



# Nashua REPORTER

**N-P golfers  
go low at  
pair of  
home meets**  
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## Supervisors finally OK budget

It takes two tries, but board certifies 2024-25 budget that includes 14 percent tax-asking hike

By **BOB FENSKE**  
*Of the Reporter*

Chickasaw County has a budget and tax levy in place for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, but for quite a while Monday, the Board of Supervisors played the classic game of “chicken.”

After months of working on the

county’s 2024-25 budget, supervisors first rejected approving it during Monday’s meeting, but after almost two hours of discussion and making one minor change, board members voted 3-2 to certify next year’s budget.

The action came eight days before the state-mandated deadline for certifying county budgets and tax

levies, and although board members didn’t wait until a stroke before midnight, for a while on Monday, those in the boardroom were wondering if the county was going to get a budget approved before April 30.

The approved budget that was supported by Board Chairman Scott Cerwinski and Supervisors Matt Kuhn and Steve Breitbach comes

with a 14 percent increase in the tax-asking for the three funds — General Basic (GB), General Supplemental (GS) and Rural Services Basic (RSB) — the supervisors oversee.

That’s down from the  
**SEE SUPERVISORS, 4**



Bob Fenske/Reporter

### All decked out for Nashua-Plainfield’s Prom!

Members of the Nashua-Plainfield girls track team stop to pose for a photo as they escort their teammate, Jennifer McLeland, during the grand march that played before a packed house on Saturday evening.  
**See MORE PHOTOS, Page 2**

## Recent rains help out area’s drought picture

There’s still a long way to go, but ‘extreme’ drought area shrinking

By **BOB FENSKE**  
*Of the Reporter*

In most years, the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor’s map of Iowa — especially here in our neck of the woods — would look downright ugly.

In 2024, Thursday’s report was, in a word, beautiful.

“We’re making progress, and the moisture we’ve received this month and last month, that’s helping the topsoil,” said ISU Extension Agronomist Terry Basol, who is based at the Northeast Iowa Demonstration Farm located just outside of Nashua. “We have a long ways to go, but I’m cautiously optimistic, and ‘cautiously optimistic’ is a huge improvement over where I’ve been the last year or so.”

Thursday’s Drought Monitor report showed that the large area of Northeast Iowa that has been experiencing extreme drought is continuing to shrink.

Granted, the southern third of Chickasaw County and most of Bremer County are still in the extreme drought area while the rest of those counties, along with Floyd and Butler counties, are experiencing what experts call “severe drought.”

**SEE DROUGHT, 10**



Photo courtesy of Greg Henn

### Lions Club donation helps out

Nashua-Plainfield Lions Club members (from left) Alex Larson, Cathy Haut and Dennis Litterer present Greg Henn a check for \$2,076, the proceeds from the club’s “Bingo Nights” to be used for the new Nashua-Plainfield baseball and softball diamonds that are being constructed on the site of the old Plainfield school building. “It’s a really nice donation,” said Henn, who is leading a private fundraising campaign for the complex, “and we can’t thank the Lions enough for their support for our project.”

### Longtime First State Bank to be honored next week

The year was 1976. America was celebrating its bicentennial, Gerald Ford was in the White House and Anita Sullivan had just taken a new job at First State Bank in Nashua.

A lot has changed in the past 48 years, with one notable exception: Sullivan is still a vital part of the FSB team ... at least for another week.

That’s because the longtime FBS employee is about to retire, and the Nashua bank will honor her years of dedicated service with a celebratory open house a week from today, Friday, May 3, that will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We’ll also have a feature on Sullivan that looks back on her almost-five decade career in next week’s Reporter.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Members of the Nashua-Plainfield girls track team’s sprint medley include (from left) Jayla Patten, Jalissa White, Ellie Eick, Kadence Huck and Marleigh Lowe.

## Relay to make history at Drake Relays

Nashua-Plainfield girls track team qualifies sprint medley for biggest meet of year

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**  
*Of the Reporter*

If Friday morning isn’t a sign that Nashua-Plainfield has arrived — then they ought to dig up the track at Drake Stadium and start all over again.

The Huskies’ sprint medley relay will be rubbing shoulders with former Olympians, college standouts and large-school class prep behemoths this week when Amber McCall sends her N-P girls track team down to Des Moines to run at the famed Drake Relays out on the blue oval.

Look out Johnston, Waukee and Dowling Catholic — the top three qual-

ifying times (all Class 4A squads) in the sprint med — because here these Huskies come with the foursome of sophomores Jayla Patten, Jalissa White, senior Ellie Eick and junior prep superstar Kadence Huck anchoring.

Almost all four N-P grades at the high school level will be represented in this history making Husky sprint med contingent and it’s the only Class 1A school that will run in the event at 9:45 a.m. today (Friday).

Those impassioned and dedicated girls have become the first N-P squad (girls or boys) to run in a relay at Drake since the prestigious outdoor track and

field event implemented their current stringent standards that allow all four prep classes to compete for gold in front of a jammed-pack arena.

The 114th running of one of the world’s most decorated and recognized track and field events that showcases a convergence of prep, college and professional world-class athletes that will duke it out all on the same track will include little, old Nashua-Plainfield.

Yes, indeed.

These Huskies hit the “blue standard” and then some this spring. N-P will attempt to show what they’re all

**SEE DRAKE, 3**





Bob Fenske/Reporter

### Grand March was the place to be Saturday!

For those of us who are habitually late — or arrive on time but at the last minute — we got a good walk in Saturday night because parking was tight and the Nashua-Plainfield gymnasium was packed Saturday night for the high school’s annual Prom Grand March, where Easton Richards and Ava Kirk (left) pose for a picture at one of the “stopping spots” for students while Jordyn Frost and Nolan Bakke make their way to the next “X” in the gymnasium.

## Retirement Celebrations

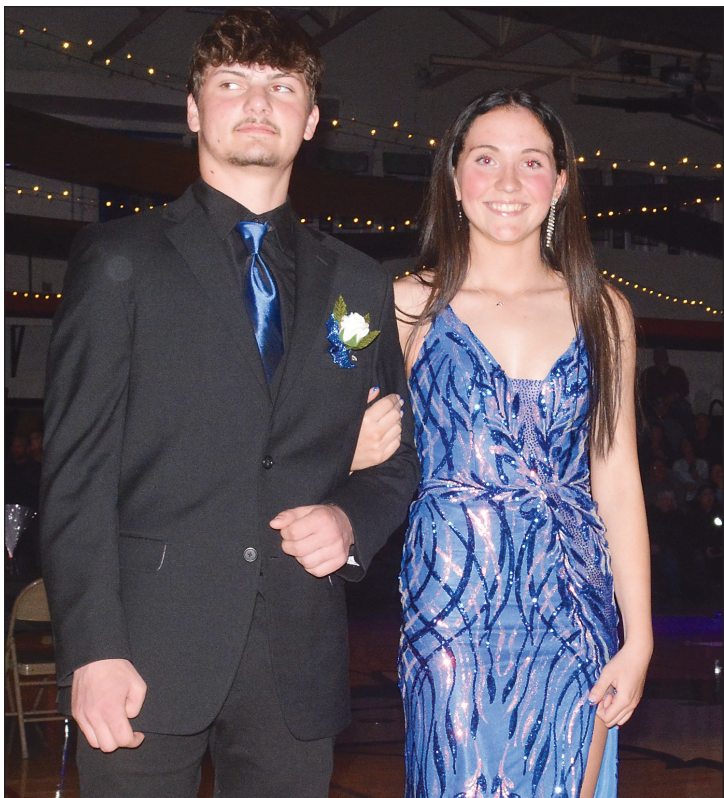
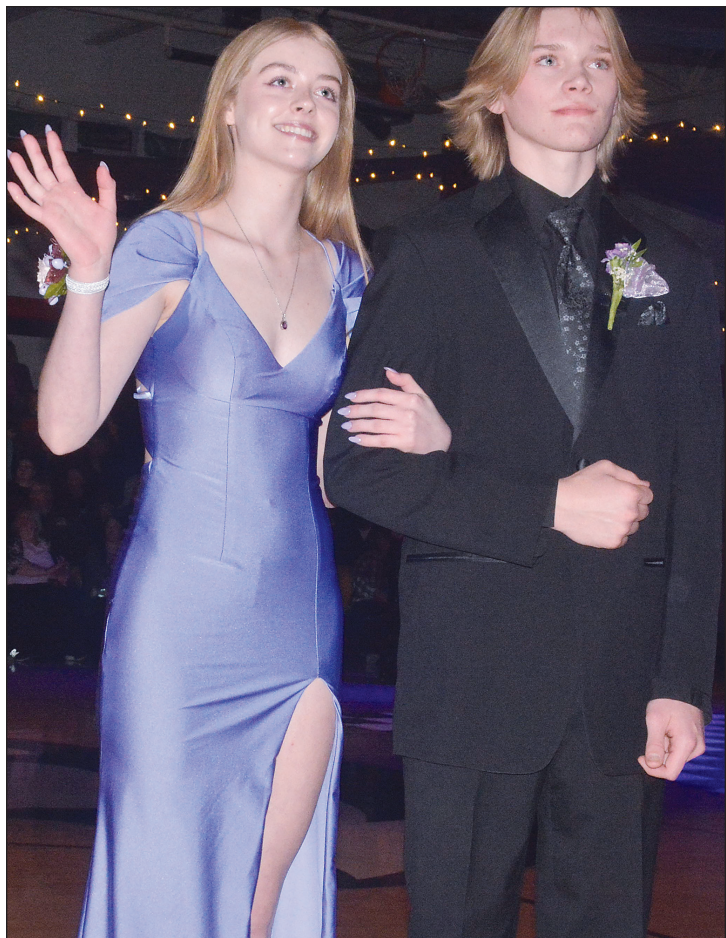
Congratulations to Anita Sullivan on her retirement of 48 years in banking

**Open House Celebration**  
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Taytum Evans (left) waves to the crowd as she and her date, Karson Chyma pose for photos while something catches Tyler Zimmer’s eyes as he and Marleigh Lowe (above) stop to pose for pictures.

# Welcome

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Prom goes Destany Jordan and Keegan Marlette pose with family members after the grand march.

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### Tickets still available for 'Bubble Circus'

A different kind of circus will put on two one-hour shows at the Nashua-Plainfield High School gymnasium on May 4.

The Big 4 Chamber of Commerce and the Nashua Community Foundation will welcome “Circus Pop! The Giant BUBBLE SHOW” for two shows — one at 2 p.m.; the other at 4:30 p.m.

The show was originally set for Nov. 4, and tickets purchased for that show will be honored.

The one-man show features giant 20-foot bubbles, contortion, fog bubbles, bubbles in bubbles, and “Houdini’s chain escape.”

And the show will also include Logan Jimenez trying to break a Guinness World Record for the largest bubble volcano.

Tickets are available online at [giantbubbleshow.com](http://giantbubbleshow.com) for \$6 (ages 3-12), \$9 (seniors, ages 65 and up) and \$12 (ages 13 to 64).



## Sharon Lee Merfeld, 88

Sharon Lee Merfeld, age 88 of Nashua, died Thursday, April 18, 2024, at Nora Springs Care Center surrounded by family. Funeral services will be held 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 2, 2024 at the Little Brown Church, Nashua with the Rev. Drew McHolm presiding. Burial will take place at Oak Hill Cemetery in Nashua following the service.

Friends may greet the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua.

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

On April 18, 2024, after 88 years of love, sacrifice and service to her family, church, and community, Sharon Merfeld exchanged the struggles of earthly life for the beautiful promise of eternal salvation. At long last, she is reunited with her husband Mick who earnestly awaited the arrival of his golf partner, remote finder and pie-baking wife of 62 years, as well as her two sons, Greg and Tim, who fought to be the first to hug their mom once again.

Sharon Chandler, the daughter of Richard and Marvlyn (Castor) Chandler, entered the world in historic fashion on Jan. 22, 1936, at home in Nashua on the coldest day in 117 years of previously recorded Iowa history.

Sharon was an only child, but her upbringing was anything but lonely as she played, fished, and fought with her cousins at her grandparents' farms in rural Nashua and Minnesota. Sharon graduated from Nashua High School in 1954 where she was a thespian, cheerleader, drum major, and National Honor Society member. Her mother attributed the latter designation to the fact she kept young Sharon from visiting her dad's main street barber shop where the conversations may have tainted her proper character.

Sharon planned to attend watchmaking school, but after her dad's sudden death, instead took a job in Nashua.

In 1955, Sharon met Mick Merfeld on a blind date and, despite her mother's warnings, married him on November 16, 1956, and moved to Greene. Sharon worked for Salsbury Laboratories in Charles City until 1960 when son Greg was born. In 1962, after son Tim's birth, they moved to Nashua where Mick ran the Nashua DX and Sharon ran the home.

Sharon was a ready com-



Name

munity volunteer who exuded competence and confidence, which she instilled in her children as well. She was president of Junior Federated, P.E.O. Chapter EN, and chaired too many committees to count at the Nashua Town and Country Club. In fact, Sharon and Mick were instrumental in establishing the local golf club in 1968, a move that provided Mick's lifetime hobby and Sharon with Wednesday night solitude for the next 50 years of married life.

After Suzy's birth in 1969, Sharon taught herself to paint for stress relief, a hobby that produced over 400 portraits and paintings that are now treasured keepsakes.

Among Sharon's many talents were hitting a putt to the exact spot Mick directed her to aim, refinishing woodwork and reupholstering furniture to save money they didn't have and conducting research, before the internet, to write the history of Nashua and trace her family lineage back to the Mayflower.

Music and her faith were strong threads throughout Sharon's life and both sustained her through many losses and hardships.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Marvlyn Chandler Stuelke; step-father, Theron Stuelke; husband, Mick Merfeld; and sons, Greg Merfeld and Tim Merfeld.

She is survived by her daughter, Suzy (Keith) Turner of Rockford; daughter-in-law Carrie Merfeld of Manteco, California; daughter-in-law, Sheri Merfeld-Takeguma of Agoura Hills, California; four grandchildren; and many friends.

To honor Sharon's love of reading and history, the family requests memorial contributions be made in her name to the Nashua Public Library or the Nashua-Plainfield National History Day Program.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

## It's a busy week in the fields

A farmer "rolls" a field just west of Ionia Thursday morning as area growers worked to beat the rain that is in the forecast for today and later this weekend to get ahead on planting for the 2024 growing season.

## N-P girls ready for 'exciting' experience at the Drake Relays

Drake: From 1

about for a brief moment when the gun goes off in the high school girls sprint medley relay and boisterous cheers envelop the stadium, which was first opened in 1925 – 99 years ago.

"It's exciting," said Patten.

You can try to use a GPS (Global Positioning System) to try to locate the communities of Nashua and Plainfield or you can just attend the track and field celebration this week and find out for yourself.

"No one ever knows where Nashua-Plainfield is," said McCall. "I was thinking about that this morning how cool it is...we're putting Nashua-Plainfield on the map, which is really awesome. For them to know who we are is just really cool."

N-P qualified with a 1:51.62 – the 21st-fastest qualifying time. Twenty-four relays will run in the event with squads like Cedar Falls, MOC-Floyd Valley, Sioux City East and Iowa City Liberty.

"We just want to go down and run our best," said Eick.

The sprint med for the Huskies will be just part of the fun as Huck returns to Polk County to run in her marquee events – the open 400 and 800. She just missed out on cracking the Drake field in the 1,500 run. She placed fifth in that last year at Drake and did the same in the 800 run. She was fourth in the 400 dash. She's got another great opportunity to medal in those two events this year and the five-time state champ is eager to show she's taken it to another level again as a Drake "veteran."

"I definitely think this is a starting point. Obviously, qualifying is a really big deal," said Huck about her lone relay. "No one from N-P has done it yet. It's really cool to be a part of that – kind of making that history."

N-P will look to shatter the "old" school record from back in 2022 when the quartet of Husky legends Abbie Hyde, Rylee Weiss, Makenzie Foelske and Huck produced a school record time of 1:51.44 to snare the blue ribbon at state in Class 1A. That relay win enabled N-P to claim its first ever state title in N-P track and field history.

Huck said she's talked to

Weiss and the response was 'go get it.'

"They know how it feels to get a school record, obviously, so they want that for us," Huck said.

Huck was quick to point out that while five N-P girls will head down to Des Moines this week – junior Marleigh Lowe is the relay's alternate – the relays' success and her own comes from a whole host of sources, specifically the entire team of 24 athletes that comprise the N-P girls squad.

"Even though we're down there and it's just us five and just us four running, it's important to remember we have a whole 24 people here. It's really cool to be able to do that for not only them, but our whole community," said Huck.

Whether that's N-P senior Maci Malven braiding the girls hair before meets or the N-P Athletic Booster Club providing meals for the Husky Drake Relays participants or N-P fans, parents, coaches and past alums.

They all matter.

"The list of those that we need to recognize and thank...it's just insane. It's so exciting to see these ladies reach their goals. They worked all year long for this stuff. I always tell them you're making my mom heart happy. It's hard not to get tearful for them because just to be able to see them be successful is a really proud moment," said McCall.

N-P's Drake Relays run will be sort of like icing on the cake for the Huskies or as Lowe put it best – what goes on top of that confectionery treat.

"I feel like some sprinkles maybe, too," smiled Lowe.

Lowe talked about what Huck will try to accomplish later next month in May that could well add to her state hardware total. Huck will gun for four more state titles in 2024 and give it her all – with the backing

of an entire community – to bring home another team title for the Huskies.

"She's an all-time great in our hearts," said Lowe.

Huck wanted to add that while Drake is a special place to run – there's still plenty of season left and very important goals still left to attain in 2024.

"Just because we qualify here doesn't mean we're automatically in at state," said Huck. "We're still going to have to work for it. This relay is one of many that can qualify and do good at state. I think it's important to keep that in mind and just remember the whole big picture at the end of the season."

What advice did Huck have for her teammates – who have never run at the Drake Relays before Friday?

"It's the same distance around the track," said Huck. "It's just painted blue."

White said running at state last year in the distance medley relay helped – which N-P finished fourth in and went a long way towards the Husky runner-up finish in the Class 1A team standings.

"Last year they helped a lot – just bringing me up and they just said 'go do what you do,'" said White.

Huck is scheduled to begin the 800 run at 1:46 p.m. on Friday (today) and the 400 dash at 5:26 p.m. Friday night (this evening).

There will be several celebrities floating in and around the blue oval this week at Drake – mainly Des Moines Roosevelt alum and Olympic hurdler Lolo Jones, who will be inducted into the Drake Relays Hall of Fame.

"They didn't even know who Lolo Jones was," laughed McCall.

Maybe Jones will find out who these Huskies are.

## Peggy Ann Mullen, 75

Peggy Ann Mullen, age 75 and formerly of Charles City, died Saturday, April 20, 2024, at LaPorte City Specialty Care.

No formal services will be held at this time. A private family graveside service will take place at a later date in Humboldt.

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

## Cities won't have to pay ambulance bill next quarter

Six Chickasaw County cities received some welcome – albeit not unexpected – news during Monday's Board of Supervisors meeting when board members approved waiving the cities' first quarterly payment of the 2024-25 fiscal year for the county-owned ambulance service.

Board members unanimously approved waiving the payments that New Hampton, Bassett, Fredericksburg, Ionia, Lawler and North Washington were scheduled to make by July 5.

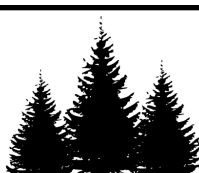
Supervisors in all reality had no choice when it came to waiving the payments because the 28E agreements that the county and the cities signed require the county to waive a quarterly payment if Chickasaw County EMS has \$750,000 or more in its account for two consecutive quarters.

County Auditor Sheila Shiekleton said that the EMS Dedicated Fund had a balance of \$954,963.29 on Jan. 15, and that balance rose to \$1,001,392.83 on April 15. If that balance is above \$750,000 on July 15, the cities will then have their October quarterly payments waived.

The six cities would have paid the county a total of \$141,315.30 on July 5.

The 28E agreements were signed in 2022 by the six cities who wanted to be a part of the county-owned ambulance service that began taking calls on Jan. 1, 2023. Nashua and Alta Vista did not join the new service.

— By Bob Fenske



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# After lengthy discussions, supervisors vote 3-2 to adopt 2024-25 budget

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

almost 19 percent increase in tax-asking that board members presented to the public late last month for its max-levy budget hearing but remained problematic for the board.

“I’m still getting phone calls that tax-asking’s too high, but what do you do? I’ve asked to cut expenditures out of EMA, sell a building, check out this health insurance issue,” Supervisor Jake Hackman said. “Yes, we’re under a million dollars now in new money coming in from last year on that tax-asking, but 14’s a lot.”

“I’ve been getting a lot of questions, too, and concerns as well,” Kuhn said.

Breitbach, as he did last week, pointed out that Chickasaw County’s tax-levy rates will be on the “low end” when compared to surrounding counties, and while he understood the angst over the tax-asking increase, he wanted to protect services that he said his constituents value.

“I talk to a lot of people out there, too, that complain about tax increases, too,” he said, “but when I ask them what services are you prepared to cut, they don’t want any services cut.”

Rural New Hampton resident Terry Johnson, who is seeking the District 4 seat currently held by Kuhn, said he wasn’t concerned about what other counties are doing.

“Whatever the other counties are doing, that’s fine. This is Chickasaw County. I don’t care what they’re doing. I care about Chickasaw County,” he said. “When I’m out doing my campaign thing, all I get is taxes, taxes, taxes. It’s all they want to talk about. They’re pretty upset. ... I guess it’s a situation that if you have to cut some services, you have to cut some services.”

During the first discussion on the budget Monday, Hackman said that “unless we can find the magic eight ball of tax growth,” the only options available to the county were to “consolidate, [have] less hours of operation,” but he also wondered if the county needed to look at stop-

ping to provide services that “are not core related that we don’t have to,” pointing out, as just one

example, that “I don’t think the law says we have to provide home care [but] we do.”

And Kuhn was frustrated that the work board members have done since the max tax-asking hearing seemed to be for naught.

“Going back to last week’s discussion, it appeared to me that discussion was that we had three enough money in our ending fund balance that we could cut general supplemental,” Kuhn said, “but now we’re back to discussion of hiring freezes and that we don’t have enough money.”

After Breitbach made the motion to approve



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Members of the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors discuss the 2024-25 budget during Monday’s meeting.

| CHICKASAW COUNTY TAX-ASKING FOR 2024-25 |                    |                    |             |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
|                                         | 2023-2024          | 2024-2025          | % change    |
| General Basic                           | \$3,227,111        | \$3,271,534        | 1.4         |
| Pioneer Cemetery                        | \$6,012            | \$6,179            | 2.7         |
| General Supplemental                    | \$1,080,925        | \$1,795,297        | 66.0        |
| Debt Services                           | \$462,082          | \$459,333          | -0.6        |
| Rural Services Basic                    | \$2,209,055        | \$2,364,566        | 7.0         |
| <b>Total Tax-Asking</b>                 | <b>\$6,985,185</b> | <b>\$7,896,909</b> | <b>13.1</b> |
| Levy Rates                              | \$8.49321          | \$9.42891          | 11.0        |

SOURCE: Chickasaw County Auditor’s Office

the budget and Hackman seconded it “for discussion,” County Attorney David Laudner expressed his frustrations that so much time had gone into a budget that didn’t appear to have support from board members.

“If we knew we weren’t going to support this, where have we been the last three months to make these recommendations? We have spent countless hours up here and days up here the last three months trying to craft this,” he said. “And now at the last minute, we’re not supporting it? Maybe I’m incorrect, but I haven’t heard a lot of feedback or people pounding the table saying there’s no way in hell I’m going to vote for this.”

Laudner added that to “pull the rug out of it at the last minute,” would be a disaster for the county’s department heads.

If the county hadn’t certified its budget by the deadline, its tax-asking for 2024-25 would have been the same as it was for this fiscal year that ends

on June 30. That means the county would have received \$950,000 less in tax revenue than it had dedicated to its 2024-25 budget.

Still, the first vote on the budget failed on a 3-2 vote, with only Cerwinski and Breitbach favoring it.

After discussing several other issues, though, board members returned to the budget later in the meeting.

Kuhn suggested that board members find some savings in the budget by having employees pay for more of their health insurance policies — increasing the employee contribution for single policies from 0 to 5 percent and the employee contribution for family policies from 25 to 30 percent.

“I know in the grand scheme of things it’s probably not a lot but it all adds up,” Kuhn said, adding that his proposal would save “just shy of 60 percent.”

Cerwinski said he felt changing the family contribution less than a year after the county began paying part of the employees’ family plan was a bad idea.

## Briefs

### Conservation ‘Farmer of the Year’ nominations open

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Iowa Conservation Farmer of the Year. Now in its 73rd year, this prestigious honor has been awarded to celebrate conservation progress among select Iowa farmers who are committed to exceptional environmental stewardship and conservation efforts.

The statewide and regional awards, co-sponsored by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) and the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF), honor Iowa farmers who have distinguished track records of commitment to soil conservation and water quality improvement efforts.

**Legal Notice**  
City of Nashua  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
City Council Chambers, City Hall

The Nashua City Council met for a workshop on April 23, 2024 in Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:07PM with Mayor Kelleher presiding. Council members present were Peggy Hall, Jake Johnson, and Ernie Willsher. Samantha Johnson arrived at 7:11PM. Dan Zwanziger was absent. City Clerk John Ott was present along with 4 guests. Mayor Kelleher called for a motion to approve the agenda. Willsher/M, J. Johnson S/M/C. RC: 3Ayes (S. Johnson and Zwanziger absent).

Action/Discussion  
The council discussed a number of items at the meeting including the water/wastewater department, multiple ordinances including truck route, water use metered, and storm water. The council also discussed the questions presented by Simmering Cory for the recodification of the Code of Ordinances. They also discussed the possibility of adding a hotel/motel tax. The biggest discussion was on Main St. This was a council workshop and so no actions were taken and most of these items will be discussed again at the next council meeting May 6, 2024.

There was no other business. J. Johnson motioned to adjourn. S. Johnson seconded. M/C. the meeting was adjourned at 7:46PM. Roll Call: Hall, J. Johnson, S. Johnson, and Willsher ayes and Zwanziger absent.  
\*pending approval by council  
John Ott City Clerk

### Legal Notice

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
April 8, 2024  
Nashua-Plainfield JH/HS Commons  
6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order  
Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by President Pat Lentz. Present: Cody Jensen, Lara Lawrence, Patrick Lentz. Absent: Laura Folkerts and Chris Hagen. Also Present: Superintendent Todd Liechty and Board Secretary Ashley Ratliff

II. Approve Agenda  
Motion by Cody Jensen, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Hearing for FY25 Certified Budget

President Pat Lentz opened the hearing at 6:31 pm. No comments were made. The hearing was closed at 6:34 pm.

XV. Adjourn  
Lara Lawrence adjourned at 6:35 pm, seconded by Cody Jensen. Motion carried unanimously.

The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 13 at 7 pm in the MS/HS Commons.  
Ashley Ratliff  
SBO/Board Secretary  
Pat Lentz  
Board President

inee’s conservation efforts and commitment to improving soil. Nominations are due by May 10 to your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office.

One nominee will be selected by each of Iowa’s 99 county SWCD offices. These individuals will be considered for regional conservation awards. Nine regional award winners will compete for the title of “Iowa’s Conservation Farmer of the Year.”

The winner will be announced during the Iowa State Fair. The 2024 statewide Conservation Farmer of the Year winner will receive free use of a John Deere 5M Series utility tractor for up to 12 months or 200 hours of use. The prize, valued at more than \$12,000, has long been donated by the Farm Bureau partner Van Wall Equipment of Perry and John Deere.

### Nashua-Plainfield music students to present Spring Concert Tuesday

Nashua-Plainfield students in grades 7-12 will fill the high school gymnasium with some great music this coming Tuesday night as they put on the school’s annual Spring Concert.

Junior high choir and band students will perform their concert at 6 p.m. while the Nashua-Plainfield High School Concert Choir, Concert Band and Jazz Band will perform their concert at 7:30 p.m.

### Wreath-making class set at Carnegie in New Hampton May 4

The Carnegie Cultural Center in New Hampton will be hosting a wreath-making class on Saturday, May 4.

The class will begin at 10:30 a.m., and space is limited so museum officials are asking participants to pre-register by calling 641-394-2354 or emailing info@carnegieculturalcenter.org.

### Next ‘1619 Project’ discussion is set for this Sunday in Fredericksburg

The fourth discussion of the 1619 Project will be held this Sunday evening, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, 111 S. Hamilton.

This study series, produced by the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, is held the fourth Sunday of each month through June. For more information, please call Joe Peraud, 563-237-6148. The meetings are hosted by Hugh and Carol Mackintosh, Gladys Christoph, Jim Reid, and Kara Johns.

READ THE LEGALS ...  
It’s YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW HOW THEY’RE  
SPENDING YOU’RE TAXPAYER DOLLARS

## Legal Notice - Legal Notice

### CHICKASAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS’ MINUTES April 15, 2024

The Board convened on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 9:00 AM with members Breitbach, Kuhn, Suckow, Hackman and Cerwinski present in the Boardroom on the second floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa. Chairperson Cerwinski called the meeting to order. Also present were Attorney David Laudner, Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Bob Fenske, member of media, Terry Johnson, Engineer Roman Lensing, Assessor Raymond Arnel, Joan Knoll, Sheriff Ryan Shawver, EMS Director Joel Knutson, Nashua Public Library Heather Hackman, Treasurer Matt Ysbrand, Custodian Dave Gorman.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Breitbach to approve the agenda for April 15, 2024 with a change. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve the meeting minutes from April 8, 2024. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to approve the meeting minutes from April 11, 2024. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Breitbach, Cerwinski. Abstained: Kuhn, Suckow. Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve Semi-Annual (Quarterly) Report for Treasurer ending March 31, 2024. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Hackman to acknowledge the Notice of Termination for Temporary Clerical Services, Kathy Lechtenberg, for the Auditor’s office dated April 8, 2024. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

No public comment.

Discussed safety coordinator for Chickasaw County and having someone from the Secondary Roads Department do it.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Hackman to open Public Hearing for the FY 2024-2025 County Budget at 9:11 AM. Roll call: Ayes: Kuhn, Hackman, Breitbach, Suckow, Cerwinski. Motion carried.

Joan Knoll asked if we could explain some line items on the Notice of Public Hearing Proposed Budget FY24-25.

Board Chair Cerwinski read a letter from Annie Boge.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to close Public Hearing for the FY 2024-2025 County Budget at 9:48 AM. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn, Cerwinski. Motion carried.

Resolution 04-15-24-19 approving Adoption of the FY 2024-2025 County Budget failed due to lack of a motion.

Consensus of the board to move one Sheriff Deputy from Rural Services Basic to General Basic and bring the proposed budget for FY 24-25 back next week.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to enter closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1) I to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hir-

ing, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation and that individual requests a closed session at 9:52 AM. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn, Cerwinski. Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to exit closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1) I to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual’s reputation and that individual requests a closed session at 10:29 AM. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Breitbach, Kuhn, Suckow, Cerwinski. Motion carried.

No action out of closed sessions.

Stanton Electric Chuck Stanton updated on EMS Remodeling Project and the electrical repairs for the Courthouse.

Discussed department updates for Secondary Roads by Engineer Roman Lensing.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve the FY2025 Iowa DOT Secondary Roads Budget for Chickasaw County and authorize chair and auditor’s signature. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn, Cerwinski. Motion carried.

Sheriff Ryan Shawver and Custodian Dave Gorman updated the board on lobby safety and security remodel project for the Law Enforcement Building.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Breitbach to acknowledge the security remodel project for the Law Enforcement Building to be completed by Bob Hackman Construction for \$3,273.20 plus removing a window. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Kuhn to approve EMS Debt Asset Collection Policy. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to approve and authorize chair, auditor, or EMS Director’s signature on Tri-State Adjustments, Inc for collections for the Chickasaw County EMS. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Committee Assignment  
Supervisor Cerwinski, April 11, Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw County Landfill.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Hackman to adjourn at 11:28 AM. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Scott Cerwinski, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors  
ATTEST:Sheila Shekleton, Secretary to the Board

No.23902  
4/25/24 4/26/24

No. 23909  
4/26/24

No.23904  
4/26/24

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USPS 371-380

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## MCN





# N-P trap continues great spring with two more first-place finishes

By KELLY TERPSTRA  
Of the Reporter

The Nashua-Plainfield trapshooting squad continues to rule the roost this spring. The Huskies – who play alongside the split squad of Charles City/NP – added another team title to its mantlepiece with first-place finishes at Turkey Valley on Monday

and then again over in West Union on Tuesday. The Huskies claimed themselves the winner of the meet at the TV Invite on Monday in a handicap shooting format. N-P was crowned victorious with a team score of 358, eight better than New Hampton Red’s 350. N-P senior Dawson Demro was the top shooter with an 83, while fellow Husky senior

Micaiah Groothuis finished with an impressive 82. At West Union, N-P outdistanced Echo Valley – 231 to 211 – for first place. Husky juniors Nic Brase and Maverick Dietz-McDonald, as well as Groothuis, all fired 47s. Demro wound up with a 46 and senior J.R. O’Neill managed a 44. **MONDAY TURKEY VALLEY INVITE (HANDICAP SCORES)**

**TOP-THREE SQUADS**  
Nashua-Plainfield 358, New Hampton Red 350, Charles City 1 327.  
**TOP-THREE BOYS**  
Dawson Demro (NP) 83, Treat (OEL) 83, Micaiah Groothuis (NP) 82.  
**TOP-THREE GIRLS**  
Hayley Burke (OEL) 82, Bearman (NH) 74, Ali Blickenderfer (CC) 71.  
**NASHUA-PLAINFIELD SQUAD RESULTS**  
Dawson Demro 83, Nic Brase 64, Micaiah Groothuis 82, J.R. O’Neill 70, Maverick Dietz-McDonald 59.

**TUESDAY TOP THREE SQUADS**  
Nashua-Plainfield 231, EVTT 1 211, Charles City 1 208.

Demro 46, Brase 47, Groothuis 47, O’Neill 44, Dietz-McDonald 47.

## Legal Notice - Legal Notice

**NASHUA-PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**April 8, 2024**  
**Nashua-Plainfield JH/HS Commons 7:00 p.m.**  
I. Call to Order  
Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Pat Lent. Present: Chris Hagen, Cody Jensen, Lara Lawrence, Patrick Lentz. Absent: Laura Folkerts. Also Present: Superintendent Todd Liechty, MS/HS Principal Dean Youngblut, Elementary Principal Shannon Wurzer, and Board Secretary Ashley Ratliff.  
II. Approve Agenda  
Motion by Chris Hagen, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the agenda with the addition of setting a public hearing date to amend current year budget. Motion carried unanimously.  
III. Approve the Consent Agenda  
Motion by Chris Hagen, Second by Lara Lawrence to approve the consent agenda, which includes previous meeting board minutes, bills for payment, monthly financial reports, the hire of Ami Hagen as Athletic Director upon licensure, Abigail Feldman as Assistant JH Volleyball Coach, and Jill Kalvig as Head JH Girls Basketball Coach. Motion carried unanimously.  
IV. Cash Flow Report  
Motion by Chris Hagen, Second by Cody Jensen Motion to approve the Cash Flow Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.  
V. Welcome Visitors and Hearing of Delegations  
No comments were made.  
VI. Administrative Reports  
The Administration went over their reports with the board.  
VII. Public Hearing for FY 25 Calendar  
Pat Lentz opened the hearing at 7:31 pm. No public comments were made. The hearing was closed at 7:37 pm.  
VIII. Board Discussion of Calendar Changes and Implications for Support Staff Contracts  
PD Days would be added for support staff.  
IX. Approve FY25 Calendar  
Motion by Chris Hagen, Second by Lara Lawrence Motion to approve the FY25 Calendar and Hours as presented. Motion carried unanimously.  
X. Approve FY 25 Budget  
Motion by Lara Lawrence, Second by Cody Jensen to approve the FY25 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.  
XI. First Reading of Board Policies 400 Series  
Motion by Chris Hagen, Second by Cody Jensen to approve the following Board Policies 400 Series: 405.08, 406.01, 406.02, 406.03, 406.05, 404-R(1), 404-R(2). Motion carried unanimously.  
XII. First Reading of Select Board Policies  
Motion by Lara Lawrence, Second by Cody Jensen to approve the following Board Policies 700 Series: 707.05, 705.1-R(1), 705.04-R(1), 707.05-R(1), and 900 Board Policy 901. Motion carried unanimously.  
XIII. Review FY23 Audit Report  
Board Secretary Ashley Ratliff went over the FY23 Audit Report findings with the board. No motion was made.  
XIV. Approve Operational Sharing with Tripoli for Curriculum Director  
Motion by Cody Jensen, Second by Chris Hagen to approve the Operational Sharing Agreement with Tripoli for Curriculum Director, with Tripoli holding the contract at 70% and Nashua-Plainfield at 30%. Motion carried unanimously.  
XV. Approve Change Order for BB/SB Complex  
Motion by Lara Lawrence, Second by Cody Jensen to approve Option 2 for the Change Order for the BB/SB Complex with an increase in the amount of \$22,806.40. Motion carried unanimously.  
XVI. Approve purchase of Edmentum Curricular Materials  
Motion by Lara Lawrence, Second by Chris Hagen to approve the purchase of Edmentum Curricular Materials. Motion carried unanimously.  
XVII. Set date for public hearing to amend FY24 Budget  
Motion by Chris Hagen, Second by Lara Lawrence to set the public hearing to amend the FY24 Budget for May 13 at 7:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.  
XVIII. Adjourn  
Lara Lawrence adjourned at 8:12 pm, Second by Cody Jensen. Motion carried unanimously.  
The next regular Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 13 at 7 pm in the MS/HS Commons.

|                                                                    |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES .....          | 75.00      |
| AGENCY .....                                                       |            |
| CENTURY LINK, TELEPHONE/FAX .....                                  | 446.56     |
| CITY OF NASHUA, WATER & SEWER .....                                | 2,001.70   |
| DECKER SPORTING GOODS, ATHLETIC SUPPLIES .....                     | 2,902.00   |
| DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL .....                                     | 5,745.15   |
| DISTRICT .....                                                     |            |
| FAREWAY STORES, INC., FOOD/SUPPLIES .....                          | 293.57     |
| FLOYD COUNTY AUDITOR, ELECTION SERVICES .....                      | 255.57     |
| GRAINGER, SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT .....                                 | 114.82     |
| GREEN IMAGE, GROUNDS CARE .....                                    | 76.32      |
| HAMPTON-DUMONT HIGH SCHOOL, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES .....             | 110.00     |
| HAWKEYE COMMUNITY COLLEGE COLLEGE CLASSES .....                    | 26,248.40  |
| HERFF JONES, INC., DIPLOMAS .....                                  | 785.74     |
| HY VEE, INC, FOOD/SUPPLIES .....                                   | 55.92      |
| IFIXIT, TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES .....                                  | 676.43     |
| INSTRUMENTALIST CO. AWARDS .....                                   | 87.00      |
| IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, TELEPHONE/FAX/INTERNET .....          | 2,303.15   |
| IOWA FUNDRAISING, FUNDRAISING SUPPLIES .....                       | 1,045.00   |
| IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC ASSN, MEMBERSHIP & ENTRY FEES .....         | 145.00     |
| IOWA SCHOOLS EMP BENEFITS ASSN, LIFE/DISABILITY INSURANCE .....    | 3,118.96   |
| IOWA TESTING PROGRAMS, TESTING MATERIAL .....                      | 1,528.00   |
| JENDRO SANITATION SERVICES, GARBAGE COLLECTION .....               | 790.00     |
| JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, GENERAL/MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES .....           | 312.92     |
| JOHNSON CONTROLS, BUILDING EQUIPMENT/REPAIRS .....                 | 7,379.96   |
| KJ DESIGN BOUTIQUE & CLOTHING .....                                | 150.00     |
| CO, .....                                                          |            |
| LIECHTY, TODD, MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT .....                         | 180.13     |
| MARTIN BROS DISTRIBUTING CO FOOD/SUPPLIES .....                    | 15,736.38  |
| MARTIN GARDNER ARCHITECTURE, ARCHITECTURAL FEES .....              | 1,680.00   |
| MASON CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, TUITION .....                        | 25.00      |
| MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, DRUG TESTING .....                            | 32.00      |
| MENARDS, MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES .....                                | 108.58     |
| MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, ELECTRICITY .....                              | 5,595.39   |
| MOOSE MECHANICAL, MAINTENANCE REPAIRS/PARTS .....                  | 13,710.08  |
| NASHUA-PLAINFIELD FOOD SERVICE .....                               | 83.00      |
| NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION, SERVICES .....                          | 3,283.60   |
| NEW HAMPTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL, OPEN ENROLLMENT .....                | 150.00     |
| NEW HAMPTON TRIBUNE/NASHUA ADVERTISEMENTS .....                    | 572.26     |
| REPORTER, .....                                                    |            |
| NORTH FAYETTE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ENTRY FEE .....                   | 75.00      |
| SCHOOL .....                                                       |            |
| OELWEIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL, PROM DJ SERVICES .....                   | 400.00     |
| DISTRICT .....                                                     |            |
| OSAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES .....                 | 200.00     |
| PAN-O-GOLD BAKING, NUTRITION FOOD .....                            | 758.80     |
| PATHWAYS BEHAVIORAL SERVICES, COUNSELING SERVICES .....            | 675.00     |
| PEDERSON PLUMBING, PLUMBING SERVICES .....                         | 102.35     |
| PETERS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION .....                              | 51,379.80  |
| S & T COLLISION, TRANSPORTATION REPAIRS / .....                    | 819.80     |
| PURCHASES, SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIRS - 30, BOOKS .....                 | 1,259.29   |
| SCHUETH ACE HARDWARE, GENERAL/MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES .....           | 102.26     |
| SECRETARY OF STATE, NOTARY APPLICATION .....                       | 30.00      |
| ST. ANSGAR COMMUNITY SCHOOL ENTRY FEE .....                        | 200.00     |
| SUPERIOR LUMBER, CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES .....                       | 239.30     |
| SWISHER & COHRT, P.L.C., LEGAL SERVICES .....                      | 149.28     |
| SYMMETRY ENERGY SOLUTIONS, LLC, NATURAL GAS .....                  | 19,813.20  |
| T & K TRACTOR REPAIR, TRANSPORTATION REPAIRS .....                 | 2,103.70   |
| TIMBERLINE BILLING SERVICE LLC, MEDICAID BILLING SERVICE .....     | 304.38     |
| TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, TECHNOLOGY-ADMINISTRATIVE .....           | 119.70     |
| TOOLS TODAY, IT TOOLS .....                                        | 77.38      |
| TOP OF IOWA CONFERENCE, TOP OF IOWA MEMBERSHIP .....               | 142.50     |
| TREASURER .....                                                    |            |
| WAVERLY-SHELL ROCK SCHOOL DIST, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES / ENTRY ..... | 148,003.00 |
| FEE, WEDEKING ELECTRIC LLS MAINTENANCE SERVICES/SUPPLIES .....     | 552.79     |
| WEEDS ON FIRE, LAWN CARE .....                                     | 300.00     |
| WEST HIGH SCHOOL, ATHLETIC DUES/FEES .....                         | 20.00      |
| WEST MUSIC CO, BAND/VOCAL SUPPLIES .....                           | 59.97      |
| WINONA CONTROLS, INC., PREVENTATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT .....        | 5,178.00   |
| Grand Total: .....                                                 | 351,084.86 |

No. 23903  
4/26/24

## ACCEPTING BIDS

The Chickasaw County Conservation Board is accepting quotes for the installation of a concrete pad at Twin Ponds Nature Center. All items will be subject to State Inspection when completed. Those interested in the specifications for this project may call Chad Humpal at 641-394-4714.

Quotes are due May 3, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. and shall be delivered or mailed to the Chickasaw County Auditor's Office, Courthouse, PO Box 311, New Hampton, IA 50659, or Chickasaw County Conservation Board, 1811 – 240th St., Ionia, IA 50645-9404.

Quotes will be opened at approximately 6:30 p.m. May 6, 2024 at the Twin Ponds Nature Center.

The Chickasaw County Conservation Board reserves the right to refuse any and all quotes.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

**Husky sophomore Jayla Patten (above) sprints out of the blocks in the 100-meter dash at the Nashua-Plainfield Co-Ed Invite earlier this month and junior Amberley Gerholdt (below) hands the baton off to freshman Rilynn Henningsen in the 4x800 relay.**

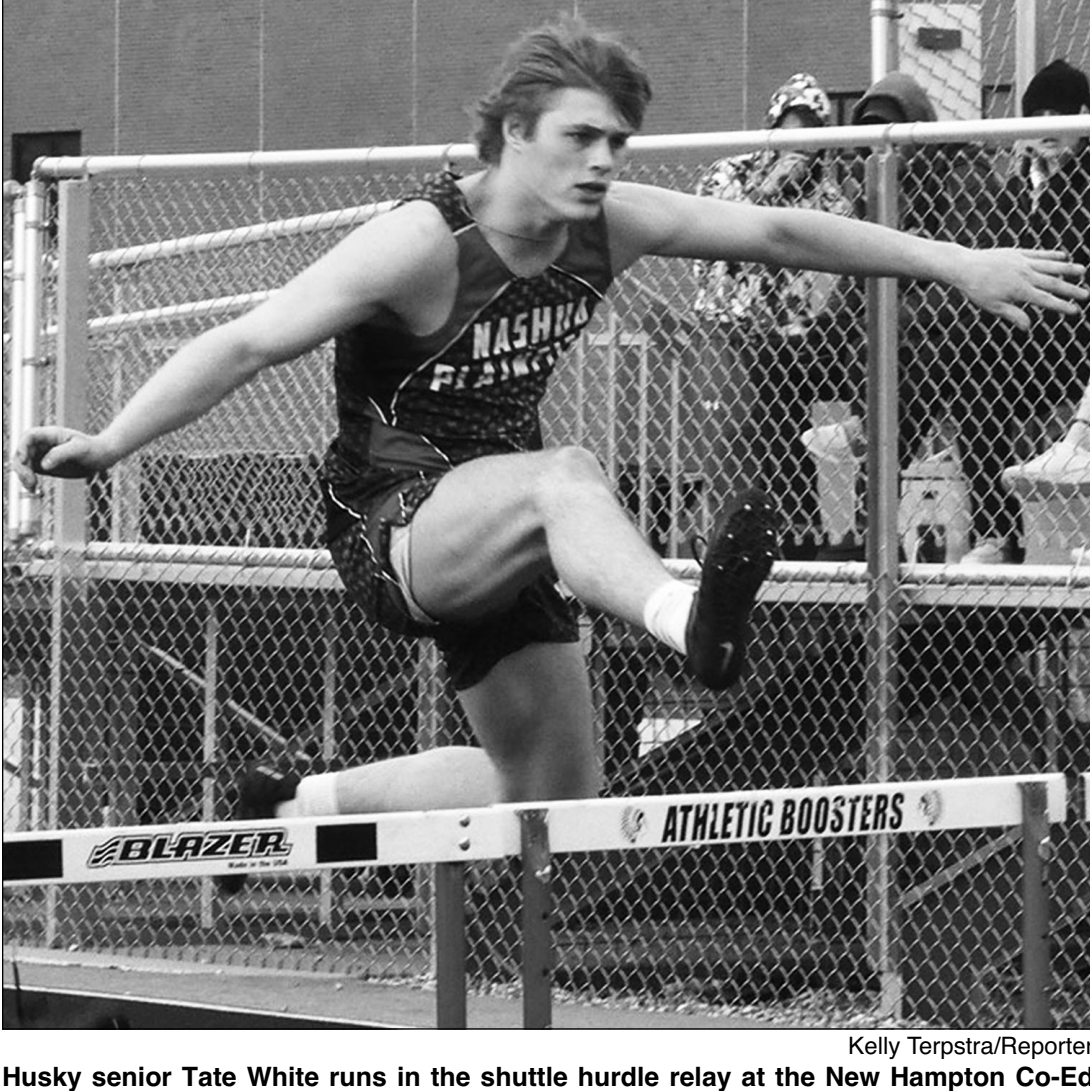


High jump - 1. Frost 4-6. Shot put - 1. Lamborn 32-7.5, 9. Discus - 3. Webster 82-9, 6. Webster 25-9.5.

# Nashua-Plainfield heads to St. Ansgar for league meet, qualifier

## BOYS TRACK: FROM 8

Sudol said his goal for his 4x800 runners in that event at districts – whoever that may be – is to run clips of at least 2:10 for a cumulative time of 8:40. That he thinks may be enough and give that squad a shot to run at state. “I just really want it for (Dylan) Blanchard. I love him as a senior. With him and Jase (Hansen), I know we have the capability,” said Sudol. “We gotta have the night come together for us once. That’s all of our relays.” N-P’s shuttle hurdle relay – which medaled for the first time in school history last year – was disqualified at the S-F meet. “That shuttle hurdle – I truly believe we’re capable of running a 1:04,” said Sudol. That squad’s best time this year came at the New Hampton Co-Ed Invite and was 1:07.91 with the foursome of Tate White, Landon Foelske, Devon Blanchard and Titus Evans. Foelske earned a PR in the 110 high hurdles with a second-place time of 17.25. Evans was fourth in 18.65. “He’s getting there,” said Sudol about Foelske. Eli Kalainoff, a sophomore, continues to amaze in the discus as he shattered his school record yet again with a 142-11 toss. Kalainoff broke the school record of 2021 N-P grad Blake Lindeland (136-4.25) earlier this year and has re-broken it several times already. “Eli’s doing an amazing job in disc,” said Sudol. “I don’t even know what to set for a goal for him at the end of the year. He needs to medal at state. He needs to go for some hardware. If he keeps throwing further and further – he can throw a 170 potentially on a perfect night.” N-P sophomore Navarii Williams ran a season-best in the open 200 dash (24.51) to



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

**Husky senior Tate White runs in the shuttle hurdle relay at the New Hampton Co-Ed Invite in a meet earlier this month.**

place third. Williams led off the opening leg of the 4x100, which finished third as well in a time of 48.86 with the squad of Tucker Franzen, Aiden Gelner and Trae Geise. Brexton Bird, a sophomore, finished second in the open 800 in a time of 2:24. After the league meet, N-P is scheduled to compete at Central Springs on Monday, May 6, which will conclude the season prior to the qualifier. **SUMNER-FREDERICKSBURG CO-ED INVITE TEAM SCORES**  
Sumner-Fredricksburg 155.5, Janesville 140, Nashua-Plainfield 122, Waterloo Columbus 85, West

Central 54, Turkey Valley 47.5, Tripoli 24, Postville 17.  
**NASHUA-PLAINFIELD RESULTS**  
100 - 8. Easton Richards 12.46, 9. Trae Geise 12.49.  
200 - 3. Navarii Williams 24.51, 12. Ty Berger 27.42.  
4x100 - 3. Williams, Tucker Franzen, Aiden Gelner, Geise 48.86.  
400 - 5. Dylan Blanchard 1:01.95, 6. Ben Percy 1:04.77.  
4x200 - 5. Karson Chyma, Clayden Gerholdt, Miles Carpenter, Quintyn Boehmer 1:54.95.  
800 - 2. Brexton Bird 2:24.23, 6. Jase Hansen 2:46.85.  
4x800 - 2. Jake Smith, Blanchard, Braeden Mitchell, Avery Mueller 9:17.51.  
1,600 - 3. Caleb Lentz 5:51.57, 4. Connor Sullivan 5:57.24.

Sprint medley - 4. Richards, Franzen, Williams, Lentz 1:39.8.  
Distance medley - 3. Williams, Gelner, Titus Evans, Hansen 4:09.11.  
4x400 - N/A.  
110 hurdles - 2. Landon Foelske 17.25 4. Evans 18.65.  
400 hurdles - 4. Foelske 1:04.2, 6. Chris Niedert 1:12.58.  
Shuttle hurdle - Tate White, Foelske, Devon Blanchard, Tyler Zimmer DQ.  
3,200 - 3. Luke Paplow 12:29.14.  
4. Brady Lensing 13:08.45.  
Long jump - 4. Franzen 18-1.5, 8. Mueller 16-5.  
High jump - De. Blanchard 5-6, Geise NH.  
Shot put - 9. Isaac Jones 34.5, 10. Zander Lentz 33-5.  
Discus - 1. Eli Kalainoff 142-11.



# Huskies in the market for new football coach



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter  
Nashua-Plainfield coach Andrew Christensen gets ready to send in a play during a 2022 state playoff game.

## Nashua-Plainfield girls take second at Sumner-Fred meet

By KELLY TERPSTRA  
Of the Reporter

Most high school track followers realize how adept at scoring points at the state meet the Nashua-Plainfield Huskies have been the past two seasons. A state title and runner-up finish down at Drake Stadium is proof alone that the Husky girls track team has climbed the mountain top on more than one occasion. Winning an actual regular season meet has been elusive so far in 2024 for head coach Amber McCall's squad. N-P came close to reeling in a team title this past Monday at the Sumner-Fredericksburg Co-Ed Invite. The host Cougars edged N-P by nine points – 126 to 117 – to snare the No. 1 spot in the standings. "Nine points – that was a stinger," said McCall. N-P ripped off a season-best time in the distance medley relay to claim a blue ribbon. The time of 4:29.71 is currently the fifth-best time in the small-school class. McCall is super stoked that N-P accomplished that clip

with the group of senior Jordyn Frost, freshman Jayla Patten, senior Ellie Eick and junior Kadence Huck. It was the first time this spring that group has attempted to run that relay in an official meet. "I'm excited to see what that team will do," said McCall. "Sumner-Fred wasn't the greatest conditions, so to be able to get the time that we did in those conditions was really awesome to see. When they get more comfortable with each other and we work on handoffs more...that time can drop tremendously." Huck won the 1,500 run in 5:15.76. She ran a season-low 4:50.24 in that same event at last week Thursday's N-P Invite – where the Huskies placed seventh as a team (49.5 points). The Huskies' sprint medley relay also crossed the finish line first in 1:55.22 at S-F. That group consists of Patten, sophomore Jalissa White, Eick and Huck. That heralded bunch will run Friday morning (today) at the Drake Relays and sports the top time in Class 1A (1:51.62).

SEE GIRLS TRACK, 7



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter  
Nashua-Plainfield's Eden Lamborn gets ready to toss the shot put during a meet earlier this month.

## Husky boys look to 'step up' before the postseason begins

By KELLY TERPSTRA  
Of the Reporter

The clock is ticking and the stopwatch doesn't lie. That's why Nashua-Plainfield boys track coach Chase Sudol isn't concerned so far this spring for his runners out on the oval – but he's anxious to see his Husky athletes perform up to their capabilities. "It's time for guys to step up. We've always done it in the past and we've placed a huge emphasis on district track and stuff. Kids gotta understand what we're trying to accomplish here. We don't have time to wait anymore. Our times have got to start coming down," said Sudol. After last Friday's meet at North Butler was cancelled because of inclement weather, N-P was still able to compete in the Sumner-Fredericksburg Invite on Monday. N-P ran at Dike-New Hartford on Thursday and hosts the Cowpath Relays on Monday at home. Those are ample opportunities for the Huskies to dip lower and gain some momentum for the stretch run – which is fast approaching. N-P's Top of Iowa Conference meet will

be held at St. Ansgar on Thursday, May 2. The host Saints will host the Class 1A state qualifier the following Thursday where N-P will be at gunning for state berths and a repeat district championship for last year's storied run. N-P placed third (122 points) at the S-F Invite. The host Cougars won the meet with 155.5 points and Janesville was second (140 points). "Here's the deal. I understand our relays...we haven't had some of the best nights to run. At this point I really don't care. We gotta get going," said Sudol, in his eighth season as Husky head coach. One such relay Sudol would love to see run down at Des Moines in the state meet next month is the 4x800 relay. That squad of Jake Smith, Dylan Blanchard, Braeden Mitchell and Avery Mueller finished just a mere three-one-hundredths back of first place Turkey Valley in the event – 9:17.48 to 9:17.51. "I thought Braeden (Mitchell) ran exceptionally well with the wind – just the way he fought back on a kid he was trailing pretty good. Then he got us back in the lead," said Sudol.

SEE BOYS TRACK, 7

## Christensen resigns at Nashua-Plainfield to take job at Maquoketa Valley

By KELLY TERPSTRA  
Of the Reporter

Andrew Christensen brought forth a winning attitude amongst his players and most people would agree he changed the culture of Nashua-Plainfield football for the better. In his four years at the helm of the Huskies, he led N-P to three-consecutive playoff berths and just last fall his squad was ranked by almost every media publication in the state. It was a great run for the 2005 South Tama High School alum, where he brought a winning brand of Husky football back to Lloyd Koob Field in Nashua with his wing-T offense and mentorship both on and off the grid-

iron. But his time at Nashua-Plainfield as leader of the Husky football program has come to an end as Christensen confirmed on Tuesday of this week that he's leaving to accept a teaching position in the Maquoketa Valley School District and become the new head football coach of the Class A Wildcats over in Delhi. Obviously, it's never easy to say goodbye, especially when you were as invested in a program as Christensen was. But that's what he'll have to do before he moves his family to Delaware County over in far eastern Iowa after the school season ends in Charles City, where he's a seventh-grade social studies teacher.

"It wasn't an easy decision to take the job at Maquoketa Valley. I have had the opportunity to coach a great group of kids and work with great coaches in my time at N-P," said Christensen. "This was in no way a move away from N-P, this was more a move towards family." Christensen has taught at Charles City for the last 12 years, the first three at the high school and the last nine at the middle school. He said his future teaching position at Maquoketa Valley has not been finalized yet. Christensen said his wife's parents live in the Delhi area, where Maquoketa Valley draws a large portion of its

SEE COACH, 5



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter  
Nashua-Plainfield's Paige Franzen (above) and Dawson Glaser (below) get ready to hit tee shots during the Huskies' triangular at the Nashua Town and Country Club on Tuesday afternoon.

## NASHUA-PLAINFIELD'S FRANZEN, GLASER BOTH CLAIM MEDALIST HONORS

By BOB FENSKE  
Of the Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield golf coach Jeff Trost knows his star junior is in a zone right now. He's got the scores to prove it, too, as Paige Franzen led the Huskies to both a quadrangular and a triangular win this past week, winning medalist honors both times. "Paige is playing really, really, really well," Trost said before adding with a laugh, "and I don't know if I used enough reallys." Franzen fired a 39 in the Huskies' quadrangular win last Thursday and then followed that up with a solid 44 in a cold win on Tuesday as the Huskies won a triangular at home. "The weekend before she went out and shot a 40-40-36," Trost said of Franzen, who finished fourth at last year's Class 1A state tournament. "That's some consistent shooting. ... The key for her right now is her

SEE GOLF, 5



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter  
Nashua-Plainfield's Dylan Blanchard anchors the Huskies' 4x800 relay to a win earlier this month.

## ON TAP FOR OUR HUSKIES

- FRIDAY**  
Girls track at Drake Relays, Des Moines, 9 a.m.  
Girls golf vs. Mason City Newman, West Fork and St. Ansgar, Linn Grove Country Club, 4 p.m.  
Boys golf vs. Mason City Newman, West Fork, Northwood-Kensett and St. Ansgar, Highland Park Golf Course, Mason City, 4:15 p.m.  
Girls track at North Butler Relays, 4:30 p.m.
- SATURDAY**  
Girls track at Drake Relays, Des Moines, 8 a.m.
- MONDAY**  
Golf vs. Riceville, Rockford and St. Ansgar, Buffalo Run Golf Course, Nora Springs, 4:15 p.m.  
Track at Cowpath Relays, Nashua, 4:30 p.m.
- THURSDAY**  
Track at Top of Iowa Conference East Division meet, St. Ansgar, 4 p.m.  
Girls golf vs. Crestwood and Grundy Center, Nashua Town and Country Club, 4:15 p.m.
- MONDAY, MAY 6**  
Girls golf at Top of Iowa Conference East Division meet, Nashua Town and Country Club, 10 a.m.  
Boys golf at Top of Iowa Conference East Division meet, Highland Park Golf Course, Mason City, 10 a.m.



# SALUTING EVERYDAY HEROES

## It's tall task to maintain MercyOne New Hampton

For the trio that makes up hospital's Maintenance Department, best days are when they go unnoticed

By BOB FENSKE  
Of the Reporter

The three MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center Maintenance Department workers, as is their daily custom, were on break in the hospital's cafeteria Tuesday morning when they were asked about the number of toilets and sinks in the facility.

And there was Russ Dreckman mentally taking a walk through the hospital and adjacent clinic.

"Twenty-eight in the hospital and six in the clinic," he said before adding with a quick smile, "but I might be missing one or two or a few. So let's say three dozen."

The department's supervisor, Steve Kurash, chuckled.

"And every one of those has a sink and you throw in all the other sinks in the exam rooms and well," he said before pausing for dramatic effect, "there aren't too many days where we don't have water leaking somewhere."

But in all seriousness, Kurash, Dreckman and Chad Stange — along with the six "house-keepers" who are part of the department — are the unsung heroes of Chickasaw County's only hospital.

Don't take our word for it; just ask MercyOne New Hampton CEO Aaron Flugum.

"We've always had great maintenance mechanics here that I have admired for their dedication and skills," Flugum said. "They are so important to providing an excellent patient



Bob Fenske/Reporter

**Members of the New Hampton MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center's Maintenance Department — (from left) Steve Kurash, Russ Dreckman and Chad Stange — pose for a picture in the facility's main lobby.**

experience. The amount of skills and knowledge it takes to do their job is very impressive. They do a lot of preventative maintenance."

And their best days are the ones when no one knows they're there.

"That means everything's working," Stange said, "and that's obviously the goal for us, right?"

The trio came prepared for Tuesday's interview; well, pretty prepared.

Kurash had to run back to his office for the sheet that listed the duties the Maintenance Department performs.

Basically, the department is charged with maintaining the structure, equipment, HVAC,

mechanical and electrical systems, as well as the grounds, at the hospital to make for an efficient and safe working environment.

That means maintaining and operating critical mechanical systems, provide logs that can range from daily to annual for state inspections, fire marshals and boiler inspectors.

That means maintaining boilers, generators, chillers and cooling towers.

That means making repairs to plumbing fixtures, lights, switches and motors.

That means mowing the grass in the summer and clearing snow in the winter.

That means doing carpentry work and painting.

"We want to provide the best possible experience for our patients," Kurash wrote in his "what-we-do" report, "by providing a clean, safe, pleasant environment where doctors, staff and

patients excel."

Stange is the "rookie" among the group; he began working at MercyOne a year and a half ago. Kurash, after spending 25 years at Con-Agra in Fredericksburg and 18 years at Luther College in Decorah, took over as the Maintenance Department supervisor in 2021.

Dreckman is the veteran. He's been at the hospital for 33 1/2 years.

"It's a good place to work," he said. "I mean I've been here forever so I should know, right?"

They each have their strengths — Dreckman is the carpenter and painter, Stange handles a lot of the mechanical chores and Kurash's strengths are with the boilers and chillers.

"But we all can do everything," Kurash said, "and I think we make a pretty good team."

Asked if he has any regrets about leaving Luther for MercyOne, he laughed.

"Let's see, I only have five miles to drive to work versus driving 40 miles to Luther," he said. "No regrets, trust me on that."

Now, for all three, there are duties they like performing, and then there are duties that, well, are tolerated.

"Weed-wacking the grounds," Dreckman said as his co-workers nodded in agreement, "I don't think any one of us looks forward to that. You'd be surprised at how much weed-wacking you do here with the sidewalks, the signs, the building and all that."

And they also have to take turns "on call," and that means dragging themselves out of bed and heading in to work to fix this or that.

Their efforts are appreciated.

"We have a great group that is willing to do anything to support the team," Flugum said. "They fill many formal and informal roles in our organization."

The hospital's top administrator went on to list some of those roles — ranging from helicopter ground crew to security to patient transport to telecommunications expert to express courier.

"I can't explain how grateful we are to have these gentlemen," Flugum said. "They are worth their weight in gold."

"We are very blessed."

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# Nashua area is on track for its second-straight above-normal precipitation month

## DROUGHT: FROM 1

Still, as Basol said, “we’re moving in the right direction” as the planting season shifts into high gear.

“The guys have made a lot of headway this week,” he said Thursday morning, “and with the rain forecast for the weekend, I’m guessing they’re going to be at it hard until the rain chases them away.”

The Iowa Crop Progress and Condition Report released by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service on Monday showed that 3 per-

cent of corn had been planted in Iowa’s Northeast District and 10 percent of corn had been planted in the North Central District.

“Those numbers, I’m guessing, are going to change dramatically when the new report comes out this Monday,” Basol said. “Traffic tractor, if you will, has been pretty heavy this week.”

The USDA report also showed signs of optimism for area growers when it came to moisture content as 59 percent of farmland in the Northeast District has adequate topsoil moisture while that percentage is 70 in the

North Central District.

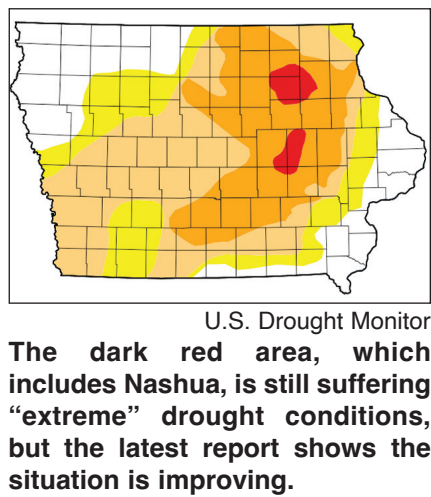
But subsoil moisture content remains short in many parts of the area as 59 percent of the subsoil moisture is either “very short” or “short” in the Northeast District while 56 percent of subsoil in the North Central district is below adequate.

The good news is Nashua is on track to have a second straight month with above-average rainfall. After receiving 2.51 inches of rain in March, about a half-inch above normal, the city has seen 2.97 inches of rainfall so far in April, slightly above the 2.77 inches

of rain that usually falls in the first 24 days of the month.

If the rain in the forecast for today and this weekend becomes a reality, Nashua will have a second straight above-normal precipitation month for the first time since January and February of 2023.

“We always talk about timely rains, I know that,” Basol said, “but they’re going to be critical this year. We’re off to a good start. Obviously, we have a long way to go to get out of this drought, but you have to start someplace, right?”



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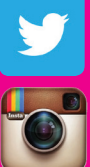
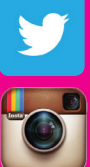
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