

New Hampton *Chickasaw County* TRIBune

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Supervisors budget for just two EMS payments

Board members hold lengthy discussion on Rural Services Basic levy

BY BOB FENSKE

editor@nhtrib.com

Nothing is set in stone, but the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors on Monday reached a consensus to budget only two "payments" for the county-owned ambulance service.

The four supervisors in attendance — Chairman Scott Cerwinski was at

the State Capitol on Monday — agreed to budgeting two quarterly contributions to Chickasaw County EMS during a budget work session devoted to the 2024-25 Rural Services Basic (RSB) levy rate, which in all likelihood will be going up by 20 or so cents during the next budget year.

They also decided that they would give Secondary Roads 95 percent of its allotment — up from 85 percent a year

ago — from RSB, discussed the possibility of not giving county libraries an increase in county funding and came to an agreement to use \$100,000 from the county's Local Option Sales Tax fund to help pay for the ambulance service.

Under the 28E agreements the county signed with six cities — New Hampton, Bassett, Fredericksburg, Ionia, Lawler and North Washington

— the county does not have to make a contribution to the ambulance fund but it also can't require the cities to pay more than the agreements state.

The risk for the county is that the ambulance service would cost more to run and then it would be on the hook to pay those additional costs.

The 28E agreements, though, also

state that the county is required to "waive" the cities' quarterly payments if the EMS fund has more than \$750,000 in it for two

SEE BUDGET, 3

City is leery about partnering with county on Kenwood

Public Works director says New Hampton has other road projects that are a priority

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

If Chickasaw County moves ahead with a road project on Kenwood Avenue south of Highway 18, it will have to be a shared with the city of New Hampton.

County Engineer Roman Lensing told the Board of Supervisors on Monday part of the road lies within that city's limits, and his rough guess-timate is that New Hampton would be responsible for about 29 percent of the repaving project on the .67 mile stretch of road.

Basically, because Croell Inc. is located within the city limits of New Hampton, the city is responsible for basically half of the road for 2,016.5 feet.

The rub, though, is this: New Hampton can't afford to take on any new projects.

"I'll be blunt about it," New Hampton Public Works Director Casey Mai told board members Monday morning. "We don't have the money for it. We have a 5- to 10-year capital improvement plan that we lay out projects that was put in place the last couple of years. Right now, I've got four streets that we're looking at possibly redoing over the next two, three years."

Mai said that, in his opinion, those streets have a higher priority.

"These streets are in more dire need right now," he said. "We have actual infrastructure that

SEE KENWOOD, 3

Drought still here but winter snow, rain helping a bit

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

It doesn't come close to even solving the problem, but that snowfall we received a couple of weeks ago is helping drought-stricken fields throughout the area more than some experts thought.

"I talked to a grower yesterday," said ISU Extension agronomist Terry Basol, who is based at the Northeast Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm near Nashua, "and he drove out into one of his fields ... and told me it was actually kind of soft. So I'm thinking we might have more soaking in than we usually do in the winter."

Anything helps right now, as the entire area is still suffering through a prolonged drought that has sapped soil moisture content heading into the 2024 growing season.

All of Chickasaw, Bremer, Howard and Floyd counties are suffering from extreme drought, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report that was released on Thursday. Ditto for much of Winneshiek County, save for a sliver of the northeast part of the county that is enduring severe drought conditions.

SEE DROUGHT, 2



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

Capping a banner dance season

Members of the New Hampton High School dance team perform their state hip-hop routine during Saturday's annual Dance Showcase that not only celebrated a season of tremendous accomplishment but also a group of four talented seniors — Emma Carpenter, Olivia Horner, Baylee Rapenske and Ava Thronson. New Hampton won a state title for its prop routine, took fourth at state in hip-hop and had an individual, Kylee Junk, finish eighth in the state solo finals.

See MORE PHOTOS, Page 2

Cowboy Poetry once again hits the right notes

Lawler Lions Club event benefits sheriff's K9 unit

BY BOB FENSKE

editor@nhtrib.com

Denise Ascherl smiled as she was asked how she ended up in Lawler this past weekend.

"It seemed like a good idea at the time," the first-grade teacher said during a break in the Cowboy Poetry program Saturday evening, "and then I got on stage, and I was thinking to myself, 'What did I get myself into?' But it's been fun; it's something I really enjoy and the Cowboy Poetry people, it's like a family and they've welcomed me into it."

And family may be the hallmark of the annual event in Lawler that was started by a New Hampton couple, Gerry and Marilee Mashek and taken over by the Lawler Lions Club several years ago.

The jokes are for the most PG at worst, the music's good and the annual event raises money for worthy causes throughout the area. This year's event, which was held Friday and Saturday at the Starlite Ballroom, benefited the Chickasaw County Sheriff's Office's K-9 unit.

"We have a lot of the same people come back year after year," Lawler



Denise Ascherl and Brooke Turner perform a song during a Cowboy Poetry program that was held Saturday evening at Lawler's Starlite Ballroom.

Lions Club member Carla Dreckman said, "and it's fun to see old friends. I think, though, my favorite part is seeing the new people come. Some of

them, you can tell, aren't sure about this whole Cowboy Poetry thing, but they leave hooked. It's just really a fun, wholesome event."

And the stars of the show, of course, are the cowboys ... and cowgirls.

SEE COWBOY POETRY, 7

Three-time champ

NH/TV's Braden McShane becomes 14th Chickasaw to win three NEIC wrestling titles

Page 12



On to state

Freshman, sophomore earn trips to the Iowa Girls Union state wrestling tournament

Page 12

Tough loss

New Hampton boys lose big lead, suffer heartache in loss to Columbus

Page 12

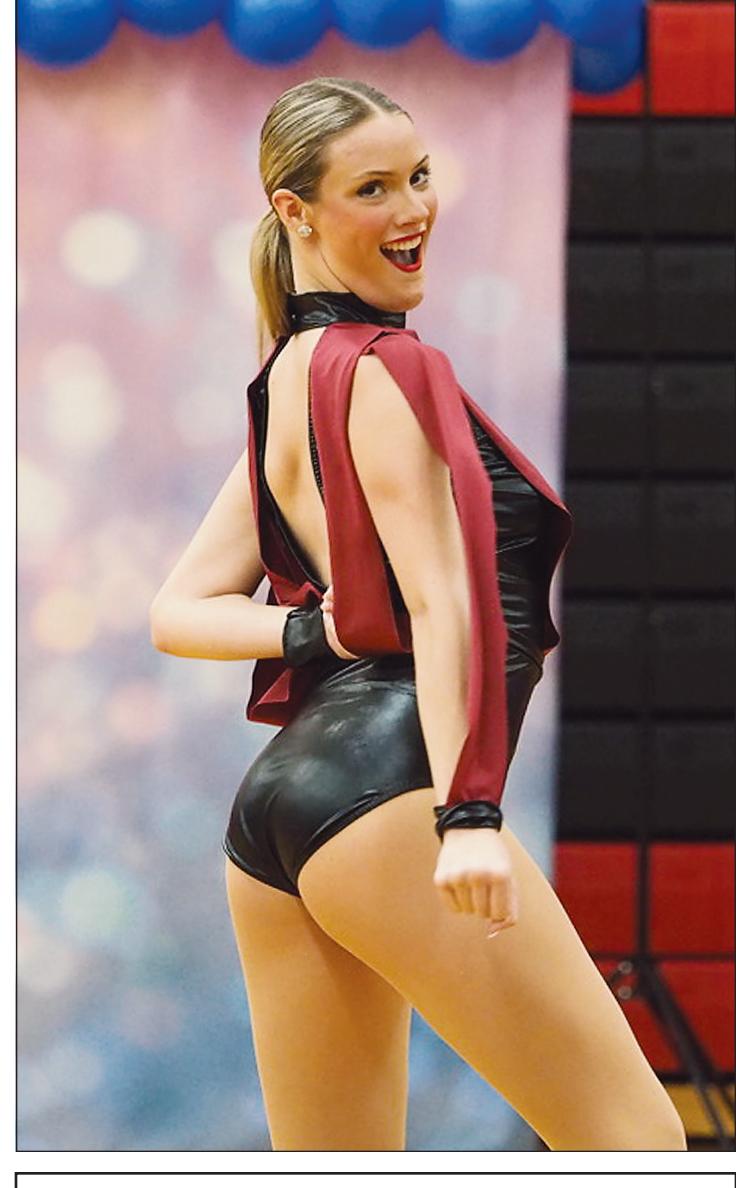
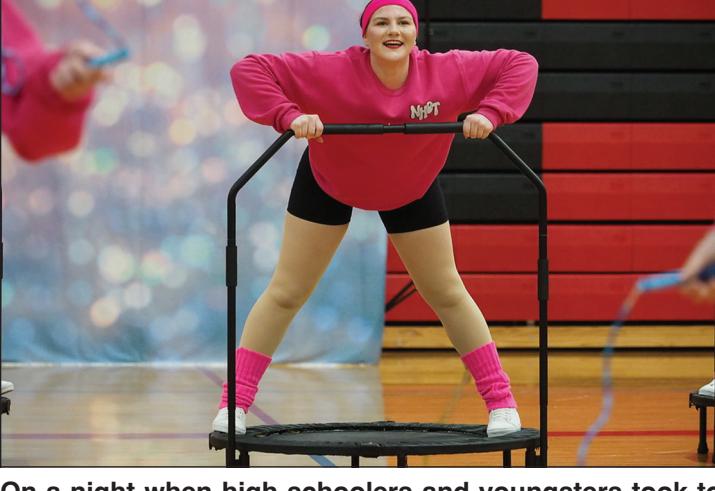


Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

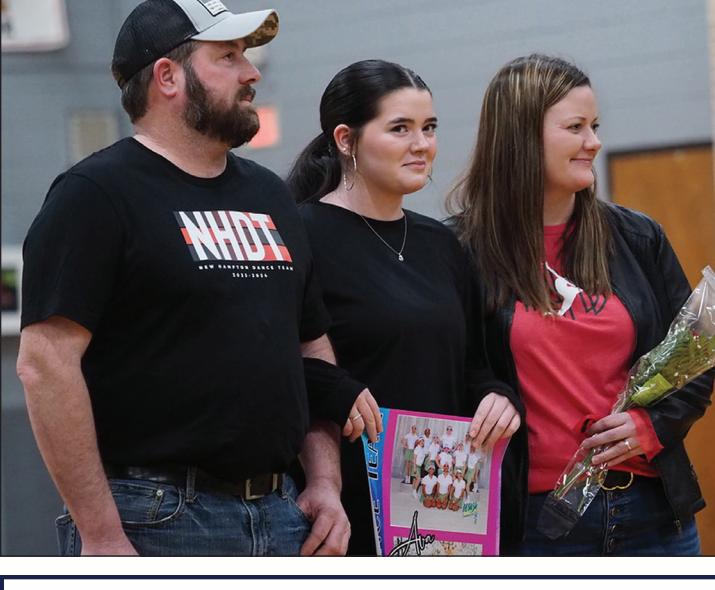


A night to showcase dance!

New Hampton dance team members Olivia Hoy (left) and Kylee Junk perform solos while the entire squad performs a pom routine during Saturday evening's Dance Showcase.



On a night when high schoolers and youngsters took to the gym floor for the Dance Showcase, (from left) Baylee Rapenske performs the state champion prop routine with her teammates, young dancers enjoy their performance and Emma Carpenter performs a solo.



Ava Throndson (left), accompanied by her parents Eric and Stephanie, is honored during the Senior Night Recognition while Madison Roethler (above) performs a routine with her teammates.

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New Hampton

Spring rains will be critical when area farmers head into 2024 growing season

DROUGHT: FROM 1

"I think we got that snow, and obviously, it got really cold there for a few days," he said, "but I don't think it froze hard. So we're not seeing what we usually see when we get temperatures in the 30s this time of the year. It's not all running off, we're getting some soaking in, which is a blessing."

Area fields were also helped by rains — New Hampton received about a half-inch, according to the National Weather Service — that fell late last week.

Still, spring rains are going to be critical for area farmers, who brought in decent yields in 2023 despite a warm, dry summer. But those yields,

Basol believes, were delivered in large part to the fact that soil moisture contents were full heading into last year's growing season.

"There was nothing left when we got the crop out of the field in the fall," Basol said. "We pulled every last bit of it from the soil profile, and we need to recharge that sucker going into 2024."

The 2023 drought was reminiscent of one that took place in 2012. That year was followed by one of the wettest on record.

"We don't want that to happen again," Basol said. "Hopefully, we can land somewhere in the middle, but there's no doubt, if we're going to err, let's err on the side of too much rain this year."

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Supervisors, EMA director remain at odds over budget

BUDGET: FROM 1

consecutive quarters. As of Jan. 15, the fund had almost \$990,000 in it, and as of Monday, the balance in the fund was just \$2,000 shy of \$1 million. So even if the county does approve a budget amendment today (Thursday) that would use \$180,000 of those funds to remodel Chickasaw County EMS' ambulance station to include living quarters, it is likely that the fund will still be above \$750,000 on April 15.

That led to a lengthy discussion on how much the county should put into the fund during the fiscal year that begins July 1. Supervisor Matt Kuhn suggested that the county make at least two payments, "possibly" three, but all the supervisors agreed that whatever the county contributes will not all be put into the fund at the beginning of the fiscal year, which board members approved last year.

"We'd set the money in the budget until need be," Supervisor Jacob Hackman said. "If you do that, that's going to blow that number [the EMS fund balance] up, kind of what happened last year."

Board members agreed that the 2024-25 budget should include the county setting aside \$268,576 for Chickasaw County EMS, but Hackman pushed hard for the county to use \$100,000 in LOST funds so that the RSB levy wouldn't take the entire hit for the ambulance service.

Fellow board members agreed, and the discussion moved on to the Secondary Roads allotment.

Kuhn and Board Vice Chairman Steve Breitbach both said they felt the fact that the department will receive \$600,000 in the county's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds was something supervisors should consider.

"I'm just saying with the \$600,000, I'm not in favor of 100 percent," Breitbach said. "I'd be more in favor of 90 percent or maybe 95 percent."

And the latter number is what board members eventually agreed on, but they never did come to a clear consensus on the funding for libraries. Supervisor Travis Suckow suggested that the county only match what it gave the facilities this budget year, instead of the 6 percent increase in funding the library directors proposed when they met with board members late last year.

While Hackman agreed, both Breitbach and Kuhn said they favored the increase, in part because it would be just a blip on the levy rate.

With the increase to libraries, Auditor Sheila Shekleton

said the RSB levy rate would be \$3.51112 per \$1,000 valuation while keeping the funding the same as this year, the levy rate would be \$3.50044 per \$1,000 valuation.

"I think without an increase last year, 6 percent is fair," Breitbach said.

The board still has time to change its mind, but deadlines are looming. The board must be ready to send out its maximum levy to county property owners by March 15, and on Monday, supervisors voted to hire Mail Service Inc. to help with what is a new requirement counties, cities and schools must follow.

That's the date the county must send out a letter to property owners that detail those levies. And under the new law that begins with this budget season, counties must collect all the data from other government entities and, along with their own data, send those to property owners.

.....

During the workshop, board members also discussed the Emergency Management Agency's budget, and that led to some sharp exchanges between EMA Director Jeff Bernatz and Hackman.

Bernatz said state code states that the Emergency Management "Commission shall set the budget," and that the county's commission, which includes representatives of each of the county's cities and a member of the Board of Supervisors, is requesting \$252,000 for its 2024-25 budget.

But Hackman has long railed that the cities do not provide any funding for emergency management and that the supervisors have the ultimate authority to determine how much it levies for emergency management.

"Jake says it every year that I can walk in here with a \$1 million budget," Bernatz said, "but I have respect for you and the taxpayers that I don't do that. I have a respectful budget and I explain to you what that budget is for and what that covers."

Bernatz said board members weren't following the law when it comes to emergency management, and when Hackman stated that "none of the cities have skin in the game," Bernatz said he wasn't arguing that fact but that [the Emergency Management Commission members] "did follow the law and the procedures and that's where we're at today. ... We've been having the same conversation for the past five years."

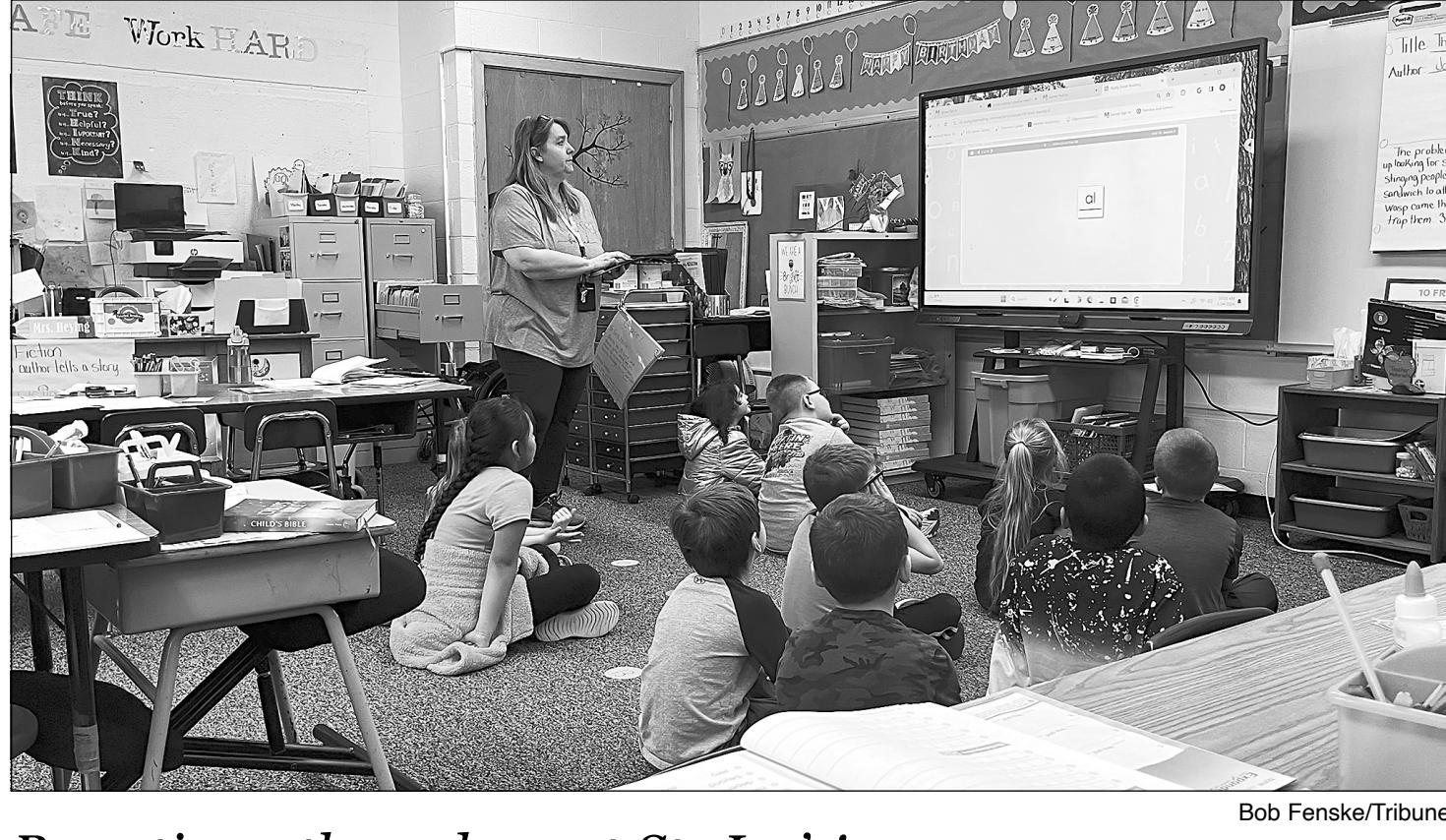
No final decisions were made, but Hackman said he was worried about the General Services levy and that "trying to set up for GS is going to be hurting us and we're going from a \$1.1 levy rate to X."

University of Iowa president's list

More than 950 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa named to the president's list for the 2023 fall semester.

Area students honored included:

- Marisa Mueterthies of Waucoma, [College of Nursing, Nursing, Undergraduate - Third Year].
- Paige Wisner of New Hampton, [College of Nursing, Nursing, Undergraduate - Fourth Year].



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Busy times these days at St. Joe's!

St. Joseph Community School teacher Dawn Heying works with her students on a phonics lesson last week as the school geared up for Catholic Schools Week that began on Monday and continues through this Friday. The phonics is just part of what St. Joe's teachers have gleaned from an intensive professional development program they began recently and learn how school staff are working to improve their students' reading scores in next week's Tribune.

Public Works director not sure city can afford Kenwood Avenue project

KENWOOD: FROM 1

lies beneath the road. Water mains, sewer mains, storm water mains that need replacing."

Lensing said he talked with Mai last week about Kenwood and how the two entities could come up with a way to complete the project, and on Monday he explained that if the project cost \$600,000, the city would be responsible for \$179,000 of that cost.

"I don't think they have the money right now to just say, 'Here you go, here's a check.' I don't know if they have the money to say in five years, can we pay it off yearly? Or 10 years."

Lensing said that Kenwood was just one option of where the Secondary Roads Department could use the \$600,000 in county American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) funds that supervisors voted to give to the

department last year.

The stretch of Kenwood Avenue discussed was built in 1976 and had an overlay in 2002, and Lensing said he believes it's a roadway that needs attention.

"We need this project done," he said, "but I totally understand the difficulties for New Hampton to afford it with their current plans."

At the same time, he said the county needs New Hampton on board.

"I don't advise you guys say, 'Don't worry New Hampton, you don't have to reimburse us for your portion of the roadway,'" he said. "Now, you're setting precedent for every project that we go through in the future."

After a lengthy discussion, one in which included putting the ARPA funds into the county's Farm to Market program, Mai agreed to discuss it with the City Council,

but he also stated that the city, like the county, has a limited budget for its roads and infrastructure. He pointed out that his city's Road-Use funds were depleted by \$130,000 a year ago to remove ash trees in the city's right-of-way.

He added that the bulk of the city's Local Option Sales Tax dollars are currently earmarked for the county-owned ambulance service that serves New Hampton through a 28E agreement with the county.

"It's tight, but I also know we want to be good partners with the county, too," he said. "I appreciate Roman coming to me and laying it out. I just don't know right now."

Lensing said he would continue to get the stretch of roadway surveyed and come up with "more concrete numbers so New Hampton at least knows what it's going to cost."

NEWS BITS FROM OUR PAST COMPILED BY TERRI JOSEPHSON

Week of Jan. 28

1949 (75 years ago)

• The Famous Globe Trotters world champions will be soon in action in New Hampton. On Feb. 5, against the Fae Stine Post American Legion team in one of the outstanding games of the season, for when the Trotters come to town, anything can happen in a basketball game. The game is sponsored by the Fae Stine Post American Legion and all proceeds will be given to the March of Dimes.

1974 (50 years ago)

• A gift of \$1,000 has been received by the New Hampton Public Library. The anonymous donor, a graduate of the New Hampton High School has

donated the money in memory of Belle Powers and Bessie Porter, with the stipulation that the library board use this money for books only. Books bought will be stamped in memory of Miss Powers and Miss Porter.

Mrs. William J. Kennedy, president of the library board, made the announcement Monday evening at the regular board meeting.

1999 (25 years ago)

• A former New Hampton resident has become a part of the action and thrills of the NASCAR racing circuit. Scott Geerts, 1982 graduate of New Hampton High School, is member of the pit crew for the Winston Cup Budweiser-

sponsored car, #25 driven by Wally Dallenbach.

Scott's duties began Jan. 4 and in February will be the first big race of the season, the Daytona 500 in Daytona, Florida. Scott's job on the pit crew is rear tire changer.

2014 (10 years ago)

• Jeff Bernatz and Bryan Dungey, members of the Chickasaw County Rescue Squad, got the call Sunday afternoon that a man was stranded in his car on LaSalle Avenue about 2 1/2 miles north of New Hampton. Sheriff Todd Miller tried to reach the driver, but visibility forced him to turn back. Bernatz and Dungey set out on their snowmobiles and were able to

locate the stranded motorist, get him on the back of one of the snowmobiles and take him home.



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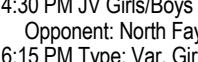
Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024
8:00am-12:30pm

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Turkey Valley Area Calendar of Events

February 2024



Thursday, February 1, 2024
4:30 PM JV Girls/Boys Basketball
Opponent: North Fayette Valley away
6:15 PM Type: Var. Girls/Boys
Basketball Opponent: North Fayette Valley away

Friday, February 2, 2024
5:00 PM Basketball: JV Girls/Boys vs. Postville Home
6:15 PM Basketball: Varsity Girls/Boys vs. Postville Home

Saturday, February 3, 2024
5:00 PM Var. Girls/Boys Opponent:
Clayton Ridge Home
5:00 PM B/G Varsity (only) Basketball
Vs. Clayton Ridge Home

Monday, February 5, 2024
4:00 PM JV Girls/Boys Opponent: South Winneshiek Home
4:15 PM 7th/8th Boys Opponent: West Central Away
6:15 PM Var. Girls/Boys Opponent:
South Winneshiek Home

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
4:15 PM Basketball: 7th/8th Opponent:
MFL MarMac Middle School Away
6:15 PM Basketball: JV vs. Kee High (Home)

6:15 PM Basketball: JV vs. Kee High (Home)

Thursday, February 9, 2024
4:15 PM Basketball: Boys 7th & 8th vs.
North Fayette Valley MS (Home)

Monday, February 12, 2024

School Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

4:15 PM Basketball: 7th/8th Opponent:
Postville Home

Friday, February 16, 2024

NO SCHOOL

Saturday, February 17, 2024

IHSSA All-State Large Group Speech (Home) @ Iowa State Univ.

Monday, February 19, 2024

NO SCHOOL

National FFA Week

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

National FFA Week

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

National FFA Week

Thursday, February 22, 2024

National FFA Week

7-12 Pops Band & Vocal Concert

Friday, February 23, 2024

National FFA Week



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Sunday.

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10:30 a.m. Sunday at New

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saudejerico.com

Pastor Peter Faugstad

Service time: 4 p.m.
Saturday Divine Service

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481 S. Linn Ave.
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641-394-4380

Pastor Anthony Harris

Service time: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday.

PRairie LAKES

234 S. Linn Ave.
prairielakeschurch.org
641-456-6880

Pastor Cory Orr

Service times: 9 a.m.,
Sunday.

JERICHO

JERICHO LUTHERAN

2512 120th St., New
Hampton
saudejerico.com

Pastor Peter Faugstad

Service time: 8:30 or
10:30 a.m. Sunday Divine
Service (check website).

SAUDE

SAUDE LUTHERAN

2949 Stevens Trail, Lawler
saudejerico.com

Pastor Peter Faugstad

Service time: 8:30 or
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Service (check website).

IONIA

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CHRIST

firstumcnewhampton.com
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Sunday.

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Father Jim Goerend

Mass: Saturday, Feb. 10,
6 p.m.

LOURDES

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CATHOLIC

Rev. Jerry Kopacek

Mass time: Saturday,

Feb. 10, 4 p.m.

ALTA VISTA

ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC

Rev. Jerry Kopacek

Mass time: Saturday,

Feb. 3, 6 p.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Sue Cira

641-364-2115

Service time: Sunday,
8 a.m.

ELMA

IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION CATHOLIC

Rev. Jerry Kopacek

Mass: Sunday, 7:15 a.m.

ST. PETER LUTHERAN

CHURCH

Pastor Bruce Miller

107 Wood St. Elma

Service time: 9 a.m.
Sunday.

NORTH WASHINGTON

IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION

Father Jim Goerend

Mass: Saturday, 6 p.m.

When Jesus returns
in glory on the last day,
the old bones will wake
up. The old bones I'm
especially thinking of are
the smallest bones in the
body, popularly known
as the hammer, anvil,
and stirrup.

esty and might!—"And
the dead in Christ will
rise first."

"The dead in Christ
will rise." We have to let
that sink in. It seems too
good to be true. We have
buried too many loved
ones, and none of them
have risen from the
dead. Why should
we expect this in the
future?

We expect it, and we
are confident it will happen,
because Jesus rose from the dead.

Death could not hold
Him down, and He
promises that it won't
hold down any who trust
in Him.

Jesus says, "Truly,
truly, I say to you, an
hour is coming, and is
now here, when the dead
will hear the voice of the
Son of God, and those
who hear will live. For
as the Father has life in
himself, so he has granted
the Son also to have
life in himself" (John
5:25-26).

We prepare for Jesus'
coming on the last day
by hearing His Word
today. His powerful
Word enters our ear
canals and sets those
tiny bones rattling, so
that His gracious promises
sink into our minds and
hearts.

All who know the
voice of the Son of God



Pastor Peter Faugstad
serves Redeemer Lutheran
Church in New Hampton and
the Jerico and Saude congregations
northeast of town (<https://saudejerico.com/>).

in this life will recognize
His voice when He calls
them to wake up from
their temporary rest in
the tomb and join Him
in glory.

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on the way they should go,
and even when they are old
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Proverbs 22:6

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	H	L	P
Wednesday	36	30	--
Thursday	36	30	.49
Friday	38	32	T
Saturday	35	28	--
Sunday	32	23	--
Monday	45	23	--
Tuesday	38	27	--

Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny with a high of 46 and a low of 33.

Friday: Mostly cloudy and breezy with a high of 42 and a low of 38.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy and breezy with a high of 48 and a low of 35.

Sunday: Partly sunny and still breezy with a high of 46 and a low of 29.

Extended forecast: Our very un-February weather continues as we'll start the work week with sunny skies, highs in the lower 40s and lows dropping to around 30.

Meetings**MONDAY**

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

History

• In 1913, 25-year-old multi-sport star Jim Thorpe — who won two gold medals at the 1912 Olympics — signs a Major League Baseball contract with the New York Giants.

• In 1960, the Greensboro (North Carolina) Sit-In begins as four Black college students spark a nationwide civil rights movement by refusing to leave a "whites-only" lunch counter at a popular retail store after they are denied service.

• In 1979, two weeks after the Shah departs the country, the Ayatollah Khomeini returns to Iran in triumph after 15 years of exile.

• In 2002, 38-year-old American journalist Daniel Pearl, the Southeast Asia bureau chief of the "Wall Street Journal," is murdered by a terror group in Pakistan.

• In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia breaks up while entering the atmosphere over Texas, killing all seven crew members on board.

Birthdays

• Clark Gable, the American actor best known for "Gone with the Wind," was born in 1901.

• Boris Yeltsin, the first president of post-Communist Russia, was born in 1931.

• Harry Styles, pop singer with the band "One Direction," turns 30.

• American poker player Phil Ivey turns 47.

• Michael C. Hall, who played the title character on TV's "Dexter," turns 53.

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 at 641-394-2111.

Tribune

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TRIBAdvertiser at
641.394.2111**Mark Wood, 64**

Mark Wood, age 64 of Nashua, died Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2024, at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center in Mason City.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home/Olson Chapel in Nashua with the Rev. Darin Cerwinski presiding.

Interment will be held in Horton Cemetery in Horton at a later date.

Friends greeted the family from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home on Tuesday.

Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home/Olson Chapel in Nashua has been entrusted with arrangements.

Born in Waverly on June 30, 1959, Mark's life journey was a testament to his spirited nature and friendly disposition.

After graduating from Plainfield High School in 1977, Mark continued to enrich his knowledge and skills at Hawkeye Tech, where he earned an electrical engineering technology degree between 2000 and 2002.

His educational pursuits set the stage for a successful career where Mark dedicated many years as a maintenance worker at Sara Lee and Nestle, before transitioning to an environmental specialist role at Floyd County Medical Center.

His hands-on expertise and amiable personality made him a valued colleague and a friend to all who worked alongside him.

Mark's heart found its match in Annette (Livingston) Wood, his beloved wife, whom he met during their school years in Plainfield.

The couple married in Waverly and built a life filled with love and adventure, never straying far from Nashua, the area that they called home throughout their adult lives.

Together, they raised their son, Dylan Wood, born in Iowa City, who inherited his father's kind-heartedness and love for life's simple pleasures.

His brothers, Eric and Donald Wood, shared in Mark's life journey, from childhood antics to adult camaraderie, always finding solace in the bond of brotherhood that kept them connected through the years — often through the activities of motorcycling and target shooting experiences.

Mark's life was a melody composed of his passions and hobbies. He loved music deeply, with every rhythm and lyric finding a place in his heart.

His motorcycles were not just vehicles but companions on the open road, where he felt a sense of freedom and joy.

**Mark Wood**

Mark was a proficient target shooter, a hobby that reflected his focus and patience.

His love for his feline companions was evident in the gentle care and affection he showed upon them.

One of Mark's most endearing qualities was his childlike curiosity and enthusiasm for life's novelties. This was best exemplified by his recent fulfillment of a long-held curiosity — tasting an "Alaskan Waffle," a simple pleasure that brought him immense joy and a story he loved to share with a twinkle in his eye.

Mark and Annette shared a tradition of annual trips to Road America, where they enjoyed the thrill of the race and the companionship of each other's presence on their motorcycle rides. Their many leisure trips on the bike were moments of connection and freedom, creating memories that Annette will hold dear.

Mark's life was not just about the destinations but also about the journey. His friendly smile, spirited conversations, and handy skills left an indelible mark on those who had the pleasure of knowing him. He had the rare gift of making every person he met feel like an old friend, and his presence was a source of comfort and joy.

Mark is survived by his wife, Annette (Livingston) Wood of Nashua; son, Dylan Wood of Nashua; brothers, Eric (Lucy) Wood of West Concord, Minnesota, and Donald (Julie) Wood of Shell Rock; nephews, Edward, Nathaniel, Travis, and Ryan; nieces, Heather, Robbyn, Melinda, Nicole, Christina, and Kathleen; mother-in-law, Jacqueline Livingston; and sister-in-law, Lori (Kathy) Livingston.

He is preceded in death by his parents, James and Mary (Zwanziger) Wood; brother, Kenneth Wood; father-in-law, Randle Livingston Sr.; and brother-in-law, Randle Livingston Jr.

Friends may greet the family from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Nashua where there will be a 9 a.m. Rosary.

Interment will be held in St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery in Ionia.

Friends may greet the family from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Nashua where there will be a 9 a.m. Rosary.

Mary Catherine Link, 103

Mary Catherine Link, age 103 of Elma and formerly of Ionia, died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2024, at Colonial Manor in Elma.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Ionia with the Rev. James Goerend celebrating the Mass.

Interment will be held in St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery in Ionia.

Friends may greet the family from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Nashua where there will be a 9 a.m. Rosary.

Nadine Schumacher, 89

Nadine Schumacher, age 89 of New Hampton, died Monday, Jan. 29, 2024 at New Hampton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral service will be held 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in New Hampton with the Rev. Peter Faugstad and Vicar Matthew Lehre presiding.

Friends may greet the family from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton. Visitation continues an hour prior to the service on Friday at the church.

Michael 'Mike' Schmitt, 63

Michael "Mike" Schmitt, age 63 of Waucoma, died Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, at the Gundersen Palmer Lutheran Hospital in West Union.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Waucoma, with the Rev. Nick Radloff celebrating the Mass.

Friends may greet the family from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, at the Waucoma Event Center. Visitation continues an hour prior to Mass at the church on Saturday.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Waucoma. Online condolences for the Schmitt family may be let at www.hugebackfuneralhome.com.

Michael Mark Schmitt was born on July 22, 1960, to Bernard and Victoria (Kuennen) Schmitt at Palmer Lutheran Hospital in West Union. He was born the seventh child of eleven siblings.

Mike brought a lot of change to the Schmitt family. He was the first son, preceded by five older sisters. He was dressed up in girls' clothing, curlers and even perms in his hair. As he approached kindergarten, he did not want to go to school because he was his dad, Bernie's right hand man at the Waucoma Feed Mill. Mike rode in the truck with his dad on deliveries.

He was an ambitious young boy who did lawn mowing for several families with a push mower, was a Waterloo Courier paperboy, a carry-out boy at the local McKay Grocery Store, an altar server at St. Mary's Church, and Mike was known to have the fastest silver bike in town!

Mike was so proud of his hometown community of Waucoma. Mike enjoyed living by the Turkey River. Starting at a young age, he loved to fish and camp often along the river with his friends. He was compared to "Huck Finn," as he made a raft to float the river and he had a small fishing boat that made many trips up and down the Mill Pond. Mike rode his bicycle everywhere he went. When he was 16, he bought his own car, a 1968 Chevy Impala, which he was very proud of.

Mike was a 1979 graduate of Turkey Valley High School where he often found himself getting into trouble with his classmates. He participated in football and track in school and then decided to get a job at the Waucoma Feed Mill. Mike rode his bicycle everywhere he went. When he was 16, he bought his own car, a 1968 Chevy Impala, which he was very proud of.

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Friends may greet the family from 3 p.m. until the time of services on Thursday at the funeral home.

Jami R. Kasemeier, age 39 of Waukon, died unexpectedly on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, in Waukon.

A service will be held Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024, at 7 p.m. at Martin-Grau Funeral Home in Waukon with Pastor Ken Kimball officiating.

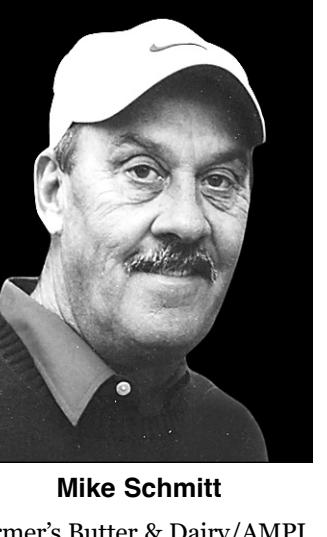
Friends may greet the family from 3 p.m. until the time of services on Thursday at the funeral home.

Jami Rachel Kasemeier was born Jan. 7, 1985, in Des Moines, the daughter of Roger and Julie (Beckman) Jones.

She attended school in New Hampton and Cresco, IA, and later received her GED.

Jami moved to Waukon in 2014, and worked at Good Samaritan Society as lead cook and at Kwik Star as a guest service leader.

She enjoyed planting flowers

**Mike Schmitt**

Farmer's Butter & Dairy/AMPI, where he worked for 20 years until the business closed.

Mike met the love of his life, Janet Balk, when she was 14 years old. He saw Janet walking after church one day with a white sundress on and he told his buddy "that is the girl I'm going to marry." Mike and Janet were united in marriage on June 22, 1985. What a party they had! They lived on Janet's grandparents' farm outside of St. Lucas for five years, until they moved to Waucoma in 1990 to the "Schmitt family home." This was Mike's home all his life. Their marriage was blessed with three children — Sara, Adam and Ben.

For the past 38 years, Mike and Janet made a great life in Waucoma. Mike introduced himself wherever he went as "Mike Schmitt, Waucoma, Iowa." He worked at Lynch Livestock on the maintenance crew, where he enjoyed daily challenges. Janet referred to Mike as "McGyver" because he could fix anything.

Mike was a lifelong member of St. Mary's Church in Waucoma, where he received all of his sacraments. He was active as an usher, choir member and, along with Janet, did marriage prep for young couples for the past 20 years.

Mike was one of the original Waucoma First Responders and served for 42 years.

Mike also was a devout volunteer in his community in many ways. He was known for using his golf cart with the grandkids to water the community flowers.

Mike and Janet (The Waucoma Kid & Queen of the Turkey) enjoyed being outdoors and had a love for nature. They spent many hours canoeing and agate (rock) hunting. They averaged around 30 trips per year. In recent years, they have been Ranger riding along the

Jami R. Kasemeier, 39

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She attended school in New Hampton and Cresco, IA, and later received her GED.

Jami moved to Waukon in 2014, and worked at Good Samaritan Society as lead cook and at Kwik Star as a guest service leader.

Cowboys have plenty of fun but also send a message or two, too

COWBOY POETRY: FROM 1

This year's performers included R.P. Smith, Jake Riley and Brooke Turner. They sang, they shared the poems and fired off more than a few corny, yet good, jokes.

And Turner brought a guest, the above-mentioned Ascherl, and he couldn't help but give her a bit of a hard time during one of their "sets" on Saturday night.

"You know, she's a first-grade teacher," he said with a mischievous grin, "so you know what that means? Practice, homework if you will, was not an option. It was mandatory."

For Ascherl, the chance to perform with Turner was too good to pass up, although she was the first to admit that the ol' butterflies were floating before she took the Starlite stage on the opening night of the 2024 Cowboy Poetry celebration.

"I'm thankful the people up here are forgiving," she said with a smile, "because I was shaking a little bit when I got up there. But Brooke made it so easy for me, he's so quick on his feet, and once we started playing our guitars and singing, it was just like we were practicing. It was a wonderful experience."

And Chickasaw County Sheriff Ryan Shawver was appreciative. He spoke during intermission both nights and thanked those who turned out for the event. Shawver, who served as the K9 handler for the Sheriff's Office from 2014 to 2019, said that no taxpayer money goes to the unit; instead, it is entirely supported by donations.

"I can't thank the Lions and Cowboy Poetry enough," he said. "We've been blessed with great support from countless donors throughout the years, and trust me, having a K9 unit greatly helps our department and the public."



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Chickasaw County Sheriff Ryan Shawver (above) shares information about the county's K9 unit at Cowboy Poetry, where poets like Jake Riley regaled crowds this past weekend with some great tales and songs.

There are always plenty of laughs when it comes to Cowboy Poetry, there are always those moments when important messages are delivered as well. Take a song written by Turner that he performed with Ascherl. Titled "It's About the Ride," he said he wrote the song for his daughter, a rodeo queen in Iowa.

"I like the message, because it really isn't about the fall, it's about the ride," he said. "We do joke around a lot here and at a lot of these events, but you know, that's a message we all need to hear. Let's be honest, no matter what we do in life, we're going to fall, if you will. But let's not focus on that; let's focus on that ride because that's what's really important."



Nexus ag youth scholarships now available

Newly formed Nexus Cooperative will award five \$1,000 Ag Youth Scholarships to graduating high school seniors attending any two or four-year college. Eligibility requirements are that the high school senior graduates in the spring; is a legal U.S. citizen or permanent resident; majoring in or planning to major in an agriculture related field; and the student, parent or grandparent of the student must be a patron member of Nexus Cooperative.

Interested students can contact their High School guidance counselor, Ag instructor-FFA advisor or visit www.nexus.coop for an application. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2024. Mailing address is: Nexus Cooperative; Ag Youth Scholarship Program; 615 Union Street, Stacyville, IA 50476. Failure to enclose all required information, sign the application or meet the deadline date will result in disqualification.

More information and continued updates can be found by visiting, www.nexus.coop/scholarship.



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Event Center Calendar February 2024

Everyone Is Welcome

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Tuesday, February 14 Valentines Bake Sale 8 am to 11 am					1 9:00 CoffeeClub 9am FREE DONUT Day!	2 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise
4 RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	5 8:00 CoffeeClub 9:15 HDMEALS 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards Miss Emma's Dance	6 9:00 Coffee 12:00 Meal 1:00 Euchre/Bridge RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	7 9:15 HDMeals 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards VALENTINES BAKE SALE 8AM-11AM	8 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise	9 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise	10 RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT
11 RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	12 LIFELINE SCREENING 8:30-5:30 Miss Emma's Dance	13 9:00 Coffee 12:00 Meal 1:00 Euchre/Bridge RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	14 9:15 HDMeals 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards MOBILE FOOD PANTRY 4 PM VOLUNTEERS WELCOME	15 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise	16 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise	17 RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT
18 RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	19 8:00 CoffeeClub 9:15 HDMEALS 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards Miss Emma's Dance	20 9:00 Coffee 12:00 Meal 1:00 Euchre/Bridge RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	21 9:15 HDMeals 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards	22 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise	23 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise	24 School Dance 7-10pm
25 RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	26 8:00 CoffeeClub 9:15 HDMEALS 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards Miss Emma's Dance	27 9:00 Coffee 12:00 Meal 1:00 Euchre/Bridge RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	28 9:15 HDMeals 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards	29 RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT		

FREE DONUT DAY THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST • 9 AM

The Extension Council of the above named County will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed fiscal year 2024/2025 budget as follows:
Meeting Date: 2/20/2024 Meeting Time: 06:05 PM Meeting Location: ISU Extension & Outreach Chickasaw County Office 115 N Broadway Ave., New Hampton, IA 50659

At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present their objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of receipts and expenditures on file with the Extension Council Secretary. Copies of the Supplemental Budget Detail (Schedule 67-A) will be furnished upon request.

Contact Name: Amanda Tupper Contact Telephone Number: (641) 394-2174

No. 23606
02/01/24 02/02/24

Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET

CHICKASAW COUNTY AG EXTENSION

Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

The CHICKASAW COUNTY AG EXTENSION will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending the current budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024

Meeting Date/Time: 2/20/2024 06:00 PM Contact: Amanda Tuupper

Phone: (641) 394-2174

Meeting Location: ISU Extension & Outreach Chickasaw County Office 115 N Broadway Ave., New Hampton, IA 50659

There will be no increase in taxes. Any residents or taxpayers will be heard for or against the proposed amendment at the time and place specified above. A detailed statement of: additional receipts, cash balances on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and proposed disbursements, both past and anticipated, will be available at the hearing. Budget amendments are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult <https://dom.iowa.gov/local-gov-appeals>.

EXPENDITURES	Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended	Amendment Increase	Total Budget After Current Amendment	Reason
County Agricultural Extension Education	345,700	140,000	485,700	facility expense increase
Unemployment Compensation	0	0	0	
Tort Liability	5,000	0	5,000	
Total	350,700	140,000	490,700	

No. 23607
02/01/24 02/02/24

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING --- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

CHICKASAW COUNTY AG EXTENSION

The Extension Council of the above named County will conduct a PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed fiscal year 2024/2025 budget as follows:

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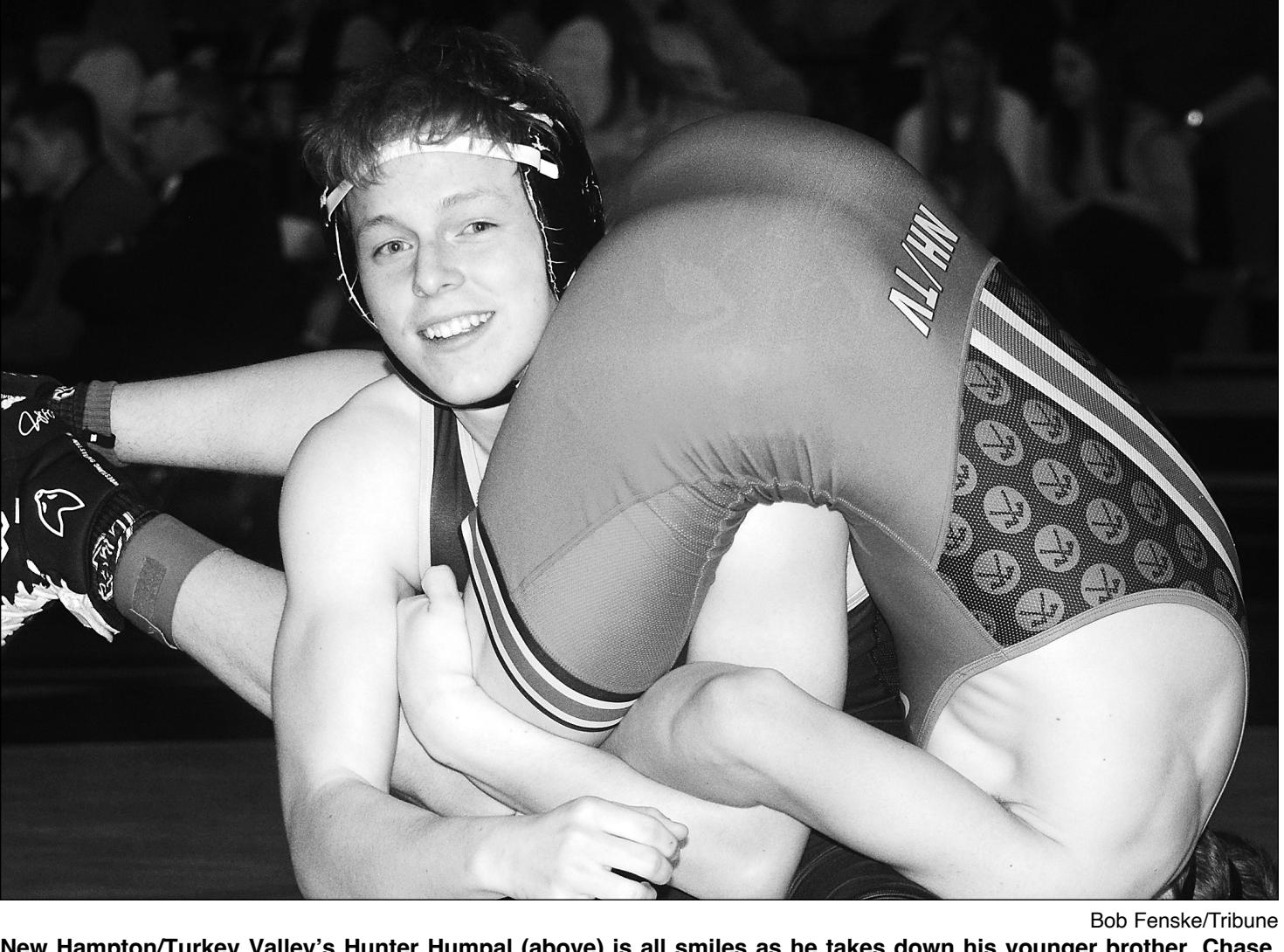
Contact Name: Amanda Tupper Contact Telephone Number: (641) 394-2174

FUND	FYE June 30, 2023 Actual Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2024 Re-estimated Expenditures	FYE June 30, 2025 Budget Expenditures	Estimated Ending Fund Balance FY 2025	Estimated FY 2025 Beg. Balance	Estimated Amount To Be Raised By Taxation	Estimated Utility Tax Replacement and Property Tax Dollars
1. County Agricultural Extension Education	344,764	483,258	397,672	168,822	209,594	270,752	279,000
2. Unemployment Compensation	0	0	0	26,683	26,683	0	0
3. Tort Liability	2,917	7,300	7,300	3,002	4,302	5,823	6,000
4. TOTAL	347,681	490,558	404,972	198,507	240,579	276,575	285,000

Proposed taxation rate per \$1,000 valuation: \$ 0.29589

No. 23607
02/01/24 02/02/24

1 9:00 CoffeeClub 9am FREE DONUT Day!	2 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise	3 RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT
4 9:00 CoffeeClub 9:15 HDMEALS 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards Miss Emma's Dance	5 9:00 Coffee 12:00 Meal 1:00 Euchre/Bridge RENTED FOR A PRIVATE EVENT	6 9:15 HDMeals 9:00 CoffeeClub 11:00 Exercise 1:00 Cards VALENTINES BAKE SALE 8AM-11AM
7 9		



Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton/Turkey Valley's Hunter Humpal (above) is all smiles as he takes down his younger brother, Chase, during the 144-pound fifth-place match while the Chickasaws' Burke Busta (below) has three back points in hand during the 150-pound fifth-place match against Crestwood's Jace Pedretti at the NEIC tourney on Saturday.

Chickasaw JV wrestlers acquit themselves well at NEIC

NEIC: FROM 12

New Hampton/Turkey Valley's bid for a runner-up finish all but dissipated with injuries that kept 120-pound senior Landon Bruess and 175-pound senior Leander Reicks off the mat, but Chickasaw coach Matt Paulus was far from downcast after the meet.

"We got a lot of good, tough matches and that's what we wanted here," Paulus said. "No one came here wanting to get fourth but when you have four weights open [NH/TV also didn't have wrestlers at 106 and 113] but we didn't back down today. I'll take today."

As his lone champion put it, the NEIC is important but it's not the biggie, either.

"In the grand scheme of things, it's conference but Tuesday [and the regional duals] and the district meet, they're the ones that really matter," McShane said. "It's a big deal, I'm not saying that, but it's not the one that matters the most."

McShane joined a plethora of Chickasaw greats who have stood atop the NEIC podium for three years, and considering the rumors of the conference's demise, winning three straight league titles is something he'll hang his proverbial hat on ... in a few years, that is.

"Right now, I'm just focused on state," he said after improving to 36-1. "That's the podium I really want to be on top of, but there's a lot of good wrestlers on that [three-time NEIC champion] list and to be in that group, yeah, I know that will mean a lot when I'm an old guy."

McShane was the lone champion Saturday, but two other Chickasaws — top-seeded Karson Kolbet at 157 and second-seeded Gatlin McCumber at 285 — made the finals.

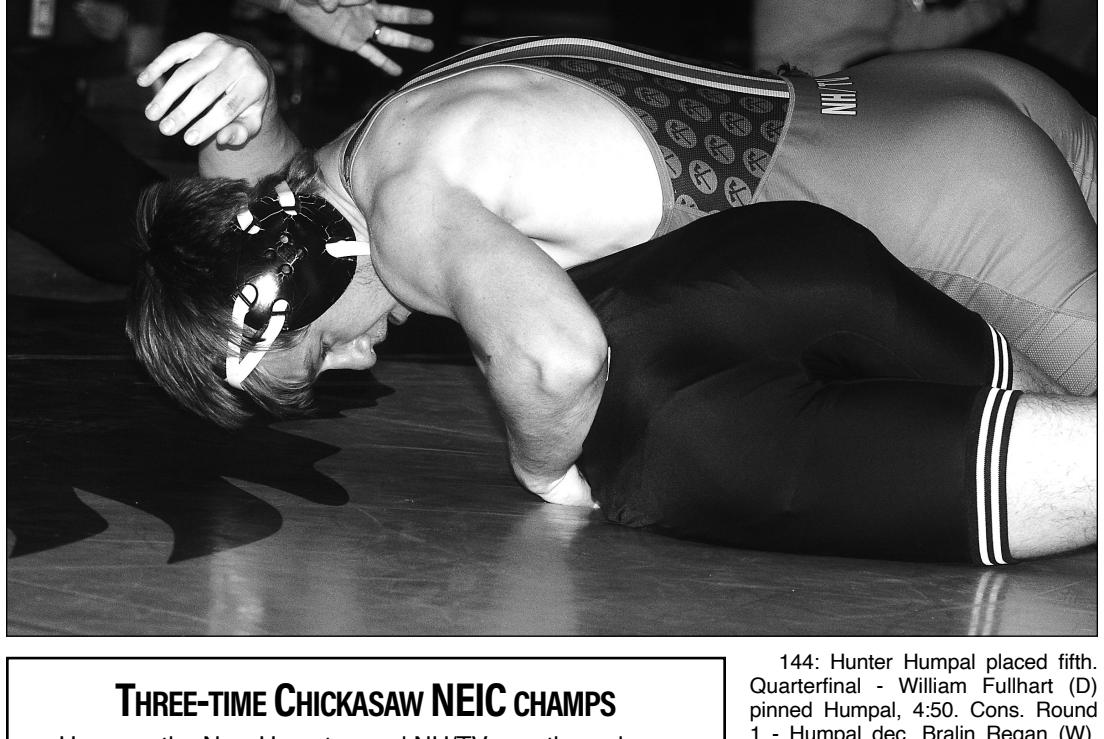
Kolbet lost for a second time this season to Decorah's Brody Hanson, and while the final score — 8-0 — looked awful, it was a five-point move by Hanson in the second period that made it look like a rout.

"Karson's in tight on two takedowns in the first and if he gets one of those, it's a whole different match," Paulus said, "and you know, [Kolbet] came close on that cradle a couple times in the third period. You know, obviously, we want to win a conference championship, but I know Karson's going to learn from this, get back out there and be better than ever."

McCumber, meanwhile, gave up a late takedown in the first period to Caden Wetherell, who is ranked fifth in Class 3A by IAwrestle, and then got caught and pinned early in the second period.

"That kid's going to be high on the stand in 3A, in my opinion, and our guy has the same potential in 2A," Paulus said. "We came here to get tough matches, to get better, and Gatlin will use this to do just that."

The Chickasaws got third-place finishes from Emmett Kuehner (138), Ethan Praska (144), Jax Shekleton (150), Olandreon Saunders (165) and Ethan Swehla (190), all of whom lost in the semifinals but



THREE-TIME CHICKASAW NEIC CHAMPS

Here are the New Hampton and NH/TV wrestlers who have won three Northeast Iowa Conference championships:

Marty Vaala	95, 112, 112	1966-68
Duane Boos	98, 112, 126	1971-73
Tom Ball	167, 167, 167	1971-73
Jeff Pacovsky	167, 185, 167	1978-80
Kip Gebel	98, 112, 119	1986-87, 1989
Curt Heideman	171, 171, 189	1989-91
Tad Weiglein	112, 119, 145	2000-02
Casey Mai	103, 130, 130	2002, 2004-05
Jaydon Mitchell	145, 152, 160	2005-07
Leighton Gaul	112, 113, 120	2011-13
Connor Cleveland	106, 113, 120	2014-16
Michael Blockhus*	106, 126, 145	2015, 2017-18
Evan Rosonke	182, 182, 195	2018-20
Braden McShane	182, 220, 215	2022-24

* Blockhus won his first NEIC title wrestling for Crestwood.

worked their way back up the ladder on the back side of their brackets.

Meanwhile, NH/TV had nine wrestlers who battled their way into the varsity tournament by finishing in the top-two of their respective weight classes at last Thursday's NEIC junior varsity tournament in which the Chickasaws claimed the team title. A number of those Chickasaws placed as Hunter Humpal (144) and Burke Busta (150) finished fifth and Weston Praska (132), Mason Nelson (138), Chase Humpal (144) and Roy Barron (215) wrestled to sixth-place finishes.

"Our JV kids got some matches and that was really good," he said. "I'm not the biggest fan of how we do it, but this year — having eight, nine guys get a chance to wrestle — it worked out well for us. They wrestled hard and I thought they made the most out of the opportunity."

But as the wrestlers made their way to the awards stand following the completion of the conference tournament, Paulus' attention was already focused on the future.

NH/TV competed in the Class 2A regional duals in Algona on Tuesday and is gearing up for Class 2A district tournament that will be held a week from this Saturday in Manchester.

"We've got the possibility of a lot good things happening," Paulus said, "and I know these guys are going to put the work in that they have to. We got what we wanted out of today, but the big stuff, the important stuff, is still ahead of us."

TEAM SCORES

Waverly-Shell Rock	278.5
Decorah	207.5
New Hampton/Turkey Valley	175.5
Waukon	127
Charles City	94.5
NEW HAMPTON/TURKEY VALLEY INDIVIDUAL RESULTS	
126: Braiden Schaufenbuel	placed fifth.
Quarterfinal - Lucas Byrnes (W)	OT dec.
Schaufenbuel, 4-2.	Cons.
Round 1 - Schaufenbuel pinned Max Jones (W), 1:23.	Cons. Semi - Ethan Bergan (C) pinned Schaufenbuel, 4:57.
5th Place Match - Schaufenbuel pinned Byrnes (W), 3:39.	1:23.
126: Cargin Robinson	did not place.
Quarterfinal - Jordan Young (CC) pinned Robinson, 1:33.	Cons. Round 1 - Michael Clement (D) pinned Robinson, 1:18.
132: Jayden Bucknell	placed fourth.
Quarterfinal - Bucknell pinned Jose Lievano (C), 2:15.	Semifinal - Carter Cajthaml (CC) dec. Bucknell, 11-4.
Semifinal - Bucknell pinned Justin Murphy (W), 3:24.	3rd Place Match - Kolby Spore (WSR) dec. Bucknell, 6-4.
132: Weston Praska	placed sixth.
Quarterfinal - Cajthaml (CC) pinned Praska, 2:15.	Cons. Round 1 - Praska won by forfeit Jose Lievano (C).
Cons. Semi - Kolby Spore (WSR) maj. dec. Praska, 13-0.	Praska pinned Praska, 0:25.
5th Place Match - Justin Murphy (W) pinned Praska, 0:25.	138: Emmett Kuehner
138: Emmett Kuehner	placed third.
Quarterfinal - Kuehner OT dec. Owen Regan (W), 3-2.	Semifinal - Zane Behrends (WSR) pinned Kuehner, 1:17.
Semifinal - Kuehner won by forfeit Mason Nelson (NHTV).	Cons. Semi - Kuehner won by forfeit Mason Nelson (NHTV).
3rd Place Match - Kuehner pinned Cayden Kruger (W), 1:29.	5th Place Match - Kuehner pinned Mason Hinrichs (WSR), 5:44.
138: Mason Nelson	placed sixth.
Quarterfinal - Cajthaml (CC) pinned Nelson, 1:57.	1st Place Match - Tryston Johnson (W) pinned Barron, 1:30.
Cons. Semi - Kuehner pinned Mason Nelson, 5:24.	5th Place Match - Tryston Johnson (W) pinned Barron, 0:21.
5th Place Match - Praska pinned Jacob Vance (CC), 3:53.	144: Ethan Praska
144: Ethan Praska	placed third.
Quarterfinal - Praska won by forfeit Chase Humpal (NHTV).	Semifinal - Praska won by forfeit Chase Humpal (NHTV).
Semifinal - Kaleb Adams (C) pinned Praska, 5:24.	1st Place Match - Caden Wetherell (WSR) pinned McCumber, 2:36.
5th Place Match - Praska won by forfeit Hunter Humpal (NHTV).	285: Gatlin McCumber
3rd Place Match - Praska pinned Jacob Vance (CC), 3:53.	placed second.
144: Ethan Praska	Quarterfinal - McCumber pinned Jackson Warnke (CC), 0:48.
144: Ethan Praska	Semifinal - McCumber pinned Mason Hinrichs (WSR), 5:44.
144: Ethan Praska	1st Place Match - Caden Wetherell (WSR) pinned McCumber, 2:36.

144: Hunter Humpal placed fifth. Quarterfinal - William Fullhart (D) pinned Humpal, 4:50. Cons. Round 1 - Humpal dec. Bralin Regan (W), 4-0. Cons. Semi - E. Praska (NHTV) won by forfeit Humpal. 5th Place Match - Humpal pinned C. Humpal (NHTV), 1:00.

144: Chase Humpal placed sixth. Quarterfinal - E. Praska (NHTV) won by forfeit Humpal. Cons. Round 1 - Humpal pinned McCoy McIlravy (WSR), 2:27. Cons. Semi - Vance (CC) pinned Humpal, 3:16. 5th Place Match - H. Humpal (NHTV) pinned Humpal, 1:00.

150: Jax Shekleton placed third. Quarterfinal - Shekleton tech fall Jace Pedretti (C), 18-2. Semifinal - Bas Diaz (WSR) pinned Shekleton, 1:17. Cons. Semi - Shekleton won by forfeit Burke Busta (NHTV). 3rd Place Match - Shekleton dec. Kolin Henry (D), 6-5.

150: Burke Busta placed fifth. Quarterfinal - Talan Weber (CC) maj. dec. Busta, 12-2. Cons. Round 1 - Busta pinned Mason McKee (W), 1:59. Cons. Semi - Shekleton (NHTV) won by forfeit Busta. 5th Place Match - Busta pinned Jace Pedretti (C), 5:55.

157: Karson Kolbet placed second. Quarterfinal - Kolbet won by forfeit Beau Serie (NHTV). Semifinal - Kolbet pinned Cody Kerian (C), 0:55. 1st Place Match - Brody Hanson (D) maj. dec. Kolbet, 8-0.

157: Cade Carpenter did not place. Quarterfinal - Hanson (D) pinned Carpenter, 1:52. Cons. Round 1 - Carter Burkhardt (CC) pinned Carpenter, 3:39.

157: Beau Serie did not place. Quarterfinal - Kolbet (NHTV) won by forfeit Serie. Cons. Round 1 - Ethan Gibbs (W) dec. Serie, 7-5.

165: Olandreon Saunders placed third. Quarterfinal - Saunders pinned Jared Snitker (W), 3:02. Semifinal - Ethan Bibler (WSR) maj. dec. Saunders, 11-1. Cons. Semi - Saunders pinned Eli Forcier (WSR), 5:41. 3rd Place Match - Saunders pinned Colton Anderegg (CC), 5:45.

190: Ethan Svehla placed third. Quarterfinal - Svehla pinned Carson Linde (CC), 0:36. Semifinal - Zander Wedemeier (WSR) dec. Svehla, 3-1.

Cons. Semi - Svehla pinned Mason Regan (C), 1:35. 3rd Place Match - Svehla pinned Chase Mwangi (WSR), 1:15.

215: Braden McShane placed first. Semifinal - McShane pinned Kaiden Youngblood (D), 0:31. 1st Place Match - McShane pinned Logan Lashbrook (WSR), 1:39.

215: Roy Barron placed sixth. Quarterfinal - Tryston Johnson (W) pinned Barron, 1:03. Cons. Round 1 - Barron pinned McKyan Egan (W), 4:53. Cons. Semi - Kaiden Youngblood (D) pinned Barron, 1:30.

5th Place Match - Tryston Johnson (W) pinned Barron, 0:21.

138: Gatlin McCumber placed second. Quarterfinal - McCumber pinned Jackson Warnke (CC), 0:48.

Semifinal - McCumber pinned Mason Hinrichs (WSR), 5:44. 1st Place Match - Caden Wetherell (WSR) pinned McCumber, 2:36.

New Hampton boys close the week with a pair of road games

NH Boys: FROM 12

long enough to know that there are teams that implode when they've got a record like ours."

The Chickasaw coach paused for a moment and shook his head.

"But this one was tough, really tough. That's two nights in a row we've played really, really hard, and this was one we could have — should have — won."

The Sailors, who came into the game with a 5-13 mark, used a zone defense to get back into the game, and New Hampton struggled.

"I'm surprised honestly that we were so kerfuffled by that zone," Rausch said. "I don't know, we just didn't seem as patient as we needed to be."

Still, New Hampton found some answers in the fourth quarter with assists by Jake Schwickerath, Caden Rochford and Adam Ewert, but Columbus' Jackson Mudd gave the Sailors their first lead of the night when he hit a 3-pointer to make it 39-36.

An Ewert free throw and a Nick Brincks basket, thanks to a pretty pass from Ben Gilbert, tied the game at 39 with 2 1/2 minutes remaining.

Columbus retook the lead with a minute left on a basket by Amani Robinson, but 15 seconds later, Gilbert drained a 3-pointer to give New Hampton a 42-41 advantage. Robinson, though, powered inside for what proved to be the winning basket with 25 seconds left and although the Chickasaws got a great look on a 3-pointer from Gilbert, it wouldn't fall.

"We did a lot of good things, but I keep saying that most nights," Rausch said. "What we need is a win, and it's not on the kids, it's on me. I'll own up to that. We just have to find a way to win a game like this. ... It felt like a playoff game."

"It was intense, it was physical, the effort by both teams was outstanding and we just came up one point short."

The loss to the Sailors came after the Chickasaws ended last week with two blowout losses — 64-33 to North Fayette Valley on Thursday and 90-44 to Class 3A fifth-ranked Decorah on Friday.

But as disappointed as Rausch was in his team's performance on Thursday, when New Hampton connected on just 20.4 percent of its shots, he found a lot to like in the loss to a Decorah team that is one of the best in the state.

"We played so hard," he said,

"and the effort that night, I'm going to give my guys their due. They didn't back down, they battled. I'll never complain about an effort like that, and I don't care what the final score was."

Brincks led the Chickasaws with 12 points against the TigerHawks and then put together what may have been the best game of his career on Friday against Decorah as the senior hit 6 of 9 shots from the field, and finished with 14 points, second best on the team to Laures' 19-point effort.

New Hampton will finish this week with a pair of road games as they play at Central Springs tonight (Thursday) and travel to Charles City on Friday.

NORTH FAYETTE VALLEY 64, NEW HAMPTON 33

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Chickasaws' hard-hitting Heeren headed to Luther to play softball

BY BOB FENSK
editor@nhtrib.com

Here's what Jenna Heeren learned a couple of weeks ago: Standing up in front of her family and friends and saying a few words is way, way tougher than stepping into a batter's box and facing a pitcher 43 feet away.

"Oh my gosh, I'm so nervous," the New Hampton senior said before the ceremony in which she made her commitment to play attend and play softball at Luther College next year. "I don't know what to say, and I hate talking in front of people."

But here's the deal: Heeren did just fine; in fact, she handled her little "press conference" almost as well as she hits a softball.

Although she's looking forward to donning the blue of Luther in 2025, she's just as excited for the upcoming soft-

ball season with coach Tate Hoffmeister and her teammates.

"I think we can be really good because we have a lot of the same people back and Hoff always pushes us to be better," she said. "I think we're going to surprise a lot of people and I'm pumped to get going."

Heeren is one of the big reasons New Hampton has reason for optimism in 2024.

She broke into the starting lineup late in her eighth-grade season under then-coach Lisa Rude and has hit the ball ever since, compiling a career batting average of .358.

Her power numbers, too, have steadily increased throughout her career as she hit four homers in 2021, five in 2022 and 10 a year ago.

Once the season ends, though, she'll be a Norse, and she credited her former coach for helping her get to the "next



Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton senior Jenna Heeren — with her parents, Janet and Larry — signs on the "dotted line" to make her commitment to Luther softball official.

level."

"I would say my sophomore year of high school, with Lisa Rude," Heeren said, "because I knew she played there. I've always kind of had an interest in playing college softball, but she really helped me."

And once she visited Luther, Heeren, who is planning in fol-

lowing in her mother's footsteps and become an elementary school teacher, was hooked.

"When I went to watch them play, they always looked like they were having a lot of fun," Heeren said. "The coaches, when I met with them, they were just great and very positive all the time."

Chickasaws to send pair of girls to state

SUPER REGIONAL: FROM 12

wrestling for the first time this winter. She thought she'd give it a go after being convinced by Chickasaw junior 170-pounder Aleah Eichenberger — who along with Ali Russler and Keira Myers made state last year at the first sanctioned state meet in Iowa prep girls wrestling history.

Did Thronson think she'd excel at a sport that is one of the more challenging endeavors one can undertake?

"No, I thought I'd be terrible," smiled Thronson.

Thronson wrestled up two weight classes for a short period of time and some at 155 pounds before settling in at her target weight class of 145.

"We had to take some time to get to her body comp, where she could wrestle 145," said NH/TV head coach Caleb Ciavarelli. "She was wrestling up two weights classes and then at 55 for a while. Once she got down to 45, you could just tell that she was the stronger, bigger wrestler."

Thronson engineered a pin over Ariana Menne of Postville in 5:18 and toppled Addison Burger of West Delaware with a quick pin in just 52 seconds in her other two wins at super regionals.

Thronson thanked her coaching staff for putting herself in a position to succeed.

"Even like the first tournaments where we were losing and losing, they were so confident in you that you were going to do well. Every single practice they're telling you you're going to win tournaments and telling you you're going to win duals," said Thronson.

Thronson — a No. 15 seed in her 32-person weight bracket — takes on No. 18 seed Layna Demoss (41-10) of Benton Community in the first round of state today.

Glaser has a unique story of her own — as almost all skilled athletes at this level do.

Glaser (29-17) said she had butterflies all week leading up to the biggest meet of her young, but burgeoning career. A text message from her older brother — 2018 NH grad Noah Glaser — the night before helped calm her nerves.

"I was really, really nervous just all week and this morning," said Glaser. "My brother sent me a text last night and it was some quote that said bravery is not being afraid or not thinking you can't do something. It's setting it aside and saying 'shut up, I can do this.'"

If Glaser can wrestle as well as her older sibling she may well be crowned a state champ some day. Noah Glaser was a two-time state medalist for the Chickasaws and placed third at state his senior year at 170 pounds.

Glaser — who is only in her second year of undertaking wrestler — beat Woodward Granger's Katelyn Brandhorst twice on Friday. She eked out an 8-7 decision in the quarterfinal round and topped Brandhorst once more in her third-place match to seal the deal for her state berth.

"I was just thinking I'm going to leave it all out there," said Glaser. "It really doesn't matter if I win or lose — I'm going to get better every single match."

Glaser also won by major decision over Samantha Wolter of Pochahontas Area, 10-0, and the Chickasaw multi-sport star stopped Bayleigh Wood of MFL-Mar-Mac in her first match of the day by pin in 1:21.

"Sophie's got really good offense so she needs to get to it often — stay aggressive the whole six minutes. If there's anybody out there who can hang with her for six minutes with her pace — than credit to them, because they worked hard. Because there's not a lot who are going to outwork Sophie," said Ciavarelli.

Glaser wrestles Clara Sapienza (39-3) of Southwest Iowa in her first match on Thursday morning in the 135-pound weight bracket. Sapienza is ranked fifth by IAwrestle.

Glaser was poked in the eye in her last match against the Woodward-Granger wrestler. It didn't seem to faze her, in fact she seemed to revel and take more satisfaction in Thronson vaulting herself to state than she did in her amazing accomplishment of doing the same.

"I was just telling her how my brother got an award one

year when he was in high school. I don't know if they do these awards anymore. Most improved wrestler — that would be her, for sure" said Glaser about her pal Thronson.

NH/TV placed 10th at the state qualifier with 81 points.

Aleah Eichenberger, a junior who was hampered by a hamstring injury the week prior, did not make a return trip back to the state meet. Eichenberger (27-12) was eliminated from the challenging 170-pound bracket after losing to Karissa Oldenburger of Waverly-Shell Rock in consolation round five by fall in 4:00.

"Aleah's wrestling banged up," said Ciavarelli. "I'm very proud of her effort. We knew coming in we had to change our game plan. She couldn't wrestle the way that she wanted to.

"We had to take some time to get to her body comp, where she could wrestle 145," said NH/TV head coach Caleb Ciavarelli. "She was wrestling up two weights classes and then at 55 for a while. Once she got down to 45, you could just tell that she was the stronger, bigger wrestler."

Eichenberger won by fall over Raegen Patrie of Charles City and Isabella Harken of Tripoli to go 2-2 on the grueling day.

"Aleah was hurt. She would have made it to state today," said Glaser. "You could see it on her face, she was hurting."

Raelen Manderfield (28-17), who produced a terrific freshman season at 155 pounds, also lost in her final match of the blood round.

Chickasaw sophomore Ella Knutson (130) finished 3-2 in her matches, but like Manderfield was unable to place.

"Raelen lost her first match. That's a long road to go. Same thing with Ella (Knutson). It's a long road to go," said Ciavarelli. "They were up for the challenge...you wrestle five, six matches in a row, you gotta be perfect and that's hard to do on the back side."

Ciavarelli summed up a day that exemplified how bright a future his program possesses.

"It's a grind of a day," said Ciavarelli. "We're young. We had a great season and a lot of stuff to build on and this tournament showed that. We have girls who are going to be sniffing it next year. They gotta put in the work."

REGION 7 TEAM SCORES

Cedar Falls 309, Waverly-Shell Rock 252.5, West Delaware 168, South Tama County 166.5, Charles City 154, Clear Lake 127, Summer-Fredericksburg 114, Humboldt 105, Woodward-Granger 88, NH/TV 81, Postville 71, Central Elkader 70, Cascade 57, West Fork 50, Waterloo-West 48, Oelwein 47, Tripoli 42, MFL-MarMac 40, South Central Calhoun 35, Grinnell 28, Baxter 25, AGWSR 24, Pocahontas Area 15, Starpoint 13.

NEW HAMPTON/TURKEY VALLEY RESULTS

100 - Taelyn Bass did not place. Champ. Round 2 - Livia Smith (STC) pinned Bass, 3:26. Cons. Round 4 - Bass pinned Kourtney King (SCC), 0:15. Cons. Round 5 - Amber Hoth (WSR) won in sudden victory, 14-12.

130 - Ella Knutson did not place. Champ. Round 1 - Knutson pinned Kyrie Chapman (GRI), 2:33. Champ. Round 2 - Kylene Shoop (WD) pinned Knutson, 1:34. Cons. Round 2 - Knutson pinned Emma Allie (CL), 0:47. Cons. Round 3 - Knutson pinned Haley Hollingsworth (WG), 3:34. Cons. Round 4 - Claire Weyert (HUM), 0:55.

135 - Sophie Glaser placed third and qualified for state. Champ. Round 2 - Glaser pinned Bayleigh Wood (MFL), 1:21. Quarterfinal - Glaser dec. Katelyn Brandhorst (WG), 8-7. Semifinal - Maelye Elsbury (STC) maj. dec. Glaser, 13-1. Cons. Semi - Glaser maj. dec. Samantha Wolter (PA), 10-0. 3rd Place Match - Glaser maj. dec. Brandhorst (WG), 8-2.

140 - Olivia Hoy did not place. Champ. Round 2 - Hoy pinned Lilly Kalous (SCC), 1:44. Quarterfinal - Kiara Djoumessi (WSR) pinned Hoy, 0:25. Cons. Round 4 - Hoy pinned Ashlyn Boldt (TRIP), 3:19. Cons. Round 5 - Carly Maternach (CASC) dec. Hoy, 3-1.

145 - Kelly Thronson placed third and qualified for state. Quarterfinal - Thronson pinned Ariana Menne (POST), 5:18. Semifinal - Emerson Bartlett (CF) pinned Thronson, 1:17. Cons. Semi - Thronson pinned Addison Burger (WD), 0:52. 3rd Place Match - Thronson pinned Alexa Heflin (CL), 3:27.

155 - Raelen Manderfield did not place. Champ. Round 2 - Gracey Smith (CL) dec. Manderfield, 5-3. Cons. Round 3 - Manderfield pinned Elsie Hubbell (HUM), 1:00. Cons. Round 4 - Manderfield pinned Parker Robinson (WD), 5:39. Cons. Round 5 - Baleigh Martin (CASC) pinned Manderfield, 3:17.

170 - Aleah Eichenberger did not place. Champ. Round 2 - Eichenberger pinned Raegen Patrie (CC), 2:00. Quarterfinal - Fernanda Ramirez (WF) pinned Eichenberger, 5:51. Cons. Round 4 - Eichenberger pinned Isabella Harken (TRIP), 4:36. Cons. Round 5 - Karissa Oldenburger (WSR) pinned Eichenberger, 4:00.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton's Caycee Crawford (above) drives to the basket in Friday's game against Decorah while the Chickasaws' Molly Wegner (below) looks for an open teammate during Monday's game against Columbus.

Deflating loss leaves Chickasaw girls reeling

BY BOB FENSK
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It was, as David Leichtman, put it, deflating.

And that 54-50 loss to a North Fayette Valley last Thursday sent Leichtman's club into a downward spiral, one that included a 77-37 Northeast Iowa Conference loss to Class 4A 13th ranked Decorah on Friday and a 68-49 non-conference defeat to Waterloo-Columbus on Monday night.

"I'd love to see what we would have done if we had beaten North Fayette," Leichtman said after his team fell to 5-13 with the loss to the Sailors Monday. "That game, you know, it was deflating. I mean all the air went out of us, and obviously, Decorah's Decorah; they're that good. But tonight, I think we're all a little disappointed. This is a game we thought we'd be competitive in."

Instead, the Chickasaws suffered through a third straight game in which they played seemingly with a lid on the basket.

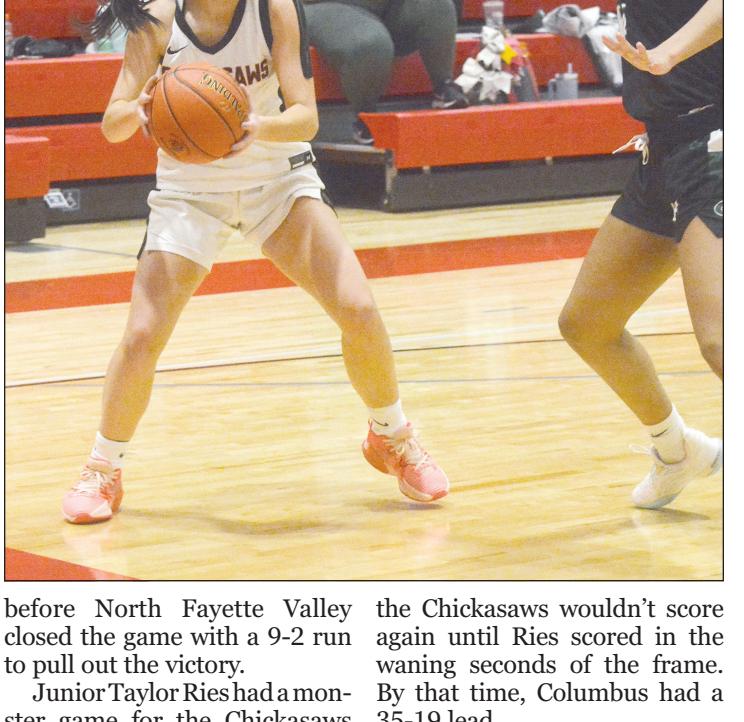
In the three losses, New Hampton hit just 44 of 167 shots, and 26.3 percent shooting from the field is not going to win anyone a lot of basketball games.

"I'm not saying everyone of them was a good look," Leichtman said, "but for the most part, I don't think we took a lot of bad shots the last three games. We just haven't been able to buy a bucket. That's what's so frustrating. We just have to shoot the basketball better."

Coming off a 59-50 win at South Winneshiek, the Chickasaws put together an excellent effort against a North Fayette Valley team that currently has a 13-4 record.

For much of the game, New Hampton rebounded well, it shared the ball well, it shot free throws well and it played hard-nosed defense. But the Chickasaws hit just 15 of 64 shots (23.4 percent from the field, and in the end that frigid shooting cost them what would have been a marquee victory.

New Hampton built a 28-22 halftime lead, but the TigerHawks slowly but surely cut into the lead in the second half. Still, the Chickasaws held a 48-45 lead late in the game



before North Fayette Valley closed the game with a 9-2 run to pull out the victory.

Junior Taylor Ries had a monster game for the Chickasaws as she scored 26 points — on 8-of-15 shooting from the field and a 10-for-13 night at the free-throw line — and grabbed 12 rebounds. But the rest of the team was just 7-for-49 from the field, which meant that Cora Schwickerath's nine-rebound night, Jordan Thronson's nine rebounds and four steals and Molly Wegner's four steals went for naught.

The following night, though, New Hampton was simply out-gunned by a Decorah squad that is 12-5 overall and has just one NEIC loss as the Vikings raced out to 24-8 first quarter and 48-23 halftime leads.

The Chickasaws, who fell to 2-6 in conference play, had no answer for Decorah senior Yasmine Whitsitt, who hit 15 of 24 shots on her way to a 42-point night.

New Hampton was led by Ries again as she finished with nine points while Ava Leichtman added eight points.

Still, Columbus presented a better opportunity on Monday night; after all, the Sailors came into the game with a 4-13 mark.

The game was tight for nine minutes as New Hampton trailed just 20-17 with seven minutes left in the first half, but

Leichtman's club closes the regular season on Tuesday when it hosts Crestwood and

Thronson's team closes the regular season on Tuesday when it hosts Crestwood and

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Leichtman's club closes the regular season on Tuesday when it hosts Crestwood and

SPORTS

Chickasaws put up heck of a fight at regional

NH/TV stuns Hampton-Dumont-CAL in opening round, but comes up short in final against host Algona

BY BOB FENSKE
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New Hampton/Turkey Valley showed it belonged — and then some — in the Class 2A regional duals Tuesday night, but the Chickasaws came up just short of earning their first trip to the state duals in six years.

The Chickasaws, ranked 21st, stunned 10th-rated Hampton-Dumont-CAL in the opener, picking up nine victories to post a 39-27 win over the Bulldogs, but host and seventh-ranked Algona, also nicknamed the Bulldogs, earned its first-ever trip

to state with a 43-24 win in a meet that was much closer than the final score indicated.

"Our guys came a million miles this year," NH/TV coach Matt Paulus said after his team's dual season came to an end, "and I'm just so proud of how they competed tonight."

"They wrestled with so much heart, and sure, we'd love to have two or three of those matches back with Algona, but the effort was supreme. I couldn't have asked for anymore from our guys."

NH/TV's upset of Hampton-Dumont-CAL began with the first match when senior Ethan Svehla

came up with a dramatic pin in overtime at 190. It set the tone for a dual in which NH/TV showed plenty of grit.

A pin from 215-pound top-ranked Braden McShane made it 12-0, but HDC won five of the next seven matches to take a 27-18 lead.

An Ethan Praska 5-2 decision at 144 and a Jax Shekleton 12-9 win at 150 cut the deficit to 27-24, and Karson Kolbet came up with a second period pin at 157 to give NH/TV a lead it would not relinquish.

An Olandreon Saunders decision at 165 and a Leander Reicks pin at 175 sealed the win and sent the Chickasaws

to the finals.

N H / TV's magic, though, ran out against the other Bulldogs, the ones from Algona as just McShane, Quinlan Mahoney, Kolbet and Svehla picked up wins in a tightly-contested meet.

The season, however, is not over ... not by a long shot.

NH/TV will wrestle at the Class 2A district tournament in Manchester a week from this Saturday.

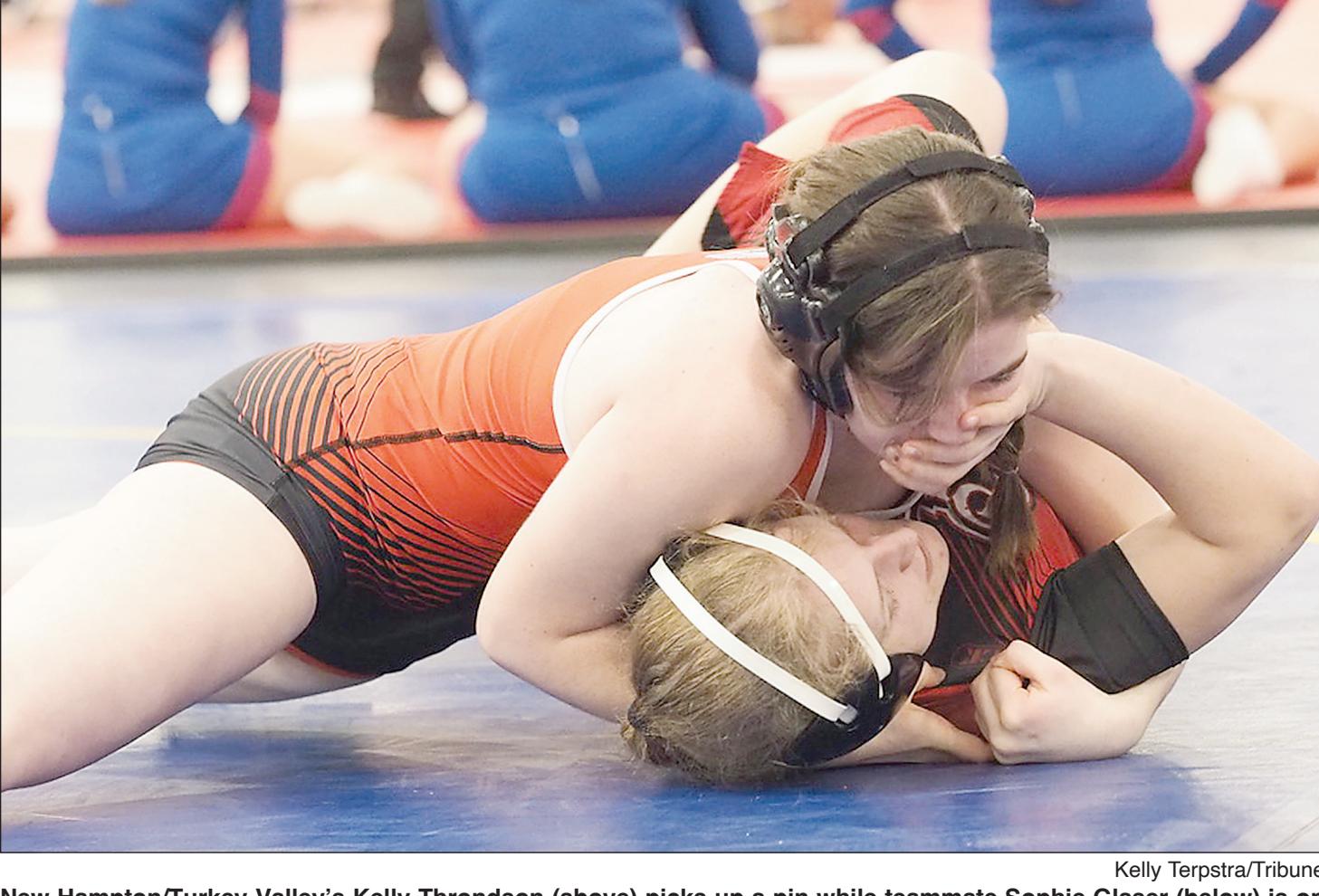
"You have to be short-minded in this

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Open nights, weekends,
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CLINIC



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

New Hampton/Turkey Valley's Kelly Thronsdson (above) picks up a pin while teammate Sophie Glaser (below) is on the prowl for back points during the super regional tournament that was held Friday in Mason City.

McShane's third title highlights NEIC for undermanned NH/TV

Chickasaw senior wins third conference title, but NH/TV must settle for fourth-place finish

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

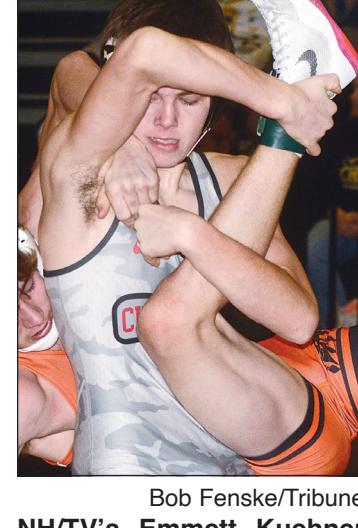
Braden McShane was without a doubt the most overwhelming favorite when it came to the 14 No. 1 seeds at Saturday's Northeast Iowa Conference tournament.

And the New Hampton/Turkey Valley senior lived up to his billing, scoring two quick pins to saunter through the 215-pound weight division and became the Chickasaws' 14th three-time NEIC champion.

The top-ranked McShane pinned Decorah's Kaiden Youngblood in 31 seconds before beating Waverly-Shell Rock's Logan Lashbrook in 1:39 to add the 215 title to the 182 crown he won in 2022 and the 220 championship he claimed last winter.

"I try not to think about it," McShane said after he was asked about being the prohibitive favorite, "and just focus on one match at a time. You never know what can happen on the mat so you've got to treat everyone like they can beat you and just get to work and get it done. It felt good, but this is just one step to get ready for state. That's the big one."

Waverly-Shell Rock, in its final year in the conference, won its sixth straight title with 278.5 points, and Decorah



Bob Fenske/Tribune

NH/TV's Emmett Kuehner (above) works to finish off a takedown against Waukon's Cayden Kruger while the Chickasaws' Braden McShane (below) overpowers Waverly-Shell Rock's Logan Lashbrook in the 215-pound finals at the NEIC tourney Saturday.

took second with 207.5 points. The runner-up finish was the best Vikings' finish since 2004, when it was a runner-up to New Hampton. Crestwood, meanwhile, edged NH/TV for third, 182-175.5.

SEE NEIC, 10

DOUBLING UP ON THE FUN!

NEW HAMPTON/TURKEY VALLEY'S GLASER AND THRONSDSON PUNCH TICKETS TO STATE MEET

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

New Hampton/Turkey Valley's Kelly Thronsdson said no to seconds at the dining room table and passed on that delectable dessert.

She knew will power could get her somewhere soon and in a relative short amount of time.

Throw in some hard work and an attentive ear that's willing to learn and the possibilities could be endless for the up-and-coming Chickasaw.

In a nutshell, that's the life of a prep wrestler in the state Iowa for about four months out of the year. Some grapplers attempt the "grind" year round — but that's a tale best told on another day.

But Thronsdson was not alone in her quest to rise to the occasion, take all that she's been taught and utilize it to her benefit on a long day at super regionals that comes with highs and lows and pressure-packed moments.

Only the strong survive and Thronsdson can take solace in accomplishing a goal that few even realize, let alone achieve.

That's just the start of an incredible story for the Chickasaw sophomore 145-pounder, who along with freshman Sophie Glaser (135) ran a gauntlet at the super regionals held last Friday in Mason City to secure their spots at the coveted state wrestling meet this week in Coralville.

New NH faces — along with a whole host of elite wrestlers in the state of Iowa — will attempt to flex their muscles this morning (Thursday) in the opening round of the biggest tournament of the year.



How did Glaser and Thronsdson get to Coralville?

Let's find out.

Thronsdson's first ever high school varsity wrestling match was at Independence this year — where she was wrestling up two weight classes. The sophomore Chickasaw did not win a match at 170 pounds that day.

My how times have changed since that mid-November weekend tournament.

"It feels amazing. My first tournament I got last at 170," said Thronsdson. "It was a lot of self control in eating and working out like no other."

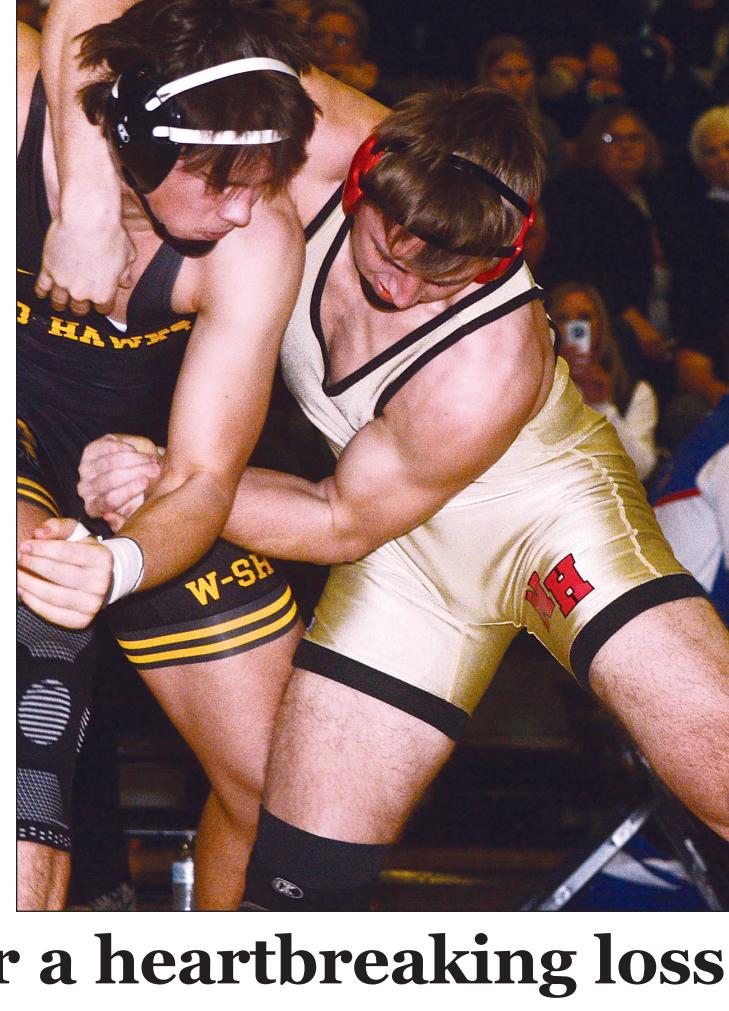
Thronsdson, 24-13 on the year, once

again pinned Alexa Heflin (33-8) of Clear Lake at the state qualifier in 3:27 and that victory in the third-place match punched her ticket to state. She stuck the Lion wrestler for the second time in a week as she won by fall over Heflin in 3:39 at the Mason City Invite the previous weekend.

"Bottom was not her specialty. She wasn't very strong on bottom so I knew I had to keep her down. She's better on her feet," said Thronsdson. "I just kept on being really strong on top."

Thronsdson is competing in the sport of

SEE SUPER REGIONAL, 11



Chickasaw boys suffer a heartbreaking loss

New Hampton squanders a 10-point lead, falls to Waterloo Columbus in final minute

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

This was the night that the drought was going to end, and New Hampton for the first 2 1/2 quarters certainly looked like a team that was going to snap a five-game losing streak and get its second win of the season.

The Chickasaws may not have been shooting the basketball at a high level in Monday night's non-conference game with Waterloo Columbus, but they were playing hard and when Cael Laures drained a 3-point shot, they had built a 28-18 lead.

But it was not to be as

Columbus roared back, closing the third quarter with a 12-2 run to tie the game, and when the horn sounded after a back-and-forth fourth frame, New Hampton had come up a point short, 43-42, to fall to 1-15.

"I'm just sick to my stomach watching us lose winnable games," New Hampton coach Ryan Rausch quietly said in the deserted gymnasium 15 minutes after the game ended. "Don't get me wrong, I loved our effort. Our guys played together, they care for each other, they celebrate each other. There's zero ego, and I'm telling you I've been around sports

SEE NH BOYS, 10



Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton's Jake Schwickerath heads to the basket on a fast break during the first half of Monday's game against Columbus.

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