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New Hampton TRIBune Chickasaw County

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www.nhtribune.news · Thursday, October 27, 2022 · 24 pages · Issue 43 · Volume 149

Rescue Squad airs frustrations

During heated discussion, supervisor says goal was to 'relocate' group

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

Temps flared Monday morning at the Board of Supervisors when members of the Chickasaw County Rescue Squad took one member to task for comments he made during a Oct. 17 meeting.

Those comments were made by Supervisor Jake Hackman, who asked

if the county could give the Rescue Squad "notice to remove" their rigs from the county-owned Community Services Building so that the new county-owned ambulance service could put its rigs there.

That led to a firestorm of activity on social media last week, and during Monday's meeting, eight Rescue Squad members were in attendance.

"This is a — what's the correct term

here? — touchy subject. There are a lot of opinions," Board Chairman Matt Kuhn said before the discussion began on Monday. "I'm just going to ask that we keep it a civil conversation."

The civility didn't last long. The issue, in Hackman's eyes, is the Rescue Squad is run by the Emergency Management Commission, not the Board of Supervisors.

Emergency Management Agency

Director Jeff Bernatz, though, went through newspaper clippings and printed programs centered around the April 19, 1995, open house for what was then the new Community Services Building, in which the new building was advertised as being home to the Rescue Squad.

"This building was built with [the]

Rescue Squad in mind to house that unit in that building," Bernatz said.

Hackman, though, asked "where is

SEE SUPERVISORS, 2

Supervisors strike deal with an EMS director

After lengthy negotiations, board offers Knutson job to lead new county-owned ambulance service

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

It took almost two hours of talking back and forth and exchanging numbers in open session Monday, but the new county-owned ambulance service may have finally found an EMS director.

After two candidates turned down the job, the Board of Supervisors offered the job to "Candidate 2" last week, extending an offer to work 24 hours as week for an annual salary of \$35,000.

That candidate turned out to be Joel Knutson, a New Hampton resident who works as a critical-care flight paramedic, and after his request to go into closed session Monday was turned down because one supervisor voted against the motion and it needed four votes to pass, he agreed to discuss his concerns in open session.

Knutson questioned the salary that was being offered, pointing out two concerns he had. First, a 24-hour week would be 60 percent of a normal 40-hour work week, but the salary he was offered during an Oct. 17 meeting was 50 percent of the bottom of the range of salary supervisors set in September. Second, he wondered why the offer paid him at the bottom of that salary range, which was listed between \$70,000 and \$90,000.

"Now, I'm coming into this as a critical-care paramedic and a licensed instructor in the state of Iowa," Knutson said. "I have over 10 years of full-time EMS experience. I've done the management duties that this job is going to require in two other counties. I guess the salary range was 70 to 90. How did I fall to the bottom of that?"

Although he said he was "OK" with the 24 hours a week, Supervisor Jason Byrne said he would like the position to be 72 hours every

SEE EMS DIRECTOR, 2



Dorothy Huber/Tribune

New Hampton Community School students in grades 5-12 join forces to form a "combined choir" during the Parade of Choirs Concert that was held last week.

JUST GETTING STARTED

WITH PARADE OF CHOIRS COMPLETED, SINGERS BEGIN PREPPING FOR HOLIDAYS

By DOROTHY HUBER
dorhubernews@gmail.com

While Jill Cantu admitted the period of time between last Tuesday's Parade of Choirs and the Christmas concerts is a hectic stretch, the New Hampton vocal director stopped and thought

about her answer.

"It's kind of all crazy, actually. But yes, Thursday we'll start with the winter concert program."

And, as far as the Chamber Choir and NuHi Chorale, the six songs they will learn will be on display as early as Dec. 4 when the church tours

start.

Cantu might have a moment or two to catch her breath, though, after the first Parade of Choirs concert since 2018.

The concert — which features singers from

SEE CHOIRS, 3



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Heading to state jubilation!

New Hampton cross country coach Jamie Ohr reacts after members of her team gave her a celebratory shower after last week's Class 2A state qualifying meet, and the Chickasaws had plenty to celebrate as the girls team became the first New Hampton team in the 21st century to qualify for the state meet.

See STORY, Page 17

Chamber director happy to be home

Zweibohmer enjoys serving area as New Horizons-Chamber director

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

When Liz Zweibohmer graduated from New Hampton High School and headed for Iowa State University in 2014, it wasn't like she had shut the door on her hometown.

But she'll be the first to admit that she never thought she'd return to be the director of New Horizons-Chamber.

"That wasn't on my radar," the former Liz Laures said, "in fact, it wasn't even close but in college, I did an internship with the Grinnell chamber and I just loved it, loved helping a community and business, loved working with people."

And now Zweibohmer is touting her hometown as the director of New Horizons-Chamber, a position she took over in late August, replacing longtime Director Jason Speltz, who resigned earlier this summer.

SEE CHAMBER, 3



Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Horizons-Chamber Director Liz Zweibohmer stands in front of the organization's recently-relocated office.

Need a job?

We've got a lot of helpful hints how to navigate the application process in our "Get a Job" section

B Section

Advancing Trojans

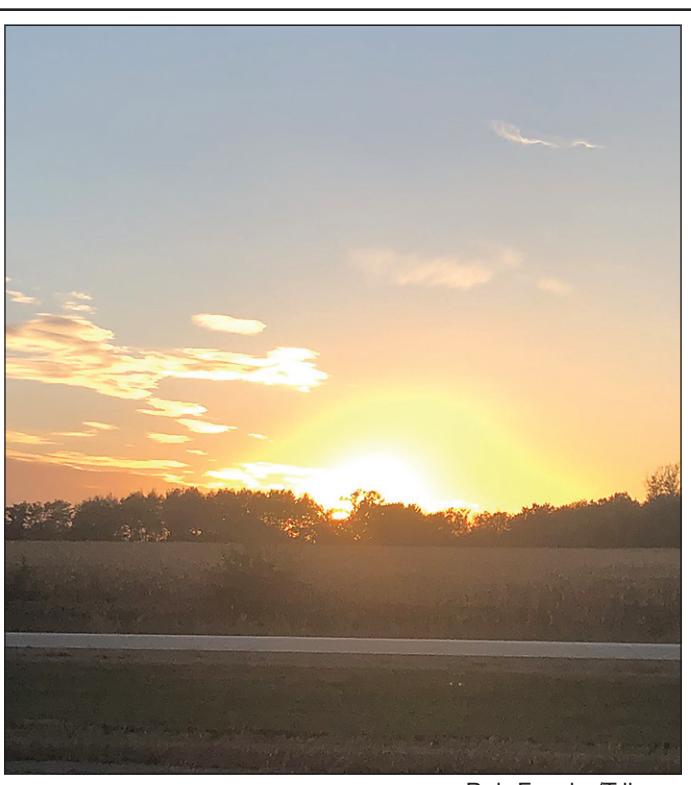
Turkey Valley's offense continues to click on all cylinders in first round of state playoffs

Page 17

Heartbreaker

New Hampton's furious rally comes up just short in playoff loss to Waukon

Page 17



Bob Fenske/Tribune

It was nice while it lasted!

We had plenty of perfect sunsets recently as Mother Nature last week gave us almost perfect fall weather, with high temperatures in the 70s and 80s through the weekend.

But our "Indian Summer" came to a crashing halt on Monday, which turned out to be cold and rainy. Still, considering that the U.S. Drought Monitor reported last week that Chickasaw County was suffering "moderate drought" conditions, the inch of so of rain that fell was a godsend.

And the good news is this: After a cool start to the week, temperatures will warm back into the 50s and there's little, if any, precipitation in the forecast.

Director hopes to add more chamber events**CHAMBER: FROM 1**

"I'm definitely settling in and really excited to be here," Zweibohmer said during an interview at the chamber's new office in the American Legion building. "New Hampton has so much going for it. We have great businesses, organizations and volunteers. And the amenities we have for a small city are amazing."

Zweibohmer played volleyball and ran track for the Chickasaws before departing for Ames, where she majored in marketing and supply chain. After graduating from Iowa State in 2018, she took a job with Target Food Distribution, a job she enjoyed ... save for the fact that it was second shift.

"Yeah, the getting home sometimes at 3, 4 in the morning," she said with a laugh, "made for a cranky Liz. I liked my job; I wasn't a huge fan of that shift."

She moved on to take a marketing position at Wartburg College, got married to her college sweetheart, Andrew Zweibohmer, and joked "was less cranky."

Still, that experience with the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce was one that she treasured.

"I love celebrating a small town, and honestly, it was so much fun just to be a part of an

organization that just wants to make a place better," she said. "So when this job came open, I thought why not?"

Still the Liz Laures of 2014 probably didn't see the Liz Zweibohmer of 2022.

"I was never like, I'm leaving and I'm never going back," she said, "but no, if you would have asked me about this the year I graduated, I would have given you a funny look."

So what swayed her to come home?

"It's such a cool community," she said of New Hampton, "and I didn't appreciate that as a kid. So that's one thing I'd really like to work on — making sure our kids know what a great place this is."

She said her goals are to continue what she calls the "great work" New Horizons-Chamber does with special events — like the upcoming Holiday Open House on Nov. 5 — but also look to add some, too.

"I think about the summer and you know, Heartland Days is obviously huge," she said, "but I'd love to see us do some things on a Monday or a Tuesday night, for example. I know weekends are busy, but why not a weekday? That's something I'd love to see, but right now, I'm just excited to be here and helping in any way I can my community."

Director enjoys finale of the concert**CHOIRS: FROM 1**

fifth through 12th grades, is only held every other year, since it alternates with musical productions.

Two years ago, well, we all know how messed up that year was.

So she had plenty of time to choose the music performed by the four choirs: Keynotes from 5-6 grade, the 7-8 graders, NuHi and Chamber Choir. Student teacher Emily Raab directed a few of the songs and the accompanist was Jill Glenn.

One of Cantu's favorite moments was the evening's finale, the song "Nothing is Gonna Stop Me," which the combined group sang.

"This is the one time we all sing together," she said, "and I don't know, it's just such a magical moment when you get 150 singers doing the same song."

And Cantu seemed to be enjoying it as well, though she explained her enthusiastic directing.

"You have to make big arm movements when you're directing that many singers."



Above, from left, Calyb Zeien, Miranda Eichenberger and Jarrin Robinson perform for the Chamber Choir and at left the seventh and eighth grade choir sing "Earth Voices."

In the photos below are, from left, Stella Valentini and Charlie Geerts of Keynotes and Annala Elliott, Izabel Willadsen, Emma Carpenter and Kaydence Zack of the Chamber Choir.

Dorothy Huber/Tribune



Members of the NuHi Chorale watch director Jill Cantu while singing in the Parade of Choirs concert last week.



Madisyn Baldwin, Miguel Valdez and Destiny Cannon enthusiastically opened the concert last Tuesday with the Keynote singers, made up of fifth and sixth graders.


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For Chickasaw County Recorder



- Served for 12 Years on the Board of Supervisors
- Small Business Owner
- Believe in Giving Back to the Community by Volunteering

Paid for by Zoll for County Recorder

Halloween is off and running; parade set for New Hampton Saturday!

The New Hampton and Nashua Women of Today kicked off Halloween this past weekend as the New Hampton group sponsored its annual Spook Walk on Saturday at Mikkelsen Park while the Nashua organization put on its Downtown Trunk or Treat Sunday afternoon.

And on deck are the New Hampton Parks and Recreation Department and New Horizons-Chamber, which will sponsor the city's annual Halloween Parade this Saturday morning.

Those who would like to be judged should come through the north doors of the Community Center, beginning at 10 a.m., and then exit the building by the Parks and Recreation office. Organizers are asking those who would like to be judged to be through the building by 10:20 a.m.

The winners will then be announced, and they will lead the parade that will make its way up Water Avenue and down Main Street. The parade will start at 10:30 a.m. and be followed by downtown trick-or-treating.

On Monday, trick-or-treating in New Hampton will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Other Halloween activities and trick-or-treat times in the area include:

- Fredericksburg:** Trick or treating is set for 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

- Sumner:** Trick or treating will be held Monday from 5 to 8 p.m.

- Alta Vista:** Halloween Party begins at 4 p.m. on Sunday at and will include costume judging and trick-or-treating will follow.

- Elma:** Kids Halloween Masquerade Party begins at 4 p.m. Sunday at Memorial Hall and trick-or-treating will follow.

- Nashua:** Members of the Nashua Fire Department will hand out hot dogs from 5 to 7 p.m., Monday and trick-or-treating is set for 7 to 8 p.m.

- Plainfield:** Trick-or-treating is set for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday.

- Charles City:** Trick-or-treating will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday.

Let's be safe this Halloween

Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.

- Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.

- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.

- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

- Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.

- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.

— safekids.org



When Trick-or-Treating, make sure your costume is safe, short enough so you don't trip and bright enough so drivers can see you. If you stay home, have a spooky movie night in costumes.

Stop in and order Subway after trick-or-treating.

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Make sure swords and props are flexible, so they can't accidentally hurt you or anyone else.



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH!
 COSTUME PARADE FUN AT 10:00 AM

Costume Judging will be in the Community Center from 10:00-10:20. Wait in the parking lot until we announce the winners at 10:20. All parade goers, please be in Community Center parking lot by 10:20. Parade will begin promptly at 10:30 AM and go up Main Street. From there you can disperse to Trick-or-Treat down Main Street and surrounding businesses!

PRIZES:

- Best Adult Costume - \$30 to the Pub at the Pinicon
- Best "GROUP" Costume (2+ ppl) - \$30 to Bowlaway Lanes & Lounge
- Top 5 Kid's Costumes - Each get a prize package!
- 5 "Honorable Mentions" (any age/group) - All will get a surprise treat!

ALL WINNERS WILL HELP LEAD THE PARADE!

CITY WIDE TRICK-OR-TREATING IN NEW HAMPTON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31 FROM 5:30PM - 7:30 PM
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Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton area residents make their way around Ring Road in Mikkelsen Park for the annual New Hampton Women of Today Spook Walk this past Saturday afternoon.

Low on scares; high on candy!



First Citizens Bank's Jill Fibikar (above) hands out candy, Paisley Carter (right) is all smiles as she receives a treat and the staff at Bennett's Pharmacy (below) take part in the annual Spook Walk.



Have a hauntingly good time by observing the trick or treating hours, stay with your group and on the sidewalks

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Halloween Safety Tips:

- Use the buddy system. Children should trick-or-treat in groups, not alone.
- Remind children to wait until they get home to eat the candy.

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Candy will be donated to Veterans, Troops & First Responders
*Candy is sent to Operation Gratitude

Stay Safe & Be Aware!
Never trick-or-treat alone and only go to homes with a porch light on.

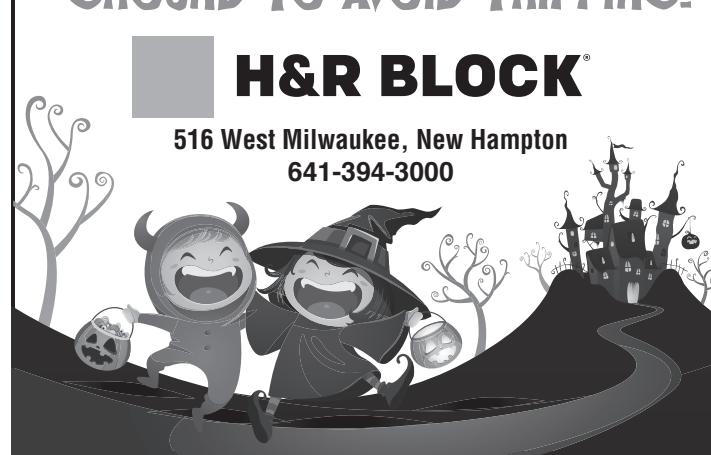
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Happy Halloween
Remember, don't eat any candy before it is inspected by adults and don't eat any unwrapped candies.

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Don't Overlook Importance Of Cash

If you're an investor, you no doubt pay a great deal of attention to your stocks, bonds and mutual funds. But you shouldn't forget another key element of your financial strategy: cash.

Cash is part of any financial strategy and investment portfolio, but how much have you thought about the different uses of cash, and how much you really need? Consider these four key purposes:

- Unexpected expenses and emergencies** – If you face an interruption in employment, you need an extensive home repair or you encounter an unplanned medical expense, you may need access to cash. If you're not retired, it's a good idea to have three to six months of living expenses in cash, possibly supplemented by access to a line of credit. If you're already retired, keeping up to three months of living expenses in cash, possibly supplemented by a credit line, is a good rule of thumb.

- Specific short-term savings goals** – You may have some goals you want to meet within the next year or two, such as a wedding, a vacation or the purchase of a new car. And since you have a little more time to meet these needs than you would for an emergency, you might consider using a money market account or a short-term certificate of deposit (CD), in addition to your other savings vehicles.

- Everyday spending** – You'll always need cash to provide for your day-to-day spending needs, such as your mortgage, other debts, groceries, utilities, entertainment and so on. If you haven't already done so, you might want to create a budget, which could help highlight areas in which you can reduce spending to free up funds for investing in long-term goals. If you're still working, keeping one to two months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account may be sufficient, but if you're



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retired, you may need up to 12 months of living expenses, which you can adjust to accommodate outside sources, such as Social Security or a pension.

- Source of investment** – You can look at cash as an investment source in two different ways. First, cash can be considered its own distinct asset class, and because it typically behaves differently from other asset classes, it can provide some diversification to a portfolio containing stocks and bonds. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses.) And second, the cash in your portfolio could be used as part of a systematic investing strategy in which you put set amounts of money at regular intervals into investment vehicles that are appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance.

Clearly, cash is an important part of planning for the future, but there can be too much of a good thing. While cash may seem like a perpetual safe harbor from the stormy investment seas, it is not without risk. If you hold too much cash, you could underfund your longer-term investments – the ones with the growth potential you need to reach some of your most important goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Put your cash to work. By using it wisely, you can add a valuable element to your financial picture.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Photo courtesy of Megan Baltes

Celebrating dentists' new building

New Hampton Mayor Bobby Schwickerath joins with fellow New Horizons-Chamber members, Drs. Reed and Addison Faldet and the staff at Hometown Dental during a ribbon cutting in honor of the office's new location at 960 E. Main Street. The new office opened earlier this year.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Shooting clays to take on breast cancer

New Hampton High School trapshooting coach Jay Matthews presents MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center Development and Public Relations Manager Jennifer Monteith a check for mammography services that the hospital provides to area residents.

Matthews said that a recent "Shoot for a Cure" event sponsored by the Fredericksburg's Sportman's Club and the trapshooting team raised more than \$1,600. The trapshooting event certainly got in the spirit of the fight against breast cancer shooters took aim at clays that were pink, which is the color signifying the battle against the disease that strikes almost 300,000 Americans each year.

Plum Creek to open glass art exhibit, hold artist reception Sunday

Plum Creek Art Center's Connie Mohr Gallery has a new exhibit of glass art by local artist Becky Schoenfeld this Sunday, when an open house and reception will be held from noon to 3 p.m.

Schoenfeld's exhibit will be on display through Dec. 24.

The New Hampton resident's passion in art is anything glass but mostly stained glass and mosaics, which she has been creating for over 35 years.

She is a self-taught glass artist and a member of Iowa Artists and SAMA, Society of American Mosaic Artists, having attended seven SAMA Conferences throughout the United States, to continue to learn and network with other mosaic artists from all over the world. She feels that attending classes taught by famous mosaic artists was one of the most rewarding benefits of attending annual conferences.

Three years ago after retiring from her normal accounting job of 26 years, Becky and her husband, Richard, built an art studio on their property called "Carriage House Studio" where she creates mosaics and garden art and also holds classes to teach others.

The Schoenfelds have two grown children, Missy Lukes and Jon Schoenfeld; two grandsons, Austin and Alex Lukes; and two great grandchildren, Lennon and Landon Lukes.

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Ham and Turkey, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Dressing, Roll and Pie.

\$15 Adults, \$7 Kids (ages 4-10),
Kids (3 and under) are Free

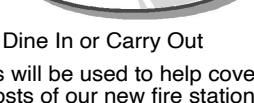
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The Protivin Fire Department

Invites you to attend their
11th Annual Soup Supper

Saturday, November 5th
at the Protivin fire station
4:30pm - until gone

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Turtle: \$12, Chili or Chicken: \$8



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Thank You

The family of Dale Rosonke would like to thank everyone for their support through prayers, cards, memorials and food, during our recent loss.

Special thanks to emergency personnel, we thank you all for your service. Hugeback & Johnson staff for the professional, caring, guidance. Fr. Ken Glaser, Fr. Goerand, and special participants of the funeral mass, Gail & Shannon Tiedt family (The Balk Tank) for the delicious lunch, Rosary Society for salads, desserts. For the extra help on the farm we appreciate it.

Your kindness will always be remembered.

Linda Rosonke, Hannah & Nic Flood-Cutter & Cassius, Nathan Rosonke (Scott Bleuer), Jonas Rosonke (Alyssa Tiedt)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: OUR READERS SHARE THEIR OPINIONS**Resident urges New Hampton voters to say yes to LOST changes**

I am writing this letter to encourage New Hampton residents to vote on Nov. 8 in favor of expanding the use of New Hampton's local-option sales tax (LOST) funds to be used for both ambulance service and infrastructure.

It is currently limited on how the funds can be used and does not include ambulance service.

The citizens of New Hampton have expressed that ambulance service is a concern and an important necessity for our community. Unfortunately, ambulance service is not an essential service, according to the state of Iowa (like fire and police are), and therefore, we need an alternative way to pay for the service.

We must vote in favor of this change if we wish to see this service continue!

This is NOT a new/additional tax on residents, rather a change in how the current sales tax already collected is used.

Thanks for your support.

Bob Savre, New Hampton

Lundberg will always go the extra mile for constituents

I encourage you to vote for Dene Lundberg for Iowa House District 58.

Dene was my mentor when I taught at the Charles City Middle School. As a teacher she was a leader, listener and put her students first. I was able to experience first hand the type of person she was in a school setting.

These qualities are some of the same things I am looking for in a government leader. Dene always goes the extra mile. She volunteers in many school and community activities. She will work hard for all of us.

On Nov. 8, vote for Dene Lundberg.

Patty O'Hollearn, New Hampton

Wolff will help make Iowa a place that truly cares

I have had the privilege of meeting Jenn Wolff. She truly cares for Iowans and is the best choice for Iowa Senate District 29.

Jenn is a newcomer to politics, but not to District 29. She is a listener and a problem solver. She will be an advocate for all Iowans from children to seniors. Jenn will work to support our public schools, fund mental health treatment, promote the rights of LGBTQ+ communities, and protect the disabled.

Please join me in voting for Jenn Wolff to represent Senate District 29. She will be our voice in Des Moines, making Iowa a place that truly cares.

Carol Gossard Fryes, Charles City

Salmon's sensible beliefs make her the right choice in Senate 29

I am writing to urge people to vote for Sandy Salmon for Senator in Iowa Senate District 29. I have never seen someone work so hard to be elected.

I have had the privilege to go with her several times to knock on doors and get information out to the voters. I have enjoyed getting to know her and I am impressed with her knowledge about what is going on in the state of Iowa. I like her stand for life, our 1st amendment rights, as well as our 2nd amendment rights.

She also advocates for personal property rights and election integrity. She has many sensible beliefs about our children's education, such as, restoring local control of our schools, rather than at the Federal level. Also allowing parents options on how they

wish to educate their children.

She has also fought to remove sexually explicit material out of the schools, as well as CRT. I also appreciate that she sees the value of working within a budget.

It is frustrating to me to hear about going "green," when I see so much waste within government institutions. There is much to be said about Sandy and her integrity and hard work. Take time to check out her voting record and see for yourself.

Jeanette Davis, Parkersburg

Lundberg won't be a politician but she will be public servant

Dene Lundberg has the life skills that make her relatable to the residents of House District 58. As a spouse, parent, grandparent, employee, volunteer and tax payer most of you can relate to that life.

Dene started out living on the farm, helping with chores, having responsibilities. Dene understands farm practices and has helped with the different fairs for many years.

Following graduation from ISU, Dene worked in District 58 for almost 40 years. As an educator Dene could see first hand how learning and the role of schools changed over the years to help the child. Dene and her husband Jim worked with students to make them successful in the classroom and out of it.

Dene is not a politician. She is a public servant. She will do her homework and make decisions that are based on fact and common sense.

Since July Dene has knocked on thousands of doors and had conversations with many constituents. She is a representative that is like them with an understanding of local issues. Dene will be a fiscally responsible representative who has owned property and paid property taxes for the past 32 years in this district.

Please join me in electing Dene Lundberg as Representative of House District 58.

Laurie Murphy Davis, Charles City

If you value freedom, Salmon should get your vote

A couple of years ago I met Representative Sandy Salmon at a legislative meeting. I was impressed by Sandy's knowledge of the issues.

However what made an even deeper impression, was her desire that Iowans remain free.

In the House, Sandy has defended and fought to keep our right to life, our right to speak freely, our right to keep and bear arms and women's rights by protecting girl's and women's sports.

If you value freedom, please join me in voting for Sandy Salmon for State Senate!

Jennifer Miller, Floyd

Salmon understands the needs of farmers, veterans

I am writing to urge you to vote for our State Representative Sandy Salmon for the Iowa State Senate District 29.

I have known Sandy for many years and have had many conversations with her on various issues. I have found her to be one of the most genuine and honest people you could meet. Her word is her bond and we have been very fortunate to have had her as our state representative.

Having been raised on a farm here in Iowa and now as a family farm owner and partner in managing the farm she knows the challenges farm families face every day and she understands agriculture's importance and what must be done for a business to thrive and provide jobs.

As a Marine Corps veteran, she has been a strong advocate for her fellow veterans. As a veteran myself I appreciate her for being

our voice on the hill. Her work ethic, common sense and dedication are attributes that have served her well as a state representative and I ask you to support her on Election Day.

Richard Miller, Waverly

We need to stop the insanity when it comes to our electricity

It comes to my attention that electric consumers should prepare for higher rates and the real possibility of shortages and rolling blackouts. As an REC consumer who remembers those early days of power outages, it seems as though we are heading backwards in our electric services.

We could have reliable base load electricity with coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy with U.S. resources.

Please stop the insanity of bad policy decisions with our current president and short-term mis-administration.

Our industry, and the lives of the common people here in the Heartland are at stake.

Requesting what electric companies are doing to provide reliable service at affordable rates is important to its customers. I've always thought it was the directors' job to see that electric services were just that: reliable and affordable.

Both Heartland REC and Butler Co. REC's mission statements include: "...providing safe, reliable, affordable electricity..." I wonder if anyone is really aware to see what is taking place.

Arnie and Carol Boge, Nashua

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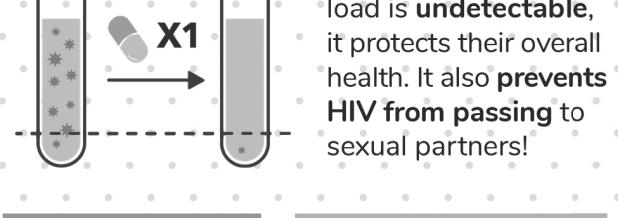
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January 2022: Town Meeting in New Hampton

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August 2020: Q&A with employees at Five Star Co-op in New Hampton

January 2019: Tour and Q&A with employees at New Hampton Metal Fab

May 2018: Town Meeting in New Hampton

February 2017: Q&A with students at New Hampton High School

AND HE'S NOT DONE YET

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Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton's Jack Shawver and Cam McMorris sprint to the finish line at the Class 2A state qualifying meet that was held last week in Oelwein.

It's good state qualifier to be a Chickasaw

NH XC: FROM 17

looked, but I think all of us were running for more than ourselves. We wanted to make it as a team."

Dungey admitted that until the gun went off, she was a nervous wreck.

"All week I've been thinking about this," she said. "I was nervous in school today, I was really nervous coming down and I was a mess at the starting [line]. But once I got going, it felt good."

But it wasn't just the freshman who was nervous.

So, too, was the senior leader of the Chickasaws.

"I'll be honest, I didn't get anything done in school today," Kolbet said. "I was excited, but I was really nervous, too. If we could have run at 8 this morning, that would have been fine with me. But once we took off, I just relaxed as much as I could."

Meanwhile, freshman Ella Knutson brought in New Hampton's fourth score with a solid 37th-place finish.

"Ella's been such a rock star for us," Ohrt said. "She just does her job every meet, and when you realize, we have two freshmen scoring for us, that's pretty amazing."

With four runners "in," it came down to senior Catherine Pethoud, the Chickasaws' fifth runner. Her job? Stay relatively close to Crestwood's pack of runners.

And Pethoud delivered, running a career personal record to finish 57th, which gave New Hampton 115 points, which wasn't going to catch Denver and Williamsburg but was good enough to beat the Cadets by 12 points.

"I knew it was going to come down to me," Pethoud said, "and I just had to do my part. I couldn't let my teammates down. It was the best, best, best feeling. To do it in my senior year, to give [Ohrt] this ... it was a hell of a way to go out as a senior."

Her coach was ecstatic with her performance.

"Catherine just really gutted it out," Ohrt said. "I know I've said it all year, but it was going to come down to our fifth runner so there was a lot of pressure there and she handled it like a champ ... She was running for her team, for her fellow seniors, and now Bailey [Cox] and Kandace [Eggerichs] get to run one more race, too."

Meanwhile, New Hampton's boys also had state meet aspirations, but the 20th-ranked Chickasaws, save for Anderson, struggled Thursday and fell to sixth-place in the team standings. Oelwein, Denver and Garner-Hayfield-Ventura earned trips to state while New Hampton finished in sixth with 179 points, 110 off the final state qualifying team.

Anderson, though, ran his race to earn a 13th-place finish and punched his ticket to state for a second straight season.

"There were three or four really, really good guys and I knew they'd go out front," he said, "but I had to stay in that next pack and make sure I was there at the end. Last year, I don't know if I expected to make state; this year, I did so there was a lot



The Chickasaws' Catherine Pethoud (left) and Ella Knutson both scored low enough to help New Hampton qualify for this Friday's Class 2A state cross country meet.



more pressure. I was just glad when the race started. Then it was just a matter of running."

Ohrt wasn't surprised by Anderson's performance.

"He's P.J., which means you know he's a fighter and will leave it all out there," she said. "To make state two years in a row, it's a huge accomplishment."

The other New Hampton scorers included Jack Shawver (31st), Cam McMorris (32nd), Treyce Orr (38th) and Braiden Schaufenbuel (66th).

And now Ohrt and her assistant, Bob Vorwald, are taking the Chickasaws to a "place" it hasn't been in a quarter of a century — the Class 2A state meet that will be held Friday afternoon at Fort Dodge's Kennedy Park, where the girls will take off at 2 p.m. and the boys' start is scheduled for 45 minutes later.

"I had to look at the [girls] team scores a few times before I really believed it had happened," Ohrt said. "I'm so proud of those girls, and as much as I wanted the boys to go, I knew it would be tough. To take a team, to take P.J., yeah, it's a really, really good day to be a Chickasaw."

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS (Top three teams to state)

Denver 68, Williamsburg 78, New Hampton 115, Crestwood 127, North Fayette Valley 159, Osage 160, Roland-Story 196, Garner-Hayfield-Ventura 202, Dike-New Hartford 206, Aplington-Parkersburg 210, Anamosa 211, Oelwein 266, Starmont/West Central 383, Eagle Grove and Clarion-Goldfield-Dows/CAL did not field full teams.

Turkey Valley coach already looking forward to 2023

TV XC: FROM 14

was in the 23rd position after mile-marker one. She also mentioned there was about a 15-second spread between the top 10 and where Nieman was positioned at during the second mile.

"He was sitting in contention right there," said Bakula. "They were right there. There may have been just a little bit in between there that a gap formed and that was too much to make up towards the end there."

Although Nieman's gutsy effort in the last 400 meters of the race would not punch his ticket to state, Bakula thought he did everything he could in an attempt to reach the top finishers.

"To say that should have, could have, would have – I don't think that there was a time in that race that he could have done

any better," said Bakula.

When life throws you lemons — you make lemonade. That's Bakula's philosophy — meaning Nieman will surely be extra motivated next year to improve and reach the state meet.

"That also makes you better and teaches you in lessons learned to where you need to improve," said Bakula. "I just reminded him how well he had done this season — to look at those good things versus the fact that your season just ended."

TV freshman Morgan Wentholt also put a cap on a very promising first year running on the varsity level for the Trojans. She placed 25th in 24:20 — a finish which was one of Wentholt's goal on the challenging course that saw 67 girls compete and 101 boys.

"She finished right where I thought she could in the field," said Bakula. "Being

a freshman and on that big of a stage, she performed well and definitely got over some hurdles throughout the year."

Wentholt achieved a PR (23:13) last week at the UIC meet (23:13). That placed her in the 17th spot at the league meet. Wentholt has been dealing with an asthma condition this fall that obviously makes it more difficult to run.

"She's really happy with how her season went. I'm really happy how her season went," said Bakula. "Next year, we're gonna improve. It's going to be good."

Bode Balk, a junior, did not run at Cascade because he attended a Make-A-Wish Foundation event for his younger sister Bree Balk, who is battling brain cancer. Bree, a TV eighth-grader, is currently in remission. The Balk family had a great time at Walt Disney World in Florida through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Bakula said that should have, could have, would have – I don't think that there was a time in that race that he could have done

any better," said Bakula.

Coach: Chickasaws 'super fortunate' with dedicated senior class

NH VOLLEYBALL: FROM 17

the TIC's best and the NEIC's regular and postseason conference tournament champ in New Hampton — Osage once again reigned supreme.

Osage (28-6), ranked No. 7 in Class 3A, swept NH for the second time this season in the regional semifinal round by scores of 25-18, 25-17, and 25-13. Osage also defeated the Chickasaws 21-13 and 21-9 at the Green Devils' home invite back in September.

Geerts talked about the second installment of the battle between the two consistent winners in northern Iowa versus the first meeting.

"I would say it was a little comparable to today. I got a few of the feelings of déjà vu back a little bit," said Geerts. "A night match is hard to compare to a tournament."

The most recent victory over New Hampton was obviously the most important one as the Green Devils are one match away from a return trip to state as they played No. 12 Dubuque Wahlert (14-17) on Tuesday in the Class 3A regional final.

New Hampton (23-15) — winners of seven-straight after recently running past an NEIC gauntlet of teams to snare the postseason tourney title — rallied against the green-clad Mitchell County squad after digging a small hole in game one.

Osage led 5-2 at one point, but New Hampton grabbed a 11-9 lead after sophomore Braelyn Rosonke's kill found the hardwood.

But a 5-0 Osage run gave the Green Devils the lead back and New Hampton would get no closer than 16-14 the rest of the way in game one.

Geerts — who guided New Hampton to its first ever state tournament in 2018 — talked about what was the difference in a match that Osage took control of after taking New Hampton's body shots early on.

The Chickasaws just couldn't come up with a knockout punch against the favored Green Devils on their home floor.

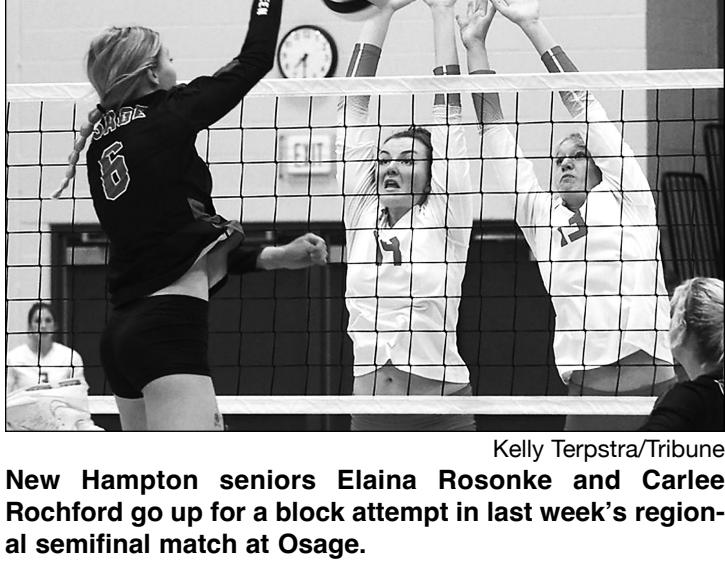
"Unforced errors — it's hard to get those points," said Geerts. "Sometimes there's nothing you can do about it, but they definitely make a difference. Unfortunately, we had to learn the hard way tonight."

Osage once again climbed out to a 5-2 advantage in the second game and led 8-3 before Geerts burned another timeout in an attempt to halt the Green Devils' run. It seemed to work as NH went on a mini 4-0 run to tie the contest at 12-12. That prompted Osage coach Bryan Tabbart to use his own timeout to help stem the tide.

Chickasaw senior Elaina Rosonke's ace, which followed junior all-state hitter Marissa Cahoy's kill, had New Hampton back in business — down just 16-15. A 6-0 Green Devil string of points stymied that rally and New Hampton's chance of tying the match up at 1-1.

Geerts said her team needed to do a better job of talking out on the court to help sort out issues on defense. That also meant letting each defender know where they're going to be on the court to prevent the volleyball from hitting the floor and scoring a point for Osage. Precision passing was also critical.

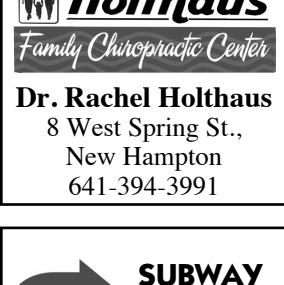
"Little things — communication got a little rocky. It started with our first pass. We struggled with the pass and that hurt," said Geerts. "It was hard to get an offense going when we couldn't get the first pass down. We could get it, but it wasn't where we wanted it to be."



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

New Hampton seniors Elaina Rosonke and Carlee

Rochford go up for a block attempt in last week's regional semifinal match at Osage.



New Hampton cross country coaches and their state qualifiers — (from left), assistant coach Bob Vorwald, head coach Jamie Ohrt, Bailey Cox, Kandace Eggerichs, Catherine Pethoud, Campbelle Kolbet, Tegan Dungey, Ella Knutson, Natalie Nosbisch and Peyton Anderson — pose for a photo after a highly-successful day at the state qualifying meet.

Taking a trip to Fort Dodge!

Congratulations and best of luck to our history-making girls cross country team and Peyton Anderson as they head to state meet



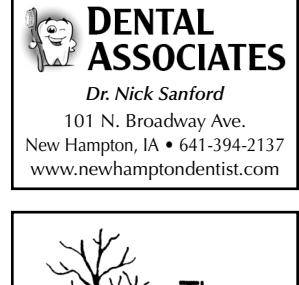
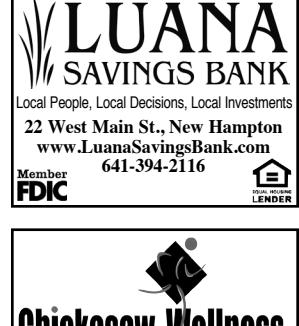
Senior Campbelle Kolbet

Senior Peyton Anderson

Fearsome foursome: The Chickasaws' individual qualifiers



Our Chickasaws will compete in the Class 2A state meet Friday at Kennedy Park in Fort Dodge, with the girls taking the course at 2 p.m. and the boys race starting at 2:45 p.m.



SPORTS

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Bob Fenske/Tribune

The members of the New Hampton cross country team — (from left) Kandice Eggerichs, Ella Knutson, Campbelle Kolbet, Bailey Cox, Natalie Nosbisch, Catherine Pethoud and Tegan Dungey — get out of the box at the start of the Class 2A state qualifying meet that was held last week in Oelwein.

A LONG TIME COMING

CLUTCH CHICKASAW GIRLS, ANDERSON EARN TRIPS TO STATE MEET

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

Jamie Ohrt made a vow before starting the interview Thursday evening at Hickory Grove Golf Course in Oelwein.

"I'm not going to cry," the New Hampton cross country coach.

Less than a minute later, though, the vow was broken and the tears flowed. And that's OK because Ohrt and her Chickasaws had plenty to celebrate at the conclusion of the Class 2A state qualifying meet.

For the first time in 25 years, New Hampton was sending a team to the state cross country meet as the Chickasaw girls came up clutch in the biggest meet of the year to take third in the team standings and earn a trip to Fort Dodge, where the state meet will be run on Friday, Oct. 28.

And after the girls made history, Peyton Anderson earned a second-straight trip to Fort Dodge by finishing 13th in a

loaded field.

That, folks, is a good day. A day to cry over.

Start with the girls, who knew they had to beat three ranked teams ahead of them in the state qualifier, which meant the 18th-ranked Chickasaws had to catch fourth-ranked Denver, fifth-ranked Williamsburg or 15th-rated Crestwood to give New Hampton a "team trip" to state for the first time since 1997.

The Chickasaws' top-three runners did their part - all qualifying as individuals with top-15 finishes. Senior Campbelle Kolbet's brilliant breakout season continued with a third-place finish, freshman Tegan Dungey overcame a boatload of nerves to finish sixth and sophomore Natalie Nosbisch earned a second-straight trip to Fort Dodge with a 13th-place finish.

"It wasn't my best race, but I'll take it," Kolbet said. "The course was tougher than it

SEE NH XC, 12



New Hampton's returning state meet qualifiers — senior Peyton Anderson (above) and sophomore Natalie Nosbisch (right) — both earn return trips to the state cross country meet.

Osage knocks out Chickasaws in region semis

No. 7 Green Devils pick up sweep over NEIC champions

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

Two Northeast Iowa Conference titles in the same season — that's never been done before in the history of New Hampton volleyball.

Still, the New Hampton Chickasaws and head coach Jess Geerts had bigger fish to fry last Wednesday evening in Osage.

The goal — as it is every year since Geerts took over 17 seasons ago — is to make it to state and play amongst the best eight teams that ran through its regional bracket in their respective class.

That sumptuous seafood platter will have to wait until next year for the Chickasaws.

The Green Devils of Osage's track record when it comes to qualifying for the state tournament is on par with the upper elite on the prep level in the state of Iowa, regardless of class.

In Wednesday's showdown between



New Hampton's Hailee Pesek goes to the floor to make a dig during last week's regional semifinal match at Osage.



Bob Fenske/Tribune
New Hampton senior Aiden Roberson makes a catch that sets up a Chickasaw touchdown in the first half of Friday's Class 2A playoff game at Waukon.

New Hampton comes up just short in playoffs

Waukon holds off furious Chickasaw comeback to advance with 24-22 win

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

The New Hampton game plan was executed almost to perfection Friday night in the Chickasaws' Class 2A state playoff game in Waukon.

"We wanted to keep possession of the ball to keep their offense off the field," coach Scott Frerichs said. "The plan to run the ball straight at them to nullify their pursuit. We were able to do both of those things."

New Hampton ran 73 offensive plays; Waukon ran just 38 — a stat that Frerichs called "incredible."

But Waukon came up with two big pass plays — touchdowns that covered 83 and 71 yards — and held off a cardiac comeback by the Chickasaws to post a 24-22 win in a game that deserves the title of "Instant Classic."

Just like that, a brilliant season and the careers of a standout senior class came to an end.

"This group of boys was a lot of fun to be around," Frerichs said after the curtain came down on a 6-3 season. "They had an ability to work and practice hard. They really liked the game of football."

SEE NH FOOTBALL, 16



New Hampton fullback Ben Tenge blocks a Waukon defender to give backfield mate Braden McShane some running room Friday night.

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ADvertiser

The Right Way to Follow Up After a Job Interview

Here is the right way to reach out for an update without being a pest

By Benny Spiewak
ZipRecruiter.com

So you've completed another milestone of your job search: going through a full day of interviews for your dream job (or, at least a stepping stone to your dream job). As far as you're concerned, you nailed it! (If you need some tips on how to prepare for an interview, have a look here.) You're positive you're a good fit and that it's only a matter of time before they call you with an offer. But after two weeks of refreshing your email and checking your phone every few minutes, you start to get that sinking feeling... perhaps the job interview wasn't the slam-dunk you had assumed. At this point, you Before you put that job interview in the rear-view mirror, follow up with the employer. Of course, keep looking for jobs until you've received—and accepted—an offer, but there are many different reasons that you may not have heard back from

the hiring manager.

Chances are there are a number of other candidates and it could take some time for the process to be completed. There are countless other reasons a response could be delayed. Maybe the person who needs to approve your offer letter has been dealing with a family emergency. Maybe the entire company needed to jump on an urgent project. Maybe the head of the department you applied for suddenly quit and the company needs to replace them first.

No matter the reason, you have no idea what is happening on the other side. Worrying about it will not help anything, but checking in with your contact might. While you certainly don't want to come off as annoying, you should do what you can to stay on the employer's radar. Below are three ways to do that without being a pest.

1. Write a Thank You Note

You still have one more chance to stand out and leave a good impression.

The first follow-up email after an interview should be a thank-you note sent no more than 24 hours after you meet. Some say that mailing a hand-written letter will make you stand out, but it is completely acceptable to send a thank-you email. You should always send a note to each person you interviewed with, including the recruiter. Here are some tips for writing a thank-you note:

Be brief, friendly, and conversational. You've

already had the job interview, so let your gratitude and personality show a little bit.

Restate your interest in the job and any relevant details on why you're qualified.

Include one of the three tactics in this post to stand out from the crowd.

Thank them for their time as job interviews can require employers to set aside a lot of time, often forcing them to push off work.

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Tips to master a video job interview

Metro Editorial Library

The adage "there's a first time for everything" has certainly rang true throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Life as the world knew it changed during the pandemic, and as a result many people found themselves in unfamiliar positions and settings.

One unfamiliar position that job seekers had to grow accustomed to during the pandemic was interviewing via video conferencing apps like Zoom. Interviewing for a new job has long been considered a nerve-wracking experience, even for seasoned professionals. That anxiety did not necessarily disappear during the pandemic, but it may have taken on a new form as applicants were forced to present the best, albeit virtual, version of themselves when interviewing.

Video interviews may become integral parts of the

interviewing process in the future, as companies recognize how efficient video interviews can be. As a result, it can benefit professionals to polish up on their video interviewing skills.

- **Dress the part.** Dressing for success still matters. Though in person interviews may not be in job seekers' immediate futures, appropriate attire still sends the right message. Dress the part from head to toe, even if you expect to only be seen from the waist up. This saves you the embarrassment of being seen in sweat pants or other inappropriate attire should you unexpectedly need to stand up during the interview.

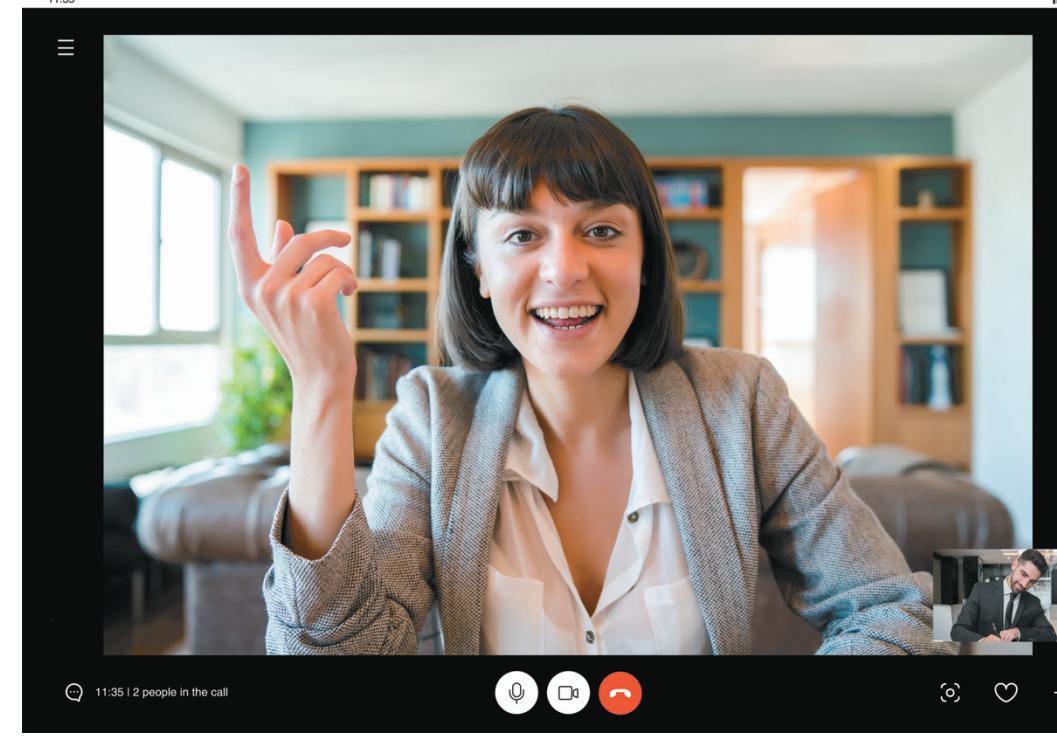
- **Beware of the background.** Make sure the background behind you during the interview is clean and appropriate. Zoom offers a curated list of virtual backgrounds that can help job seekers make a strong first impression. If an existing space

is fine serving as a background, clean the area prior to the interview. This creates the impression that you are organized and attentive to detail.

- **Use a laptop or computer.** Smartphones have video conferencing capabilities, but it's best to use a laptop or desktop computer when interviewing via video. Laptops and desktops are heavier and less likely to move during the interview and their screens are larger, giving job seekers a better view of the person they're speaking with. If you must use a smartphone, keep the phone still throughout the interview.

- **Sit in a brightly lit, quiet room.** A dark room may make it hard for interviewers to see applicants, and that can create a bad first impression. Find a well-lit, quiet room, ideally one that is away from the hustle and bustle of the household.

- **Use the mute button.** One



of the more common issues to arise from the Zoom boom has been some users' failure to realize their microphones are not muted. When interviewing for a job via video, remember to mute your microphone when you are not speaking. This ensures that no ambient noise from your home will affect the interview. Such noise could adversely affect an interviewer's opinion of you.

Interviewing via video

conferencing apps is uncharted territory for many professionals. But a few tricks of the trade can help job seekers create strong first impressions.

Secrets for a Great Letter of Recommendation

By Benny Spiewak
ZipRecruiter.com

Towards the end of an interview process, potential employers may want to learn about you from someone other than yourself. This is typically when hiring managers ask for a reference they can reach out to directly. If you're looking for tips on how to ask a previous boss, colleague, or mentor to be a reference, start here.

But on occasion, you may need to provide a written letter of recommendation. If you are in that position, follow these steps:

1. Offer to Draft Your Own Recommendation Letter

Reach out to your references asking whether they can provide one and—here's the crucial part—offer to draft it for them. People are busy, especially past supervisors, professors, or teachers. They don't have time to look through their calendars to figure out how long they've known you and may not remember which projects you worked on with

them, which classes you took, and how you performed. Supply all the relevant information you'd want an employer to see. Also, if there are any recommendation letter submission instructions, make sure they are pasted below every email you send so that your reference doesn't have to hunt for them. They'll be grateful.

2. Follow This Format

As you craft the letter you will send to your reference for review, include these essential pieces:

Clear Opening Statement
Establish who is writing the letter and provide a strong endorsement that uses a descriptive adjective.

"My name is John Doe, English professor at University College, and I am writing to offer my highest recommendation for Jane Smith."

Description of Your Relationship

Provide a quick overview of how, and for how long, the referrer has known you.

"I have known Jane for three

Concrete Examples

The main section of the letter should call out your specific skills and accomplishments, including at least one story.

"Jane was always an exceptional student, but it was her willingness to help her classmates that led me to hire her as my Teaching Assistant. As my TA, she prepared lesson plans and taught breakout sessions. There was one student who was failing the class and did not seem interested in improving his grades. Jane befriended him, met him for coffee each week after class, and discussed the curriculum in a way that was relevant to him. His grades improved by over 50% and Jane won the English Department's top Teaching Assistant award."

Endorsement of Your Future Potential

End strong with a big compliment at the end. If you are drafting letters from



multiple people, remember to change this language in each one.

"I have no doubt that Jane will succeed in any role, inspiring others with her empathetic leadership. Based on her 3 years of hard work in and out of my classroom, I know she will be an asset to any future employer."

3. Send Frequent Reminders if There Are Deadlines

If the employer needs to receive a recommendation letter by a certain date, don't be shy about sending your

reference polite reminders. They may have a million things on their plate and writing your recommendation letter is probably right at the bottom of the pile. They may forget, even if they really like you and want to help. They'll probably feel terrible if they miss the deadline accidentally and mess up an opportunity for you. So they'll likely appreciate a polite reminder email that might say something like this:

"Thank you so much for agreeing to serve as a reference and write a recommendation letter for me. Recommendation letters are due to [Employer Name] at [Employer Contact Information] in seven days. Please let me know if there is any further information you need. If you anticipate being too busy to meet that deadline, kindly let me know as soon as possible so that I can ask another potential reference."

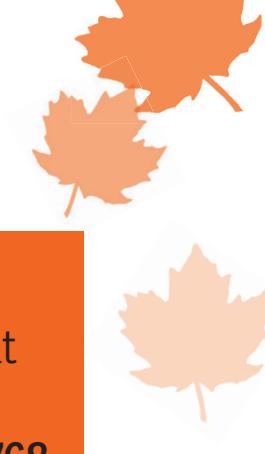
When it comes to letters of recommendation, be proactive. The referee has already expressed interest in helping you, so help him or her back by making the process as easy as possible.

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How to modernize your résumé

Metro Editorial Library

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic more than two years ago, businesses, especially small firms, have struggled to find employees to fill vacancies within their companies. A survey from CNBC/Survey Monkey released in May 2022 indicated that 52 percent of small business owners reported it had grown more difficult to find qualified people over the previous 12 months.

The difficulty many businesses are having in regard finding qualified applicants can be seen as a great opportunity by skilled professionals looking for a new job. Qualified job seekers can take advantage of

the lack of competition to land their dream jobs. Prior to beginning a new job search, seasoned professionals might want to consider some strategies to modernize their résumés and improve their chances of finding a dream job.

- **Reconsider your résumé template.** If it's been awhile since you looked for a new job, chances are strong the design of your résumé could be viewed as outdated. Fairly or unfairly, an old template could give prospective employers the impression that your skills are as outdated as your résumé. Jobsan.co/resume-templates offers a host of Microsoft Word-compatible free résumé templates. These templates are categorized, with some specifically for senior- and executive-level positions and

others based on how job seekers want to list their skills and experience (i.e., chronological, hybrid, etc.).

- **Prominently display your abilities.** The job-seeking experts at Jobscan indicate that the average recruiter spends around six to seven seconds glancing at a typical résumé before deciding if an applicant could be a good fit. With such little time to make a strong first impression, applicants will want to emphasize their skills at the top of their résumés. Recruiters and human resources professionals who see an attractive skillset might then be compelled to explore the document further to determine how those skills were acquired.

- **Avoid information overload.** If HR professionals and recruiters are only spending



a few seconds scanning each résumé, applicants will want to keep job descriptions short and sweet. Condense responsibilities into bullet points, ideally using just a single line for each point. Avoid listing too many bullet points for each job, as that could affect the likelihood that the résumé will get more than a passing glance.

- **Remove outdated information.** The online jobs resource Indeed notes that seasoned professionals who have been with their current employers for more than five years can remove certain sections on a résumé. Sections like internships, awards received early in a career, volunteer gigs from years ago,

and pre-college educational background do not need to be listed on experienced professionals' résumés.

Now could be a good time for experienced professionals to look for a new job. The first step in a successful job search could be modernizing a résumé to more closely reflect where candidates are in their careers.

> Follow, from page B1

Add any significant information you may have forgotten to say in the interview.

Here is an example thank you note:

Hi [Interviewer Name],
Thank you so much for meeting with me today. After learning more about the position, I'm very excited for the opportunity to join your team and help [create world-class marketing campaigns, inspire prospective clients, increase revenue, etc.] for [company name].

I really enjoyed hearing your perspective on [industry trend, company structure, why your company stands out, etc.]

I know my years of experience of working on [web development, copywriting, sales, etc.] would greatly benefit

[company name].
Please keep me posted on the status of the hiring process. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Warm regards,
[Your Name]

If you're really ambitious and are feeling good about the job interview, you might even try to include an idea based on something they shared during your meeting.

For example, you could add a suggestion that looks like this:

"Our discussion about [A, B, and C] gave me an idea. Has your team considered trying [X, Y, and Z]? I found it to be an effective process in my last job."

Make it easy for them to see why you're the perfect fit.

2. Check-In

A quick note after some time has passed is acceptable and reiterates your interest.

Sending a thank-you note after an interview is the easy part of following up, but figuring out how to follow up after a few weeks of silence can feel more difficult. You might worry that checking in will make you seem annoying, or worse, desperate. But don't! Following up is a normal and expected part of the process. If you approach your follow-up carefully, you can come off as diligent, interested, and you can continue to build your relationship with the team who may eventually offer you the position.

Here are some tips to keep in mind when you follow up:

Don't jump to the conclusion

that you didn't get the job. Sometimes the hiring process can take a while, especially if the decision-makers have a lot on their plates.

Wait for the established timeframe and deadlines to pass. If you ended your job interview by asking about next steps and when you could expect to hear back, stick to that timeline. Once that date has passed, feel free to email a follow-up note. Here is some sample language you can use:

"Hi Jane,
I hope all's well!
When we last spoke, you mentioned that you expected to finalize your decision for the [insert the role] position by [date]. I'm very excited about the prospect of joining the team and am eager to hear when you expect to have an update.

Please let me know if there's

anything I can provide to assist you in your decision-making process."

3. Stay in Touch

No matter the outcome, this is an opportunity to expand your network.

Sometimes the hiring manager responds with bad news. Even if you don't get the job, it might be useful to have them as a contact in your network. It is possible that they could reach out about another role at a future date or that you could build a mutually beneficial relationship.

Rather than seeing your relationship with the employer as a failed job interview and lost opportunity, treat them as a valuable new industry colleague and contact. Just remember not to overdo it! Be cognizant of whether you're being helpful or a nuisance and always be

genuine. Remain professional, proactive, and useful, not pushy or over-eager. You can read this blog post for details on how to network on social media. Here are some quick suggestions:

Build relationships on social media. This means keeping the conversation going by periodically sending articles or information that might be relevant to them, congratulating them on recent accomplishments, and engaging with their posts.

Update your own social media. In addition to connecting on LinkedIn and wherever else is appropriate, update your own profiles to reflect your current role, skills, and certifications. Post updates to increase the likelihood you will be in their newsfeeds. Follow the company to stay on top of their latest news and any new job openings.



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How to Refer a Friend for a Job

By Benny Spiewak
ZipRecruiter.com

So you've heard of an awesome gig at your company that's not right for you, but would be perfect for your friend. Not only does she have the right skills, but she also has the type of personality that would thrive in the position.

You're excited to tell your friend about this killer job and refer a qualified candidate to your employers. For the most part, it's a win-win situation. You feel good about helping your friend and your company; they feel good about you. And what goes around comes around eventually.

But before you rush into anything, you should consider the ramifications of referring a friend to your employers, both in terms of your friendship and your professional reputation. Here are some tips on how to best proceed.

Make a List of Your Friend's Attributes

Before you do anything, think about why your friend would be great for the job. List the qualities that make her an ideal candidate. That way you'll be able to articulate your reasons for referring her while defending against anyone inclined to regard your referral as biased.

Plus, it will give you a chance to decide if your recommendation is truly based on your friend's qualifications rather than just on your affection. Although numerous social skills can translate well



to a job, knowing a friend socially is not the same as knowing them professionally. Referring an unqualified candidate can reflect poorly on your judgment.

Be a Second Set of Eyes

It's in your best interest to help your friend make a great impression. So offer to review her professional documents, including resumes, cover letters and/or portfolios. Your insight can help her highlight the skills and qualifications best suited to the job.

Also pay particular attention to any typos, grammatical errors or awkward sentence constructions. It doesn't matter how ingenious your friend is, if she submits a resume with errors, she's going to come across as sloppy and incompetent.

Remain Professional

Setting a professional tone

early on establishes some boundaries and helps inoculate both your friendship and your professional reputation against hard feelings. First make it clear to your friend that although you'll do everything you can to help, that alone won't guarantee her the job. There are so many variables that are out of your control including chemistry, competition and how your friend performs in an interview. As long as she understands that, she'll be more appreciative of your effort and less likely to blame you if she doesn't get the job.

Also, make sure to recommend your friend using the proper channels. Unless you have a casual, friendly relationship with your boss and/or senior management, don't simply bust into their office unannounced. Instead send an email enthusiastically

FRIENDS, turn to B6

3 Job Search Tips for Graduating College Seniors

By Benny Spiewak
ZipRecruiter.com

If you're a student who is about to graduate from college, you're probably thinking about joining 'the real world' and getting your first full-time job. We've previously covered how you should be writing your resume, but there's more to finding a job than that sheet of paper.

While searching for your first job can be daunting, the good news is that in your last weeks as a student, you actually have a leg up on many other job seekers. Here's why:

1. Alumni Want to Help

Anyone who's ever graduated from college knows what it's like to be in your position. In fact, no one knows it better than the people who graduated from your school before you. And now, many of them run or work at successful businesses. Alumni are generally open to speaking with students, sharing their wisdom, and helping where they can.

Research past graduates who are at companies you're

interested in or perform the type of work you're looking to pursue. Then reach out and request a 15-minute informational interview call to ask some questions and get to know them.

2. Use Your School's Career Resources

Most schools have career centers that help connect students to job fairs, networking events, mock interviews, resume-writing workshops, and more. While the offerings may vary, these offices are direct lines to career resources and opportunities like alumni events, networking groups, and other ways to stay in touch with other alumni.

Sign up for their email lists, follow them on social media, and offer to volunteer with them. Doing so will connect you with other engaged alumni and help you network with them organically.

3. You Don't Have Experience. And No One Expects You To!

Many college graduates are rightfully concerned that they are headed into a job

market without much real-world work experience. This is one of the few situations in life where this isn't only acceptable, it's expected.

Just because you are inexperienced in the job market doesn't mean you don't have anything to offer. Whether you're sharing your resume with someone or creating a profile on your school's alumni website, include any experience you think could be applicable to the type of work you're looking to do—academic, extracurricular, internships, or on-campus work-study programs. Include anything that illustrates your leadership, teamwork, organizational abilities, and other 'soft skills' that will help you stand out in the job market.

Congratulations on hitting this major milestone in life! It can be frightening to start something new, but there are many resources—and people!—that can help you get to where you want to be. Make sure you're doing everything you can to take advantage of them.



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Change jobs without burning bridges

Metro Editorial Library

Many people list advancing their careers among their goals at any given time. For some, that might require getting a new job.

People look for new jobs for a variety of different reasons. One of the primary motivators to look for a new job is to earn more money. Others are interested in trying a new field.

The employment recruiting and networking resource The Balance: Careers indicates that the average person now changes jobs 10 to 15 times in their professional lives. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that most people now spend 4.2 years in a current job, which is down from 4.6 years in 2014.

Although some people may be tempted to leave a job with a bang, they should exit with class and professionalism. No one knows what the future brings, and it's best to leave a job on solid terms. With this in mind, here's how a person can change jobs successfully.

- **Draft a letter of resignation.** Clearly communicate your decision to leave the organization. Follow the proper chain of command and show respect by addressing the person to whom you directly report. Clearly communicate your intent and future plans, highlighting when changes are expected to take place.

- **Choose the right time.** Timing is everything, and some times are better for leaving a job than others. Project Management, a consultant group, says to wait until important projects are finished, rather than bailing out in the middle of crucial work.

- **Keep an open mind.** Some employers may be blindsided by an employee's desire to



leave, particularly in cases when said employee never communicated with a supervisor about the desire for more responsibility or to discuss something that may not be working. A boss who respects your work and values you as an asset may make a counter-offer. Hear him or her out and weigh your options.

- **Give plenty of notice.** While two weeks' notice is the norm, leaving more time for an employer to find your replacement, and helping to train this individual, is a sure sign of respect for your current employer.

Changing jobs can be stressful and awkward, but it can be done in a way to ensure good relations with an existing employer for years to come.

Boost your chances of getting a new job

Metro Editorial Library

The recruiting strategist ERE Recruiting Intelligence estimates that 250

résumés are submitted for each corporate job opening, and the first submission occurs within 200 seconds after a position is posted. In such an environment, procrastination can be costly.

There also is stiff competition for those who think they'll simply keep a résumé posted online and wait for the jobs to roll in. BeHiring says the popular job-hunting site Monster.com receives 427,000 résumé postings each and every week. Getting a better idea of how the hiring process works today can improve professionals' chances of getting a new job or even switching careers.

Understand there is a "hiring funnel"

Recruiters use a specific model for every job posting. Informally dubbed the "hiring funnel," this is a reference to the number of total applications they need to generate in order to get a single hire. On average of the 1,000 who see an online job posting, 200 will begin the application process, 100 will actually follow through and

only 25 résumés will be screened out, according to Talent Function Group, LLC. Among that final 25, between four and six will ultimately be invited for an interview.

Be creative with a résumé

Hundreds of people are vying for the same job, and human resources personnel who review applicants may spend 10 seconds reading over each résumé. As a result, it is essential to make a résumé stand out. Areas most perused on a résumé include job titles, companies worked for, start/end dates, and education. Make sure these key areas are visible and impressive.

Also, many résumés are scanned electronically, meaning if you do not format a résumé the correct way or use the applicable software mentioned (often PDF formatting is rejected), the résumé may never get flagged and seen.

Network responsibly

Always connect with people you think can bring career benefits in some way rather than blindly networking. Keep your social media image professional as well, as you never know where a good lead or networking opportunity may come from.

Dress the part

If you're one of the lucky ones who earns an interview, keep the good momentum going by dressing in a manner that is appropriate for the role in which you are interviewing. Tidy hair, clean fingernails, minimal jewelry, classic attire, and a pleasant attitude can make a difference.

Do your research

Always conduct background research on the company you're interviewing with and the industry it's a part of. This way you'll be better apt to answer any questions that come your way. Don't be afraid to also prepare questions that you can ask the interviewer to show your interest.

Consider temp jobs

Rejections will certainly happen as you go along, but do not sit idly licking your wounds. A temporary position is better than being unemployed and can get your foot in the door. Work with a recruiter who may be able to place you in temp jobs, especially positions with an employer you have your eye on.

These tips and more can improve applicants' chances of getting a job.

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