

Nashua REPORTER

Vol. 116, Issue 49

8 December 2023

**Huskies
rebound
after rare
dual loss to
win invite**
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Nashua has itself a new mayor

Almost two months after Anthofer's resignation, City Council appoints Kelleher

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

Hal Kelleher is Nashua's new mayor after the city appointed the Council member at Thursday's meeting on a 3-0 vote.

Kelleher replaced former Nashua Mayor Alex Anthofer, who resigned effectively immediately on Oct. 16 to spend more time with his family.

Council member Jake Johnson made a motion to appoint Kelleher — who was Mayor Pro Tem in Anthofer's absence — and Tim Malven seconded Johnson's motion. All three council members in attendance — Johnson, Malven and Ernie Willsher — voted yes to appoint Kelleher as the new mayor. Kelleher abstained on his vote and Council member Samantha Johnson was not present at the meeting, which was pushed back from Monday to Thursday.

Jake Johnson was officially sworn in as a re-elected member of the City Council. Dan Zwanziger, who also won his bid to sit on the Council at last month's election, was also sworn in.

Now the Council must fill Kelleher's seat on the Council as he is now mayor. The Council can appoint or hold a special election to bring the number of Council members back up to five.

If a mayor is appointed, there can be a petition for a special election — but

that needs to happen within 14 days of the appointment.

There are stipulations for that petition. The number of signatures of eligible electors of a city for a valid petition shall be determined as follows: in a city of less than 10,000 people or less, at least 200 hundred signatures or at least the number of signatures equal to 15 percent of the voters who voted for candidates for the office at the preceding regular election at which the

office was on the ballot, whichever number is fewer.

There was one other person that was interested in becoming mayor and that was former mayor Butch Betsinger. Anthofer replaced Betsinger — who chose not to run after his mayoral term was up in 2021. Anthofer was sworn in as Nashua mayor on January of 2022.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School students (above) spot their family members as they make their way into the gymnasium for the school's K-5 Holiday Concert on Monday evening, when (below left) Leah Hickman, Dawsyn McCain, and Jaxson Decker perform a song with their classmates.

'KIDDOS' GIVE US A REAL BRIGHTENER!

THERE'S JUST SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT A HOLIDAY CONCERT PERFORMED BY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



As I went through Kelly Terpstra's photos of the Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School K-5 Holiday Concert this morning, one thought — actually one question — popped into my mind.

Is there a better day brightener than an elementary music contest, especially a Christmas one? I think not.

One other question crossed my mind as well. Why in the heck



Bob Fenske is editor of the Reporter since 2009, and he can be reached by email at editor@nhtrib.com.

can't I be in two places at one time?

It's "concert season" for us here at the Reporter and the New Hampton Tribune, which means December is incredibly hectic for Mr. Terpstra and Mr. Fenske. Our regular jobs, if you will, don't stop. There's meetings to cover, sports to shoot, stories to write and photos to be processed. Plus, there's Christmas celebrations and concerts to cover.

Late last month, I sat down and penciled out a schedule for December. When I was done, my first thought could be summed up in one word: Whew.

I sent it to Kelly with a warning:

SEE MUSIC, 2

Public Health is staying put

Supervisors get 'sticker shock' when finding out moving price

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors spent months talking about the possible move of Public Health and Homecare Services to the Heritage Center.

And in about five minutes during Monday's meeting, the board in effect decided that Public Health would remain at its current location — the Community Services Building in New Hampton.

That's because once supervisors learned the estimated cost to move the agency to the former county home that is located just south of New Hampton, they experienced sticker shock.

Martin Gardner Architecture "preliminary estimated opinion of probable costs" stated that the county could expect to pay \$538,500 for construction costs to prepare the Heritage for Public Health's arrival.

Throw in the "phase II" part of the project — estimated to cost \$61,200 — and the county would have to spend slightly less than \$600,000 to move Public Health.

The Heritage is currently home to the Chickasaw County Veterans Affairs Office and several non-profit organizations, and Supervisor Jake Hackman said he was having trouble coming to grips with estimated cost.

"It amazes me that we put in what, eight or nine non-county departments in that building for probably under the cost of \$3,000," Hackman

SEE PUBLIC HEALTH, 4

Supervisors gear up for tough budget year

By **BOB FENSKE**
editor@nhtrib.com

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors want to give the men and women who head county departments some direction when it comes to preparing for the 2024-25 budgets.

But that's easier said than done, county leaders say, because of House File 718, a new state law that limits how much revenue counties and cities can raise.

Board members also don't know how union negotiations will play out with the two unions that represent some county employees, but they appear to be leaning toward supporting a pay freeze for those employees who are not

SEE SUPERVISORS, 3

Nashua and Plainfield get real Christmassy

Christmas celebrations make for a busy, but fun, Saturday

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

The Christmas spirit was in the air on Saturday in Nashua and Plainfield.

That meant plenty of holiday events and happenings to do and see in the communities that are separated by less than 10 miles apart.

There were S'Mores being roasted by the campfire on Main Street in Nashua — a chance for any holiday shopper or Christmas reveler with a sweet tooth to build their own creation of graham cracker, marshmallow and chocolate that was sure to hit the spot.

SEE CHRISTMAS, 4



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Mary Beine (left) "delivers" the soup during Plainfield's Christmas on Main event while earlier in the day Brinley Masters (above) poses for a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter
Young Nashua-Plainfield students (left) lift their arms during a song while Fifth-Grade Band member Lindsey Seehase (above) plays the clarinet during Monday’s K-5 Holiday Concert.

Elementary kids give audience a memorable evening

MUSIC: FROM 1

We’re going to be busy — like really, really hectic.

When it comes to concerts — between the four schools we cover, there are nine of them — and as I do the schedule each year, I have to admit that I cheat a little.

Don’t get me wrong, I know a lot of people think I’m a “sports guy,” but I love music as much as I love football, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball or any other sport we cover here at the Nashua Reporter.

And I really get a kick out of the concerts performed by elementary school students. That’s where the “cheating” comes in to play. If I could, I’d take all the elementary concerts because they’re just so darn cute.

I love watching the kiddos come into the gym and waving at their moms and dads. I love that they are so dressed up in their “Christmas finest.” I love their enthusiasm.

Again, don’t get me wrong. Listening to a well-sung choir piece or an outstanding band piece at a high school concert is cool, but those high school students aren’t filing onto the risers or taking their band seats while waving to their parents.

Alas, the schedule cheated me from cheating this year.

We had two elementary school concerts on the same night Monday, so while Kelly was in Nashua documenting the concert led by vocal teacher Rebecca Marty and band instructor Scott Stroud, I was in New Hampton watching the “kiddos” perform songs and dances with their director, Nashua resident Erica Koster.

But as I scrolled through the photos



Easton Legel plays the role of Santa during Monday night’s conference that was held in the high school gymnasium.

Kelly took, I smiled. I couldn’t hear the songs obviously, yet I could. I saw the enthusiasm that most of the kids brought into Nashua-Plainfield’s old gymnasium, and I smiled at almost every one.

I also marveled at the patience that elementary music teachers must have. As Koster put it to me on Monday night, “you have to embrace the chaos.”

It’s a good chaos, however, and one that I hope we, as a society, stress when it comes to our young kids.

Music is just as important as any other activity, and if you think about it, you can argue it’s even more important. I’m 58, which means it’s been 40-plus years since

I’ve played a tackle football game. But I still sing — badly, I might add — every day. I still listen to music every day.

A great song moves me as much as seeing my favorite team connect on a “Hail Mary” to snatch victory from defeat or seeing a bottom-of-the-ninth walkoff home run.

So to folks like Marty and Stroud, thank you for doing everything in your power to give our kiddos a love of music.

And, to you, the children of Nashua-Plainfield Elementary, thank you for embracing the chaos and giving the folks packed into the gym Monday night another memorable night.



Nashua-Plainfield students (above) Logan Sinnwell, Kylie Huffman and Piper Iriarte sing a song while Jayden Hiskey and Blakeley Brase (below) play their saxophones with the Fifth-Grade Band.



Grayson Bloker, Parker Wilson and Brielle Masters (left) get into their song; Royce Meyer and Huxley Brown (above) introduce a song and Shelby Brahn (right) performs with her classmates.



Directors Rebecca Marty (left) and Scott Stroud (right) share thoughts with the audience while Brielle Masters (above left) sings a song and Faye Beatty (above right) plays the saxophone at Monday’s concert.

Susan Westervelt, 63

Susan Westervelt, age 63 of Rudd and formerly of Nashua, died Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at Mitchell County Regional Health Center in Osage.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua with the Rev. Drew McHolm officiating.

The interment was held in Greenwood Cemetery, Nashua.

Friends greeted the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua.

Visitation continued an hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.



Susan Westervelt

ing her family at the Bradford House. There, she not only cooked for the guests but also managed the bookkeeping with meticulous precision.

After moving to the Rudd area, Susan continued to indulge her passion for cooking at Carol's Kitchen in Osage. However, it was her role at Maple Manor Nursing Home that truly captured her heart. For 35 years, Susan cooked for the residents, forging deep connections and becoming an integral part of their lives. The bonds and friendships she created there were a testament to her caring spirit and the love she poured into her work.

Susan's interests were as diverse as they were joyful. She relished going for spontaneous drives with Michael, deciding their direction by the simple toss of a coin, embracing the thrill of the unknown.

Her love for reading was matched only by her enthusiasm for puzzles and games, including Wordle, Sudoku, and various card games.

An adept gardener, Susan's sweet relish made from her gar-

den cucumbers was renowned, and her homemade potato salad became a staple at family gatherings, always in high demand. Susan was very much involved in her niece's and nephew's (Katie & Jonathan) lives as well and was always in attendance at any school and sport activity they were involved in.

A lover of animals, Susan's pets were a constant source of happiness throughout her life. Her kind and nurturing spirit extended to all living creatures, ensuring they felt loved and cared for.

Susan's legacy is one of warmth, kindness and an unwavering dedication to those she served and loved. She will be remembered for her generosity of spirit and her ability to transform the ordinary into something extraordinary, whether it was through her cooking, her love for her family, or her simple acts of kindness.

Susan is survived by her husband, Michael Westervelt of Rudd; mother, Carol "Anne" Fisher of Plymouth; one brother, Lynn (Jane) Fisher of Plymouth; two sisters, Shelley Fisher of Portland, Maine, and Sonja (Mike) Link of Ionia; two nephews, Jonathan (Breuklyn) Zander of Boseman, Montana, and Patrick (Jocelyn) Campbell of California; three nieces, Katie Zander of Plainview, Minnesota, Robyn (Curtis) Orr of Maynard, and Kelly (Rob Scott) Campbell of Cedar Falls; one great-nephew, Royce Lehman of Plainview, Minnesota; and one brother-in-law, Jeff (Linda) Westervelt of Cedar Falls.

She was preceded in death by her father, Clair "Skip" Fisher, and her in-laws, Lelon and Kay Westervelt.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Members of the Chickasaw County Compensation Board discuss a motion to raise salaries of the county's elected officials during their meeting Wednesday evening.

Supervisors discuss budgets and blight

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

represented by unions.

The bottom line, as Supervisor Jake Hackman put it, is that the county is in "for a very tough budgeting year."

The discussion on the budget came two days before the county's Compensation Board met on Wednesday, when that board voted 5-2 to recommend 9 percent pay increases for the sheriff, auditor, recorder, attorney and treasurer and 3.2 percent raises for the members of the Board of Supervisors.

On Monday, Hackman pointed out that under House File 718, a county's valuations could go up 3 percent, but that would mean the county would have to cut its levy rate by 2 percent.

The discussion began with Auditor Sheila Shekleton asking board members if they wanted to send out a letter to the department heads that would give them guidance as they prepare for their budgets for the fiscal year that begins on July 1.

Supervisors last month said they did not want the Compensation Board to grant them raises this year, and on Monday, the one thing they agreed on was that budgets needed to include a 6 percent increase for health-care costs.

"So basically we're recommending 0 percent, or a wage freeze," Chickasaw County Conservation Board Director Chad Humpal, "and then as far as capital expenditures or projects or improvement projects like that, [are you saying] kind of recommend [that we] freeze those as well? ... I don't want to spend time and put together a \$100,000 shelter revamp and then we're not going to give our employees raises. ... You know

what I'm saying, we're freezing employees' wages, am I to take that into consideration that I shouldn't be doing any capital projects this year?"

But none of the supervisors on Monday stated that there would be a "budget freeze," instead they discussed a number of the challenges they face heading into the new year.

County Attorney David Laudner said supervisors needed to tell him and his fellow department heads what they wanted.

"If the message is, 'Hey guys, not only is 0 percent salary, I don't want you to spend one more penny unless it's an emergency thing.' ... If that's the message, just tell us now," Laudner said. "That way I have a chance to work on it."

He also said that if the supervisors will allow budgets to increase, even if it's by a small percentage, they need to give department heads some latitude in how they will use that increase.

Laudner also said that he would have issues with a pay freeze if budgets are going to be increased for other things.

"I guess I wish you tell me, 'Hey, here's what's your number is going to be, Dave, you figure out how to make it work,'" Laudner said. "Let me choose where I want to grow. I'd rather keep our employees and our colleagues happy."

The one decision supervisors did make on Monday was to move up its meeting with department heads from Dec. 21 to Dec. 13, in large part to discuss the challenges that lie ahead with the budget process.

Also on Monday, supervisors learned that it would cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000

to have three buildings — the Sheriff's Office, a Secondary Roads building and the courthouse — undergo an assessment to determine if they qualified as "blighted."

That's important because if they are determined to be so, the county could possibly use tax-increment financing funds on them. Supervisors have discussed using TIF funds for the proposed remodeling of the Sheriff's Office and the construction of a 24-hour holding facility adjacent to it.

"I know there's been some discussion on whether to throw the courthouse in there or not," Supervisor Scott Cerwinski said. "I don't know if we want to keep that in there or take it out."

Fellow Supervisor Steve Breitbach said he would favor having the courthouse included in the assessments.

"The way they discussed that is you can always add projects down the line," Breitbach said, "but if you have someone here doing the analysis here anyway, it's going to be cheaper to have them do the analysis while they're here."

Supervisors discussed having the building at the old county landfill also analyzed.

"I don't know if they've ever mentioned how long the assessment would be good," Cerwinski said. "I would assume without the project being repaired, that it's not going to see the assessment change."

Board members agreed to put off a decision on spending the money on the blight assessments until they learn how much extra the county would be charged to include the landfill building and are expected to discuss the issue again this coming Monday.

Lenora Alberta Aikey, 95

Lenora Alberta Aikey, age 95 of Nashua, died Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at Cedar Vale Assisted Living in Nashua.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at the United Methodist Church in Nashua with the Rev. Sarah Namukose officiating.

Interment will be held at Greenwood Cemetery in Nashua following the service.

Friends may greet the family from 9:30 to 11 a.m. prior to the service at the Methodist Church on Saturday.

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

Online condolences for the Aikey family may be left at www.hugebackfuneralhome.com.

Lenora Alberta Aikey died peacefully on Nov. 30, 2023, in Nashua, at the age of 95.

Born on Jan. 24, 1928, in rural Waverly, Lenora was the cherished daughter of Leonard and Maude (Medders) Colburn.

She grew up the oldest of three daughters and filled the role of protective "big sister" to her younger siblings.



Lenora Aikey

On Feb. 17, 1952, Lenora was united in marriage to Keith Aikey. The couple made their home in rural Plainfield where Lenora was actively engaged in farming right alongside Keith. This union was blessed with two children, Dale and Dean. Together with their family, Lenora and Keith farmed and raised dairy and beef cattle for many years. Keith and Lenora had "his" and "hers" Oliver tractors. Lenora farmed the fields right along with Keith and their sons, driving her own tractor.

Keith passed away in 1996, but with the help of family, Lenora continued to be involved with farming for more than 20 years after his death until she entered her early 90s.

Lenora loved gardening and for many years her shelves were filled with jars of home-canned produce. She also raised chickens and sold eggs locally. Hobbies she enjoyed included

sewing many of her own clothes, crocheting, and quilting. Right up until recently, she was still crocheting baby blankets.

Beyond her practical skills, Lenora was a woman of deep faith. She was a member of the United Methodist Church in Nashua. One of her prized possessions was her Grandmother Medders's Bible, which Lenora would read daily.

She remained intellectually engaged and liked staying up-to-date about current events. Lenora was very interested in staying informed about the weather and the crops, even after retiring from farming. She relished car rides in the country in her later years to go and see how all the local crops were doing. She was also concerned about crop prices and continued listening to the farm news daily.

Lenora is survived by her son, Dean (Teresa) Aikey of Plainfield; daughter-in-law, Barbara Smith of Davenport; sister, Grace McGregor of Nashua; grandchildren, Steve (Cortney) Aikey, Kristine Aikey, Jennifer (Josh) Marks, Melissa Aikey, Janet (Nicholas) Turkal, and Mark Aikey; great-grandchildren Averie, Macie, Hunter, Rose and John; and many other nieces, nephews and cousins.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Maude (Medders) Colburn; husband, Keith Aikey; son, Dale Aikey; sister, Marion Ackerman; brothers-in-law, Ed Ford, Everett Ackerman and Ron McGregor; and an infant sister.

Nashua firefighters assist Charles City at structure fire

Firefighters from four area departments — including Nashua — responded to a rural structure fire Saturday evening just over the Chickasaw County line.

The Charles City Fire Department reported that it was called about 10:30 p.m. to assist at a fire in a shop building near a home, off of Highway 18 just inside Chickasaw County.

"Due to the rural nature of the dwelling we were needed

to assist with extra personnel as well as hauling water with our tanker," the CCFD said in a social media post.

The crews used a technique called drafting to ensure there was a water supply, the department said.

"Luckily no one was hurt but

unfortunately the building suffered significant damage," the CCFD report said. The cause of the fire was not known.

In addition to the Charles City and Nashua departments, firefight4ers from Ionia and Colwell also assisted at the scene.

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Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Jaxon Fecht and Kael Hannemann roast marshmallows during the Christmas in Nashua celebration that was held throughout the day on Saturday.

Events help towns show what they have to offer

CHRISTMAS: FROM 1

The Nashua Park Board set up the campfire in the morning and Santa Claus – as well as Mrs. Claus – made an appearance around noon to sample the delectable treats in between their busy trips around town.

Nashua Park Board President Nate Sinnwell said “S’mores on Main” wasn’t held last year, but it was a hit this go-round on the first weekend of December.

“We may extend the hours next year. We’ve had pretty good attendance,” said Sinnwell. “We learned a lot from this year moving it down on Main St. It will probably continue to grow.”

Sinnwell said the S’mores event was started several years ago and coincided with the tree lighting in the park and usually took place in the afternoon.

“We’d wait more towards dark and one year we had Santa Claus come in on a jet ski,” said Sinnwell. “Attendance was dwindling a little bit and it was getting kind of hard to light that tree – the logistics of all that. So we decided to move it down to Main St. here this year. We tried to do it during the middle of the day to capture everyone and people didn’t have to come back into town.”

The Nashua Women of Today, Big 4 Chamber of Commerce and Nashua Community Foundation all helped pull off “Christmas in Nashua” – where patrons in the festive spirit could shop at any number of businesses that were open downtown.

“They kind of oversee this whole thing,” said Sinnwell. “That Big 4 Chamber of Commerce does such a good job of planning this.”

Sinnwell is still planning Winterfest – which will take place for the second year in a row in Nashua in January. He also said the car drop on Cedar Lake will add a nice little touch this year.

“We’ll put the car back on the ice with the car drop,” said Sinnwell. “We need to get a banner for that because we have so many people that drive by and see it. So we’re going to put a banner up that explains what’s going on.”

“Santa’s Workshop” at the Nashua Public Library saw 167 people come through the line to meet and greet Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus – who were escorted on a fire truck by the Nashua Fire Department to their location to grant kids their Christmas wishes.

“We do this every year just so the kids can come and talk to Santa and tell them what they want and make sure Santa remembers them,” said Jennifer Lantz, secretary for Nashua Women of Today.

Nashua Women of Today center. Peterson said the small group that also organizes its own “Letters from Santa” was formed four years ago. The collection of women also plan on caroling on Sunday, Dec. 17.

“Our project is still in it’s learning years hoping each year we can help reinforce the spirit of Christmas and encourage a community working together,” said Peterson.

One interesting and thoughtful aspect of the women’s group is to provide “Santa’s Elves Gifts” – where a family in need is nominated to receive a “gift.” The “gift” could be taking in a movie, a night out on the town or a pizza party.



Kristen Lee (above) hands out stockings to children who came to visit Santa during Plainfield’s Christmas on Main while scouts (below) in Nashua are ready to serve up some delicious soup at their fundraiser they held during Christmas in Nashua.



Plainfield Mayor Tom Geise offers up a few words before the city’s Christmas tree is lit for the first time this season.

at the entrance to the welcome center.

Peterson said the small group that also organizes its own “Letters from Santa” was formed four years ago. The collection of women also plan on caroling on Sunday, Dec. 17.

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One interesting and thoughtful aspect of the women’s group is to provide “Santa’s Elves Gifts” – where a family in need is nominated to receive a “gift.” The “gift” could be taking in a movie, a night out on the town or a pizza party.

“The first thing we did is paired families needing a little help with Christmas to a family that would give them gifts,” said Peterson. “The families that get the gifts don’t know the families that gave them. We take the gifts and we deliver them.”

“Santa’s Secret Elves of Nashua” also hands out “Angel Cards” – a neat way to brighten the day of residents of Nashua that aren’t able to get out much.

“There’s four of us mainly, then we have a few extra little elves here and there that we ask for help,” said Peterson. “We’re having fun. It brings joy to all of us. We absolutely could not do it without all the help from the families that do it.”

Plainfield’s “Christmas on

Main” was moved from Sunday night last December to Saturday evening this year. That gave area residents the opportunity to travel to both towns in the same day.

Plainfield Mayor Tom Geise spoke to townsfolk on the corner of the square in downtown Plainfield – a stone’s throw from First Baptist Church.

There Geise said a thoughtful message for those in attendance and led the lighting of the tree that sits just south of the church. Last year only the nativity scene was lit up as there were some technical difficulties.

“What happened with the tree was Butler-Bremer used to have a lift truck and then they got rid of the lift truck. So we just left the lights on,” said Geise. “And it worked for a couple years, but last year the squirrels got ‘em – chewed through the wires.”

Geise said this year SSPI Solutions – an area tree service – came in and helped place the lights on the tree this winter.

The annual soup supper put on by First Baptist had plenty of Christmas carousers that took a break, warmed up with a bowl of soup and took in friend and fellowship.

Santa Claus met children at Butler-Bremer Communications on the main drag of Plainfield and horse-drawn carriage rides were offered later in the evening.

“We just really appreciate everybody supporting our towns – both Nashua and Plainfield,” said Geise. “We wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a



Judy and Dennis Kapping

Kapping 50th anniversary

Dennis and Judy (Schmitt) Kapping of Nashua are celebrating 50 years of marriage on Dec. 15, 2023. They were married at St. Mary’s Roseville Church.

They have been blessed with three children: Eric, Jeff (Cassie), their late son, David; and seven grandchildren: Jordan (Kiki), Booker, Adison, Lillyan, Lucus, Emma, and Ellie.

A card shower is being held in their honor, and cards and other well-wishes can be sent to 3305 240th St, Nashua, IA 50658.



Supervisors will pass on moving Public Health because of the cost

PUBLIC HEALTH: FROM 1

said, “and they have not complained once about where they’re at. This price is a lot higher than I expected, along with a lot of the other projects that I’ve been hearing about.”

Hackman, who has supported pursuing the idea of moving Public Health, said that “I think this time without the funding, you can’t move forward with this.”

Several times over the past few months, Hackman has suggested that one idea he’d like to explore if Public Health moved to the Heritage was moving the county attorney’s office to the Community Services Building, relocating the Emergency Management Agency either to the Heritage or the Community Services Building and selling the building that houses those two offices.

But the move has been met with opposition from both Public Health officials and the

Board of Health that oversees the department; in fact, the board last month voted on a motion stating its opposition to having the department relocated to the Heritage.

The county has about \$67,000 remaining in uncommitted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and about \$475,000 in its capital improvements budget, but supervisors are facing questions on how the county will pay for the remodeling of the Chickasaw County EMS ambulance station so that it has living quarters. And board members also considered spending more than \$200,000 to hook the Heritage into the city of New Hampton water system.

Board members are expected to learn the costs of the ambulance station remodel during its Dec. 18 meeting, and the county and city are at an impasse when it comes to the terms the city wants the county to accept to have city water at the Heritage.

Briefs

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Winneshiek County, ISU Extension and Outreach will offer a 4-hour training on Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This training is designed for service providers, volunteers, clergy members, or anyone interested in helping others achieve financial stability and self-sufficiency.

With the \$35 registration fee, participants will learn about, and practice using financial tools and develop strategies and skills to begin financial conversations and access appropriate community resources. Please register at <https://go.iastate.edu/TDUZZO> or call 563-382-2949 before Dec. 8.

For additional information, visit www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/your-money-goals.

Red Kettle volunteers needed for Salvation Army fundraiser

The Chickasaw County unit of the Salvation Army is in full swing with its annual Red Kettle campaign, and bell ringers are needed for the fundraising drive that runs from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. through Christmas Eve.

The kettle is once again at Fareway, those who wish to volunteer to ring the bell can do so by calling Kris Markham at 641-229-0113.

Funds raised during the campaign are used to help county residents navigate emergencies and tragedies, and Markham says the more volunteers the organization has, the more they will be able to help people.

Grants available to nonprofits in Chickasaw County

Grant applications can now be submitted to the Chickasaw County Community Foundation (CCCCF) for the 2024 grant cycle, with a submission deadline on Monday, Jan. 15, 2024, at 5 p.m.

Grants are awarded to projects within the program areas of arts and culture, community betterment, education and youth development, environment and animal welfare, and health and human services.

The 2024 online grant application can be found on the CCCCf’s website at chickasawccf.org. Technical support will be available to applicants until Monday, Jan. 15 at 5 p.m. Grant recipients will then be announced in March.

Grants are available to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Tax-exempt organizations classified as other than 501(c)(3) are also eligible, if and only if, the project is deemed charitable; please contact Dotti Thompson at 319-243-1358 or dthompson@cfeia.org to discuss the project’s eligibility prior to submitting a proposal. Grants selections are made in an effort to create a better quality of life for people in Chickasaw County. A local impact committee reviews the applications from charitable organizations serving their community.

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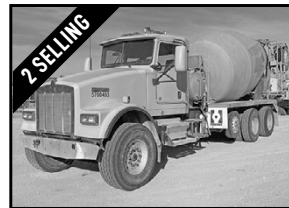
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N-P’s Sinnwell signs to play golf at Hawkeye

By Bob Fenske
Of the Reporter

The first time Natalie Sinnwell stepped on the golf course for the Nashua-Plainfield Huskies she shot an 83. Now, she’s heading to college to play the sport she loves. “I love playing, and I guess since that first time I played as a freshman, I’ve had a passion for the game,” she said. “So I’m really excited that I’m going to get a chance to play in college.” Sinnwell made it official last week when she signed a letter of intent to attend Hawkeye Community College and play golf for the RedTails. “It’s a testament to the time Natalie’s put into the game,” Trost said. “She’s improved so much over the past three years, and we’re excited to see what she does this year, too.”

Sinnwell had her best year on the links a year ago as she helped the Huskies earn their first trip to the Class 1A state tournament since 2016. That 83 way back when was during a nine-hole event at Charles City, but in 2023, Sinnwell posted a career-low 52 in a nine-hole event. In other words, all that time on the course paid off and was one reason Hawkeye coach Micah Destival made the decision to recruit Sinnwell. “We know she’s going to put the time into it,” he said, “and I know her best golf is ahead of her.” Sinnwell, though, is excited to wear the red-and-black of Nashua-Plainfield for one more season. “Our goal is to get back to state,” she said, “and I know we can do it if we keep working hard.”



Nashua-Plainfield senior Natalie Sinnwell poses with her family members (front row, from left) Missy, Brian and Lucas, along with (back row) Hawkeye Community College coach Micah Destival and Huskies’ coach Jeff Trost before signing a letter of intent to attend Hawkeye and play golf for the RedTails.



N-P’s Landon Foelske works the perimeter in the home opener against Northwood-Kensett on Friday night in Nashua. The Vikings won the TIC East contest by a score of 66-50.

Franzen leads Huskies in scoring vs. N-K

Boys Hoops: FROM 8

won last winter – are led by 6-6 forward Colby Eskildsen. Eskildsen, a junior, poured in 22 points – including a first-half dunk – and made it difficult for the smaller Huskies to maintain the scoring output the Vikings were able to muster up. “You’re probably looking at player of the year in the conference in Eskildsen,” said Mueller. Eskildsen slammed home the rock on a breakaway transition dunk just three minutes into the game to make it 8-3 Vikings early. Eskildsen grabbed 17 rebounds and came up with five assists. The tall enforcer near the rim saw his junior teammate – Carter Anderson – match his scoring output with 22 points of his own. Anderson also grabbed 12 boards. “If those guys had guys who were knock-down shooters they’d win the state tournament,” said Mueller. “They’re just growing up. Next year they’re going to be even better.” Still, N-P had the game tied at 22-22 with 4:40 before intermission until the Vikings went on a 14-2 run to close out the first half and lead 36-24 at the break. “The two things that killed us were our defensive lapses and their fastbreak points on us. We were lacking on getting back sometimes,” said Mueller. “That can’t happen.” Mueller’s goal on offense was to spread the Vikings out with Eskildsen down low protecting the rim. “I don’t know what our three-point percentage was, but it wasn’t good,” said Mueller. “We have to hit shots.” N-K outrebounded N-P, 44-22. That rebounding disadvantage was apparent again on Tuesday night on the road versus the defending conference champ in Mason City Newman (2-1, 1-1). The Knights rolled to a convincing 69-43 victory over the Huskies and owned the glass. Newman held a 40-15 rebounding advantage over the Huskies. “We do have a young team and that’s some of the things they’re going to have to learn quickly. I think, too, at the beginning of the year conditioning’s a factor a little bit for both teams. They paced it a little bit better than we did sometimes,” said Mueller about the N-K game. N-P senior forward Trae Geise had a nice game against the Vikings. He notched a career-high 10 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Husky sophomore guard Jase Hansen also hit for double-figures with a career high of his own. Hansen hit for 12 points and nailed two 3-pointers. Husky senior guard Tucker Franzen led N-P in scoring with 13 points against N-K. He was 4-9 from the field and 4-5 from the charity stripe. Franzen was also the top scorer for N-P against Newman with 10 points.



Tucker Franzen (above) dribbles the basketball while Trae Geise (below) attacks the rim for the Huskies.



N-P (1-2, 1-1) plays at St. Ansgar on Monday.		1, Franzen 1, Malven 1. Blocks - Geise 3, Foelske 1.	
NORTHWOOD-KENSETT 66, NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 50		MASON CITY NEWMAN 69, NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 43	
NK	20	16	20
NP	13	11	15
Tucker Franzen 4-9 4-5 13, Matthew Malven 1-12 1-3 3, Landon Foelske 0-7 3-6 3, Jase Hansen 5-7 0-0 12, Trent Rodruck 1-2 0-0 2, Trae Geise 4-8 2-2 10, Avery Mueller 3-4 0-0 7, Hunter Hackman 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 18-50 10-16 50.		NP 8 16 7 12 - 38 MCN 18 18 19 14 - 69	
3-point field goals - Franzen 1-4, Malven 0-7, Foelske 0-2, Hansen 2-3, Geise 0-1, Mueller 1-2, Hackman 0-1.		Franzen 3-5 2-3 10, Malven 3-10 0-1 6, Foelske 1-1 0-0 2, Hansen 2-4 0-0 5, Rodruck 3-5 0-0 6, Geise 2-6 1-2 5, Mueller 1-5 0-0 2, Jake Smith 3-4 0-0 7, Hackman 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 18-40 3-6 43.	
Rebounds - Geise 9, Hansen 5, Malven 4, Rodruck 2, Franzen 1, Mueller 1.		3-point field goals - Franzen 2-3, Malven 0-4, Hansen 1-1, Geise 0-1, Mueller 0-2, Smith 1-1.	
Assists - Malven 5, Franzen 2, Foelske 1, Hansen 1, Geise 1, Mueller 1.		Rebounds - Malven 5, Geise 3, Mueller 3, Smith 2, Hackman 1.	
Steals - Foelske 5, Rodruck 3, Geise 2, Hansen 1.		Assists - Foelske 4, Franzen 3, Malven 2, Geise 2, Hansen 1, Mueller 1.	
		Steals - Malven 4, Foelske 2, Geise 2, Rodruck 1.	
		Blocks - Malven 1, Foelske 1, Mueller 1.	



Marleigh Lowe puts up a shot down low for Nashua-Plainfield. Lowe scored eight points against N-K.

N-P travels to St. Ansgar next

GIRLS HOOPS: FROM 8

Huck’s driving layup cut the Vikings’ lead to 14-8 with 47 seconds left in the first period. Huck – N-P’s leading scorer and catalyst to Smith’s diamond full-court press – had to sit most of the second quarter with three fouls. N-K (3-1, 2-1) took advantage of Huck’s absence by taking a 35-17 halftime lead. “I don’t think it’s a secret we’re a different team when she’s not on the floor,” said Smith about Huck. The Vikings – which start five seniors and sport nine of them on their roster – were led by first-team all-conference guard Chloe Costello. “Those seniors have played varsity, a lot of them since they were freshman. They’ve kind of been building towards this year. They’re good,” said Smith. Costello registered a double-double with 16 points and 10 rebounds. She also came up with six steals and was 7-21 from the field. The Huskies would trail by as much as 49-30 with six minutes left. N-P managed to slice that deficit almost in half before the final buzzer sounded. “I thought we were a lot more intentional with our press in the last couple quarters,” said Smith. N-P was 14-23 from the free-throw line and was led by Huck’s 13 points. Huck, along with seniors Jaylynn Pratt and Myranda Webster, each tallied seven rebounds apiece. Marleigh Lowe – making just the second start of her Husky career – came up with five steals and scored eight points. The junior guard was 4-6 from the charity stripe. “Defensively, I thought Marleigh did a really, really good job,” said Smith. “I think Ava Kirk did a really good job defensively. There’s not a ton of times that we practice with-

out Kadence at the top of that zone.” N-P junior forward Paige Franzen did not play. Smith said she rolled her ankle prior to Friday night’s game. Franzen is a key starter for the Huskies and scored seven points in the season-opening win over Tripoli last month. N-P lost to Mason City Newman (3-1, 1-1) in another Top of Iowa Conference East contest this past Tuesday by a score of 62-38. Huck led the Huskies in scoring with 11 points, six rebounds, five assists and six steals. Pratt notched nine points on 3-5 shooting, as did Kirk, who drained three 3-pointers in five attempts. The Huskies play at St. Ansgar (3-1, 2-0) on Monday.

NORTHWOOD-KENSETT 50, NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 40	
NK	15 20 8 7 - 50
NP	10 7 13 10 - 40
Ava Kirk 0-5 1-4 1, Kadence Huck 6-13 1-2 13, Myranda Webster 2-7 1-1 5, Marleigh Lowe 2-4 4-6 8, Jaylynn Pratt 0-2 3-6 3, Elayna O’Neill 1-1 0-0 2, Josslynn Glaser 2-2 2-2 6, Maci Malven 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 13-35 14-23 40.	
3-point field goals - Kirk 0-4, Lowe 0-1, Pratt 0-2, Malven 0-1.	
Rebounds - Huck 7, Webster 7, Pratt 7, O’Neill 4, Kirk 3, Lowe 3, Malven 1.	
Assists - Kirk 1, Huck 1, Lowe 1, Pratt 1, Glaser 1, Malven 1.	
Steals - Lowe 5, Huck 4, Pratt 2, Glaser 2, Kirk 1, Malven 1.	
Blocks - Huck 1, Webster 1, O’Neill 1.	
MASON CITY NEWMAN 62, NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 38	
NP	8 12 10 8 - 38
MCN	16 13 18 15 - 62
Kirk 3-6 0-0 9, Huck 4-7 3-5 11, Webster 2-5 0-0 4, Pratt 3-5 2-5 9, Franzen 1-5 0-0 2, Glaser 1-3 0-0 2, Malven 0-1 0-0 0, Lowe 0-1 1-2 1. Totals 14-33 6-12 38.	
3-point field goals - Kirk 3-5, Pratt 1-1, Malven 0-1, Lowe 0-1.	
Rebounds - Glaser 7, Huck 6, Franzen 5, Lowe 3, Kirk 2, Webster 2, Pratt 2.	
Assists - Huck 5, Franzen 3, Lowe 1, Kirk 1.	
Steals - Huck 6, Pratt 2, Franzen 2, Kirk 1.	
Blocks - Huck 3, Glaser 2.	



N-P senior Jalynn Pratt shoots a free throw on Friday night in the home opener for the Huskies.

Huskies claim title at Wapsie

Nashua-Plainfield responds after a tough dual loss to claim Chris Davis Invite crown

By Kelly Terpstra
Of the Reporter

The alarm clock signaled the start to the day last Friday morning for Al Frost and his Huskies like it usually always does this time of the year.

But the crack of dawn rolls around awfully early when your head hardly hit the pillow.

Such is the nature of wrestling for high school teams across the state of Iowa that want to get better and make another return trip down to the state tournament in Des Moines or Coralville.

Wrestlers are just a different breed, no doubt about it.

When one gets punched in the mouth – like Frost’s N-P squad did at Mason City Newman last week Thursday – it gives grapplers even more incentive and reason to fight back and correct what went wrong after the initial first punch landed squarely on the Huskies’ jaw.

In Nashua-Plainfield’s season-opening quad, a revved-up and motivated Lake Mills bunch did just that with a knockout punch that put a short-handed Husky lineup flat on their back and on to the canvas.

The inspired Bulldogs and head coach Alex Brandenburg – besieged in prior years at the hands of the Huskies, most

recently at last year’s regional duals – shocked N-P with a convincing 46-30 upset to hand Frost’s highly-ranked Class 1A squad its first loss of the year right out of the gate.

“The first weigh-in, the first meet syndrome. We looked a little a little sluggish,” said Frost, in his 34th year as head coach at N-P. “We haven’t got into that routine yet. Our bodies haven’t got transformed into that kind of a mode yet.”

Frost said Lake Mills – which lost to N-P in last winter’s regional duals, 50-15 – kind of had the same thing happen to them in the Bulldogs’ season opener two days prior against Hampton-Dumont-CAL.

Those Bulldogs – the HDC variety – took it to Lake Mills and upset the yellow-and-purple clad squad from Winnebago County by a score of 42-36.

“I don’t know about Garner, but I can definitely tell you about Lake Mills. They already had a meet Tuesday,” said Frost. “They didn’t tell me that, but they looked sluggish that night according to coach. They had a meet to get that out of the way. They’re fired up to beat us anyway. We got a target on our back anyways from them guys. It was just a bad combination.”

SEE BOYS WRESTLING, 5



Nashua-Plainfield’s Jayden Rinken gets in on both legs before taking down an opponent during a quadrangular last week at Mason City Newman.

Kelly Terpstra/Reporter



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield’s Avery Mueller drives into the lane during a game against Northwood-Kensett last Friday.

Husky boys drop a pair to UIC East foes

By Kelly Terpstra
Of the Reporter

The Northwood-Kensett Vikings are going to make some noise this winter out on the hardwood.

The Nashua-Plainfield Huskies found that out first-hand Friday night.

What was a close game early for Matt Mueller’s Huskies turned into a dominant performance by the Vikings as they used their height and physical-

ty to wear down N-P in its home opener by a score of 66-50.

“We made a little bit of a run there in the first half, then it’s like we ran out of gas. Honestly, our defense let us down,” said Mueller. “We tried some different things against those guys. The height to contend with is always something.”

The Vikings (2-1, 2-1) – which are almost sure to win more games than the eight they

SEE BOYS HOOPS, 7

Turnovers cost Nashua-Plainfield girls in loss to N-K

By Kelly Terpstra
Of the Reporter

Possessing the basketball is at a premium on the high school level.

Even professional and college hoops teams that don’t take care of the round, orange ball are going to find it much harder to win games if the opposing team keeps forcing turnovers.

That was an obstacle that was hard to overcome for the Nashua-Plainfield girls basketball team in its home opener last Friday night versus Northwood-Kensett.

The senior-laden Vikings used their pressure defense to force 38 Husky turnovers and hold on for a 50-40 win over N-P. It was a game that could have been much closer if not for the countless loose balls that turned into points for the blue-and-white clad squad that plays its home games a stone’s throw away from the Minnesota border.

“We said we lost the game by 10 points and I don’t think it’s arguable that we played bad. We played really poorly and it was a 10-point game with a pretty good team,” said Smith. “Collectively, we just have to be bought in to taking care of that thing. Nothing else really matters if we don’t take care of the basketball and tonight we just didn’t do a good enough job of that.”

N-P (1-2, 0-2) closed the contest on a 10-1 run, but those change of possessions where the Huskies could not maintain control of the basketball and give itself a chance to score on the other end came back to bite Smith’s squad.

“I’m just disappointed with the amount of turnovers that we had,” said Smith.

N-K raced out to a 8-0 lead but Kadence

SEE GIRLS HOOPS, 7



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield’s Ava Kirk brings the ball up the court during a game against Northwood-Kensett this past Friday.



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