



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Lantz/Nashua Women of Today

Easter Egg Hunts are coming up soon!

Kids dash on to the court at the Husky Wellness Center during the 2025 Easter Egg Hunt, and kids will have the opportunity to do so again a week from this Saturday when the Nashua Women of Today holds its annual event, beginning at 10 a.m.

Also on April 4, the Plainfield Park Easter Egg Hunt will be put on by the Plainfield Days Committee, beginning at 10 a.m.

And for those who can't wait a week, Prairie Lakes Church is sponsoring its Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, with the fun beginning at 10 a.m.

After 'no-show' max levy hearing, supervisors cover plenty of ground

Board members follow through with reducing number of 'deputies' in county
By Bob Fenske
Of the Reporter

Just three Chickasaw County residents showed up for Monday's Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors meeting and none of them had nary a word to say during the county's annual public hearing on its maximum tax levy.

In other words, unlike some years in the past, this was a quiet max levy hearing. "That could be the headline: 'No one talked at the public hearing,'" Board Chairman Jake Hackman joked later in the meeting, but then again, the silence wasn't totally unexpected because the county is actually lowering its tax-asking for the 2026-27 budget year that begins on July 1.

But if meeting No. 1 was quiet — under Iowa law, the public hearing on the max levy can be the only item on that meeting's agenda — meeting No. 2 wasn't as board members moved ahead with purchasing a new ambulance for Chickasaw County EMS, followed through with their plans to reduce the number of deputies in the Auditor's Office and appointed two members to the city of New Hampton's Board of Adjustment.

Start with that max levy public hearing, Supervisors control three levies — General Basic (GB), General Supplemental (GS) and Rural Services Basic (RSB) — and all three will be heading "south" next year. GB's levy is dropping from \$3.50 per \$1,000 valuation to \$3.39806 per \$1,000 valuation, but that decrease was required by law because the county's valuations grew by almost 9 percent.

GS, meanwhile, is dropping from \$1.85 per \$1,000 valuation to \$1.39256 per \$1,000 valuation, a decrease of 24.7 percent while RSB max levy — which because of the increased valuations, had to go from \$3.50 per \$1,000 valuation down to at least \$3.39806 — is at \$3.10 per \$1,000 valuation, a decrease of 11.4 percent.

Under state law, supervisors can drop levy rates after the publication of the max levies, but they can't raise them.

Board members hope to finalize the 2026-27 levies during its April 13 meeting. "If we see a decrease moving forward," Hackman said, "we can decrease it more. If not, that's what we will probably move forward with at the next public hearing."

The second meeting of the day, one that commenced eight minutes after the first adjourned, was busier. Supervisors spent a decent amount of time talking with Chickasaw County EMS



Bob Fenske/Reporter

Chickasaw County Auditor Sheila Shekleton makes a pitch to the Board of Supervisors on Monday to give one of her employees a raise even though the current deputy is being reclassified as a "clerk," beginning July 1.

Director Joel Knutson about the three ambulance bids the board opened during its March 16 meeting.

Knutson said he spent the week looking over the bids and recommended the board approve the proposal made by Legacy Emergency Vehicles, a dealer for Sumner-based Life Line Emergency Vehicles. That bid was for \$237,514, and that included \$33,000 for the vehicle the service plans to trade in when the new rig arrives in about a couple of years.

The EMS director said that the contract also stated that if the trade-in vehicle had less than 75,000 miles on it, Legacy Emergency Vehicles would add \$4,000 on the trade-in, but supervisors and Knutson seemed less than enthusiastic about doing that.

"I mean by the time that truck goes down the road, we anticipate we'll have over 130,000 to 140,000 miles on it," Knutson said, "so I don't foresee us staying under that 75, and I don't think it would be financially prudent, either."

Board members did agree that the county should make a 25 percent down payment, which would bring with it a \$5,000 discount on the final price, and they balked at an idea offered by Supervisor Travis Suckow to have the county independently sell the ambulance it plans to trade in before finally approving the RFP from Legacy Emergency Vehicles on a 5-0 vote.

The lengthiest discussion of the day for board members came when they considered allowing each of the elected offices in the county that currently have "deputies" to only have one per office.

That would not affect the Treasurer's or Recorder's Office but would lead to the Auditor's Office having one current deputy be reclassified as a clerk.

Board members quickly approved the resolution, but the subject came back up during a budget work session later in the meeting when supervisors took up the pay question for the position that will be moved from a deputy status to a clerk.

Auditor Sheila Shekleton made a spirited case for giving that employee a raise when the 2026-27 budget year begins, but supervisors didn't appear sold.

"I'll say this, I appreciate the extra duties," board member Issac Carter said, "and I've never before taken money away from someone, but I think you just can't justify that [raise] regardless of the duties because then everyone starts going, 'I do this, I do that, I should be making \$30 an hour as well.'"

Board members pointed out that even with \$1.50 per hour raises, clerks in other county offices in the courthouse will be making between \$21.08 and \$26.10 per hour in 2026-27.

In the end, they asked Shekleton to refigure her budget without the raises and then if board members decide to up the hourly wage for the Auditor's Office clerk when they set salaries in June, the board will consider adopting a budget amendment early in the fiscal year.

"I am not a big fan of talking about budget amendments before the budget has even been passed," Cerwinski said, "but I get it and I think this is the best way to go."

Board members also approved two appointments — Blake Ohm and current member Suellen Kolbet — to the New Hampton Board of Adjustment for terms that run through 2030.

Ohm's appointment passed on a 5-0 vote while Kolbet's was approved on a 4-0 vote because Supervisor Steve Breitbach, who is Kolbet's brother, abstained.

Primary may be 'quiet,' but county races on tap for fall general election

ELECTION: FROM 1

filed candidate papers before last Friday's deadline and is the lone Democrat seeking to get on the ballot for the seat Cerwinski currently holds.

And the Cerwinski-Ashley race is kind of a microcosm for other county races, for the June primary election will be, simply put, quiet.

The same, however, can't be said for the general election this fall as three incumbents — two supervisors and the county recorder, are facing challenges. That number could grow, of course, but after the primary filing period closed on Friday, it appears we'll have some honest-to-goodness races when voters head to the polls in November.



In addition to Cerwinski, District 5 Supervisor Travis Suckow and Recorder Shirley Troyna will have challenges on the other side of their party lines.

Suckow, a Republican, is destined to meet Democrat Jason Byrne in District 5 while Troyna, a Democrat, will tangle with Republican Gina Fangman for recorder.

County Attorney David Laudner, a Republican, and County Treasurer Matt Ysbrand, also a Republican, so far have no challengers in either the primary or general elections.

Still, the final ballot for November county races is not set because non-party political organization (NPPO) candidates and other petition-only

candidates have a June 2 deadline for filing candidate papers.

Byrne, meanwhile, is seeking a third term on the Board of Supervisors. He served from 2009 to 2012 before losing a re-election bid to Dan Carolan. But the Lawler Democrat beat Carolan in the 2016 election and rejoined the board from 2017 to 2020 before losing his seat to Byrne.

Troyna is seeking a third full term as the county's recorder, and she will be challenged by Fangman, who currently serves as the deputy real estate and elections commissioner in the Auditor's Office although her deputy position has been eliminated by the current Board of Supervisors and she will become a clerk in the office on July 1.

JoAnn Dorothy Demro, 92

JoAnn Dorothy Demro, age 92 of Nashua, died peacefully on Friday, March 20, 2026, at Apple Valley Place in Charles City.

A Celebration of Life with take place at a later date.

JoAnn Dorothy (Eckenrod) Demro was born on April 11, 1933, in Nashua, to Harvey and Celia Eckenrod. She was the younger of two children and was preceded in death by her beloved brother, Jack Eckenrod.

JoAnn married the love of her life, Floyd Demro, in 1952 in Nashua, Iowa. Together, they built a life rooted in love, family and community.

JoAnn began her career as a country schoolteacher in a one-room schoolhouse, where she nurtured young minds with dedication and care. She later continued her passion for education at both Nashua and Plainfield Elementary Schools, where she touched the lives of many students over the years.

A devoted member of Saint Michael's Catholic Church in Nashua, JoAnn shared her faith by teaching religious education and organizing biblical plays for holidays, bringing scripture to life with her signature creativity and flair.

JoAnn was a woman full of life and imagination. Known for her theatrical spirit, she loved a good story and a good song. She played the organ, delighted in dressing her family in silly costumes, and hosted tea parties filled with laughter with her grandchildren. She was also



JoAnn Demro

an avid curler. Alongside her husband Floyd, the two enjoyed many years on the ice together and went on to win several tournaments, or "bonspiels," as they are known in the sport.

She could be stubborn and determined, while equally kind-hearted and deeply devoted to those she loved.

JoAnn is survived by her two sons, Jack Demro (Ann Gary) and Scot Demro (Shirley Smith). She was a proud grandmother to Chris and Carly, children of Jack and Ann, and to Cade and Cole, children of Scot and Shirley. She was also blessed with a great-granddaughter, Alexandria Demro, daughter of Cade and Brittany Demro.

JoAnn will be remembered for her warmth, creativity, strong faith, and unwavering love for her family. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched and the memories she created.

Hugeback Johnson
Funeral Home & Crematory

Joshua Roosa, 39

Joshua Roosa, age 39, passed away on Sunday, March 8, 2026, due to heart complications, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born on July 8, 1986, to John and Trisha Roosa. Throughout his life, Joshua worked in a variety of fields, including welding and mechanics; however, he found his greatest enjoyment in driving trucks.

Joshua will be remembered for his signature wave, his love of riding his Harley, fast cars, and fishing and, most of all, for the way he showed up for others. He was known for his generosity and willingness to help those in need, often placing others before himself.

Josh's greatest joy was his family. He and his two sons, Luke and Leo, found that joy grow even more when they met the love of his life, Jasmine (Mayo) Roosa, and her two daughters, Madie and Mercedes Badker. Josh and Jasmine were married on July 21, 2022, and together they built a life filled with love, laughter and cherished time as a family.

He is survived by his wife,



Josh Roosa

Jasmine Roosa; his children, Luke, Leo, Madie and Mercedes; his mother, Trisha (Danny); his sister, Katie; his father, John (Lisa); and his maternal grandmother, Joyce.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Gene ("Papa"); his uncle, Ed; his paternal grandmother, Anne; his nephew, Kaleb; and his good friend, Jimmy Hunt.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Greene VFW.

Deadline to submit art for show is April 6

The Iowa Artists organization is looking for artists to submit their original design and handcrafted artwork for the Iowa Artists Regional Area 3 Art Show.

This year the show will be held Saturday, April 11, from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pivo Brewery and Blepta Art Studio, Calmar.

Information to obtain membership forms, rules and entry forms can also be obtained from the show coordinators, Sue Kuennen at susan.kuennen@yahoo.com 414-380-6905 or Sara Kuboushek at regionthreeiowaartist@gmail.com 563-562-1053.

NORTH IOWA TREE SERVICE LLC
Professional Tree Removal & Trimming
Call or Text Michael 641-426-6767
Fully Insured • FREE QUOTES
northiowatreeservice.com

CALL TODAY 319-231-1334
Roofing Experts
SPECIALIZING IN CLASS 4 IMPACT RESISTANT PREMIUM REDUCING SHINGLES
LOCAL AND TRUSTED
BEN LOVRIEN
CLARKSVILLE, IA | BJLOV@BUTLER-BREMER.COM