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Nashua REPORTER

**Huskies top
rivals, clinch
state football
playoff berth**
Page 10



Vol. 116, Issue 41

13 October 2023

Nashua, IA 50658 • 75 cents

Supervisors discuss ‘opioid’ funds

Board members appear to be leaning toward using money for preventative programs

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors heard a number of options on how the county could use its “opioid money” during Monday’s meeting, but county leaders appeared to be leaning toward using those funds for substance

abuse preventative programs.

Board members did not make any final decision on how to use the funds that are part of a nationwide settlement with drug manufacturers, but they did approve appointing a committee that will consist of Chickasaw County Attorney David Laudner, County Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Sheriff Ryan Shawver,

Supervisor Scott Cerwinski, New Hampton Police Chief Tim Pederson and Pathways Behavioral Services Executive Director Vicki Mueller to consider options on how use the funds.

The county currently has received a little more than \$49,000 and expects to receive more than \$20,000 annually for at least the

foreseeable future. Mueller shared with board members what other counties are doing with the money, and supervisors’ interest was piqued when she talked about prevention programs like Too Good for Drugs.

SEE SUPERVISORS, 3



Sheriff’s Office loses one of its mainstays

After 30-plus years, Hemesath will give up her role as civil clerk and will head into retirement

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Barb Hemesath laughed as she told the story that, as she put it, admitted her age.

“When I started here at the Sheriff’s Office,” she said, “we had the E911 system in place but people still called in and said to come to ‘a mile down the road where John Smith’s barn burnt down.’ ... I guess telling you that means I’m old, right?”

Hey, the reporter didn’t say that, he pointed out, and the interviewee and the interviewer laughed together.

For 30 years, Hemesath has been a mainstay at the Chickasaw County Sheriff’s Office, but her days are dwindling because retirement is beckoning. And as excited as she is for what comes after Oct. 20, the last day she will work in the office, Hemesath will be the first to admit that retirement is a tad bittersweet.

“We’re a family, we really are,” she said. “I’m going to miss everyone — the sheriff, the

SEE CIVIL CLERK, 4



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Members of the Nashua-Plainfield Marching Band (above) perform their “Don’t Be Afraid ...” show at the state marching band contest Saturday, when Madelyn Hennings (below) smartly marches with her fellow band members on the turf at Waterloo’s Memorial Stadium.

NAILING DOWN THAT I RATING!

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD MARCHING HUSKIES’ HIGH EXPECTATIONS BECOME A REALITY AT STATE MARCHING BAND CONTEST

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

We’ve said it before and we’re sure we’ll say it again because it’s true.

There is no scoreboard when it comes to the state marching band contest. OK, there is a scoreboard tucked on one corner of Waterloo’s Memorial Stadium, but the only thing that is running during a marching band contest is the clock — a reminder that bands have all of 15 minutes to “enter” the field, perform a show and “exit” the field.

“It is highly subjective, no doubt about it,” Nashua-Plainfield Band Director Scott Stroud said. “You don’t know the score, if you will, when you leave the field, so you wait. And no matter how fast you find out what you’re rating is, it seems like it takes forever. Minutes feel like hours and all that.”

And while Stroud’s Nashua-Plainfield Marching Huskies, almost to a person, felt like they nailed it this Saturday, they didn’t know if they had reached the goal they set out to attain months ago.

“I think the show was great,” senior trumpet player Hayden

Munn said, “but I think we could have made it even a little better by fixing some things.”

Say this, for the Marching Huskies, they are their own worst critics, which may be the secret to their success; after all, this is a Class 1A band program built on excellence. Coming into Saturday, Nashua-Plainfield had earned 17 superior Division I ratings in 22 years, and all of them — from Stroud to the eight seniors to the nine juniors to the 13 sophomores to the 11 freshmen — desperately wanted that 18th Division I rating.

“When they left the field, I felt like they had done more than enough,” Stroud said. “It was an excellent show, our best of the year in my mind, but you just don’t know until they tell you.”

So they waited, and finally the public-address announcer for the Iowa Bandmasters Association event announced that “we have our first results.”

He took the microphone and said, “In Class 1A, Nashua-Plainfield receives a Division ...”

“And seriously, it was like he had

SEE MARCHING HUSKIES, 2



Library set to hold two events for City Council candidates

Nashua voters who want to know about the nine candidates running for four City Council seats will have two opportunities to “meet and greet” them next week.

The Nashua Public Library is holding two hour-long sessions with the candidates — with the first set for 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and the second being held from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Seven candidates are seeking three four-year terms on the City Council, and they include Brandon Christensen, Beth Henningsen, Jake Johnson, Samantha Johnson, Brittany McDonald, Allie Wesselmann and Dan Zwanziger — are seeking three four-year terms while two candidates, Hal Kellheher III and Nick Henningsen are on the ballot for a two-year term.

When the library announced plans to hold its Meet and Greet, Kelleher and McDonald said they would not be able to attend the session on Wednesday so library officials decided to hold a second session on the following Saturday.

The library’s first event coincides with the first day that early voting will be available. Beginning Wednesday and running through Monday, Nov. 6, voters who want to cast ballots can do so at the Chickasaw County Auditor’s Office, which is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, in New Hampton.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Three of Gerald and Marilyn Johnson’s four daughters — (from left) Jennifer Johnson, Suzette Conley and Mary Hassler, along with her husband Pete — pose for a picture Tuesday night at the Gateway to Northeast Iowa Welcome Center.

‘Opportunity’ turns into big gift for Big 4 Fair

Sisters honor the memory of their parents with \$50,000 donation for event center kitchen

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Suzette Conley and her sisters couldn’t help but laugh when they told the story on how they came to make the largest donation in the history of the Big 4 Fair.

“Well, Charlie said he had an opportunity for us,” Conley said, “and you know, it’s hard to

say no to Charlie.”

Edson serves as the liaison between the 4-H program and the Big Fair Four Board, had known Gerald and Marilyn Johnson for year.

After Gerald’s passing a couple of years ago and after the farm Gerald and Marilyn had run for decades had been sold, he approached Conley with an idea, that opportunity.

“He told us that he knew that our mom was always cooking and that dad never missed a meal,” Conley said, “and he thought it would be great to name the kitchen [in the fairgrounds’ new event center] after them. I asked him how much, and he said, he really didn’t know but he could find

SEE DONATION, 4



Bob Fenske/Reporter

The Nashua-Plainfield Marching Huskies (above) perform their show at the state marching band contest on Saturday in Waterloo, where Drum Major Aiden Sullivan (right) walks to the stand to lead the band.

Eight seniors end marching band careers on high note

MARCHING HUSKIES: FROM 1

lost our result or something because it was quite the pause,” Stroud said. “I about had a heart attack waiting.”

Finally, the PA announcer said “I” and the celebration commenced.

“I think that we did our best out of any time we had practiced,” senior flute player Jordyn Frost said. “Shows just bring the best out of us, it seems like.”

THE ROOTS OF the 18th Division I rating in the past 23 years began last spring when Stroud selected the 2023 show’s theme, “Don’t Be Afraid ...”

By the time the 2022-23 school year had come to an end, the Marching Huskies had received the music for the show that included “The Halloween Movie Theme,” “Creep” by Radiohead and “Ghostbusters” and band members worked on their music during summer band lessons.

During the first week of August, they gathered for the band camp.

Those eight seniors — Drum Major Aiden Sullivan, Munn, Frost, Dawson Demro, J.R. O’Neill, Aubreigh Stroud, Hannah Percy and Emma O’Neill — worked diligently with the younger members of the band and set the tone for what would be another banner band season for Nashua-Plainfield.

“They’ve been great leaders because they, like me, have high expectations,” said Stroud, who has directed Nashua-Plainfield bands for the past 2 1/2 decades. “We always say around here that if we’re going to do something, we’re going to do it right. And this group of seniors certainly wasn’t an exception. They bought into that.”

Slowly, but surely, “Don’t Be Afraid ...” came together, and the band became one. Members got up early a couple of days a week to hone the show, they traveled to Marshalltown last month and, for an 11th straight year, claimed the title at the Oketmemberfest Marching Band Contest and they worked on the show during halftimes of Nashua-Plainfield football games.

It all led to an early wake-up call Saturday



Dawson Becker joins his fellow band members in shouting “Ghostbusters” during the Marching Huskies’ performance of the song at the state marching band contest.

morning and the show that mattered the most.

“The best part of marching band,” said Aubreigh Stroud, who plays the tenor saxophone, “is seeing the difference in our show from when we started to when we performed it on Saturday and seeing how much we’ve improved.”

AT A STATE marching band contest, five

THE 2023 NASHUA-PLAINFIELD MARCHING HUSKIES

Here are the members of the Nashua-Plainfield Marching Huskies, who are under the direction of Scott Stroud, that claimed a Division 1 rating at the state marching band contest Saturday:

Drum Major: Aiden Sullivan.

Assistant Drum Major: Jennifer McLe-land.

Flutes: Jordyn Frost and Calista McDon-ald.

Clarinets: Bailey Bond, Christopher Nied-ert and Rachel Paplow.

Trumpets: Hayden Munn, Hannah Percy, Kaden McMichael, Dalton Downing, Luke Paplow, Dawson Becker, Lily Eiffler, Sam O’Neill, James Corathers, Dana Downing and Haylee Becker.

Alto saxophones: Madelyn Hennings, Connor Sullivan, Maverick Dietz-McDonald, Keira Marlette and Titus Cervinske.

Mellophone: Christopher Kalvig.

Trombones: Trent Rodruck, Dawson Demro, Michael Stroud, Vinny Runge, Car-son Mundorf and Benjamin Percy.

Baritones: J.R. O’Neill and Elayna O’Neill.

Tenor saxophone: Aubreigh Stroud.

Bari saxophone: Cal Levi.

Bass drums: Landon Foelske, Karson Chyma and Ty Berger.

Quads: Kami Hannemann.

Snare: Cam Cleveland.

Crash/Pit: Emma O’Neill and Grace Dietz.

judges — three on the field and two in the press-box — decide a band’s rating.

They watch virtually every part of a band’s performance. From marching to music to drums to musical visual to marching visual, they take their notes, come up with their own ratings and then put them all together for the one that matters — an overall rating.

On Saturday, all five judges gave Nashua-Plainfield a Division I rating.

“I think that says something about the quality our students showed them,” Nashua-Plainfield’s band director said. “We’re just a 1A school, but we take this really seriously. It doesn’t work if you don’t have kids who are willing to put the time into it and really get to work on it. I have high expectations. Anyone who knows me, knows that, but if the kids don’t care, if they don’t want to put the time into it ... well, you know, it probably doesn’t go well, but I’m so fortunate to have kids who also have high expectations of themselves.”

THE EIGHT SENIORS of the Nashua-Plainfield Marching Band gathered in their director’s office Tuesday



morning to talk about what had transpired this season, one that is still not quite over yet.

Oh, the hard part is definitely complete. That state contest is over, but if the rain holds off, they’ll put on the show one more time tonight when Nashua-Plainfield hosts Wapsie Valley in the final regular season football game.

The seniors were asked what they liked best about band and their answers ranged from J.R. O’Neill’s “the cookies” (which must be divine because almost every one of his classmates mentioned them, too) to Demro’s “taking off the hot and sweaty uniform” after a performance to Percy’s “feeling accomplished when finishing the show.”

The worst part of marching band? Well, remember, these are 17- and 18-year-old kids, so at the top of the list was those early-morning practices.

As Percy put it, “7:30 is not it.”

Why?

“Your feet get wet,” Emma O’Neill said with a laugh.

FOR THE DRUM major, the Saturday morning competitions at Marshalltown and Waterloo came after he played on both sides of the ball the previous night.

He loves band, don’t get us wrong, but ask him the worst part of band and the answer comes quickly.

“Waking up for contest after football games,” he said. “It takes a minute or two to get going, you know?”

But there is another secret to the success of the Nashua-Plainfield Marching Huskies’ success over the years, and it is this: These are not just “band kids.”

Take those eight seniors, all of whom are active in a variety of school activities besides band.

“I bring it up all the time and I probably always will,” Scott Stroud said, “but we have a school where the coaches, the administrators and everyone really works together to make sure kids can be in everything and be successful in everything.”

“That’s a huge deal, and I think it should be celebrated.”

As should another Division I rating.

But even if the Marching Huskies had come up short Saturday, all that work would not have been for naught.

“I get a lot of of it,” Emma O’Neill said of music in general. “It is really fun, and it is a great way to start the day out, just having fun with everyone in band ... everyone works together to make it fun. ... This year, everyone worked really hard, we all put the time into it and I think that we learned a lot.”

Still, the Division I rating was appreciated by O’Neill, one of two members of the Marching Huskies’ “pit.”

“Getting a one,” she said, “just made all the time worth it.”



Members of the Nashua-Plainfield Marching Huskies depart (above) the competition field after a show that included Christopher Kalvig (right) on the mellophone.



Light Refreshments will be served.

Dementia Education November 2nd at 2pm

A free 1-hour session led by a Dementia Friends Champion. You’ll learn some basics of dementia such as what dementia is, what it’s like to live with and disease, and some tips for communicating with people who have dementia. This session is paired with Dementia Live which offers a unique inside-out understanding of dementia as well as the aging process.

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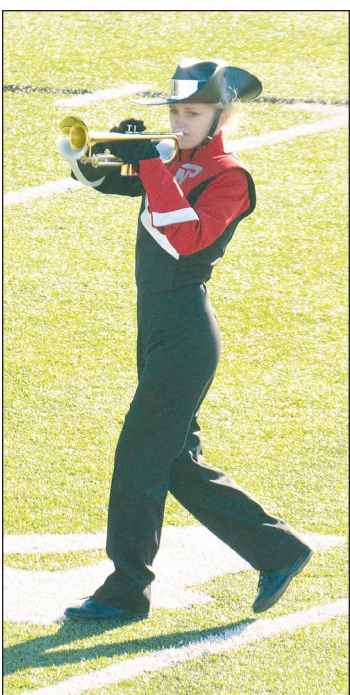
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Cal Levi (left) and Hannah Percy (right) perform with the Marching Huskies on Saturday.

Kaden Ray Wilken, 18

Kaden Ray Wilken, age 18 of Nashua, died Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023.

Funeral service will be held 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, at Nashua-Plainfield High School Gymnasium with the Rev. Darin Cerwinski presiding.

Interment will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Nashua with Drew Wilken, Titus Evans, Trae Geise, Tucker Franzen, Tate White, Karson Chyma, Aiden Hector and Trey Nelson serving as pallbearers. Jake Sievers is an honorary pallbearer.

Friends greeted the family from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023, at Nashua-Plainfield High School Gymnasium.

Hugeback Johnson Funeral Home and Crematory/Olson Chapel is entrusted with arrangements.

Kaden was born Jan. 21, 2005, the son of Andy and Sara (Hejlik) Wilken in Waverly. His older brother Drew also welcomed him into the world.

During his early years, Kaden was a young adventurer with a passion for creativity. He spent countless hours building intricate Lego structures and immersing himself in the world of Minecraft, where his imagination knew no bounds. As he grew older, his interests expanded, and he discovered his love for sports.

Kaden's journey through the Nashua-Plainfield Schools marked the beginning of his athletic achievements. He developed an unbridled passion for sports, excelling in football, wrestling, track, and baseball. His dedication and hard work paid off as he became a state qualifier in both wrestling and track during his senior years. Kaden's remarkable commitment was further acknowl-



Kaden Wilken

edged with the prestigious 4x4 award, recognizing his remarkable feat of participating in all four sports throughout his high school years. He graduated from Nashua-Plainfield in May 2023.

Beyond his athletic pursuits, Kaden possessed a creative side that he cherished throughout his life. As a young boy, he enjoyed drawing and doodling, and his talent for artistic expression continued to evolve as he grew into a young man.

However, it was in the great outdoors that Kaden truly found his calling. He developed a profound love for hunting, whether it was chasing white-tailed deer, turkeys, or any other game.

What made these experiences truly special for him was the cherished time spent with his beloved family. Hunting was not just a pastime but a family tradition, an opportunity to bond, and create enduring memories.

Kaden's thirst for outdoor adventures extended to skiing, jet skiing, boating, wakeboarding and swimming, embodying his deep connection with nature. He was a true lover of all things outdoors, finding solace

and happiness in the natural world that surrounded him.

On Sundays, you could often find Kaden watching his beloved Minnesota Vikings. His whole family would cheer them on, many times while eating Kaden's favorite food, buffalo chicken strips. Anything with a little buffalo flavor sparked Kaden's taste buds.

Kaden's outgoing personality and zest for life were a beacon that drew people near. His sense of humor and spontaneous spirit made every moment with him an adventure.

He was a very outgoing young man, even if he did not know where he was going — a cherished inside joke within his close-knit family.

Above all, Kaden treasured his family and friends. Their presence in his life was his greatest source of joy, and he cherished every moment spent in their company. His love for them was boundless, and his memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Kaden is survived by his parents, Andy and Sara Wilken of Nashua; one brother, Drew Wilken of Nashua; paternal grandparents, Jackie and Sherry Wilken of Nashua; maternal grandparents, Deb (Brian) Marth of Urbandale and Bob Hejlik of Ankeny; maternal great-grandparents, Jim and Janet Nelson of Nashua; two aunts, Abby (Lacey) Wilken of Fairbank and Abby (Jim Krieg) Hejlik of Ruthven; three cousins, Kylee and Alivia Loss and Jaelyn Wilken; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins who he loved so much.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Beverly Johnson, Ken Johnson, Vern and Bonnie Wilken, Ralph and Flossie Hejlik.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

A busy start to the week

Corn is unloaded into a semi-truck trailer Sunday afternoon in Chicksasaw County as area farmers looked to beat the rain that arrived on Wednesday and is expected to continue at least through Saturday. The good news for farmers who didn't get their crops out of the field before our little mini-monsoon season is that next week's forecast looks to be dry.

Committee to come up with plan for opioid funds

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

Mueller told the board that she envisioned having the county contract with her organization to present the program in the four school districts that county students attend.

"It's good for at least another 14, 15 years," Mueller said, "but I would suggest contracting with us, I would feel comfortable if it's year-to-year and I would come in and present you information ... and that we're doing it correctly and we're getting the results that you all want."

She said guidance counselors and other school staff would refer students and "then we would screen them. If they screen positive, then they would be referred to a treatment service."

Mueller pointed out that Pathways already does mental health evaluations through school-age programs and she also pointed out that if the supervisors approve using opioid settlement funds for substance abuse prevention, it would cover all substances, not just opioids.

"Kids aren't using opioids from the get go, they're using other substances first," she said and added that the exception would be some athletes. "We're finding athletes start with opioids because they're prescribed them after injuries."

Mueller also said that prevention programs like Too Good for Drugs can start as early as second grade.

"There aren't any kids [using] opioids in second grade, so we're starting on the prevention end and talking about all drugs and healthy choices and things like that," she said. "The age of onset right now is 12, and you want to start preventing that years earlier."

Shawver, meanwhile, said one of his office's goals is to have more contact with students and would be interested in partnering with Pathways on programs.

"We're looking at getting back in the schools more," he said, "but we just have to figure

out time — our time and our deputies and what works best for the schools. We definitely want to get back in there."

County Attorney David Laudner cast his lot with preventative programs and said he'd like programs to be implemented during the current school year.

"I think prevention should be a large part," he said. "That's just my personal thought from what I see come across my desk, especially with younger kids, that we don't want them

taking things that don't come from a mom or dad or a trusted source."

When the board settled on appointing the committee to discuss how to use the funds, Mueller applauded the decision.

"I think this is a better idea because it gives you a needs assessment from a group coming together," she said. "This is something that can have a long-lasting impact on your county, and we want to make sure we use this money the right way."

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ISU Extension pesticide continuing education course set for Oct. 25

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Chickasaw County office will host a Forest, Aquatic, and Right-of-Way Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators on Wednesday, Oct. 25. The program provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

The local attendance site is the Chickasaw County Extension Office at 115 N. Broadway Ave, New Hampton. Preregistration may be required and walk-ins on the day of the program will only be admitted if room allows.

The course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$45 on or before Oct. 18 and \$55 after Oct. 18.

To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Lynn Bruess at the ISU Extension and Outreach Chickasaw County office at 641-394-2174.



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Official Newspaper:
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Known office of publication
18 E Main St, Suite 2
New Hampton, IA 50659

Published Fridays by
Enterprise Media Inc.
Periodicals postage paid at
Nashua, IA 50658

POSTMASTER: Address changes to
Nashua Reporter, 801 Riverside Drive
Charles City, IA 50616

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The daughters of the late Gerald and Marilyn Johnson pose for a photo after they donated \$50,000 to the Big 4 Fair Board that will go to the kitchen area of the new event center at the fairgrounds. Pictured are (front row, from left) Kathy Rochford, Jennifer Johnson, Suzette Conley, Mary and Pete Hassler, Jenni Bearman, (back row) Mike Weiss, Sue Kobliska, Jim Bearman, Nancy Hillesheim, Dwight Kolthoff, Dustin Feldman and Dave Bucknell.

Sisters honor ‘wonderful parents’ with donation

DONATION: FROM 1

out in a couple of weeks and get back to us.”

When Edson called and gave a number, the Johnson sisters — Jennifer Johnson, Mary Hassler, Sarah Johnson and Conley — considered the opportunity and seized it.

So on Tuesday night, three of the sisters — Jennifer Johnson, Hassler and Conley — presented the Big 4 Fair Board with a check for \$50,000 that will go to creating a kitchen at the new event center on the fairgrounds.

“I know mom and dad are smiling right now,” Jennifer Johnson said. “They loved helping people, they loved 4-H, they loved agriculture. I know they would be OK — way more than OK — with this.”

“For us, growing up, 4-H was an integral part of our lives,” Hassler said, “and 4-H was just a part of farm life. They loved helping with 4-H, they loved leading groups, they loved it all.”

Fair Board members were not only

appreciative of the donation, they were downright touched.

“We can’t thank you enough,” Fair Board President Dwight Kolthoff said. “A lot of us around these tables have been part of the fair for a long, long time, and this is going to be such a huge addition to our fairgrounds. I’m not even sure what to say because thank you doesn’t seem to be enough.”

Fellow Fair Board member Dave Bucknell agreed, and his voice cracked with emotion as he expressed his gratitude to the sisters.

“It’s overwhelming; really, it is for all of us here,” he said. “We want to make sure we make you proud, to make this a gift that really honors your mother and father.”

Gerald and Marilyn Johnson were married for more than 48 years before Marilyn’s death in 2008. They raised their four daughters on the family farm located near Boyd, southeast of New Hampton.

They worked side-by-side throughout

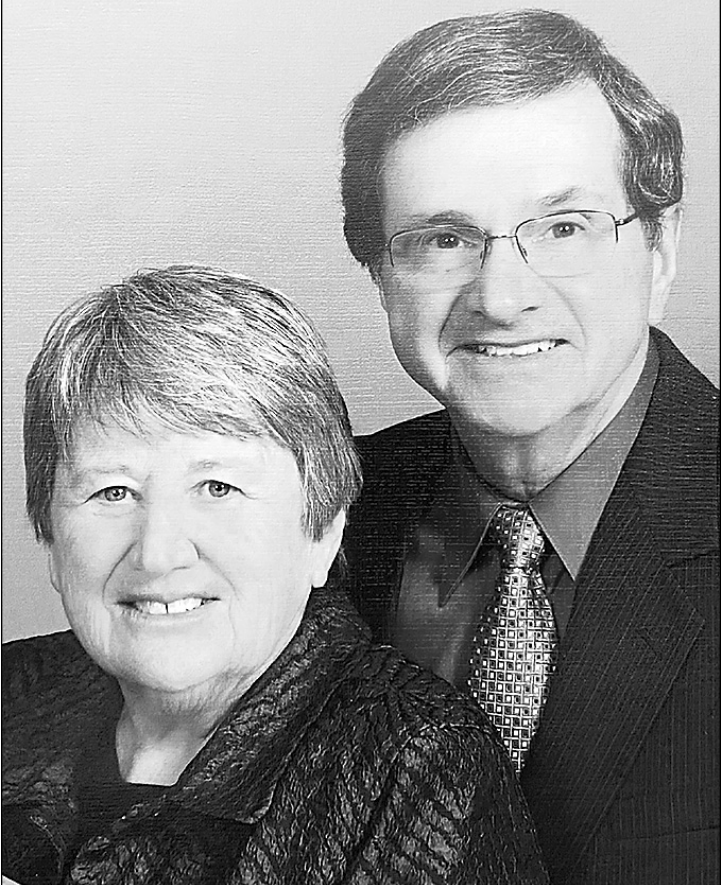
their marriage, and in addition to working the land and raising livestock, their gardens were the stuff of legends.

“They were amazing parents and amazing stewards,” Conley said.

Gerald Johnson also had a passion for local history and he helped finance “Stuff, an Ephemera Collector’s History of Chickasaw County” — a book created and sold as a fundraiser for the Carnegie Cultural Center in New Hampton.

He passed away in November 2021, and his daughters said that even before Edson presented them with his “opportunity,” they wanted to create something so that their legacy would be remembered.

“We were blessed to have wonderful parents,” Conley said, “and one of the enduring lessons they passed on to us was to give back to your community. Charlie’s opportunity is a great way that we can do that and honor our parents. When I talked to my sisters, we were all excited to do this, and today, that excitement is still there, and we can’t wait to see it when it’s completed.”



Linda and Linus Voves

Voves 50th anniversary

The children of Linus and Linda (Meyers) Voves happily announce their parents’ 50th wedding anniversary.

Linda and Linus were married on Oct. 6, 1973, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Ionia by Father Joseph Heineman.

They have been blessed with three children, Brian (Jenny) Voves of Libertyville, Illinois, Renee Voves of Chicago and David (Renee) Voves of Waverly and four grandchildren — Emily, Avery, Michael and William.

Both worked for the United States Postal Service, with Linus serving as the Alta Vista postmaster for 23 years and Linda serving as the Ionia postmaster for 21 years.

Linda is the daughter of the late Cletus and Amelia (Hub) Meyers of Ionia, and Linus is the son of the late Frank and Clara Voves of New Hampton.

To help celebrate this milestone, please join their children in sending them well wishes at 300 E. Prairie St. Ionia, IA, 50645.



Chickasaw County Veterans

If your name did not appear in our Chickasaw County Veterans’ Honor Roll listing from the 2022 New Hampton Tribune’s Veterans Tab, We want to know who you are and want to include your name FREE of charge.

The Chickasaw County Honor Roll will be published in the New Hampton Tribune’s Veterans Day Special Section that will be part of the Tribune’s November 9th issue and the Nashua Reporter’s November 10th issue.

As a Veteran, if you would like to have your name or a family member’s name included on our Chickasaw County Veterans Honor Roll, please fill out the form below and return it to the New Hampton Tribune by October 20, 2023.

Please help us update our Chickasaw County Veterans Honor Roll by filling out and returning the attached form if your name did not appear in the New Hampton Tribune’s Veterans Tab.

Veterans Name

War Era

Branch of Service

Dates of Service

Submitted by

First

Middle Initial

Last

or Peacetime Service

Please return to:

New Hampton Tribune c/o Veteran’s Tab

801 Riverside Dr., Charles City, Iowa 50616

or email the above information to

accounting@nhtrib.com by October 20, 2023

Veterans Name

War Era

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By submitting the above name you are honoring a Chickasaw County Veteran that is from, has lived in or is currently living in Chickasaw County. Please use one form per Veteran.

Multi-tasking key skill for retiring Sheriff’s Office clerk

DONATION: FROM 1

deputies, the dispatchers. We’ve gone through a lot of things together over the years, and they’re always there for you. I’m excited, don’t get me wrong, for what’s next, but it’ll be hard to walk out of here for the last time.”

It won’t be easy for the folks she’s leaving behind either.

“I will say this, it’s going to be a real loss losing Barb,” Sheriff Ryan Shawver said during Monday’s Board of Supervisors meetings. “She’s been a great employee for so long, she’s just one of those people you know, no matter what, you can lean on every single time.”

And it all began because she needed to supplement her part-time job as a secretary at the New Hampton Police Department.

After graduating from Decorah High School in 1984, Hemesath attended Rochester Community College in Minnesota and received an associate of arts degree in accounting. She went to work for a leasing company in Decorah before moving into the telecommunications industry, ending up at MCI in Waterloo.

“And MCI went through a mess and I got laid off,” she said, “so I really needed a job.”

By that time, she had met and married Kurt Hemesath so when New Hampton Police Chief Mike Anderson offered her a job, she took it, and one day, then-Chickasaw County Sheriff Tom Bernatz was in the office.

“You know how Tom is, he comes in and says, ‘You want to come and work part-time for me?’ And I thought, why not?”

So in April 1993, she became a part-time dispatcher with the Sheriff’s Office and worked both jobs for several years before becoming a full-time dispatcher.

“It was a lot different then; I mean we wrote everything down in a notebook,” she said, “and trust me, it got a little crazy.”

She told the story of the day a tornado went through Nashua and she literally was on the radio for eight straight hours and the day there was a bad wreck on 18 and a car full of kids who had rolled their vehicle on Mission Avenue.

“One of the things you learned right away is to multi-task,” she said. “If you can’t multi-task, it’s just not going to work. Technology has helped, but it gets crazy back there, trust me on that.”

She and her husband raised three children — Eli, Austin and Katherine — and they did so working around a dispatcher’s schedule.

“We moved family celebrations, we moved birthdays, we moved a lot of things around,” Hemesath said. “I had one Christmas Eve where I worked 3 to 11 and then had to be back here at 7 [in the morning] on Christmas.”

So in 2009, she had, as she put it, “enough of



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Civil clerk Barb Hemesath sits at what will be her desk for just a little more than a week as she prepares to retire from the Chickasaw County Sheriff’s Office.

nights and weekends” and accepted then-Sheriff Marty Larsen’s offer to become the office’s civil clerk. For the past 14 years, she’s taken care of the serving of civil papers, gun permits and registering sex offenders.

“No one likes getting served,” she said, “but I’ve really tried to do my best for them. I don’t like going to their jobs; instead, I’d rather call them and say, ‘Hey, I got some papers for you.’ You know I think all the people here — from the deputies to the jailers to the dispatchers — they got into this to help people. And that’s kind of how I’ve looked at my jobs here. I just want to help people.”

And now Hemesath is off to a new chapter. After serving under six sheriffs — Bernatz, Bill Dean, Marty Larsen, Todd Miller, Marty Hemann and Shawver — she’s got retirement plans. She’s looking forward to more family time — with Kurt, with her three grown children and with her two grandchildren — but she’s not ready for the recliner quite yet.

“I’d like to get a part-time job, I’m not ready to be done done, you know?”

She paid for a moment and smiled.

“But Oct. 20 might be harder than I think. This has been a good place to work and it’s all because of the people here. Like I said, they’re family, and I think that’s why I’ve stayed all these years.”

Deadline to request absentee ballots by mail is Oct. 23

Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate is reminding eligible Iowans who would like to receive their ballot via mail to request their absentee ballots before the Oct. 23 deadline.

Written applications for mailed absentee ballots must be received by a voter’s local County Auditor’s Office no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 23.

All registered voters are eligible to make written requests for absentee ballots. Absentee

ballot request forms are available for download directly from the Iowa Secretary of State website, VoterReady.Iowa.gov. In-person absentee voting at the County Auditor’s office is available through Nov. 6.

N-P takes on Wapsie Valley for district title

FOOTBALL: FROM 10

Blanchard, Kalainoff's replacement at linebacker and tight end, had himself a game. He'll be counted on – more so than ever – the rest of the way for N-P, however long that is.

"He played a helluva game on defense," said Franzen. "He stepped up when his time was called upon."

Blanchard wasn't too bad on offense either as his score cemented the Husky victory – N-P up 26-6 at that point in the third quarter. Blanchard also hauled in a two-point pass in the first half.

"Devon Blanchard's right up there. He's one of the better kids on our team, too," said White. "He's a great player overall. He knew he had to step up and that's what he did. That's what we expect."

Christensen said it was a "next-man-in" mentality when Kalainoff – one of the Huskies' most skilled players – wasn't able to suit up.

"It was just next-man-in," said Christensen about Blanchard. "He was always the next guy in. He's on all of our special teams. He kind of went from not being a starter on offense or defense, to all of the sudden he's playing an entire game on Friday."

N-P junior Aiden Gelner recovered a muffed punt inside the Bearcat 10-yard-line right before half. On the very next play, Blanchard hooked up with his favorite target – Geise – for a seven-yard scoring strike.

Whether it's defense or offense – Geise is having a terrific senior season on both sides of the ball. He picked off a pass in the North Butler game and leads the team in receiving touchdowns (three).

"We've just been able to read the keys and make plays in the secondary. As far as offense, we've been playing together for how long?" said Geise about Franzen.

Franzen almost finished Geise's sentence.

"We always had that special connection knowing what we're going to do. We trust one another," said Franzen about Geise.

Gelner led the Huskies in rushing with 124 yards on 23 carries. He scored the game's first touchdown on a six-yard burst into the end zone.

Jackson Carey, a reliable back in his own right, pounded out 88 yards on 20 carries. He also found the end zone on a three-yard scamper to paydirt for the first score of the second half.

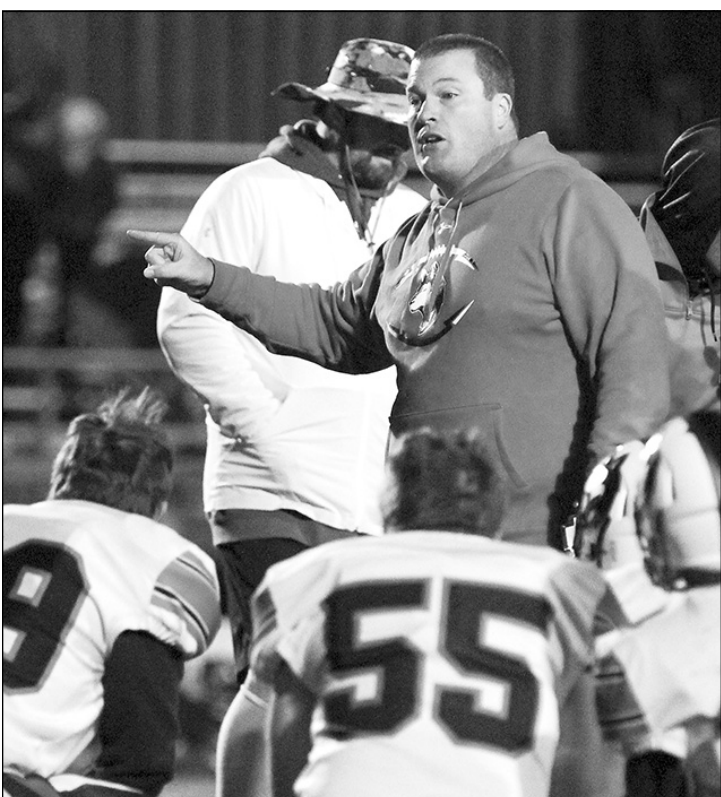
N-P will be happy to get Evans back. He's the team's leading rusher (835 yards) and helps wear down defenses in Christensen's Wing-T offense.

Evans is also one of the more athletically-gifted Husky athletes that is a ball hawk on defense at his linebacker spot.



Jenn Kalainoff

Landon Foelske and Jackson Carey team up to bring down North Butler's Tanner Arjes, and after the Huskies put the finishing touches on the win, proud coach Andrew Christensen (below) talks to his playoff-bound team.



Evans talked about putting on the green socks for his buddy – Kaden.

"That's why we wear them for, because everybody needs somebody out there," said Evans.

Wilken's presence and memory will surely be with the Huskies for the entirety of this season and beyond. N-P will look to vault into the playoffs with plenty of momentum and with the fallen former Husky standout on their minds. Their eyes will be zeroed in on a chance to secure a coveted district championship as well.

N-P (5-2, 4-1) has not locked up a district title since 2014 – when the Huskies went 10-2 overall and 6-0 in district play. The Huskies advanced to the quarterfinal round of the post-season that fall.

The task is tall for Nashua-Plainfield. Wapsie, 6-1 and 5-0 in the district, walloped N-P last fall in Fairbank by a score of 41-6. The previous season the Warriors shut out N-P, 12-0.

The Huskies haven't beaten Wapsie Valley since a 40-22 victory in the first round of the

2014 playoffs.

"To just kind of do things that most N-P teams haven't done – that's sometimes how you have to look at it," said Christensen. "You have a chance to control your own destiny now. You want it, you take it this Friday."

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 26, NORTH BUTLER 12									
NP	0	14	12	0	-	26			
NB	0	6	0	6	-	12			

SECOND QUARTER

NP - Aiden Gelner 6 run (run failed)
NB - Griffin Buss 3 pass from Brody Wangsness (kick failed)
NP - Trae Geise 7 pass from Tucker Franzen (Devon Blanchard pass from Tucker Franzen)

THIRD QUARTER

NP - Jackson Carey 3 run (run failed)
NP - Blanchard 46 pass from Franzen (pass failed)

FOURTH QUARTER

NB - Buss 15 pass from Wangsness (2 pt. play failed)

TEAM STATS

	NP	NB
Rushes-yards	47-215	13-7
Passing yards	80	122
Total yards	295	129
Att-Comp-Int	6-6-0	15-9-1

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD STATS

Rushing - Jackson Carey 20-88, Aiden Gelner 23-124, Tucker Franzen 2-3, Tate White 1-3, Hayden Munn 1-(-3).

Passing - Franzen 6-6-80.

Receiving - Trae Geise 3-17, Devon Blanchard 2-55, Matthew Malven 1-8.

Tackles - White 7.5, Geise 6.5, Tyler Zimmer 5, Carey 5, Aiden Sullivan 3, Isaac Jones 2, Dylan Blanchard 2, De. Blanchard 2, Jaxon McDonald 1.5, Munn 1, Karson Chyma 0.5, Gelner 0.5, Trent Rodruck 0.5.

Tackles for loss - White 2.5, Sullivan 1.5, McDonald 1, Jones 1.

Sacks - Sullivan 1, McDonald 1.

Fumble recoveries - White 1-0, McDonald 1-0.

Interceptions - Geise 1.

Kickoff returns - Geise 1-18, De. Blanchard 1-5, Landon Foelske 1-0.

Kickoffs - Carey 4-158, White 1-40.

Punts - White 3-98.

Huskies close regular season with a win over North Butler

VOLLEYBALL: FROM 10

control, so that is something we have to be efficient with," said Foelske.

Foelske said her squad has to communicate and execute better. Passing has been a learning process this year as well.

"We don't always have the best passes, but we need to make sure we are making good decisions with each pass and set to keep the ball in play," said the N-P coach.

N-P junior Paige Franzen led the Huskies in combined kills with 12 in the quad. Josslynn Glaser, another junior, notched 11 kills, followed by sophomores Lily Eiffler and Elayna O'Neill, who netted 10 kills apiece. O'Neill was the kill leader against North Butler with eight.

Kami Hannemann, N-P's sophomore setter, tallied 39 assists and was perfect serving (23-23).

Husky senior Jalyynn Pratt racked up 31 digs and Franzen came up with 27. Franzen was also perfect in the serving category (26-26).

HAMPTON-DUMONT-CAL 2, NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 0

Hampton-Dumont-CAL	25	25
Nashua-Plainfield	12	21

Kills - Josslynn Glaser 4, Lily Eiffler

3, Paige Franzen 2, Elayna O'Neill 2, Myranda Webster 1.

Assists - Kami Hannemann 11, Ava Kirk 1.

Digs - Jalyynn Pratt 8, Franzen 8, Eiffler 7, Hannemann 6, Kirk 2, Maci Malven 1, Webster 1, O'Neill 1.

Blocks - Webster 1, O'Neill 1.

Serving - Eiffler 5-5, Kirk 2-2, Pratt 3-3, Hannemann 8-8, Glaser 9-9, Franzen 9-9.

Aces - Eiffler 1, Glaser 1, Franzen 1.

1.

LAKE MILLS 2, NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 0

Lake Mills	25	25
Nashua-Plainfield	18	20

Kills - Eiffler 5, Franzen 5, Glaser

4, Webster 1, Kirk 1, Pratt 1.

Assists - Hannemann 12, Webster

1, Pratt 1, O'Neill 1.

Digs - Pratt 10, Franzen 9,

Hannemann 5, Kirk 4, O'Neill 2,

Malven 2, Eiffler 2, Webster 1.

Serving - Eiffler 6-6, Kirk 11-11,

Pratt 3-5, Hannemann 8-8, Glaser

4-5, Franzen 4-4.

Aces - Kirk 2, Eiffler 1, Pratt 1,

Hannemann 1.

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 2, NORTH BUTLER 0

Nashua-Plainfield	25	25
North Butler	23	22

Kills - O'Neill 8, Franzen 5, Glaser

3, Eiffler 2, Webster 2.

Assists - Hannemann 16, O'Neill

2, Franzen 1, Webster 1.

Digs - Pratt 13, Franzen 10, Kirk

5, Malven 4, Eiffler 4, Hannemann 3,

Webster 2, Glaser 1, O'Neill 1.

Serving - Eiffler 6-7, Kirk 9-10,

Pratt 1-2, Hannemann 7-7, Glaser

9-10, O'Neill 9-10, Franzen 13-13.

Aces - Franzen 3, Hannemann 2,

Glaser 2, O'Neill 2, Eiffler 1.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Josslyn Glaser takes a "swing" during the Huskies' win over West Fork last week.

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NASHUA-PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 MS/HS COMMONS 7:00 P.M.

Project.
4.Action Items
Motion by Cody Jensen, second by Lara Lawrence to approve the Bid for the Baseball/Softball Complex Construction with Peters Construction in the amount of \$3,279,444. Motion carried unanimously.
Laura Folkerts adjourned at 7:36 pm, seconded by Cody Jensen. Motion carried unanimously.
The next regular Board Meeting will be held Monday, October 9, 2023 at 7 pm in the MS/HS Commons.
Ashley Ratliff, SBO/Board Secretary, Nashua-Plainfield CSD
Pat Lentz, Board President, Nashua-Plainfield CSD

No.23330
10/13/23

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CHICKASAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES October 2, 2023

The Board convened on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. with members Breitbach, Suckow, Kuhn, Cerwinski, and Hackman present in the Boardroom and the 2nd floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa. Chairperson Kuhn called the meeting to order. Also present were Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Attorney David Laudner, Bob Fenske, member of the media, Kathy Shekleton, Custodian Dave Gorman, Bill Siglin.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Hackman to approve the agenda for October 2, 2023. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Cerwinski to amend September 18, 2023 minutes to reflect the "Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Cerwinski to acknowledge the part-time hire Dan Phil- lip as a paramedic at a wage of \$22.99 effective September 18, 2023. Roll call: Ayes: Breitbach, Cerwinski, Suckow, Kuhn Absent: Hackman " and published as amended. Roll Call: Ayes: Breitbach, Cerwinski, Suckow, Hackman, Kuhn. Motion Carried.

No public comment.

No. 23337
10/12/23 10/13/23

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Like aunt, like niece

New Hampton dentist loves being part of her aunt’s clinic

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Kayla Carrothers was all of 7 years old when her aunt, Kara Speltz, graduated from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, but her career path was set on that day.

“I told everyone I was going to be a dentist that day, just like Aunt Kara,”



Name

Carrothers said as she sat in her office at Boeding, Speltz and Wernimont Family Dentistry in New Hampton late last week, “and here I am. Seriously, I never really wavered from the plan, not through high school or college. This was my goal.”

And she achieved it this past spring, when she became Dr. Kayla Carrothers after graduating from the same college her aunt, friend and mentor had attended 20 years ago.

In June, she began working as a dentist at Boeding, Speltz and Wernimont. That part of the plan went a little awry.

“We had talked through the years that she should go out and explore the world,” Speltz said, “and then when I was ready to retire, at some point, she could buy me out.”

Some plans change, though, and the growing practice at Boeding, Speltz and Wernimont led to the hiring of Dr. Kayla sooner than expected.

“We were so busy, busy, busy, it had gotten a little crazy around here,” Speltz said. “If I was out, then Sara [Wernimont] was drowning and if Sara was gone for a week, same thing for me. We realized we could use another dentist.”

Speltz paused and laughed. “And I kind of knew one.” And Carrothers couldn’t be happier in New Hampton.

“I really do love it,” she said. “I was in Iowa City for eight years so it was a little different coming to a smaller town. But I grew up in a small town, and this is definitely more my style. The people here — in the office and outside the office — have been great and I think the University of Iowa, with their programs, really helped me hit the



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Dr. Kayla Carrothers (right) works with dental assistant Callie Speltz as they treat a patient at Boeding, Speltz and Wernimont Family Dentistry last week.

ground running so to speak.”

Carrothers graduated from North Linn High School in 2015 and then headed a half-hour south to Iowa City, first for her undergraduate studies and then for her four years of dental school.

What she appreciated the most about Iowa was the fact that over the course of the last two years, she spent what seemed like countless hours in a dental clinic.

“The experiences we got — from early on practicing on mannequins to all the chances to work with patients at the clinic — really were so beneficial,” she said. “It was almost seamless to start working here.”

And while Carrothers thrived in dental school, she also had a proverbial ace tucked away.

“Kara and I have always been close,” she said, “but you know, if I had a question about this or that, it was so nice to know I could turn to her. She’s not just a great dentist, but she’s one of my best friends, too. To be able to work with her, it’s a dream come true.”

Speltz laughed when asked if she relived some of her dental school experiences through her niece.

“COVID made a mess of everything,” she said, “and Kayla came up to see us the weekend before it shut everything down. She still had class but everything was online so she came up here with an overnight bag and stayed for four weeks. It was wonderful, although I remember telling her I was glad I didn’t have to study as much as she

did during those four weeks.”

Carrothers had plenty of chances to become a “specialist,” if you will, but general dentistry was always her aim. She likes the variety — from the different kinds of work she performs each day to the different ages of patients she sees.

“No two days are alike,” she said, “and I love that.”

And in her first 4 1/2 months as Dr. Kayla, she’s seen a lot. Some patients can’t wait to see her; others, well she has long known that the phobias some have when it comes to dentists are real.

“Some people want you to tell them every single thing you’re doing,” she said, “and some people just want you to tell them when you’re done.”

She paused and laughed.

“I tell people we’re really not scary people, but I’m not sure everyone believes me. Seriously, though, we’re here to help people, to give them a great smile and sometimes to take the pain away. I love doing root canals. OK, I know that sounds weird, but usually if you need a root canal, you’re in pain. So the fact that we’re saving a tooth and we’re taking that pain away, that’s pretty special.”

Her aunt and co-worker thinks her niece is pretty special.

“She’s been amazing,” Speltz said. “She’s not nervous, she has great interactions with her patients, and I know she’s my niece, but even if she wasn’t, I would tell you we hit the jackpot with Dr. Kayla.”

Conservation Board OKs new dock for Airport Lake

Director tells supervisors handicap-accessible dock will go in this fall, also tells supervisors camping season one of best ever

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Chad Humpal has longed dreamed of seeing a new handicap-accessible dock in the water at Airport Lake Park.

The dream is about to become a reality for the Chickasaw County Conservation Board director.

During his department update at Monday’s Board of Supervisors meeting, Humpal said the Conservation Board last week approved spending a little more than \$19,200 to purchase the dock and that it should be installed by the end of this month.

“I’m really excited because I think it’s going to add to what already is a great park,” he said. “It’s going to be a great addition not only for the people who use the campground but also for those who are just going out to the park for a day.”

Humpal also shared information about the almost-completed camping season, one of the best ever for the Conservation Board.

He said that through this

past weekend, the Conservation Board has collected \$56,775 in camping revenue since the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

Chickasaw County tracks camping revenue not by the calendar year but by the fiscal year, which doesn’t end until June 30.

“But that total would be our fourth-best fiscal year ever,” Humpal said, “so I think it shows you that we’re doing a lot of the right things. We have great camp hosts. They’re certainly a big part of this, too.” He said this upcoming weekend will be the last in which the campground will be open at Split Rock Park, which is located near Fredericksburg.

But Humpal said that, if the weather cooperates, he hopes to be able to keep Airport Lake Park open through the end of the month.

Several employees who are helping build the Chickasaw Wind Farm are using the park’s new seasonal campgrounds.

“They’d like us to stay open to the end of the year,” Humpal said, “but our water permit only goes through Oct. 31.”

ISU Extension to hold turfgrass applicators course Nov. 8

Iowa State University and Outreach Chickasaw County office will host an Ornamental and Turfgrass Applicators Continuing Instruction Course (CIC) for commercial pesticide applicators Wednesday, Nov. 8. The program provided by the ISU Extension and Outreach Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) can be seen at office locations across Iowa.

The local attendance site is the Chickasaw County Extension Office at 115 N. Broadway Ave, New Hampton. Preregistration may be required. Walk-ins are not guaranteed admission. The course runs from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$45 on or before Nov. 1 and \$55 after Nov. 1 To register or to obtain additional information about the CIC, contact Lynn Bruess at the ISU Extension and Outreach Chickasaw County office at 641-394-2174.

Additional information and registration forms for this and other courses being offered by the PSEP team can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/psep.



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Cooking takes center stage during Fire Prevention Week

‘Cooking Safety Starts with You’ theme of this year’s Fire Prevention Week

Chickasaw County fire departments are teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week (FPW) for more than 100 years — to promote this year’s FPW campaign, “Cooking Safety Starts with YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention.”

The campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take when cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths.

“Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. “These numbers tell us that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking.”

Fire departments encourage all residents to embrace the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme.

Area firefighters offers these key safety tips to help reduce the risk of a cooking fire.

- Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Have a “kid- and pet-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

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Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. Stand by your pan. If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.

Learn more about cooking safety at fpw.org

Our firefighters are ready to answer the call at any time of the day

FIREFIGHTERS: FROM 9

at a family holiday event or celebrating your kid’s birthday, you firefighters go. It doesn’t matter if it’s high noon or 3 o’clock in the dead of morning, you go. It doesn’t matter if it’s a routine — if there is such a thing — carbon monoxide call or a burning home, you go.

And you, the ones that love these firefighters, you accept that they’re going to go. You support your firefighter, no matter how difficult it is to watch them head out the door.

Thank you doesn’t seem to be enough, but it’s all I’ve got. It’s all most of us have.

I grew up in a small town in Minnesota, and for much of my life, I’ve lived in small cities that don’t have a “paid” fire department. Save for a few years in Mankato, Minnesota, and Mason City, I’ve resided in towns that are protected by volunteer fire departments.

And don’t get me wrong, I appreciate those firefighters in the big cities who go to work at the fire station day after day.

One of my favorite fire department stories took place in Mason City, where I spent

four hours one Christmas with a company of firefighters. They had set out gear for me, and if a call came, I was going to get to ride in a truck to wherever they were going.

I was, to put it mildly, excited. I may have been 33 years old at the time, but the truth of the matter is I was still a little boy at heart. Go ahead, insert the joke here because I know 25 years later, I’m still more boy than man.

Now, I’m not a complete jackwad, I just wanted something small — like a carbon monoxide scare that didn’t materialize into anything. I just wanted to ride in the damn fire truck.

Four hours went by and not a single page went off. My future wife and mother of my boys, along with her family, beckoned so I reluctantly headed to Manly for a Christmas celebration. I swear I wasn’t more than four blocks from the Mason City Fire Department when I heard the sirens blaring. I missed out on my fire truck ride by a matter of minutes.

Eight hours later, I returned to the station to gather the

daily reports, and the firefighters had been on nine calls.

Are you kidding me? I jotted down the reports in my notebook and got ready to leave and the captain, a guy named Kurt Morud, asked me where I was going?

"You're our good luck charm," he said with a laugh. "With you here, we could get a decent night's sleep."

Still, as much as I appreciated those guys, the volunteers that are listed at the start of

this column are even more special.

They come from all walks of life, they give up countless hours training and they answer the calls in the middle of the night even though they know they have a full day’s work ahead of them in just a few hours.

Why do they do it? Because they care about their communities, and that’s pretty dang special. So to all of you, I’ll say it one more. Thank you.

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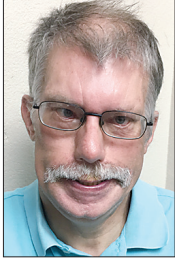
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This week is Fire Prevention Week and it's only fitting to start this column with a host of thank yous.

So here we go:
Thank you, members of the Nashua Fire Department — Rick Sinnwell, Steve Sudol, Kent Olsen, Tom Johnson, Jake Johnson, Kevin Zwanziger, Boe Browns, Josh Sinnwell, Jesse Brown, Terry Hillesheim, Caleb Wilken, Darin Dietz, Kyle Lane, Chad Nelson, Nick Henningsen, Kurt Nelson, Dan Miller, Mike Hannemann, Shea Gerber, Don Fisher, Griffin Poppe, Chad Sudol, Devin Auchstetter, Brian Bilharz, Jason Fisher, Josh Caster, Zade McCall, Dannon Mohs, Shane Hillesheim, Ian Johnson, Tyler Sedivy, Collin Sudol and Abe Karls.



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

Thank you, members of the Plainfield Fire Department

Larry Poppe, Bruce White, Steve Koob, Ralph White, Gary Carpenter, Tom Poppe, Don Franzen, Tim Meeker, Gareld Carpenter, Lee Williamson, Pat Lentz, Evan Wagner, Curt Lechtenberg, Tim Franzen, John Iriarte, Blake Franzen, Kurt Bond, Kyle Ohrt, Clayton Wilken, Taylor Wedeking, Kaitlen Leiran, Alex Sowle and Zack Bark.

And thank you, too, to your parents, your spouses, your significant others, your kids and everyone else who loves and cares about you.

There is, in my opinion, no more noble thing you can do for your community than to be a volunteer firefighter.

Seriously, if you'll pardon the cliché, at a drop of a hat, our firefighters will rush out the door, race to the fire station, hop on to a truck and be willing to face danger. It might be a burning structure. It might be at an accident scene on a highway where motorists for some inexplicable reason don't have the sense to slow down for an accident scene.

It doesn't matter if you're
SEE FIREFIGHTERS, 8



Members of the Nashua Fire Department (above) pose for a picture while Plainfield Fire and Rescue vehicles (below) lead the annual Plainfield Days Parade.



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Huck takes second at conference meet run in tough conditions

Nashua-Plainfield's cross country teams joined the rest of the Top of Iowa Conference squads to run in the muck at the annual conference meet Thursday, and there was no doubt that the pitiful conditions did a number on times.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter
Nashua-Plainfield's Kadence Huck competes at last week's New Hampton Invitational

The Huskies, as usual, were led by Kadence Huck, who earned all-conference honors for a third consecutive year with a second-place finish in a time of 20:32.72.

Huck's runner-up finish led the Huskies to a ninth-place finish in the team standings as Ellie Eick (37th), Jalissa White (39th), Amberley Gerholdt (66th) and Marleigh Lowe (83rd) rounded out

the Nashua-Plainfield scorers.

The boys, meanwhile, were without two of their top runners — Jase Hansen and Caleb Sinnwell — and finished 11th in the team standings. Luke Paplow led the Huskies with a 49th-place finish, one spot ahead of Avery Mueller. Rounding out the Husky scorers were Jake Smith (53rd), Caleb Lentz (80th) and Cal Levi (81st).

Nashua-Plainfield will now have a week to prepare for the Class 1A state qualifying meet that will be held in Manly on Thursday.

GIRLS TEAM RESULTS

Forest City 57, North Iowa 77, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura 110, Central Springs 128, Osage 133, Mason City Newman 137, North Iowa 162, St. Ansgar 177, Nashua-Plainfield 189, West Hancock 264, Lake Mills 274.

Individual winner - Addison Voelker (North Butler) 20:19.83.

Nashua-Plainfield results - 2. Kadence Huck 20:32.72, 37. Ellie Eick 24:40.9, 39. Jalissa White 24:47.07, 66. Amberley Gerholdt 26:45.34, 83. Marleigh Lowe 29:10.12, 87. Emma O'Neill 30:10.71, 89. Lexi Weiss 30:48.05.

JV result - 22. Bailey Bond 33:30.50.

BOYS TEAM RESULTS

Lake Mills 46, Forest City 56, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura 72, North Butler 143, Eagle Grove 168, Central Springs 202, Osage 204, North Iowa 206, Mason City Newman 244, West Fork 284, Nashua-Plainfield 307, North Union 332, Belmond-Klemme 350, West Hancock 350, Algona Garrigan 440.

Individual winner - Justin Rygh (LM) 17:21.45.

Nashua-Plainfield results - 49. Luke Paplow 21:13.94, 50. Avery Mueller 21:14.15, 53. Jake Smith 21:24.32, 80. Caleb Lentz 22:13.54, 81. Cal Levi 22:14.01, 83. Connor Sullivan 22:21.20, 86. Brexton Bird 22:36.51.

JV results - 27. Sam O'Neill 23:44.74, 31. Brady Lensing 24:45.28, 40. Benjamin Percy 26:25.01, 41. Maverick Dietz-McDonald 26:25.01, 44. Carson Mundorf 27:02.53, 48. Christopher Kalvig 28:41.65, 49. Nick Hulbert 30:41.12.



Jenn Kalainoff
Nashua-Plainfield players (above) celebrate an emotional win over their rivals from North Butler while Trae Geise (below) fights for extra yardage during the Huskies' victory that wrapped up a playoff bid for Nashua-Plainfield.

AN EMOTIONAL PLAYOFF CLINCHER

HUSKIES REMEMBER THEIR FRIEND AND FORMER TEAMMATE IN 26-12 VICTORY OVER NORTH BUTLER

By KELLY TERPSTRA
Of the Reporter

If just for a moment, the darkness and despair of losing a friend and teammate seemed to dissipate — at least for four quarters.

The biggest win of the season thus far for the Nashua-Plainfield football team meant a whole lot more than just a playoff berth last Friday night in Greene for these postseason-bound Huskies.

The emotional victory helped heal a community that is still reeling after the loss of a loved one that was near and dear to the Husky family.

The Huskies and the towns of Nashua and Plainfield found solace in the 26-12 N-P victory over rival North Butler. The win guaranteed N-P a playoff game for the third-consecutive season and more importantly — helped a football team mend after the loss of 2023 N-P grad Kaden Wilken, who passed away a couple of weeks ago.

The grieving process is never easy when someone close to your heart is no longer around. That's one of reasons the Huskies incorporated a little brightness in their uniforms that didn't include the school colors — black and red.

N-P wore green socks — that lime green color being the international symbol of mental health awareness. They also wore the neon green hue to remember Kaden.

"It's just one of those things to hopefully highlight, if you're needing help — reach out to somebody. It doesn't matter if you're eight or 80. People can deal with mental health and you don't have to fight it alone," said Andrew Christensen, N-P's head football coach for the past four seasons.

Family, friends, community members and those that got to know Wilken will mourn his loss this morning (Friday) at a funeral service at 10:30 a.m. in the Husky gymnasium in Nashua.

Wilken was an all-district performer out on the football gridiron for Christensen's Huskies his junior year. He also excelled as a state hurdler and was a starter on



Levi Miller's Husky baseball team. Wilken was a key member of Al Frost's third-place N-P wrestling squad that brought home a third-place team trophy from the traditional and dual state tournaments this past winter.

The four-sport star was more than just an outstanding athlete — he was a son, brother, grandson and friend to many.

N-P's leading tackler and all-state guard/linebacker — Tate White — discussed the pain and heartache of losing a friend that he grew up with and shared in many memorable moments.

"I feel like the whole situation is terrible," said White. "I feel like we all kind of came together and this made us closer. We felt as one."

White, older brother Drew Wilken and Trey Nelson, along with Tucker Franzen, Trae Geise, Titus Evans, Karson Chyma and Aiden Hector are Kaden's pallbearers at his funeral.

al. Jacob Sievers, a 2022 N-P grad who passed away in November of '22, is honorary pallbearer.

Franzen is N-P's starting quarterback and was perfect from the pocket against North Butler (5-2, 3-2). He was 6-6 passing and threw two touchdowns — a seven-yarder to Geise and a 46-yarder to sophomore Devon Blanchard to complete the Huskies' scoring.

N-P was without two of its key starters in sophomore outside linebacker/tight end Eli Kalainoff — who broke an ankle versus South Winneshiek and is out for the season — and Evans, who did not play because of personal reasons.

Evans was Kaden's best friend. "In the moment, I just didn't think my head was in the right place to be on the football field," said Evans. "I just needed to get my head screwed on straight before I started coming back and competing."

Neon green was definitely

Class A, District 3 Football

	Dist.	All
Wapsie Valley	5-0	6-1
Nashua-Plainfield	4-1	5-2
North Butler	3-2	5-2
South Winneshiek	3-2	4-3
North Tama	2-4	3-4
AGWSR	1-4	2-5
BCLUW	0-5	0-7

FRIDAY, OCT. 6, RESULTS

Nashua-Plainfield 26, North Butler 12
Wapsie Valley 50, BCLUW 8
South Winneshiek 34, North Tama 28

AGWSR 41, Belmond-Klemme 0

THURSDAY, OCT. 12, GAME

BCLUW at South Winneshiek

FRIDAY, OCT. 13, GAMES

Wapsie Valley at Nashua-Plainfield
North Butler at AGWSR
North Mahaska at North Tama

omni-present during the football contest against the Bearcats, who managed just seven yards rushing against the Huskies' stout defense.

"We wore the green socks for Kaden, obviously. The green represents male's mental health and awareness," said Franzen. "We wore the neon green socks in honor of him. We've got to all come together as one as a community and battle through it."

Franzen — who is also tied with Geise for the team lead in interceptions (three) — said they'll wear the bright green socks again in the regular season finale at home tonight (Friday) versus sixth-ranked Wapsie Valley.

The district title is on the line.

"This team — they should be pretty hungry to go for a district title," said Christensen. "I just like the grit and determination of our team. The South Winn week — that was a rough week in general. I don't think we've had a normal week all year, but last week seemed a tiny bit more normal. We were a little more confident."

SEE FOOTBALL, 5

ON TAP FOR OUR NASHUA-PLAINFIELD HUSKIES

FRIDAY
Varsity football vs. Wapsie Valley, Senior Night, 7 p.m.

MONDAY
Junior varsity football vs. Wapsie Valley, 6 p.m.
Varsity volleyball at Dunkerton, Class 1A first-round regional, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
Varsity volleyball vs. Starmont or Lansing Kee, Class 1A regional quarterfinal, if qualified, Arlington, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY
Cross country at Class 1A state qualifier, Pioneer Town and Country Club, Manly, 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCT. 20
Varsity football in Class A state playoffs, site and opponent to be announced Saturday, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, OCT. 23
Varsity volleyball in Class 1A regional semifinal, if qualified, Janesville, 7 p.m.

A circular logo featuring a stylized husky head in profile, facing right.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter
Nashua-Plainfield Kami Hannemann "saves" a ball for the Huskies during their victory over West Fork last week.

Huskies gear up for postseason

Nashua-Plainfield picks up a win at home quad, start regional Monday

By KELLY TERPSTRA
Of the Reporter

The Nashua-Plainfield volleyball team ended the regular season with a win on Tuesday night.

That was important.

Now granted, the Huskies and head coach Mindy Foelske lost two prior matches in that quad that featured Hampton-Dumont-CAL, Lake Mills and North Butler.

But the Huskies beat the Bearcats — for the second time this season.

That victory over North Butler (10-17) can obviously be beneficial as N-P will look to carry that winning momentum into a Class 1A, Region 6 opening-round matchup at Dunkerton (15-16) on Monday.

Nashua-Plainfield (6-16) concluded the regular season portion of its schedule with the two-set sweep over North

Butler — 25-23 and 25-22. The Huskies also topped NB in a thrilling five-set TIC tilt back in September on the Bearcats' home floor — 25-23, 25-22, 24-26, 22-25 and 16-14.

N-P and North Butler played to a three-way tie with Rockford for fifth place in the Top of Iowa East Conference. Each school finished with 3-5 league marks.

N-P lost to Lake Mills (22-8) — a second-place finisher in the Top of Iowa West — by scores of 25-18 and 25-20.

Hampton-Dumont-CAL (10-22) — sixth-ranked New Hampton's opponent in the opening round of Class 3A postseason play on Tuesday — topped the Huskies 25-12, 25-21.

Foelske felt that if her Huskies can play like they did in a loss with Lake Mills — they'll have a shot at taking down the Raiders on the road in that regional elimination game.

"I think if we come into that match playing like we played against Lake Mills and are aggressive at the net we can come out on top, but it will take a team effort," said Foelske, in her third year as N-P head coach.

Overall, Foelske said N-P did a better job after the loss to HDC.

"We came out very flat with not a lot of energy. As the night progressed we found some consistency and energy. We again struggle to do the little things and let go of mistakes. We let one mistake turn into five or six points, which makes it hard to win," said Foelske.

On a bright note, N-P was 36-36 serving against HDC and generated 10 aces against the Bearcats.

"Serving is a strength and something completely in our

SEE VOLLEYBALL, 5