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Nashua REPORTER

**Husky boys
roll to
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Page 8



Vol. 117, Issue 50

13 December 2024

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Nashua's new coffee shop fills a need on Main Street

Couple says it's happy to give residents
a 'gathering spot' at Rooster's on Main

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Dennis Scarbrough and Kim Buenzow will be the first to admit that they are taking a leap of faith — a giant one at that — with their new business venture in Nashua.

The couple opened Rooster's on Main recently, and while the sample size is small, the cool little coffee shop is a hit. It drew a big crowd during Saturday's Christmas in Nashua celebration and business has been solid since, too.

"We've had a steady crowd. Saturday, you saw it, it was packed," Buenzow said, "but this week, we've had people here at 6 when we open and by 7, 7:30 it's rock-n-rolling. It is exciting, it is something Nashua needs and we're ready to see where this takes us."

So why a coffee shop that includes a gift area? "Well, he is a coffee connoisseur," she said, pointing to her partner, who was wearing a "Fat Cup Coffee Company" cap, "and he's always

SEE ROOSTER'S, 4



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Dennis Scarbrough and Kim Buenzow pose for a photo behind the counter at Rooster's on Main.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

It was a busy day for Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves at the Nashua Public Library on Saturday, when the Nashua Women of Today put on their annual Santa's Workshop event as part of Christmas in Nashua.

Plenty of Christmas packed into one day



Kelly Terpstra and Bob Fenske/Reporter

Ellie Woodman (above) laddles up some soup during Christmas on Main in Plainfield Saturday evening, and earlier in the day, members of the Nashua Park Board serve up S'mores on Main Street as part of the Christmas in Nashua celebration.

See CELEBRATION PHOTOS, Page 3

County TIF plans encounter a speed bump

Supervisors must wait for Bassett to OK joint agreement before adopting its urban-renewal plan

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors was unable to move forward Monday with setting up an urban-renewal plan that would use

millions of dollars in tax-increment financing to fund various county road and building projects.

Board members learned that the city of Bassett had not held what is a "consultation" meeting and had yet to approve a joint agreement that

would allow the supervisors to move forward with the TIF plan.

Because the urban-renewal area comes within the two-mile radius of the county's smallest city, the board needs the joint agreement approved before it can move forward with set-

ting up the plan.

In early October, county leaders accepted a plan put together by the county's TIF Committee that included using funds generated by the

SEE SUPERVISORS, 2

No music teacher, no problem for Nashua-Plainfield Elementary

TK instructor steps up to the plate for winning concert

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

It's been a long — and thus far fruitless — search for a vocal music teacher at Nashua-Plainfield Community Schools, but thanks to some flexible and creative scheduling, the students of Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School made a "joyful noise" Monday evening.

Heading into the 2024-25 school year, Nashua-Plainfield had been unsuccessful in luring a music teacher to the district, but the show has gone on with the help of a transitional kindergarten teacher.

"Crystal Moore is amazingly musi-

cally talented," Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School Principal Shannon Wurzer said, "so we approached her and asked if her if we can make this work, would she be interested? And thankfully, the answer was yes."

So Moore is a TK teacher by morning and a music instructor by afternoon.

"We had to be creative, we had to have some flexibility," Wurzer said, "and it's worked out really well."

Moore's TK students spend their afternoons in a preschool class so that Moore can work with the building's K-4 students on music, and Monday

SEE CONCERT, 2



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School teacher Crystal Moore sings with her students during Monday's Christmas Concert.

It might get little dicey around here Saturday

It has certainly felt like winter at times this month; after all, we awoke Thursday morning to temperatures below zero.

And it may look like winter at times this weekend as a storm system is set to move into the area late tonight and drop freezing rain and snow on the area through Saturday evening.

Forecasters from the National Weather Service office in La Crosse, Wisconsin, said Thursday they still weren't sure how much precipitation will fall but "the bottom line is that those traveling on Saturday should consider alternate plans and pay close attention to the forecast over the next few days."



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield Elementary School students (from left) Ava Schneider, Anna Mehmen, Nilan Goddard, Caedence Williams, Emma Schneider and Kash Goddard provide some “visual effects” to the grades 3-4 performance of the “12 Days of Christmas during the school’s Christmas Concert that was held Monday evening in the high school gym.



N-P Elementary puts on a ‘wonderful’ concert

CONCERT: FROM 1

night’s Christmas Concert wasn’t the first time this year she’s led her students in song.

The elementary students also performed during the school’s annual Veterans Day program.

Monday’s concert included the Nashua-Plainfield 5-6 Band under the direction of longtime instrumental instructor Scott Stroud before Moore’s students took the stage to sing songs ranging from “Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star” to “Nice, Nice Christmas.”

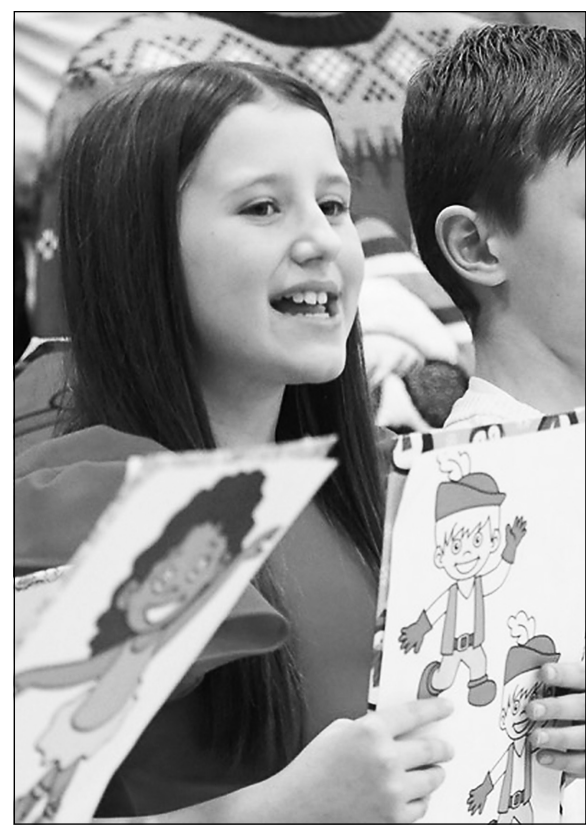
“Crystal did a great job and the kids were wonderful,” Wurzer said. “I think what I appreciate the most is how flexible our staff has been with this. It shows you that our teachers put our kids first.”

Meanwhile, the search goes on for a new vocal teacher for the district.

“It’s a challenge, and we’re not the only district in the state having trouble. It’s not just music, trust me, but the teacher shortage is real,” Wurzer said. “So if you know someone, if anyone knows someone, let us know. We’re trying, that’s for sure.”



Wesley Nolan (left) holds up a “ring” sign while Harmony Hiskey (above) plays the baritone during Monday’s concert.



Bentleigh Franzen (above) sings with her fellow students in grades 3-4, Aria Hiskey and Brentey Willett (above) perform with their fellow second- and third-grade students and C.J. Meinders and Brielle Masters (right) point to the sky during the K-1 performance of “Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star.”



Kindergartners and first-graders (above) perform “I’m the Happiest Christmas Tree” while Sophia Chester (right) is on alto sax with the 5-6 Band.



This photo proves that Monday’s Christmas Concert is definitely the “hottest ticket” in the school district.

County leaders will take up TIF again in January

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

Chickasaw Wind Energy turbines for a variety of improvements.

They include major road projects, the replacement of the Conservation Board’s storage building, improvements and/or construction of replacement building at the Secondary Roads shop and the renovation of the current Sheriff’s Office building, as well as the construction of a 24-hour holding facility adjacent to the current structure.

Two weeks later, supervisors agreed in principle to add Homeland Energy Solutions to the TIF area so that the ethanol plant could receive about \$1.18 million in TIF funding for a planned \$40 million expansion.

On Monday, supervisors held a public hearing on the issue, and Bassett Mayor Jim Ashley questioned why the urban-renewal area only included the New Hampton Community Schools district and not the entire county.

Ashley said that the so-called “start-up costs” for a TIF area could be saved if the supervisors just included the entire county, but Ahlers and Conney’s Jason Comiskey, who serves as the county’s TIF attorney, said while that was possible, “that’s a policy decision up to them,” referring to the supervisors.

What TIF does is allow the county to capture a portion but not all of the taxes generated by the increased property values for urban-renewal and road projects. Comiskey said that there are some items — he named school PPEL, instructional support levies and debt service, along with the county’s debt service — that are exempt from TIF.

He also said that while he understood what Ashley was saying, he said most urban-renewal plans are amended.

“It would be fantastic to do this one time and never have to do it again, but that’s unfortunately very unrealistic,” Comiskey said. “It’s almost always the case that people are amending the original plan to add different areas ... or to add new projects.”

Both Board Chairman Scott Cerwinske and County Engineer Roman Lensing said that there would be a possibility that using TIF funds for road projects within the New Hampton school district could free up funds for other parts of the county.

New Hampton Schools Superintendent Jay Jurrens said the district was in support of the urban-renewal plan even though the district receives about 50 percent of the tax dollars generated from the wind turbines.

“It doesn’t take money away from the school,” he said. “There’s a misconception about that, I think, out there. I’ve had a lot of people ask me that. Certainly, if you didn’t TIF this, our rate would be lower.”

In the end, Ashley said he felt that the Bassett City Council would approve the joint agreement, which would mean the urban-renewal plan would not have to be redrawn to avoid it coming within two miles of the city.

But the mayor said the city does not have money in its budget to pay council members for a special meeting, which means the Bassett council won’t meet again until Jan. 6.

Supervisors discussed possibly having a meeting on Jan. 7 to act on the resolutions they were hoping to vote on this past Monday.

Tree of Love fundraiser is chance to honor loved ones

Area residents have a chance to honor their loved ones this holiday season with a beautiful keepsake ornament by taking part in Cedar Valley Hospice’s long-standing Tree of Love fundraiser. With a contribution, you will receive a keepsake ornament in appreciation of your donation.

Each ornament, story and memory are golden treasures that make up the Tree of Love.

Also, with the purchase of an ornament, you are also able to place a name, photo and memory on our Tree of Love Tribute Wall on Cedar Valley’s website that can be shared with family and friends.

Shipping is available for \$6 per ornament. For more information, call Cedar Valley Hospice at 800-626-2360.



The weather cooperates quite nicely Saturday for horse-drawn wagon rides (above) during Christmas on Main in Plainfield while earlier in the day, Amanda Walther (right) makes her pitch that she's been "nice" this year to a not-quite-so-sure Santa at the Nashua Women of Today's Santa's Workshop held during Christmas in Nashua.



A young girl (left) asks Santa what he wants for Christmas while the craft table (below) at Santa's Workshop is one busy place Saturday morning.



Pesticide continuing education courses set

ISU Extension and Outreach Chickasaw County office will be offering three opportunities to attend the Private Pesticide Applicator Continuing Instruction Course

The first two sessions are scheduled for Jan. 23 at 1:30 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. The course will be offered again on March 6, starting at 9:30 a.m.

Preregistration is required by calling 641-394-2174.

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Nashua-Plainfield girls roll to conference victory at Northwood

GIRLS HOOPS: FROM 8

floor in the fourth game of the 2024-2025 season in a key Top of Iowa Conference East Division clash.

Turnovers are still a problem for N-P. They committed 36 in a Saturday matinee 47-36 loss at home to Clarksville. The Knights did force 30 Husky turnovers this time around, but those improved trips down the floor without giving the ball back to the opponent made a difference.

"The way Saturday went, we wanted to take better control of the ball. We were super intentional about it when we watched film and we were super intentional about it at our day of practice," said Smith.

Newman – undersized against the taller Huskies – worked its way to a 26-17 halftime advantage courtesy of fastbreak points and offensive rebounds generated by the Knights. N-P shored up those areas and went on 12-0 run to take the first lead of the game with 1:55 to go before the final period commenced after Kadence Huck's baseball pass found fellow senior Josslynn Glaser for a fastbreak layup down low. That made the score, 29-28, in N-P's favor.

"It was essentially just make the right play. We spread the ball around pretty well I think in the second half," said Smith about N-P's second-half push to try to claim victory.

N-P led by as much as 38-32 after Glaser's bucket down on the blocks with 5:51 left in regulation. Then the fouls started to mount up. That put Newman to the line – who drained 21 out of 28 at the charity stripe – and Tess Weiner's conventional three-point play via a layup tied the game up at 40-40 with 2:45 left.

Elayna O'Neill's conversion near the rim would tie the game with 1:50 to go, the game knotted at 42-42. But that would be the last points of the game N-P would tally as Newman closed the game on a 9-0 run for the triumph. In fact, Newman went on a 16-2 run to finish the contest after Huck's coast-to-coast bucket underneath the hoop made it, 40-35, N-P with 4:30 remaining in the league game. "Their transition game kind of hurt us a little bit early and their offensive rebounding and us just fouling too much down the stretch is what really hurt us," said Smith.

Smith knew how close his team was in coming up with a marquee win in a season that could be filled with them this winter if N-P can take better care of the basketball.

"I think Newman is legitimately in the conversation to win the conference," said Smith. "To have them on the ropes with just a couple minutes left in the game...I don't see a game on our schedule that we can't play with any of our conference teams if we play like that. We showed what we can do, we just gotta finish the damn game. That's pretty much what it comes down to."

Huck continues to march on to more records out on the hardwood. She's the single-season steals leader at N-P with 138 – where she broke 2022 N-P alum and current Husky assistant coach Jennah Carpenter's record of 104. Now she's just 28 steals off Carpenter's all-time career steals mark of 306.

Huck now has 279 steals in her remarkable athletic career and finished with 11 points, 12 rebounds and six steals versus Newman.

Sami Kruckenberg, a junior guard for Newman, led all scorers with 28 points on 7-20 shooting. She was 13-14 from the free-throw line.

Newman (4-0, 3-0) was just 2-21 from beyond the 3-point arc.

Glaser wound up with 14 points on 7-12 shooting and grabbed five rebounds. O'Neill tallied nine points and came down with six rebounds.

Huck amazingly produced a triple double in the loss versus Clarksville (3-1). She netted 19 points, 12 steals and 11 rebounds.

N-P (2-2, 1-1) trounced Northwood-Kensett (0-4, 0-2) on the road on Friday by a score of 59-21. Huck dazzled out on the court as she hauled in 29 points to go along with 14 steals.

Huck leads the entire state – all five classes – with 37 steals. N-P hosted Janesville on Thursday and returns home to take on league foe St. Ansgar on Monday.

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 59, NORTHWOOD-KENSETT 21

NP 29 13 11 6 - 59
NK 4 7 4 6 - 21

Elayna O'Neill 1-3 2-2 4, Kadence Huck 11-16 7-10 29, Josslynn Glaser 3-4 0-2 6, Marleigh Lowe 1-5 4-6 6, Paige Franzen 2-6 1-2 6, Eva Foelske 0-2 0-4 0, Callie Jensen 0-1 0-0 0, Bailey Bond 0-2 0-0 0, Emeri McCumber 2-6 0-0 4, Natalie

Feldman 0-0 0-0 0, Kelly Cerwinske 2-3 0-0 4. Totals 22-48 14-26 59.

3-point field goals - Franzen 1-1, Bond 0-2, Lowe 0-1, Foelske 0-1, Jensen 0-1.

Rebounds - Glaser 6, Foelske 4, Lowe 3, Franzen 3, O'Neill 3, Huck 3, Cerwinske 3, McCumber 2, Feldman 1, Jensen 1, Bond 1.

Assists - Foelske 3, O'Neill 2, Lowe 2, Glaser 1, Franzen 1.

Steals - Huck 14, Lowe 6, Franzen 4, Cerwinske 4.

Blocks - Glaser 2, McCumber 2, O'Neill 1, Huck 1.

CLARKSVILLE 47, NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 36

CL 8 13 9 17 - 47
NP 9 5 4 18 - 36

O'Neill 3-10 0-0 6, Huck 9-16 1-2 19, Glaser 2-7 0-0 4, Lowe 0-7 0-1 0, Franzen 2-6 0-0 5, Foelske 0-0 0-0 0, McCumber 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 17-49 1-3 36.

3-point field goals - Franzen 1-4, Lowe 0-3, Huck 0-2, Glaser 0-1.

Rebounds - Huck 11, O'Neill 6, Lowe 5, Glaser 3, Franzen 3.

Assists - Huck 3, Lowe 2, Glaser 2, Franzen 1, O'Neill 1.

Steals - Huck 12, O'Neill 4, Glaser 2, Franzen 2, McCumber 1.

Blocks - Huck 2, Glaser 1, McCumber 1.

MASON CITY NEWMAN 51, NASHUA-PLAINFIELD 42

MN 13 13 4 21 - 51
NP 6 11 14 11 - 42

O'Neill 4-9 1-5 9, Huck 5-12 1-4

11, Glaser 7-12 0-0 14, Lowe 2-4 1-2 5, Franzen 1-6 0-0 3, Foelske 0-1 0-0 0, McCumber 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 19-44 3-11 42.

3-point field goals - Franzen 1-5, Lowe 0-2, Huck 0-1, Foelske 0-1.

Rebounds - Huck 12, O'Neill 6, Glaser 5, Lowe 4, Franzen 3.

Assists - O'Neill 3, Huck 2, Glaser 2, Franzen 1.

Steals - Huck 6, Lowe 3, Franzen 1.

Blocks - Huck 2, Glaser 2.

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Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

N-P's Josslynn Glaser fights for the opening tip on Tuesday night at home versus Mason City Newman.

ON TAP FOR OUR NASHUA-PLAINFIELD HUSKIES

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

Girls varsity wrestling at South Winneshiek Invitational, Luther College, Decorah, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Boys varsity and JV wrestling at Nashua-Plainfield Invitational, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 16

Basketball vs. St. Ansgar, JV girls at 4 p.m., JV boys at 5 p.m., varsity girls at 6:15 p.m., varsity boys at 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

Boys and girls varsity and junior varsity wrestling vs. Janesville, New Hampton and North Fayette Valley, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

Boys varsity wrestling at Battle of Waterloo, Young Arena, 9 a.m. or 3 p.m.

Basketball at Osage, JV girls at 4 p.m., JV boys at 5 p.m., varsity girls at 6:15 p.m., varsity boys at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

Boys varsity wrestling at Battle of Waterloo, Young Arena, 9 a.m. or 3 p.m.

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Kelly Terpstra/Reporter
Nashua-Plainfield's Trent Rodruck goes up for a shot during Tuesday's game against Mason City Newman.

Huskies drop two in TIC, beat Clarksville

Nashua-Plainfield boys rally before Newman pulls away for a 74-56 win

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
Of the Reporter

Mason City Newman has not lost a game so far this season. Yes, the regular season slate has only approached mid-December, but it's safe to say the powerhouse parochial school is going to make some noise out on the hardwood this winter. Part of that reason is the Knights play well together. The TIC East frontrunners possess a noticeable team chemistry and work the ball proficiently around the perimeter for open looks from beyond the arc and near the rim. They also substitute frequently. That means



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter
Nashua-Plainfield's Marleigh Lowe comes up with a steal in the Huskies' game with Mason City Newman Tuesday.

Husky girls can't sustain momentum, drop key TIC East clash with Newman

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
Of the Reporter

Down by almost double-digits at halftime, Josh Smith had a simple locker room message for his Nashua-Plainfield girls hoops squad versus Mason City Newman on Tuesday. The goal was to take care of the basketball and chip away a deficit one possession at a time. That sound advice worked

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Kelly Terpstra/Reporter
Nashua-Plainfield's Lincoln Huck (above) turns an opponent while teammate Devon Blanchard (below) lifts an opponent on his way to a takedown at Wapsie Valley's Chris Davis Invitational this past Saturday.

Huskies claim tournament crown

Nashua-Plainfield wins fourth straight team title at Wapsie Valley's Chris Davis Invitational

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
Of the Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield sophomore Luke Zwanziger hit another gear on Saturday afternoon at the Chris Davis Invite in Fairbank. In the process, that energized effort by Al Frost's 138-pounder helped vault the Nashua-Plainfield Huskies to their fourth consecutive team title at the invite. N-P raced past second-place West Marshall with a top team total of 262.5 points – 53.5 points better than the runner-up Trojans. “I really thought we were going to be in a dogfight for the team title with West Marshall,” said Frost.

The tournament, hosted by the Wapsie Valley Warriors, witnessed perhaps the match of the day at 138 pounds as Zwanziger took down the hometown favorite for a lot of black-and-gold clad Warrior fans.

Zwanziger (6-0) remained undefeated on the season with a late-match dismantling of Wapsie's Walley Kaufman, who suffered his first loss of the season after the unranked Husky stuck him at the 4:51 mark of the third period. The showdown for first place in that weight class was a ball of fire from the opening whistle and ended up with Zwanziger getting his hand raised for the victory after the stunning and dramatic fall.

“He's just a machine. He set a pace in that match that was just unbelievable,” said Frost about Zwanziger.

There was no time to think in the head-to-head slugfest as each grappler exchanged blows before Zwanziger came up with a knockout punch to seal the victory and keep momentum rolling for the Huskies after top-ranked Jayden Rinken (6-0) won his first-place match in the weight class before at 132 pounds.

“It was relentless,” said Frost. “Luke kept scoring in some key situations and both guys were going 150 percent. Luke just got him. There aren't too many people in the state that are going to go at that pace for a full six minutes. I was so impressed in him doing that.”

Zwanziger is the training partner of Rinken – a senior now who bumped up two weight classes this year after competing at 120 pounds as a junior. It's pretty clear to see – even

after just the first week of the regular season has been put in the books – that Zwanziger has his eyes on the prize this winter and is a key Husky to watch this season out on the mat.

“Luke has adopted Rinken's style and also added elements himself,” said Frost.

Frost – in the final year of his legendary coaching career – helped guide his Huskies to five individual titles at last weekend's invite. Frost has stated publicly that this will be his last year as head coach – his 35th at N-P and 36th overall. He coached one year in 1989 at Plainfield before becoming the head coach at his alma mater that consolidated with Plainfield in the early 90s.

Eight Huskies reached the finals and all but one weight class placed no lower than fourth at the tournament that saw the host Warriors placed fourth with 139 points. Waukon finished third with 150 points and Riceville rounded out the top five with 109.5 points in the overall team standings.

“We had a tremendous team effort. We showed a lot more intensity and aggressiveness than even what we did Thursday night, which was our first time down to weight and first time out on the mat. That was a big plus,” said Frost.

N-P is ranked fourth in Class 1A in the first dual rankings and eighth in the team tournament ratings released by IAwrestle.

“We're a good, solid fundamental team,” said Frost.

Rinken – winner of a state title at 106 pounds as a sophomore – had little problems in his medal match win over Jaxon Regan of Waukon. A

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