

New Hampton

Chickasaw County

TRIBUNE

Your Community. Your Team. Your Media.

www.nhtrib.com · December 29, 2017 · 10 pages · Issue 104 · Volume 144

YEAR IN REVIEW  
2017

As we close in on 2018, we look back at the top 10 stories of the past year here in Chickasaw County



On a gorgeous sun-drenched July day, thousands of bicyclists make their way through downtown New Hampton as RAGBRAI made its way across Chickasaw County and passed through Ionia, New Hampton, Lawler and Protivin.

# BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE!



School Board members gather with community leaders, district employees and students to break ground on New Hampton's \$19.415 million building project in August.

## VOTERS APPROVE SCHOOL REFERENDUM

The top story of 2017 actually has begun almost eight years ago when New Hampton School Board members first began looking at its facility issues. And after years of talking, one overwhelming rejection and more years of discussion, the dream became a reality the past February when voters in the school district approved a \$19.415 million referendum that will lead to the construction of a new middle school, competition gymnasium and vocational agriculture and industrial technology center.

1

The Feb. 7 vote was a stunning turnaround from a September 2014 referendum that received yes votes from only 42 percent of voters. "I was hopeful, but honestly, to go from 42 percent to 62 percent in one election, that stunned me a little bit," New Hampton Superintendent Jay Jurrens said the day after voters approved the building project. "This is

SEE SCHOOL, 6

## CHICKASAW COUNTY RE-AUDIT CREATES FIRESTORM OF CONTROVERSY

The much-talked about re-audit of Chickasaw County finances seemed to put people in two different camps. One contained people who felt the re-audit that was completed by the State Auditor's Office was much

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ado about nothing while the other was filled with people who wanted the Board of Supervisors to do a better job monitoring county spending. The auditor's report calls into question about \$1,500 worth of questionable expenditures made

by the county, and also recommended that the county establish better procedures for postage and landline phone claims, cell phone policies, review of employee timesheets, proper documentation of vacation payouts, and pop machine receipts.

SEE RE-AUDIT, 6

## COUNTY PUTS OUT WELCOME MAT FOR BICYCLE ENTHUSIASTS

Casey Cohen stood on New Hampton's Main Street on the morning of July 27, and the Santa Maria, Calif., man took it all in.

As he munched on an ear of sweet corn while holding his bike, his face broke out in a big smile.

"Iowa has the nicest people in the world," he said, "and honest to God, the nicest might be the people today. This is incredible."

It was that kind of day for Chickasaw County as it wowed thousands of RAGBRAI bicyclists as the annual ride made its way through Ionia, New Hampton, Lawler and Protivin.

Put it this way: Chickasaw County made quite an impression on a sun-drenched Thursday when more than 22,000 visitors made their way through the county as they pedaled from Charles City to Cresco.

Months of preparation paid off for all four

2

## Santa's sleigh pulled over in New Hampton

According to Christmas Eve report, sheriff's deputies let Kringle off with a warning

By JAMES GROB  
news@nhtrib.com

No one is above the law, but when your name is Santa Claus, sometimes you get a break. A Chickasaw County Deputy issued a written warning to the jolly old elf early Monday morning — on Christmas Eve — for speeding.

The complaint, which was made public on the Chickasaw County Sheriff's Facebook Page on Monday, indicates that Kris "Santa Claus" Kringle of 96930 Arctic Circle, North Pole, Alaska, was issued a written warning for speeding at North Chestnut Avenue in New Hampton. Kringle was driving his 1917 Red Sleigh cargo vehicle at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour — 175 miles per hour over the clearly posted speed limit of 25.

The incident happened shortly after midnight — 12:28 a.m. — on Christmas Day. Clearly, Santa was running a little late this year, and was making up for lost time.

Apparently, Chickasaw County Sheriff's Deputies working on Christmas Eve were a little starstruck to meet Santa, and in the true spirit of Christmas, they were charitable and forgiving, despite the severity of his infraction.

"We had the opportunity to meet Santa and we even let him off with a written warning," they said in the Facebook post.

The deputies understood that Santa had an important job to do, just like they do.

"We understand that he is in a hurry to reach everyone on his nice list," they said.

Mr. Kringle is described in the complaint as a white male, with white hair and blue eyes — presumably "twinkling" blue eyes. He is described as six feet tall and 300 pounds, which is certainly chubby and plump — although there is nothing in the complaint to indicate whether or not his belly shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly.

The complaint also did not indicate whether Santa had dimples that were merry, cheeks like roses, or a nose like a cherry. It can be assumed that he had a beard as white as the snow and an overall jolly disposition.

Calls to the sheriff's department for clarification on these matters were not returned on Wednesday.

Letters to Santa Claus will likely be answered next Christmas.

See a copy of the complaint against Santa on Page 5

# Fredericksburg doctor says 'no issues' with Mercy

## Brinkman not going anywhere, patients won't notice day-to-day difference in how things are done

By JAMES GROB  
news@nhtrib.com

Dr. Lucas Brinkman at the Fredericksburg Family Health Clinic wants to make it clear that he has no issues with Mercy Medical Center in New Hampton, he isn't going anywhere, and it will be business as usual for his patients.

"There is no issue between me and Mercy Medical, and there never has

been," he said.

In November, Mercy Medical Center announced that Brinkman had decided to no longer take calls or rounds on inpatients at Mercy, effective Jan. 1, and although that is true, the announcement perpetuated a lot of



Brinkman

rumors that simply aren't true.

"The fact is that I am not leaving Mercy," Brinkman said. "My affiliation with Mercy will be like it has been in the past, and patients won't notice a day-to-day difference in how things are done, either at Mercy or at my clinic in Fredericksburg."

Due to logistical and family issues, Brinkman will be -- and already has been -- taking calls and rounding inpatients at the Sumner hos-

pital. His wife works in Sumner at the high school, the cities of Sumner and Fredericksburg have a combined school district, and he and his wife have three sons, ages eight, six and three. The drive from Fredericksburg to Sumner is much closer than the drive from New Hampton to Sumner.

"It's a matter of geography," Brinkman said. "That's all it is. There are rumors going around that I'm going somewhere, or this place in

Fredericksburg is closing, or I can't see patients, or if I do see them, they can't go to Mercy, and none of that is true."

In the press release, Mercy did say that the Fredericksburg Family Health Clinic will continue to work closely with Mercy — New Hampton to ensure that Dr. Brinkman's patients receive exceptional patient care.

SEE BRINKMAN, 5



# New Year's Eve Safety & Driving Tips

New Year's Eve is one of the most festive nights of the year. Many people spend the final moments of the year celebrating with family and friends. As joyous as such celebrations tend to be, it's important that New Year's revelers keep certain safety precautions in mind when celebrating the end of one year and the dawn of the next.

- Arrange for transportation in advance. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an average of 304 people die in drunk-driving crashes in the days surrounding Christmas and New Year's Eve each year. Before heading out on New Year's Eve, celebrants should ensure their safety by arranging for transportation to and from the festivities. Choose a designated driver to drive throughout the night, or agree to utilize a taxi or shuttle service if everyone plans to consume alcohol. Men and women who volunteer to be designated drivers should be especially alert on the roadways, preparing to drive in potentially inclement weather and being on the lookout for fellow motorists who might be

driving erratically. If possible, take public transportation to and from the festivities so no one is tempted to drive after consuming alcohol.

- Pick a meetup spot in case anyone gets separated from the group. New Year's Eve celebrations in public places such as bars, clubs or town squares tend to become crowded as midnight draws near. It's easy for groups of friends or family to be separated, so choose a meetup spot where everyone can gather after the ball drops. Choose a spot that's well lit and easily accessible to all, and confirm the location of the meetup spot via a group text message before heading out for the night.

- Stay sober. Many people feel pressured to overindulge with alcohol on New Year's Eve, but men and women should be responsible with regard to their alcohol consumption. Overconsumption of alcohol makes it difficult for men and women to stay alert, and that loss of alertness can be difficult to manage on nights as hectic as New Year's Eve. While it's acceptable for men and women of legal drinking age to raise a glass

of champagne at midnight, it's best to limit alcohol consumption throughout the festivities so the party is memorable for all the right reasons.

- Be a responsible host. When hosting a New Year's Eve party, hosts must prioritize the safety of their guests. Make sure guests don't drink too much, which can leave hosts open to criminal or civil action should guests leave their home and cause an accident. Serve plenty of food and nonalcoholic beverages so guests who are drinking have something in their systems other than alcohol. Schedule things to do throughout the night so guests have more to do than drink alcohol. In addition, make room for potential overnight guests should someone be incapable of driving home at the end of the night. Keep



Party hosts and hostesses are responsible for the safety of guests when alcoholic beverages are served.

contact information for local taxis or shuttle services readily available so guests know they don't have to drive themselves home.

New Year's Eve is a festive night, but one where safety needs to be as big a priority as having a good time.

**FSB**  
**First State Bank**  
*"Where Community Matters"*  
401 Main St., Nashua, Iowa  
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**WISHING YOU A YEAR FULL OF HAPPY DAYS!**  
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120 W. Main St. • FBurg (563) 237-5151  
 

*Wishing You a Happy & Safe New Year!*  
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[www.FCMC.US.com](http://www.FCMC.US.com)

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641-394-4158  
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a branch of The Blue Iris 641-394-6428  
[www.shopthebluetique.com](http://www.shopthebluetique.com)

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[www.conway-markhamfh.com](http://www.conway-markhamfh.com)

**BECAUSE SAFETY IS KEY,  
PLEASE DON'T  
DRINK AND DRIVE!**

**DRINKING & DRIVING  
CAN CHANGE  
YOUR LIFE IN  
JUST ONE SHOT**  
**Don't risk your life or  
the life of someone else.**

**If you plan on drinking, plan ahead and choose a designated driver or call someone for a ride home.**

**New Hampton Ambulance**  
641-394-2199

**Nashua Ambulance**  
641-435-2068

**New Hampton Fire Dept.**  
641-394-4144 Non-Emergency

**Nashua Fire Dept.**  
641-435-4453 Non-Emergency

**New Hampton Police Dept.**  
641-394-3241 Non-Emergency

**Nashua Police Dept.**  
641-435-2068 Non-Emergency

**Mercy Medical Center - New Hampton**  
641-394-4121 Non-Emergency

**Domestic Violence**  
800-799-7233

**Poison Control**  
800-222-1222

**Chickasaw County Sheriff**  
641-394-3121

**Emergency  
911**

**A New Year is coming bringing much celebration,  
With good friends and good times and free-flowing libation**

**So party on hearty, but leave driving alone,  
Because we want to see you get safely home!**

**WITH BEST WISHES  
TO EVERYONE FOR A  
SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Be Careful &  
Have a Happy New Year!**  
  
New Hampton's  
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NEW YEAR!**  
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Kevin, Cam & Jordan  
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641-394-2719

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**NASHUA FAMILY  
CHIROPRACTIC**  
Dr. Alex Anthofer Chiropractic Physician  
12 Woodbridge Street • Nashua, IA  
(641) 435-2102  
**CLARKSVILLE  
CHIROPRACTIC**  
Dr. Alex Anthofer Chiropractic Physician  
109 S. Main Street • Clarksville, IA  
319-278-1100

**Be Safe &  
Have a Wonderful  
New Year!**  
**ECKENROD FARMS**  
Jim & Julie Eckenrod  
New Hampton

**H&R BLOCK**  
516 West Milwaukee  
New Hampton  
641-394-3000

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
**Barb Boeding, DDS, PC  
Kara Speltz, DDS, PC  
Sara Wernimont, DDS**  
**FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
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**Call Today!**

**New Hampton  
TRIBune** Chickasaw County  
*Your Community. Your Team. Your Media.*  
**Nashua  
REPORTER** and Weekly Nashua Post  
10 North Chestnut Ave., New Hampton, Iowa 50659 • P.O. Box 517, Nashua, Iowa 50658  
641.394.2111



Online Poll

This week we're asking residents what New Year's resolution they'll make for 2018.

Vote today online at nhtrib.com.

Next Trib

• Sports Editor Dorothy Huber will look back at another successful Lions Club youth wrestling tournament.

Almanac

	H	L	P
Monday	14	-5	--
Tuesday	3	-9	--
Wednesday	3	-13	--

Forecast

**Friday:** Chance of snow, then snow likely, mainly after noon, 1 to 2 inches possible, with a high of 7 degrees and a low of minus 9.

**Saturday:** Cold with a high of minus 4 and a low of minus 12.

**Sunday:** Cold, minus 2 and minus 14.

**Monday:** Cold, with a high of minus 1.

Meetings

- TUESDAY**
- Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors, 9 a.m., Courthouse.
  - New Hampton City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall.

History

- In 1845, six months after the congress of the Republic of Texas accepts U.S. annexation of the territory, Texas is admitted into the United States as the 28th state.
- In 1876, bridge in Ashtabula, Ohio, collapses on this day in 1876, causing a train to fall into a gorge, killing 80 passengers.
- In 1890, in the final chapter of America's long Indian wars, the U.S. Cavalry kills 146 Sioux at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota.
- In 1940, London suffers its most devastating air raid of the Battle of Britain when Germans firebomb the city.

Birthdays

- Andrew Johnson, the 17th president of the United States, was born in 1806.
- The late TV star Mary Tyler Moore was born in 1936.
- TV actor Ted Danson turns 70.
- Film actor Jon Voight turns 81.

Corrections

• The Tribune wants to make sure all information it presents is accurate and correct.

If you see an error, please call Editor Bob Fenske or Assistant Editor James Grob at 641-394-2111.

Tribune

USPS 379-680

Official Newspaper:  
New Hampton  
Chickasaw County

Known office of publication  
10 North Chestnut Ave  
New Hampton, Iowa 50659

Published Tuesday & Friday.

Periodicals postage paid at New Hampton, IA 50659

POSTMASTER: Address changes to New Hampton Newspapers, 10 N. Chestnut Ave. New Hampton, IA 50659

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Contact the TRIB! and the TRIBAdvertiser at 641.394.2111

Bruce J. Sheehy, 65

Bruce J. Sheehy age 65 of Mesa, AZ, died Saturday, December 23, 2017, in Arizona.

Arrangements are pending at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home in New Hampton. Online condolences for Bruce's family may be left at hugebackfuneralhome.com.

2018 to ring in with bitter cold temps

National Weather Service issues Hazardous Weather Outlook for New Year's Weekend

By JAMES GROB  
news@nhtrib.com

The year 2017 is going out cold — bitterly cold. Bundle up and stay inside if you can. New Hampton residents will be lucky to see 0 degrees this weekend.

Evening wind chills could reach 40 degrees below zero throughout the New Year's Weekend, and the National Weather Service has issued a Hazardous Weather Outlook.

The arctic snap began earlier this week, when the National Weather Service sent out an advisory Tuesday, into Wednesday, for much of northeast Iowa and southeast Minnesota, as well as portions of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Those cold conditions will intensify this weekend. Wind chills from 15 to 35 below are expected from Friday night through Monday morning.

Lows overnight Tuesday night were about minus 13 degrees in the area, with a high Wednesday of six degrees and a low Wednesday night of one degree.

Bitterly cold wind chills ranging from minus 20 to minus 30 degrees were blasted the area Wednesday morning, potentially causing frostbite to exposed skin in as little as

30 minutes. A wind chill advisory means that cold air and wind will combine to create dangerously low temperatures. Frostbite and hypothermia can occur if precautions are not taken, including wearing hats and gloves when outside.

The area also saw about an inch of snow Wednesday night, into Thursday morning, and on Thursday, it warmed up to a "balmy" 12 degrees, and much of the area saw some more snow.

There is a chance of more snow in the area Friday and Friday night, with temperatures expected to reach 10 below zero in the evening. On Saturday, the high temperature isn't likely to reach zero, with winds at 10-15 miles per hour, which will put the wind chill levels dangerously low once again.

The low Saturday night is expected to be about 11 degrees below zero, and the low Sunday night is predicted to be 12 degrees below zero. Wind chills could reach 40 below in some areas.

If the forecast holds, we'll ring in the New Year on Monday at zero degrees, although Tuesday's weather might give us a little break, with a daytime high of eight degrees.

Renee Hettler Rucker, 90

Renee Hettler Rucker, 90, of Gladys passed away Saturday, December 23, 2017 at Lynchburg General Hospital. She was the wife of the late James Mason Rucker.

Mrs. Rucker was born in New Hampton January 17, 1927, daughter of the late Henry Leo Hettler and Emma Jane Clausen Hettler. She was a member of Sharon United Methodist Church and a former employee of G. E. Financial. Renee was one of the regulars at Monument Terrace for many years.

She is survived by four daughters, Sharon R. Gibson of Bel Air, Md., Linda R. Slivkoff of Eaton, Ohio, Kimbra R. Massaker (George), Callie Mason Rucker, all of Baltimore, Md.; two grandchildren, Kristina Massaker, Michael G. Gibson; three great-grandchildren, Tyler G. Gibson, Mandy



Renee Rucker

Malone Gibson, Zachary Tackett; one sister Rita Joost of Jacksonville, Fla. She was preceded in death by two sisters, Margaret Hettler, and Hetty Dick.

A memorial service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday, January 13, 2018, at Sharon United Methodist Church by the Rev. Dick Daly.

Memorial contributions may be made to Gleaning for the World and the Samaritan's Purse.

Henderson Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Brookneal is assisting the family.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.hendersonfuneral.net.

Bundle Up!



Snowy owls finding home on Iowa tundra

From Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Despite what can feel like Arctic weather sweeping into Iowa during the winter, the state still finds itself a long way from the Arctic tundra. So it would be surprising to find Arctic tundra wildlife soaring over Iowa's picked corn fields or perching on the state's telephone poles. But this winter seems to be an exception to that rule, because since early November reports of an iconic tundra-dwelling bird, the snowy owl, have been pouring in from all corners of the state.

Wildlife biologists call the phenomenon a "winter irruption," and it has already yielded numerous sightings of this all-white, vulture-sized owl in Iowa this winter. The recipe for predicting when a winter irruption will occur is not well understood, according to Stephen Dinsmore, professor of natural resource ecology and management at Iowa State University. But there are a few consistencies in years with more sightings of snowy owls south of their typical range.

"In years with high lemming populations, breeding pairs of snowy owls can sense the increased food supply and quickly make the most of long Arctic days, laying clutches of sometimes more than 10 eggs and successfully raising their young on diets full of lemmings," said Dinsmore. "In years when most of those young survive, conditions are prime for southward irruption. There become too many mouths to feed in the tundra and young owls are forced south to find food in less familiar landscapes like Iowa."

Populations of the small, field mouse-like lemmings on the Arctic tundra are cyclical and they become abundant every few years before crashing as they literally eat themselves out of food. These regular cycles coincide with what typically produces snowy owl irruptions, although the magnitude of an irruption can vary.

Another reason this year is shaping up to be a banner year for snowy owl sightings in Iowa is that many parts of the state have had no snow, making it easy to spot a large, white owl.

"Snowy owls, like many northern species, are almost completely white to help them blend in among their typically snow-covered environments," said Adam Janke, assistant professor and wildlife extension specialist at Iowa State. "Being a white bird on an otherwise brown, gray or black landscape makes hiding a lot harder. So we can be driving along at 55 miles per hour and still spot a snowy owl in a field without snow."

That additional conspicuousness, coupled with this year's high numbers, could make the 2017-18 winter one for the record books. "In a normal winter there are 5-10 snowy owl sightings in Iowa," said Dinsmore. "In an irruption year, however, there can be a 10-fold or more increase in numbers, similar to the more than 150 sightings during the winter of 2011-12."



Dorothy Huber/Tribune

Those without fur had to bundle up, and will have to continue to do do for the near future as temperatures are hovering near or below zero this week.

I want to thank everyone for the cards, flowers & gifts received for my 95th birthday. Special thanks to my family for the party.

*Delores Weigel*

The Sumner Sunset Theatre

**December 29- Jan 4**

**"Bad Moms Christmas"**

1 hour 44 min - R

**SHOW TIMES:**  
Monday, Tues. & Thurs. 7 P.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Friday at 7 P.M. & 9:30 P.M.  
Saturday at 1, 4, 7 & 9:30 P.M.  
Sunday at 1, 4 & 7 P.M.

**Hwy. 93, Sumner, Iowa**  
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sumnertheatre.com

**Holiday Hours:**

Dec. 24: Closing at 2 p.m.

Dec. 25: Closed

Dec. 31: Closing at 2 p.m.

Jan. 1: Closed

**Klunder's Kafe**

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**Thank You**

The family of Madonna Flick want to thank the community for the great support we have received during her struggle with cancer.

We are grateful to Dr. John Epperly & the nursing staff at New Hampton Hospital for the outstanding care she received.

We want to thank Sister Vicky, Fr. Dellaert, Fr. Carl, Fr. Mark, Fr. Kyle & Karen Bonfig for their prayers, comforting words & well wishes. Special thanks to Hospice & the Home Health Care, Conway-Markham Funeral Home, the North Washington Men's Choir & the women of the parish for the great lunch.

We want to thank everyone for the flowers, gifts, food & support the family received. All donations received will be sent to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

**THANK YOU!**

**Retiring**  
AFTER  
**51**  
YEARS

STOP BY TO CONGRATULATE

**Judy Hoffman**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH, 2017  
8AM - 4:00PM  
CAKE AND PUNCH WILL BE SERVED

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NEW HAMPTON



NEW HAMPTON

**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
Father Brian Dellaert  
Holy Family  
202 N. Broadway  
Pastoral Office  
313 W. Court  
New Hampton, IA 50659  
Phone: 641-394-2105  
Mass/Eucharistic Liturgy  
Saturday: 4 p.m.  
Sunday: 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Mass

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
223 South Water  
Pastor Kevin Frey  
Ph. 641-394-2552

Saturday, December 30: No service  
Sunday, December 31: 9:00 am  
Worship Service - Hymn Sing  
Monday, January 1 - Office closed  
Wednesday, January 3: 8:30 am  
Quilting; 5:00-5:50 pm No Meal;  
6:00-6:30 pm No Contemporary  
Service; 6:40-7:30 pm No LIGHT/  
Confirmation class  
Thursday, January 4: 9:30 am  
Bible Study

**First United Methodist Church**  
Pastor Candreaah Carey  
201 North Locust  
Phone: 641-394-2893  
www.firstumcnewhampton.com

Sunday, December 31: 9:00 a.m. Worship

**Harvest Church**  
Pastor Doug Harvey  
481 S. Linn Ave.  
New Hampton, IA  
641.394.4380

Email:office@harvestcares.com  
www.HarvestCares.com  
www.facebook.com/HarvestNH  
Sundays: Sunday School for  
all ages - 9:15 a.m.; Worship -  
10:30 a.m.; Revive Youth Group  
(7th - 12th grade) - 6:00 - 8:00  
p.m. (games start at 5:30 p.m.)  
Contacts: Nate or Kristi 563-569-  
8637

Tuesdays: Women’s Bible  
Study 7:00 p.m.; Location:  
Pinicon  
Thursdays: Men’s Bible Study  
6:30 a.m. at Klunder’s Kafe  
Contact: Pastor Doug 217-  
433-5773

**Congregational United Church of Christ**  
Pastor Paul Pickar  
4 E. Court St. New Hampton  
Office Phone: 641-394-2247  
Email:  
nhiucc@iowatelecom.net

Sunday, Dec. 31: 9:20 a.m.  
Sunday School; 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Service  
Sunday, Jan. 7: 9:20 a.m.  
Sunday School; 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Service; 12:00 p.m.  
Farewll Potluck honoring Pastor  
Paul & Janet

**Redeemer Lutheran Church (ELS)**  
611 W. Court St., New Hampton  
Vacancy Pastor Peter Faugstad  
pastorfaugstad@gmail.com  
Phone: 641-394-2296  
www.redeemertrinity.com  
Saturdays: 4 p.m. Divine Service  
Tuesdays: Office hours in  
afternoon

**Prairie Lakes Church**  
Ph: 641.456.6880  
Chickasaw Event Center  
Office: 18 East Main Street,  
Suite 2, New Hampton  
Pastor Cory Orr  
Email: cory.orr@prairielake-  
schurch.org  
www.prairielakeschurch.org  
Sundays at 10 a.m.

ELMA

**Elma United Methodist Church**  
Pastor Raelonna Patrick  
Worship: 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**  
Rev. Mark Murphy  
Sunday, Dec. 31: 7:30 a.m. Mass  
Sunday, Jan. 7: 7:30 a.m. Mass

**St. Peter Lutheran Church**  
Rev. Daird Korth  
Handicap Accessible  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship Service  
First Thursday: 1:30 p.m.  
LWML Meeting

ALTA VISTA

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
200 South White Avenue  
Alta Vista, IA 50603-0128  
Student Pastor: Sue Cira  
Worship 8 a.m.  
You are Invited!

**St. Bernard’s Catholic Church**  
Alta Vista  
Rev. Mark Murphy  
Saturday, Dec. 30: 5 p.m. Mass  
Saturday, Jan. 6: 5 p.m. Mass

IONIA

**Ionias United Church of Christ**  
Pastor Paul Pickar  
Church Office: 641-394-2247  
Email: nhiucc@iowatelecom.net

Sunday, Dec. 31: 8:30 a.m. Worship  
Services  
Sunday, Jan. 7: 8:30 a.m. Worship  
Services; 12:00 p.m. Farewll Potluck  
honoring Pastor Paul & Janet in New  
Hampton

**St. Boniface Catholic Church**  
Father Brian Dellaert  
Saturday, Jan. 6: 6 p.m. Mass

**Republic Community Church**  
1794 280th St.  
Rev. John Tunncliff  
641-435-4433 office  
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

STAPLETON


**St. John Lutheran Church**  
Rev. Wayne Ellingson and  
Irmgard Ellingson, M.A., Pastors

Sunday, Dec. 31: 9:00 a.m. One  
Service at St. Peter’s - No Sunday  
School  
Wednesday, Jan. 3: 9:00 a.m.  
FHC Circle; 7:30 p.m. Sarah Circle  
Sunday, Jan 7: The Celebration  
of the Epiphany; 10:30 a.m. St. John  
Worship w/ Holy Communion; Mtg.  
& Potluck; No Sunday School

RICHFIELD

**St. Peter Lutheran Church**  
Rev. Wayne Ellingson and  
Irmgard Ellingson, M.A., Pastors

Sunday, Dec. 31: 9:00 a.m. One  
Service at St. Peter’s - No Sunday  
School  
Wednesday, Jan. 3: 9:00 a.m.  
FHC Circle; 6:30 p.m. Conf. at St.  
Peter’s; 7:30 p.m. Sarah Circle  
Sunday, Jan 7: The Celebration  
of the Epiphany; 8:00 a.m. St. Peter  
Worship w/ Holy Communion; No  
Sunday School



# Getting Rid of Anger & Bitterness

We all sometimes hold on to anger and bitterness for too long. There is something in us which wants to savor the bitterness of real or imagined wrongs which have been done to us. We obsessively return in our mind to what the person said or did, like touching the sore of a wound. But just as your mother reminded you to stop picking your scabs, we would do well to let go of anger and bitterness. In the book Flourish the psychologist Martin Seligman reports that “Holding on to anger and bitterness maintains depression and undermineswell-being.” Besides being the Christian thing to do, and a reflection of God’s forgiveness, forgiving others allows us to move on with our lives. It’s always better to forget the wrongs done to us in the past and move forward with plans for a better future. Some people are blessed with the ability to almost immediately let things go, while others are cursed with a long memory for grievances. So even if you cannot manage to forget the wrong done to you, you might still find it in your power to forgive. – Christopher Simon

NASHUA

**The Little Brown Church**  
2730 Cheyenne Avenue  
(2 miles east on Highway 346)  
641-435-2027  
Pastor John Granchie  
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship

**St. Michael’s Catholic Church**  
Father Gary Mayer, Pastor  
641-435-2070  
First and Third Saturday: 6:30 p.m.  
Reconciliation following

**United Methodist Church**  
314 Brasher St.  
Rev. John Tunncliff  
641-435-4433 office  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship; 10:15  
a.m. Sunday School

LITTLE TURKEY

**Assumption Church**  
Father Kyle Digmann  
563-569-8259  
Sunday, Jan. 7: 10:30 a.m Mass

NORTH WASHINGTON

**Immaculate Conception**  
North Washington  
Father Brian Dellaert  
Saturday, Dec. 30: 6 p.m. Mass

WAUCOMA

**St. Mary’s Catholic Church**  
Father Kyle Digmann  
563-569-8259  
Saturday, Jan 6: 4 p.m. Mass

FREDERIKA

**United Methodist Church**  
Ministry Team  
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship

SAUDE

**Saude Lutheran Church (ELS)**  
2949 Stevens Trail, Lawler  
Pastor Peter Faugstad  
Phone: 563-569-8602  
saudejerico.com

Sunday, December 31: 10:30 a.m.  
New Year’s Eve Service

PLEASANT VALLEY

**First United Church of Christ**  
31015 150th St. • Clarksville  
Rev. Peter Wenzel, Minister  
Sunday, Dec. 31: 10:00 a.m.

JERICO

**Jerico Lutheran Church (ELS)**  
2512 120th St., New Hampton  
Pastor Peter Faugstad  
Phone: 563-569-8602  
saudejerico.com

Sunday, December 31: 9:00 a.m.  
New Year’s Eve Service

ST. LUCAS

**St. Luke’s Catholic Church**  
Father Kyle Digmann  
563-569-8259  
Sunday, Dec 31: 10:30 a.m. Mass

FORT ATKINSON

**St. John Nepomucene**  
Father Kyle Digmann  
563-569-8259  
Sunday, Jan. 7: 8:30 a.m. Mass;



FREDERICKSBURG

**Peace United Church of Christ**  
Interim Pastor James Reid  
Church: 563-237-5743  
Sunday School at 9am  
Worship at 10am

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
(Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)  
Pastor Ronnie L. Koch  
563-237-5759  
Janiece Kramer, Daycare Director  
563-237-6117  
Sunday Divine Service: 9 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

**United Methodist Church**  
Rev. Michael Christie  
Phone: 563-237-5347  
Sunday morning worship at  
10:30 a.m.

**Hillcrest Baptist and Brethren Church**  
Phone: 563-237-5772  
Parsonage Phone: 563-237-5954  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School;  
10 a.m. Church Service  
Wednesday: 9:15 a.m. Bible  
Study

LAWLER

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church**  
Father Kyle Digmann  
563-569-8259 - Rectory  
Saturday, Dec. 30: 8:30 a.m. Mass

**Immanuel Lutheran**  
(Crane Creek) - Rural Lawler  
P.O. Box 128, Alta Vista, IA 50603  
Student Pastor: Sue Cira  
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
You are Invited!

SUMNER

**St. Paul’s United Church of Christ**  
Supply Pastor Rev. Robert Treichel  
Church: 563-237-5743  
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship

LOURDES

**Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church**  
Rev. Mark Murphy  
Saturday, Dec. 30: 7 p.m. Mass  
Saturday, Jan. 6: 7 p.m. Mass

CHARLES CITY

**Charles City Calvary Baptist**  
700 Milwaukee • Pastor Robbins  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School;  
10:30 a.m. Preaching Service

**Cross Ev. Lutheran Church (ELS)**  
312 1st Ave., Pastor Daniel Larson  
Church - 641-715-1095  
facebook: crosslutheranchurchwels  
Sunday: 9:45 a.m. Bible Study;  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

**New Hope Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**  
We’ve moved-607 North Main Street,  
Charles City, IA 50616  
Pastor Christopher Gorshe  
Ph: 641.832.1766

Sunday, Dec. 31st: 8 a.m.  
Worship; 9 am Fellowship  
Saturday, Jan. 6th: 7:30 a.m.  
Men’s Bible Study

PROTIVIN

**Holy Trinity**  
Father Kyle Digmann  
563-569-8250  
Sunday, Dec. 31: 8:30 a.m. Mass





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641-394-2187  
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In the spirit

Workers at Klunder’s Kafe took their holiday ugly sweater day seriously. From left, Pam Nolt, Arely Camarillo, Amy Boos, Jimmy Klunder, Anna Zwanziger, Kathy Anderson and Maria Esparza get together for a group photo prior to the arrival of their lunch crowd.

Dorothy Huber/Tribune

Iowa Department of Agriculture provides 2017 ‘Ag in Review’

Year featured surprising yields, ongoing challenges

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship highlighted some of the top ag issues in Iowa in 2017 this week

“While the challenging economic conditions on the farm continued in 2017, I was extremely encouraged to continue to see farmers experimenting and investing in water quality efforts on their farm. We continue to see Iowans on the farm and in our communities taking on the challenge of improving water quality. It is encouraging to see growth by farmers in both infield practices, such as cover crops and no-till, but also edge of field practices, like wetlands and bioreactors, as we work to address this important issue,” said Bill Northey, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

“In many cases Iowa farmers saw surprisingly good yields this year, but with that strong supply we continue to see low prices. That highlights again how important it is we continue to build demand for our ag products, both domestically and internationally. As strong livestock industry, expanding use of renewable fuels and promoting international trade are all vitally important,” said Mike Naig, Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

**Weather Challenges, Surprising Yields**

In general, Iowa farmers had pretty good yields despite some weather challenges. Parts of the state were in abnormally dry or drought conditions for significant parts of the growing season, with south central and southeast Iowa being the hardest hit areas.

Despite the weather challenges, Iowa corn production is forecast at 2.54 billion bushels according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service Crop Production report. This would be second largest Iowa crop on record, only beaten by last year’s record of 2.74 billion bushels. The statewide average yield is expected to be 197 bushels per acre.

Soybean production is forecast at 557 million bushels for Iowa, which would be the second largest crop on record. The statewide yield forecast is 56 bushels per acre.

Low crop prices over the past few years has made it a challenging time on the farm economically as in many cases current prices are below the cost of production for farmers. Average statewide corn prices continued to fall and the statewide average for November was \$2.9985, which is down from \$3.008 last November. Statewide average soybean prices for November were \$9.0412, which is down from \$9.25 last year.

While still a challenging year economically for Iowa livestock farmers, they have seen some better prices and lower feed costs. Cattle prices were at \$109 per hundred weight in October, up from \$101 per hundred weight last year. Hog prices were at \$47.30 in October, up from \$41.70 last year.

Iowa egg production in October 2017 was 1.33 billion eggs, up 4 percent from last month, and up 3 percent from last year, according to the latest Chickens and Eggs report from the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. The average number of all layers on hand during October 2017 was 55.5 million, up 3 percent from last year. Egg prices have recovered some from last year and were at \$.68 per dozen in October, up from just \$.21 per dozen last year.

There were also 12.1 million turkeys raised in Iowa in 2017. Iowa currently ranks 7th in US turkey production. Tyson Foods in Storm Lake and West Liberty Foods in West Liberty process 15.5 million turkeys annually. Subway and Jimmy John’s both serve Iowa turkey, but you can also find it in your grocery store via Jimmy Dean and private label sliced turkey.

Milk production in Iowa during October 2017 totaled 437 million pounds, up 4 percent from the previous October. Iowa was home to 219,000 milk cows in October, which is 4,000 more than last year. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,995 pounds, up 40 pounds from last October. The October all milk price of \$17.90 per cwt is 10 cents higher than September and \$1.20 higher than October 2016.

Santa’s Warning

TRAFFIC WARNING MEMORANDUM

CHICKASAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFF

116 N CHESTNUT

NEW HAMPTON, IA 50659-0084

Defendant Information

Warning Number: WS19 LLER 171225 902851

Dispatch/Case #:

Name - Last KRINGLE First KRIS Middle SANTA CLAUS Suffix

Company Name Dealer Number

Address 96930 ARTIC CIRCLE City NORTH POLE State AK Zip Code 99705

DL# S0001225 License State AK DL Class E DL Endorsements NONE

DL Restrictions NONE Date of Birth 12/31/00 Race WHITE - W Ethnicity NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN - N Gender MALE

Height 6' 00" Weight 300 LBS Eye Color BLUE - BLU Hair Color WHITE - WHI

Vehicle Information

Vehicle Year 1917 Vehicle Make SLEIGH Vehicle Model SLEIGH Vehicle Color RED Vehicle Style CARGO

Plate/Registration # 00001 State AK Year 2018 VIN Number 0000111122

Location

Date 12/25/2017 Time 00:28 Upon a public highway at N CHESTNUT AVE

Violation

Speed 200 IN 25 ZONE State Local In Violation of 321.285 20 17 IA Code

Warning For: Description of Violation SPEEDING 55 OR UND ZONE (21 OR OVER)

This Warning is issued to you as a courtesy and to remind you to do your part in promoting safety on our highways and streets by closely following our traffic laws.

EQUIPMENT REPAIR ORDER FOR:

You are requested to correct, immediately, the faulty or illegal equipment as indicated above.

NOTICE: If the indicated equipment is not repaired the vehicle shall not be operated.

I.D. Number 19-4

Reference Number

Signature of Officer Deputy 19

Signature of Defendant Kris Santa Claus Kringle

Photo from Chickasaw County Sheriff's Facebook Page

A copy of the traffic complaint against Kris Santa Claus Kringle was posted on the Chickasaw County Sheriff's Facebook Page on Christmas. Santa was apparently traveling 175 miles per hour over the speed limit, but deputies let him off with a warning. See the full story on Page 1.

Brinkman’s partnership with Mercy will remain strong

**BRINKMAN: FROM 1**

“The partnership with Mercy New Hampton will remain strong for outpatient services and my patients will be able to receive inpatient care there as well,” said Brinkman.

Brinkman said that he would still order lab and radiology tests at Mercy.

“Anything that needs to be done,” he said. “I’ll still work there. I’ll still work in emergency from time to time, and really, unless you’re admitted to the hospital, you won’t see any change at all.”

Brinkman, originally from Ida Grove, came to Fredericksburg Family Health Clinic in 2009, and was on

rotation for Mercy’s on-call schedule for that entire time.

Drs. Joseph and Mary Sharon Peraud began to provide care for patients in Fredericksburg in 1976, establishing a close working relationship with the Fredericksburg Family Health Clinic and Mercy Medical Center.

Reminder: The Tribune office will be closed Monday!

Have a safe and happy New Year!

**GUN SHOW**

January 19, 20 & 21

Floyd County Youth Enrichment Center

Charles City Fairgrounds

Friday, 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. • Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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WHERE? VFW 1505 N. Grand Ave. Charles City, IA

WHEN? January 6th (Saturday) @ 6 pm

WHAT TO BRING? \$60 (cash or check) \*\*NO TEST or SHOOTING\*\* BASIC PISTOL SAFETY/HANDLING & IOWA LAW 2 hour class fulfills the requirement for the Iowa Permit to Carry Weapons NO PRE-REGISTRATION NEEDED - JUST SHOW UP [www.iowacarrysafe.com](http://www.iowacarrysafe.com)

Aaron Kelly 641-895-4884 (call or text) [aaron@iowacarrysafe.com](http://aaron@iowacarrysafe.com)

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Mercy FAMILY HEALTH & BIRTH CENTER Where Love is Born

**It’s A Girl!**

**Olivia Grace Wiegmann**

Born December 15, 2017 at 3:47 p.m.

Weight: 7 lbs. 12.8 oz. • Length: 21”

Parents: Coy & Dani Wiegmann

Hometown: New Hampton

Grandparents: Jon & Dawn Wiegmann, Parkersburg; Jane Goodwin, New Hampton; Rich Goodwin; Dike

Delivery Team: Dr. Shea Epperly & Dr. Nathan Harms

308 N. Maple Ave. • 641-394-4121 [www.mercynewhampton.com](http://www.mercynewhampton.com)

Mercy FAMILY HEALTH & BIRTH CENTER Where Love is Born

**It’s A Girl!**

**Aubrey Marie Groth**

Born December 18, 2017 at 5:38 p.m.

Weight: 7 lbs. 10.9 oz. • Length: 21”

Parents: Jake & Heather Groth

Hometown: New Hampton

Siblings: Mariah (16), Mallory (14) and Camren (12)

Grandparents: Gary & Nancy McIntyre, Hawkeye; Chuck & Dawn Groth, Decorah

Delivery Team: Dr. Shea Epperly & Dr. Paul McQuillen

308 N. Maple Ave. • 641-394-4121 [www.mercynewhampton.com](http://www.mercynewhampton.com)

Mercy FAMILY HEALTH & BIRTH CENTER Where Love is Born

**It’s A Boy!**

**Avery Josiah Oberholtzer**

Born December 21, 2017 at 1:39 p.m.

Weight: 8 lbs. 5 oz. • Length: 20”

Parents: Derlyn & Lucinda Oberholtzer

Hometown: Floyd

Siblings: Makensie (4) & Skyler (2)

Grandparents: Ervin & Earla Oberholtzer, Lititz, PA and Levi & Lorraine Burkholder, Orchard

Delivery Team: Dr. Heather Harms & Dr. Jack Kline

308 N. Maple Ave. • 641-394-4121 [www.mercynewhampton.com](http://www.mercynewhampton.com)



YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

LOOKING BACK AT THE YEAR'S TOP STORIES



Workers from Baker Excavating conduct pre-site preparation work near New Hampton High School this past fall at what will be the site of New Hampton's new middle school, competition gym and industrial technology and vocational agriculture center.

CONSTRUCTION ON NEW SCHOOL TO BEGIN IN EARLY IN 2018

SCHOOL: FROM 1

a big day for our school, for New Hampton and our area."

The passage of the referendum kicked off a busy year that saw school officials and its owner's representative, Facilities Cost Management Group, work to sell the first \$10 million in bonds to finance the project, design the new facilities and award bids to contractors.

When voters approved the project, the

1

hope was that bids would be awarded sometime during the summer, but it took longer than expected to design the building and the school did not award bids to Cresco Building Service, Young Plumbing and Heating of Waterloo and Shammel Electric of Austin, Minn, until the last week of November.

The timing of the bids probably proved to be fortuitous; instead of bidding during the project during the height of the construction season, the district called for bids when contractors were "looking for

work" in 2018.

"We feel pretty good with where we're at," Jurrens said. "I know it was frustrating with the delays, but when we look back on it now, I don't think we could have called bids at a better time than we did."

Construction on the new school, gym and center could begin as early as late February, and school officials say they expect the new facilities to be ready for the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

AREA THROWS GREAT PARTIES AS RAGBRAI PASSES THROUGH

RAGBRAI: FROM 1

cities that saw riders pass through, and businesses, organizations and service groups greeted the bicyclists with great food and fun games.

Maybe the most unique "booth" was offered by the New Hampton Rotary Club, where 103-year-young Paul Hassman sat for hours and had his picture taken as the club conducted a "1,000 Selfies with Paul" challenge.

"I'm having the time of my life," Hassman said. "I've even gotten a few kisses. We should do this every week."

It had been 40 years since New Hampton and Ionia had welcomed RAGBRAI, but the

way this year's "pass through" played out, it's highly doubtful we'll have to wait another 40 years to see the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa."

"It's been exhausting but so much fun," said Julie Winter Havel, who along with Phil Zwanziger, chaired the New Hampton RAGBRAI Committee.

"To see this many people having a great time ... well, if we can do anything, we can throw one hell of a party."

And the same could be said of Ionia, Lawler and Protivin, all of which offered bicyclists from around the world unique vendors and options during a day Chickasaw County will never forget.



One of the biggest attractions in Lawler during RAGBRAI's pass through was the town's unique "autograph wall."



RAGBRAI bicyclists gather on an Ionia home's front yard to listen to a band on the morning of July 27.

CHICKASAW COUNTY'S RE-AUDIT LEADS TO DIFFERENCES OF OPINIONS

RE-AUDIT: FROM 1

But a number of residents pointed out that the \$1,500 was a minuscule fraction of the more than \$30 million expended by the county during the two-year period the audit covered.

"You take a look at this audit, and they

3

only found about \$1,500 in questionable funds, out of \$30 million," said former Supervisor Rick Holthaus said during a meeting the Board of Supervisors held to discuss the re-audit. "You couldn't find a much cleaner budget than that anywhere."

Others, though were frustrated. "Some of the things I've heard, I've

been really disturbed about," said Fredericksburg resident Doreen Cook, who was particularly frustrated with how vacations were paid out to retirees."

And the controversy lingered into the holiday season; in fact, last week supervisors considered — but did not act — on a proposal to investigate results of the re-audit even further.

NEW HAMPTON BOY SCOUT TROOP HOST ITS FIRST MOTORCYCLE RALLY

A tradition that stretched back to 1979 appeared to be ending this year, when, in June, the Davis family, announced they would not hold their annual motorcycle rally.

Not so fast, said New Hampton Boy Scout Troop 48 members and leaders; instead, they announced on June 30 that they would bring a rally to New Hampton.

Gene and Luci Davis started the rally in 1979, and it grew to become one of the biggest rallies in the Midwest.

6

But with attendance dwindling in recent years, organizers decided to put the rally on "hiatus."

That's when the Boy Scouts went to work, and just like the Davis Rally, the New Hampton Motorcycle Rally was held on "the weekend after Labor Day."

"It went great," Scoutmaster Tony Trower said, "in fact, I'd say it went fabulous. We had a good crowd and we heard a lot of positives."

And Trower said the second-annual New Hampton Motorcycle Rally is a go for 2018.



New Hampton Motorcycle Rally attendees make their way down Main Street during the "Lights Parade."

MERCY CELEBRATES PROUD PAST, BUILDS FOR THE FUTURE

New Hampton's hospital looked back at its proud past and planned for its longterm future this past year.

In early August, Mercy Medical Center-New Hampton celebrated the 100th anniversary of its opening and a month later, the hospital began a \$6 million renovation project that will lead to a safer, more secure emergency room, the move to one-patient hospital rooms and a new reception and medical records area.

Start with the celebration that was held Aug. 4-6, with the big day being a Saturday full of activities — including inflatables for the kids, an ecumenical church service, a memorial butterfly release and live music.

The celebration came six

4

months after the actual anniversary, for St. Joseph Hospital actually opened for business on Feb. 6, 1917.

"But we didn't think it was a good idea to have an outdoor celebration in February," Mercy Public Relations Director Jenny Monteith said with a laugh.

Now the hospital is undergoing a dramatic renovation, one that officials say shows the commitment to continue to provide outstanding health care to the New Hampton area for years to come.

But while much has changed in Mercy's long history, one thing hasn't, according to hospital CEO Aaron Flugum.

"The commitment to patient care, I think, that's something that was there 100 years ago," he said, "is here today and will be here long after we're gone."



Residents, many of whom were born at Mercy Medical Center-New Hampton, gather for an ecumenical church service during the hospital's celebration of its 100th birthday.



Area residents gather for a candlelight vigil on Nov. 4 to celebrate the life of Sterling Koehn and raise awareness of child abuse and neglect.

ALTA VISTA TAKES ON CHILD ABUSE AFTER BABY'S DEATH

The saddest story of the year unfolded over a couple of months.

On Aug. 30, Chickasaw County deputies responded to a call from Alta Vista about an unresponsive baby, and almost two months later — on Oct. 25 — 4-month-old Sterling Koehn's parents were arrested and charged with murder in the first degree and child endangerment causing death.

A forensic entomologist, according to court documents, said that the child had not had a diaper change, bath or been removed from the seat in over a week."

In the complaint, Chickasaw County Chief Deputy Reed Palo wrote the "facts of this case go far beyond neglect and show circumstances manifesting an

extreme indifference to human life."

The allegations and charges stunned residents of the small Chickasaw County town and made news around the world, and Alta Vista residents gathered on Nov. 4 for a candlelight vigil to honor the memory of the baby, begin the healing process and raise awareness of child abuse and child neglect.

"What can we do to give honor and awareness to a situation that should have never occurred? The best way is the act of giving as God gave," said the Rev. Paula Hemann, who spoke at the vigil. "The only way for darkness or evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing."

Both Zachary Koehn and Cheyanne Harris remain in custody and are awaiting trial.



YEAR IN REVIEW  
2017

LOOKING BACK AT THE YEAR'S TOP STORIES



Bob Fenske

One of my favorite concerts to cover each year is Coffehouse, the final time New Hampton High School seniors perform in front of the “home crowd,” if you will. I love the emotion you see from seniors, like Danni Priestley, who hugs her mom as part of a salute to the music program’s seniors.

OUR FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Bob Fenske

Unless I’m sitting in a football stadium, I’m not a huge fan of crowds, but for me, covering RAGBRAI was definitely an exception.



Dorothy Huber

Those hot summer days seem like so long ago at the moment. Eliza Hoy displays some sheer joy while jumping into the New Hampton Municipal pool.



Dorothy Huber

I like this photo because I feel the same way about bugs. Especially big bugs, and this was one big bug Iowa State University students brought to the Insect Zoo sponsored by the New Hampton Public Library.



Dorothy Huber

Cross country runners need all the breath they can preserve. So when New Hampton’s Alexis Rings encouraged this Decorah runner to finish during a meet at Luther College it was a nice sportsmanship moment.



Dorothy Huber

Turkey Valley had several good sprinters this spring, including, from left, Cale Reicks, Wyatt Blazek and Cody Hackman.



Workers from Croell’s Redi-Mix pour the first portion of the TRIBE Trail.

WORK BEGINS ON POOL PROJECT, TRIBE TRAIL’S PHASE I

New Hampton’s park system isn’t bad now, but thanks to two projects that got underway this past year, it’s going to be better than ever in the near future.

Work began this past summer on the first phase of the TRIBE Trail, which will eventually connect existing trails in Mikkelson Park and the city’s west-side industrial park, and this fall, work began on the first major renovations in more than a quarter of a century at the New Hampton Municipal Pool.

Start with the TRIBE Trail. The trail has been in the work for several years and received a number of major grants and private donations, and Phase I, which runs from Mikkelson Park to Logan Street, was completed in November.

“We’ve had great support from the community, and we’ll need to continue to have that support as we plan for Phase II and III,” said TRIBE Trail

Committee member Megan Baltes.

Work on the pool, meanwhile, has also been discussed for a couple of years, and Parks and Recreation officials approved a plan that will add a Splash Pad, a new drop slide and several other new pool toys to the facility.

The project was originally estimated to cost \$627,000, but when bids came in \$100,000 over budget, two area businessmen — Willis Hansen and Walt Schilling — led the way to making sure the project would be completed.

“We’ve had so many donations — from Willis and Walt to just people sending in a few bucks,” said Parks and Recreation Director Rick Kramer. “It shows you the level of support for the pool.”

And if all goes well — i.e., if winter cooperates — the project should be completed by the time the pool opens on Memorial Day weekend in 2018.

COUNTY ATTORNEY OFFICE CHANGES HANDS

For the first time in almost 15 years, Chickasaw County had a new county attorney after Pat Wegman resigned the office in late September to accept an appointment to the bench.

Wegman, who was in three years into a fourth term as the county’s chief prosecutor, was named a district court associate judge for District 1.

“The people of Chickasaw County have been great,” Wegman said. “They’ve treated me well, and I’ve always tried to do my very best for them. It’s been an honor serving them.”

But Wegman also said with his younger son graduating from New Hampton High School this coming spring, he had “been thinking about doing something different.”

His office didn’t remain vacant for long as the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 in early October to appoint Jennifer Schwickerath as his replacement, and she will complete Wegman’s term that runs through Dec. 31, 2018.

Schwickerath said she was humbled by the appointment and the show of support she received from county residents, including Wegman.

“It was very nice to hear the recommendation from Pat, and from all these people I’ve worked very closely with over the years.”



Schwickerath

CHICKASAW COUNTY ATTORNEY OFFICE CHANGES HANDS

It took a while and a lot of controversy, but Chickasaw County finally hired a Veterans Affairs director this past summer, and Lindsay Zenner hit the ground running.

The six-year Air Force veteran’s hiring ended a five-month period in which the county didn’t have a director.

Dave Jacobsen resigned the position in January, and after the Veterans Commission appeared to have the candidate it wanted to hire, county veterans created a firestorm, protesting that the candidate was not a veteran and proposing that the three-person Commission

become a five-member panel.

Zenner was finally hired in June, and she said her goal was to help veterans receive the benefits she believes they earned by serving their country.

“We got a very good one in Lindsay,” said David Boss, the chairman of the Veterans Commission. “She’s ready to tackle any issue, and if she doesn’t have the answer, she’ll find it.”



Zenner

PRICHARD’S GUBERNATORIAL RUN STARTS ... AND ENDS

State Rep. Todd Prichard’s hope when he announced he was seeking the Democratic nomination for governor was that he could reach the “middle.”

And while he felt his message was the one that would most resound with Iowans in 2018, the money in politics reared its ugly head and his campaign lasted for all of three months.

The Charles City Democrat, who has represented Chickasaw County in the Iowa House of Representative since 2013, suspended his campaign in August.

“It’s kind of bittersweet, mostly bitter, but that old saying about ‘too much money in politics,’ well, it’s true,” Prichard said.

“We looked it over and we just didn’t think with the crowded field we have, we could raise the money needed to for a successful campaign.”

Instead, the moderate Democrat announced he would seek a fourth term in the Iowa House.



Prichard

OTHER STORIES THAT MADE NEWS IN 2017

Among the stories that we considered but didn’t make the cut for our top-10 were ...

... The appearance of Temple Grandin, the world-renowned autism spokesperson and consultant to the livestock industry.

... The continuing saga of the communications bill that the city of Nashua refused to pay in full to the Chickasaw County Sheriff’s office.

... The search for Sheila Ludwig, a Fredericksburg woman who went missing

in March. The story had a sad ending when the body of the 67-year-old woman was found a day later.

... Jerico Lutheran Church’s celebration of its 150th anniversary.

... The stormy weather, including a couple of late-winter snowstorms and the July storms that brought flooding to the county, especially in the Fredericksburg area.

... The re-dedication of the New Hampton Municipal Airport after a new runway was completed this past summer.

... Hugeback-Johnson Funeral home celebrating its 100th anniversary and gearing up for a move to the downtown area.

... The grand opening of Dungey’s Furniture and Flooring as the store moved into its new building three years after a fire destroyed its original home.

... The decision by Ionia Mayor David Swenumson to not run for re-election, ending 42 years as the city’s top elected official.



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## EMPLOYMENT

## EMPLOYMENT



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STANDINGS	W	L
Creative Art.....	201	159
Peoples Ins. Agency.....	194	166
Huff-arts.....	193	167
McShanny's Irish Pub ....	176	184
Livin' on a Spare.....	176	184
Lickety Splits.....	140	220
RESULTS:		
Peoples Insurance Agency 2, Creative Art 28; Livin' on a Spare 5, Huff-arts 25; McShanny's Irish Pub 19, Lickety Splits 11.		
HIGH TEAM GAMES:		
Creative Art.....	989	
Huff-arts.....	947	
McShanny's Irish Pub.....	926	
HIGH TEAM SERIES:		
Creative Art.....	2813	
Huff-arts .....	2706	
McShanny's Irish Pub .....	2701	
HIGH MEN'S GAME:		
Steve Kobliska.....	278	
Dan Huffman .....	255	
Kevin Kirkus .....	245	
HIGH MEN'S SERIES:		
Steve Kobliska.....	705	
Kevin Kirkus .....	632	
Dan Huffman .....	630	
HIGH WOMEN'S GAME:		
Diane Nehl.....	216	
Rachel Schneider .....	189	
Kristy Kirkus .....	179	
Wendy Einck.....	179	
Karen Schmitt.....	179	
HIGH WOMEN'S SERIES:		
Diane Nehl.....	543	
Rachel Schneider .....	551	
Staci Dahl .....	487	

Dan Huffman, Secretary

Ninth girls win 2 of 3 conference games

Of the three final games of the 2017 season, freshman girls' coach Terry Sittig had the least to say about his team's performance against Charles City.

"It was one-sided right out of the gate," was all he wrote.

But it wasn't a loss, to the contrary, the Chickasaws won 87-2 over the Comets with a whopping five girls scoring double figures.

Prior to that game, the ninth graders won on the road at Waukon and on Dec. 12 the girls lost a close bout against Waverly-Shell Rock to take a 3-2 record into the holiday break.

Rylee Schumacher led the scoring in a 32-24 win over Waukon with 13 points.

"We started out a little slow in this game, but once we got going we never looked back," said Sittig. "Our defense continues to be a strong part of our game, creating 26 steals."

Hope McDonald recorded an unconventional double-double, with 10 of those steals along with 18 rebounds.

"We rebounded better and we shot the ball better, but still need to improve in this area. Also our effort and determination was great and I look for this team to keep improving and look forward to great things."

The rout over Charles City had even more steals — 33 to be exact. Schumacher scored 18 with seven steals and eight assists; both Maddie Usher and McDonald turned in 15 points and six rebounds, Usher with nine steals; Brooke Usher's totals included 13 points, seven steals and Kara Crooks put up 10 points.

"This was a tough and physical game for us, it was the most pressure we've seen from a defense up to this point." Obviously, Sittig had moved

on to the Waverly-Shell Rock game, which the Chickasaws lost 32-21.

"We handled the pressure pretty well at times, but let it get to us and it caused us fits. We continue to play pretty good defense and are getting better at rebounding."

McDonald nearly double-doubled again, with 17 points and nine rebounds. Schumacher added four assists and Maddie Usher four steals.

"Offensively we need to work on improving our passing and creating better shots," concluded the coach. "This team has a strong work ethic and with improvement in our fundamentals we will get things on track."

**NEW HAMPTON 32, WAUKON 24**

Scoring - Rylee Schumacher 13, Brooke Usher 4, Brylee Boji 6, Maddie Usher 4, Hope McDonald 4, Claire Quirk 2, Lola Lemke 1.

Rebounds - Schumacher 5, B. Usher 2, Boji 2, M. Usher 2, McDonald 18, Kara Crooks 1, Quirk 2, Lemke 1.

Assists - Schumacher 2, M. Usher 1, McDonald 3, Quirk 1.

Steals - Schumacher 1, B. Usher 5, Boji 1, M. Usher 5, McDonald 10, Crooks 2, Quirk 1, Lemke 1.

**NEW HAMPTON 87, CHARLES CITY 2**

Scoring - Schumacher 18, B. Usher 13, Boji 4, M. Usher 15, McDonald 15, Crooks 10, Quirk 8, Lemke 4.

Rebounds - Schumacher 2, B. Usher 4, M. Usher 6, McDonald 6, Crooks 5, Quirk 1, Lemke 4.

Assists - Schumacher 8, B. Usher 3, Boji 1, M. Usher 2, McDonald 3, Crooks 1.

Steals - Schumacher 7, B. Usher 7, Boji 1, M. Usher 9, McDonald 3, Crooks 2, Quirk 1, Lemke 3.

**WAVERLY-SHELL ROCK 32, NEW HAMPTON 21**

Scoring - B. Usher 2, M. Usher 2, McDonald 17.

Rebounds - Schumacher 3, B. Usher 3, McDonald 9.

Assists - Schumacher 4, M. Usher 3.

Steals - Schumacher 1, Boji 1, M. Usher 4, McDonald 1.

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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILL COUNCIL VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT**

The City of Ionla, Iowa, has a vacancy for City Council as of December 26, 2017, due to the resignation of Randy Taylor as Council Member.

Pursuant to Section 372.13(2a) of the Code of Iowa, notice is hereby given that the City Council of Ionla, Iowa, intends to fill this vacancy by appointment during the council meeting held at City Hall at 7:00 pm on January 2, 2018. However, the electors of the City of Ionla have the right to file a petition requiring that the vacancy be filled by a special election. If electors wish to require a special election, a valid petition must be filed with the City Clerk within 14 days after publication of this notice or within 14 days after the City Council makes the appointment, whichever is later. If no such petition is filed, the appointment shall be for the period until the next pending election as defined in Section 69.12 of the Code of Iowa.

Dated this 26th day of December, 2017.

Donna Geerts, City Clerk  
City of Ionla



New Hampton's Noah Hopp puts the finishing touches on a pin that clinches the Chickasaws' Class 2A State dual meet championship.

SENIORS LED THE WAY FOR CHICKASAWS' STATE CHAMPIONS

NH WRESTLING: FROM 10

second crown (he won one as a freshman at Crestwood) with a victory in the finals at 126, Ryan Gorman took second at 170 and three other Chickasaws found their way to the medal stand.

The crazy part may be that, despite losing a deep and talented senior class, New Hampton, which is now sharing

with Turkey Valley, may be even better when February 2018 rolls around. The Chickasaws are ranked first in Class 2A and sent a message to the rest of the state with a 54-15 dual win over Clarion-Goldfield-Dows last week.

Still, there's no question that 2016-17 team will go down in history as one of the best-ever in New Hampton's storied wrestling history.

Hemann credited a senior class that included Geerts, Gorman, Noah Hopp, Dylan Robinson, Drew Boeding, Keegan Tenge, Cody Bearman and Trevor Svec for providing outstanding leadership.

"This is a pretty special group for me," Hemann said. "I've known them for a long time, worked with them and been with their parents a lot, and it's just really sweet to see what they've accomplished."

NEW HAMPTON BOYS, GIRLS GOLF TEAMS DELIVER HISTORIC SEASONS

NH GOLF: FROM 10

claim the title by two strokes.

"I was more excited than nervous," he said. "I knew I could do it; you have to think that way in order to run."

His coach was in awe after the title run.

"He played the best round of his life on the biggest stage," Bill Glenn said. "That's what champions do."

But the Chickasaws weren't a one-man show, either. New Hampton got inspired play

from NEIC champion Ryan Anderson, Keegan Tenge, Aden Zwanziger, Wyatt Stochl and Eric Shatek throughout the year and finished the state meet in seventh.

Three days after Stochl won his title, the New Hampton girls went after a team title, and although they came up short — finishing 11 strokes behind Atlantic — the Chickasaws had a brilliant season as they won their third straight NEIC championship and qualified for the state tournament for the second

time in three years.

"They put their hearts out there for two days," coach Eric Olson said. "I'm very proud of them, everybody played their best and we were beat by a very good team. A lot of years a 700 wins it, but not this year."

How good were the Chickasaw girls in 2017?

All six of New Hampton players made the all-conference team as the Chickasaws won the NEIC title by a whopping 64 strokes over runner-up Decorah.

Ellie Ewert and Morgan Nuss tied for medalist honors, Allison Nuss took third, Mya Anderson was fourth, Val Rinken fifth and Jayden Usher was eighth.

And Olson said his four seniors — Ewert, Anderson, Usher and Rinken — were a huge reason New Hampton golf became a power.

"They've left a pretty good legacy — three-time conference champs, two trips to state, fourth and now second place. It's going to be hard for other groups to beat that."



Turkey Valley's Shelby Reicks drives to the basket after making a steal against Springville in the Class 1A state championship game.

CHICKASAWS CONTINUE RECENT NEIC DOMINANCE

NH BASEBALL: FROM 10

And they fielded the ball exceptionally well.

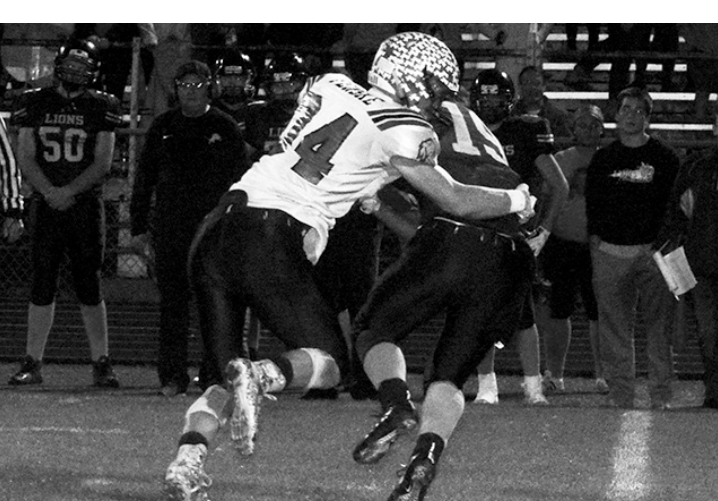
And they once again dominated the NEIC as New Hampton went 17-1, giving the Chickasaws a 48-6 conference record over the course of the past three years.

Five Chickasaws — Noah Hopp, Carter Stochl, Ryan Gorman, Zach Wemark and Josh Fenske — were named first-team all-NEIC, Keegan Tenge was a second-team selection and Aden Zwanziger was honorable mention. Hopp was

named the first baseman on the Iowa Newspaper Association's all-state first team while Stochl was a third-team pitcher.

And although the season ended in crushing disappointment — New Hampton fell to Denver 4-3 in the substate game despite the fact that the Cyclones did not hit a ball out of the infield — coach Cory McDonald said his team gave him a season he'll never forget.

"I know I speak on behalf of the coaching staff," he said, "that I've never had so much fun coaching a baseball team in my life."



New Hampton's Josh Fenske drops a Clear Lake rusher for a loss.



New Hampton coach Cory McDonald keeps it "light" during a conference on the mound.

CHICKASAWS RALLY TO WIN CLASS 2A, DISTRICT 2 CROWN

NH FOOTBALL: FROM 10

Down 7-0 at halftime, New Hampton rallied for the win as Keagan John threw a touchdown pass to Braydon Fisher, Max Schwickerath scored the go-ahead touchdown and John added a two-point run.

Meanwhile, the defense, led by Josh Fenske's 20 tackles and three blocked passes, held the Lions scoreless to give Frerichs his 17th trip to the playoffs in his 25-year career.

New Hampton would get a 215-yard rushing performance from Braydon Fisher in a 21-14 playoff win over Dike-New Hartford before falling to eventual state champion Waukon in the quarterfinals.

"To me, this team is what high school sports is supposed to be all about," he said at the end of the season. "Not a lot of people thought we'd be here when the season started, but these guys came together as a team, worked hard and achieved so much."



# Best of 2017

AS WE CLOSE IN ON 2018, WE LOOK BACK AT THE TOP FIVE SPORTS STORIES OF THE PAST YEAR HERE IN CHICKASAW COUNTY



New Hampton wrestlers proudly display the banner and the trophy they claimed after winning the Class 2A state dual meet tournament.



New Hampton's Carter Stochl intently watches his tee shot during the first round of the Class 2A state golf tournament.

## STOCHL'S CHAMPIONSHIP RUN, GIRLS' RUNNER-UP FINISH MAKE HISTORY

It was a golf season for the ages for New Hampton High School.

Both the boys and girls won Northeast Iowa Conference titles. Both teams qualified for their respective state meets. The boys brought home the individual state medalist in Carter Stochl. The girls brought home the state runner-up trophy.

Like we said, it was a golf season for the ages.

Start with the boys, who had a breakout season as they claimed their first conference title in 11 years and earned their first state trip in 20 years. And for Stochl, 2017 provided sweet redemption. In 2016, he was robbed of a state meet berth by a rule change that went totally awry. He wouldn't be denied this year as he followed up an opening day 72 with a brilliant round of 68 to

SEE NH GOLF, 9



Members of the New Hampton girls golf team — (front row) Valerie Rinken, Mya Anderson, Ellie Ewert, Jayden Usher, (back row) coach Eric Olson, Morgan Nuss, Allison Nuss and volunteer coach Paul Ewert — pose with the hardware they earned at the Class 3A state tournament.

## OTHER STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES IN 2017

- New Hampton's Keagan John takes second in the 800 at the Class 2A state track and field meet.
- Turkey Valley boys have two re-lays that medal at the Class 1A state track and field meet.
- Former New Hampton pitching star Cole McDonald throws a no-hitter against the Czech Republic as the University of Iowa baseball team wins the silver medal at the World University Games in Taiwan.
- The New Hampton volleyball team advances to the Class 3A regional volleyball final before falling to eventual state champion Waterloo Columbus.
- New Hampton claims its first-ever all-NEIC sports crown.
- The Wartburg football team — with former New Hampton star Chris Winter as a coach and former Chickasaws Connor Frerichs and Matt Mulford — advances to the Division III quarterfinals.

# CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR!

## CHICKASAWS' STATE WRESTLING TITLES MAKE FOR 2017'S TOP STORY

Maybe the crazy thing to recall about New Hampton's run to the Class 2A state dual-meet wrestling title this past February is this: The Chickasaws liked being under-

1

dogs. And they dang near came away with two state tournament team titles, although New Hampton had to settle for a second-place trophy — by a stinking half of a point no less — at the traditional tournament that ended three days after the Chickasaws finished their dominating run through the dual tournament.

New Hampton opened the meet with a 51-23 victory over Denver-Tripoli, rolled past Davenport Assumption 46-24

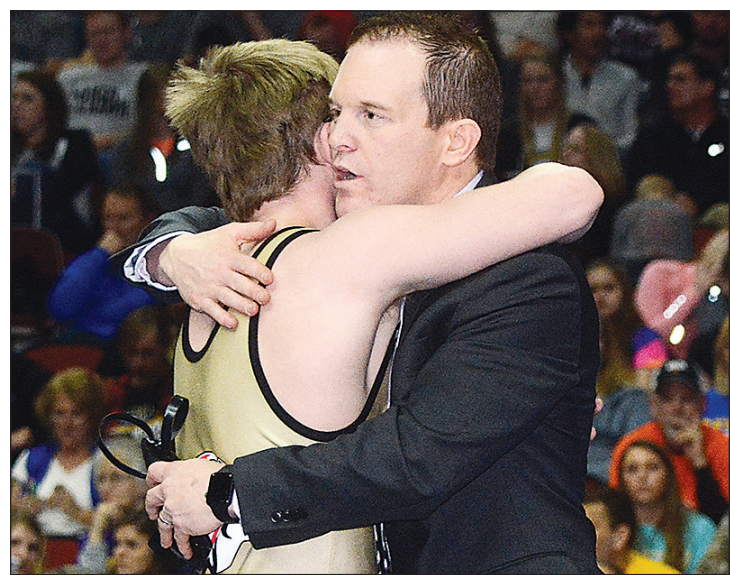
and then won the state championship dual in a rout as they scored a 43-25 victory.

"People forget that Solon was ranked ahead of us at the beginning of the year," New Hampton coach Nick Hemann said, "and we embraced that role of being an underdog. I think our guys came into this season, came into tonight for that matter, wanting to prove something."

They certainly did, giving New Hampton its first team title in wrestling in a dozen years.

And they weren't done as Keaton Geerts won his second straight title with a romp through the 138-pound bracket, Michael Blockhus claimed his

SEE NH WRESTLING, 9



New Hampton coach Nick Hemann and Keaton Geerts embrace after Geerts claimed the 138-pound state title.

## TROJANS TAKE SECOND AT STATE TOURNAMENT AGAIN

Turkey Valley's magical run at the state tournament came up just short this past March, but anyone who followed the Lady Trojans will never forget the amazing ride their team gave them.

A year after finishing second in the Class 1A tournament, Turkey Valley returned to Des Moines after claiming their third straight Upper Iowa Conference championship and second straight regional title, and for a while, it didn't appear Turkey Valley's stay at state would last more than a day.

Janesville had used a 20-6 third quarter to take a 42-35 lead and Turkey Valley trailed 52-45 midway through the final frame.

SEE TV BASKETBALL, 9



Turkey Valley players celebrate their come-from-behind win over Elk Horn-Kimballton at the Class 1A state girls basketball tournament.

## CHICKASAWS RELOAD TO WIN THEIR THIRD STRAIGHT NEIC BASEBALL CROWN

New Hampton's baseball team won the Northeast Iowa Conference baseball title in 1972, and then waited for more than 40 years to win another.

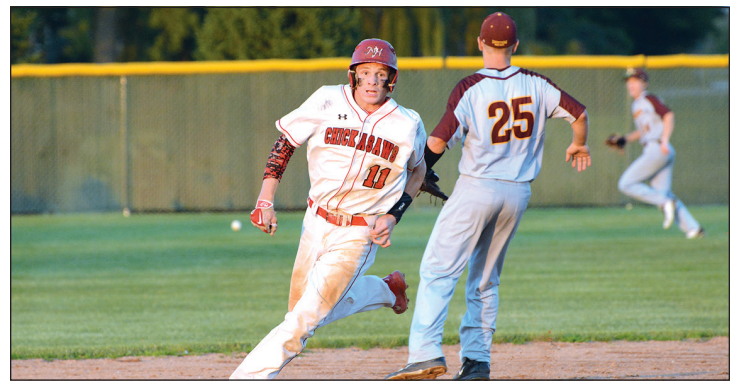
But the program that used to take its lumps is now handing them out as the Chickasaws claimed their third straight NEIC crown during a summer in which it

rose to No. 1 in the Class 2A state rankings.

The Chickasaws did it with a little bit of everything.

They got great pitching and finished the season with a 1.43 team earned run average. They put together an offense that not only hit .333 but also led the state in hit by pitches with 87.

SEE NH BASEBALL, 9



New Hampton's Ryan Gorman rounds second before scoring in a substate game against Denver.



New Hampton football coach Scott Frerichs is all smiles as he talks to his team after the Chickasaws clinched the district title.

## CHICKASAWS WIN FOOTBALL DISTRICT TITLE

New Hampton football coach Scott Frerichs said right from the start of practice in August that he believed the 2017 Chickasaws were a playoff football team.

With a 13-7 loss to Crestwood on Sept. 29, however, the New Hampton football team left itself with no margin for error.

The Chickasaws ended up proving their coach right, winning their final three regular season games, including a 14-7 victory

over Clear Lake in the de facto Class 2A, District 2 title game, and advanced to the state playoff quarterfinals.

New Hampton bounced back from the loss to the Cadets to beat Osage 32-6 in a driving rainstorm and hammered Garner-Hayfield-Ventura 28-10 on Senior Parents Nights before traveling to Clear Lake, where they played their best game — or at least half — of the season.

SEE NH FOOTBALL, 9

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