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Nashua REPORTER

N-P finally gets chance to take the course
 Page 8



Vol. 117, Issue 14 Friday, April 5, 2024 Nashua, IA 50658 • 75 cents

Supervisors trim tax-asking a bit

Board reduces GS levy, drops tax-asking increase from 18.95 percent to 15.89 percent

By BOB FENSKE
 Of the Reporter

It wasn't the 75 percent decrease to the tax-asking increase that one Chickasaw County resident implored the Board of Supervisors to make, but county leaders on Monday did trim a little off the tax-asking it will make for the fiscal year that begins on July 1.

Board members received an earful about the 18.95 percent jump in tax-asking during a public hearing held last Wednesday, and five days later, they massaged the numbers a bit and dropped the increase to 15.89 percent.
 "That tax asking was \$3,040,088 when I left 14 years ago and now you're well over \$6 million," said Arnie Boge, the Nashua-area resi-

dent who served on the board for 24 years. "Try to work back through this process and have some trimming done and try to trim 75 percent of this tax-asking out of your budget. And then set a levy and then let your department heads manage their budgets because they'll work with you."
 Boge was one of about 50 residents who attended last week's

public hearing that was held in the courthouse courtroom, and almost to a person, they expressed opposition to the proposed maximum levy board members brought to the meeting.
 On Monday, though, board members did drop
SEE COUNTY BUDGET, 4

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Nashua-area children show that they may just be future track stars as they sprint onto the Husky Wellness Center floor at the beginning of the annual Easter Egg Hunt that was put on by the Nashua Women of Today this past Saturday and included a visit by the Easter Bunny.
See MORE PHOTOS, Page 2

Residents are not fans of removing four-way stop sign

Mayor says Nashuans need to do better job of communicating with city leaders

By KELLY TERPSTRA
 Of the Reporter

The Nashua City Council meeting that took place last Monday was a potpourri of sorts that included several agenda items and topics of discussion that affect the citizens of the town known for its Little Brown Church and Cedar Lake.

Nashua Mayor Hal Kelleher addressed those in attendance early on in the meeting with a plea for citizens to open up the lines of communication with city leaders in an effort to better understand each other and come up with the best solutions for the town.

"Both us – let's work harder in getting information back and forth. We really need to do that. If we don't get feedback from you, we have to depend on what information we have to make a decision and move forward," said Kelleher.

One such discussion to end the evening brought forth much banter and was an emotional topic for citizens in attendance and the Council.

The talk centered around the city's decision at a meeting last month to remove the four-way stop sign at Lexington Avenue and Greeley and place two new four-way stop signs on Panama Street at the intersections of Andrews St. and Greeley St.

Citizens of Nashua will have two new places in town to use their vehicle's brakes and halt at those two new stop signs that will be placed on Panama Street – north of Nashua-Plainfield High School.

The removal of the four-way stop sign on Lexington and Greeley didn't sit well with Nashua resident Christie Mason, who started a petition signed by 39 individuals to bring back the old four-way stop sign.

Mason said she had a child hit by a vehicle at that intersection a year-and-a-half ago and would like the city to reconsider its decision to remove the four-way stop sign – a block north-east of the N-P High School.

"There can be stop signs along all the other side streets – why not on the busiest spot where so many different kids cross?" said Mason. "My kids have adjusted their ways. My son, who was hit, watched another couple of kids almost get hit last week because they didn't listen to their parents."

Mason discussed the city's decision to add the two four-way stop signs, which had an intended purpose of creating a safe school route to both the high school and elementary school – which sits three blocks west near the intersection of Merrill and Panama streets.

"I know the issue was the speed by the school."
SEE CITY COUNCIL, 5

A rite of the Saturday before Easter!



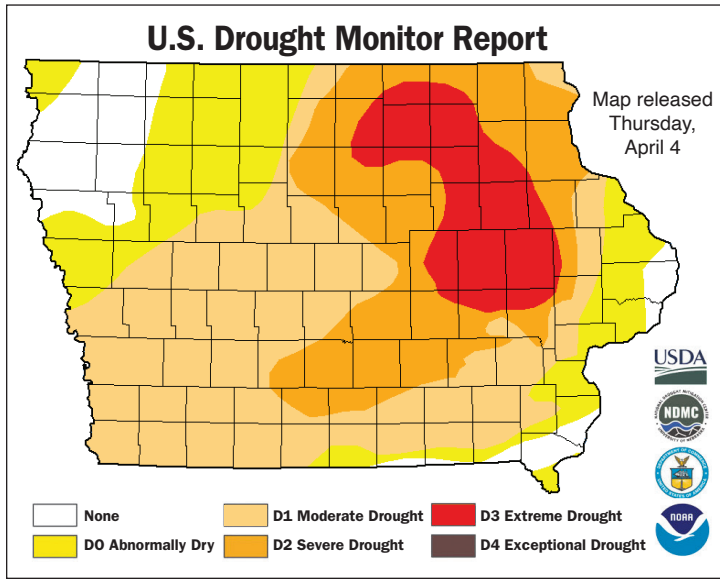
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture gives area counties disaster declaration

By BOB STEENSON
 bsteenson@charlescitypress.com

Because of the ongoing drought in eastern Iowa, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has declared 24 Iowa counties including Floyd and Chickasaw counties as natural disaster areas.

The proclamation sent to Gov. Kim Reynolds earlier this week makes farmers in those counties and contiguous counties eligible to apply for emergency assistance, Vilsack's letter

says.
 The designated counties include Chickasaw and the surrounding counties of Bremer, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Howard and Mitchell counties, along with 33 other primary or contiguous counties. The designation enables farmers in these areas to apply for emergency loan assistance provided by the Farm Service Agency, if they meet eligibility criteria.
SEE DROUGHT, 4



N-P students will explore history on major field trip

Grant, fundraising efforts will help send 32 students to Gettysburg and Washington, D.C.

By BOB FENSKE
 Of the Reporter

There are field trips and then there are field trips.

The one 32 Nashua-Plainfield students will embark on next week is most definitely the latter as they will depart next Wednesday morning for a whirlwind tour of Gettysburg and Washington, D.C.
 "This has really been a couple

of years in the making," said Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Kayla Wolf, who, along with fellow fifth-grade instructor Shelley Lehman, will lead the field trip that includes a day at one of the most famous Civil War battlefields and two days in Washington. "I teach reading, writing and social studies, and
SEE FIELD TRIP, 3



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Snapshots from a fast event!

Maizlie Sinnwell doesn't seem to sure about sitting on the Easter Bunny's lap while her older siblings, Dominick and Coraline, patiently wait for mom to finish her picture taking during the annual Nashua Women of Today Easter Egg Hunt, which as Reporter photographer Kelly Terpstra was reminded, is always an event that flies by because let's face it, kiddos will gladly pick up candy and Easter eggs much quicker than say they'll pick up their rooms!



Supervisors get update on V18 project, approve two proclamations

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

The rain and snow that fell early this

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week may have slowed down some of the work that could be done on a major Chickasaw County road project, but if all goes well, road construction workers may begin paving work on V18 as early as this coming Monday.

County Engineer Roman Lensing told the Board of Supervisors Monday during a department update that Croell Inc. officials indicated that they would finish the removal of the pavement that makes up an 8.6-mile stretch from Highway 18 north to the city limits of Alta Vista.

He said that means new pavement could be poured next week for the \$4.22 million project that includes a concrete overlay and about 2,600 feet of total road reconstruction in North Washington.

“Concrete in early April is pretty cool, in my opinion,” Lensing said.

He also told the Board of Supervisors that the county will be able to have more LED flashing stop signs than he originally figured.

The county had received a grant for up to \$90,000 to install the stop signs, but when the bids for the “flashing” stop signs were opened, the low bid came in at just under \$66,000.

In early March, Lensing told board members that “in hindsight, I wish we would have added more locations but that’s too late to do.”

That turned out to not be the case, for Lensing reached out to officials who administered the grant and asked if there was any chance for the county to add several locations and he got the go-ahead to get more signs without affecting the county’s Secondary Roads budget.

Also on Monday, the Board of Supervisors voted to adopt two proclamations for the month of April.

After Riverview Center officials made the request, board members approved designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

A few minutes later, after hearing from volunteers with the Chickasaw County Child Abuse Prevention Council, board members voted to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The big 5-0 is right around the corner for this guy

I may not look like I’m going to turn half a century old next month, but I am.

Trust me, I’m not counting down the days. In case you didn’t know, now you know. Just an FYI, a flyer or a memo that you can pass along to whomever – or not.

I know you didn’t ask, but I’m telling you anyway. Why, you may ask? Because I think it’s a big deal or at least worth mentioning in a column.

I don’t generally shy away from talking about my age, weight, or given mood on any day of the week. I tend to be up front and typically honest to a fault. Now I wouldn’t say I’m a wide open book when it comes to past transgressions or previous accomplishments that have occurred in my teens, 20s, 30s or 40s – but I’m usually forthright depending on the context and circumstance.

Heck, I even remember a coloring contest I won back when I was eight or nine years old at the library where I grew up. I also remember getting in trouble by my parents quite a bit for goofing off in Sunday School at church.

And yes, I was sent to the principal’s office on more than one occasion in junior high and a few times in high school as well.

See, I told you that.

I’ve been shone in a bad light and a good one before. I think I can take the criticism or the light-hearted ribbing. (That was a joke, kind of).

I tend to not hide secrets – no matter how large or small they are or how damaging or flattering they will make me look to someone.

Now before I dive deep into some psychoanalysis of myself, I will say this – I’m running out of real estate.

Soon – God willing – my 40s will be in the rear-view mirror and the terrain I will navigate will be on the back side of my life. That’s numerically speaking.

Simply put, and I’m not trying to freak people out or get morbid – but I’m closer to death now and have been for quite some time than I was, say 10 years ago.

I’m not sick, nor do I have a disease (that I know of), but I highly doubt I’m gonna live to 90 or 100 years of age considering my lifestyle choices.

But no one ever knows when our number will be called.

I’m just thankful – to be brutally honest – that I have made it this far and to 49 years of age. Because anybody that knows me well, may have questioned that over the years.

Fifty, like a lot of people feel, has always been a big number for me. Passing 40 years of age wasn’t a big deal to me, but 50, yeah, this one’s gonna sting a little bit and has for the last few years if I just want to cut right to the chase.

In no way am I saying I’m old – my mother is 81 years young and gets around fine – but my bones have creaked a little more in the last five years. Peeling out of bed can be a chore in the morning when it would feel a lot better to just lay there and do nothing.

People have told me I look younger than what is actually listed on my birth certificate.

I guess it’s because I have somewhat of a baby face, because it’s sure not from clean living and eating healthy.

Let’s just say I tend to not watch what I eat – or drink for that matter.

Is there some trepidation on hitting the big 5-0?

Didn’t we touch on this earlier?

The answer is kind of – because I’m kind of wavering on the subject. The more that I think about it (I can also be a little wishy-washy at times and change my mind frequently) 50 years of age is just a number.

I’m not playing devil’s advocate here or trying to argue with myself – but you’re only as old as you feel, right?

I guess.

I feel fortunate enough to be pushing 50, because based on the research I’ve done in the last hour or so – I’m lucky to have been born in the last century or so and not back in say, 1820.

My online “investigation” found human beings lived to an average of just 26 years of age back 200 years ago. At the start of the 20th Century in 1900 that life span jumped up to 31 years across the world. It was only 49 years – the same age I am now – as most recently as 1950.

I’m not taking anything away from anybody that was born in that time period, as obviously they’re not here on this planet anymore to defend themselves about how the world was much more cruel in terms of life expectancy at birth. Obviously modern medicine has made startling advances in the last couple centuries.

Maybe I could contact their long-lost relatives or ancestors?

I think I’ll pass on that one.

My columns have and never will be potshots at a particular group or generation – although I can typically rant and rave on certain topics with the best of them, or at a bare minimum – hold my own.

Life expectancy in the United States is, I believe around 77 or 78 years of age in the present day. Pre-pandemic it was almost 79 years. In Canada, Sweden, Australia or France, it’s over 82!!!

And to that I say, bon appétit!!!

Eat that croissant or that entrée en route to your encore opening of your café as your chauffeur drives you to your nearest cul-de-sac (Get it? They’re all French words – ha, ha).

Segway.

Don’t think great things can’t be accomplished past the age of 50. Just look at Betty White, who first found substantial stardom in the 1970s past the age of 50.

Colonel Sanders (Harland Sanders) started KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) at 65 years of age and famed astronaut John Glenn went to space at 77 years young.

Julia Child began her first PBS cooking show – “The French Chef” – at 51 in 1963. It was one of the first cooking shows on American television at the time.

Ray Kroc bought a burger and fries business, which later became the modern day McDonald’s, in his late 50s in 1961. He would later go on to purchase the San Diego Padres ball club in 1974.

United States President Ronald Reagan entered politics at the age of 55 after first becoming a movie star.

It is possible, people.

Now those are famous people, but the point is life doesn’t have to end or slow down at 50 – for some of us it’s just getting started.

I don’t plan on having any big birthday celebration to mark this “historic” moment in my life and my brother or mother better not have any plans up his sleeve, either, and plan some extravagant surprise party.

Cake and ice cream is just fine with me and maybe a few presents to unwrap.

I’m headed down to celebrate Easter this weekend with my immediate family – my mother, older brother, his wife, their two kids and my two grandnephews and a grandniece.

We weren’t able to all get together and celebrate Easter last weekend. Part of the “festivities” we’ll undertake will of course be an Easter Egg hunt for the kiddos and probably coloring some eggs like we did last year.

Then we’ll find time to cruise on over to my hometown where I grew up to celebrate my aunt’s 90th birthday.

Now that’s a birthday I can look forward to!!!



Kelly Terpstra is the Reporter's sports editor who also enjoys writing columns on different subjects. He can be reached by email at sports@nhtrib.com.

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Now that’s a birthday I can look forward to!!!

Eight county high school seniors receive Farm Bureau scholarships

Special to the Reporter

The Chickasaw County Farm Bureau announced the names of eight students that were selected to receive \$500 scholarships to further their academic careers.

Applicants were selected based on academic standing, leadership experience, civic involvement and their commitment to rural Iowa and the agricultural community.

• Brooke Balk is the daughter of Dan and Katherine Balk of Waucoma. She is planning to attend Hawkeye Community College to study Ultrasound Tech or Radiation Tech. She is active in many extracurricular activities including FFA, 4-H and boys basketball manager.

• Tori Bearman is the daughter of Billy and Jennifer Bearman of New Hampton. She is planning to attend South Dakota State University to study Nursing. She is active in many extracurricular activities including FFA, Yearbook, Interact Club, Penpal Program, Letterettes, Trapshooting, Boys Wrestling Manager, National Honor Society, 2023 Chickasaw County Fair Queen.

• Grace Maloy is the daughter of Shanon Maloy of Ionia. She is planning to attend Iowa State University to study Agricultural Business and Horticulture. She is active in many extracurricular activities including FFA, Trapshooting, Yearbook, Interact Club, Letterettes, National Honors Society, Student Senate and ELP.

• Emma O'Neill is the daughter of

ter of Dave and Carmen O'Neill of Nashua. She is planning to attend South Dakota State University to study Environmental Science. She is active in many extracurricular activities including FFA, National Honor Society, Student Council, HLT, Band, Speech, Girl Scouts, FCCLA, Cross County, Swim team and Dance Team.

• Leander Reicks is the son of Carl and Kristen Reicks of New Hampton. He is planning to attend North Iowa Area Community College to study Agriculture Operations Management. He is active in many extracurricular activities including FFA, National Honor Society, Football, Wrestling, Large Group Speech, Letterman, Future Business Leaders of America and Student Senate.

• Ethan Swehla is the son of Travis and Janell Swehla. He is planning to attend Iowa State University to study Finance. He is active in many extracurricular activities including FFA, football, wrestling, trapshooting, 4-H, National Honor Society, Student Senate, Lettermen's and ELP.

• Colton Zupke is the son of Ryan and Ann Zupke of Fredericksburg. He is planning to attend Iowa State University to study Ag Engineering/ Agronomy. He is active in many extracurricular activities including FFA, National Honor Society, Football, Basketball, Track and Student Senate.

• Mariah Thronsdon is the



Balk



Bearman



Maloy



O'Neill



Reicks



Swehla



Thronsdon



Zupke

daughter of Dale and Renee Thronsdon She is planning to attend University of Northern

Iowa to study Finance- Personal Wealth and Business Administration. She is active in

many extracurricular activities including Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Student Senate, Honor

Roll, Large Group Speech, Plays, Yearbook, Spirt Cod, Blood Cord and Service Cord.

Trust helps make dream field trip a reality for N-P

FIELD TRIP: FROM 1

when it comes to social studies, I think it's so much more impactful if they can see it and not just hear me talk about it."

So a couple of years ago, she began investigating ways in which she could make a "history field trip" a reality.

"Shelley's been great, super awesome with this, too," Wolf said, "and we really can't wait for our students to get a chance to experience this. We're just super excited and wish it was next Wednesday tomorrow."

The students held various fundraisers and also received a grant from the American Battlefield Trust's History Field Trip Grant Program.

The trust is the largest battlefield land preservation organization in the country, having saved more than 562,000 acres of hallowed ground across 24 states. Through visiting preserved battlefields and walking in the footsteps of the citizen soldiers who fought there, the trust aims to provide a foundation of good citizenship for the leaders of tomorrow. The trust strives to produce excellent educational resources in a variety of formats for both educators and the public alike, ensuring that Americans never forget how their country was forged.

Every year, the Trust receives applications from classrooms across the country to participate in the History Field Trip Grant Program, which offers funding and assistance to K-12 teachers planning field trips to Civil War, War of 1812 or Revolutionary War battlefields and related historic sites.

"These kids get a chance to go to where history was made, where our country was created and defined," said Trust President David Duncan

of the History Field Trip Grant Program recipients, "Battlefields are outdoor classrooms that will teach future Americans about our democratic republic."

Nashua-Plainfield students will depart the school on Wednesday morning and arrive at the Gettysburg National Military Park the following morning. They will spend the day at the site, before departing for Washington to see a variety of sites over the next two days.

On Saturday evening, they will climb back on the buses, drive through the night and arrive home sometime Sunday afternoon.

Wolf said that 18 adult chaperones will join the two Nashua-Plainfield teachers on the bus.

"We've got a great group of people who are going to help us create a classroom where history happened," she said. "Shelley and I are really enthusiastic about giving our kiddos a great experience, and we've had so many people here at school and in our communities support us."

She said both the Nashua-Plainfield School Board and the school district's administration got on board turning their dream into a reality and numerous community residents have provided both financial and moral support.

But Wolf won't call it a once-in-a-lifetime trip, for she is hopeful that this is just the start of an every-other-year tradition at Nashua-Plainfield.

"We'd love to do this every other year for our fifth- and sixth-graders," she said, "because was much as we love teaching our kids in our classrooms, we know that being there — being at Gettysburg and being in Washington — is going to spark their interest even more."

Cody Lee Cordes, 36

Cody Lee Cordes, age 36 of New Hampton, died Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center in Mason City.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Elks Lodge in Charles City.

Friends may greet the family from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday before the service.

Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton have been entrusted with Cody's arrangements.

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Bob Fenske/Reporter

Members of the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors look over documents as they discuss possible changes to the county's 2024-25 budget and tax levy during Monday's meeting.

Supervisors to hold second and final budget public hearing April 15

COUNTY BUDGET: FROM 1

one of the three proposed levies they have control over. Supervisor Jake Hackman, who earlier in the meeting asked department heads in attendance how much they would "return" to the general fund at the end of this budget year, said he felt supervisors were underestimating the amount of reserves the county will have heading into the 2024-25 budget year.

"I think we have an ending fund balance of \$1.4 million, not what we have in there now — \$450,000," Hackman said. "I'm basing that on the num-

Legal Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE OF STORM WATER DISCHARGE

Mathy Construction Company plans to submit a Notice of Intent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to be covered under the NPDES General Permit General Permit No. 3 - Storm Water Discharge Associated With Industrial Activity From Asphalt Plants, Concrete Batch Plants, Rock Crushing Plants, and Construction Sand And Gravel Facilities. The storm water discharge will be from a temporary hot mix asphalt plant located in the SW ¼ of the SE ¼, Section 31, T94N, R14W, Chickasaw County.

Storm water will be discharged from one point source and will be discharged to the following streams: Cedar Creek. Comments may be submitted to the Storm Water Discharge Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Services Division, 502 E 9th St, Des Moines IA 50319-0034. The public may review the Notice of Intent from 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, at the above address after it has been received by the department

No. 23824
4/5/24

bers I'm seeing."

Chickasaw County Auditor Shelia Shekleton said she wasn't sure about putting the entire \$1.4 million into the 2024-25 budget. She said she "went from past history and from what people were saying, 'I'm going to spend all my budget,' but I think we've got past that. I don't know if I agree with bringing the whole \$1.4 [million] in there."

The board eventually agreed to push the "carry-over" amount from \$403,000 to \$703,000 for General Basic (GB), which would then free up money to be transferred to lower the General Supplemental (GS) and reduce what had been a max levy for GS of a little more than \$2.32 per \$1,000 valuation to just slightly more than \$1.92 per \$1,000 valuation.

And while that GS levy rate will jump by almost 65 cents, Supervisor Steve Breitbach pointed out that it puts Chickasaw County in the "ball-park" when it comes to the published rates for seven Northeast Iowa counties — Alamakee, Bremer, Winneshiek, Mitchell, Fayette, Floyd and Howard.

He said the total levy rate for Chickasaw County, if Monday's changes are approved after an April 15 budget hearing, will be a little more than \$9.60 per \$1,000 valuation. The highest among the counties he looked at was Howard at \$10.95 per \$1,000 valuation while the lowest was \$9.39 per \$1,000 valuation.

"We're going to have four counties higher than us, three

counties that are lower," Breitbach said, "but we aren't going to be very much higher than the ones that are lower than us."

The large jump in tax-asking, according to the legal notice published in this week's Tribune, is in part because the county "used ending fund balances instead of raising taxes in previous years for General Supplemental."

Board members appeared on Monday to be ready to keep the Rural Services Basic (RSB) levy rate at \$3.70 per \$1,000 valuation, up from a little more than \$3.31 per \$1,000 valuation. A good chunk of that increase is because supervisors have decided to move the salaries of two sheriff's deputies to RSB to free up more money in GB.

"I think three-point-seven is not good," Hackman said, "but we're adding a lot of rock to secondary roads."

During Monday's meeting, Hackman also made pitches to what he said would help future budgets.

He said he would like the county to begin having employees pick up 5 percent of a single health insurance plan and have the county pay 70 percent, down from the current 75 percent, of an employees' family health insurance plan.

"Yes, we've still got to do benefits," he said, "but if they have some skin in the game and they know what the premiums are ... let's go back to the original — 95-5, 70-30 — and see if that helps the costs and relieve some

of the taxpayer increases."

He also asked fellow supervisors to help build back up the RSB reserve by moving an additional \$60,000 of local-option sales tax funds to help pay for the county's portion of the ambulance service. Other board members agreed to that proposal and seemed open to at least discussing two more of Hackman's ideas.

First, the longest-tenured supervisor said maybe the county ought not to "appropriate" all of a department's funds at the beginning of a fiscal year and also should consider the possibility of instituting a hiring freeze in the new fiscal year.

"Not micromanage, but manage the financials and let's have that talk and say, 'Do you really need that replacement?'" Hackman said. "Do we do all 100 percent of the appropriations on June 15 or do we hold back and do just enough to run?"

In the end, though, Hackman said the challenge for counties like Chickasaw comes down to growing the tax base — a message he will repeat when the supervisors hold their second and final budget and tax levy public hearing on Monday, April 15, at 9:10 a.m.

"We all try to try to get some of the tax burden off the local residents. It's still going to be tough on the restricted monthly Social Security checks to come up with these higher property taxes. I guess if we hear from a lot of people on April 15, we can always go lower. ... I don't know what else is left."

Area is still suffering from extreme drought

DROUGHT: FROM 1

The Federal Code on disaster designations says that if any portion of a county is located in an area that the U.S. Drought Monitor has designated as severe drought (D2) for at least eight weeks during the growing season of affected crops, or extreme drought (D3) or exceptional drought (D4) for any part of the growing season, the county will be designated a disaster area by the secretary.

Even after recent rains, Floyd and Chickasaw counties remain in a slowly shrinking area of the state that has been categorized as D3, extreme drought, since much of last year, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor and its latest map released Thursday.

According to the National Weather Service, the driest area is in northeast Iowa where precipitation deficits since April 2023 range from 12.67 inches near Ionia to 20.17 inches in Charles City.

Most of the state except for northwest Iowa remains in a drought classification ranging from abnormally dry to extreme drought. No part of the state is currently in the highest drought category, exceptional drought.

Vilsack's message said the FSA evaluates each loan application based on the extent of production losses and the financial standing of the applicant, and local FSA offices can provide more information.

Farmers have eight months

from the date of the secretarial disaster declaration on April 1 to apply for emergency loans.

Iowa counties and contiguous counties affected are Allamakee, Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clayton, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Grundy, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Howard, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Louisa, Linn, Mahaska, Marshall, Mitchell, Muscatine, Poweshiek, Scott, Tama, Washington, Winneshiek and Wright.

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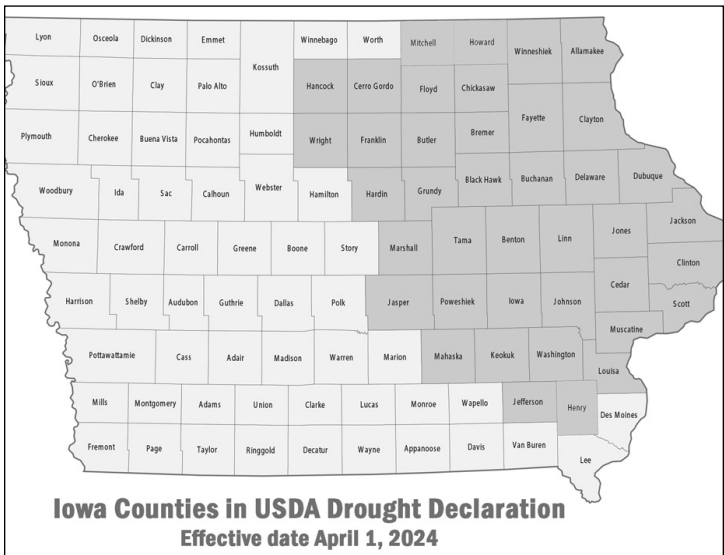
The declaration came after a rare "good-news" month for the Nashua area when it comes to precipitation.

According to the National Weather Service, Nashua received 2.51 inches of precipitation in March, almost a half-inch more than the 2.05 inches it usually receives during the third month of any given year.

That's just the second time in the last 13 months (the other was in January) that the area has received above-average precipitation.

The good news is April is off to a decent start with almost a half-inch of precipitation falling in the first three days of the month, and more rain is in the forecast for this weekend, especially Saturday night into Sunday.

— This story includes reporting from the Reporter's Bob Fenske



A large swath of eastern Iowa received a drought declaration that will help area farmers possibly receive some assistance because of the drought.



Nashua-Plainfield Calendar of Events

APRIL

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

- Lion's Fish Fry at the Nashua Town & Country Club

MONDAY, APRIL 8

- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Sunny Brae Golf & Country Club, Osage
- 4:15pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Sunny Brae Golf & Country Club, Osage
- National Library Week
- 10 - noon Total Eclipse Donuts & Coffee at Nashua Public Library
- Kids Stuffed Animal Sleep Over at the Nashua public Library, Dropoff before 5

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club
- 4:15pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club
- 4:30pm Track: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua-Plainfield High School NP Track
- 4:30pm Track: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua-Plainfield High School NP Track
- National Library Week
- Tuesday's at Compass Lunch 11-1 and community event from 1-2

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- 10 am Story Hour ages 3-5 at Plainfield Public Library
- 2:30 pm Wednesday Wonders all Elementary aged children Plainfield Public Library
- National Library Week
- 5:30-6:30 Titanic Program at Nashua Public Library

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club Riceville will be joining this meet
- 4:15pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club
- 4:30pm Track: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ New Hampton High School 5:00pm
- Track: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ New Hampton High School
- National Library Week
- 2PM-3PM Thursday Coffee/Tea Senior Social at the Nashua Public Library
- 5:30 pm Iowa's Lost History from the Titanic Program at the Nashua Public Library
- 6 pm Macrame Plant Hanger Workshop at the Chickasaw Extension office \$10/person RSVP by April 8th 641-394-2174
- 6pm Lion's Bingo at the B

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

- 7 pm Paint Your Partner at The B. \$40 person. Pre-register at The B or on FB

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

- 5:00pm FFA Banquet NP Gymnasium-High School

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

- FFA State Conference Iowa State University, Ames

MONDAY, APRIL 15

- FFA State Conference Iowa State University, Ames
- 5:00pm Track: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ New Hampton High School

- 15th-18th Happy Extension & Outreach week

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

- FFA State Conference Iowa State University, Ames
- 4:00pm Track: Boys JH Game vs. Multiple School @ NFV High School Track
- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Highland Park Golf Course, Mason City
- 4:15pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Highland Park Golf Course, Mason City
- 4:30pm Track: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Charles City High School Blaine Thorson Track
- 6-8 pm Extension Council Meeting, Chickasaw Co. Extension
- Tuesday's at Compass Lunch 11-1 and Community Event from 1-2

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

- 10 am Story Hour ages 3-5 at Plainfield Public Library
- 2:30 pm Wednesday Wonders all Elementary aged children Plainfield Public Library
- Cedar View Campground Open for the Season

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club
- 4:15pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club
- 4:15pm Track: Girls JH Meet vs. Sumner Fredericksburg Middle @ Sumner-Fredericksburg High School
- 4:15pm Track: Boys JH Meet vs. Multiple Schools.. vs. Charles

- City @ Charles City High School Blaine Thorson Track
- 4:30pm Track: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools.. @ Nashua-Plainfield High School NP Track

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club
- 4:30pm Track: Boys Varsity Meet vs. North Butler @ North Butler High School
- 4 pm Boyd's Food Truck at The B
- 7 pm Bruce Bearinger Band at The B

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

- 7:00pm Prom NP Gymnasium-High School
- 10:30-11:30 am Superhero Program at Nashua Public Library

MONDAY, APRIL 22

- 4:30pm Track: Girls Varsity Invitational vs. Multiple Schools @ Sumner-Fredericksburg High School
- 4:30pm Track: Boys Varsity Invitational vs. Multiple Schools @ Sumner-Fredericksburg High School

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club
- 4:15pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua Town & Country Club
- 4:30pm Track: Girls JH Meet vs. Hudson - Iowa @ Hudson High School
- 4:30pm Track: Boys JH Meet vs. Hudson - Iowa @ Hudson High

- School
- Tuesday's at Compass Lunch 11-1 and community event from 1-2

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

- 10 am Story Hour ages 3-5 at Plainfield Public Library
- 2:30 pm Wednesday Wonders all Elementary aged children Plainfield Public Library
- 5-7 pm St. Michael's Youth Spaghetti Supper, \$10
- 6 pm Faith & Four Letter Words at The B. Register on Eventbrite

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Round Grove Golf & Country Club - Greene
- 4:15pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Round Grove Golf & Country Club - Greene
- 4:15pm Track: Girls JH Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua-Plainfield High School NP Track
- 4:15pm Track: Boys JH Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua-Plainfield High School NP Track
- 5:00pm Track: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Dike-New Hartford High School Boys Simons Relays
- 5:00pm - Field Events
- 5:30pm - Running Events
- 2 pm-3pm Thursday Coffee/Tea Senior Social at the Nashua Public Library

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

- 4:30pm Track: Girls Varsity Meet vs. North Butler @ North Butler High School

- Tom & Sue's on Main
- 4 pm-? Burrito Express at The B
- 7 pm Shurno Ster at The B

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

- Tom & Sue's on Main

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

- 4-5:30 pm YQCA Chickasaw Co. Extension

MONDAY, APRIL 29

- State Envirothon Jester Park Nature Center - Granger
- 9:00am Iowa Youth Institute for World Food Prize Iowa State University, Ames
- 9:00am- 6:00pm National History Day, State Contest Iowa Events Center (Des Moines)
- 4:00pm Track: Girls JH Game vs. Multiple Schools @ NFV High School
- 4:15pm Golf: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Buffalo Run Golf Course, Nora Springs
- 4:15pm Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Buffalo Run Golf Course, Nora Springs
- 4:30pm Track: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua-Plainfield High School NP Track
- 4:30pm Track: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Multiple Schools @ Nashua-Plainfield High School NP Track

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

- 6:00pm Spring Concert NP Gymnasium-High School 7th/8th: 6:00pm HS: 7:30pm
- Tuesday's at Compass - lunch 11-1, and community event from 1-2

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City Council earmarks \$60,000 of Nashua’s ARPA funds

CITY COUNCIL: FROM 1

The other stop sign is a fantastic idea,” said Mason. “I agree with that completely. Why did we change it from where it was and not just add another? There’s stop signs along so many other roads here.”

Mason also would like to see the speed limit reduced from 25 to 15 mph on Lexington. “Why not lower that speed limit or even a yield sign?” said Mason. “Anything besides removing the stop sign where Ashley’s daycare walks on that same road. There’s so many kids just in that one neighborhood.”

Council member Samantha Johnson said the City Council has had seven meetings about the proposed changes and amending the Chapter 65 of the Code of Ordinances Stop or Yield Required. Johnson also stated the Council also discussed the matter with N-P Schools and took into account their recommendations.

She wondered why citizens of Nashua didn’t approach the Council about their opinions on the stop signs earlier in the process of making changes in city code.

“Why are we only expressing this through Facebook?” said Johnson. “We need to find a better way to do this. We have asked the community numerous times – how can we help to stay in contact with you guys? Nobody, not a single person has ever came to us and said, ‘this would be a really good idea. What can I do to help? How can I help myself stay informed with you guys and how can we keep the conversation between the two of us going back and forth?’”

Fellow Council member Jake Johnson broke down the city’s thought process as to why they made the decision to remove the stop sign and add two more a block to the east, closer to the high school.

“So here’s the rules – there’s federal guidelines for stop signs. Technically, it all comes down to an engineer’s opinion. We can have our engineer come in and do an assessment. I can tell you right now, just with what I do professionally, they’re going to tell us to take the new one out. They don’t want stop signs on roads under 25-miles-an-hour,” said Jake Johnson. Johnson made it clear that the city could also bypass an engineer’s opinion and put stop signs on every city block by passing ordinances if the Council so desired.

“I know all of you guys pretty well. I don’t want your kids to be in any danger, either. What we did was try and make the safe route to school,” said Jake Johnson. “I’m against two

stop signs just because it’s a through road.”

Samantha Johnson said the Council has asked the Chickasaw County Sheriff’s Department for as much school patrolling as possible to hinder speeders and protect kids walking to school.

She pointed out and noted that the city’s new law enforcement contract with the county that will begin on July 1 of this year will have reduced hours. But Jake Johnson reminded all those that attended the meeting that the city can ask for the county to focus on school patrol, even with the reduction of hours.

Kelleher wanted to see a copy of the petition Mason brought to the meeting and he said normally petitions are given to the City Council the Wednesday before the meeting.

“I’d like to reiterate our communication,” said Kelleher. “We probably could have avoided a lot of this if we had some folks attending our public meetings on this.”

In other matters, the Council decided to use approximately \$66,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to go to various projects that were submitted by city departments. That money must be allocated by the end of 2024.

One of the more interesting projects that got city assistance was the restoration of the Boy Scout Cabin near the elementary school. Val Johnson, Big 4 Chamber President, said work on the 1937 WPA (Works Progress Administration) log cabin has been ongoing for a few years and will be completed this year.

The \$90,000 project has been broken down into three phases and includes 20 utility poles that still need to be placed underneath the cabin to stabilize it. Other work that has either been completed or is in the process of getting done is electrical work, all new windows, interior restoration, and a five-foot hole in the roof that was fixed.

The building is owned by the city and close to \$60,000 has been raised by the Nashua-Plainfield Lions Club and the Nashua Community Foundation.

“The city was supposed to maintain the building. Unfortunately, that didn’t happen,” said Val Johnson.

The City voted to contribute \$20,000 to the restoration of the log cabin, which would come from the ARPA fund.

The remaining ARPA money went to an update of the city’s website (\$5,000), replacement of the furnace and air conditioning at Nashua Public Library (\$16,000), the Baldwin Bandshell dance floor (\$10,000) and fire rings for the

campground (\$15,000).

Nashua Park Board President Nate Sinnwell said there’s a tentative date of Wednesday, April 17 to open up the campgrounds.

The Council also voted 4-1 (Jake Johnson nay vote) to hire Wedeking Electrical, based out of Marble Rock, to undertake the electrical upgrade for the campgrounds at Cedar View Park for approximately \$25,000.

“That’s the project where

they’re going to finally get it split up to where there’s four circuits, rather than three. They’re going to need to trench from the electrical shed across down towards the corner where that Boy Scout Cabin is – somewhere down in there. They’ll split off that road because that’s the longest run and had the most campers on it. There’s a voltage drop as you run across that much ground. It’s been a challenge for us for several years,” said Sinnwell.

“It’s been a process.”

Council members also increased the camping rates from \$20 to \$22 a night.

Brian Glasgow, Water/Wastewater Superintendent for Ion Environmental Solutions, gave his monthly report

“The good news is the water usage is down about 60,000 gallons a day on average since the water leak was fixed there by the car wash,” said Glasgow. A public hearing was set to

approve the FY ’25 budget for the following next scheduled regular City Council meeting on Monday, April 15.

City leaders also set up a workshop for Tuesday, April 23 at 6 p.m. to discuss possible revitalization of downtown, city ordinances that directly affect Main St. in Nashua, a comprehensive plan and INRCOG (Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governance) and the services they provide.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

City of: NASHUA

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Budget at: Council Chambers City Hall Meeting Date: 4/15/2024 Meeting Time: 07:00 PM

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the City Clerk and County Auditor.

City budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult <https://dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals>.

The Budget Estimate Summary of proposed receipts and expenditures is shown below. Copies of the the detailed proposed Budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, and at the Library.				
The estimated Total tax levy rate per \$1000 valuation on regular property				16.33998
The estimated tax levy rate per \$1000 valuation on Agricultural land is				3.00375
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget.				
Phone Number (641) 435-4156		City Clerk/Finance Officer's NAME John Ott		
		Budget FY 2025	Re-estimated FY 2024	Actual FY 2023
Revenues & Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	801,629	798,418	823,645
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3	801,629	798,418	823,645
Delinquent Property Taxes	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	0	0	0
Other City Taxes	6	226,403	272,844	240,389
Licenses & Permits	7	13,100	10,450	0
Use of Money and Property	8	107,300	74,100	123,153
Intergovernmental	9	235,502	231,658	368,662
Charges for Fees & Service	10	1,061,115	990,800	1,050,676
Special Assessments	11	10,000	0	0
Miscellaneous	12	139,750	134,750	190,761
Other Financing Sources	13	3,750,000	1,913,000	400,250
Transfers In	14	375,528	433,471	421,472
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15	6,720,327	4,859,491	3,619,008
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	16	318,550	476,872	546,437
Public Works	17	408,758	489,616	344,726
Health and Social Services	18	11,551	11,551	10,586
Culture and Recreation	19	326,068	338,365	235,758
Community and Economic Development	20	56,250	45,300	55,249
General Government	21	190,408	166,524	154,687
Debt Service	22	402,100	108,963	133,822
Capital Projects	23	3,836,592	1,979,500	0
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	5,550,277	3,616,691	1,481,265
Business Type / Enterprises	25	861,635	795,354	751,784
Total ALL Expenditures	26	6,411,912	4,412,045	2,233,049
Transfers Out	27	375,528	433,471	421,472
Total ALL Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	6,787,440	4,845,516	2,654,521
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	-67,113	13,975	964,487
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30	4,753,782	4,739,807	3,775,320
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31	4,686,669	4,753,782	4,739,807

No. 23823
4/5/24

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

County Name: CHICKASAW COUNTY County Number: 19

The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 4/15/2024 Meeting Time: 09:10 AM Meeting Location: BOARDROOM LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR OF THE COURTHOUSE, 8 E PROSPECT, NEW HAMPTON

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the County Auditor. A copy of the supporting detail will be furnished upon request. County budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals

Average annual percentage changes between "Actual" and "Budget" amounts for "Taxes Levied on Property", "Other County Taxes/ TIF Tax Revenues", and for each of the ten "Expenditure Classes" must be published. Expenditure classes proposing "Budget" amounts, but having no "Actual" amounts, are designated "NEW".

County Website (if available) https://www.chickasawcounty.iowa.gov/		County Telephone Number (641) 394-2100		
	Budget 2024/2025	Re-Est 2023/2024	Actual 2022/2023	AVG Annual % CHG
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	8,017,981	6,985,185	6,694,445 9.44
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	0	0	-63
Less: Credits to Taxpayers	3	233,350	300,000	349,460
Net Current Property Taxes	4	7,784,631	6,685,185	6,345,048
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	5	1,665	7,500	9,462
Penalties, Interest & Costs on Taxes	6	15,000	25,000	28,707
Other County Taxes/TIF Tax Revenues	7	974,694	1,204,000	1,390,163 -16.27
Intergovernmental	8	5,500,660	7,911,928	6,027,600
Licenses & Permits	9	31,000	25,300	158,062
Charges for Service	10	1,476,245	1,400,000	1,192,106
Use of Money & Property	11	194,502	250,000	494,167
Miscellaneous	12	248,600	234,669	480,220
Subtotal Revenues	13	16,226,997	17,743,582	16,125,535
Other Financing Sources:				
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	14	0	0	0
Operating Transfers In	15	2,811,676	2,778,470	3,107,868
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Sales	16	0	12,702	103,856
Total Revenues & Other Sources	17	19,038,673	20,534,754	19,337,259
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES				
Operating:				
Public Safety and Legal Services	18	4,031,529	4,026,565	3,987,284 0.55
Physical Health and Social Services	19	1,757,227	1,756,570	1,489,048 8.63
County Environment and Education	21	908,270	988,384	757,414 9.51
Roads & Transportation	22	8,358,511	7,577,918	6,930,486 9.82
Government Services to Residents	23	562,729	626,068	499,590 6.13
Administration	24	2,339,078	2,086,182	1,713,437 16.84
Nonprogram Current	25	0	6,224	6,224
Debt Service	26	473,033	476,473	478,060 -0.53
Capital Projects	27	601,721	3,589,198	1,045,099 -24.12
Subtotal Expenditures	28	19,032,098	21,133,582	16,906,642
Other Financing Uses:				
Operating Transfers Out	29	2,811,676	2,778,470	3,107,868
Refunded Debt/Payments to Escrow	30	0	0	0
Total Expenditures & Other Uses	31	21,843,774	23,912,052	20,014,510
Excess of Revenues & Other Sources over (under) Expenditures & Other Uses				
Beginning Fund Balance - July 1,	32	-2,805,101	-3,377,298	-677,251
Increase (Decrease) in Reserves (GAAP Budgeting)	33	7,855,596	11,232,894	11,910,145
Fund Balance - Nonspendable	34	0	0	0
Fund Balance - Restricted	35	0	0	0
Fund Balance - Committed	36	2,925,962	0	8,371,367
Fund Balance - Assigned	37	0	0	0
Fund Balance - Unassigned	38	0	0	82,639
Fund Balance - Unassigned	39	2,124,533	7,855,596	2,778,888
Total Ending Fund Balance - June 30,	40	5,050,495	7,855,596	11,232,894
Proposed property taxation by type:		Proposed tax rates per \$1,000 taxable valuation:		
Countywide Levies*:		5,532,343		
Rural Only Levies*:		2,485,638	Urban Areas:	5.90818
Special District Levies*:		0	Rural Areas:	9.60918
TIF Tax Revenues:		0	Any special district tax rates not included.	
Utility Replacement Excise Tax:		267,634		

Explanation of any significant items in the budget or additional virtual meeting information:
Line 1 increase in county wide tax asking because we used ending fund balances instead of raising taxes in previous years for General Supplemental. Rural Services increased dueto moving two sheriff deputies. Line 7 is a decrease anticipated in local option taxes and utility tax replacement, Line 18 increased daily operating expenses, salary and fringebenefits. Line 22 increase daily operating expenses, material costs, salary and fringe benefits Line 24 increase salary, fringe benefits and increase in general liability insurance.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter
Nashua City Councilman Dan Zwanziger looks over a report during the council’s meeting that was held at City Hall on Monday evening.

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CHICKASAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES March 27, 2024

The Board convened on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM with members Breitbach, Kuhn, Suckow, Hackman and Cerwinski present in the Courtroom on the third floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa. Chairperson Cerwinski called the meeting to order. Also present were Attorney David Laudner, Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Assessor Raymond Armel.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve the agenda for March 27, 2024. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to open the Public Hearing for Proposed Property Tax Levy FY 24-25 at 6:02 PM. Roll call. Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn, and Cerwinski. Motion carried.

Supervisor Cerwinski started the Public Hearing with an agenda for the Hearing. Chickasaw County Assessor Raymond Armel gave a presentation about the letters that were mailed to property taxpayers because of House File 718.

Supervisor Cerwinski read a letter from Herman Lenz, Sumner Ia.

Supervisor Hackman gave some background information on the tax levies.

Supervisor Kuhn, Supervisor Breitbach, Supervisor Hackman answered questions.

Speakers: Paul Brandenburg, Chip Schwickerath, Darlene Schwickerath, Tim Zoll, Jeremy McGrath, Nick Leibold,

Armie Boge, Steve Kurash, Doreen Cook, Kathy Shekleton, Terry Johnson.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to close the Public Hearing for Proposed Property Tax Levy FY 24-25 at 7:00 PM. Roll call. Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn, and Cerwinski. Motion carried.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Hackman to adjourn at 7:00 PM. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Scott Cerwinski, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
ATTEST:

Sheila Shekleton, Secretary to the Board

No. 23845
4/4/24 4/5/24

No. 23847
4/4/24 4/5/24

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Miscellaneous

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Randy Mitchell, Agent

Phone: (641) 220-3410

RMitchell@FarmersNational.com

www.FNCRealEstate.com

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From 3,809 to another Final Four, it's been wonderful ride

It was a Wednesday night seven seasons ago, and a good friend of mine asked me to tag along with her to Iowa City to watch a women's basketball game.

My friend's daughter was one of the managers for the Hawkeyes, and Karen wanted some company, especially considering tip-off for Notre Dame-Iowa was scheduled for 8 p.m.

My thought was I'm always up for a road trip, and besides, it would give me a chance to see the top-ranked Fighting Irish and a young Hawkeye team that featured an up-and-comer named Megan Gustafson.

It may have been a late November game, one that was part of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge, but the few times I had been to Carver-Hawkeye Arena as a fan, I had always sat in the proverbial "nosebleeds." It would be fun, I thought, to watch the game from seven rows up.

And it was.

Notre Dame jumped out to a 23-9 lead nine minutes into the game and it looked grim for the home team to say the least, but the Hawkeyes hung in there. With 2:37 left in the third quarter, Iowa's Chase Coley hit a jumper to cut the Irish lead to a bucket, 50-48, and Carver-Hawkeye was rocking ... or at least as much as an arena containing 3,809 fans can.

Alas, there would be no happy ending on this night. Notre Dame used an 11-1 run to take back control of the game and went on to post a 73-58 victory over the Hawkeyes.

But on that night, I became a women's basketball fan, and as I look back on that game 7 1/2 years ago, I can't help but marvel at how far the sport has come in my adopted home state in such a relatively short amount of time.

From attracting a crowd of 3,809 fans to selling out a season, it's been a hell of a ride.

Tonight, hundreds of thousands of Iowans will drop everything they're doing, rush home and make sure they are in front of their televisions at 8:30, the time Iowa is scheduled to tip-off its Final Four game against Connecticut.

Anyone waking up from a seven-year nap would be stunned at the level of women's basketball fever in this state and beyond.

It wasn't just Iowa's home games that drew huge crowds this year. When the Hawkeyes went on the road this season, attendance soared. And the number of people watching a women's basketball game featuring Iowa on television jumped exponentially.

More people watched the Iowa-LSU regional final game this past Monday than any other women's college basketball game in history, and to put it into context, more people watched Iowa-LSU than watched all but one of last year's NBA Finals games.

The "Caitlin Clark Effect" is real. Very real. I may not always like her antics — in her mind, she rarely, if ever, has committed a foul and her body language, at times, is downright atrocious — but the people who say she's a "generational player" are not wrong.

She has willed what has always been a really good Iowa program to greatness. Her supporting

SEE WOMEN'S HOOPS, 6

ON TAP FOR OUR
NASHUA-PLAINFIELD
HUSKIES

FRIDAY

Boys golf vs. Charles City and Osage, Cedar Ridge Golf Course, Charles City, 4 p.m.
Track at Osage Co-Ed Invitational, 4 p.m.

MONDAY

Golf vs. Osage and West Fork, Sunny Brae Golf and Country Club, Osage, 4:15 p.m.
Track at St. Ansgar Early Bird Co-Ed Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY

Golf vs. Clarksville, Dunkerton and Tripoli, Nashua Town & Country Club, 4:15 p.m.
Track at Nashua-Plainfield Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Golf vs. Riceville, North Butler and St. Ansgar, Nashua Town and Country Club, 4:15 p.m.
Track at New Hampton Invitational, 4:30 p.m.





Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield's Dawson Glaser (above) attempts to make a putt while the Huskies' Paisley McCain (below) chips on to the green during a triangular meet that was held at the Nashua Town and County Club Thursday.

Nashua-Plainfield finally gets chance to tee it up

Girls claim triangular win while boys take second in season opener

By KELLY TERPSTRA
Of the Reporter

Now the scores count.

After practice rounds and unpredictable spring weather that did not cooperate — the Nashua-Plainfield golf squads finally got their start to the 2024 spring season on Thursday at the Nashua Town & Country Club.

Like a lot of beginnings — especially golf — it was a mixed bag.

The N-P girls — fresh off of cracking the state tournament last season for longtime head coach Jeff Trost — defeated Central Springs in the season opening triangular by a score of 214 to 260. Rockford was also in attendance out on the links but did not tally a team score as the Warriors only sport three Warrior linksters.

Leading the charge for the Huskies was junior Paige Franzen — who notched medalist honors with a 44.

Franzen — like her Huskies — came on strong last year to crack the Class 1A state field and they can do it again this year. It will just be a matter of improving daily and coming up with low scores when it matters the most.

Franzen — who placed fourth individually at that aforementioned state meet — had this to say about the opener, which saw the mercury hover in the mid 40s with a slight to moderate wind. The sun did peek out from under the clouds, though, later in the afternoon to make the playing conditions a little more palatable.

"I think it was pretty good for me — first meet. There's definitely some

strokes I need to get back because there were some things that weren't very pretty out there," said Franzen. "It's all about just going out and getting it all out there in the first meet — just playing and getting used to it again."

Trost has four of his golfers back on the girls side and two of those — junior Faith Franzen (Paige's cousin) and senior Natalie Sinnwell — had respectable rounds. Faith Franzen finished with a 53 for medalist runner-up honors and Sinnwell carded a 56.

Paige Franzen took her game to the next level last year as a sophomore. She's quick to point out that so did her teammates.

"We all have, honestly. We put in a lot of work in the offseason," said Franzen. "We've just been putting in the hours. We can build off of what we had going on last year."

Those newcomers are sophomores Paisley McCain (61) and Elayna O'Neill (66) — who are new to the sport, at least competitively speaking.

Don't forget senior Payton Howland, who fired a 67.

"I don't know if Payton was in the 60s at all last year," said Trost.

The Husky boys saw Central Springs beat them by eight strokes — 186 to 194.

N-P was led by senior Wyatt Bouillon and junior Dawson Glaser — who each fired 48s.

"As a first day, as a first meet — given the conditions and given the amount of practice we've been able to have — I'm not disappointed. Obviously you want to win 'em all, but it was a good first step for us," said Trost.





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Nashua-Plainfield golfer Eli Kalainoff hits off the tee during Thursday's triangular that also included Rockford and Central Springs.



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