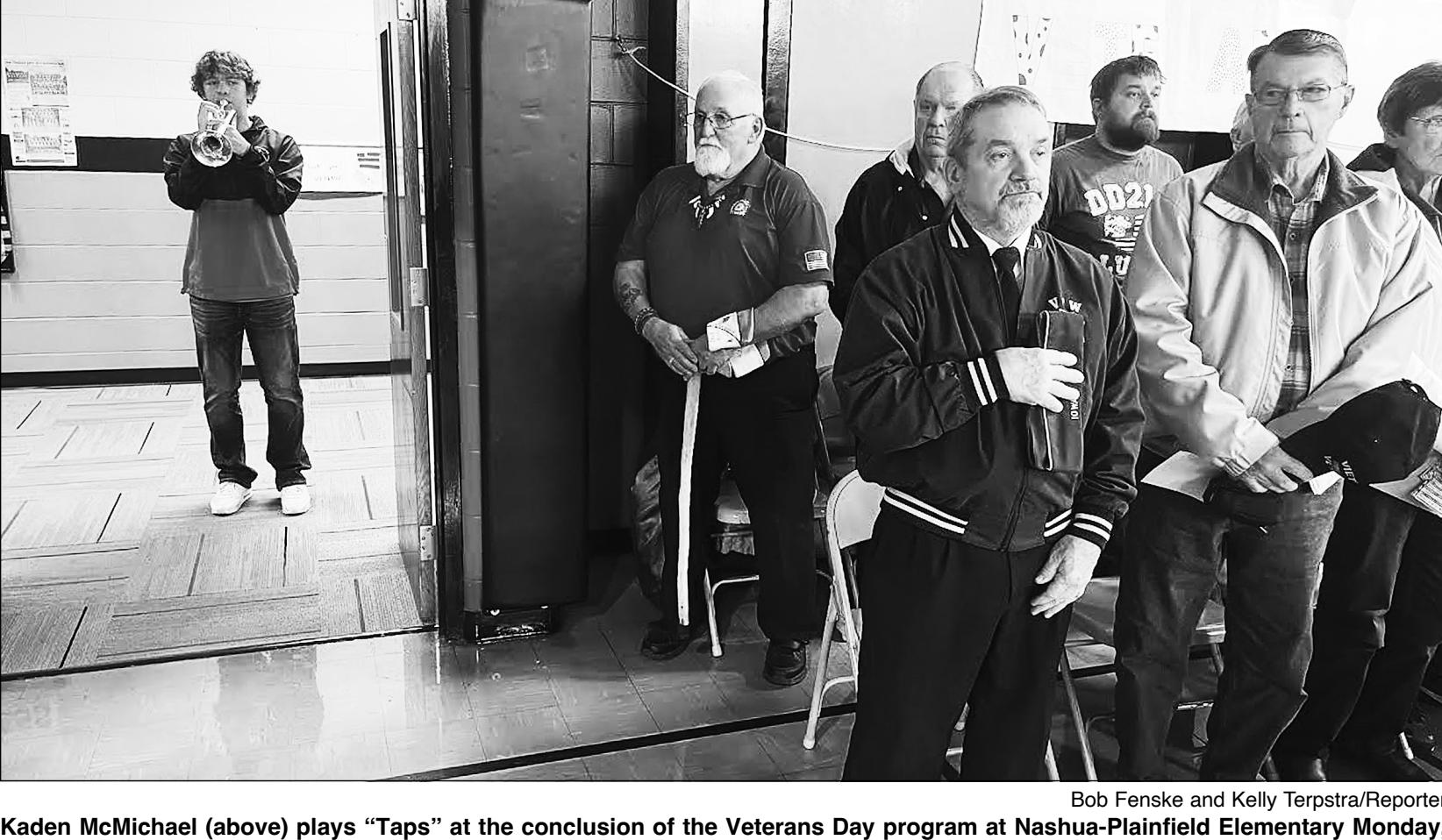
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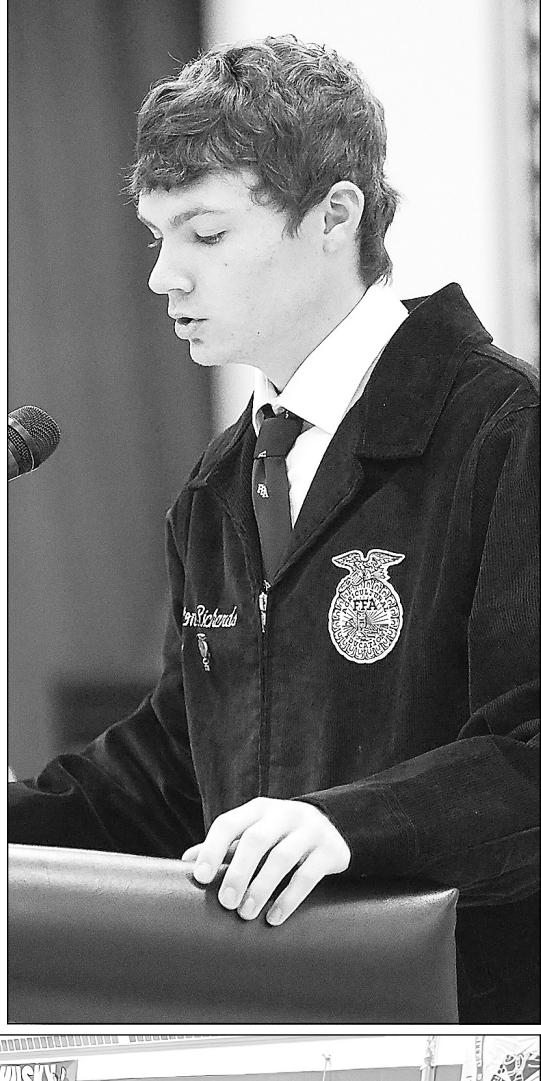
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Bob Fenske and Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Kaden McMichael (above) plays "Taps" at the conclusion of the Veterans Day program at Nashua-Plainfield Elementary Monday, and later in the morning, FFA chapter member Easton Richards (right) helps welcome veterans to the holiday observance at the high school.



Plainfield mayor shares Air Force story

VETERANS DAY: FROM 1

branches that were represented in the N-P High School Gymnasium on Monday morning.

The large audience which witnessed Nashua-Plainfield's Veterans Day ceremony listened intently to Geise, who first enlisted in the United States Air Force back in 1984, when he was a senior in high school and with a full head of hair to boot.

"It was my senior year at homecoming and yes, I had a lot of hair," laughed Geise, who now in his late 50s and sports a shaved head.

That's when Geise made a decision that millions of proud and selfless Americans have made. That's to enlist into the military and defend his country with dedication and bravery.

"It's hard for me to believe that it was 40 years ago," said Geise, who has been Plainfield's mayor since 2014. "I was trying to figure out if I was college bound or if I was going into the military or continue working my job. In the end, my personal desire to serve our country and join the military won out."

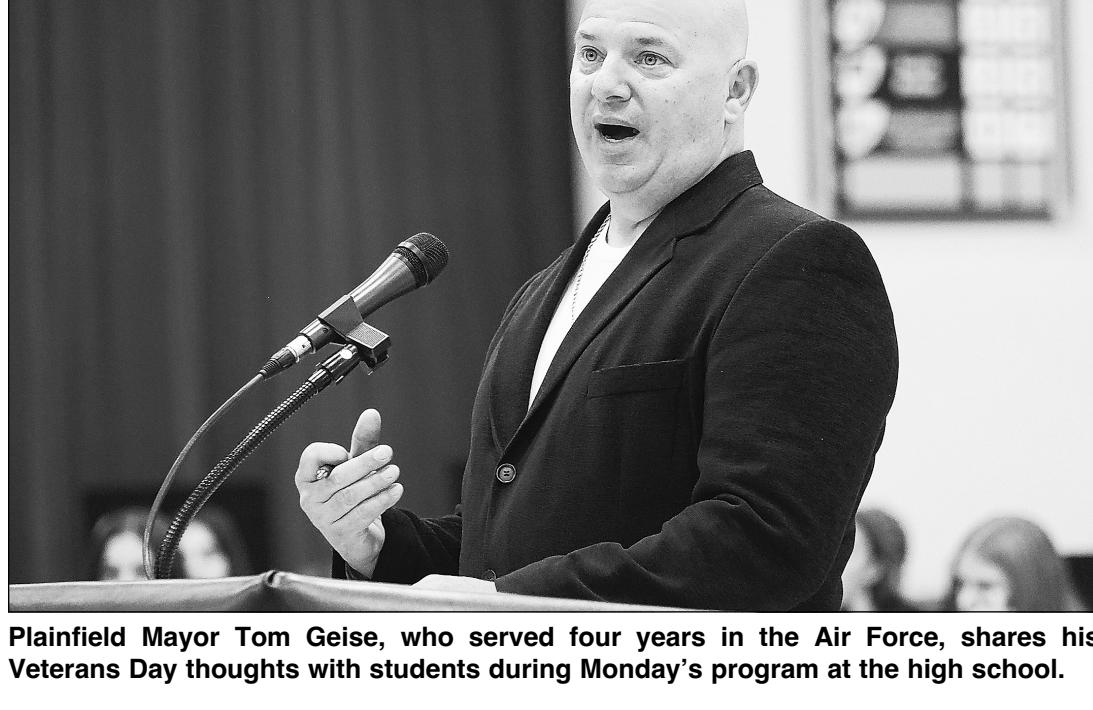
Geise's military commitment began as a security police specialist and air base ground defender. One of his main responsibilities during his four-year enlistment with the Air Force was to protect nuclear weapons over in Europe.

"We were responsible for keeping our mobile nuclear weapons safe and secure – whether they were in our hardened and gated facilities or they were mobile, deep in Europe's woods," said Geise. "I was one of the 60-gunned."

Geise took the crowd in attendance back to a place in time in the mid 80s when he first decided to pledge the next four years of his life to "Uncle Sam." Geise, whose career the past 30 years has been focused in medical sales, vividly remembers the party his family and friends held for him the Saturday before he signed on the dotted line to become a member of the United States Air Force.

"Looking back, I realized that this is going to be one of the last times I chose what I was going to wear, I chose where I was going to go and chose what I was going to do. My personal freedoms were coming to a screeching halt. I took my oath, I received my orders. I was flown down to San Antonio, Texas," Geise said.

There at Lackland Air Force Base he entered a world he had never been privy to – a gigantic and sprawling military complex that houses thousands of would-be recruits – 24,000 active duty members as of the present day. He hopped on a



Plainfield Mayor Tom Geise, who served four years in the Air Force, shares his Veterans Day thoughts with students during Monday's program at the high school.

bus with a bunch of people he didn't know and his civilian life officially ended.

"I crossed over the gate and it became eerily quiet in the bus," said Geise. "Everyone just got real serious and surreal."

Then Geise and his prospective recruits met their drill instructors – which was an eye-opening experience to say the least.

"That was an abrupt transition," said Geise. "This is a moment that I will never forget. I was called everything but my real name. It seemed we went from zero to 60 in like one second. I was now in the hands of 'Uncle Sam.'"

Once at the base, a strict regimented schedule was adhered to.

"We trained, we drilled, we studied to become military men and women," said Geise.

Then the transformation began and was described by Geise as best he could.

"Our nation's veterans are trained to be physically and mentally strong," said Geise. "We were trained to be experts on our weapons. Our goal was to complete basic training as a team – trusting our leader and each other and vow to leave no soldier behind. We became one. We ate together. We ran together. We marched in unison. We bonded. We became military brothers and sisters."

Geise elaborated on the type of sacrifice and commitment it takes to become a structured and disciplined military man.

"We had each other's 'six,' which simply means they had my back and I had theirs – a veteran trust that their teammates would give all that they have to complete the mission at hand and vow to do the same for their brothers and sisters," said Geise. "I considered my air base ground defense base team

as my family. We were tight on and off duty – knowing that we would give it our all for each other to complete the mission and that we had each other's backs."

Geise's message to students and faculty who sat in the bleachers was simple, yet powerful.

"It is said that the United States veteran writes a blank check to 'Uncle Sam' for an amount up to and including their life," said Geise. "Veterans dedicate their service and potentially their lives to honor, serve and protect our country, our family, our friends and our community."

Then an emotional Geise spoke of perhaps the most powerful American symbol there is – the United States flag. He then asked the audience to recite a patriotic verse in unison, "The Pledge of Allegiance."

"As the flag flies, we see you on a bus stop. We see you in your classrooms and we see you outside playing – enjoying the freedoms that our veterans have earned for you," said Geise.

Geise also implored athletes and band members in the crowd to think about how they depend on their coaches or band directors – how those teammates rely on one another, much like the military does. He drew a similar parallel.

"You are trained in anticipation of tough competition and you all wear matching uniforms," said Geise. "When you join the military, it's pretty similar to that, except we're at the next level and maybe the highest level of commitment that you will ever face."

Geise spoke directly to the N-P Class of 2025 and gave these words of advice.

"Take a step back, take a breath. It's going to fly by. Your future's well ahead of you, but now is the time to start making some big decisions," said Geise. "God bless you guys and have a great year."

Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR Chickasaw COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF John Larsen, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR003251 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of John Larsen, Deceased, who died on or about October 1, 2024:

You are hereby notified that on October 29, 2024, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated on 10/29/24.

Chad Larsen, Fiduciary
515 N. 2nd Ave. W.
Newton, Iowa 50208

Yumi Bibler, Fiduciary
4828-50th Ave.
Alta, Iowa 50102

Attorney for the Administrator
Cronin, Skilton & Skilton, P.L.L.C.
Cronin, Skilton & Skilton, P.L.L.C.,
205 Brasher Street
P.O. Box 39
Nashua, IA 50658-0039

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Huck's goal on the track will always be improvement

HUCK: FROM 11

titles – twice in the distance medley – and as a freshman in the sprint medley.

Huck finished a heart-breaking state runner-up in this past year's open 400 to Panorama's Jaelyn Sellers – who is a 10-time state champ and broke the 1A record in the event with a blue-ribbon jaunt around the track of 55.44. Huck was right behind her in 55.78 – which rebrake her school record with that stunning silver-medal finish.

"It is a huge honor to have one of our athletes go run at the Division I level. She is extremely deserving of this opportunity. She has put in a lot of hard work, self control, discipline, the list is endless. She understands what it takes to be a top student athlete and it is all paying off for her," said McCall.

To break down what it takes to be considered one of Iowa's premier prep track athletes – one has to understand the sacrifice Huck demonstrates on a daily basis to be at her peak when big moments arise. That has translated into Huck running a mile every day since the end of her freshman XC season.

That's just the start of her daily regimen to remain sharp and ready to tackle all the challenges that lie in front of her.

"Kadence is putting in extra workouts outside of her practices and taking care of her body (heating/icing). I know that Kadence is fueling her body with nutrition. Kadence is going above and beyond what most student athletes her age are doing," said McCall.

McCall explained what Huck has meant to her successful program – both on and off the oval.

"Kadence is a huge asset to our program. She has provided opportunities within our team and has been a part of many opportunities that have never been done by any other track and field athlete. Her records will stand for a long time. She has accomplished a lot within her three years and we are excited to see what her senior year entails and look forward to seeing what she does in her future!" said the N-P head coach.

As McCall perhaps puts it best, Huck's resume is "hefty."

Huck has medaled in five different Drake Relays after two seasons of competing in Des Moines amongst the state's best. Huck broke her own school record in the 800 this past April by placing third in a blazing fast time of 2:11.09. She also placed third in the open 400 with a clip of 56.19.

She placed fifth in the 800 run (2:12.82) and 1,500 run (4:38.36) in 2023 at Drake. She added a fourth-place finish her sophomore season in the open 400 with a clip of 57.56.

She's a two-time state title winner in each the 400 and 800, along with a state title achieved this past spring in the 1,500. She's also anchored N-P relay

titles – twice in the distance medley – and as a freshman in the sprint medley.

Huck finished a heart-breaking state runner-up in this past year's open 400 to Panorama's Jaelyn Sellers – who is a 10-time state champ and broke the 1A record in the event with a blue-ribbon jaunt around the track of 55.44. Huck was right behind her in 55.78 – which rebrake her school record with that stunning silver-medal finish.

Huck holds the school record in cross country with a clip of 18:58, which she achieved at the South Winn Invite last year as a junior. She is a four-time state qualifier at the state XC meet, which is held in Fort Dodge. She's also a two-time state medalist as she garnered a 10th-place finish as a sophomore and ran the grueling track over at Lakeside Municipal Golf Course earlier this month to the tune of 19:11, good for sixth place.

Huck will look to eclipse the state record in several track events this coming spring, as she's already come close to those all-time Iowa marks in previous runs at state.

"It's always been a goal to break some state records, but it's never my biggest goal. Going into each track season and state meet, my biggest goal is to show improvement. If I haven't improved then I've wasted a lot of time trying," said Huck.

Records are great, but it's Huck's chance to run against others that really lights a fire under the Husky standout.

"Just going out and competing with everyone is what I love to do most and helping my team secure a team trophy," Huck added.

To those that know Huck, her legacy means a lot. But just what exactly does she want people to remember about her when her time at N-P is complete? Her answer is pure Kadence – as only a trusting and respected Husky would respond.

"I want my legacy to regard putting in the work no matter the circumstances and overall just being a good and fun teammate," smiled Huck.

Huck also gave credit to the towns and Nashua and Plainfield for having her back and allowing her to achieve individual success, as well as making everybody else around her better. That's the true mark of an inspirational leader and to put it quite simply – a legend.

"It's been fantastic competing for Nashua-Plainfield in any and all of my sports. The community has supported me through every one of my challenges and accomplishments," said Huck. "Being able to surround myself with such a caring, supportive, and understanding community is a big

part of why I'm as successful as I am. Hopefully, I've inspired others so the tradition of hard work and success carries on."

Huck said her decision to attend Oklahoma State came down to the Okie St. coaches that she's been introduced to and has gotten to know. She also liked how important track and cross country was to the

school.

OSU head coach Dave Smith led the Cowgirl women's track and field squad to one of their best seasons ever in program history last year with a 10-place finish at the NCAA Indoor Championships with a program-record 27 points overall. OSU also placed third at the XC women's national champi-

onship in 2023.

Smith is in his 16th year as director of the OSU XC/T&F program. He's also the men's coach.

Oklahoma State coaches like Huck's potential on the next level at college.

"They liked how smoothly I ran. They talked about how I haven't peaked yet and with

their coaching I can become a lot faster," said Huck.

Huck said she also considered Alabama and South Dakota as other schools to run at before choosing the Cowgirls. She will major in psychology at OSU.

Kadence is the daughter of Shane and Jessica Huck of Nashua.

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Huskies honored after standout football season

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Duane Foster, Wapsie Valley	
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Jeff Stirling, North Butler	

ALL-DISTRICT: FROM 11

pulling guard and defensive end for the Huskies. He helped break open holes for one of Class A's top rushing squads. He also racked up 26.5 tackles (23 solo) and was picked on the honorable mention team in 2023.

Jones did the same at his guard position on the o-line and at defensive tackle. He was selected to the second team all-district team a year ago and came away with nine tackles this fall.

"You really credit those guys for all the work they did in the past four years. That was just one nice way for them to go out, too," said Sudol about his seniors. "I couldn't be more proud of them."

Kalainoff was N-P's most dangerous weapon on both sides of the ball as he showed the hard-to-handle form during key stretches this season that's he's all-state caliber. He scored 10 touchdowns (seven rushing) and caught five passes for 120 yards.

Kalainoff made it a potent 1-2 combo at his defensive end position alongside Rodruck. Despite missing a game due to injury he came up with 27.5 tackles and 5.5 tackles for loss.

"Those are two guys that we leaned on all year," said Sudol about Rodruck and Kalainoff. "We probably could have went offense or defense, but they got it for defense."

The final first team pick for N-P – Blanchard – wowed Husky fans with his toughness and play-making capability. He always seemed to be around the ball in the secondary and helped lead Sudol's flexbone offense at quarterback.

"He's just a competitor. You see that in wrestling with him," said Sudol.

"They're not afraid of anything. He wants to win and compete at a high level."

Blanchard ran for 381 yards and punched it into the end zone three times. He also passed for 417 yards to go along with five touchdowns versus six interceptions. He picked off a team-leading four passes and was a stout run-stopper with 33 tackles (31 solo).

"He's just a good kid. Just his work ethic and leadership on our football team really stands out about him," said Sudol. "He's our leader. He's the guy that we go to when we need something. It's just the way it is."

Tyler Zimmer, a junior linebacker that led the Huskies in tackles with 60 (56 solo), was super close to being a first-teamer and Sudol wasn't all that thrilled that he didn't get selected.

"There were a few things where I was kind of disappointed in," said Sudol. "The thing that sucks is when you do it the way we did it, I don't feel like it was real fair because like – Zimmer to me is first team all-district all day long. I even nominated him for defensive

player of the year. For some reason, even after nominating him for that, they didn't give him first team."

Sudol feared that Zimmer may have been playing with a torn ACL in his knee late in the season, but still toughed it out and got the job done at his critical middle linebacker position. Zimmer cracked the honorable mention squad last year as a sophomore.

"If they knew what the poor kid was going through and the heart that he has," said Sudol about Zimmer.

Joining Zimmer on the second team was sophomore outside linebacker Miles Carpenter. He registered 35 tackles (32 solo) and had a knack for making big plays in huge moments. He tallied two interceptions and

was an excellent special teams player.

"I think he grew six or eight inches he said and put on I don't know how much weight?" said Sudol. "The growth spurt was huge for him and hopefully he continues to develop. He's going to be a force to be reckoned with in the future, that's for sure."

Four Huskies were voted on by district coaches as members of the honorable mention team – two of them repeat selections in juniors Landon Foelske and Matthew Malven. N-P junior center Beau Morris and cornerback Jake Smith were also tabbed on the honorable mention team.

Foelske was a fine kick and punt returner as well as an adept cornerback for Sudol's defense. He was also a consistent weapon in the passing game with 145 yards receiving on six receptions – which led the team. Foelske came up with 15.5 tackles.

Malven also had big-play capability as he picked off three passes and amassed 134 yards receiving. His 33.5 yards-per-catch was tops on the team. He produced 22 tackles.

Smith intercepted a pass and worked his way to 18.5 stops on defense.

N-P won its first playoff game since 2014 with an opening round 30-14 victory at home over Mason City Newman. The Huskies were bounced from the playoffs after a 38-13 setback at Maquoketa Valley, a game N-P led 13-7 at one point late in the first half.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield coach Chase Sudol congratulates his players after a Husky score during a game this past season.



Nashua-Plainfield's Tyler Zimmer (left) and Miles Carpenter — both of whom were all-Class A, District 3 second-team selections — come up with tackles.

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It's official: N-P star signs with Oklahoma State



After signing her letter of intent to attend Oklahoma State University, Kadence Huck (center) poses with her Nashua-Plainfield coaches — (from left) cross country's Jennah Winters and Jenn Kalainoff, track's Amber McCall and basketball's Josh Smith.

Calling on fourth-grade teacher to get this right

Long ago — like in the days when black-and-white televisions were still a thing — my fourth-grade teacher at my little elementary school in Minnesota would have sent me to the blackboard, given me a piece of chalk and told me to get to work.

I would have whined about missing lunchtime with my friends, and Mrs. Schmitt would have given me the look — recess be damned — and said something like, "Maybe, this will teach you to be more careful with your work."

Editor vows to get it right when it comes to Eli

KALAINOFFS: FROM 11

one other favorite number of Mrs. Schmitt's. I had a tendency back then to talk too much in class, so the first recess I spent at the blackboard I wrote "I will not talk in class" 100 times.

A month later, the hand cramps had finally disappeared, and what do you know? Mrs. Schmitt was teaching a math lesson, and I had something vitally important, at least in my mind, to tell my best friend, Gordy Pearson.

She heard me but said nothing ... until it was time for recess.

As always, she lined us up at the door and walked down the line to make sure we had our coats, hats and gloves, and then she got to me.

"Mr. Fenske, you will stay with me," and handed me a piece of chalk.

"I have to write it 100 times, don't I?"

"One hundred wasn't enough; let's try 200, and if that's not enough, we'll try 300."

I learned my lesson, and never had to do the 300, and today, I hope the memory of Mrs. Schmitt will be the gentle, albeit stern, reminder I need when it comes to Eli — not Evan — Kalainoff.

ON TAP FOR OUR NASHUA-PLAINFIELD HUSKIES!

SATURDAY

Little Huskies Club youth wrestling tournament, 9 a.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 23

Girls varsity wrestling at Decorah Invitational, 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 26

Girls basketball at Don Bosco, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 2

Boys basketball at Rockford, JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 3

Girls varsity wrestling at Central Elkader Invitational, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 5

Boys wrestling vs. Lake Mills, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura and Mason City Newman at Lake Mills, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 6

Basketball at Northwood-Kennett, girls JV at 4 p.m., boys JV at 5 p.m., varsity girls at 6:15 p.m., varsity boys at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

Boys wrestling at Wapsie Valley Chris Davis Invitational, JV at 8:30 a.m., varsity at 10 a.m.

Basketball vs. Clarksville, boys JV at 3 p.m., girls varsity at 4:15 p.m., varsity boys at 5:30 p.m.



WHY WAIT 'TIL BLACK FRIDAY?



Opening 8am Black Friday! Check Facebook for more deals coming soon!



0% Interest for 36 Months* or Lease-To-Own**

*Minimum purchase of \$1,999 for 36 months. Subject to be approved credit by Wells Fargo, N.A. **No Minimum on Lease-to-Own By Progressive Leasing. Progressive Leasing obtains information from credit bureaus. Not all applicants are approved.



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