

Nashua REPORTER

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Nashua's VFW post may not disband after all

City Council approves the terms of contact for the hiring of Henningsen as the city's water/wastewater superintendent

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

There may be some light at the end of the tunnel for Nashua's local VFW post.

That news wasn't as pleasant last month when VFW Post 6782 leaders spoke to the Nashua City Council in July and were leaning toward dis-

banding the veterans organization. But roughly a month has passed and speaking before last Monday's regular City Council meeting – president and VFW Commander Bill Schmidt had this to say.

"We just pretty much put everything on hold at this point to what we want to do," said Schmidt. "We're going to continue having meetings

and discuss more about what the future will be for the post."

While there has been no consensus made about the future of Nashua's military hall dedicated to veterans, the VFW building at 217 Main St. in downtown Nashua was sold to the city as a gift for \$1 recently – henceforth the city can receive the property as acceptance

of real estate.

That means all rental fees – which have stayed the same despite the change of ownership with the building – will go to the city.

Schmidt and VFW Quartermaster Dan Bilharz
SEE CITY COUNCIL, 3

Big 4 Fair is ready for another run

Annual Labor Day weekend event that starts week from today is a labor of love for fair secretary

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

When the Big 4 Fair kicks off its five-day run with Entry Day this coming Thursday, it will mark the 124th year that the party meant to bring four counties together has been held.

Nancy Hillesheim has been around for more than a third of them.

"I think you're calling me old," the longtime Big 4 Fair Board secretary said with a laugh, "but I can't get mad at you because, well, I'm no spring chicken anymore."

All joking aside, though, if it's Labor Day weekend, Hillesheim is going to at the fairgrounds and she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I enjoy it," she said when asked why she keeps the job. "It's just a part of my fabric, I guess. We have a lot of great volunteers – we couldn't do it without them – and I get to meet some of the nicest people every year. Some of our old friends; some I'm meeting for the first time but I enjoy that part of it."

She's looking forward to year No. 43 just as much as she did year one. A year's worth of

SEE BIG 4 FAIR, 3

Water Over the Dam Days 2.0 offers a full plate Saturday

Cedar View Park will have a "happening" feel this Saturday as the Nashua Park Board has lined up a slew of activities for Water Over the Dam Days 2.0.

The event begins at 11 a.m. with the arrival of food trucks and continues from noon to 5 p.m. with an outdoor vendor fair at the park.

A car "cruise-in" is set to roll through at 2 p.m., and Eric Michaels, billed as a "family-friendly magician, will take the stage from 2 to 2:45.

The annual Nashua appearance of the Waterhawks Ski Team is set for 3:30 to 5 p.m., and the band The Untouchables will take the Baldwin Band Shell Stage from 6 to 9 p.m.

The event will conclude at 9 p.m. with the placing of floating luminaries in the lake.



Nashua-Plainfield sixth-graders (above) fill up their lockers during an orientation that kicked off with school counselor Jennifer Kalainoff (below) talking about the first few days of the 2024-25 school year.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL REALITY ARRIVES

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12 HEAD BACK TO CLASS TODAY; 'LITTLES' FOLLOW ON MONDAY



By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

The school supplies have been purchased, the orientations are complete and the kids – at least the older ones – are back in school.

In other words, despite the short-term forecast that is calling for warm, muggy conditions into early next week, summer's over at Nashua-Plainfield Community Schools.

Students in grades 6-12 headed back to class this morning while their younger brethren who attend Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School are taking part in in-take conferences and will begin classes on Monday.

The good news for students? They'll get

SEE SCHOOL, 2



Cate Anderson helps her husband, Jeremy, in the "blacksmith tent" during Rendezvous Days this past weekend.

Old Bradford event takes area residents back in time

A decade in, Plainfield couple still enjoys taking part in museum's Rendezvous Days

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

White canvas tents were set up on the outskirts of Nashua on the grounds of the Old Bradford Village and Museum on Saturday afternoon.

The sun was out and the humidity – at least for this time of the year in Iowa – was palatable.

Sightseers and tourists milled about the grounds that takes 21st Century Americans back in time – to an era and place long ago, a period in history that is all but forgotten in modern-day society.

That's why museums and places like the Old Bradford Village exist and were built in the first place – to teach, learn and better understand the ways of those that came before us, no

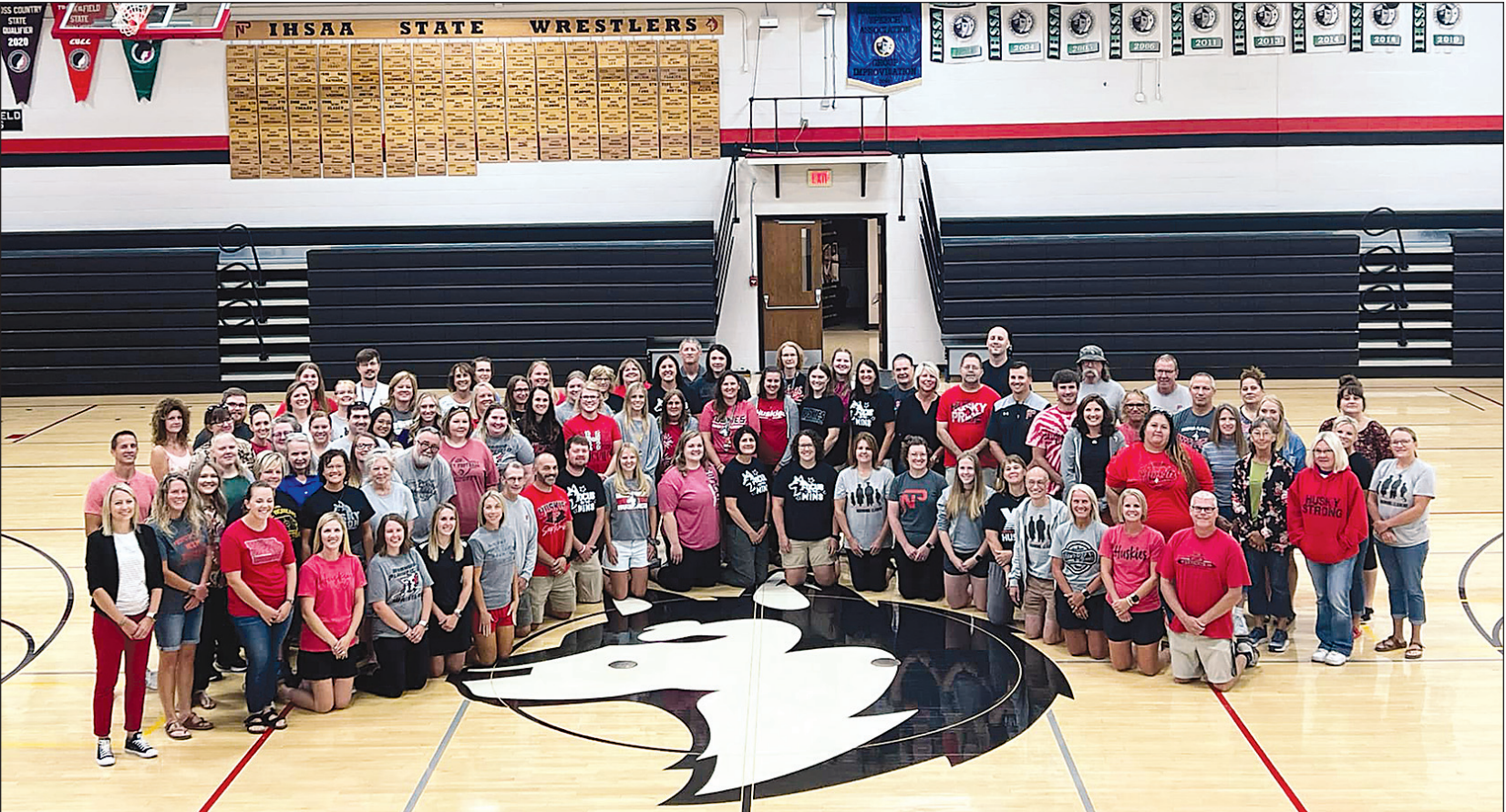
matter how strange and foreign it may seem today.

Way back in the mid-1900s, three years after the cessation of World War II in 1948, the Old Bradford Village was built.

This past weekend the acreage that rests on the eastern edge of Nashua was alive again with the strike of a hammer as a blacksmith worked his wrought iron metal into a work of art and useful tool for those that required it over 180 years ago. There weren't as many tents staked into the grass as there has been in years past at the historical reenactment called "Rendezvous Days" – which has taken place at this same spot over the last decade.

"We're actually down a few tents because the ones that are

SEE RENDEZVOUS, 8



Nashua-Plainfield teachers and staff members take a break from professional development to pose for a group photo in the high school gymnasium.

Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Students to get a few ‘early outs’ to start school year

SCHOOL: FROM 1

to “slide” into the school year as the district will have two-hour early outs today, Monday and Tuesday before they have their first full day of school on Wednesday.

“That’s always a plus, especially for our young- est students,” Nashua-Plainfield Elementary Principal Shannon Wurzer said.

“They get to ease into a little bit and if the weather doesn’t cooperate, those two-hour early outs help, too.”

And while today’s weather is almost perfect, Nashua-Plainfield’s school buildings may be a little warm to kick off next week as temperatures

are expected to climb into the 80s while over- night lows will only drop into the upper 60s.

Save for the newer junior high wing at the high school, the district’s buildings do not have air conditioning, which means heat early in the school year is Nashua-Plainfield’s enemy.

The good news, though, is the heat isn’t expected to last long — by Tuesday night, for example, lows will be back in the 50s.

Besides, it’s time to head back to school, right?

Teachers headed back to work on Monday for the first of four straight professional develop- ment days, and students also have been in and out of the building for much of August for various sports practices and other extra-curricular

activities.

And on Wednesday, sixth-graders, who are moving up to the high school/junior high build- ing, and their parents had orientation, as did the freshmen who are beginning their high school journey.

As sixth-grade students and their parents walked through the halls of the junior high wing, one student was overheard saying to her mom, “Don’t tell anyone I said that, but I’m kind of excited.”

That’s a pretty good attitude to have, right? “They’re ready,” school counselor Jennifer Kalainoff said. “They may not admit it, but, trust me, they’re ready.”

Wednesdays to no longer to be a ‘short day’ for N-P students

One big change in Nashua- Plainfield’s school calendar for this year is that the district will no longer have “early outs” on Wednesdays for professional development.

Instead, the district’s teachers and staff will have “full” PD days, which means students will have more days off of school.

In addition to the traditional

breaks — there will be no school Nov. 27-29 for Thanksgiving, Christmas break will run from Dec. 23-Jan. 2 and spring break will be held from April 18-21 — the following days are also “off days” for Nashua-Plainfield students.

- Oct. 2: Teacher professional development.
- Oct. 7: Teacher professional

development.

- Oct. 25: Comp day for par- ent-teacher conferences.

- Nov. 6: Teacher professional development.

- Jan. 3: Teacher work day.

- Feb. 5: Teacher professional development.

- March 5: Teacher professional development.

- March 14: Comp day for par- ent-teacher conferences.

- April 22: Teacher professional of development, but may be used to make up a snow day if its needed.

And looking way ahead, com- mencement is set for Sunday, May 19, while the last day of school for the remainder of students will be Thursday, May 22.

Briefs

Filing deadline for county offices is Wednesday

Area residents who want to run with non-party affiliation, i.e., as independents, for elected county and township positions have until Wednesday to get on the general election ballot.

The same goes for candidates who will be nominated by petition and those nominated by either the Democratic and Republican parties for offices in which they didn’t have a candidate on the ballot.

And those who want to get a jump start on re- questing absentee ballots for the Nov. 5 election can do so, beginning on Tuesday, but Chickasaw County Auditor’s Office officials are reminding those who request absentee ballots won’t get them anytime soon. That’s because state law al- lows ballots to be mailed only after early voting begins, which this year will be on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Republicans who won nominations via the June primary included Jake Hackman (Supervi- sor District 3), Issac Carter (Supervisor District 4), Sheila Shekleton (county auditor) and Ryan

Shawver (county sheriff). Democrats who won nomination in the primary included Steve Breit- bach (Supervisor District 1) and Joan Knoll (Su- pervisor District 3).

As of Wednesday, the Auditor’s Office officials have said that they have not received any filings from candidates seeking county offices.

Farmer’s Market vouchers are available

Farmer’s Market vouchers are still available through Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging. The vouchers can be used at local Farmers Mar- kets now through Oct. 31.

The Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program provides qualified seniors aged 60 and over with vouchers that can be exchanged at farmer’s mar- kets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs for fresh, nutritious, unpre- pared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey.

If you are interested in receiving vouchers, please contact NEI3A at 1-800-779-8707. Re- quired forms will be mailed to you to complete and return. You can also download the form at [https://](https://nei3a.org/our-services/farmers-market-checks/)

nei3a.org/our-services/farmers-market-checks/.

Eligible participants in the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program must be 60 years of age or older at the time of the application, live in the service area of Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging and meet income guidelines (no more than \$27,861 for a household of one and \$37,814 for a household of two 2.

Each eligible participant receives 10 vouch- ers, worth \$50.00. You can only receive vouchers once per program year. Call 1-800-779-8707 to- day to get your application.

Holy Family Fall Festival to be held this Sunday

Live music, drinks and food, kids games and bingo will all take place during the Holy Family Parish Fall Festival that will be held this Sunday in New Hampton from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Beverages will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., meals are serving from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or until the food is gone, with an authentic Mexican meal and sides, turkey tenders and sides or, new this year, the Baconfest 2024 champion bacon pork smash burger.

County votes to say in dam 28E agreement

Supervisors vote 3-2 after New Hampton resident once again expresses concerns over who actually owns Nashua landmark

By BOB FENSKE

Of the Reporter

Chickasaw County will remain in an inter-gov- ernmental agreement with the city of Nashua and the Chickasaw County Conservation Board that was designed to support the dam located in Nashua despite the fact that little, if anything, has been done with the agreement since it was signed in March 1988.

After a relatively lengthy discussion that included New Hampton resident Terry Johnson once again questioning the city of Nashua’s own- ership of the dam and him urging supervisors to give notice that the county would exit the 28E agreement, supervisors voted 3-2 to remain a part of the inter-governmental body.

Johnson has a number of times in the past year stated that it is his belief that the city doesn’t own the dam, and last year, he took exception to the county giving the city \$50,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help with engineering costs for the repair of the dam.

When Supervisor Jake Hackman said that County Attorney David Laudner has stated that the “intent” of the actions taken in 1988 were to deed the dam to the city, Johnson quickly inter- rupted.

“Intent doesn’t buy you a cup of coffee, Jake,” he said.

Laudner, though, respectfully disagreed.

“I know the city attorney is working with Mid- American Energy to have that quit-claim deed cleaned up; in fact, I offered suggested language that I would put in there to make it clearer,” he said. “Both [Nashua City] Attorney [Dave] Skilton and I have worked on the language.

“It’s my understanding — I talked to him a couple of weeks ago — that it’s typical corporate America. He’s waiting for attorneys from Mid- American and other folks to analyze it and get it signed and approved. It’s in the process of being done — to clarify the drafting error.”

He also said that he believes a court would find that Nashua owns the dam. The city is working on a \$1.3 million repair project.

Still, Johnson said he didn’t understand the point of having the 28E agreement when it’s “never had a meeting, no one was ever appointed to that board.”

Johnson, who attends numerous board meet- ings, pointed out that Mid-American is still pay- ing taxes on the dam so that “tells me it didn’t transfer.”

He wondered how Nashua could purchase general obligation bonds when it doesn’t have title to the dam.

“That’s a question for the Nashua City Council and for the Nashua city attorney,” Laudner said. “Again, I’m not trying to be curt with you but other than — and that’s a big deal, I know we’ve talked about that — other than the \$50,000, these guys don’t have any interest in that dam.

“I mean they do inherently because it’s part of the county and it’s good for economic devel- opment, but as far as actual legal title and the ramifications of the hydro plant are not [these guys’] concerns.”

Johnson, though, wouldn’t budge and asked supervisors to get out of the 28E agreement and possibly draft a new one when the dam owner- ship was cleared up.

Supervisor Matt Kuhn made the motion to exit the agreement.

“We need to stay away from this,” he said. “I don’t think it’s our place to help them with their deed. They have their own attorney hired.”

When Supervisor Steve Breitbach seconded the motion, Hackman expressed his support for the dam and the 28E.

“So you don’t guys care about boating, swimming, fishing, ski- ing, skating and other winter sports,” he said, “... for recre- ation purposes, public use, like the 28E agreement states.”

Kuhn called for a vote but only he and Breitbach support- ed the motion while Hackman was joined by Travis Suckow and Scott Cerwinske and the county remained part of the inter-governmental agreement.

FALL SPORTS PREVIEW IN NEXT WEEK’S EDITION OF THE REPORTER

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Big 4 Fair’s goal remains the same: Offer something for everyone at fairgrounds

BIG 4 FAIR: FROM 1

planning will begin paying dividends on Entry Day and continue throughout the weekend at the Nashua fairgrounds.

“It’s really a year-long kind of deal,” she said. “We probably think about the fair every day during the year. We might not be the biggest fair, but I’d like to think that we provide fun and entertainment for everyone. That’s the goal: Have a fun weekend.”

This year’s fair kicks off in earnest a week from tonight when Uncle G’s Pavilion opens for the weekend while the New Hampton Area Charity Truck and Tractor Pull, the first of five weekend grandstand shows, runs in the grandstand.

Figure 8 races will be held Saturday night, the Tough Truck Races are a go for Sunday afternoon, the Double S. Bull Company’s Bulls and Barrels takes the spotlight on Sunday evening and the “old school” Figure 8 races complete the grandstand schedule on Labor Day afternoon.

“I don’t know all the particulars,” Hillesheim said when asked about the “old school” races and then added with a laugh, “but basically, they can get by with a little more than they can with the regular figure 8s.”

Also on tap are horse and pony and beef shows, as well as horticulture events.

With Next Generation Shows providing the rides and carnival games, a Family Fun Day on Saturday, three bands performing live music and more, the schedule is packed.

“Something for everyone, that’s what we want every year,” Hillesheim said, “and I think we have that again this year. If people haven’t come out before, we’d love to see you this year. The fair is a tradition, one we’re pretty dang proud of down here.”

Asked about the weather, she paused and laughed.

“I’ve been checking for a month now,” she said, “which I know is kind of dumb but I can’t help myself. Right now, we’re looking pretty good, but whatever we get, we’re still going to have a good time.”

.....

Here is the schedule for the 124th annual Big 4 Fair that will be held over the Labor Day weekend at the fairgrounds in Nashua:

THURSDAY, AUG. 29

• Entry Day

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

• Uncle G’s Pavilion opens for the weekend.

Chamber to hold Best Dam BBQ during Big 4 Fair

Organized by the Big 4 Chamber of Commerce, the Best Dam BBQ Challenge is coming to Nashua.

On Saturday, Aug. 31 the eighth annual even will be held at the Big 4 Fairgrounds from 4:30 to 6:15 p.m.

There will be a variety of tickets available to sample and vote for the best entries. A \$30 VIP BBQ, for example, will get the connoisseur one rib from each griller, advance entrance to BBQ, a vote for People’s Choice Award and a free gate for you and a guest.

An a la carte (three ribs for \$10) ticket may be purchased that afternoon, starting at 5:15.

• 6:30 p.m.: New Hampton Area Charity Truck and Tractor Pull.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

• 8 a.m.: Horse and Pony Show.

• 11 a.m.: Family Fun Day begins at the grandstand with face painting, kids games and raffles.

• 1 p.m.: Bean bag tournament at Uncle G’s Pavilion.

• 1 p.m.: Keith Leff, the Everyman Magician.

• 4 p.m.: Tony Peters: The Mind Meddler.

• 5 p.m.: Kids Power Wheel Races.

• 6:30 p.m.: Figure 8 races at the grandstand.

• 8 p.m. to midnight: Live music by EF5.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

• 8 a.m.: Beef Open Show.

• 8 a.m.: Horse and Pony Games and Pleasure.

• 1 p.m.: Tough Truck Races at the grandstand.

• 3 to 6 p.m.: Live music by Palomino Band.

• 7 p.m.: Double S Bull Company’s Bulls and Barrels at the grandstand.

• 8 p.m. to midnight: Live music by Wildcard.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 2

• Noon: Labor Day Classic Prospect Cattle Show.

• 1 p.m.: “Old School” Figure 8 races at the grandstand.

— *Next Generation Shows will provide the midway with rides and carnival games throughout the weekend; all-day wristbands for the rides are \$15 Friday and Monday and \$20 Saturday and Sunday.*



Members of the Nashua City Council look over documents during what turned into a busy meeting for the city leaders on Monday night.

Council awards contract to tear down Main Street building

CITY COUNCIL: FROM 1

addressed the council a little over a month ago and talked about the possibility of dissolving Nashua’s Veterans of Foreign Wars post because of a lack of members that attend meetings.

If Nashua’s post does indeed shutter its doors down the road and is no longer active, current members can still keep an affiliation with the VFW on a state or national level.

“They will possibly keep the memberships going through the state,” said Bilharz at last month’s Council meeting.

A resolution passed by all three Council members in attendance last month stated the property will be used and maintained as a Nashua Veterans Hall, with grantor and all other U.S. military veterans associations and auxiliaries in the city are entitled to use the building for meetings and events at no charge and given priority to scheduling.

The city shall also prohibit the removal of photographs and other memorabilia of the post currently attached to the building.

Another key question that came out of Monday’s council meeting was this: Will he or won’t he?

That is the big question for former Nashua Water/Wastewater Supervisor Nick Henningsen after the city officially offered him a contract at last Monday’s meeting. That pay rate would come out to \$43 an hour – over \$89,000 annually – if Henningsen accepts the job.

Council members voted 3-2 to approve the terms of hire

for Henningsen. Those ayes came from Council members Jake Johnson, Peggy Hall and Dan Zwanziger. The nay votes were from Samantha Johnson and Ernie Willsher.

Willsher made the first motion to offer Henningsen a \$70,000 contract, which was not seconded, so the motion failed. Jake Johnson made a second motion for the \$43 an hour pay rate and that was seconded by Zwanziger.

Willsher said the job description that the city advertised and posted for the position that Henningsen has yet to agree to was for \$50,000 to \$80,000.

“It wasn’t no \$89,000,” said Willsher.

Zwanziger had this to say after Willsher’s remark.

“But we don’t have a bunch of people lining up waiting for the job either,” said Zwanziger.

Hall also commented about the pay rate, which would take effect on Sept. 15 – which was the date Henningsen would start the job if he does indeed say yes to the terms and the offer of employment.

“You have to look at what other people are getting hired for,” said Hall.

Nashua Mayor Hal Kelleher summed up what the city has been dealing with in replacing Ion Environmental Services – a water and wastewater company based out of Muscatine that did not renew its contract with the city this year.

“Folks, we’re at the end of our rope,” said Kelleher.

Nashua unanimously voted in April of 2023 to create a full-time Public Works employee position that would replace Henningsen, whose contract with PeopleService was not renewed. Henningsen has been water/wastewater Superintendent for the past eight years prior to Ion taking over on Aug. 1, 2023. Ion’s contract with the city ran out on July 31, 2024.

At the previous Council meeting, a 3-2 vote to rehire Henningsen was also cast.

Henningsen is currently the water and sanitary collection superintendent at New Hampton.

DW Zinser Company, a demolition crew based out of Walford, IA, was awarded the bid to tear down 223 Main St. in Nashua. That bid approved by the city was for \$78,000.

There were two lower bids than that out of the six that were submitted. Those companies did not have the required asbestos certification and withdrew their bids.

The Council unanimously voted to raise the city’s sanitation and recycling rates by 3 percent to keep up with the increases that the city is being charged.

LJP Waste Solutions, formerly Jendro Sanitation, is the city’s sanitation and recycling provider. The company plans on raising their rates by 3.3 percent, but the city has a clause in its ordinance to cap any price hike at 3 percent.

The new rate for a 35-gallon tote increased from \$15.86 to \$16.34.

Vandals strike fairgrounds

A broken mirror in one of the bathrooms at the Big 4 Fairgrounds was just one of several acts of vandalism that occurred last weekend.

Big 4 Fair Board Secretary Nancy Hillesheim said that in addition to the mirror, fire extinguishers were emptied, chemicals were spilled and other items broken.

Fair officials said the vandals caused “thousands of dollars” in damage to the fairgrounds and are asking residents with any information to contact a fair board member or the Chickasaw County Sheriff’s Office.

“It’s disappointing,” Hillesheim said, “but we’re getting things back into shape.”

Photo courtesy of Big 4 Fair Board

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CITY COUNCIL MINUTES City Hall	
The Nashua City Council met in regular session on August 19, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with Mayor Kelleher presiding. Council members present were Peggy Hall, Jake Johnson, Sam Johnson, Ernie Willsher and Dan Zwanziger. City employee(s) City Clerk John Ott and Street Superintendent Zade McCall were present along with 5 guests.	
Mayor Kelleher called for a motion to approve the regular agenda. Willsher/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C. RC: all ayes.	
Mayor Kelleher asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the regular meeting August 5, 2024; Permits: Building: 109 Charles City Rd., 113 Park St., and 210 St. Lawrence St.	
Consent Calendar Payment of Claims: (August 2-15, 2024) \$29,426.80 + 10,552.21 (Wages) See Claims Report. General Fund: \$15,146.89 Lake/Dam: \$1,200.00 Road Use: \$8,007.19 Employee Benefit: \$68.02 Water: \$5,561.91 Sewer: \$9,995.00 Total Funds: \$39,979.01 J. Johnson/M, Hall/S, M/C. RC: all ayes.	
Mayor Kelleher called for public comments: There were none.	
Hearings/Resolutions	
S. Johnson/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C to set a hearing for setting bids for corrective action for 123 Lexington Ave. for September 16, 2024. RC: all ayes.	
S. Johnson/M, Willsher/S, M/C to open the public hearing on the First Reading of Ordinance #355 Amending Chapter 66 Load and Weight Restrictions. RC: all ayes. The hearing was opened at 7:02PM. After a brief discussion, J. Johnson/M, S. Johnson/S, M/C to close the public hearing. RC: all ayes. The public hearing was closed at 7:03PM. After the public hearing, J. Johnson/M, Hall/S, M/C to adopt Ordinance #355 Amending Chapter #66 Load and Weight Restrictions. RC: all ayes. S. Johnson/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C to set the 2nd reading on Ordinance #355 Amending Chapter 66 Load and Weight Restrictions for September 3, 2024. RC: all ayes.	
S. Johnson/M, Zwanziger/S, M/C to open the public hearing on the first reading of Ordinance #357 Amending Chapter 69 Parking. RC: all ayes. The public hearing was opened at 7:05PM. After a brief discussion, Willsher/M, Hall/S, M/C to close the public hearing. RC: all ayes. The public hearing was closed at 7:05PM. S. Johnson/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C to adopt Ordinance #357 Amending Chapter 69 Parking. RC: all ayes. S. Johnson/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C to set the 2nd reading on Ordinance #357 Amending Chapter 69 Parking for September 3, 2024. RC: all ayes.	
S. Johnson/M, Willsher/S, M/C to open the public hearing on awarding bid #1B Demolition of 223 Main St. RC: all ayes.	
The Nashua City Council met in regular session on August 19, 2024, in Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with Mayor Kelleher presiding. Council members present were Peggy Hall, Jake Johnson, Sam Johnson, Ernie Willsher and Dan Zwanziger. City employee(s) City Clerk John Ott and Street Superintendent Zade McCall were present along with 5 guests.	
Mayor Kelleher called for a motion to approve the regular agenda. Willsher/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C. RC: all ayes.	
Mayor Kelleher asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of minutes from the regular meeting August 5, 2024; Permits: Building: 109 Charles City Rd., 113 Park St., and 210 St. Lawrence St.	
Consent Calendar Payment of Claims: (August 2-15, 2024) \$29,426.80 + 10,552.21 (Wages) See Claims Report. General Fund: \$15,146.89 Lake/Dam: \$1,200.00 Road Use: \$8,007.19 Employee Benefit: \$68.02 Water: \$5,561.91 Sewer: \$9,995.00 Total Funds: \$39,979.01 J. Johnson/M, Hall/S, M/C. RC: all ayes.	
Mayor Kelleher called for public comments: There were none.	
Hearings/Resolutions	
S. Johnson/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C to set a hearing for setting bids for corrective action for 123 Lexington Ave. for September 16, 2024. RC: all ayes.	
S. Johnson/M, Willsher/S, M/C to open the public hearing on the First Reading of Ordinance #355 Amending Chapter 66 Load and Weight Restrictions. RC: all ayes. The hearing was opened at 7:02PM. After a brief discussion, J. Johnson/M, S. Johnson/S, M/C to close the public hearing. RC: all ayes. The public hearing was closed at 7:03PM. After the public hearing, J. Johnson/M, Hall/S, M/C to adopt Ordinance #355 Amending Chapter #66 Load and Weight Restrictions. RC: all ayes. S. Johnson/M, J. Johnson/S, M/C to set the 2nd reading on Ordinance #355 Amending Chapter 66 Load and Weight Restrictions for September 3, 2024. RC: all ayes.	
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Legal Notice

City of Nashua
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
City Council Chambers, City Hall

The Nashua City Council met in special session August 15, 2024 in Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM with Mayor Kelleher presiding. Council members present were Peggy Hall, Jake Johnson, Ernie Willsher, and Dan Zwanziger. Samantha Johnson was absent. City employees City Clerk John Ott, Street Superintendent Zade McCall, Water/Wastewater Operator Reece Reams, and Parks/Maintenance Employee Shea Gerber were in attendance along with 5 guests

Mayor Kelleher called for a motion to approve the agenda. J. Johnson/M. Willsher/S. M/C. RC: 4 ayes, S. Johnson absent.

Action/Discussion
The city council discussed the open water/wastewater position(s). No decisions were made, but further consideration and action will take place at the council meeting scheduled for August 19, 2024, at 7:00PM.

There was no other business. J. Johnson motioned to adjourn. Zwanziger seconded. M/C. Roll Call: Hall, J. Johnson, Willsher, and Zwanziger Ayes, S. Johnson absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:23PM.

pending approval by council
John Ott, City Clerk

No. 24211
8/23/24 Nashua Reporter
www.iowapublicnotices.com

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION TO INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND TO BORROW MONEY THEREUNDER IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000 (GENERAL OBLIGATION)

The City Council of the City of Nashua, Iowa (the "City"), will meet on September 3, 2024, at the Council Chambers City Hall, Nashua, Iowa, at 7 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of instituting proceedings and taking action on a proposal to enter into a loan agreement (the "Loan Agreement") and to borrow money thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$250,000 for the purpose of paying the costs, to that extent, of demolishing dangerous, dilapidated and/or abandoned properties.

The Loan Agreement is proposed to be entered into pursuant to authority contained in Section 384.24A of the Code of Iowa and will constitute a general obligation of the City.

It is estimated the annual increase in property taxes on a residential property with an actual valuation of one hundred thousand dollars resulting from the City entering into the Loan Agreement will be \$35.09, however the City Council may determine for any fiscal year while the Loan Agreement is outstanding to budget other available revenues to the payment of some or all of the debt service coming due thereunder.

At that time and place, oral or written objections may be filed or made to the proposal to enter into the Loan Agreement. After receiving objections, the City may determine to enter into the Loan Agreement, in which case, the decision will be final unless appealed to the District Court within fifteen (15) days thereafter.

By order of the City Council of the City of Nashua, Iowa.
John Ott
City Clerk

No. 24204
08/23/24 Nashua Reporter
www.iowapublicnotices.com

National Weather Service office that services Nashua to hold open house next month

If you're a weather buff, this might be an event for you, although you're going to have to take a little bit of a drive to get there.

The National Weather Service (NWS) office in La Crosse, Wisconsin, which provides weather forecasts, watches and warnings to the Nashua area, will be hosting a public open house on Saturday, Sept. 7

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and officials say the open house "will be a fun, free, rain or shine event for the whole family with the theme, 'Unleash Your Inner Meteorologist!'"

In addition to guided office tours to showcase NWS forecast and warning services and equipment, the event will also feature plenty of outdoor activities and games for all ages. Additionally, there will be several raffles throughout the day for weather-related prizes.

Several NWS partner agencies and groups will also be present to demonstrate their unique work and equipment for keeping the public safe.

"We are so excited to be planning this open house event to promote weather safety and the life-saving work that the National Weather Service and our partner agencies do each day in our local communities," said Mike Kurz, warning coordination meteorologist at NWS La Crosse.

"We want our open house visitors to meet our dedicated NWS staff and see first hand how we create the forecast and issue severe weather warnings for their community."

.....

The National Weather Service's La Crosse Forecast Office is the primary source of weather data, forecasts, and warnings for over 900,000 people in 28 counties across portions of western and central Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, and northeast Iowa. Together with its partners, the National Weather Service is striving to build a Weather-Ready Nation that supports community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather.

Legal Notice

CHICKASAW COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2024

The Board convened on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 11:30 AM with members Breitbach, Suckow, Hackman and Cervinske present in the Boardroom on the second floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa. Absent: Kuhn. Chairperson Cervinske called the meeting to order. Also present were Attorney David Laudner, Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Bob Fenske, member of the media

Motion Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve the agenda for August 13, 2024. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Cervinske. Absent: Kuhn Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to set public hearing for August 26, 2024 at 9:10 AM for the Amendment #1 of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget and direct auditor to publish Notice of Public Hearing – Amendment of Current Budget in the New Hampton Tribune on August 15, 2024 and Nashua Reporter on August 16, 2024. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Breitbach, Suckow, Cervinske. Absent: Kuhn Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Hackman to adjourn at 11:39 AM. Roll call: Ayes: Suckow, Hackman, Breitbach, Cervinske. Absent: Kuhn. Motion carried.

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

No. 24215
08/22/24 New Hampton Tribune
08/23/24 Nashua Reporter
www.iowapublicnotices.com

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION TO INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS TO ENTER INTO A LOAN AGREEMENT AND TO BORROW MONEY THEREUNDER IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000 (GENERAL OBLIGATION)

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The Loan Agreement is proposed to be entered into pursuant to authority contained in Section 384.24A of the Code of Iowa and will constitute a general obligation of the City.

It is estimated the annual increase in property taxes on a residential property with an actual valuation of one hundred thousand dollars resulting from the City entering into the Loan Agreement will be \$35.09, however the City Council may determine for any fiscal year while the Loan Agreement is outstanding to budget other available revenues to the payment of some or all of the debt service coming due thereunder.

At that time and place, oral or written objections may be filed or made to the proposal to enter into the Loan Agreement. After receiving objections, the City may determine to enter into the Loan Agreement, in which case, the decision will be final unless appealed to the District Court within fifteen (15) days thereafter.

By order of the City Council of the City of Nashua, Iowa.
John Ott
City Clerk

No. 24204
08/23/24 Nashua Reporter
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CHICKASAW COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'
MINUTES AUGUST 12, 2024

The Board convened on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 9:00 AM with members Breitbach, Kuhn, Suckow, Hackman and Cervinske present in the Boardroom on the second floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa. Chairperson Cervinske called the meeting to order. Also present were Auditor Sheila Shekleton, County Attorney David Laudner, EMA Coordinator Jeff Bernatz, Bob Fenske member of the media, Engineer Roman Lensing, Terry Johnson, Assessor Raymond Arnel, EMS Director Joel Knutson.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Hackman to approve the agenda for August 12, 2024. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve minutes for August 5, 2024. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Cervinske Abstained; Kuhn. Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Hackman to approve minutes for August 6, 2024. Roll call: Ayes: Suckow, Hackman, Breitbach, Cervinske Abstained; Kuhn. Motion carried.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Hackman to acknowledge the retirement of Dennis Richter, General Services, effective August 16, 2024. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Discussed Health Care Spousal Exclusion Affidavit.

Public comment: Terry Johnson would like to see the 28E Agreement with Nashua as part of a Board of Supervisors agenda. County Attorney Dave Laudner presented an Ordinance V-6 that satisfies the motion on July 22, 2024 which directed the County Attorney to draw up an ordinance placing the responsibility of the cost of cleanup of any hazardous substance incident or emergency on the party who is found to be legally responsible for said incident to accompany the agreement for Northeast Iowa Response Group.

Department updates for Secondary Roads by Engineer Roman Lensing.

Discussed of Potential Pavement Maintenance Options and Budget Amendment Request for 0035 (Infrastructure Fund) and consensus of the board of supervisors to move forward.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to authorize board chair to sign contract awarded to Croell, Inc. for Chickasaw County PCC Paving Project (ARPA-2024-C0190(1)). Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Cervinske. Nay: Kuhn. Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to approve RESOLUTION 08-12-24-37 WHEREAS, it is necessary from time to time to acquire right of way for road and bridge construction, and WHEREAS, it is within the powers of the Board of Supervisors of Chickasaw County to acquire such necessary right of way, and WHEREAS, the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors has determined that property values are 7.28 times the assessed valuation, NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the following schedule shall constitute the policy by which Chickasaw County shall acquire right of way land, improvements

thereon, and fill dirt. 1. Right of way land acquired by easement or deed shall be purchased for an amount 7.28 times the assessed valuation. 2. Fence removal/replacement costs shall be paid according to the following schedule: a. Removal by owner i. \$.400/rod (barbed) ii. \$.50/rod (woven) b. Placement of fence at new right of way line by owner i. \$13.50/rod (barbed) ii. \$18.00/rod (woven) c. Placement and removal of temporary electric fence by owner (for temporary construction easements and borrow areas) i. \$.65/rod d. Corner/Brace posts used in fence placement i. \$.25/00/each

3. The County shall pay all recording costs and mortgage release fees. 4. The acquisition, replacement, or relocation of buildings, shrubs, or other improvements shall be negotiated by the County and the Owner. The acquisition of fill dirt shall be negotiated on the basis of cost per cubic yard. PASSED AND APPROVED on this 12th DAY OF AUGUST, 2024. /ss/ Scott Cervinske, Chairman, Aye: Hackman, Breitbach, Kuhn, Suckow, Cervinske. /ss/Attest: Sheila Shekleton Auditor.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Hackman to enter CLOSED SESSION UNDER IOWA CODE 21.5(K) REF IOWA CODE 22.7(50) TO DISCUSS UPDATED SECURITY PROCEDURES AT COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY at 9:37 AM. Roll Call: Ayes: Kuhn, Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Cervinske. Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to end CLOSED SESSION UNDER IOWA CODE 21.5(K) REF IOWA CODE 22.7(50) TO DISCUSS UPDATED SECURITY PROCEDURES AT COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY at 9:50 AM. Roll Call: Ayes: Hackman, Breitbach, Suckow, Kuhn, Cervinske. Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to approve BarCom not to exceed \$10,000.00 for security reasons. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Kuhn to approve the Certification of Abstract of Taxes and Tax List for 2023 Tax Assessment Collectible FY 2024-2025. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Discussed Budget Amendment FY 2024-2025 #1.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Hackman to approve claims in the amount of \$161,838.02. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve payroll check date August 9, 2024. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Committee Assignment
Supervisor Hackman, Aug. 6, DHHS for CSS
Supervisor Cervinske, Aug. 8, FMC Landfill

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Kuhn to adjourn at 10:38 AM. Roll call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

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

No.24214
08/22/24 New Hampton Tribune
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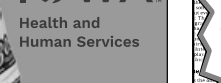
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NOON, TUESDAY, Aug. 27th

Advertiser

Thank You For Your Cooperation

NIACC Career Center ready to welcome students, including some from Nashua-Plainfield

By BOB STEENSON
Of the Charles City Press

Several dozen area business representatives and residents got a chance to meet the new NIACC president and tour the new NIACC Career Center in Charles City last week, a little more than a week before the facility opens to high school students from seven area school districts.

The North Iowa Area Community College Foundation and the NIACC Board of Directors were hosting the

monthly Chamber of Commerce Member Mingle, then the directors also held their monthly board meeting in one of the classrooms.

Joel Pedersen, NIACC's president, said the Charles City center is an example of the kind of career training that community colleges need to be involved in. Classes


Pedersen

will begin Monday, Aug. 26.

The program is open to senior high school students from Charles City and six other area high schools that agreed to support it – Clarksville, Nashua-Plainfield, North Butler, Osage, Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock and Riceville.

Training will be offered in four subjects identified by the state as being in demand, especially in this area: advanced manufacturing, construction trades, information technology and health care.

The students who elect to partici-

pate in one of the four programs will attend classes at the Career Center in the mornings, then go back to their high schools for afternoon classes.

After a year of courses they will receive a certificate in their career area and can take their new skills into the workplace, or continue their education – at NIACC or anywhere else.

The center includes tools, equipment, computers and programs representative of what's being actually used in the four career areas.

Pedersen said the college is also

working on making the center available for adult training in the afternoon.

The project is a partnership among NIACC and two other community colleges, Northeast Iowa Community College and Hawkeye Community College, and the seven school districts.

This is the second career center for high school students that NIACC has built. The first, in Forest City, was the first career center built in Iowa after legislation was passed making funding available for technical training to reach all corners of the state.

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Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

A good night to ‘Meet the Huskies!’

N-P fifth-grader Andrew Kalvig (above) takes off to the races in a timed sprint in the “Run/Punt/Pass” event on Thursday evening during the “Meet the Huskies” introduction of fall Nashua-Plainfield athletes and cheerleaders. N-P’s Calista McDonald (bottom left) waves to the crowd during the intro of the N-P cheerleaders and Husky Navarii Williams (bottom right) does the same for the football squad.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield’s Lily Eiffler gets ready to spike the volleyball in a match last season, and Eiffler and her teammates will officially kick off the Huskies’ fall sports season on Tuesday when they host Jesup and New Hampton in a triangular.

On Tap for Our Nashua-Plainfield Huskies

FRIDAY

Football scrimmage at Waterloo Columbus, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUG. 27

Volleyball vs. New Hampton and Jesup, JV in Husky Wellness Center, varsity in high school gymnasium, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 29

Volleyball vs. Rockford, JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

Varsity football vs. Postville, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 3

Volleyball at Northwood-Kensett, JVV and JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

JV football vs. Postville, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 5

Cross country at Charles City Invitational, Wildwood Golf Course, 4 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Mason City Newman, JVV and JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6

Varsity football at North Tama, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPT. 9

JV football at Charles City, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10

Volleyball at Central Springs, JVV and JV at 5:30 p.m., varsity at 7 p.m.

Cross country at Waverly-Shell Rock Invitational, Warburg Max Cross Country Course, 6 p.m.

Andersons say they enjoy teaching history to people at Old Bradford's annual Rendezvous Days

RENDEZVOUS: FROM 1

missing are all one family. They're from Ankeny and they had a family thing going on this weekend," said reenactor Jeremy Anderson. "We usually have four or five more. It's a small show."

Perhaps that's also a sign of the times – as eventually all things stop living and cease to exist at some point, even reenactments.

But not if Jeremy Anderson and his wife Cate have anything to do with it, because the legacy of 1800s blacksmiths, buckskinners and fur traders would live on forever if they had their way.

Just ask him.

"I enjoy teaching history to people," said Anderson, who lives in Plainfield along with his wife and family. "It's a time frame that's forgotten. You don't hear a lot about the mountain men in school."

If you made your way over to witness Anderson and his family reminisce by a campfire and eat homemade ice cream – you'll see no cell phones or television sets.

That's a no-no in the eyes of a reenactor – partly because this is a revival and an homage to long ago.

There was no electricity or modern technology that was readily apparent near the camp sites, save for the cars parked right next to the historic Little Brown Church.

"I encourage people that come out to shows to actually ask questions," said Jeremy. "We're more than knowledgeable. Those of us that reenact, we're proud of what we have and we'd be glad to talk about them."

Anderson talked about what the Rendezvous gatherings actually were, which was a chance for frontiersmen – often Native Americans – to sell their goods from a time period that lasted from about 1825 until 1840.

"What a buckskin and rendezvous was is twice a year the fur trade companies would come to the mountains and set up a rendezvous. All the trappers – the mountain men – would bring their furs to the rendezvous to sell to the companies. They also had traders there if they needed provisions," said Anderson.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Bob Fiser (center) shares a story with Del and Linda Holmes during Rendezvous Days, the annual event that was held at the Old Bradford Pioneer Museum this past weekend.

Provisions could mean coffee, traps, etc. and the "rendezvous" were oftentimes parties and celebrations.

"Twice a year they would come bring their pelts and this is where they let loose," said Anderson. "They had everything from women there to salt."

Anderson is essentially a third-generation blacksmith and likes to talk to people. That ability to want to engage with other human beings was not commonplace out in the old west when it came to mountain men that enjoyed the peace and quiet of nature – and not much else.

"A lot of these mountain men were solitary guys and they never talked to anyone," said Anderson. "It was a big deal for them. Instead of traveling clear back to St. Louis with their pelts, the companies would come to them."

Anderson – who owns the business Lone Wolf Traders along with his wife,

who was adorned in a dress that documented the times of the mid-1800s – said beaver pelts were a very popular item, for any number of reasons.

"At this time they're using those beaver pelts for top hats – that was the rave. Think Abraham Lincoln," said Anderson.

Anderson talked about his lineage – where he said he basically grew up in a blacksmith shop.

"My great grandfather was a blacksmith and my grandfather was a blacksmith. They both did this for a living," said Anderson. "They had actual shops."

Asked what he did for work and Anderson came up with this retort.

"In my real job?" inquired Anderson.

He said he's a supervisor at Martin Brothers Distributing in Cedar Falls. Cate made the ice cream, is a valued assistant at reenactments and helps

him forge iron and steel – and they did as such on what amounted to a lazy afternoon enjoying each other's company along with an inquisitive public and their family.

"I enjoy just talking to the public and teaching them. I love the ones that ask the questions," said Jeremy.

Anderson said blacksmithing has seen a resurgence of sorts because of one particular reality TV show.

"With the reoccurrence of 'Forged in Fire' there's a lot more people interested in blacksmithing," said Anderson. "They've also figured out it's a lot more work than they ever dreamed of too."

Anderson said he and his wife partnered up with the Old Bradford Village 10 years ago to stage the first "Rendezvous" reenactment in Nashua.

"My wife and I actually started this one," Jeremy added.

He said he has been a reenactor for

well over 20 years. The Andersons also attended a much larger "Rendezvous" in late September over at Fort Atkinson State Park, just across the Iowa border and into Nebraska. Anderson said there and at Prairie du Chien (Wisc.) there are anywhere from 100 to 125 tents at those larger get-togethers.

Linda Holmes, along with her husband Del, were also in attendance at Nashua's Rendezvous. They said they have attended the reenactment over in Ft. Atkinson – which is near Fort Calhoun, Neb. – for over 40 years.

The husband and wife team own Lost Moccasin Trading Post. Linda, who is 77, and Del, who just turned 80, live in Washburn, Iowa, a tiny unincorporated community just south of Waterloo.

Del constructed wooden tables and benches as well as other furniture that was on display. They also sold a vast array of items that reminded one of the past – like deer toes that can be worn around your neck, small wooden axes called "hawks" and arrowheads.

"You couldn't go to the store and buy anything. Chairs were chunks of wood," said Linda Holmes.

Linda said one of the main reasons she still attends reenactments is to connect with the younger generation.

"What I like the most is the opportunity to share our knowledge how this country got to be what it is, because they don't teach much of that in school anymore," Linda added. "The big attraction is a rotary-dial phone. Even my grandkids – my great granddaughter – that's what kids think is old."

She said over at Ft. Atkinson they'll bring in 2-to-3,000 kids on a Friday that are students from various schools that are on field trip.

"It's so fun to talk to them because they're interested – because they don't know," said Linda. "It's like if they don't teach it, it didn't happen. But it had to happen, that's why we're here."

She also reiterated the fact that "medical services" weren't as readily available as they are now if you get in an accident or injure yourself.

"When you tell the kids that even a scratch from a nail or a piece of glass – you usually didn't live," said Holmes. "A lot of the time a home remedy was a big slab of mud."

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AUGUST 2024 | B SECTION

Customer service representative
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Taking on the counseling challenge

Nashua-Plainfield's Kalainoff wants to emphasize the 'human side' of education

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

Nashua-Plainfield counselor Jenn Kalainoff will be the first to admit that how she views students is probably different from classroom teachers at her school district's 6-12 building. "When we're talking about academics or a new program, I think I see things differently than other people, just because of my counseling perspective," she said. "The lens I look through is different at school because I'm not a math teacher, a science teacher. The social, emotional part of it or the human side, that's what I'm focused on. Not that teachers don't, but it's just a little different as a counselor."

And as she gears up for another school year, Kalainoff will continue to use the lens that she hopes has not only served her well but also hopefully done the same for her students.

For almost a quarter of a century — first as an at-risk coordinator and then as a counselor — Kalainoff said her focus has been on the "human side" of education. And each year, she says, the challenges grow.

The counselor will be the first to say that mental health issues have been a part of the school setting, but she also believes that technology — especially the use of cell phones — has helped create a mental health crisis that the education system deals with on a daily basis.

"Maybe we talk about it more, maybe we recognize mental health more now," she said, "but when you add the challenges of social media I think it's just a lot harder to be a kid right now than it was when I was a child."

"If I was having trouble with friends, I could just go home and I wasn't connected. If my landline didn't ring, then I didn't have to talk to them, where now with that device in their hand, they're connected 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That's hard and it's not healthy."

And that makes these challenging times for



Nashua-Plainfield school counselor Jennifer Kalainoff, who works with students in grades 6-12, takes a break in her office as she prepares for the start of the 2024-25 school year.

"MAYBE WE TALK ABOUT IT MORE, MAYBE WE RECOGNIZE MENTAL HEALTH MORE NOW, BUT WHEN YOU ADD THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL MEDIA, I THINK IT'S JUST A LOT HARDER TO BE A KID RIGHT NOW THAN IT WAS WHEN I WAS A CHILD."

— NASHUA-PLAINFIELD SCHOOL COUNSELOR JENN KALAINOFF

school counselors.

Kalainoff's husband, Ben, is a science teacher at Nashua-Plainfield, and she said that when he brings work home with him, that work — papers and tests that need to be graded — is in a bookbag.

"My work does not come home in a bookbag," she said. "I carry my work kind of internally. It can be really overwhelming when you realize what some kids are going through. ... For some

students, academics is at the bottom of the list when you're talking about what they're having to deal with."

So her job, she says, is to help those students and families have the right resources

At times it can be a daunting challenge, but make no mistake about it, Kalainoff loves her job.

"I think being part of a team that wants to help kids become productive members of soci-

ety, to succeed, there's no better job," she said. "Yes, like I said, it can be overwhelming, it can feel overwhelming, at times, but to see so many people work together to help kids, it's just ... well, it's just rewarding."

KALAINOFF GREW UP in Grundy Center, graduating with a class of under 50, in 1996.

She attended Simpson College in Indianola, where she competed both in cross country and track, and searched for the right career fit.

"I knew I wanted to help people," she said, "but it's like I tell kids all the time, sometimes it's OK to not know what you want to do; sometimes you have to eliminate what you don't want to do."

In college, she worked with the juvenile

SEE KALAINOFF, 6



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NHMU job has been rewarding for Babcock

BABCOCK: FROM 1

of is not only that we offer great products — our internet is amazing — but we do it at a really good price and with great customer service.”

Her job has grown over the years; in fact, she pointed to a white board in the back of her office and laughed when asked what her job currently entails.

“A lot of people think it’s just customer service for the utility,” she said, “but that white board, trust me, that white board keeps me really busy.”

In addition to signing up new customers and maintaining current customer accounts for NHMU, she also works on a variety of projects for the New Hampton Municipal Light Plant. Babcock makes sure numerous regulatory reports are filed for both the light plant and the utility, and that white board contains a list of what reports have to be filed in what month.

“I’ll tell you this much, I’m glad I had that legal background at the law office,” she said with a smile. “Have you ever filed a regulatory report? Trust me, a little law background helps — helps a lot.”

Her most challenging job?

A quick mischievous smile crossed Babcock’s face before she answered.

“Herding the cats,” she said as she pointed toward the back of the building that was once New Hampton’s Dollar General Store. That’s the area where Quirk, Technician Supervisor Vance Cook and Technician Eric Robinson work.

All kidding aside, though, Babcock said she is blessed to be part of the team that brought state-of-the-art telecommunication services to the city she has called home for almost 30 years.

“We all have our different strengths, I think that’s been the key for us,” she said, “but what amazes me about our little team is that we all put our customers first. Watching Brian, Vance and Eric work with people and helping our customers, I know I’m in the right place. I’ve loved all the jobs I’ve had, but this has been so much fun to be a part of and I can’t wait to see where we’re at four years from now.”

Babcock grew up in Nashua and graduated from what was then Nashua High School, where she participated in volleyball, basketball and track, as well as golf for a year.

After spending three years in Cedar Rapids, she returned to Chicasaw County, married Brad Babcock and had two sons — Max and Carson.

She figured if she had stayed in the big city she would have adapted, but she has no regrets about raising her family in a city New Hampton’s size.

“I think what makes a town like ours so special is that everyone is looking out for everyone else,” she said. “The boys would always ask me how do you know all this and I would always smile and say, ‘I know people — lots and lots of people.’ But seriously, it’s safe and it gave our boys a lot of opportunities.”

And NHMU gave Babcock a new opportunity and in more ways than one, too.

The building is also home to New Hampton High School’s Iowa BIG North program, which is one reason that Babcock is ready for the school year to start.

“First off, it’s way too quiet here in the summer,” she said, “but really, I miss not having the kids around. They bring an energy into the building, and I love watching them take ideas and run with them.”

Some of those ideas have directly benefited NHMU as Iowa BIG North students helped with a marketing plan for what was then the start-up utility and also helped plan NHMU’s open house that was held in 2023.

And although Babcock is not ready to trade places with Cook or Robinson, she’s learned a lot about telecommunications in a relatively short amount of time.

“Honestly, I look at the 2020 Becky and think man, she was dumb,” Babcock said with a laugh.

She, though, is downright proud of the utility.

“I think what means the most to me is that we are so reliable,” she said, “and the way the world is now — so many more people work from home — that’s an absolute must. To be a part of it almost from the beginning, that’s really been rewarding.”



Kelly Terpstra

Joyce Laures has been living out her dream job for the past 43 years at Dungey’s Furniture and Flooring.

It’s all about the people for Joyce Laures

For 43 years Dungey’s has been like family for interior decorator/sales person

By KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

Joyce Laures is part of a furniture family.

Those are her words.

If you know her or happen to meet her — it’s easy to see that the New Hampton resident is truly living out her dream job.

Laures — who will mark 43 years of dedicated and loyal employment at Dungey’s Furniture this coming October as a interior decorator/sales person — is also a professional.

The St. Lucas native and Turkey Valley grad is also as personable as they come.

You’ll notice that right away when you walk through the doors at an institution and business in New Hampton that has been thriving for over 60 years.

“Dungey’s mean a lot to me. They are my family,” said Laures. “They have always looked out for me. They make you feel needed. They just are good people. If they weren’t, I wouldn’t be here 43 years.”

When you enter the sprawling showroom at 904 Canty Avenue — just behind the New Hampton McDonald’s — you’ll see an array of beds, sofas, dining room sets, carpet selections and so much more. You also might be graciously greeted by Laures at the longtime establishment in New Hampton that first started creating a rapport with customers clear back in 1963.

“The customers are what’s kept me here so much,” said Laures. “We look out for each other. I think New Hampton helps each other and we work for each other. I think it’s a very family-orientated town.”

Laures remembers all too well her start in a profession that began at Northeast Iowa Technical Institute (NITI), a community college in Calmar that is now called Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC).

She had just graduated high school in 1978 at TV and decided to major in interior decorating at NITI — this was after her friend had broached the subject.

“It’s working with color, design, style, texture, fabrics,” said Laures.

Actually, Laures’ passion and creative flair to coordinate, plan and improve the look and feel of a space began long before she was a teenager.

Joyce married her husband Greg in May 1981, just a few short months before she started at Dungey’s. The pair raised two kids — a son and a daughter who both graduated from New Hampton High School.

It didn’t take long for Laures to establish herself at her place of employment. She broke down a critical element of what she does — connecting with a customer and meeting their needs.

“You basically kind of do an interview with the customer as they come in,” said Laures.

She also talked about the vision she has for her clientele and how to match that up with what they want — whatever product or service that might be.

“You have to come here to touch it and feel it,” said Laures. “Most people like to come to a facility and have everything on hand.”

Those interactions with customers are

not only a sale made, but a relationship and friendship created. That’s what drew Laures’ to this line of work.

“Satisfaction of myself and the client,” said Laures. “The gratification and the happiness.”

What have been some of the changes in an industry that Laures has been a part of for decades?

“Wireless remote furniture is a big deal in the last 10 years,” said Laures.

Another question — did Laures think she would be with Dungey’s for as long as she has?

“I thought, is there something else out there that I’m missing?” said Laures. “There wasn’t.”

Laures talked about what really is at the heart of what she does — which is of course beautifying one’s home, but it’s also something much more substantial.

“It’s the people. It’s the people that come through the door everyday,” said Laures. “It’s always somebody different and you meet someone all the time. Then you start talking and they know someone that knows someone.”

“Next thing you know you’ve waited on that generation, which is the generation before me. Then the generation of my age and now the generation below me and my kids’ generation.”

Joyce Laures can sell furniture and make your home a beautiful and happy place to live — there’s no doubt about that. But what she’s also excellent at doing is making you feel that you matter and you’re a part of her family, just as much as Joyce is to the Dungeys.



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Kelly Terpstra
New Nashua-Plainfield Athletic Director Ami Hagen poses for pictures both at the Huskies' football stadium and in her office at Security 1st Insurance, where she works as an agent.

Living a busy life!

N-P AD has plenty on her plate but appreciative of living and working in a supportive community

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

As she's stepped into a new role – Ami Hagen knew her supportive and tight-knit community would be there for her.

That's just part of what being a Nashua-Plainfield Husky is all about. Hagen – a 2002 N-P grad – is the new Athletic Director at Nashua-Plainfield and she talked about her new job that helps guide and facilitate Husky athletes and the squads they are a part of.

That's just one facet of her administrative title that involves numerous duties and tasks for the busy wife and mother of three that is living life to the fullest.

"It's way more than I ever thought it was going to be," laughed Hagen. "Luckily, Suzy (Turner) has already been incredible and she's been working with me the last couple months. Dean (Youngblut) is awesome and Jay (Marley) has been really good. The coaches have been incredible. This transition period – it's definitely new – but everyone's been awesome."

Hagen – who is an insurance agent at Security 1st Insurance (right next

to Subway) in Nashua – took over N-P's AD position from Turner, who was the athletic director at N-P for the last two years. Turner, a history teacher at N-P, took over the AD job from Josh Smith, a social studies teacher and Husky girls basketball coach that manned the position for eight years according to Hagen.

Hagen may be new to the job, but she says she's up to the challenge. Specific functions of AD's are scheduling, lining up officials and game-day preparations – but that's just scratching the surface.

"It's a lot. Suzy explained it. You work kind of a week-by-week," said Hagen. "You've got the games and you've got to also prepare for the next sport. You also have to prepare a year from now. It's at least a three-fold process. There's lots of different levels."

One thing is for certain – Hagen is no stranger to the hallways of N-P or the success the Huskies have achieved on the athletic level.

She's a former state qualifier for Jeff Trost's Husky golf team and was also an all-conference hoops player at N-P. Hagen – whose maiden name is Franzen – played basketball and then volleyball for one season at her alma

mater as well.

"I'm proud of this community," said Hagen. "Growing up here, I was proud to be a Husky."

Hagen is married to Chris Hagen – who currently sits on the N-P School Board. They have three children together – 12-year-old daughter Adli (seventh grade), a nine-year-old son Axton (fourth grade) and six-year old daughter Aycie (first grade).

Hagen knew there was a spot open for the AD spot at N-P, so she ended up taking six courses – four hours a piece – to be in compliance and have all of her ducks in a row, so to speak, so she could be considered for the job. "I knew it was available and they hadn't had any interest. I always thought it would be interesting," said Hagen.

Hagen is actively involved in N-P youth sports. She's the YSF (youth sports football) coordinator. The flag football program began the week of Aug. 12 and sports a six-game schedule that starts on Sept. 7.

Hagen also coaches summer-rec basketball, which her son is a part of and coaches her youngest daughter's youth softball team.

A first this year at N-P is that all

students in middle school and in high school will receive free admission to all 2024-2025 home N-P athletic events. Hagen said the N-P Booster Club and Missy Sinnwell had a large hand in getting that done.

"Missy Sinnwell spearheaded it and she got five donors to donate so much and so now every student at N-P gets to go to athletic events for free. The elementary age needs to come with a paid adult," said Hagen. "That's huge, that's great."

Hagen said she's already enjoying working with her fellow colleagues and the community as a whole and the school year has not yet begun. The first day of school for students at N-P is Friday, Aug. 23.

"We've got great staff. We've got great coaches. The future is so bright," said Hagen. "The parents that are working towards it, the student athletes and faculty – everyone is on board. I'm excited, I really am. I'm not going to lie, I'm a little stressed right now, I'm a little overwhelmed, but in the end, I am excited."

Ami said that she's lived outside of Nashua on two separate occasions. She's glad she's back and can't think of a better place to live in and to raise

her family – oh, and cheer on her Huskies.

"I moved away. I went to college and lived in the Chicagoland area for a while and then moved back here just because I love the small town. I love our community," said Hagen.

Chris and Ami's oldest child – Adli – was diagnosed with a disease called HSP (a disease that causes inflammation and bleeding in the small blood vessels).

"It's a rare disease that she was diagnosed with when she was young," said Hagen.

That disability obviously involves some extra special care and attention that Adli requires. Hagen mentioned that the comfort and assistance exhibited by the community and citizens that help support the N-P School District and the Hagen family as a whole is heartwarming. Ami said the community has held several meal fundraisers over the years for Adli and the Hagen family.

"The community – the way they support us and back us up is out of this world. I couldn't imagine not raising my kids here. This is the place where she needs to be – where we need to be, for sure," said Hagen.

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Counselor: It takes team to work for student success

KALAINOFF: FROM 2

courts system and also at a youth shelter. She enjoyed her work, but she also worried about a career in a field that has a high burnout rate.

Working in a school interested her, but Kalainoff said "I knew being a classroom teacher wasn't a passion for me."

So instead, she became an at-risk coordinator at East Union Community Schools before accepting a similar position at Nashua-Plainfield two years later. In 2008, she received her school counseling license and became a counselor at the old middle school in Plainfield.

"The title's changed, but really my job hasn't changed all that much since I got here," she said. "I'll say it again, it's about focusing on the human element, about finding the resources students and their families need."

At times, her job can be hectic; after all, her biggest responsibility at the high school level is to help make sure students have their credits and they are on track to graduate.

"If they're not there, how do we get there? That can take a little work," she said, "and so the beginning of each semester, trust me, can be chaos — hopefully somewhat controlled chaos."

AT A SMALL school like Nashua-Plainfield, counselors can wear a number of hats, and Kalainoff is no exception.

She is an advisor to the Husky Leadership Team, she is the homecoming coordinator and she coaches the Huskies' cross country teams.

Kalainoff went to a small school and has always worked in small school districts. She wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

"Kids have so many opportunities at our school," she said. "You can be in sports, music and everything else and you don't have to choose," she said. "If you're at West Des Moines Valley, can you be an Aiden Sullivan and play football and be the drum major in the band? I don't think so."

But she believes the biggest benefit districts like Nashua-Plainfield have is a sense of community.

"I think when tragedy has struck our community and it has, my first question always is, how do you do that in a big school? I can't imagine dealing with a class of hundreds of kids or a community of thousands and going through those tragedies," she said. "Here, people know how to support each other. We know each other, Everyone just takes care of each other."

KALAINOFF AND HER husband have four boys — Evan, who will student teach this fall; Isaac, who works at Zoetis in Charles City; Eli, who will be a junior at Nashua-Plainfield; and Zeke, who starts high school this fall.

The boys will be the first to tell you that mom loves using her camera.

"It's a hobby," she said of photography, "and it probably started when we started having kids. There were a lot of days where I'd set up the tripod and we'd go out and take pictures."

She laughed when asked how the boys felt about that.

"I got a lot of mom-and-her-camera looks," she said, "but I find joy in taking pictures. They're memories that last forever."

In recent years, she has taken numerous photos for the Nashua Reporter and has provided pictures from various Husky games and meets.

In 2020, she helped the



Nashua-Plainfield school counselor Jenn Kalainoff shares a light moment with members of the Class of 2019 before the school's annual commencement ceremony.

paper cover the state wrestling tournament and has also chronicled the Huskies' successes at state track meets.

"You're right there, and I really do appreciate that," she said. "You do miss being a part of the Husky crowd and there's something to be said about that, except, like at the state wrestling meet, I know what the pictures look like from up in the stands of Section 224. I'm glad it's worked out, and it's been a great calming hobby for me."

HER MAIN FOCUS, however, will remain her kids — both her sons and the boys and girls who walk the hallways of Nashua-Plainfield each day.

She hopes she's making a difference and she knows that there are those who believe schools take on too much these days.

"There's so much that goes on outside of school that we're dealing with inside of school," she said. "It's easy to say it's

not a school problem because it didn't happen at school but it is a school problem because we have to have the right tools to help our students function."

And she's grateful that she's part of a team of Huskies.

"To me, in my job, we have to work together as a team," she said.

"Nothing beats the power of a team, bouncing ideas off of each other, and knowing that no one has to do everything alone."



Jenn's other 'lens'

In addition to her work as a counselor at Nashua-Plainfield, Jenn Kalainoff has also helped the Nashua Reporter with its sports coverage and her photos — like the one of Kadence Huck (above) crossing the finish line in the distance medley at the 2024 state meet and Garret Rinken (right) jumping into the arms of coach Al Frost after winning a state title in 2023 — are, in a word, excellent.





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Cedar Valley Hospice provides 5-star resource

Organization’s steep knowledge makes it the perfect support tool for your family

By **STEPHANIE-ABEL-HOHENZY**
Cedar Valley Hospice

For 45 years, Cedar Valley Hospice’s mission has been to provide compassionate care and support to families.

It started with only a few committed volunteers who believed in serving our community. Today, that sentiment continues with its growing staff of 120 employees and 300 volunteers who serve over 15 counties.

The Cedar Valley Hospice Experience

Many significant moments have led to our organization’s success over four decades, none more important than providing the highest quality care for families in our community during life’s most challenging times.

Whether you are caring for a loved one who needs extra support or grieving the death of someone close to you, Cedar Valley Hospice can help. By choosing to call, it means you do not have to travel your journey alone.

Making the call sooner rather than later ensures a better quality of life for the patient and support for the whole family.

As part of the Cedar Valley Hospice Experience, you receive:

- A team of experts to care for your physical, emotional and spiritual needs.
- An award-winning organization with highly trained staff to Cedar Valley Hospice standards.
- The knowledge to help you and your family navigate your illness or grief.
- A commitment to fulfill our mission of ensuring the highest level of knowledge, respect and compassionate care.

“It is amazing to be able to put patients’ minds at ease,” said Jenny Stangl, hospice nurse. “Knowing we are there to offer comfort, provide education and prepare families for the next steps in their journey together.”

5-Star Care

For our steadfast commitment to quality care, we have recently received a 5-star rating from Medicare.gov, making Cedar Valley Hospice the only hospice in the area and one of nine in the state of Iowa to receive such an honor.

It is determined by a hospice satisfaction

survey which asks caregivers if they received timely help, had good support and communication, were trained in how to care for their loved one, and ultimately, if they would recommend this hospice to others.

Beyond this milestone, the organization has also been consistently named as the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier’s Best of the Best and an Employer of Choice. They are also a 5-time Gallup Exceptional Workplace winner, which is a global award that recognizes the most engaged staff and workplaces.

Learn the Truth about Hospice & Palliative Care

When you hear the word hospice, it’s easy to shy away from learning more because let’s face it – no one wants to talk about hospice. The reality is that there are so many misconceptions about hospice and palliative care and people need to educate themselves so they can be prepared.

“We think of dying because it is, but it’s the quality of life... it’s making those moments matter that is so significant,” said Karol Rae Hoth, founding member of Cedar Valley Hospice. “We are here for you when you need us. The sooner you call, the more time you can have to experience true quality of life.”

Hospice care: For those with a serious illness measured in months not years. Care is provided by an interdisciplinary team who visit your home or nursing facility and provide physical, emotional and spiritual support. A nurse is available 24/7, which helps reduce stress and hospitalizations. Services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurances.

Palliative care: For those with a serious illness, regardless of life expectancy or prognosis. Care is provided by a nurse and social worker who come to your home and offer support and guidance.

You can still be seeking curative treatment while using this extra supportive care. Examples of diagnosis include: COPD, heart disease, dementia and cancer.

For Clint Whitcome of Waverly, whose mother died on the Cedar Valley Hospice program, the care and knowledge he received enabled him to focus on spending quality time with



his mother.

“I remember being on the patio and just seeing my mom’s radiant smile with the sunshine on her face, and it’s a lasting memory of what I have of my mom instead of something different if we would have had to have been the ones providing the care for my mom,”

he said. “You got to have a partner, someone who has experienced it, who knows what’s going on, and someone you can lean on and ask questions. Cedar Valley Hospice was just that for our family.”

It’s important to feel in control of your healthcare. Let Cedar Valley

Hospice help you navigate the healthcare system, get answers to important questions and, ultimately, manage your symptoms and help you Make Each Moment Matter. It’s never too soon to call and explain your situation and see how their programs can help support you and your family.



A woman writes a special message to her loved one next to his name at the dedication station during a past Release and Remember fundraiser. To dedicate a butterfly for a loved one, visit cvhospice.org.

Hospice to host butterfly ‘Release and Remember’ fundraiser on Sept. 8

Celebrate someone you love at the 13th annual Cedar Valley Hospice Release and Remember fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the RiverLoop Amphitheatre in Waterloo. This meaningful event draws hundreds of supporters to the banks of the Cedar River for an afternoon that has become a tradition of honoring the community’s loved ones in an extraordinary way.

The event, free and open to the entire community, will feature food (while supplies last), kids activities and live music with Flatland Ridge, culminating with a short program and the release of 1,000 monarch butterflies.

Community members are encouraged to dedicate one or several butterflies as a tribute to someone important to them. For a donation, a butterfly will be dedicated in their honor. Tribute names will be displayed at the event if the donation is received by Aug. 23. Release and Remember T-shirts are also for sale online, at any Cedar Valley Hospice location (excluding the Hospice Home) and at the event while supplies last. You can also have a chance to open a box of butterflies at our event. You must be 18 years old or older and be present at the event for this special opportunity.

This year, we ask that the community submit their stories about Release and Remember or their experience with CedarValley Hospice. Many of these stories will be on display at the event and in on an online memory webpage. To submit your story, email Haley Bell at hbelle@cvhospice.org.

At the event, wheelchair ushers will be on hand at the handicap accessible entrance to the Amphitheatre near the Phelps Youth Pavilion where handicap parking is also available.

For more information or to dedicate a butterfly, visit www.cvhospice.org.

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45 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Boyd's favorite job is definitely being a grandmother

BOYD: FROM 1

— and has loved almost every minute of it. "Every job has its days," Boyd said, "and this isn't an exception, but those days are few and far between. I still like coming to work every day, and I don't know how many people can say that after 33 years at one job. That's one of the reasons I never left."

Much has changed since that December day back in 1988 when she moved from Cedar Rapids to New Hampton. She and her husband were married in February 1989, they raised three children, all of whom are now married and they now are the proud grandparents of Stone, Stella and Carsyn.

But one thing hasn't: She still likes going to work.

CONNIE BOYD GREW up in the small Iowa town of Norway. If you're a baseball fan, that means something, for the Tigers were, in short, a powerhouse — winning 20 state championships on the diamond between 1965 and 1991, the year the school closed its doors forever.

"I always laugh when I tell people I'm from Norway," she said, "because baseball always comes up in the conversation."

Sports have always been a big part of her life. Her three brothers played baseball for the Tigers, and she, too, was an athlete — playing guard in 6-on-6 basketball and catcher and first base on the softball team.

Even before the question — was Norway softball like Norway baseball — was finished, Boyd had a quick answer.

"Uh, no," she said with a laugh. "Most people didn't make it to the top of the hill to watch us girls."

After graduating from high school, Boyd attended Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, where she majored in retail management and after graduating — "I'm going to give away my age here," she said with a laugh — she went to work for Montgomery Ward, a national chain of department stores before taking a job at United Fire and Casualty.

One summer, though, she met her future husband, who was playing for Norway's baseball town team.

"My brothers were on the team, and one thing led to another, and here we are."

SHE LAUGHED WHEN asked about the timing of her wedding.

"You know, I'm still waiting for my honeymoon," she said, "because we got married on a Saturday and Bill had to coach a junior high basketball game on Monday."

And while she enjoyed working at the bank, she was ready for a more 9-to-5 job, if you will. "We worked Thursday and Friday nights and Saturdays, too," she said, "and with a husband who coached and having a baby, I thought I'd apply for this job. ... Again, I didn't know if it would stick, but I've worked with some great bosses — Ben, Tom and Randy all are different but they've all been great bosses in their own ways — and obviously, I must enjoy it. I'm still here, right?"

Today, she jokes that she's a "jack of all trades" at the insurance agency.

She's an agent who works mostly with auto



Bob Fenske

Whether attending Park Board meetings or helping out with events like Breakfast with Santa, Connie Boyd says her 30 or so years on the board has been rewarding and offered her a chance to “give back” to her adopted hometown.



and home policies, serves as the agency's office manager and does some underwriting, just to name a few of her jobs.

"She's the glue that holds us together," Nosbisch said and then added with a smile that contained a hint of mischief, "or maybe it's the other way around."

Boyd said one of the pluses that comes with working at an insurance agency in a small city like New Hampton is the fact that she knows most of her customers.

"I either know them or I know of them, and I think that's a big difference between our agency and say one in like a Cedar Rapids," she said. "You're not a number here; we know you and we're going to do the best we can to get the coverage you need and we're going to give you the best customer service we possibly can."

And she said there's another positive that comes with working at a small agency. She knows her co-workers — Nosbisch and fellow agent Andrew Zweibohmer — well.

"We give each other a lot of grief, which is why we're doing this interview back here with

the door closed because I know they'd be giving me a hard time," she said before pausing and smiling, "and I'd give it right back to them. ... But seriously, they have the same work ethic, the same doing-everything-we-can-for-our-customers attitude."

THROUGHOUT HER long career at Nosbisch Insurance and Chickasaw Mutual, Boyd has remained active at home and in the community.

Her three children — Dylan, 33; Nolan, 30; and Abby, 26 — were all active in school, especially in sports and she spent countless hours coaching them, going to their games and attending their other school activities.

"One thing about living in a small town and working here, I just had a couple of blocks to go for their concerts and things like that," she said. "This has always been a place where we've been able to put our families first and I'm very appreciative for that."

Boyd has also been a longtime member of the New Hampton Park Board, although she said

after more than 30 years on the board, this will be her last term.

"I'm really proud of the recreation programs we have, the parks we have," she said. "A lot of people over the years have made them a priority, and I hope in some small way I helped. We may not always have agreed, but the people I worked with on the board and in the office, they always had the same goals I had — give our kids opportunities and make sure we had a great park system."

Over the years, she's had plenty of titles — insurance agent, office manager, Park Board member, wife, mom, coach, you get the idea, right? — but as much as she enjoyed her 33 years at the insurance agency and the three decades or so on the Park Board, she in recent years has found her favorite job.

"Definitely being a grandmother," she said. "Hands down, the best job in the world."

THE BOYD KIDS are, well, not kids anymore.

"We got them all married off," she said with a laugh.

But she's not going anywhere. Like we said, she still likes going to work, and she still loves New Hampton.

Boyd and her husband, at least when he's not working as one of the best high school baseball umpires in the state, attend countless Chickasaw sporting events.

"We always went to our kids' games and we have a few years before we can go for the grand-kids," she said, "but sports have always been a big part of our lives so we keep going. We have friends' kids playing and you know, even if we don't know the kids, it's still fun."

So is she a Norway Tiger or a New Hampton Chickasaw?

The answer comes quickly.

"Oh, I'm definitely a Chickasaw," she said.

"Sure, I still brag about Norway, but this is home no question about it. Maybe we were only going to be here for a year or two, but I'm glad we stayed. It was a great place to raise our family, and I have no regrets."



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