

Nashua REPORTER

Vol. 114, Issue 13

25 March 2021

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School districts have 'super' plan in place

Nashua-Plainfield, Rockford narrow list to three finalists, hope to name new joint superintendent next month

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

If the plan stays on track, Nashua-Plainfield Community Schools will know whom its next superintendent will be sometime early next month.

Retiring Superintendent Keith Turner said on Monday the two districts he serve — Nashua-Plainfield and Rockford — would cull the 16

applicants to three finals and the plan is to have them go through on-site interviews during the first full week of April.

“We’re on track to know whose going to lead Rockford and Nashua-Plainfield relatively soon,” Turner said, “and I think so far the process has gone really well. The search firm we’re working from has done an excellent job. ... One of the reasons I announced

my retirement as early as I did is that I wanted both our boards to have plenty of time to find the next superintendent.”

Turner announced his intention to retire in January, and both Rockford and Nashua-Plainfield decided it was in their best interests to continue sharing a superintendent.

The districts received 16 qualified candidates. Seven candidates have a

specialist degree while another five had a “terminal degree,” i.e., a doctorate degree.

Eight of the candidates, according to a press release sent out last week, had four or more years of district leadership experience.

Ten were from Iowa; six were from out of the state.

Both Nashua-Plainfield and Rockford officials say they will share

the names of the finalists “soon after the screening interviews” that took place during the joint board meeting Tuesday night after this edition of the Reporter went to press.

According to the press release, the desired qualifications for a new superintendent, based on feedback from a stakeholder survey, include:

SEE SCHOOL, 5



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Kanalinoff/Nashua-Plainfield Community Schools

CELEBRATING ALL AG DOES FOR IOWA!

During National Ag Week — on National Ag Day, which was celebrated on Tuesday, no less — Nashua-Plainfield High School students (from left) Cooper Fisher, Josiah Scobee and Max Pahnisch take a break from their tractor restoration project to pose for a picture in the shop at the high school.

This week, the Reporter is devoting four pages to mark National Agriculture Week, and we’ll also have the story of this Nashua-Plainfield trio in an upcoming edition of the paper. In our section, we have several stories, present a number of facts and figures and a group of great advertising sponsors as we focus on the importance of agriculture to Iowa in general and our little corner of the world in particular.

More than 24 million Americans are employed in the agriculture industry, and in Iowa, it is the lifeblood of our state’s economy. More than 400,000 jobs are connected to agriculture, which contributes more than \$40 billion to the state’s economy, and almost \$23 billion in household income in the state is connected to agriculture.

See NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK, Pages 6-9

Charles City movie theater to reopen next week

Theater will be show films on weekend evenings, asks movie-goers to responsibly distance themselves

By **JAMES GROB**
jgrob@charlescitypress.com

Starting April 2, movies are back at the Charles Theatre in Charles City.

“We decided that we are going to give it a try,” said Charles Theatre Manager Karen Youngerman. “A lot of people are getting vaccinated, the governor has eased up on the restrictions and there are some decent movies coming out.”

Movies will be shown on Friday, Saturday and

Sunday at 7 p.m. for now, and the theater will reopen with the movie “News of the World” on the evenings of April 2-4.

“We’re cutting back our nights to Friday, Saturday and Sunday, where before we were seven nights a week,” said Youngerman.

Youngerman said a lot of area small town theaters are reopening in the coming weeks, and it is a step toward getting back to normal.

The Charles is opening up all its seats and asking people to behave safely and responsibly and distance themselves from each other.

Capacity at the theater is 316, and Youngerman said that at best, the theater would get half that many people, so movie-goers should be able to respect each other and keep a safe distance from each other.

She said that everything will still be well-sanitized, there will still be plexiglass up at the snack counter and people will still be asked to wear masks.

“Once they sit down, they can take them

SEE CHARLES, 4

SEE SUPERVISORS, 4

State opens vaccines to all; Public Health to begin compiling latest ‘list next week

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Let’s face it, there have been a lot of lists when it comes to the COVID-19 vaccination process that began late in 2020.

There was the medical professional list. There was the nursing home residents list. There was the fire, police

and emergency responders list. There was the 65 and older list. There was the under 65 with underlying conditions list.

And beginning next Monday, March 29, there will be the “anybody list.”

Gov. Kim Reynolds announced last week that she was opening up vaccines to the entire general public, and Chickasaw County Public Health and

Homecare Services will begin compiling the names of the newest list, beginning next Monday, by calling 641-229-8013, but Public Health Administrator Lisa Welter emphasized that number won’t be live until March 29.

Welter also said it was critical for residents to understand that Public

SEE COVID, 4

It’s another ‘light’ COVID week in county

Chickasaw County once again had relatively few positive tests of COVID-19 reported last week.

According to Public Health and Homecare Services Administrator Lisa Welter, just six residents tested positive during the week. Welter said as of Friday, the county had six active cases of COVID-19.

Since the pandemic arrived in Iowa a year ago, 1,203 residents have tested positive for the Coronavirus.

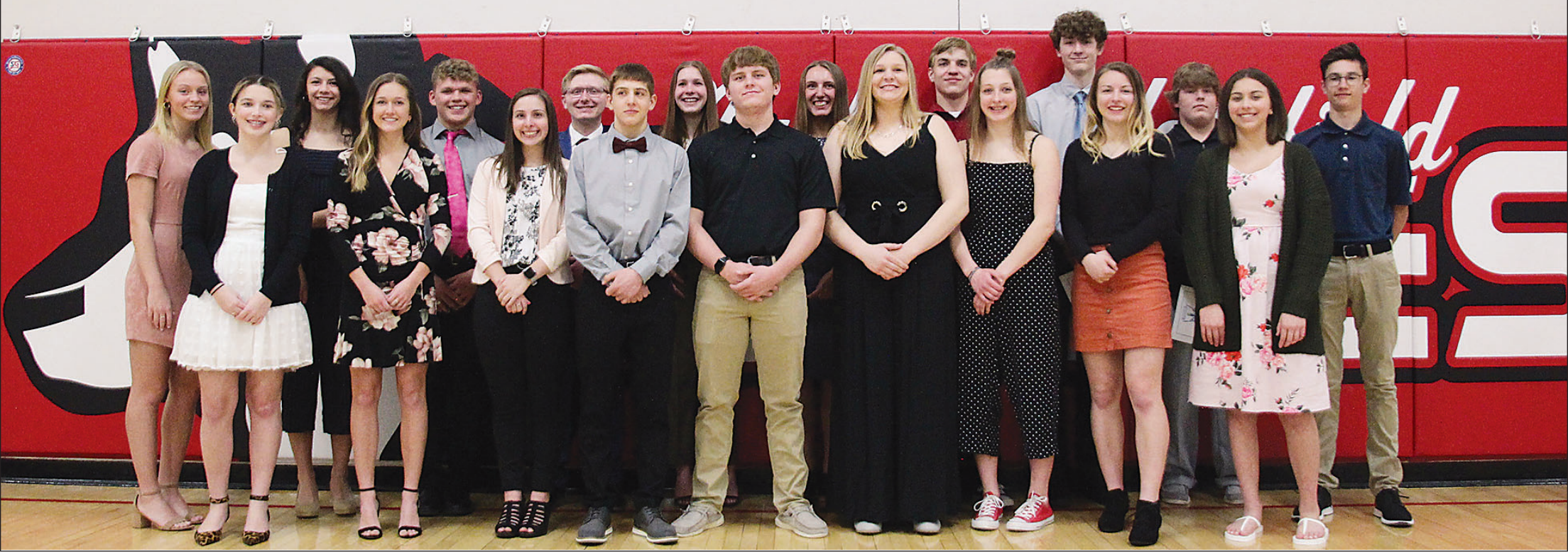
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Members of the Nashua-Plainfield High School National Honor Society — (from left) Abbie Hyde, Autumn Nelson, Alannah Richards, Chloe Matthews, Keegan Ulrichs, Haley Rinken, Lucas Pierce, Garret Rinken, Kara Levi, Jackson Zwanziger, Maddy Rodruck, Breanna Hackman, Joel Winters, Jennah Carpenter, Aiden Lamborn, Mackenzie Foelske, Landon Pratt, Kendall Bailey-Pint and Mason Mitchell — pose for a picture after the chapter held an induction ceremony on Monday evening.

Photo courtesy of Mindy Foelske

Briefs

Nashua Women of Today to hold Easter egg hunt April 3

There will be an Easter egg hunt in Nashua this year, but it's going to look a little different than in past years. The Nashua Women of Today will host the event from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 3, but the organization will hold several "hunts" so that it can limit the number of people inside the Husky Wellness Center. Each group will go through the front door, take part in its hunt and then exit through another door.

Medicare Open Advantage open enrollment ends March 31

Iowans currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan have options to switch through the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment period that continues through March 31. Iowans switching Medicare Advantage Plans or switching to Original Medicare with or without a Medicare drug plan, will have new coverage start the first day of the month after your new plan gets your request for coverage. The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period isn't for people who are enrolled in Original Medicare or are enrolled in a Medicare Cost plan.

Iowa Health Care offers scholarships to students, veterans, employees

The Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) Foundation is offering 75 scholarships, totaling \$167,500 to help individuals interested in pursuing or advancing their career in long-term care. This is up from 33 scholarships offered last year. Scholarship opportunities are available for current long-term care employees, veterans and high school students. Eligibility requirements, application guidelines and materials are available online at iowahealthcare.org/foundation. Completed applications are due by May 31.

Property tax credit claim available at county's Treasurer's Office

Iowa residents are eligible to file a claim for property tax credit if their total 2020 household income is less than \$24,206 and either you were 65 years of age or older as of Dec. 31, or totally disabled and 18-65 years of age by Dec. 31. Contact the Chickasaw County Treasurer's office at 641-394-2107 for a form. The deadline is June 1.



New members of the National Honor Society (above) hold candles during the induction ceremony while Lucas Pierce (below) presents the "scholarship pillar" during the program that included Nashua-Plainfield instructional coach Kristi Hannemann presenting the keynote message.



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Food, shelter grant applications due by the end of the month


Chickasaw County has been awarded \$10,833 in federal funds to expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in the county.

Under the terms of the grant, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, be eligible to receive federal funds, have an accounting system, practice non-discrimination; have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs and have a voluntary board if they are a private voluntary organization.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for EFSP funds should contact Sheri Alldredge at the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments by calling 319-235-0311 for an application, which must be received by next Wednesday, March 31.



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Celebrating Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, which in 2021 falls this coming weekend, Christian worshippers celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, an event that took place the week before the Lord's death and resurrection.

Palm Sunday is a moveable feast, meaning the date changes every year based on the liturgical calendar.

For many Christian churches, Palm Sunday, often referred to as Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday.

The biblical account of Palm Sunday can be found in all four Gospels: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19.

To find out the date of Palm Sunday this year, as well as the date of Easter Sunday and other related holidays, visit the Easter calendar.

Palm Sunday History

The date of the first observance of Palm Sunday is uncertain. A detailed description of a palm processional celebration was recorded as early as the 4th century in Jerusalem. The ceremony was not introduced into the West until much later in the 9th century.

Palm Sunday and the Triumphal Entry in the Bible

Jesus traveled to Jerusalem knowing that this journey would end in his sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of all mankind. Before he entered the city, he sent two disciples ahead to the village of Bethphage to look for an unbroken colt:

As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" (Luke 19:29-31, NIV)

The men brought the colt to Jesus and placed their cloaks on its back. As Jesus sat on the young donkey he slowly made his humble entrance into Jerusalem.

The people greeted Jesus enthusiastically, waving palm branches and covering his path with palm branches:

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9, NIV)

The shouts of "Hosanna" meant "save now," and the palm branches symbolized goodness and victory. Interestingly, at the end of the Bible, people will wave palm branches once again to praise and honor Jesus Christ:

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. (Revelation 7:9, NIV)

On this inaugural Palm Sunday, the celebration quickly spread throughout the whole city. People even threw down their cloaks on the path where Jesus rode as an act of homage and submission.

The crowds praised Jesus enthusiastically because they believed he would overthrow Rome. They recognized him as the promised Messiah from Zechariah 9:9:

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (NIV)

Although the people did not fully understand Christ's mission yet, their worship honored God:

"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, 'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?" (Matthew 21:16, NIV)

Immediately following this great time of celebration in the ministry of Jesus Christ, he began his journey to the cross.

How Is Palm Sunday Celebrated Today?

Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday as it is referred to in

some Christian churches, is the sixth Sunday of Lent and the final Sunday before Easter. Worshipers commemorate Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

On this day, Christians also remember Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, praise God for the gift of salvation, and look expectantly to the Lord's second coming.

Many churches, including Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Moravian and Reformed traditions, distribute palm branches to the congregation on Palm Sunday for the customary observances. These observances include a reading of the account of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, the carrying and waving of palm branches in processional, the blessing of palms, the singing of traditional hymns, and the making of small crosses with palm fronds.

In some traditions, worshipers take home and display their palm branches near a cross or crucifix, or press them into their Bible until the next year's season of Lent. Some churches will place collection baskets to gather the old palm leaves to be burned on Shrove Tuesday of the following year and used in the next day's Ash Wednesday services.

Palm Sunday also marks the beginning of Holy Week, a solemn week focusing on the final days of Jesus' life. Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday.

— SOURCE:
learnreligions.com

Donald Dean LaRue, 83

Donald Dean LaRue, age 83 of Nashua, died Thursday, March 18, 2021, at UnityPoint Health-Allen Hospital in Waterloo.

A private funeral service will take place at a later date. Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home and Crematory/Olson Chapel is entrusted with arrangements.

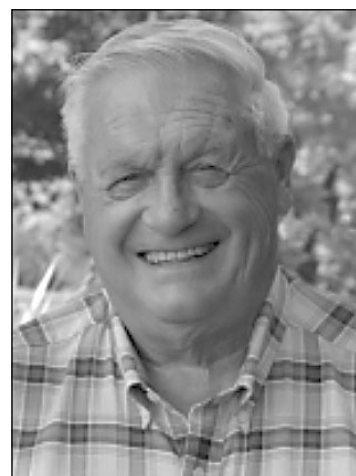
Online condolences for Don's family may be left at hugeback-funeralhome.com

A celebration of life will be held in Don's honor at Iowa Base on Oct. 9, 2021, 1616 270th St. Nashua, IA 50658. More details and times for this event are to come.

Donald Dean LaRue was born on June 17, 1937, in the small north-central Iowa town of Woden to Norman and Dena (Steenhard) LaRue. He was the oldest of the couple's four children and grew up on a farm in the Meservey and Alexander area.

Like most farm kids in that era, Don learned at an early age the value of hard work, helping his parents and his grandparents with chores and fieldwork on their farms. He attended school and was a member of the Class of 1955 at Meservey High School.

Don enlisted in the National Guard Ironman Battalion and the 34th Infantry Division, where he served as 1st Sergeant Donald LaRue, serving our country for twenty-seven plus years. When he was on leave, he went with some friends to Dumont. Don would eventually travel the world, but that trek to Dumont may have been the



Don LaRue

most important trip of his life for it was there that he met a pretty young girl named Patty Bohner.

The couple began dating, fell in love, and were married on Jan. 16, 1959, in Dows, and their family grew to include two sons — Joel and Troy.

After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army, Don worked several jobs before he took a job at Hydrotile in Nashua, where the family moved in 1964. During his long career at the Nashua manufacturer, he traveled to places like Saudi Arabia, Japan, and Panama — just to name a few — to help install his company's products.

Growing up, his boys remember that they had a dad who was the epitome of a "hard-working man," and Don loved hunting, fishing, and, of course, telling tales about them.

When Hydrotile closed in the late 1980s, he worked for Featherlite for a couple of years

before starting a concrete consulting business that took him all over the country.

In 2000, he founded Iowa Base, a precast concrete firm based in Nashua, and Don rarely, if ever, missed a day of work; in fact, he put in his last day at the company he built from scratch just two days before he passed away.

Don was proud of his family, and he loved spending time with his grandchildren and swapping stories with them.

He was also a longtime member of the Nashua Fishing and Game Club, he loved being a part of the Old Bradford Pioneer Museum and was dedicated to his community through his involvement in the Big 4 Chamber of Commerce.

This hard-working man will be dearly missed by his sons, grandchildren, friends, and the community he served so well, but they are comforted knowing that Don is now reunited with Patty.

Donald is survived by two sons, Joel (Michelle) LaRue of Charles City, and Troy (Lisa) LaRue of Ionia; two grandchildren, Morgan (Wayne) Adams and Hannah LaRue; three step-grandchildren, Jennifer (Justin) Beals, Christine (Gregory) Jennings, and Angela (Nicholas) Otis; eight step-great-grandchildren; one sister, Norma (Butch) Whipple of Dows; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Patty LaRue in 2018; and two brothers, Dewayne and Durwood LaRue.

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Irene Koob will celebrate her 90th birthday on March 31st with a card shower.

Her family includes LuAnn (Stephan) Tillery of Boise, ID; Susan Vossberg of Montezuma; Barbara (Brad) Schmidt of Waverly and Steven (Dawn) Koob of Plainfield, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. She is retired from teaching.

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Levy rate drop; collections will go up

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

budget on the table provided supervisors flexible on a variety of issues — ranging from the fact that the county may be forced to hire a land-use coordinator (those duties are currently held by County Assessor Ray Armel) to increasing the budget for the Secondary Roads Department.

State law requires that 80 percent of the RSB must go to secondary roads, but at one time, the county devoted 90 percent of its RSB to the department, and during Monday's meeting, County Engineer Dusten Rolando said he would welcome additional money to this budget. He also pointed out that Secondary Roads has a reserve of \$800,000 far below the \$1.5 million recommended. Still, those who came to the

Legal Notice

City of Nashua
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Nashua, Iowa located at Nashua City Hall 402 Main Street in Nashua, Iowa at 7:00 pm on June 1, 2020. The purpose of this hearing is to bring public awareness to a CDBG Covid-19 Response project and give the public an opportunity to provide input on the project.

Any persons wishing to be heard on this matter will be afforded the opportunity to be heard. Written comments will be accepted through the day of the public hearing at the Nashua City Hall PO Box 38 Nashua, Iowa 50658. Oral questions or comments can be directed to City Hall at 641.435.4156.

No. 20900
03/25/21

The Chickasaw County Conservation Board is seeking quotes for acquisition of an eight foot rotary mower. Anyone interested in the specifications for this acquisition should call Brian Moore at 641-394-4714. Quotes are due Monday, April 5, 2021 at 12:00pm at the Chickasaw County Auditor's Office, Courthouse, PO Box 311, New Hampton, IA 50659, or Chickasaw County Conservation Board, 1811-240th St., Ionia, IA 50645

Legal Notice • Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,315,000 SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE SALES, SERVICES AND USE TAX REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Nashua-Plainfield Community School District, in the Counties of Chickasaw, Bremer, Butler and Floyd, State of Iowa, will hold a public hearing upon its proposed issuance of approximately \$2,315,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, which may be issued in one or more series over multiple fiscal years, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 423F.2 and 423E.5, for the purpose of providing funds to currently refund outstanding School In-

No. 20913
03/25/21

Legal Notice • Legal Notice

IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CHICKASAW COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALICE F. GRANDY, Deceased. CASE NO. ESPR002941. NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Alice F. Grandy, Deceased, who died on or about December 4, 2020

You are hereby notified that on February 23, 2021, the last will and testament of Alice F. Grandy, deceased, bearing date of December 21, 2012, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Joan Schmidt and Angela Schroeder was appointed executor of the will. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are rea-

Legal Notice • Legal Notice

NOTICE
In the Matter of the Judicial Magistrate Appointing Commission For Chickasaw County

The Chickasaw County Judicial Magistrate Appointing Commission will meet on April 29, 2021, at 4:00 pm at the Chickasaw County Courthouse, courtroom for the purpose of appointing (one) Magistrate for Chickasaw County for the term beginning August 1, 2021, and ending July 31st, 2025. All applicants must be personally present for interviews on that date.

1. The Magistrate must be a resident of Chickasaw County or a resident of a county contiguous to this county during the term of office and does not qualify for appointment if at the time of appointment if the applicant will have reached age seventy-two (72).

2. A magistrate shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in Iowa.

3. To qualify for appointment, one must file a certified application on the forms approved by the Supreme Court. The application forms may be obtained from the office of the Clerk of District Court between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The

meeting expressed frustration with supervisors.

Former Chickasaw County Supervisor Dan Carolan said he didn't understand why the board approved salaries for the county's elected officials before finishing its budget.

"Putting these salaries out in January is backwards," he said. "I thought that when I was on the board, and I think that way today."

He also asked supervisors if they had cut any budgets, and Auditor Stephanie Mashek said they had — pointing out that the Conservation Board, Public Health, county attorney, sheriff, environmental health, the Emergency Management Agency and her own office will all have smaller budgets during the fiscal year that begins July 1 than they had during this fiscal year.

After the supervisors voted to approve the budget and levy, Carolan's wife, Laurie, asked Byrne, who defeated her husband at the polls in 2018, if he felt it was good for his constituents? "Yes, I do, if it's going to improve our roads, absolutely," he said.

Laurie Carolan, though, pressed the issue and asked why the supervisors would not

Public Health head says rate of vaccination all depends on amount of doses county receives

COVID: FROM 1

Health can only do so much.

"We're still getting the 200 vaccines a week and we're using

Legal Notice

City of Nashua
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Nashua, Iowa located at Nashua City Hall 402 Main Street in Nashua, Iowa at 7:00 pm on April 5, 2021. The purpose of this hearing is the first reading of several administrative ordinance concerning rates and payments as follows:

- An Update to Ordinance 332 Regarding Sewer Rates, No. _____
- An update to Ordinance 320 regarding compensation of council members No. _____
- An Update to the Ordinance pertaining to Compensation of the Mayor, No. _____
- An Update to the Ordinance pertaining to Peddlers, Solicitors, and Transient Merchants, No. _____

Copies of the proposed Nashua Ordinances are available upon request at City Hall and are posted at City Hall in the common entrance on the bulletin board.

Any persons wishing to be heard on this matter will be afforded the opportunity to be heard. Written comments will be accepted through 11:00AM the day of the public hearing at the Nashua City Hall PO Box 38 Nashua, Iowa 50658. Verbal questions or comments can be directed to City Hall at 641.435.4156.

No. 20905
03/25/21

frastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2012 dated May 30, 2012, including costs of issuance and a debt service reserve fund if required by the purchaser. Any bond proceeds remaining after completion of this project will be used for other school infrastructure projects as authorized by the School District's Revenue Purpose Statement.

The hearing will be held in the Jr. High School Commons Area, 612 Greeley Street, Nashua, Iowa, on April 12, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. NASHUA-PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Brittany McNeil Secretary of the Board of Directors

No. 20913
03/25/21

Legal Notice • Legal Notice

sonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred. Dated: February 23, 2021

Date of second publication: 03/25/21
Joan Schmidt and Angela Schroeder, Executor of the Estate, 109 3rd St. NE, Waukon, IA 52172 and 551 Prestien Dr., Denver, IA 50622

David H. Skilton, ICIS#: AT0007261, Attorney for the Executor, CRONIN, SKILTON & SKILTON, 205 Brasher St. PO Box 39, Nashua, IA 50658.

No. 20889
03/18/21 03/25/21

Legal Notice • Legal Notice

completed application forms (with letter of interest and resume of qualifications attached) and six (6) additional copies must be returned to:

Judge Richard Stochl, Chair of the Magistrate Appointing Commission
Chickasaw County Courthouse
8 East Prospect
New Hampton, IA 50659
By 4:00 p.m. on April 23, 2021.

4. The present salary for a Judicial Magistrate is \$41,232.00 per year.

5. The Magistrate shall work in other counties of the district, when necessary, as assigned by the Chief Judge. The Magistrate may be required to handle mental commitment hearings.

6. The person appointed shall attend the annual school of instruction for Magistrates.

7. For information on Judicial Magistrate appointments, jurisdiction and procedures, see Iowa Code sections 602.6403 through 602.6405.

No. 20914
03/23/21 NH 03/25/21 NR
03/30/21 NH 04/01/21 NR

listen to Hackman.

"If you have one supervisor, giving you all this information," she said, "why are you ignoring it?"

Holthaus bristled at her question and said that "Mr. Hackman was in Stephanie's office way more" than he should have been and added that he didn't trust Hackman's numbers.

By that time, though, supervisors had already approved the budget. Four times, Holthaus asked board members if they had any more discussion, but Zoll didn't suggest that supervisors could have decided to hold a special meeting later in the week to discuss lowering the levy until after the vote was taken.

Under the budget approved, the levy for urban property owners will be \$5.55499 per \$1,000 valuation. Rural property owners will pay that amount, plus the rural levy, so their levy rate will be \$8.79383 per \$1,000 valuation. Although the levy rates will drop, the county will receive about 3.65 percent more in local property tax dollars because valuations in the county increased.

100 percent of them," she said, "and I think in the next couple of weeks, we should finish everyone up 65 and older and those with underlying conditions. But it all depends on the number of vaccines we get so we're asking residents for their patience and understanding while we work through the list."

READ THE LEGALS ... It's YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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COUNTY BOARD MINUTES March 8th, 2021

The Board convened on Monday, March 8th, 2021, at 9:00 AM with all members present Byrne, Zoll, Kuhn, Holthaus, and Hackman in the Boardroom located on the second floor of the Courthouse, New Hampton, Iowa. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Holthaus. Present were Stephanie Mashek, Auditor, and Terry Johnson. Call In: Lisa Welter.

Motion by Byrne, Second by Zoll to approve agenda for March 8th, 2021. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Byrne, Second by Hackman to approve the Board Minutes for March 1st & 3rd, 2021. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

9:05 AM No Public Comment

Motion by Byrne, Second by Hackman to approve Jerico Jo's Liquor License. Roll Call: Ayes- Hackman, Zoll, Byrne, Kuhn, and Holthaus. Motion Carried.

9:10 AM Lisa Welter & Jeff Bernatz COVID update

9:15 AM Jeff Bernatz- Communication Tower Project Update

Motion by Hackman, Second by Kuhn to direct the County Attorney's office in creating a 28E Agreement for the equipment transfer for the Radio Communications Project with political subdivisions and schools within Chickasaw County. Roll Call: Ayes-Hackman, Kuhn, Byrne, Zoll, and Holthaus. Motion Carried.

9:45 AM Dusty Rolando- Update on Road Department Activities



Charles to start showing films again

CHARLES: FROM 1

off, but when they're up and moving around, we'd really like them to wear the masks," she said.

All the typical snacks and drinks —and the theater's locally-famous popcorn — will be available for purchase.

The Charles Theatre had initially closed last March amid the spread of COVID-19. Since then it's been a lack of new movies being released and customers' hesitance to go to the movies that have kept the theater closed.

The theater reopened briefly in August, but it wasn't long until its doors were closed again. Youngerman said only older movies were available at that time, and they didn't draw in enough people for the theater to break even.

The theater has scheduled three children's movies the following three weekends in April, "to give something for the younger kids to do," Youngerman said.

On the weekend of April 9, the theater will show the new "Tom and Jerry," and scheduled the following weekends are "The Croods," "Raya and the Last Dragon" and "The Courier." Tickets are \$3 for an adult movie ticket and \$2 for a ticket for children (12-and-under) and seniors (55-and-older.)

"Right now, we don't have any matinees scheduled," Youngerman said. "I guess we'll just see how it goes."

The Charles Theatre, which was built in 1935, is one of only two theaters remaining in Iowa with an art-deco facade, and is the only one still operating.

"It all depends and there is no rhyme or reason, just like COVID itself," she said. "We have people who don't have any. Some get the sore arm, some get a fever, tiredness and headaches. But most of what we've heard is those symptoms don't last more than a day or two."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET NASHUA

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

The City of NASHUA will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending the current budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021

Meeting Date/Time: 4/5/2021 07:00 PM Contact: John Ott Phone: (641) 435-4156

Meeting Location: Council Chambers City Hall

There will be no increase in taxes. Any residents or taxpayers will be heard for or against the proposed amendment at the time and place specified above. A detailed statement of: additional receipts, cash balances on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and proposed disbursements, both past and anticipated, will be available at the hearing.

REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended	Current Amendment	Total Budget After Current Amendment
Taxes Levied on Property	661,929	0	661,929
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	0	0	0
Net Current Property Tax	661,929	0	661,929
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	45,000	0	45,000
Other City Taxes	171,069	0	171,069
Licenses & Permits	11,950	0	11,950
Use of Money & Property	61,680	754,933	816,613
Intergovernmental	1,078,379	0	1,078,379
Charges for Service	836,350	0	836,350
Special Assessments	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	48,300	0	48,300
Other Financing Sources	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Transfers In	518,492	950,000	1,468,492
Total Revenues & Other Sources	4,433,149	1,704,933	6,138,082
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
Public Safety	1,801,724	-1,000,000	801,724
Public Works	450,805	0	450,805
Health and Social Services	10,500	0	10,500
Culture and Recreation	231,001	14,000	245,001
Community and Economic Development	135,160	40,000	175,160
General Government	162,947	0	162,947
Debt Service	112,426	754,933	867,359
Capital Projects	350,000	1,015,000	1,365,000
Total Government Activities Expenditures	3,254,563	823,933	4,078,496
Business Type/Enterprise	758,537	60,000	818,537
Total Gov Activities & Business Expenditures	4,013,100	883,933	4,897,033
Transfers Out	518,492	950,000	1,468,492
Total Expenditures/Transfers Out	4,531,592	1,833,933	6,365,525
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	-98,443	-129,000	-227,443
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2020	2,389,277	0	2,389,277
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2021	2,290,834	-129,000	2,161,834

Explanation of Changes: Moved GF Dam expenditures to Cap. Projects, which required transfer, added storm water expense budget which was overlooked in previous amendment, added rev from 0% state contingent loan \$754,933 plus expense of \$754,933 to pay down GO loan.

No. 20899
03/25/21

Sharing helps N-P, Rockford school budgets

- SCHOOL: FROM 1
- Recruits, hires, supports develops, and retain effective staff members
 - Effectively manages district resources
 - Promotes a community of care and support
 - Strong instructional leader
 - Is approachable, accessible, and welcoming
- Follows through on tasks and responsibilities
 - Possesses strong communication skills
 - Brings out success in others
 - Demonstrates ethics and integrity

The two boards hope to name a shared superintendent "soon after the formal interviews," which will include stakeholders in both districts.

"We have some excellent applicants," Turner said, "and I feel confident that our boards are going to find the person to lead these two districts forward."

The new superintendent will officially take over for Turner on July 1.

Turner was a longtime teacher and coach in the Nashua and Nashua-Plainfield school districts before moving to

Rockford as a principal in 2008. Seven years ago, Rockford also added superintendent to his title, and in the middle of the 2017-18 school year, he became a shared superintendent when former Nashua-Plainfield Superintendent Randy Strabala retired.

Rockford and Nashua-Plainfield also share a business manager, human resources director and building and grounds director.

Along with the superintendent sharing, that means each district receives \$146,000 in incentives the state offers district to share administrators.



Shop Local

By doing business locally, you not only get personal service and real value, you also help strengthen our local community & economy.

JOB LOSS | DISCONNECTION | CIVIL UNREST

All of this can be overwhelming, but it is important to remember;



HAPPINESS

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FAMILY

IS NOT CANCELED

HOPE

IS NOT CANCELED

YOUR STRESS AND ANXIETY CAN BE ALLEVIATED.

Your local mental health specialists are here for you.

Help is available now. Visit countysocialservices.org/hope to find out what a mental health professional can do for you.



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FOR CRISIS 24/7/365
CALL (855) 581-8111 OR
TEXT (855) 895-8398



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Department of Management - Form S-PB-6

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Nashua-Plainfield School Budget Summary

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Location of Public Hearing:

Nashua-Plainfield JH/HS Commons

Date of Hearing:

4/12/2021

Time of Hearing:

7:00 PM

The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 2021/22 school budget at the above-noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.

		Budget 2022	Re-est. 2021	Actual 2020	Avg %20-22
Taxes Levied on Property	1	2,819,070	2,727,324	2,703,860	2.1%
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	57,837	63,953	128,911	-33.0%
Income Surtaxes	3	306,423	321,790	391,918	-11.6%
Tuition/Transportation Received	4	160,123	160,158	162,121	
Earnings on Investments	5	14,560	15,055	20,562	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	125,985	123,485	124,888	
Student Activities and Sales	7	238,631	233,773	237,955	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	170,676	178,598	185,325	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	0	0	0	
State Foundation Aid	10	4,086,515	3,827,344	3,837,955	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	14,340	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	652,829	653,318	657,301	
Commercial & Industrial State Replacement	13	17,594	14,042	32,941	
Title 1 Grants	14	56,123	57,845	58,709	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	387,552	388,789	383,891	
Total Revenues	16	9,108,258	8,765,474	8,926,337	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	0	0	0	
Transfers In	18	390,000	390,000	386,746	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	0	0	0	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	68,357	61,941	82,114	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	9,566,615	9,217,415	9,395,197	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	3,262,151	3,262,954	2,954,566	
Total Resources	23	12,828,766	12,780,369	12,349,763	
*Instruction	24	5,664,303	5,372,975	5,091,024	5.5%
Student Support Services	25	242,568	234,658	227,597	
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	213,460	205,345	197,965	
General Administration	27	265,185	197,856	186,286	
School Administration	28	398,485	358,984	340,091	
Business & Central Administration	29	259,696	227,385	196,440	
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	706,482	691,237	570,031	
Student Transportation	31	458,503	461,768	322,468	
This row is intentionally left blank	32	0	0	0	
*Total Support Services (lines 25-32)	32A	2,544,379	2,377,233	2,040,878	11.7%
*Noninstructional Programs	33	403,890	380,875	365,874	5.1%
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	34	348,310	336,672	239,900	
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	35	390,000	390,000	386,746	
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	36	308,023	270,463	268,716	
*Total Other Expenditures (lines 34-36)	36A	1,046,333	997,135	895,362	8.1%
Total Expenditures	37	9,658,905	9,128,218	8,393,138	
Transfers Out	38	390,000	390,000	386,746	
Other Uses	39	0	0	6,925	
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	40	10,048,905	9,518,218	8,786,809	
Ending Fund Balance	41	2,779,861	3,262,151	3,562,954	
Total Requirements	42	12,828,766	12,780,369	12,349,763	

Proposed Property Tax Rate (per \$1,000 taxable valuation)

10.51800

No. 20912

03/25/21

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City of Nashua
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
City Council Chambers, City Hall
The Nashua City Council met in regular session on March 15, 2021 in Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM with Mayor Betsinger presiding. Council members present were Alex Anthofer, Scott Cerwinski, Thomas Johnson, Hal Kelleher, and Charles Shelby. City employee(s) City Clerk John Ott was present. Maggie Burger from Speer Financial and Brian Schoon from INRCOG attended remotely.

Mayor Betsinger asked for consideration approving the agenda. Anthofer/M, Johnson/S, M/C. Mayor Betsinger asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Maggie Burger from Speer Financial discussed some financial information regarding the Greeley St. project. She reviewed some of the estimated project costs for the city (\$1,280,000). The total project cost is estimated (\$2,175,155.00). She explained the estimated cost issuance of the bond (\$31,905). She reviewed the city's legal debt limit (4,154,266) and how it is calculated. The city currently has \$2,785,266 of remaining debt limit, but she wanted the council to know that could change depending on any new debt issued or reduction of current debt. She also discussed information about USDA and SRF financing options that may be available and some basics on how each of the programs worked. Brian Schoon from INRCOG was available to answer questions related to the USDA and SRF financing options.

Mayor Betsinger asked for a motion to set a public hearing for the Covid 19 Relief Grant for April 5, 2021. Johnson/M, Anthofer/S, M/C. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Mayor Betsinger called for a motion to set a public hearing for FY'21 Budget Amendment for April 5, 2021. Anthofer/M, Shelby/S, M/C. Roll Call: all Ayes.

Mayor Betsinger asked for a motion to pass the following resolutions:
21-17 Resolution Approving Library Funds Transfer from MMKT to Checking. Johnson/M, Anthofer/S, M/C. Roll Call: All Ayes, 21-18 Resolution Awarding Owner-Occupied Rehab Contract to Gildewell Contracting for Project #5 of the Nashua CDBG Rehab Program. Cerwinski seconded. Motion Carried.

The Library Monthly Report was presented to the council.

Johnson reviewed estimates for replacing windows at the fire station that were tabled at the last meeting. After discussion of the estimates, Anthofer made a motion to approve the estimate from Dietz Construction for \$7,955. He stated that he liked the fact that on this estimate it was noted that the masonry was going to be cut at an angle to allow new cap and flashing, so water would shed over the masonry instead of collecting on current flashing and getting behind the masonry. Cerwinski seconded. Motion Carried.

• Water: \$3,909.30
• Sewer: \$6,634.18
• Total Funds: \$33,561.35

Kelleher mentioned that the Park Board would like to be kept in the loop on park expenses, so he requested that a park board member be informed of all park expenses prior to purchases being made. Kelleher/M, Johnson/S, M/C.

Business of the Mayor: The Mayor mentioned that at the FMC landfill meeting they approved raising the rates at the landfill and so he mentioned that the rates for Jendro Sanitation will be increasing.

Department Reports:
City Clerk informed the council that the city had been approved for a State Contingency Loan for the dam project. This is a 20 year loan with 0% interest. The proceeds from this loan will be used to pay down the 10 year \$1,000,000 dam repair loan that was taken out last year. He also mentioned that the city had been awarded a \$5,000 Chickasaw County Foundation Grant to help with the upgrade of electrical panels at the campground. He also presented the February Financial Reports and informed the council that the February Bank Rec. is available for review.

Council Members
Johnson asked about replacing the flag at City Hall. Kelleher said that he would take care of it. Johnson also inquired about how they should go about employee evaluations and Anthofer stated that the policy manual says that reviews are done on the employee's Anniversary. Anthofer asked why some people had received a delinquent utility bill for such small amounts. City Clerk Ott stated that when the Delinquent Report is ran there is a parameter that has to be changed each time and it is usually set at \$10, but the parameter was not set when the delinquency notices went out last time and so anyone with any amount above \$0 received one. Kelleher also mentioned that the donation box will be set up at the park next week.

Kelleher gave an update on the parks department. He stated the next meeting is scheduled for March 30th and they will be working on Water Over the Dam Days activities. He also said that he has been working with Dan the Street Department Supervisor on fixing the boat landing at Cedar View Campground.

The Library Monthly Report was presented to the council.

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Roll Call: All Ayes.

Mayor Betsinger asked the council what they wanted to do for the In-Kind contribution for the Catalyst Grant for Anthofer Properties. The city previously agreed to an in-kind contribution up to \$5,000. Cerwinski motioned to replace the waterline, curb stop, sewer line, and water meter. Kelleher seconded. Motion Carried. Roll Call 4 Ayes: Cerwinski, Johnson, Kelleher, and Shelby. Anthofer abstained.

The city discussed approving a city wide garage sale. Cerwinski motioned for the city to not be involved with garage sales. Kelleher seconded. Motion Carried.

The council reviewed the amended ambulance contract. After discussing the contract, Cerwinski made a motion to not approve the contract. Anthofer seconded. M/C. Roll Call: All Ayes to not approve the contract.

The council discussed revising its current Peddler/Transient Merchant Contract and Fees. The council will have to amend the ordinance. Cerwinski motioned to set a public hearing to amend the peddlers, solititors, and transient merchants ordinance for April 5th. Anthofer seconded. Motion Carried. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The council discussed the Mayor and Council wages. The council proposed setting a public hearing for April 5th to discuss changing the Mayor and Council Wages. Shelby motioned to set a public hearing to discuss Mayor wages for April 5th. Kelleher Seconded. Motion Carried. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Johnson motioned to set a public hearing for April 5th to discuss revising Council wages. Anthofer seconded. Motion Carried. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The council reviewed the Development Agreement that was provided as a template by the IEDA, which is an agreement between the City of Nashua and the grant recipient Anthofer Properties if the grant is awarded. Shelby motioned to approve the Development Agreement. Cerwinski seconded. Motion Carried. Roll Call: All Ayes.

The council discussed utilizing work orders for the Park and Street Department to help with getting tasks completed that are a priority of the city. It will help give the departments some direction and it will also help keep the council informed of what is getting done.

City Clerk Ott also discussed current water and sewer rates and the water and sewer budget revenue shortfalls, especially in regards to the Sewer Fund. He reviewed some information from some reports that he had created and explained why the city has a shortfall in sewer revenues. The main reason is that the sewer revenue bond and sewer contract equal \$34.30/Month and the Minimum sewer bill is only \$31.27. This does not account for any other Sewer Fund line item expenses. The City is also looking

at applying for some grant funds for the Greeley St. project and if the utility fees are set too low, the city would not be able to utilize these funding sources as they would be excluded from the application process. The city is going to be looking at increasing its sewer rates to make up for this shortfall and will hold a public hearing on April 5, 2021. Kelleher noted that the camping fees and shelter fees will be discussed at the next Park Board meeting on March 30th and he will bring the results of those discussions to the next council meeting.

Johnson made a motion for registering for "Pick Up Iowa". Anthofer seconded. Motion Carried.

There was no other business. Cerwinski motioned to adjourn. Anthofer seconded. M/C. The meeting adjourned at 9:36PM.

Pending Approval by City Council
John Ott City Clerk

Feb Revenue.....\$18,206.25
.....\$79,289.26
LAKE/DAM TOTAL.....\$0.00
.....\$93,495.19
URBAN REVITAL (LOST ONLY)
TOTA.....\$0.00
.....\$84,629.13
ROAD USE TOTAL.....\$14,535.17
.....\$158,434.09
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TOTAL
.....\$1,369.15
.....\$75,127.16
EMRGNY FUND (TRAN TO GF)
TOTA.....\$145.45
.....\$7,289.86
LOCAL OPTION TAX TOTAL
.....\$0.00
.....\$142,076.10
TIF FUNDS TOTAL.....\$0.00
.....\$27,678.41
DEBT SERVICE TOTAL.....\$1,238.42
.....\$126,596.23
FEMA FUND #301 LAKE/DAM
TOTAL.....\$0.00
.....\$1,096,324.76
FIRE TRUCK 2020 (DODGE)
TOTAL.....\$0.00
.....\$161,904.76
PERM FUNDS-LIB WATSON TOTAL
.....\$0.00
.....\$986.44
PERM FUNDS-CITY WATSON
TOTAL.....\$831.78
.....\$9,424.90
PERM FUNDS-LIBRARY-BERRIE
TOTA.....\$0.00
.....\$263.49
WATER TOTAL
.....\$18,629.13
.....\$175,450.22
UTILITY DEPOSITS TOTAL
.....\$150.00
.....\$3,000.00
SEWER TOTAL
.....\$26,729.05
.....\$253,723.22
SEWER SINKING TOTAL
.....\$13,154.17
.....\$105,233.36

STORM WATER UTILITY TOTAL
.....\$3,665.92
.....\$33,670.55
CLAIMS REPORT (March 2-15, 2021)
U.S. POST OFFICE
WATER/SEWR/GAR - MARCH 2021
.....\$205.27
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY
STREETS-OIL AND FILTER
.....\$67.22
BADGER METER
WATER-MTR SVC CONRCT-FEB
2021.....\$586.51
MIDAMERICAN ENERGY
GAS/ELECTRIC EXP-FEB 2021
.....\$7,698.36
OTT, JOHN
CH-TRAINING IMFOA REIMBURSE
.....\$125.00
RILEY'S INC.
CH-COPY FEES JAN 2021 \$201.74
S & T COLLISION
PARKS-VEHICLE REPAIRS
.....\$444.00
SUPERIOR LUMBER, INC.
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GENERAL FUND.....\$16,892.19
ROAD USE\$6,125.68
WATER\$3,909.30
SEWER\$6,634.18
TOTAL FUNDS\$33,561.35
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NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

MARCH 21ST-27TH



Photos courtesy of Lavonne Suhr
Eleven-year-old Ely Suhr (left) shows off one of his white homing pigeons this past weekend, eight months after another pigeon (right) in his flock won the grand championship at the 2020 Chickasaw County 4-H and FFA Achievement Show in Nashua.



It's National Ag Day!

What Is Ag Day?

It's a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture.

Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture to not only our nation but to countries around the globe.

When Is Ag Day?

Ag Day was celebrated on Tuesday, and it always falls during National Agriculture Week, which began on Sunday and runs through Saturday.

Who Hosts Ag Day?

The Agriculture Council of America hosts the campaign on a national level. However, the awareness efforts in communities across America are as influential - if not more - than the broad-scale effort.

Again this year, the Ag Day Planning Guide has been created to help communities and organizations more effectively host Ag Day events.

What Is Ag Day All About?

Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

Why Celebrate Agriculture?

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution.

This is particularly the case in our schools, where students may only be exposed to agriculture if they enroll in related vocational training.

By building awareness, the Agriculture Council of America is encouraging young people to consider career opportunities in agriculture.

Each American farmer feeds more than 165 people ... a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960s.

Quite simply, American agriculture is doing more - and doing it better.

As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food and fiber produced by the agricultural industry in the United States.

— SOURCE: agday.org

A FARM KID WITH A TWIST

YOUNG ELY SUHR IS A 'WALKING ENCYCLOPEDIA' WHEN IT COMES TO HIS PIGEONS

By BOB FENSKE
Of the Reporter

Yes, pigeons.

It all started when the Suhrs headed over to a neighbor's place for a bonfire.

"The guy was saying 'look at those stupid pigeons, they fly into the barn,' so I said something like 'I'd be interested in catching a couple of them,'" Suhr said. "I ended up getting five. Three escaped, but I still have two and now I'm building it up."

Indeed, he is.

He has 13 adults, three babies and four eggs, and he's got a plan.

One day — in a year or two — he'll have enough white homing pigeons to release at events like weddings and funerals.

"They're like white doves, except doves don't

know to go home," he said. "Seriously, it's going to be pretty cool. I have to train them, but pigeons are actually really smart and they will go home."

His mother laughed when she was asked about her son's affinity for pigeons.

"Ely is seriously a walking encyclopedia when it comes to them," she said. "It's amazing what he knows about them. I can honestly say I never thought I'd be on a farm where we raised pigeons, but here we are."

The first thing he must do is — as he puts it — "breed them up." And then he'll begin training them.

SEE PIGEONS, 7

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

MARCH 21ST-27TH



FOOD Brings Everyone to the Table

AG DOES MORE THAN BRING FOOD TO THE TABLE

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) has announced the 2021 National Ag Day video and written essay winners.

The winners were chosen based on the theme: How American Agriculture Brings Food to the Table. The theme presented an opportunity for high school students to address how agriculture brings everyone together by feeding a growing population.

Entrants chose to either write an essay or create a video. A first-place written winner and a video winner were selected.

"CHS has long supported rural youth education and leadership programs and we are proud to give this year's essay contest winners a platform that lets them share their ideas with a broader audience," said CHS Inc. Marketing Communications Director Annette Degnan said. She also serves on the Agriculture Council of America board.

The national written essay winner, Jaxon Rauber of High Point, North Carolina, receives a \$1,000 prize and will read his winning essay at the virtual Ag Day event today (Tuesday). The contest also named two merit winners who receive \$100 and blog posts featuring their essays.

The Ag Day Essay Contest is sponsored by CHS Inc., National Association of Farm Broadcasting and Farm Progress.

Founded in 1973, National Ag Day encourages every American to understand how food and fiber products are produced; appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products; value the essential role of agricul-

ture in maintaining a strong economy and acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.

This year's winning essay follows:

My great-grandfather was an ag teacher in western New York. By the time I arrived, he had long since retired. His hands were strong, and seemed permanently stained with the earth.

When I was young, he would put us to work picking strawberries and green beans from the garden, or cracking piles of walnuts. He would walk us out back to feed the cows and goats in the neighbor's pasture. Sometimes he would teach us about the trees, advising us how to tell the difference between white oak and black oak. Friends stopped by to visit and often came bearing gifts from their own crops.

My great-grandmother worked magic in a small farmhouse kitchen as she prepared a mouth-watering spread with all that we had gathered.

I feel fortunate to have had these early experiences. We all know food brings everyone to the table, but agriculture makes it all happen.

Agriculture has evolved significantly over time, from its simplistic beginnings, which allowed people to begin settling in communities, to modern practices of vertical farming and the use of robotics and drones.

According to recent studies, precision agriculture allows farmers more accurate techniques for planting and growing

crops, which in turn increases efficiency and cost management. (Ku). This focus on advancing farming practices is essential, as our population continues to increase.

By the year 2050, farmers will have to produce 70% more food to feed our growing population. (Shearing). The role of technology in agriculture is now more important than ever to meet the demands of the future.

Whereas the advancements in agricultural practices have allowed for more efficient food production, a growing focus on healthy, clean eating has increased the demand for food.

In addition to grocery store purchases, many people and restaurants are buying more produce at local farmers markets. According to the USDA, the number of registered farmers markets nearly doubled in a decade, reaching almost 8,700 in 2016 and leveled off just shy of 8,800 in 2019. (Maixner). Healthy eating habits are dependent upon the ability to access a wide variety of nutritious food, solidifying that agriculture is essential to our health and well-being.

While the world of agriculture is in a state of exciting technological advances that strive to meet the needs of our growing population, it is important that we not forget the vital roots of its existence. Agriculture not only brings food to the table, it brings family and friends. It builds tradition and reminds us of the importance of simplicity in life and the significance of those who share it.

Fifth-grader focused on building his flock

PIGEONS: FROM 7

The pigeon uninitiated might be asking how one trains pigeons?

"Wherever a baby pigeon sees its first sunlight," he said, "that's the place that they're always going to think of as home. So you start by going a little ways out, releasing them and then make sure they go home. And then you just move farther and farther out."

Trust us, the kid's done his research. His mom has a friend in Wisconsin, for example, who is a professional pigeon racer.

"They can go like a 1,000 miles and they can get up to like 80, 90 miles per hour," Ely said. "I mean seriously, I looked it up. Scientists have studied them and they actually have really high IQs and adapt to things pretty fast."

And while the 11-year-old isn't thinking about becoming a professional pigeon racer, he said he wouldn't mind one day "doing a few races" just for fun.

For now, though, he's going to continue to work to give

those celebrating a wedding or mourning the loss of a loved one something special — the release of birds that, albeit smaller, look like doves.

Ely has already tasted success when it comes to pigeons. At the 2020 Chickasaw County 4-H and FFA Achievement Show, one of his pigeons claimed the grand champion of the fair's poultry show.

"That was pretty cool," he said. "I've been going to the fair since I was a little kid and that's the first time anyone brought a pigeon. And it won, can you believe that?"

As for the longterm future? Suhr wants to follow in his parents' footsteps and farm.

But he also said he'll "probably need a side job."

That, however, is years away.

Right now, he's focused on feeding and watering his growing flock, and he's appreciative of his parents' support.

"Yeah, if we lived in town, I don't think mom would have let me do this," he said, "but you can do so much on a farm."



Photo courtesy of Lavonne Suhr

Ely Suhr "bands" one of his white pigeons Sunday afternoon in the trailer-turned-coop on his family's farm.

It all starts on a farm

Ag week salutes the working men and women who are involved in the business of agriculture. Farmers gamble on the weather, brave the elements, and work long, hard hours to produce the food we all need. We salute the farmers in the area.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

MARCH 21ST-27TH



Iowa ag secretary touts 'Choose Iowa' contest

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig invites school students to participate in the 2021 Choose Iowa Calendar Contest hosted by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

The artwork should feature at least one aspect of Iowa agriculture — food, livestock, crops or renewable fuels, for example.

Submissions will be judged on creativity and the ability to connect agriculture to everyday life.

Entries must be postmarked or emailed to the department by June 1, to be considered for the 2021-2022 Choose Iowa calendar.

The winning artists will be honored by

Secretary Naig during an award ceremony held on Tuesday, Aug. 17, in the Agriculture Building during the 2021 Iowa State Fair.

Their submissions will also be included in the Choose Iowa calendar that will be distributed online at ChooseIowa.com and at the department's booth in the Varied Industries Building during the State Fair.

"I encourage students of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the Choose Iowa calendar contest. It's a great opportunity to learn about food production, the broader agriculture community, and the profound impact it has on our state," Naig said. "Through this process, I hope students will realize there are a variety of

career opportunities in agriculture, right here in our state."

Students 18-years-old or younger are invited to participate. Pictures should be drawn in a horizontal orientation using only black lines on plain white, 8.5 by 11-inch paper.

The pictures should not be colored in. Entries can be emailed to communications@iowaagriculture.gov or mailed to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Coloring Calendar, 502 E 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa, 50319. Each submission should include an entry form, which lists the artist's name, age, school, hometown and contact information.

Technology plays key role in American agriculture

Modern industry is driven by technology. Advancements in technology have changed how business is conducted, with some industries undergoing dramatic changes since the dawn of the 21st century.

While agriculture might not be the first industry people think of when reflecting on the changing nature of industry, The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms are vastly different than those from a few decades ago.

Farmers have long relied on technology to make their operations as efficient, productive and profitable as possible.

Precision agriculture, which refers to technological advances designed to propel agriculture into the modern, computerized and information-based world, is helping the agricultural sector become more profitable and efficient while also improving safety and making agriculture more eco-friendly.

In addition, the NIFA notes that the modern agricultural industry employs technology such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and global positioning systems.

If it sounds complicated, that's because it is. For exam-



ple, modern sensors can detect soil conditions, potentially producing hundreds of readings per second. These sensors help farmers know the best possible time to plant seeds so they can reach their full potential. That improves both the efficiency of modern farms as well as their output.

The NIFA also notes that

agricultural technology has reduced waste.

For instance, thanks to agricultural technology, farmers no longer have to apply water, fertilizers and pesticides uniformly across entire fields. Technology has shown that farmers can simply target specific areas or even treat individual plants differently.

That saves time and allows farmers to use only minimal quantities of water, fertilizer and pesticides. In addition, according to the NIFA, employing agricultural technology in this fashion leads to higher crop productivity and reduces runoff of chemicals into rivers and groundwater, thereby reducing the farm's impact on local ecosystems.



Photo courtesy of Dennis Pagel

Bringing some 'cute' ag to the classroom

A visit by Nashua High School alum Joanne Tupper and a few of her family farm's piglets has become an annual event in Dennis Pagel's fourth-grade classroom at New Hampton Elementary School.

And the kids, for the most part, love it. Sure, there are a few who aren't quite sure if they want to hold the baby pigs, but most ... well, they can't wait to check them out.

Joanne and her husband, Larry, are Pagel's Ag in the Classroom partners, and each year, Joanne shares information about the "pork" side of their farm, and while the piglets are the highlight, Tupper also gives the students a first-hand lesson in the importance of math and how it's used in the real world, especially in agriculture.

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Awards go to those who helped feed Iowans in pandemic

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig recently announced the recipients of the 2021 Secretary's Iowa Ag Leader Awards, which are given to people and organizations that make exceptional contributions to the state's agriculture community.

This year's honorees include the Iowa Food Bank Association and the Iowa State University Meats Laboratory for their extraordinary efforts to help livestock producers overcome supply chain disruptions and feed hungry Iowans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ISU Meats Lab, the Iowa Food Bank Association and its six regional food banks, played vital roles in the state's food security initiatives, including Pass the Pork, Beef Up Iowa and Turkey to Table. These programs were developed by the Governor's Feeding Iowans Task Force in 2020, in part, to help livestock producers market their protein when the COVID-19 pandemic reduced meat processing capacity at the state's large processing facilities.

The programs strengthened the local food chain by connecting Iowa pork, beef and turkey producers with the Iowa Food Bank Association who served the donated meals to Iowans in need.

"Our partners at the ISU Meats Lab and Iowa Food Bank Association embody the spirit of the Secretary's Iowa Ag Leader Award. When times got tough, these groups found creative solutions to help livestock producers and food insecure Iowans who were going through a very difficult time," said Secretary Naig. "I am pleased to be able to acknowledge and thank them for their hard work and contributions to the Feeding Iowans food security programs."

Iowa State University Meats Laboratory — Secretary's Iowa Ag Leader Award for Leadership in Collaboration

The Iowa State University Meats Lab received the Secretary's Iowa Ag Leader Award for Leadership in Collaboration.

When the COVID-19 pandemic limited the state's meat processing capacity, the ISU Meats Lab re-opened its doors and started processing Iowa-grown pork and beef from local producers. These actions provided needed relief for producers who were struggling to market their livestock and gave the ISU Meats Science students



Photo courtesy of Iowa Department of Agriculture

Iowa Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig (left) presents the Iowa State University Meats Lab with the 2021 Iowa Ag Leader Award.

invaluable hands-on experience and training.

"Iowa State University serves Iowans. We provide world-class teaching and training in animal and meat science," said Dr. Dan Thomson, chair of the Iowa State University Department of Animal Science. "While many times our teaching focus is on science with practice, this project allowed us to teach our students meat science while serving humanity. It connected us with the beef and pork industries on a daily basis and it connected us to the food pantries that work so hard to help those in need. We have the facilities, the people and we care. It was a highlight of our year."

The Iowa Food Bank Association and its regional partners — Food Bank of Siouxland, Food Bank for the Heartland, Food Bank of Iowa, Northeast Iowa Food Bank, HACAP Food Reservoir and River Bend Foodbank — received the Secretary's Iowa Ag Leader Award for Leadership in Community.

During a period of unprecedented food insecurity, the Iowa Food Bank Association worked alongside the Governor's Feeding Iowan's Task Force, Iowa Department of

Agriculture and Land Stewardship, ISU Meats Laboratory and producer-led agriculture groups to deliver pork, beef, turkey, dairy and eggs to its regional food banks.

"On behalf of the Feeding America food banks serving Iowans, our deepest appreciation goes to all who have made the Pass the Pork, Beef Up Iowa and Turkey to Table programs a reality," said Linda Gorkow, executive director of the Iowa Food Bank Association.

"These innovative initiatives are making an impact to ensure essential protein is available to thousands of Iowans in need of food assistance. The pandemic resulted in double-digit increases in the number of Iowans in need of food. The Pass the Pork, Beef Up Iowa and Turkey to Table programs exemplify the strong spirit, caring hearts and hard work of Iowans helping to nourish one another during a time of crisis due to the pandemic."

To date, the ISU Meats Lab has processed 201,201 pounds of ground beef and pork for the Governor's Feeding Iowans programs, which provides 804,804 servings of Iowa-grown protein for the Iowa Food Bank Association.

Iowa: An agriculture powerhouse

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- Commercial Red Meat Production
- Corn Export Value
- Corn for Grain Production
- Egg Production
- Hogs and Pigs Inventory
- Hogs and Pigs Value
- Feeds and Other Grains
- Field and Miscellaneous Crops Value
- Total Layer Inventory
- Capacity of Off-Farm Storage Facilities
- Capacity of On-Farm Storage Facilities
- Pig Crop
- Pork Export Value
- Principal Crops Harvested Acreage
- Sows Farrowed
- Total Capacity of Storage Facilities

SECOND

- Cash Receipts
- Farm Production Expenditures
- Net Farm Income
- Soybean Export Value
- Soybean Production
- Total Value of Agricultural Exports

THIRD

- Milk Goat Inventory
- Number of Farms

• Principal Crops Total Value

FOURTH

- Beef Export Value
- Cash Rent per Acre for Cropland
- Cattle on Feed Inventory, January 1
- Steers 500 Lbs and over Inventory

FIFTH

- Corn for Silage Production
- Oat Production

SEVENTH

- All Cattle and Calves Inventory
- All Cattle and Calves Value
- Average Value of Cropland
- Number of USDA Certified Organic Farms
- Turkeys Raised

EIGHTH

- Alfalfa Hay Production

NINTH

- Cheese Production
- Sheep Shorn
- Total Lamb Crop
- Total Market Sheep & Lambs Inventory

TENTH

- Calf Crop
- Land in Farms
- All Sheep and Lambs Inventory
- Total Breeding Sheep & Lambs Inventory
- Wool Production

SOURCE: United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service



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One day at a time adds up to a sober quarter of a century

I've got to be honest, I really don't remember much about what was happening in the world in early 1996 in general and on March 23, 1996, in particular.

I had to look it up, actually. And here's what I found out.

Celine's Dion "Because You Loved Me" moved to No. 1 on the Billboard Top 100 charts, finally dislodging "One Sweet Day" by Boyz II Men and Mariah Carey, which had been the No. 1 song in the land since Dec. 2. "The Birdcage," one of the few Robin Williams' movies I haven't seen, was the top movie in the land while "ER," "Seinfeld" and "Friends" were in the midst of a heck of a battle to be the No. 1 show for the 1995-96 season. NBC's emergency room drama won the title, besting the two comedies that also aired on the network.

I mean I knew Bill Clinton was president and that Bob Dole was going to in all likelihood be the Republican nominee for that fall's general election. I knew the Olympics were coming up that summer in Atlanta. I mean

I wasn't totally brain dead.

But I was a drunk.

When Saturday, March 23, 1996, dawned (and I use that word very loosely because in my drinking days, noon was, in my world, dawn), I didn't know it but my life would forever change that day.

In many ways, it was a typical start to a typical Bob Fenske day. My head hurt, I wasn't exactly sure what had happened the night before and I told myself, as I had every day since I had relapsed "for good" in late December, that "this has to stop."

My apartment was a mess. My life was a mess.

I dragged my butt out of bed, walked into the bathroom and something had changed.

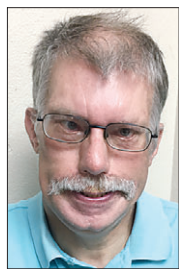
I just gave up. Right there, right then all I wanted to do was die.

I had put together 18 months of sobriety that ended with that relapse on my birthday in October 1996. After that night, I didn't drink for a month. I was cured. I mean if I got drunk just once a month, I was normal, right? Absolutely, alcoholism told me.

It's a disease that lies its you know what off, so I went back out and drank sometime in November. Then I went two weeks without picking up a bottle. I mean who doesn't get drunk at least every once two weeks, right? No one, alcoholism told me.

Then it was a week, then it was a few days and then by Christmas, I was drinking every day again. You're fine, alcoholism said, don't worry about it, and I freaking listened to the disease.

I broke my rules. I drank alone. I drank when I got up. I drank at work — running out to my car to have a little vodka here and a little whiskey there, topped off by



Bob Fenske has been the editor of the Nashua Reporter since 2010, and he can be reached by email at editor@nhtrib.com.

If you're an alcoholic or a drug addict or something, we flirt with death. We pull ourselves to the brink of destruction and if we're lucky we pull ourselves back. We all have that in us.

Anthony Hopkins

quotezancy

the strongest breath mints I could find.

That March 23 morning I made a plan to myself out of my misery. I was going to drive my car — a Ford Aspire — into a semi-trailer truck. The least I could do was give my mom and dad my life insurance money. But first I had to clean my apartment. I couldn't let my mom see the squalor I called home. And then I needed to deliver a letter of recommendation from Ottumwa to Pella, where one of my former part-timers was attending Central College.

I cleaned. I drove to Pella. I delivered the letter of recommendation to Mary Bohenke, one of the most idealistic kids I have ever known. We went for pizza. We talked. And, somewhere in that conversation, I decided that life was worth living. I didn't want to die anymore. But I also didn't want to drink anymore.

I struggled through that night at home. I never in my life have been so happy for 2 a.m. to roll around because for a few hours, I couldn't buy alcohol. I stayed with friends the next few days and then drove from Ottumwa to Mason City to go to the treatment center where I first admitted I had a problem with alcohol in April 1994.

I needed someone, anyone, to tell me what to do next.

The counselors at Prairie Ridge Addictions Treatment Center helped me start my sober journey. Hundreds of AA members kept me on the path for years, and honestly, I probably need to go back to those rooms where 12-step meetings are held but I've had some very close friends help me make it to today.

A quarter of a century without drinking. I remember going to AA meetings when I was in treatment and someone

would say they had been sober for 10 years, 20 years, 30 years and I must be honest: I thought they were lying because no one could go that long without drinking.

Turns out they weren't, because holy crap, if I can go 25 years — trust me, if you knew me back in my drinking days, you'd heartily agree — anyone can.

I am not one of those AA members who is an anti-drinker. I don't believe in Prohibition, except for people like me.

If I had continued drinking, I know I'd be dead by now. Alcoholism, depression and anxiety — especially as far advanced as my alcoholism was — add up to a lethal combination.

It hasn't been the smoothest ride ever. I suck at marriage, and I have a 0-for-2 record to prove it. I can't shake the depression and have had to take two "vacations" to deal with it since I sobered up. I get caught up in all the things I haven't done in my life, and I do it way too often. Both my parents have died during my sobriety. My step-daughter Sam did, too. The person I care about the most in the world ... oh hell, the list is long enough.

None of it has led me to drink.

Without sobriety, I never meet my first wife. I never have kids. I never move here. I never get the experiences — the good ones, the bad ones and the ones in between — I've had for the past 25 years.

Twenty-five years is a long time. If I've learned anything in that time it is that ending this column with "here's to 25 more years" would be the worst possible conclusion. It's a one-day-at-a-time deal. Period.

Instead, I'll leave it at this: Here's to one more sober day.

Nashua-Plainfield coach is proponent of larger playoffs

FOOTBALL: FROM 12

offs for the smaller schools, just because it allows for a little wiggle room for a team that maybe had a key injury or something, that 16 teams really didn't," said Christensen.

Christensen also stated that the eight-game regular season scheduled will also make it possible to have Friday games in the playoffs. He said the Wednesday, Monday, Friday scheduled round of postseason games was hard on everybody.

The state expanded the playoff system in all six classes to allow 32 teams in 2008. Those first round games were called substate games, with that designation being dropped two years later. Playoff qualifiers were lowered back down to 16 teams in each class in 2016.

This year there will be seven classes, as the newly formed Class 5A will feature 36 of the state's biggest schools in one district that determine its playoff participants via a success model schedule.

Just 16 teams qualify for the postseason in the three larger classes.

Christensen, entering his second-year at N-P as head coach after being an assistant coach at Charles City, is excited to take on a whole new slew of opponents. N-P went 1-7 under his direction in 2020, losing in the first round of the playoffs to South Winneshiek, 42-0. All teams in the six classes qualified for the postseason in the COVID-19 truncated campaign.

One matchup that has some intrigue for Christensen is the North Tama game. Christensen is a South Tama High School grad and was an assistant for North Tama during one of the school's most successful runs in program history.

"Honestly, I don't know many of the kids playing anymore, only a few from the Tama County Fair. I do still know a few of the coaches, a couple of them were players at my time at North Tama. Actually one is a former student and player from Charles City. My parents are happy that they will have a few short drives to see us play and I have other family members that are excited to see a game as

well," said Christensen.

N-P played against district opponents St. Ansgar, Lake Mills, West Fork, North Butler and Mason City Newman in 2020. Central Springs and Postville were non-district games.

Grundy Center headlines N-P's district. The Spartans (11-1) have played in back-to-back state championships and are the two-time defending Class A state runner-up. Christensen said Grundy Center will lose their leading rusher to graduation and most of their offensive line. But the Spartans do return their quarterback and all of their receivers.

Wapsie Valley went 9-2 and reached the quarterfinal round of the playoffs last fall, losing to eventual Class A champ Iowa City Regina, 32-27. Longtime WV coach Tony Foster retired after this past season and the Warrior program will be taken over by his son, Duane Foster.

Hudson finished just 2-6 last year. The Pirates competed in Class 1A last year and won a 2018 state title three years ago in Class A.

AGWSR went 5-4 in 8-Man competition and BCLUW was 1-7.

BCLUW, located in Conrad in Marshall County, would be the longest haul for N-P should that be an away game. The trip from Nashua to Conrad is listed at just over 75 miles one way.

N-P will return both its quarterbacks from last season in juniors Max Hillegas and Tyson White. Hillegas took over the play calling duties in the last two games, while White switched to tight end.

Junior wide receiver Sam Fundermann and junior running back Trey Nelson are top skill position players that should be back this fall for N-P. Junior wide receiver McKade Munn will also be another player Christensen will count on for offensive production.

"The boys are excited for the upcoming season and have been working to get ready for the season," said Christensen.

The state's first games of 2021 are set to be kicked off on Thursday, Aug. 26, although most teams will take the field for their openers the following night.

It's been a tough year for all of us who filled out NCAA brackets

BRACKET: FROM 1

not be ripped up and thrown into the trash.

That's what I'm doing next year to pick my favorites that I think will make it far in the "Dance." I'm breaking out a ball cap to select each winner

of every game via a blind draw — minus the water submersion.

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Bob Fenske/Reporter

Nashua-Plainfield's McKade Munn heads up field after making a catch during a game against Postville last fall.

It's A WHOLE NEW DISTRICT

HUSKIES WILL BE HEADING SOUTH FOR NEXT TWO FOOTBALL SEASONS

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

Punch in the map coordinates on your GPS and set the speedometer to cruise control — because the Huskies are headed south.

Head coach Andrew Christensen and his Nashua-Plainfield Husky football team will square off against brand new opponents in 2021 after the state enacted its customary two-year district realignment earlier this month.

That means plenty of tailgate trips to new venues near and far for football fanatics in every corner of the state.

Exactly when and where those road destinations will take Husky football fans to is yet to be determined as the state will officially set the schedule next month.

N-P does know its six opponents in Class A, District 3, though.

Those include the likes of traditional powers Wapsie Valley and Hudson, along with recent small-school class stalwart Grundy Center. AGWSR bumps up from 8-Player to join the single "A" 56-team class and will also compete in N-P's district. BCLUW and North Tama round out the northern Iowa conglomeration of teams.

"Overall, I like the district we were put in. It's nice to see some fresh faces. I know that N-P had been in that Mason City area district for a long time. I don't know if the district we were put in is easier or harder, but I would maybe say that there are more unknowns," said Christensen.

Class A will play eight regular season games in this new format released by the Iowa High School Athletic Association on March 12. That means Class A teams play six district games and two non-district tilts.

"Personally, I like what the state did with classifications. I think overall if you look at what they did they sort of balanced out the classes. Class A will be pretty much the same overall with where the cutoff is," said Christensen.

Christensen said North Butler, Central Springs or either Postville are N-P's likely non-district foes.

The kicker in Class A, along with 2A, 1A and 8-Player, is the state has moved back to allowing 32 qualifiers for the post-season. That also means if a squad does not make the cut for the playoffs, they can schedule a ninth game. Christensen said one of the reasons he likes playing that extra game if a team doesn't make the postseason is being able to claim lost revenue through ticket sales.

"I do like 32 teams making the play-

SEE FOOTBALL, 11

ON TAP FOR THE NASHUA-PLAINFIELD HUSKIES

TUESDAY

Track at St. Ansgar Early Bird Coed, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 5

Boys golf vs. Charles City and Osage at Cedar Ridge Golf Course, Charles City, 4 p.m.

Girls golf at Charles City, Cedar Ridge Golf Course, 4 p.m.

Track at Osage Coed, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Girls golf vs. Newman Catholic and Osage at Mason City Country Club, 4:15 p.m.



Boys golf vs. Newman Catholic and Osage at Highland Park Golf Course, Mason City, 4:15 p.m.

Boys track at Hudson Relays, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Girls track at Hampton-Dumont Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Boys and girls golf vs. Clarksville, Dunkerton and Tripoli at Nashua Town and Country Club, 4:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Boys and girls golf vs. St. Ansgar and North Butler at Acorn Park Golf and Recreation Club, St. Ansgar, 4:15 p.m.

Is that your final answer, because I have no clue

Bracket busted? Duh.

Mine's shattered to pieces. Teenie, tiny shards of hope are all that remain.

I'm left with one undeniable truth after the first week of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament pulverized my "sheet of integrity."

We don't know anything.

I might as well have filled out my bracket blindfolded with both hands tied behind my back while sitting upside down.

Maybe the blood rushing to my head would have produced at least one solid sleeper pick that managed to slide into the next round.

Oral Roberts, Abilene Christian, Ohio, Oregon State, North Texas and Loyola?

Are you kidding me?

I don't even think that was all of the upsets that went down, which is defined by most pundits as a team seeded at least five spots lower than the squad they knocked off.

Yes, that included Oregon over Iowa — whether you want to consider that thrashing a surprise victory or not be it how dominant the Ducks were in running the Hawkeyes out of the gym. There were a lot of critics and followers of hoops that deemed the Ducks' dunk fest over Iowa one of the most complete offensive showcases the tournament has seen in recent memory.

But most of those upset specials were some of the least favorite selections to pull off shockers in their respective seeds. Yet they all defied logic and survived in what was a wacky weekend — but an absolute joy to watch. (Unless you were a Hawkeye fan hoping for a spot in the Sweet 16).

North Carolina State and Villanova these "David's" are not — but we still have plenty of rounds left to decide a champion in Indianapolis.

Trust me, Goliath can be slayed. All it takes is one stone to find its mark. My prospective picks decided to choose many rocks and then proceeded to rifle them to the rim in vain.

Now I'm not here to regale scripture, but obviously strange things can happen and the mighty have fallen. People have won millions of dollars by picking those long- shots in this crazy tournament that elicits just as much sadness as it does madness.

But don't bet on it. (Read my last column).

Who knows if there could be another reincarnation of Jimmy Valvano running around and looking for a hug like he did in 1983 in Albuquerque? Or Rollie Massimino being carried off the court by his victorious players in Lexington two years later?

Those were Cinderellas for the ages. They're out there — just ask Butler.

But they're even harder to predict. Experts get it wrong, professionals misfire and somehow little old Betty from San Bernardino manages to pick all Sweet 16 entrants correctly and she has never even watched a basketball game in her long and productive life.

There is no Betty from San Bernardino (There actually probably is). It's a metaphor.

A way to explain this insanity or at least break down March Madness into simpler terms.

Flipping a coin may have been a better route taken than my "diligent research."

Heck, you could have lowered me into an Olympic-sized swimming pool, forced me to hold my breath and I would have come up with better results than the chicken scratches that were my picks for the Sweet 16. I came up with those "gems" on dry land and with an unlimited supply of oxygen.

Houdini I am not, but the single bracket I filled out did produce some magic — as in my team's disappearing from the tournament all together.

Poof, they mysteriously vanished and cannot be found.

I have not sent out a search party to retrieve and res-cue those underachievers and utter disappointments that seemed like they couldn't throw a ball into the ocean.

I think they're best left to stick to masonry on solid soil — because they were pretty good at piling up brick after brick.

No, this is not a standup comedy routine, but I am a tad frazzled around the edges. It doesn't take much. Basketball to me is the most high-energy and stressful sport I watch.

There is no close second.

But that gets me back to my original point — just who do we think we are?

And when I say "we," I mean anyone with a pulse and a functioning cerebral cortex.

I don't care if you study for hours or days or even months to try to nail this bracket right — you will more than likely fail.

With information at my fingertips that would make Encyclopedia Britannica blush, I could not produce a winner.

And I'm far from being even remotely considered an expert on this sport James Naismith created in the late 19th Century.

This sport millions of us love is 130 years old.

In this the Information Age and 24-hour news cycle, we process data at an alarming rate on our smartphones, iPads or tablets or laptops or whatever heck the kids are using nowadays to learn.

Maybe that is the problem. Maybe we need to slow down and breathe, take a step back and just go for a walk — get some fresh air circulating through our lungs.

Or talk to somebody face to face instead of staring into the abyss of a computer screen.

Technology is great, but it can also be a very dangerous weapon if not used correctly.

I remember cutting out the NCAA men's hoops tourney bracket from the newspaper every year starting in 1983. I continued that trend well into the 2000s. And yes, I also made sure my scissors cut correctly to nab a copy of the women's tournament bracket as well. I filled them out and followed each team's progress.

I would also write every team down on a piece of paper and then carefully cut them down to size and throw them into a hat. Then my family members would select a small piece of paper with their team's name on it.

I can't remember what we were playing for, other than to proclaim yourself the winner if your team was the last one to

SEE BRACKET, 11



Kelly Terpstra has been the Reporter's sports editor since 2020, and he can be reached by email at sports@nhtrib.com.

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 2ND
6:00PM

EASTER SERVICES
APRIL 4TH
9:00 • 10:30AM
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMING
BIRTH-5TH GRADE

prairielakes.org
234 S. LINN AVENUE, NEW HAMPTON

MONDAYS
APRIL 5-JUNE 28
6:00-7:30PM | \$15/PERSON

GRIEF SHARE

REGISTER ONLINE
[GRIEFSHARE.ORG/GROUPS/132696](https://griefshare.org/groups/132696)

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ASSEMBLER (WEEKEND SHIFT / FRIDAY-SUNDAY / 12-HOUR DAYS) - \$15.64 / HR.
ASSEMBLER (2ND & 3RD SHIFT / MONDAY-THURSDAY / 10-HOUR DAYS) - \$15.64 / HR.
WAREHOUSE UTILITY (3RD SHIFT) - \$15.64 / HR.
DIE CAST A OPERATOR (2ND & 3RD SHIFT) - \$19.62 / HR.
DIE CAST B OPERATOR (2ND & 3RD SHIFT) - \$15.64 / HR.
WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR (2ND SHIFT) - \$15.64 / HR.
UTILITY B (2ND & 3RD SHIFT) - \$15.64 / HR.
PLATING A OPERATOR - ZINC (3RD SHIFT) - \$17.02 / HR.
STAMPING B OPERATOR (2ND SHIFT) - \$15.64 / HR.
FINISHING A OPERATOR (2ND & 3RD SHIFT) - \$17.02 / HR.

TriMark Corporation offers competitive wages and an outstanding benefits package including medical, dental, vision, life, flexible spending accounts, salary continuation, long term disability, long term care, 401(k), paid time off (vacation, holiday), tuition reimbursement.

An application must be completed separately for each position you are interested in. For consideration, ensure that your application is completed in its entirety and includes full work history. Please refer to our website, www.trimarkcorp.com to submit applications electronically.

Applicants for employment will be required to undergo a physical examination and/or drug screen test as a condition of employment. Equal Opportunity Employer

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