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Page 9



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Relatively few turn out to vote

Light turnout marks primary that brings one shocker, Feenstra knocked off by Lahn

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter



Rep. Randy Feenstra was seen as a prohibitive favorite heading into Tuesday; in fact, the only question seemed to be would the three-term congressman top the 35 percent threshold that is required of prima-

ry winners to avoid a nominating convention. The good news for Feenstra is he topped that mark, garnering 78,741 votes, or 37 percent of the total. The bad news for Feenstra is businessman Zach Lahn bested him, picking up 80,381 votes, or 37.8 percent, and it will be Lahn who will take on

SEE PRIMARY, 3

Put it this way: There were few, if any, lines for voters in Tuesday's primary. But although polling places were relatively quiet in both Chickasaw and Bremer counties, there was at least one "loud" result from the election that decided the party nominees for the Nov. 3 general election. That came in the Republican primary for governor, where U.S.

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City workers will continue to mow 'nuisance lawns'

City learns it would have to go out for bids if it decides to use a 'third party' for mowing

By **KELLY TERPSTRA**
Of the Reporter

For now, the Town of Nashua will continue to use city workers that will mow nuisance lawn properties. The City Council on Monday during a regular meeting discussed the possibility of hiring a third party to trim those lawns in town that have gotten out of hand and have grown past a length that is deemed unacceptable by city code. Nashua officially voted last month to raise the fee that penalizes property owners with a fine that doesn't keep their lawns manicured. If the problem persists and owners of property in town that have let their lawns get out of hand, they will be assessed a \$300 daily fee, plus an hourly rate of \$75 an hour it takes city workers to mow those lawns. For each additional mowing, the base fee will increase by another \$300 daily. That daily fee was raised from \$150 to \$300 in May and the hourly rate was included in that vote to approve the change in the city ordinance. The maximum fee that the city can charge per day is \$750 and Nashua City Attorney David Skilton recommended the city charge that fee if any property owner would confront a city worker mowing their lawn in a hostile or aggressive manner. The municipal infraction of \$750 would be on top of the \$300 daily fine and the \$75 hourly rate. Skilton also added that if a city worker is approached by a property owner, to leave the property.

New city worker Keegan Ulrichs currently mows the nuisance lawn properties. The city plans on him replacing Zenda Vikturek as Nashua Area EMS Director, although there has been no official vote to do so. Vikturek officially retired on May 31 and the city accepted her resignation on Monday. The city has been in contact with a third party that could mow the lawns. "Somebody has approached the city. We have

SEE CITY COUNCIL, 4



Bob Fenske/Reporter

The Nashua Area EMS "day crew" — Shea Gerber, Keegan Ulrichs and Zade McCall — pose for a photo by the service's rig that is housed at the Nashua Fire and EMS station.

FINDING NICHE IN HIS HOMETOWN

KEEGAN ULRICHS, A 2021 N-P HIGH GRAD, TAKES OVER AS THE DIRECTOR OF NASHUA AREA EMS

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

RETIRING DIRECTOR PROUD OF THE SERVICE SHE'S 'HANDING OVER.'

— PAGE 2

When Keegan Ulrichs graduated from Nashua-Plainfield High School in 2021, he knew two things. He wanted to stay in his hometown, and he didn't want to go to school, at least not right away. "I love a small town, I love this small town," the new Nashua Area EMS director said during an interview in his office at City Hall Thursday

morning. "It's a great community. We are always there for each other, and I think we have a great following, especially with the fire and EMS. People support us big time. I mean look at our fall fundraiser last year. It was a big, big hit for us."

Ulrichs didn't exactly take a "straight line" to his new position. After graduating from high school, he went to work for Coca-Cola — working first as a "merchandiser" where he stocked shelves, filled coolers and built displays in stores like Wal-Mart, Hy-Vee and Fareway. He then went to the service side of the industry working on pop machines in fast-food restaurants and bars.

SEE EMS DIRECTOR, 2

Supervisors give final approval for new windows at courthouse

County's head custodian says project will be done by winter

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

is to be done by Halloween or November at the latest." The awarding of the contract came a week after supervisors opened sealed bids on a project that was estimated at \$800,000. Bids ranged from the \$797,055 submitted by Steege to \$974,298, but supervisors wanted County Engineer Roman Lensing to go over the bid documents to make sure the county was getting what it was asking for before making a final decision. Board Chairman Jake Hackman said on Tuesday that the time had come to replace the windows that were installed in the late 1970s. "There's going to be a lot more UV protection ... and yes, the energy efficiency is going to be a big plus," he said. "We've

It's official: The Chickasaw County Courthouse is getting new windows — a bunch of them in fact. The Board of Supervisors on Monday unanimously approved a contract with Steege Construction of Waverly to replace the current windows in the courthouse with windows that county leaders say will be more energy-efficient and more "user friendly" in a couple of ways. Now, when exactly workers will begin "swapping out" windows remains up in the air. "My guess is they'll begin mid- to late-summer," head custodian Dave Gorman said on Tuesday. "It all really depends on when they can get the windows here, but the plan

SEE SUPERVISORS, 4



Bob Fenske/Reporter

It's getting closer!

Members of the Nashua Garden Club take part in the 2025 Water Over the Dam Days Parade, and here's the good news: The 2026 edition of Nashua's grand celebration is now less than three weeks away as the festival kicks off its four-day run on Thursday, June 25, and we'll have more on the party in the next couple editions of the Reporter.