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at Cedar View Park in Nashua

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11:00-? Food Trucks
12:00-5:00 Outdoor Vendor Fair
2:00 Nashua Car Cruise
2:00-2:45 Family Friendly Magician -
Eric Michaels

3:30-5:00 The Waterhawks
6:00-9:00 Band: Untouchables
9:00 at the Baldwin Band Shell
Floating Luminaries

Nashua REPORTER

Vol. 117, Issue 33

16 August 2024

Nashua, IA 50658 • 75 cents

Supervisors OK budget changes

County to spend \$733,000 more but board emphasizes it isn't using property tax dollars

BY BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

What started out as a relatively tiny amendment to Chickasaw County's 2024-25 fiscal year has mushroomed in a matter of weeks, but county supervisors are quick to point out that almost all of the \$731,300 in additional spending

will not come from funds supported by local property taxes.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the proposed budget amendment at length during its regular Monday meeting and then held a special meeting Tuesday morning to approve setting Aug. 26 as the date for a public hearing on it.

Board members knew they would

need to approve a budget amendment after the only bid for a joint paving project between the county and the city of New Hampton for a 0.7-mile stretch of Kenwood Avenue came in at 113 percent of the preliminary engineer's estimate.

Because the county is "fronting" the city the money for the project, which will be paid back over

a five-year period, the higher-than-expected cost of the work meant that the county hadn't budgeted enough of an expenditure from its Infrastructure Fund for the city. At the very least, the county would need to amend

SEE SUPERVISORS, 2

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Agronomist: So far our area crops are looking 'really good'

More than three-quarters of state's corn and soybeans are either in good or excellent shape

BY BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

It seems like an eternity ago, but the reality is it was just three months ago when ISU Extension Agronomist Terry Basol and the farmers he works with were fretting big time about getting fields planted.

So Basol will be the first to admit that he's a little stunned these days when he visits corn and soybean fields in the area.

"If you would have told me in May, we'd be sitting where we're at right now, I don't think I would have believed you," he said, "but here we are and I'll stand by what I wrote up the other day in my crop chat newsletter. Corn and soybeans are looking really good in the area."

He paused for a moment and laughed.

"Now, you know I always say we still have a long ways to go — I probably say it the day before

SEE CROPS, 2

Rendezvous Days kicks off three-day run at Old Bradford today

The Old Bradford Pioneer Museum has already gone back to the 1860s this summer so why not travel ever farther back in time?

That's exactly what the historical park located just east of Nashua will do this weekend when it holds its annual Rendezvous Days that kicks off its three-day run today.

The event includes re-enactors of fur traders from the 1600s and participants will have opportunities to learn how to make rope, throw hatchets, visit a blacksmith shop and tour the village grounds.

The park will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day and admission is \$5.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Members of the Husky Leadership Team bust out laughing after trying — and kind of failing, to be honest — a synchronized walking game during a retreat that was held at Cedar View Park last week.

BUILDING UP SOME TEAMWORK!

HUSKY LEADERSHIP TEAM BEGINS PLANNING FOR 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR WITH FUN-FILLED, OLYMPIC-THEMED RETREAT

BY BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

Blindfolded and making his way through the obstacle course, Nashua-Plainfield High School junior Vinny Runge put his trust in his teammates at the Husky Leadership Team retreat

that was held at Cedar View Park.

"I don't know about this; I can't see a thing," he said as he stopped and waited for directions.

"Trust us," his teammates all chimed in unison.

And those two words summed up what the HLT is all about.

"We thought it would be a fun way to kick off the school year," said Hannah Holthaus, one of five advisors to the student organization that serves a lot like a student council. "We've got a lot of kids, more than we've ever had before,

SEE HLT, 4

Water Over the Dam Days 2.0 set for Aug. 24

Cedar View Park in Nashua will be the site for a "Family Fun Saturday," or better known as "Water Over the Dam Days 2.0," on Saturday, Aug. 24.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. when the food trucks arrive.

From noon to 5 p.m., an outdoor vendor fair will be held at the park, and a "car cruise-in" is set to roll through Nashua's biggest part at 2 p.m.

Eric Michaels, billed as a "family-friendly magician, will take the stage from 2 to 2:45.

During the original Water Over the Dam Days celebration that was held on the final weekend in June, the annual Nashua appearance of the Waterhawks Ski Team had to be canceled because of high water on the lake.

But the ski team that has strong ties to Nashua will take to the water during 2.0 and perform their stunts and tricks from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

The event will conclude with the band The Untouchables taking the Baldwin Band Stage from 6 to 9 p.m., and floating luminaries will be placed on the water when the band is done playing.

Water Over the Dam Days 2.0 is being sponsored by the Nashua Park Board.



A night to learn at Farm Bureau annual meeting

Iowa Farm Bureau's Amanda Van Steenwyk (left) and Erin Herbold-Swalwell as they talk about the Take Root Program that deals with farm succession and business planning during the 106th annual meeting of the Chickasaw County Farm Bureau that was held last week in Alta Vista.

Laurie Tiemessen/Reporter
See STORY, Page 3

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Virgil Paul Zwanziger, 93

Virgil Paul Zwanziger, age 93 of Nashua, died Friday, Aug. 9, 2024, at Linn Haven Rehab & Healthcare in New Hampton.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2024, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Nashua with the Rev. Tom Heathershaw celebrating the Mass.

Interment was held at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Nashua.

Friends greeted the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua. Visitation continued an hour prior to the Mass at the funeral home on Tuesday.

Virgil Paul Zwanziger, known affectionately as Virgil to his friends and family, passed away peacefully on Aug. 9, 2024, at the age of 93 in New Hampton. Virgil was born on April 27, 1931, in rural Chickasaw County.

Virgil's early years were shaped by the simplicity and richness of country life. He was a man of the earth, whose hands were as adept at nurturing family as they were at shaping the land.

Virgil's education was rooted in the fundamentals, having attended country school through the eighth grade. He was then needed to work on the family farm.

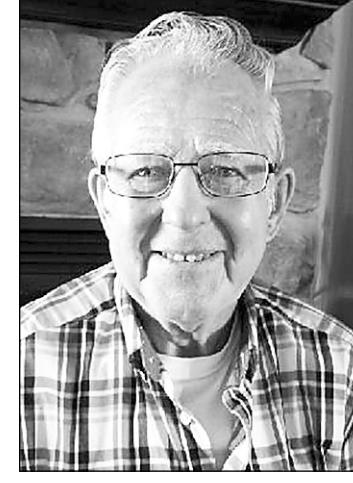
It was a dance in Powersville where destiny would have Virgil meet the love of his life, Rosemary Harrington, through an introduction by his brother. The connection with Rosemary was immediate, and the two would go on to affirm their love at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Nashua on April 17, 1950. Their marriage was blessed with four wonderful children — David, Daniel, Dennis, and Diane — each of whom added a unique thread to the rich tapestry of their family life.

Professionally, Virgil began his career in the construction industry, where he quickly became known for his meticulous skills in operating heavy equipment machinery. His work was not just a job but a journey that took him and his family across Iowa.

Despite the many towns they visited, Nashua remained their anchor and home. Virgil's expertise and leadership qualities eventually led him to a superintendent role at Allied Construction. His dedication to his craft extended over five decades, culminating in a well-deserved retirement in 1999.

Beyond his work, Virgil was a man of diverse interests. He found joy in the tranquility of fishing, snowmobiling, and the rhythms of Polka music. His garage was his sanctuary, a place where he could tinker and invent, always finding new projects to keep his hands and mind active.

Described as handy, hard-working with a heart of



Virgil Zwanziger

gold, Virgil's ability to fix anything was matched only by his steadfast commitment to his family.

He was a longstanding member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, which he joined before his marriage.

Virgil's legacy is not only in the structures he helped build or the projects he completed but in the love and guidance he provided to his family. His children and their descendants will remember him as a pillar of strength, a source of wise counsel and a beacon of the values he held dear. His laughter, his stories and his unwavering presence will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Sunday's were known to be "Grandpa Virgil" days. Brunch was an afternoon to watch the great-grandkids play and catch up with everyone. It was a day he truly cherished and looked forward to. You never left without a hug and an "I love you" and then having the possibility of smelling like his hair gel. You always knew how proud he was, because he was never afraid to tell you. That kindness ran deep.

Virgil is survived by his children, Dan (Lisa) Zwanziger of Nashua, Dennis (Cindy) Zwanziger of Waverly, IA, and Diane (Bill) Schaetzl of Nashua; grandchildren, Dawn (Perry) Lester of Des Moines, Jeremy (Kayla) Zwanziger of Cedar Falls, Alex (Miranda) Zwanziger of Walker, Abby (Mitch) Johnson of Nashua, Alli (Caleb) Wilken of Plainfield, Emily (Josh) Cronk of Evansdale, and Eric (Rachel) Zwanziger of Denver; great-grandchildren, Aubrey and Eli, Colsen, Addie and Brody, Sawyer, Sorren and Scarlett, Briar, Braylee and Barrett, Oliver, Charlie and Theodore; brothers-in-law, Don Niemeyer of Nashua, Bill (Peggy) Zwanziger of Ionia, Bob (Kathy) Harrington of Nashua, and Paul Harrington of Ionia; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; loving wife, Rosemary Zwanziger in 2020; beloved son, David Zwanziger in 2018; sisters, Evelyn Niemeyer and Lois (Bud) Westervelt; brothers, Don (Marian) Zwanziger, and Clark (Eileen) Zwanziger; and Rosemary's siblings and spouses.

ISU fall field day set for Aug. 23; registration is due Aug. 21

Iowans can gain valuable knowledge in various agricultural topics at Iowa State University's Northeast Research and Demonstration Farm annual fall field day on Aug. 23, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Doug Houser, digital agriculture extension specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, will begin the program by providing the most current and up-to-date information regarding drone/UAV technology, and its use in the agricultural sector. Alison Robertson, professor and extension plant pathologist, will give an update on crop diseases of the growing season and expectations going into this year's harvest. Kapil Arora, extension agricultural and biosystems engineering specialist, will share his insights on tile drainage and water management.

"This year's event will offer a diverse lineup of topics and speakers," said Terry Basol, field agronomist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "Participants can enjoy a day of hands-on learning, while networking with specialists and other farmers."

The field day is free and open to the public. Lunch is provided and sponsored by Kahn Tile Supply. To assist with meal preparation, register by Aug. 21 by emailing neira@iastate.edu.

The field day starts at the Borlaug Learning Center Headquarters on the research farm. For more information about the event, call Terry Basol at 641-426-6801; or Josh Michel at 563-581-7828.



Laurie Tiemessen/Reporter

Members of the Chickasaw County Farm Bureau Board of Directors include (from left) District 1 Director Randy Brincks, Voting Delegate Robert Shatek, Drew Dietz, Lexie Maloy, Travis Swehla, President Katherine Balk, Jordan Heit, Vice President Jessica Grober, Treasurer Nolan Webster, Secretary Barbara Schwickerath, (absent from photo) Adam Drewelow and Andy Chambers.

Chickasaw County Farm Bureau holds annual meeting

Special to the Reporter

Chickasaw County Farm Bureau members had plenty to celebrate last Monday, Aug. 5, when they gathered for the organization's 106th annual meeting that was held at the Alta Vista Municipal Hall.

From the prime rib dinner served up by the Frederika Locker to receiving an update

on state issues to the election of the Chickasaw County Farm Bureau Board of Directors to the awarding of scholarships to a pair of guest speakers presenting a program on the importance of "succession planning," it was a busy evening at the hall.

District Director Randy Brincks spoke to members about state issues before the new

Board of Directors was elected into place, with Katherine Balk serving as president, Jessica Grober as vice president, Nolan Webster as treasurer, Barbara Schwickerath as secretary and Robert Shatek as voting delegate. Township and at-large directors included Schwickerath, Balk, Webster, Andy Chambers and Grober.

Farm Bureau members then

recognized eight scholarship winners — Grace Maloy of Ionia, Brooke Balk of Waucoma, Tori Bearman of New Hampton, Ethan Swehla of New Hampton, Emma O'Neill of Nashua, Colton Zupke of Fredericksburg, Mariah Thronson of Waucoma and Leander Reicks of New Hampton.

The evening wrapped up with two Farm Bureau officials — Amanda Van Steenwyk and Erin Herbold-Swalwell — talking about the benefits of the Take Root Program. Van Steenwyk is the farm business development manager for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation while Herbold-Swalwell is the senior counsel for advanced markets for Farm Bureau.

The duo educated the members on Take Root, a series of interactive workshops focused on family farm succession and business planning, and they also discussed the steps needed to complete "succession" in family farm operations.

Door prizes were given out by Chickasaw County Farm Bureau and agents Dee Boeding and Curtis Franzen.



District 1 Director Randy Brincks brings Chickasaw County Farm Bureau members up to date on state issues during the organization's annual meeting.



Teams gearing up for Meet the Huskies, season openers

HUSKIES: FROM 8

"The scrimmage is away, so that's why we're doing it on Thursday," said Hagen about the introduction of fall athletes and the football skills contest.

The burger/sweet corn/watermelon feed — drink is provided as well — gets underway at 6 p.m.

The introduction of the fall athletes is slated to go down at 6:30 p.m. and the run/punt/pass event is scheduled to take place under the lights at 7 p.m.

The season opener for the football team will be at home on Friday, Aug. 30 the following week against Postville. N-P went 5-4 overall last year and placed second in district play. The Huskies lost its playoff opener to Lake Mills, 21-14.

The Husky gridiron athletes are under the direction of new leadership this fall as Chase Sudol takes over as head coach in 2024. Sudol had been a longtime assistant coach and was previously head coach of the Huskies from 2015-2017. Sudol took over for Andrew Christensen, who accepted a teaching and football coaching position over at Maquoketa Valley in Delhi. Christensen guided the Huskies to three-consecutive playoff berths during his four-season tenure.

Mindy Foelske is back to guide the Husky volleyball team. This will be Foelske's fourth season of leading the Huskies out on the hardwood. The Huskies played to mark off 6-17 overall overall last fall and went 3-5 league play.

The first match for the Husky spikers

will be a triangular at home versus New Hampton and Jesup on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

Also back this year for another jaunt around cross country courses across northeast Iowa is Jenn Kalainoff, leader of the N-P cross country program. Back this year for her final season is senior Kadence Huck — a three-time state qualifier for the Huskies.

N-P's first XC meet is slated to go down on Thursday, Sept. 5 at Wildwood Golf Course in Charles City.

All N-P students will receive free admission to all 2024-2025 athletic events thanks to the generosity and sponsorship of the following: Nashua-Plainfield Athletic Booster Club, Hannemann Construction, Sinnwell Farms, Miller Custom Processing, Barlow Farms and S&T Collision.

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Back-to-School TIME



Members of the Husky Leadership Team claim their respective medals — gold, silver and bronze — during a retreat held last Friday at Cedar View Park.

Bob Fenske/Reporter

Retreat kicks off the year for Husky Leadership Team

HLT: FROM 1

and we wanted everyone to get to know each other a little bit better."

So for four hours, they played games and they began the planning process for the first day of school and beyond. With the Olympic Games entering their final weekend, the retreat took on that theme.

So from trivia to synchronized walking to relays to that obstacle course in which team members talked their blindfolded member through, each of the three teams earned medals ... or at least a spot on the medal stand that was created at the Baldwin Bandshell.

The five HLT advisors — Holthaus, Amber McCall, Jenn Kalainoff, Taylor Wedeking and Paige Malven — led the event, but the truth of the matter is that the goal of the team is to have students lead various events throughout the school year.

The HLT, for example, plans activities for the first day of school, which was just two weeks away when the students gathered at the park last Friday.

And with homecoming week — another HLT sponsored event — starting on Sept. 16, a jump start on planning is a must.

"It's a great way to empower our students," Holthaus said, "but they can't just throw it together at the last minute, either. We have three weeks of school and then it's homecoming. We've got to hit the ground running."

At a school the size of Nashua-Plainfield, most students at the very least know of each other, but the retreat gave HLT members a chance to become closer and realize, yes, that they have to trust each other as they plan out big events.

Holthaus said that the HLT has about 45 members this year and is open to virtually every student at the high school.

"They fill out an application, and we make sure they have the grades and the behaviors but basically, if you want to be on it," she said, "you're on it. The plan then is they'll show up and do the work, but when kids have a say in something, that usually happens."



Husky Leadership Team members (left) take part in a "ball relay" while Vinny Runge (above) gets directions from his teammates as he navigates an obstacle course blindfolded at last week's retreat.

Back To School Safety Tips!

- Obey school zone speed limits and follow your school drop-off procedure.
- Safety starts at the bus stop. Your child should arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
- Talk to your kids about their behavior on the bus by staying in their seats and talking quietly.

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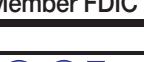


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BACK-TO-SCHOOL
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BACK TO SCHOOL
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Back-to-School TIME

It's time to start those school bedtimes!

As first day of classes nears, principal says sooner is better than later when it comes to establishing routine

BY BOB FENSK
Of the Reporter

The calendar may say there's still more than a month left of summer — fall officially doesn't start until 7:44 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22 — but make no mistake about it, summer's almost over.

Just ask the kids who are getting ready to head back to school. D-Day, if you will, is just one week away for Nashua-Plainfield students in grades 6-12 while elementary-aged students get a one-day reprieve and will start classes on Monday, Aug. 26.

Granted, the youngsters won't totally have next Friday off, for that's the day Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School will hold in-take conferences.

So, yes, summer is fast coming to an end, and in some ways, the school year has already started for Nashua-Plainfield students. Camps ranging from band to football to cross country were held earlier this month and the official start of fall sports practices was this past month. Teachers, who don't officially report to work until Monday, have been busy prepping classrooms in both the district's buildings.

And one more sure sign that fall is near is being seen in at least some homes throughout the district. School bedtimes have started ... or at least they're moving in the right direction.

"I would say the biggest thing is to start moving to school bedtimes," Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School Shannon Wurzer said when asked if she had any advice for parents as the countdown to the school year moves into overdrive. "It's good to get our kids into a routine so they're used to going to bed and getting up like they do when we're in school. ... You're right, if you're going to bed at 10 and getting up at 9 and you've been doing that all summer, that first day of school can come as a shock."

Wurzer said one reason her building does in-take conferences is so that students and parents will get some one-on-one time with teachers.

"With the age of our kids, I think it's important that they have that time and it's a good way to slide into the school year," she said and added that the two-hour "early outs" Nashua-Plainfield will have next Friday and the following Monday and Tuesday are also helpful.

Flashing Red? Bus Stopped Ahead!

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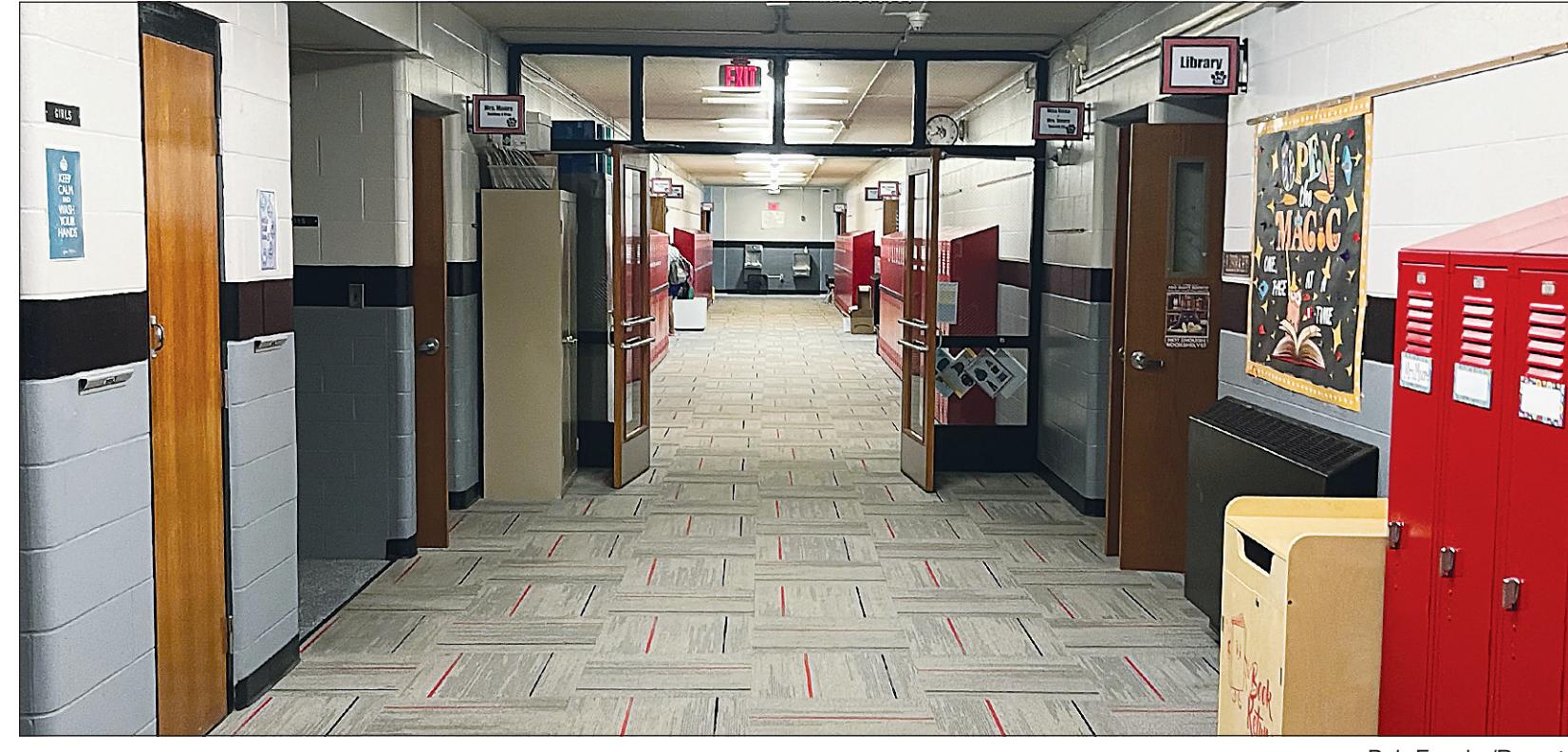
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Bob Fenske/Reporter

The sound of silence about to end ...

The hallways at Nashua-Plainfield Elementary are eerily quiet Thursday morning, but with intake conference scheduled for next Friday and classes to start on the following Monday, that summer silence will soon end.

"It's a lot for the kids to take in," she said, "and those first couple of days, we can talk about expectations, start getting to work and get them ready for full days."

The principal laughed when asked if she and her staff were the lucky ones because younger students not only are ready to go back to school but also will tell you that they can't wait for the first day of classes.

"My guess is most kids, regardless of how old they are, are ready," she said, "but yeah, high school kids aren't going to tell you that, are they?"

And there's always a little nervousness as Day 1 approaches.

As Nashua-Plainfield Junior High teacher Hannah Holthaus worked in her room on Thursday, she was asked about how students in grades 6-8 view the start of a school year.

"The sixth-graders are nervous because they're coming up from the [elementary] building," she said, "the seventh-graders are way too cool to say they're ready to come back to school and the eighth-graders are kind of looking forward to ruling our little area."

But in all seriousness, Holthaus said sixth-graders will be fine.

"Give them two weeks, and trust me, the nervousness will be gone," she said.

What school officials may most want, though, is for the relatively mild weather we've had in August to continue. Save for the junior high wing, Nashua-Plainfield's school buildings do not have air conditioning.

"The last two weeks have been perfect," Wurzer said, "but I also know it's Iowa and the weather can change in a heartbeat."

Still, she and her staff are ready to welcome back students.

"It's been way too quiet in here for way too long," Wurzer said. "I say that every August because it's true. There's nothing quite like the excitement of kicking off a school year."

School year to start with 'early outs'

Nashua-Plainfield students will "ease into" the new school year as the district has scheduled two-hour early outs for the first three days that classes will be held in the district.

Early outs are schedule for Friday, Aug. 23, Monday, Aug. 26, and Tuesday, Aug. 27, with teachers filling out the days with professional development.

Wishing our students & teachers a safe and wonderful journey as they embark on a new school year.

Enjoy the Ride!



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What time should your kids go to bed?

AGE	WAKE UP TIME							BED TIME						
	6 a.m.	6:15 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	7 a.m.	7:15 a.m.	7:30 a.m.	7:45 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	
5	6:45 p.m.	7 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	
6	7 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	
7	7:15 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9 p.m.	
8	7:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9 p.m.	
9	7:30 p.m.	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	
10	8 p.m.	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	
11	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	
12	8:15 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	8:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9:45 p.m.	9 p.m.	

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'Meet the Huskies' kicks off fall sports season

Nashua-Plainfield Booster Club to put on Thursday event; football team to scrimmage at Columbus following day

By KELLY TERPSTRA
Of the Reporter

Are you ready for some sweet corn? Don't forget the salt and butter! Harrington Sweet Corn – which has been a successful Nashua business in operation for over 50 years – will also provide another sweet treat, its tasty watermelon, when the Nashua-Plainfield fall sports season kicks off next week Thursday, Aug. 22 during the "Meet the Huskies Night."

Oh, there'll be Miller Custom Processing burgers to take a delicious bite into as well.

All this classic Midwestern cuisine will be made possible because of those key sponsors and the N-P Booster Club, who will also accept free-will donations at the get-together.

"We couldn't do all this without them," said Ami Hagen, N-P's new athletic director. "We very much appreciate all that they do and being able to host something like this. We're very

thankful."

Husky fans will be able to get their first glimpse of the football, volleyball and cross country teams, as well as the cheerleaders for this fall sports campaign.

Lloyd Koob Field will be the setting as the N-P Booster Club will also conduct a run/punt/pass competition open to all N-P kids grades kindergarten thru eighth grade.

"I think they did it a few years ago because I remember my son doing it," said Hagen. "They run for so many yards and they get timed. They have to punt it, they pass it. The varsity boys maybe are helping with that. They tally it all up and they get a winner for each age group."

There will be no football scrimmage at home this year as the Huskies travel to Waterloo Columbus the following evening on Friday to take on the Sailors.

SEE HUSKIES, 3



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield football players cool off at the "water fountain" during the Huskies' annual football camp that was held last week.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield golfer Devon Blanchard (above) hits an approach shot while teammate Trent Rodruck (below) watches his putt roll toward the hole during golf meets played this past spring at the Nashua Town and County Club.

N-P coach befuddled by boys golf's move to fall

Trost says decision by state associations will hurt multiple sports at 1A schools like Nashua-Plainfield

By BOB FENSKO
Of the Reporter

Jeff Trost doesn't like it, doesn't like it one bit.

Asked about his thoughts after the two associations that oversee high school sports in Iowa announced earlier this week that they were moving both boys golf and girls tennis seasons to the fall, the Nashua-Plainfield coach didn't hold back.

"The first thing is they just cost a whole bunch of schools like ours a lot of money," the longtime Nashua-Plainfield golf coach said. "A lot of schools are like ours – we have one golf coach for boys and girls. Now, you basically have to pay two seasons of salary, instead of one."

"And the money is minor compared to what we're doing to our sport and what we're doing to kids who golf and play football. How's that going to work? It's going to hurt both sports ... and I'm afraid it's going to kill golf at some small schools."

The Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union made the joint announcement Monday that it will move the two activities from the spring sports season to the fall, beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

That means the upcoming 2025 season will proceed as normal for the Huskies as both the boys and girls will play golf in the spring before boys return to the course in the fall.

Officials from both associations said the changes address decades-long concerns from member schools over scheduling and were approved by both the IHSAA's board and IGHSAU's board following discussions at a joint meeting in early July but not announced until Monday.

"Our member schools have been asking for ways to relieve the crowded spring sports seasons for years," IGHSAU executive director Erin Gerlich said. "The new changes provide relief in an already busy spring, and an opportunity for the IGHSAU and IHSAA to enhance the state tournament experiences for tennis and golf."



"A lot of work has gone into this process and we appreciate all of the input we have received regarding these changes."

Iowa's current spring schedule includes eight sports – golf, soccer, tennis, track and field for both boys and girls – and overlaps seasonally with baseball and softball.

The adjustment was discussed across 2023-24 district meetings, the IHSADA state conference, advisory committees, and the 2023 IHSAA membership survey.

"Reducing the congestion in the spring schedule has been a topic of conversation among ADs, our staffs, representative councils, boards, and the joint IHSAA & IGHSAU committee for several years," IHSAA executive director Tom Keating said.

"Moving our Class 3A, 2A, and 1A golf competitions to the fall to align with Class 4A is a step toward easing that congestion."

Class 4A schools, the state's largest, have been playing fall golf since 1993.

Among nine other peer state associations in the Midwest, seven separate golf seasons by

gender and all nine separate tennis seasons. The increased availability of facilities, coaching and school resources, plus the reduction of scheduling conflicts are the top cited reasons for those successful season separations.

"Other Midwest states have found success with this model and I am confident our schools will adjust to the new format," said Keating, who served as president of the NFHS in 2023-24. "While we recognize some of the initial challenges, the advantages of reducing scheduling congestion in the spring, reducing lost class time, and giving the option of having the same coach for spring and fall combine to lead us in this direction.

"For boys' golf, fall should provide good course and playing conditions, and the high school season will immediately follow summer, when most golfers have enjoyed the opportunity to work on their game."

Trost, though, isn't sure how schools like Nashua-Plainfield are going to find success with the model that Keating referenced.

Three of the six Huskies who took to the course for last spring's Class 1A sectional tournament were sophomores, which means Devon Blanchard, Trent Rodruck and Tyler Zimmer will have to make a choice when they begin their senior years of high school.

Do they play football? Do they play golf? Do they try to do both?

"We've had kids do track and golf, and that's tough enough," Trost said, "but I don't know if it works to try to do football and golf. Like I said, it's going to hurt both sports. This one, I just don't think was well thought out, especially for 1A schools."

The sports "moving seasons" was just one of several items announced by the IHSAA.

• Beginning with the upcoming golf season, the top-three teams in each boys sectional and district tournaments will advance in postseason play with no regard for the team hosting the tournament.

Currently, only the top-two teams advance, unless the host school finishes as the champion or runner-up; in that case, three teams advance.

"This will ensure a set number of qualifiers at district meets," the IHSAA said in a press release, "and 12 qualifiers at the state meet for those classes."

• The IHSAA Board of Control also said that the closely-guarded five-seconds rule will be eliminated in basketball, beginning with the 2024-25 season. Board members said that the state is adopting a NFHS rule that states using shot clocks, which Iowa does, should eliminate the five-second rule.

• And both the IHSAA and IGHSAU say they will explore the possibility of a "split season" for boys' and girls' bowling to start in 2025-26.

This concept would potentially end the current coed championships format and allow for staggered start and finish within the current 16-week schedule. The individual tournament will now also bowl out to eighth place, similar to the team tournament.

— This story includes information from a press release put out by the IHSAA and IGHSAU.

What teachers taught us in kindergarten still applies today

What teachers taught us in kindergarten still applies today. Play fair, clean up your own mess, put things back where you found them, don't take things that aren't yours, say sorry when you hurt somebody, share, be kind and responsible.

Take a nap every afternoon (that's a big one and advice I should take more often if I could).

These words of wisdom are all precepts and bullet points from a book penned back in 1986 by American author Robert Fulghum titled "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten."

I'm sure you've heard of it or maybe even read the publication that's composed of short essays.

The ideology espoused by Fulghum is somewhat similar to the "Golden Rule," which if I can recount, I've mentioned in a previous column. I just can't remember when and time is of the essence right now as I type away so I'm not going to look back at the archives and pinpoint it.

Sure there are detractors of the book, which I won't divulge why, but it's basically one man's thoughts – Fulghum's a minister by the way – on how us human beings should go about our daily lives.

Trying to tell somebody what to do or how to do it – especially in 2024 – can be very problematic.

That's not what this column is about.

My "beef" centers around what is right and wrong – who deserves what and where do we draw the line around the oftentimes gray area of certainty and uncertainty.

Because in my time on this planet – black and white definitions and the subjects that accompany have seemed to blur into a mixture of bias and just flat out asinine behavior as to what the actual meanings are.

And when I say subject matter – I mean anything. I blame social media a lot – whether that's good or bad.

If I said the sky was blue and water was wet – I could about guarantee I would instigate more arguments about the veracity of that comment if I said that in 2024, as opposed to say 1990.

This is just an example. I'm not conducting a case study and there will be no exit polls on this "Issue."

End of discussion.

Let's start out with what we know on the particular topic I've chosen to discuss.

Jordan Chiles is a world-class athlete that competes for the United States women's national gymnastics team.

I'm sure you've heard her name bantered around in the past week or so as she's made headlines for all the wrong reasons – something that is completely out of her control.

The 23-year-old – born five months before the 9/11 terror attacks – represents the blue and gold of the UCLA Bruins and is a two NCAA title holder.

She is the elite of the elite when it comes to world-class gymnastics.

Her resume is sparkling and there are few out on the big stage across the world that have been able to accomplish what she has done on the vault, uneven bars, the beam and floor exercise.

Is she an all-time great? No, but she's damn good.

She was a key cog in the Americans reeling in gold in the women's team gymnastic competition at this most recent Olympic Games, held in Paris. She also competed in the 2020 Tokyo Games, which were actually held a year later in 2021 because of COVID-19, and won a silver medal in the team competition as well for the U.S.

Chiles won a bronze medal in Paris for her final performance of what hopefully won't be her last Olympics on Aug. 5 after her floor exercise routine.

She initially finished fifth – a mere tenth of a point away from placing in the coveted top three. The United States appealed and filed an inquiry into Chiles' difficulty score. The judges revised her score by 0.1, vaulting her (no pun intended) into third place to clinch the bronze.

Along with gold medal winner Rebeca Andrade of Brazil and the most decorated gymnast in the history of the sport – American Simone Biles, who won silver – Chiles and that trio

SEE TERPSTRA, 6

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