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Nashua REPORTER

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Agronomist: It won't be long now

Area growers heading into season with 'OK' moisture but they're going to need help

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

The planting season officially began on Thursday, but save for the "first guy in the neighborhood" that ISU Extension agronomist Terry Basol loves to refer to, we might be a day or two or three away from

seeing farmers really start the 2025 growing season.

Still, Thursday was a big day — the first "RMA day" that allows farmers to plant corn without any adverse effects to their insurance policies.

"I know I bring it up a lot," Basol said Thursday afternoon, "but there

might be the first guys in the neighborhoods — everyone has one — out there today. We're not quite there yet, but we're close — really close."

Basol said that he expects corn to be going into the ground soon — as in this weekend or next week — and the agronomist based at the Northeast Iowa Research Farm near

Nashua is bringing some cautious optimism to the table as farmers get ready for the planting season.

After ending 2024 with worsening drought conditions and enduring a

SEE PLANTING, 3

New property assessments have social media hopping
Page 4



CHICKEN DINNER
Mike Reicks Fried Chicken
2025 Trinity Youth Mission Trip Meal
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Photos courtesy of Heather Hackman/Nashua Public Library

Day and night, library's a busy place this week!

Nashua Public Library Director Heather Hackman (above) has some interested listeners — including some who have a "birds-eye" view of the book — during the annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover that was held this past Tuesday night during National Library Week. The library's big week also included programs put on by Al Perales (below left), an investigator from the Iowa Attorney General's Office who discussed ways to avoid scam artists and Charles City suspense author Kylie Brant (below right), and the fun will continue on Saturday. That's when the library will hold "Easy-Peasy Grilled N Cheesy," a program that will run from 10:30 a.m. to noon and include crafts (decorating a chef hat and an apron) and a chance for kids and adults, too, to make a tasty sandwich on National Grilled Cheese Day.

See MORE LIBRARY PHOTOS, Page 2



City to take bids on removal of property on Greeley Street

Council learns 3.5% increase to water, sewer rates may not cover city's expected expenses

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

Nashua took the first steps to remove property at 1020 Greeley St. at last Monday's Council meeting.

The city owns the real estate at that location. The Council held a public hearing and also agreed to accept bids for the removal/demolition of the house and accompanying buildings at that address.

"It needs to be tore down," said one citizen in attendance at the meeting.

Nashua Mayor Hal Kelleher responded to that statement with 'that's a given' that the property needs to be demolished.

Monday, May 5 is the date set by the Council for the opening of the bids, if any are received.

Another citizen sitting in the Council Chambers alerted city officials the property resided in a floodplain.

"Some of it's in a floodplain, some of it's not," said Kelleher.

Nashua City Clerk John Ott stated that the only portion of the city-owned real estate that's not in the floodplain is the house.

Ott then described the impetus behind the city wanting to tear the structures down.

"The reason that the Council's looking at getting rid of it or disposing of it is it's just no longer needed, used or required for any municipal purposes. The Council will have a resolution to approve authorizing disposal by sale because of those reasons," Ott said.

The Council also discussed the annual 3.5 percent increase to residents of Nashua's water and

SEE CITY COUNCIL, 3

Charles City hires longtime Plainfield city clerk

The Charles City Council on Monday approved an employment agreement for Brittney Lentz to serve as the city's new city clerk and finance officer.

Lentz, who has spent the last 18 years as the Plainfield City Clerk, was selected among a pool of candidates interviewed last week.

She will officially begin on April 28, but will be working with City Clerk Trudy O'Donnell before that to familiarize herself with Charles City.

"We're excited to get Brittney on board and hit the ground running," said City Administrator Steve Diers.

Nashua firefighters help battle blaze caused by overheating machine

Sunday evening fire at Hawkeye Preferred Tooling leads to closing of Avenue of Saints

By **BOB STEENSON**
bsteenson@charlescitypress.com

An industrial fire that called in firefighters from a wide area, prompted a neighborhood evacuation and closed a section of the Avenue of the Saints for a while was caused by a piece of equipment overheating.

Steve Stirling, owner of Hawkeye Preferred Tooling used for injection molding and Group located on Old Highway blow molding plastic parts, Road southeast of Charles City, made of polyethylene (PE) and said security video in the building recorded the beginning of

the fire.

"We have it on camera. One of our plastic machines started to overheat and smoke and started on fire," he said. "That led to the whole building going."

Stirling said no one was working in the building when the fire started, at about 8:40 p.m. Sunday, April 6.

He said the building was used for injection molding and blow molding plastic parts, made of polyethylene (PE) and

SEE FIRE, 2



Bob Steenson/Charles City Press

One of the buildings that is part of Hawkeye Preferred Tooling Group southeast of Charles City continues to smoke Monday evening after being destroyed by a fire that started the night before.

Butler County REC names 2025 Youth Tour winner

Amelia Thompson, a junior from North Butler High School, has been selected to represent Butler County REC at the 2025 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 15-21.

Thompson is the daughter of Butler County REC members Todd and Corrine Thompson of Greene. She is active in numerous school activities, including Student Council, National Honor Society, Prom Committee, volleyball and golf.

While on the Youth Tour, Thompson will join students from more than 40 additional electric cooperatives in Iowa and over 1,800 students from across America to explore our nation's capital. Along with meeting their congressional leaders in Washington, D.C., the participants will tour historic sites, explore the Smithsonian museums and cruise the Potomac. The week leaves students filled with inspiration and a better understanding of the role electric cooperatives play in our country.

Thompson will receive a \$500 scholarship upon entry into an accredited college.

The goal of the Youth Tour and scholarship programs at Butler County REC is to support education and to provide opportunities for youth in rural Iowa.

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Photos courtesy of Heather Hackman/Nashua Public Library

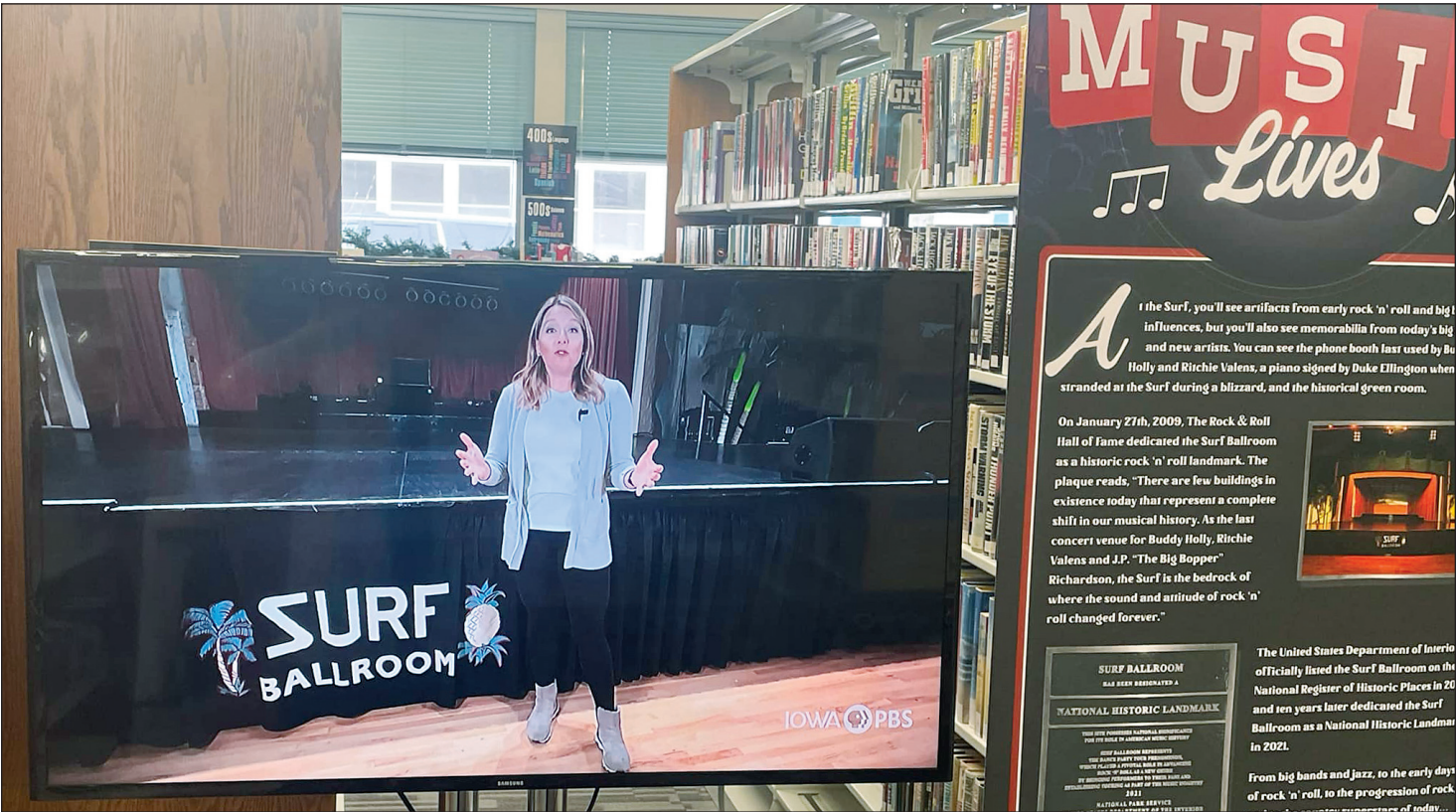
Celebrating National Library Week in Nashua

One of Nashua Public Library Director Heather Hackman's favorite parts of National Library Week is the annual Stuffed Animal Sleepover she and the facility hosts each year, and this year's group of animals (above) seemed to be well-behaved as they settle in for an evening at the library on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the library was also the home to a unique interactive display (below) centered around the history of the legendary Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake.

The display offered patrons a chance to "dive into the vibrant spirit of the 1950s — a decade marked by the explosive rise of rock 'n' roll, with the Surf Ballroom at the epicenter of this musical revolution."

Known as "sacred ground" for the sounds that defined a generation, this exhibit invites you to step back in time and discover how the music and events of this transformative era continue to echo through time. Music is the heart and soul of the Surf. Surf Ballroom officials say they are thankful for the opportunity to share their story with communities throughout the Midwest.



Business owner appreciates firefighters for 'quick response'

FIRE: FROM 1

polypropylene (PP).

Stirling said he has 25 employees, and they will be back to work cleaning molds and keeping the mold shop going, but it hasn't been decided yet what to do regarding the building that was destroyed, whether it will be replaced or not.

He said he wanted to give "a huge thank-you to the area firemen for the quick response and no one got hurt."

Almost 70 firefighters from Charles City, Floyd, Colwell, Rudd, Rockford, Marble Rock, Nora Springs and Nashua responded to the fire, fighting it until about 11:30 p.m. when the decision was made to let the fire burn itself out because of the lack of availability of water to fight the fire and concern over chemicals released into the air by the burning plastic.

That concern also led to an evacuation alert for residences downwind of the fire, with

sheriff's deputies going door to door and an alert going out to cellphones on the county's public alert system.

The Avenue of the Saints was reopened Monday morning, and Old Highway Road was reopened early Monday evening.

Although the building was still emitting smoke and small fires could be seen inside Monday, Charles City Fire Chief Sam Deverell said there was no danger to the public away from the scene.

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State’s ag secretary says state’s drought situation ‘improving’

PLANTING: FROM 1

winter with little snow, Basol’s area has seen some significant rainfall over the course of the past two months. Yes, he says, the U.S. Drought Monitor is still saying that all of Chickasaw, Bremer, Butler and Floyd counties are in a “moderate drought,” but soil moisture contents are much better than he expected they would be even a few months ago.

The first Iowa Crop Progress and Condition report released by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistic Survey this past Monday certainly agreed.

In the Northeast Iowa District that includes Chickasaw and Bremer counties, 64 percent of topsoil has adequate moisture and 6 percent has a surplus while 54 percent of subsoil has adequate moisture and 3 percent has a surplus. The number are similar in the North Central District that includes Floyd and Butler counties, where 71 percent of topsoil has either adequate or surplus moisture and 51 percent of subsoils have the same.

Basol, though, was guarded when he was asked about the continuing drought.

“I think we’re sitting OK at the start,” he said. “We have enough moisture to get established, to get the crop up and growing, to get things germinated, but we’re going to need some help, we’re going to need timely rains more than ever this year. What would be nice is to get 2 to 3 weeks of dry weather so the farmers can go like gang-

busters and get the crop into the field and then have a real nice soaker.”

He said the goal for farmers is to get their corn crop into the field by May 1 and soybeans planted by June 1.

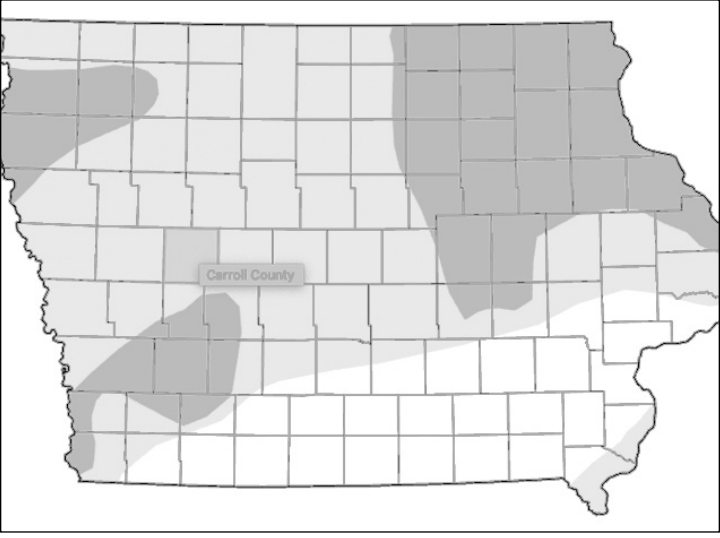
As of this week, soil temperatures were averaging about 46 degrees in Chickasaw County and 47 degrees in Bremer County, and by next week, those soil temps are expected to pass the 50-degree mark that experts say is needed to get the growing season off to a good start.

“We always tell people make sure it’s at 50 and it’s going to stay there,” he said, “but conditions are looking pretty good right now that we’re going to get there pretty quickly and, just as importantly, stay there. I know the guys are ready to go. This is the best time of the year. There’s just something about spring.”

Basol isn’t the only one who believes that. Take Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig, for example.

“Each spring brings a renewed sense of optimism for the growing season ahead,” Naig said earlier this week after the Crop and Condition report was released. “The initial weather outlooks for the first half of April are leaning warmer and drier, which will make farmers eager to get the planters rolling as soon as field conditions are ready.

“Thankfully, the drought situation across Iowa is improved compared to last year because of the more active weather pattern we experienced throughout March.”



U.S. Drought Monitor
Much of Northeast Iowa — including all of Chickasaw, Bremer, Butler and Floyd counties — are still enduring moderate drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor’s weekly report that came out on Thursday, but farm experts say soil moisture profiles are solid for farmers who will soon be planting their 2025 crop.



Mayor Hal Kelleher and Nashua City Council members look up documents during their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday evening.

Resident expresses dam concern; council continues dog ‘saga’

CITY COUNCIL: FROM 1

sewer bill that will take place on July 1.

Ott mentioned that he would talk with Nashua Water/Wastewater Superintendent Nick Henningsen on whether or not the raised rates will be enough to cover city expenses for the ’26 fiscal year.

Ott stated there will be letters sent out to citizens about that potential increase and they will also be reminded not to flush wipes into the toilet as it clogs up the city’s water system.

Passers-by and people driving in their car may have noticed a big concrete block floating on top of the water below the dam.

One citizen at Monday’s meeting — Nub Ronnei — brought it up before the Council.

“There’s a lot of movement going on below (the dam) that shouldn’t be,” said Ronnei.

Kelleher explained what the city is doing in trying to figure out what is exactly going on with the block, which was placed below water level and was part of a repair project to fix a hole in the dam by Boomerang Construction, out of Anamosa.

“The Clerk has contacted the contractors and the contractors said that was normal,” said Kelleher.

Ronnei, owner of Nub’s Bait, Tackle and More, snapped back with this retort.

“It’s normal to move that nine-ton block and we didn’t even have a flood?” asked a perplexed Ronnei.

Ott said he’s working on getting more information from the construction company as to the cause of the moving block, which appears to have been dislodged from its normal resting spot to protect the dam.

Ronnei, who at the previous meeting inquired about whether or not the city is interested in creating a usable walkway below the dam for fisherman to use, had this to say about what’s the state of that proposed path.

“Have you given any more thought to

take an hour or maybe an hour-and-a-half out of somebody’s time to make a path down through there for people to walk — a little bit of access?” said Ronnei.

“We haven’t pursued that,” said Kelleher about a potential walkway down below the dam.

Ronnei said he had more than enough interest from people that he knows that would love easier access to that area, which has been filled in with large rocks along the shoreline by the construction outfit.

“You haven’t? Geez, I have and I got about 50 people that also have,” said Ronnei.

Kelleher told Ronnei ‘get that back to us and we’ll get it on the agenda,” said Kelleher.

Ronnei brought forth his concerns about the dam and the potential for the area to utilize a newly created path during the citizen public comments portion of the meeting, which is now limited to just three-minutes per person where the public can address the Council.

The ongoing saga of the city trying to remove an at-large dog at Windy Acres Mobile Home Park continues. Owners of the animal at 609 Wentling St, Trailer No. 16, have not responded to the city’s request to remove the animal despite attending a Council meeting earlier this year to address the issue.

The city required the animal be removed from the property by Feb. 17 and has issued separate fines of \$500 and \$750 to the owners because the dog still resides inside the city.

The animal owners — Jeremy Hinders and Tiffany Tussler — were issued a letter from the city on March 5, which was basically a notification to remove the animal under their care pursuant to Chapter 55 of the Nashua City Code.

The owner of the mobile home park, who lives in Florida and was in attendance at the meeting, said Tussler owns the trailer,

but he pays taxes on the lot as he owns that. The owner also said he will implement new rules on July 1 that include addressing dangerous at-large animals. The owner stated with the new rules at the park that will go into effect in less than two months, that there’s definitely breeds of dog that aren’t allowed at the park and that the dog in question is one of them.

“Our new rules go into effect, so they have them. I’m just establishing the time frame and I can use the lawyer on top of that,” said the mobile home park owner. “This helps that process tremendously.”

Here’s what the back-and-forth discussion sounded like at the Council meeting regarding the at-large animal, which has been off its leash and roaming around the trailer park in recent months.

“We could issue them a ticket every day,” said Council member Samantha Johnson.

“Could the dog be physically removed by an animal service? said the mobile home park owner.

“I don’t know if we can do that? said Council member Jake Johnson.

Jake Johnson, along with the rest of the Council, want to take immediate action and remove the dog from within the city limits.

“It’s going to have to be forceful to deal with this,” said Jake Johnson.

Ott will consult with Nashua City Attorney David Skilton on the next steps in the process of trying to remove the animal from the city limits and get a hold of Chickasaw County Sheriff Ryan Shawver as well.

“I think we need to look into having it removed. They’ve had time. They obviously are just ignoring us,” said Jake Johnson.

Tracy Colby was hired as camp host at Cedar View Park. Ethan Mahlstedt and Ashlee Mahlstedt were the other candidates that filled out an application for the host position.

A public hearing for the FY ’26 Budget adoption is set for Monday, April 21.

State legislators finally reach deal on education spending

Senate approves a bill giving schools 2% increase to State Supplemental Aid two months after the Legislature’s self-imposed deadline

By ROBIN OPSAHL
Iowa Capital Disptach

Iowa K-12 public schools would receive a 2% increase in state per-pupil funding next year under legislation the Iowa Senate approved Monday on 332-15 vote.

Senate File 167 sets the State Supplemental Aid (SSA) rate for the upcoming fiscal year. SSSA is the growth rate for public K-12 school funding, allocated to schools on a per-pupil basis.

The Senate, and Gov. Kim Reynolds, had put forward the 2% SSA rate. But in February, the Iowa House returned the legislation to the Senate after increasing the SSA rate from 2% to 2.25%. The House amendment also added other funding components like a \$10 increase to the state cost per pupil, changes to transportation equity aid payment and weighting for school districts with shared operational costs, as well as a one-time allocation of \$22.6 million to help school districts with rising costs and the impacts of inflation.

Since the House vote Feb. 18, the measure did not see public discussion again before Monday, April 7. Lawmakers had already failed to meet their self-imposed deadline to pass school funding within 30 days of the governor’s budget release, in addition to failing to pass the measure before school districts’ budget proposals were due in early March. However, there are still a few weeks before the school districts’ final budgets must be submitted to the state by April 30.

House Speaker Pat Grassley told reporters in several news conferences that House Republicans were committed

to providing some additional funding supports for Iowa K-12 schools, components that were part of the hold-up in passing this year’s SSA rate.

“We understand that we may not get all of those things that we include in our bill, but we’d be hopeful that there’d be at least some consideration,” Grassley told reporters in late March. “Whether it’s operational sharing, whether it’s some one-time, inflationary factors — we continue to be hopeful that at some point in time enough Iowans engaging in this conversation will at least put some of those things on the table.”

THE GRIDLOCK ended Monday as Senate Republicans returned with an amendment that set the SSA rate at 2%, but included some components of the House amendment. The \$22.6 million appropriation was removed, and the proposed raise to the state cost per pupil was lowered from \$10 to \$5.

While the House language gave a standing unlimited appropriation for transportation equity aid payment beginning in fiscal year 2026 to make sure the statewide adjusted transportation cost per pupil was not lower than the statewide average cost, the Senate language set a 5% rate for payments to the transportation equity fund per pupil.

Sen. Lynn Evans, R-Aurelia, said that with the amendment, the spending package represents a \$238.1 million increase for K-12 schools compared to FY 2025. Of that increase, \$126.8 million will go to public schools, \$96.8 million to the state’s Education Savings Account (ESA) program, providing public funds for private

school costs, and \$14.5 million for charter schools.

Evans said that the proposal provides “responsible and sustainable funding for local school districts.” He emphasized that Republicans have steadily increased school funding in Iowa, and that K-12 spending will make up 44.7% of the state’s budget in FY 2026 at \$4.2 billion.

“This bill makes a promise to local school districts that can be kept,” Evans said.

DURING DEBATE on the SSA rate, Democrats have repeatedly called for their GOP colleagues — who control both chambers — to set a higher rate in 2025. The minority party argued that the 2% rate will put more than 150 Iowa school districts on the budget guarantee process, which will trigger property tax increases to meet funding obligations that the SSA rate does not cover.

Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott, D-West Des Moines, said Republicans’ SSA proposal was

“shameful” and that the proposal will result in either higher property taxes or school staff cuts.

“This is really personal to me,” Trone Garriott said. “My kids go to one of these schools where we are going to see cuts. My school is on this list. Property taxes are going to have to go up just to scrape by. Meanwhile, parents like me get to see up close and personal, the people who are going to lose their job, the great teachers that are going to go elsewhere, the programs that are getting cut, the class sizes that are getting larger, the opportunities that are getting missed because this body and the state Legislature won’t invest in the majority of Iowa’s kids through our public schools.”

Sen. Janet Petersen, D-Des Moines, criticized the measure as a part of legislative Republicans’ and Reynolds’ larger budgeting strategy which she said prioritizes private school students through the Education Savings Account

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Supervisors frustrated that they are being blamed for assessments

Assessor tells board he's simply following the state statute and urges property owners to contact him with concerns; county budget hearing set for Monday

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Let's put it this way: Social media has been abuzz with angst and frustration — much of it directed to the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors — since property owners received their new 2025 valuations.

And that's why Board Chairman Jake Hackman asked County Assessor Ray Armel to attend Monday's regular weekly meeting and discuss the notices, many of which come with healthy increases to property valuations in the county that will be used to determine property taxes in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

"Those assessment values are not Board of Supervisors," Hackman said. "We don't determine them. There's just been a lot of negative comments on social media about the assessed letters sent out."

And Armel agreed, saying that assessors like himself are only following state statutes

that call on property values to be between 95 percent and 105 percent of market values. Armel added that the ire on social media is being directed at the wrong people, i.e., the Board of Supervisors.

"Any phone calls, any messages, anything you folks receive," he told board members, "just tell them to call me, call my office. For you folks to receive some of the comments that you do that I have seen, it's wrong. It's just plain wrong."

He told supervisors that Chickasaw County isn't alone when it comes to rising property valuations. Armel pointed out that statewide, ag land values are averaging a 32 percent increase, residential properties are around 18 percent and commercial properties also have seen significant increases.

"I've received a number of phone calls from assessors around the state because I am the president of our association, about concerns the public is starting to share," he said.

Chickasaw County's tax-asking for 2025-26			
Here are the tax-asking proposals that Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors have proposed for the 2025-26 fiscal year budget in advance of the second and final public hearing the board will hold on Monday:			
	2024-25	2025-26	% increase/decrease
General Basic	\$3,271,534	\$3,373,565	3.12
Pioneer Cemetery	\$6,178	\$6,198	0.31
General Supplemental	\$1,795,297	\$1,783,170	-0.68
Debt Service	\$459,333	\$465,174	1.27
Rural Services Basic	\$2,364,566	\$2,419,061	2.30
Total	\$7,896,909	\$8,047,168	1.90
SOURCE: Chickasaw County Auditor's Office			

"With the state budget discussions and the discussions by the state regarding local budgets and budget concerns just period. It has just inflamed, I think, the comments."

But Armel added that he wasn't going to get into a shouting match on social media; instead, he urged property owners to reach out to his office.

"Let's set the record straight," he said. "I'm not going to go on social media and start a battle of words with these individuals.

That I will not do. ... I just don't like social media, period, when it comes to points like that. I want people to come and see me. I want them to come to my office. I want them to call my office."

He said he was making a plea to let "folks know that my door is open, phone is available, email is available and I will gladly visit with mostly anybody."

Hackman reminded those speaking out on social media that the county is not the only

"tax base" that requires property tax collection — pointing out that schools, colleges and cities also levy property taxes.

"They write the check to Chickasaw County, but the treasurer has to disburse that money out to those tax bodies," he said, "[but] it seems like it always [is directed at] just us five."

The discussion on the assessments came during a relatively short meeting, one that took place a week before the county

holds its final public hearing on the 2025-26 budget and tax levy that is set for 9:10 a.m. this coming Monday.

The supervisors did hold a short budget workshop on Monday in which they discussed the county's total tax-asking, which will be \$8,047,188 during the fiscal year that begins July 1. That's up 1.9 percent from the \$7,896,909 tax-asking for this year. A year ago, the county's tax-asking increased by 13.1 percent, and supervisors have spent much of the past few months trimming proposed budgets.

Both Armel and Hackman after Monday's meeting stressed that the new assessment notices will not affect this coming fiscal year's property tax collections. Armel stood by a comment he made last month that about 94 percent of properties in Chickasaw County did not see any valuation increases during 2024, which is the year the 2025-26 tax collections are based upon.

Assessor explains the process and laws used to value properties in Iowa

There has been talk over the social network regarding the recent assessment notices, the role of the supervisors and the current budget climate.

I will simply start by stating that the responsibility to set assessed values rests with three entities. The primary responsible entity is the Assessor. The Board of Review and the Iowa Department of Revenue have oversight responsibility.

The office of Assessor is governed by the Conference Board. The Conference Board is comprised of three units, the board of supervisors, the mayors from each town and a representative from each of the school boards. Each of these units have one vote. The conference board appoints the assessor subject to approval by the Director of Revenue and Finance, determines the number of deputy assessors and sets the budget of the assessor's office. All other administrative functions are the responsibility of the assessor.

The Assessor has numerous statutory responsibilities, of which, the first and foremost is the valuation of real property.

The Assessor's Office serves as the steward of the tax base, initiating the property tax cycle. Its primary functions include ensuring that all property is valued at statutory levels, maintaining fairness and equity in property assessments, uniformly applying assessment processes, and identifying all taxable property for inclusion in the tax base.

The Assessor is charged, by statute, to value property at its "Actual Value" as defined by law. The Actual Value for Residential, Commercial, Industrial and R+3(Multi Residential) is the "Fair and Reasonable" indication of Market Value. For Assessment purposes, Iowa Code further defines Market Value in Iowa Code 441.21 ss1.b(1). The Assessor DOES NOT establish property taxes or the levy rates. The values are used to spread the tax askings of the taxing bodies, including but not limited to, schools, cities, counties, conference board, townships, area colleges, etc.

The effective date of assessment is January 1 of each year. Each odd numbered assessment year, such as January 1, 2025, is known as a revaluation year. The Assessor is further charged, by statute, to re-assess ALL property in his/her jurisdiction based on this effective date of value. When doing so, the Assessor utilizes statistical measures to determine their current level of assessment prior to any changes. These same measures are applied in



Ray Armel is the Chickasaw County assessor who also serves as the president of the Iowa State Association of Assessors. He can be reached by phone at 641-394-2813 or by email at r.armel@chickasawcounty.iowa.gov.

determining the changes in value that may be required to meet the statutory level of assessment. The statutory level of assessment is a median sales ratio lying between 95% and 105% for each class of property. The Assessor then aims for a median ratio of 100%. If the median ratio prior to adjusting is 85%, an adjustment of 17.647% would be required to attain a median ratio of 100% (1-(100/85)).

The Assessor, through this process, is interpreting the market activities of sellers and buyers. The Assessor does not establish the market, sellers and buyers of property are setting the market. Not all property in a given jurisdiction increases or decreases at the same rate. The Assessor reviews shifts in the market activity by town, neighborhood, style of home, age of home, condition of home to name a few. Once this is accomplished, the Assessor applies their findings to the appraisal software and re-establishes the assessed values for their jurisdiction.

Because this is a reassessment year, it is also known as an equalization year. The Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance has additional oversight of the values in these years. The Department reviews sales throughout the prior year and maintains this sales list as does the Assessor. The Department, in the fall, will compare their sales analysis to the updated or re-assessed values established by the Assessor, and determine if the Assessor has complied with their statutory duty. If the Department finds that an assessing jurisdiction does not meet the statutory guidelines, they would issue an equalization order retroactive to January 1. This order would adjust the values on an aggregate basis and not consider the various market conditions existing throughout the jurisdiction.

Agricultural property is valued based upon a 5-year productivity formula as established by state statute. The following years of income and expenses were used:

For the 1-1-2023 assessment: 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017
For the 1-1-2025 assessment: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019
The Department of Revenue provides each assessing jurisdiction with a calculated average value per acre for the county. The Assessor's office then allocates the average value per acre to each individual parcel by land use, CSR2 rating and to ag buildings.

	1-1-2023	1-1-2025
Statewide average value/acre	\$1,740.89 +29.31%	\$2,238.60
Chickasaw Co average value/acre	\$1,887.65 +34.22%	\$2,533.57

The current give years still includes income from the COVID years subsidies.

The two years dropped were marginal years of commodity prices.

Residential and Commercial property is to be valued at a "fair

and reasonable indication of market value." The Assessor's office utilizes statistical measures to determine their level of assessment. Sales ratio statistics are utilized on a county wide basis as well as on a more localized basis such as town by town. Iowa law requires our median ratio to be between 95% and 105%.

Following are the residential statistics both before and after the January 1, 2025 assessments were adjusted:

	Median Sales Ratio	
	Prior	After
County wide	87.21%	100.91%
Rural only	78.55%	102.29%
Urban only	88.59%	100.87%

If a property owner is not satisfied with the value set, the owner may appeal the value as follows:

1. April 2-25, informal appeal directly to the Assessor.
2. April 2-30, formal petition to the Board of Review.

The property owner may appeal the Board of Review's decision to either/both PAAB (State Property Assessment Appeal Board) and/or District Court.

The responsibility to maintain values at their statutory level rests solely with the Assessor with oversight by the Department of Revenue. No other office or administrator has this authority with the exception of the Board of Review. The Board of Review serves as a quasi-judicial board. This Board receives petitions from property owners as an appeal of the values established by the Assessor. The Board has judicial power including the power to subpoena witnesses and records. The Department of Revenue reviews the values of each jurisdiction to determine if we are in compliance with the statute. If a jurisdiction is not in compliance, the Department issues an equalization order in October adjusting the values accordingly retroactive to the January 1, 2025 assessment.

The Assessor clearly has a responsibility, not just administratively but by statute, to maintain values as directed by statute. Not because of any directive, but because of compliance with the law dictates. Oversight is in place to assure that a jurisdiction's values meet the guidelines as set forth in code. The Department of Revenue also has the power to direct a complete revaluation of all or part of an assessment jurisdiction. This would be at the cost of the assessment expense fund as well. This too is a reason why the Assessor must maintain values at the level as directed by statute.

I am available to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding the assessment process. If you have a civic organization that would be interested in learning more, please give me a call.

Briefs

Everybody Hurts run/walk set for April 25 in New Hampton

The annual Everybody Hurts "Their Fight Is Our Fight 5K Run, Walk or Ride" event will be held two weeks from today, Friday, April 25.

The event begins at 4:30 p.m. and in addition to the 5k, will include a free-will donation meal and a silent auction.

The cost to enter the run is \$20 and proceeds from the event will help fund various programs and scholarships offered by the non-profit that seeks to raise mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

This year's event will be held at the Chickasaw Event Center and will wrap up with a spaker, Joanna Rahnnavadi, at 7 p.m.

To register for the run, walk or ride, ego to the Everybody Hurts Facebook page.

LifeServe Blood Center drive is set for April 29

There will be a LifeServe community blood drive on Tuesday, April 29 at the New Hampton Community Center, 112 E. Spring St. New Hampton, from noon until 5:30 p.m.

Appointments are encouraged and may be made by texting LIFESERVE to 999-777, by calling 800-287-4903 or by visiting the website at lifeserve.info/schedule.

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Charles City City Wide Garage Sales

Happening April 16-19 - See ads for specific dates/times

1900 BAILEY STREET Charles City. Thursday 8:00am-5:00pm, Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturday 8:00am to 12:00pm. Huge tool sale, new and used household, golf balls and club sets, 3 trailers, clothes totes, misc golf clubs, disc golf frisbees, 3 hitch cargo carriers, hitch 2 bike carriers, hay trolleys, window a/c unit.

400 15TH AVE Six Family Sale Charles City. Thursday 9am-4:30pm, Friday 8am to 4:30 and Saturday 8am to 2pm. Men, women, children's clothing, M&M watches, beanie babies, baseball and football cards, purses, jewelry, kids and adult summer shoes, Dale Earnhardt plates. Lots and lots of miscellaneous, Barbie dolls, kids three wheel scooters.

205 SPRIGGS STREET Charles City. Thursday - Saturday 10am-5pm. Unused blackstone grill in box, child bikes, exterior play set with ladder and slide. Walnut boards, 100 year old furniture, Clothes men 38 & 40 waist. Not responsible for accidents.

602 FREEMAN STREET In the alley. 8:30 to 5:00 Friday the 18th and Saturday the 19th. Newborn to adult clothing, lots of toys, furniture, household items, high chair, infant bouncer, knick knacks, motor cycle helmet, l-watch, air fryer, coats, shoes, purses, kayak, girls clothes up to size 7/8.

404 6TH AVENUE Charles City. Wednesday - Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm Weather permitting. Tools, kitchen items, grill/campfire items, home/car cleaning supplies, painting supplies, AA/AAA batteries, antifreeze, packing tape, Disney banks, socks, letter boards, ear buds, misting diffuser w/ blue-tooth speaker, disinfecting wipes/sprays, dog playpens, restraints, loungers, carpet/floor cleaners, Miracle Gro, plant/veg food, knee pads, fishing supplies, and much more!!

418 MEADOW LANE Charles City. Friday April 18th 8:00am - 6:00pm and Saturday April 19th 8:00am to 1:00pm Huge garage sale. Pots and pans, Tupperware, Bunn coffee maker, home decor, Dyson vacuum, brand name clothing, shoes, furniture, sofa sleeper, newborn-4T girls, toys, stroller, little tikes climber, electric mobility scooter, large rug, clay shooter, and little tikes trampoline.

600 J STREET Charles City. Wed - Friday 8am to 5pm and Saturday 8am to 12pm. Griswold cast iron skillets, dutch oven, vintage structo tonka military toys, weight machine, exercise bike, vintage crocks, bread machine, depression glass, Christmas village items, household items, twin bed frames, headboards, desk, table, jewelry, lots of vintage and miscellaneous.

600 SOUTH JOHNSON STREET. Garage Sale men's and women's clothes large to plus sizes. Dirt Devil Bagless Vacuum. Some tools, and TONS of miscellaneous. April 17th and 18th 8am to 4pm.

1903 CLEVELAND AVENUE Charles City. Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm, Saturday 8:00am to 2:00pm. Lots of miscellaneous, kitchen items, home decor, bedding, tablecloths, women's clothing, men's clothing. Small, medium, and large excellent condition. Boys clothes up to size 12. Lots of name brand. So much more!

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Reporter editor's fitness journey includes plenty of milestones

CELEBRATE: FROM 1

late May last year.

As I headed out to umpire my first baseball game of the 2024 season, I stepped on the scale and the number 229.7 stared back at me.

The good news is that was the lowest I had weighed at the beginning of a baseball season in years, but a couple of weeks into the season, I began flirting with the idea that the time had come to get serious about getting back into shape and shedding pounds.

I'm 5-11 on a good day; 229.7 is not exactly an optimum weight.

When he's not playing football for Southern Illinois University, my youngest son, Noah, works with high school athletes on weight-training and physical fitness plans so last June I asked him to help me out.

"Remember, you're dealing with a 58-year-old man who doesn't have a lot of life insurance," I said so that he wouldn't get the idea to "off" me for a big payday.

He came up with a plan, and it was delivered with some very Fenske-like humor. Take, for example, when I asked him why I was going to walk 15 minutes before every workout and not do a whole lot of stretching exercises.

"Old people get hurt when they stretch," he said, "but seriously, the walk will stretch you out."

Once my baseball season ended in July, I began following the plan, which literally started with running two minutes, walking two minutes, walking two minutes, etc. Etc.

I still recall those first "runs." The two minutes running seemed to last for two hours; the two minutes walking

felt like two seconds.

But since then, I've been able to achieve a plethora of milestone — my first 5K (unbelievably slow by the way), the first 10K (even more unbelievably slow), the first day I dropped under 200 pounds, the first 7-mile run, the first time going under 30 minutes in a 5K (doing it on a treadmill helped because if you don't keep up, you fall off!) and more.

One goal eluded me for what seemed like forever.

I was stuck in the low 180s on that damn scale. I was starting to think Noah was driving eight hours one way to mess with it so I'd keep working hard, and honestly, I was getting a little frustrated.

But a couple of weeks ago, I did an outdoor 10K on a warm and windy day, and when I got home, I stepped on the scale. 178.8.

I whooped with joy and scared the hell out of my roommate, who thought I had completely lost it.

I feel so thankful that I did this for both my physical and mental health. I'm no richer (I'm poorer actually because I go through shoes fast and I'm going to need new umpire gear this year!), I still have a boatload of issues (ask those who know me), but I think I've changed not only for the lighter but the better.

My family members have been my biggest cheerleaders, but I also appreciate the comments from my friends, who give me grief about "wasting away."

I'm going to get off my soapbox, but I guess the whole point of this is that if you're looking for something new, something to recharge yourself, something to give you direction, maybe it's exercise. If I can do it, for God's sakes, so can you.



Jenn Kalainoff

Husky senior Ty Berger gets ready to take the baton from N-P sophomore Miles Carpenter in the 4x200 relay as the sun sets in Belle Plaine last week Thursday.

Shuttle hurdle relay takes first at Osage

BOYS TRACK: FROM 8

Ansgar was postponed and pushed back to this coming Monday because of inclement weather.

"We continued to build off of what we started at Belle Plaine and we saw some really good things out of the boys last night," said Sudol. "It was a fun night. The weather got chilly as it went on, but it was still great to see our guys compete and some of the things they did we were really excited about."

Sudol said Paplow has lowered his 3,200 time by over 45 seconds this year and he also mentioned that Sinnwell didn't run at Belle Plaine because of a lingering hip flexor issue.

"Even Caleb Sinnwell coming in third and he tried like hell to beat the Osage kid there to get second. Just the heart that they had to do that. The two-mile race isn't anything anybody wants to do as it is, the fact that we have two guys that are pretty competitive is something that we really like and are excited about," Sudol added.

To some, long-distance races are an afterthought as they take a decent amount of time to complete and many track fan's attention-spans wane as the runners finish eight laps around the track in the two-mile run.

Not Sudol's. "You kind of pay attention to those races now. You just don't wait for them to be over with," joked Sudol.

N-P junior Jase Hansen won the open 800 in 2:11.59 and helped anchor the Huskies' runner-up finishes in the 4x400 and distance medley relays at Osage.

"Whatever he does, the kid has an opportunity to have success and compete at a high level — whether it be in a 400, an 800. The kid could probably be good in the mile and two-mile as well," said the N-P head coach.

Sudol said his relays are ahead of last year's pace, as evident by the Huskies' winning shuttle hurdle relay squad, which ripped off a 1:08.7 to win the event with the four-some of Landon Foelske, Devon Blanchard, Clayden Gerholdt and Tyler Zimmer.

"Comparing to previous years, I think it's huge where we're at already this early in the year," said Sudol. "We just gotta continue to work. That's something I don't have to worry about with this group. That's really making this year fun, is just the work ethic is there and the way they prepare everyday and just do what you ask — it's something special and I think it's going to lead to huge results. We gotta continue to go."

N-P junior Navarii Williams won the open 200 at Belle Plaine with a time of 24.62. Husky junior Eli Kalainoff was third in the event in 24.82. Kalainoff won the discus at Belle Plaine with a toss of 146-7.

N-P junior Jake Smith was runner-up in the 400 dash at Osage in 55.57. His time at Belle Plaine in the event was actually faster (55.17), when he placed fourth.

"Jake's an extremely hard worker and we know he's only going to continue to get better," said Sudol. "The thing with Jake is he's the guy that ran our fastest 200-meter time and he's also one of our fastest guys in the 800. It's just a matter of

what we want to do with him."

N-P placed fourth at both meets. The Huskies tallied 72 points at Belle Plaine and came up with 82 at Osage. The host Green Devils won the meet with 134 points.

"Our kids battled," said Sudol. "There were times kids would pass us and we'd battle back and get that spot. It's just kind of the mindset that we're going for this year and trying to develop here."

BELLE PLAINE INVITE CLASS A TEAM SCORES

Grundy Center 155, Lynnville-Sully 102, Iowa Valley 101, Nashua-Plainfield 72, Alburnett 66, North Linn 50, Sigourney 37, North Mahaska 5.

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD RESULTS

Long jump - 12. Landon Foelske 16-11.5, 14. Lucas Sinnwell 16-2.5, 16. Brexton Bird 15-10.

High jump - 5. Andrew Schmitt 5-4, 5. Zeke Kalainoff 5-4, Cal Levi NH.

Discus - 1. Eli Kalainoff 146-7, 9. Dawson Becker 106-2, 14. Kamden Chyma 97-7.5.

Shot put - 10. Zander Lentz 35-1, 11. Becker 34-11.5, 12. Jaxon McDonald 34-8.5.

Sprint medley - 2. Foelske, Chyma, Navarii Williams, Z. Kalainoff 1:44.5.

3,200 run - 4. Luke Paplow 11:29.7, 6. Connor Sullivan 12:15.6.

4x800 - 3. Braeden Mitchell, Jase Hansen, Jake Smith, Bird 9:10.6.

Shuttle hurdle - 5. Foelske, Devon Blanchard, Clayden Gerholdt, Tyler Zimmer 1:09.79.

100 dash - 7. Chyma 12.63, 13. Benjamin Percy 13.33, 16. James Corathers 14.09.

Distance medley - 2. E. Kalainoff, Blanchard, Williams, Hansen 4:00.24.

400 dash - 2. Smith 55.17, 7. L. Sinnwell 1:01.45.

4x200 - 6. Ty Berger, Miles Carpenter, Vinny Runge, Percy 1:46.5.

110 hurdles - 9. Blanchard 18.82, 11. Schmitt 20.67.

800 run - 6. Bird 2:22.14, 7. Mitchell 2:22.21.

200 dash - 1. Williams 24.62, 3. E. Kalainoff 24.82.

400 hurdles - 9. Chris Niedert 1:08.07, 11. Gerholdt 1:11.62.

1,600 run - 6. Avery Mueller 5:17.35, 8. Paplow 5:27.49.

4x100 - 8. Berger, Carpenter, Sullivan, Quintyn Boehmer 51.08.

4x100.5 - 8. Percy, Carson Mundorf, Nick Hulbert, Corathers 1:00.13.

4x400 - 5. Smith, Foelske, Z. Kalainoff, Hansen 3:44.19.

OSAGE CO-ED INVITE TEAM SCORES

Osage 134, St. Ansgar 99, Charles City 93, West Fork 87, Nashua-Plainfield 82, North Iowa 68, Riceville 25.

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD RESULTS

100 dash - 9. Williams 12.47, 11. Chyma 12.67.

200 dash - 6. E. Kalainoff 24.77, 7. Williams 24.97.

400 dash - 4. Smith 55.57, 11. L. Sinnwell 1:02.21.

800 run - 1. Hansen 2:11.59, 6. Sullivan 2:25.48.

1,600 run - 5. Mueller 5:18.4, 7. Paplow 5:23.45.

3,200 run - 1. Paplow 11:27.49, 3. C. Sinnwell 11:34.3.

110 hurdles - 6. Schmitt 20.51, 8. Niedert 21.06.

400 hurdles - 8. Gerholdt 1:07.75, 10. Niedert 1:09.24.

4x100 - 8. Berger, Carpenter, Jagger White, Emerson Richards 51.25.

4x100.25 - 4. Corathers, Mundorf, Jack Hall, Hulbert 55.56.

4x200 - 6. Berger, Carpenter, Munfort, Boehmer 1:47.2.

4x400 - 3. Smith, Foelske, Z. Kalainoff, Hansen 3:44.39.

4x800 - 2. Mitchell, Bird, Schmitt, Mueller 9:20.38.

Sprint medley - 4. Foelske, Chyma, Williams, Smith 1:43.12.

Distance medley - 2. Williams, E. Kalainoff, Z. Kalainoff, Hansen 3:55.54.

Shuttle hurdle - 1. Foelske, Blanchard, Gerholdt, Zimmer 1:08.7.

High jump - 5. Z. Kalainoff 5-6, 8. Schmitt 5-4.

Long jump - 8. Foelske 16-5, 9. Boehmer 15-4.25.

Shot put - 11. McDonald 35-9.25, Lentz 34-2.5.

Discus - 2. E. Kalainoff 140-1, 9. Becker 109-11.



Kelly Terpstra/Reporter

After having their first meet called off on Monday because of cold weather conditions, Paige Franzen and her Nashua-Plainfield golf teammates will try again today when they travel to St. Ansgar.

On Tap for Our N-P Huskies

FRIDAY

Golf at St. Ansgar, Acorn Park, 4:15 p.m.
Trapshooting hosting meet, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

Trapshooting at Turkey Valley Invitational, 8 a.m.

MONDAY

Golf vs. Mason City Newman and Osage, Nashua Town and Country Club, 4:15 p.m.

TUESDAY

Trapshooting vs. New Hampton, 4 p.m.
Golf vs. Clarksville, Dunkerton and Tripoli, Nashua Town and Country Club, 4:15 p.m.

Track at Nashua-Plainfield Coed, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Golf vs. Northwood-Kensett and West Fork, Nashua Town and Country Club, 4:15 p.m.

Track at the New Hampton Coed Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

GIRLS TRACK: FROM 8

Huck sports the top times in the small-school class in the 400 dash (57.66), the 800 run (2:15.46) and she is second overall in 1A with her 1,500 run time of 4:42.64. The only girl that has run a quicker time is Council Bluffs St. Albert junior Lili Denton (4:42.64) — who placed runner-up to Huck last year at state in the event.

Huck won the 800 run at Osage in 2:28.51 — just ahead of Lila Powers of St. Ansgar (2:29.07).

McCall was very happy about the hurdles events — where six of her athletes competed, with



Kristi Nixon/Enterprise Journal

Husky freshman Emeri McCumber gets ready to leap over the high jump bar in the season opener at Osage on Tuesday during the Green Devils' home co-ed meet.

only two of them having prior experience in those challenging events.

"Our hurdlers have really done amazing and have really stepped up. They have been working tremendously hard!" said McCall.

Cerwinske was sixth in the 400 hurdles in 1:20 and Husky senior Marleigh Lowe was seventh in the 100 hurdles (19.92).

The Huskies' shuttle hurdle relay was fifth in 1:23 and was made up of junior Abi Schmitt, freshman Adiley Gerholdt, junior Manuela Jimenez and Lowe.

"We are so proud of them! They stepped outside their comfort zone and are trusting the process and it was a great first start for them," said McCall.

N-P junior Eden Lamborn threw 32 feet in the shot put, which placed her fourth overall.

"Each event and each indi-

vidual shined last night in their own way and I am very excited to get back to work with them to make growth and adjustments," said McCall.

The Huskies will be busy next week as they compete at St. Ansgar on Monday, host the N-P Co-Ed on Tuesday and travel to New Hampton on Thursday.

OSAGE CO-ED INVITE TEAM SCORES

St. Ansgar 131, West Fork 120, Lake Mills 92, Charles City 68, Nashua-Plainfield 48.5, Osage 45, North Iowa 40, Riceville 38.5, Rockford 6.

NASHUA-PLAINFIELD RESULTS

100 dash - 8. Jade Maia-Gicquel 16.03, 14. Brooke Russel 17.17.

200 dash - 8. Jalissa White 32.14, 10. Maia-Gicquel 32.88.

400 dash - 1. Kadence Huck 57.66, 11. Victorious Mirembé 1:18.7.

800 run - 1. Huck 2:28.51, 12. Rachel Paplow 3:06.52.

1,500 run - 10. Emma Hinders 6:20.71.

3,200 run - 5. Hinders 13:55.74, 7.

Bailey Bond 16:54.28.

100 hurdles - 7. Marleigh Lowe 19.92, 12. Adiley Gerholdt 22.57.

400 hurdles - 6. Kelly Cerwinske 1:20.24, 8. Manuela Jimenez 1:24.

4x100 - 8. Abi Schmitt, Amberley Gerholdt, Nia Jackson, Ad. Gerholdt 1:01.31.

4x100.25 - 4. Bond, Mirembé, Russel, Jennifer McLeland 1:19.26.

4x200 - 4. Eva Foelske, White, Cerwinske, Jimenez 2:00.12.

4x400 - 7. Lowe, Maia-Gicquel, Emeri McCumber, Foelske 5:09.44.

4x800 - 6. Am. Gerholdt, Paplow, Mirembé, Maia-Gicquel 12:53.04.

Sprint medley - 1. Foelske, White, Cerwinske, Huck 1:52.47.

Distance medley - 7. Lowe, Am. Gerholdt, Hinders, McCumber 5:33.82.

Shuttle hurdle - 5. Schmitt, Ad. Gerholdt, Jimenez, Lowe 1:23.81.

High jump - 3. McCumber 4-8, 6. Jimenez 4-4.

Long jump - 7. Cerwinske 13-6, 11. Foelske 12-7.

Shot put - 4. Eden Lamborn 32, 13. Chloe Fundermann 25-9.

Discus - 9. Lamborn 79-2, 14. Natalie Feldman 67-5.

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Nashua-Plainfield senior Luke Paplow (above) competes in the mile run at Belle Plaine last week Thursday and Navarii Williams (below) wins the 200 dash in the season opener for the Huskies.

Huskies ahead of last year’s pace in relays

Boys coach ecstatic for Paplow after he wins first race of high school career at Osage meet

By Kelly Terpstra
Of the Reporter

Gains.
The Nashua-Plainfield boys track team has produced plenty of those incremental improvements after the first two meets of the season were put in the books this spring.
Plus, the Huskies have options galore in almost every event – a luxury any Class 1A track coach would kill to have.
Not literally, but sports metaphors can oftentimes help explain just how diverse Chase Sudol’s track and field squad truly is in 2025.
As stated before, Sudol has plenty of avenues he can go down with his horde of Huskies that can overwhelm ovals across northern Iowa with their large Class 1A roster.
“There’s so many positives to be excited about with this team and just the amount of depth that we have on the team and to be able to fill every spot and be extremely competitive in everything,” said Sudol.
The story of the night at Osage on Tuesday night during the Green Devil co-ed meet

was senior long-distance runner Luke Paplow and his Husky senior cohort Caleb Sinnwell.
Paplow won the first high school race of his career in the two-mile run (3,200) and Sinnwell wasn’t far behind in third. The Husky seniors ran career-bests and are micro-cosms of N-P’s overall team success this season with a roster of 45 athletes.
“I think he’s medaled once or twice in the top three, but the two-mile’s usually a pretty tough race. That kid, he works at it every single day and does everything you can do. Just to get that little bit of success for him and to get a gold medal – it was just so rewarding to see his eyes light up. It’s one of the best stories of the night,” said the N-P head coach about Paplow’s blue-ribbon run.
Paplow’s winning time was 11:27.49, over two seconds faster than his fourth-place finish at Belle Plaine last week Thursday in the season opener. Sudol picked up the meet after last week Tuesday’s scheduled first meet of the season at St.

SEE BOYS TRACK, 7



N-P girls run 1A’s fastest sprint medley

Huskies’ coach likes what she sees in first outdoor meet

By Kelly Terpstra
Of the Reporter

The Huskies had to wait awhile, but they finally got the first outdoor meet of the season in on Tuesday at Osage.
That extended layoff between the finish of the indoor season and the beginning of outdoor competition was apparently well worth it.
“It was a great first outdoor meet. We were happy to get outside and see where we are sitting and see what we have to work on,” said N-P girls track head coach Amber McCall. “We have been working towards filling a full lineup as we have not been able to do that the last few years and we were able to fill a full lineup last night.”
N-P ran Class 1A’s fastest time so far in the sprint medley to snare first place with a time of 1:52.47. The Huskies – the two-time defending team state runner-up in the small-school class – also sported the quickest time in the sprint med last spring. McCall chose to load up the distance medley instead, which took home a state title.
McCall will potentially have to make that difficult decision yet again this year as senior anchor Kadence Huck ran individual events in three out of the four races at state last year. Prep competitors at state are only allowed to compete in four events out on the blue oval at Drake Stadium.
While the sprint med is lightning quick – it will perhaps need to get faster if it wants to run in the prestigious Drake Relays later this month. The Drake Relays Blue Standard to automatically qualify in the sprint med is 1:49. N-P was the only 1A team to run in the sprint med at Drake last year, but was disqualified and finished dead last in 24th place. The Drake Relays do not run a high school distance medley relay.



Kristi Nixon/Enterprise Journal

Amerley Gerholdt gets ready to hand the baton off to Nashua-Plainfield teammate Rachel Paplow during the Huskies’ first outdoor meet of the season on Tuesday.

Tuesday’s sprint med at Osage was comprised of freshman Eva Foelske, junior Jalissa White, freshman Kelly Cerwinski and Huck – who is gunning for four more state titles to add to her already incredible tally of eight thus far through three seasons.
“Our sprint medley had a great first run of the season with time to drop, which is exciting. We have handoffs to work on, which will help tremendously too, but I was very proud with how the girls ran,” said McCall.
White, who did not compete indoors as

she was healing from an injury sustained last fall in cross country, placed eighth in the open 200 in 32.14.
Huck just missed qualifying for a third event at Drake – she’s already locked herself in at Drake in the 800 and 1,500 runs – in her winning 400 dash time. That clip was 57.66. The Drake cutoff is 57.05. The last day to qualify for Drake is Thursday, April 17. The Drake Relays are run Wednesday, April 23 to Saturday April 26 at Drake Stadium in Des Moines.
SEE GIRLS TRACK, 7

Huskies get their football schedule for the next two seasons

To the Reporter
The Nashua-Plainfield football team will open its 2025 season on the road against a familiar foe as the Iowa High School Athletic Association last week announced the 2025 and 2026 schedules for all the state’s schools.
The Huskies will kick off the season on Friday, Aug. 29, against AGWSR in a non-district game. The two schools had

been in the same district for the past four seasons but this year’s game will be a non-district affair.
Nashua-Plainfield will open the Class A, District 3 schedule on Sept. 5 when the Huskies play host to Postville and then will stay at home the following week with a non-district game against Top of Iowa East rival Central Springs, a Class 1A

school.
The Huskies head back into district play with a road game at North Butler on Sept. 19 to wrap up the first half of the regular season. The second half of the season includes games with St. Ansgar (Sept. 26 at home), Starmont (Oct. 3 on the road), South Winneshiek (Oct. 10 at home) and Clayton Ridge (Oct. 17 at Guttenberg).

The Huskies are coming off a 6-4 season that included Nashua-Plainfield’s first post-season victory since 2014.
In addition to the every-other-year redistricting, the IHSAA also sets schedules for Iowa High School football. The 2026 schedules for teams will flip-flop so if a team hosts a game in 2025, it travels to that opponent’s site in 2026.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

The annual Car Drop sponsored by S&T Collision as a fundraiser for the Nashua Park Board comes to an end last month.

Celebrating a cool fundraiser, N-P FFA and running journey

Somewhere there was a column idea floating around my head for this week’s paper, but I couldn’t decide which way to go when it came to the Nashua Park Board’s unique fundraiser that wrapped up last month, a Nashua-Plainfield High School student-organization that is doing great work and a personal journey that I began almost a year ago.
So, what the heck, let’s do all three in one piece.

Start with that fundraiser, the Car Drop that the Park Board kicks off its annual Winterfest celebration each year, and one of these years, we’ll actually have a real winter in January, but that’s a story for another day.
S&T Collision sponsors the annual contest, which basically works like this: The business places a “junker” on the lake, residents pay a fee to make a guess when it will drop through the ice and once the car “takes a drink,” the Sudols tow the car out of the water.

I love this contest, especially when the car “drops” early because it reminds me that spring is near. The car took a dive on March 12 – I’d call that early – and this year’s winner was Jackie Livingston, whom Nashua Park Board President Nate Sinnwell called a “longtime friend of Nashua Parks.”
Livingston was the first person to sign up for the contest this year, which is a reminder to this procrastinator to not wait until the last minute, and won a gift basket worth more than \$150 from Nashua area businesses.
I did have to laugh today when I went back and looked at the flyer the Park Board put out promoting the contest. One item, in particular, made me laugh and maybe even cringe.
The contest runs each year from Feb. 21 to April 30, and it was that last date that struck me, because I’m telling you right now, that the year that dang car doesn’t take a bath until April 30 is the year I’m heading south.
And finally, a big thank you to Steve and Tami Sudol and their boys for sponsoring the contest each year and for doing so in an environmentally friendly way. All the fluids are drained from the car and basically, they’re just putting a shell of a car out there on the lake for a good cause.

Nashua-Plainfield’s FFA chapter has a big week on tap as dozens of its members are heading to Ames for the 97th Iowa FFA Leadership Conference.
The chapter is the largest student organization at Nashua-Plainfield, and its members, led by Heidi Hull, does great work throughout out both the school year and the summer.
During the North Central District Convention last month, Cale Jensen earned a gold rating and advanced to the state competition in the job interview division while Elayna O’Neill and Alison Mehmen did the same with their “reporter’s scrapbook.”
Jensen also is one of four state finalists in the Iowa FFA Stars Over Iowa Award Program in the area of agricultural production, and the state’s overall winner will be announced at the State Leadership Conference, and numerous other competitions that will feature Nashua-Plainfield students will begin at the conference.
This is a program that has high expectations for its members, and as Hull put it in an interview last month, “we have a lot of students who put a lot of time into FFA, and I do love seeing them grow throughout their years in it.”
So here’s to a great Iowa FFA Leadership Conference for our kids and their advisor, and thanks for all you do for our communities.

Finally, that journey that yours truly began sometime in

SEE CELEBRATE, 7



Photo courtesy of Nashua-Plainfield FFA
Nashua-Plainfield FFA member Bradie Woodman poses for a picture on Drive Your Track to School Day last month.