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# New Hampton TRIBune Chickasaw County

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## Budget hearing to be night affair

County sets 'max levy' that would see tax-asking increase by almost 19 percent

BY BOB FENSKY  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors on Monday voted to approve its so-called "max levy" for the 2024-25 fiscal year, and if it is enacted, it comes with a steep increase in how much the county will generate in property taxes.

During Monday's meeting, board

### BOARD MOVES AHEAD WITH HERITAGE WATER PROJECT.

— PAGE 2

members unanimously approved setting the public hearing on the max levy, and while supervisors said they'd like the revenue for at least one of the county's three major funds to be low-

ered, they spent more time discussing what time of day they should hold the hearing.

County Attorney David Laudner said after reading several newspapers and other "forums" over the weekend, he said "the whole intent of this is to allow the public to come in and make a presentation or object to your budget. I'm just curious if an evening meeting might be better to try to com-

ply with not only the letter of the law but also the spirit of it, if that's possible, to allow folks who are working the opportunity to come in."

Supervisors at the meeting agreed that the public hearing should be a "night game."

But they spent a considerable amount of time trying to figure out a

time and date where not only all five members of the board could be in attendance but also making sure they weren't conflicting with

**SEE SUPERVISORS, 10**

## Area lawmakers are wary about overhaul of AEAs

Salmon, Thomson spend bulk of time on education at Farm Bureau legislative forum

BY BOB FENSKY  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

The two lawmakers who represent Chickasaw County in the Iowa Legislature sounded Saturday like they would both like to tap the brakes on an overhaul of Iowa's Area Education Agencies that has been a focal point of Gov. Kim Reynolds.

Like Reynolds, State Rep. Charley Thomson and State Sen. Sandy Salmon are Republicans, but during a legislative forum sponsored by the Chickasaw County Farm Bureau, the two legislators expressed reservations about overhauling the AEAs.

"As I've said all along, I'm not very happy with the AEA proposal," Thomson said, "and I think they need to start over again basically. That's my position in a nutshell."

Salmon said she understands the governor's concerns but also added that lawmakers may need more time on the issue.

"There appears to be but I don't know why there would need to be," Salmon said when one constituent asked if there was a "rush" to get the AEA bill done this year. "I mean we're taking a multi-year approach on property taxes so I don't know why we have to all of a sudden have to do something about the AEAs this year except I know they're concerned about the federal government coming in and monitoring."

The two GOP members, who are in their first terms representing Chickasaw County, covered a wide variety of issues during the morning forum that was held at the Chickasaw Event Center in New Hampton, but discussion on education in

**SEE FORUM, 5**



Salmon



Thomson



Bob Fenske/Tribune

The New Hampton High School and Middle School cafeteria fills with area residents Sunday morning when the New Hampton Lions Club held its annual breakfast event.

## Lose hour of sleep and cook breakfast

New Hampton Lions Club event is a tradition on the day that Daylight Savings Time begins

BY BOB FENSKY  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

The joke in the New Hampton Lions Club when it comes to one of their biggest annual events is, as Club President Aaron Zeien says, "you almost have to die to get a different job."

So year after year, the Lions Club Pancake and French Toast Breakfast goes off without a hitch.

The same guys are cooking pancakes and

French toast. The same guys are getting the sausages ready. The same guys are taking tickets. The same guys are manning the serving line and pouring the drinks. The same guys are doing the dishes. And the same guys, save for the New Hampton High School students who are volunteering their time, are bussing the tables and passing out "seconds."

"When you become a Lion, you basically get a job for the breakfast and it's yours for life," Zeien said, "but it's really kind of a self-govern-

ing event. You see a lot of non-verbal stuff. Guys just do it."

And the 2024 edition — the 53rd consecutive year the Lions have served up a breakfast to hundreds of area residents — was no exception.

Then again, it's the same thing for the Lions' two other big fundraisers. The annual scrap metal drive held each fall and the youth wrestling tournament the club puts on each

**SEE BREAKFAST, 13**

## Speaker: Suicide prevention starts with focusing on mental health awareness

Louisiana woman shares her story with students at area schools

BY BOB FENSKY  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

Emma Benoit's golden rule — one she shared with area residents and high school students this week — is simple.

Silence will never keep you safe.

And for several hours during three appearances in Chickasaw County this week, the 23-year-old Louisiana woman shared her remarkable story that is detailed in a documentary film, "My Ascension" that she says she made to raise mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

And while the film and the comments she made at two appearances in New Hampton and at Nashua-Plainfield High School were, at times, raw, her story, she passionately believes, is worth telling.

On June 7, 2017, the then 16-year-

old Benoit shot herself in an attempt to take her own life. And while she is often confined to a wheelchair because of the injuries she suffered, Benoit has become a fierce mental health advocate — helping to bring Hope Squad, a school-based suicide prevention program to her home state of Louisiana and speaking to groups around the county — so that others do not have to endure what Benoit and her family have.

And silence, in the vivacious 23-year-old's mind, is not an option.

"If you're going through something — I don't care how big or small it is in the grand scheme of life — use that as an opportunity to grow," she said. "Everything we go through in our lives is part of the journey so we can use everything we go through as an

**SEE EMMA, 3**



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Emma Benoit talks with students at New Hampton High School on Wednesday as part of a program sponsored by Everbody Hurts, a local non-profit organization dedicated to raising mental health awareness and preventing suicides.

**SEE EMMA, 3**

**Early road work**  
With the early onset of spring, an area road project is already underway

**Page 2**

**Tasty carnival**  
High school students treat preschoolers to a unique 'Dairy Carnival'

**Page 3**

**Rarin' to go**  
After lost season, NHHS alum ready to get back on the football field

**Page 12**

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Photo courtesy of Turkey Valley FFA  
New Hampton and Turkey Valley FFA students work together to package meals for the non-profit organization Meals from the Heartland.

## Donors help FFA chapters reach goal of 100,000 meals

**FFA: FROM 1**

chapters devoted their time, energy and resources into the ambitious goal of packaging 100,000 meals for Meals from the Heartland, which provides nutritious food to individuals and families facing hunger in Iowa and throughout the nation.

They embarked on a fund-raising campaign, conducted strategic planning and then spent a day during FFA's "big week" at the Waucoma Event Center, where more than 90 members from the two chapters worked on an assembly line of sorts packaging the meals that included rice, soy, protein and vitamins.

"We had like 16 stations and the kids just went to work," New Hampton FFA Advisor Rachel Bauer said. "It was a lot of work, but it was really worthwhile. Seeing young people wanting to be of service to people, that was really cool."

The two chapters received dozens of donations from area businesses and residents for the program.

Those donors included:

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## Supervisors give final OK to Heritage water project

Kuhn changed mind because of price and other factors as supervisors vote 4-1 to hook up building to city's system

project, had a change of heart and voted to approve the contract with Popp Excavating.

"I had several constituents reach out to me, and they made some really good points," Kuhn said after the meeting. "They helped me change my mind. We got such a good price on it ... and if we ever sell the building, it's certainly going to be a plus to have [city water]."

The Heritage is just outside the city limits and currently houses the county's Veterans Affairs office and is also home to several non-profit organizations. Concerns over water quality led supervisors last year to explore hooking into New Hampton's system.

The city agreed, as long as the county installed a larger-than-needed pipe and a "flusher." At one point, though, the estimat-

ed cost of the project was almost \$230,000, and Kuhn, along with Supervisor Steve Breitbach, voiced concerns about moving ahead.

When supervisors, though, opened bids during a meeting last week, Popp submitted the low bid at \$143,838.76, and on Monday, they learned that in all likelihood that price will be even lower after a change order is approved.

"It's hard to beat that price," Kuhn said, "and that was a big reason I voted yes today."

Breitbach, who has supported putting in a "conditioner system," did vote no, but Kuhn was joined by the rest of the board — Jake Hackman, Travis Suckow and Cerwinski — in giving final approval to the project.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Workers from Croell Inc. begin work on a major road project on County Road V18 Monday afternoon.

## Here's some sure signs that spring has arrived

Work begins on V18 project, springs sports teams start practices outside as unusually warm weather continues

**BY BOB FENSKE**

*editor@nhtrib.com*

If the recent temperatures weren't enough — through Tuesday, we've already had eight days of temperatures in the 50s this month — the barricade on County Road V18 this week was a sure sign that spring has most definitely sprung.

Welcome to road construction season, one that is getting a much-earlier-than-usual start in 2024, and the biggest project in Chickasaw County this year may be completed before summer begins.

That's because Croell Inc. workers began working on the more than \$4.21 million overlay project from Highway 18 to the south city limits of Alta Vista. The project also includes a total reconstruction of about 2,600 feet of road in North

Washington.

"They're talking about a late May [completion date]. They have a very aggressive schedule," County Engineer Roman Lensing told the Board of Supervisors on Monday. "It's great that they're out there already. It shows you what kind of spring we've had, but I don't know about late May. You have to think we're going to have some weather days."

But the 8.6-mile stretch of V18 won't be the only road project that gets an early start. Lensing also told supervisors that work will begin on a bridge replacement project on 310th Street that is a joint affair between Chickasaw and Bremer counties.

Then again, it's been that kind of winter in Iowa.

March picked right up where a much-warmer-than-normal February left off. In

addition to the road construction season kicking off, Monday saw the start practices for the New Hampton High School soccer and golf teams. And all four teams were outside for their first day of workouts.

New Hampton's track teams, which opened practice last month, have spent a majority of their practices on the track and not in the hallways of the school or at the Chickasaw Wellness Complex, where track athletes usually spend a majority of February and March.

"It's been crazy," Chickasaw boys coach Scott Jenkins said over the weekend, "and the only tough part is that we're going to be running indoors [at Wartburg College] on Tuesday and it's going to be in the 60s outside. Here's hoping it holds for when we start our outdoor meets."

## Board to go to 'straight pay' for EMS director

New contract will give Knutson salary increase but no extra pay for working additional hours

**BY BOB FENSKE**

*editor@nhtrib.com*

The director of Chickasaw County EMS, it appears, will no longer receive an hourly wage when he takes on the role of a paramedic if he signs a contract extension, but he will receive a \$20,000 increase to his salary.

Board members came to that decision during a Monday meeting when they spent more than 30 minutes discussing the terms of a new contract with EMS Director Joel Knutson.

Supervisors voted 2-1 to increase Knutson's salary from \$60,000 to \$80,000 a year but also said the salary increase will come at the expense of Knutson receiving an hourly wage when he serves as an ambulance crew member.

Three board members — Chairman Scott Cerwinski, Travis Suckow and Jake Hackman — have all expressed concerns

about the hourly-wage language in the first two contracts Knutson has worked under since the service started at the beginning of 2023.

"I guess what I'm getting at is I'd just like to see a set salary," Suckow said. "I think we can do away with the hourly stuff."

That led to a lengthy discussion about the ambulance service's staffing and how much Knutson would be paid once a new contract goes into effect on July 1. Knutson signed a "temporary" contract in the fall of 2022 to help get the service up and running, then signed a year contract once Chickasaw County EMS began operating. He agreed to a six-month extension this past fall so that future contracts would fall entirely within the county's fiscal year.

Currently, Knutson is paid \$60,000 to serve as a part-time director and is required to work at least 60 hours during each two-week pay period, but he also receives \$31 per hour when he takes a shift as a crew

member.

"I will say the lines get blurred between when I'm a staff paramedic versus when I am a director because even when I'm working a truck as a staff paramedic, I'm still sitting behind my desk doing director things," Knutson said in response to Suckow's suggestion. "I wouldn't be opposed to that. I mean there were so many unknowns when we wrote the contract."

He said the number of "truck hours" he works has dropped considerably in recent months, and when he was asked if he was comfortable with the service's level of staffing, he said "we're getting a lot closer" but pointed out that EMS staff is very cyclical.

"Around the holidays, [it] dips off just a touch because everyone's busy but then post-holiday all the way up into the summer, we staff very well. And then, summer we get very thin again because of

**SEE EMS, 8**



Bob Fenske/Tribune

## Parade of Bands soloist

New Hampton Middle School eighth-grader Adam Goebel performs a solo during Monday night's annual Parade of Band Concert that included performances by students in grades 5-12. Check out next week's Tribune for photos from the concert.

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# Speaker makes plea for 'basics' when it comes to mental health awareness

**EMMA: FROM 1**

opportunity to grow and learn and become better and more equipped and more strong."

In New Hampton on Wednesday, students watched more than an hour of "My Ascension" and then had the opportunity to ask Benoit questions.

She unflinchingly answered all of them.

Benoit told students that in addition to "silence will not keep you safe," she has two more rules that she follows diligently.

First, there is her "24-48" mantra that goes like this: "If it bothers you for 24 hours, speak up within 48 hours."

She challenged both the students and the adults in the gymnasium to embrace it, saying that "there is no reason why you should be lingering on a feeling or handling an emotion all by yourself. If it's a big deal to you, it's a big deal to you."

And the other rule is one that we've all heard countless times: It's OK not to be OK.

But she also said that she tells people, especially teenagers, that they must embrace failure.

"Failure is necessary. It is important to fail," she said. "How are you going to grow and learn if you don't mess up? How are you going to learn and grow if you don't fail? Failure is not the enemy. Giving up is."

Benoit asked students to identify those people they can trust, that they can take a problem to, and she also said that she worries that Americans rely too heavily on medication when it comes to dealing with depression and anxiety, two challenges that led her to that suicide attempt almost seven years ago.

"Again, I'm not a doctor, I'm not a medical professional. I just have experience, I've taken medication before and it works for some people and it doesn't work for other people," she said. "It might be a solution for you, based on your diagnosis and your struggles, but it's not the fix all. It's not the end-all, be-all solution. If it were, I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be here sharing my story. We would all just see a psychiatrist and take medication, right?"

Instead, she made a plea to "get back to the basics and start to identify what is your sleep like, what is your nutrition like, how much sunlight do you get, what is the fulfillment in your life look like for you, how much social media exposure are you having? All of these factors, these every-day factors that affect us, ... that do come into play when we think about mental health struggles and challenges."

Benoit also made a plea to end the stigma when it comes to mental health issues; in fact, she said those suffering from mental health issues who seek therapy are no different than those who obtain a gym membership to improve their physical health.

"You'd be like, 'Hey, that's awesome, I'm happy for you, good for you, bro' ... but when someone says, 'I've been consistent at therapy, I've been consistent on my coping skills, I've making sure that I'm reminding myself to do the things that I've learned,' you don't get the same response," she said.

"Therapy is nothing different than a gym membership for your brain."

## Taking on the double-edged social media sword

Ask suicide survivor Emma Benoit about social media, especially when it comes to teenagers, and the Louisiana woman who is a fierce advocate for mental health awareness and suicide prevention has a quick answer.

She believes Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, Snapchat, X and other social media sites are double-edged swords.

"It's good because it allows you to connect with each other and see what each other is doing and keep that level of friendship in existence when you're at home and not at school with your peers," she said. "But at the same time it's also really dangerous and harmful. ... What I had to come to realize was that social media was a trigger for my insecurities ... it was really toxic for me. It made me really feel inferior, it made me not good enough, it made me feel like I was doing wrong with myself. It made me really jealous, which then turned into bitterness."

Yet, the 23-year-old Benoit hasn't completely shied away from social media sites, but her advice, especially to teens, is to "consume" what they need from the sites.

"For me, that's the positives, the affirmations and all that can be good," she said. "Remember, you get to decide what you're going to consume. Leave the rest behind."

— By Bob Fenske

also asked students to be on the lookout for behavior changes in their friends and to be willing to be there for those who are having a hard time finding the right balance in their mental health.

"If you put it on the table and say, 'I've noticed x, y and z, I'm really worried about you, just know I'm here for you, I'm a safe place for you to come and talk to.' ... Maybe your can share your experience, your own struggles. You, and I really mean this, can make a huge difference."

Much has changed in her life since that fateful June day back in 2017.

Benoit has taken steps although she has accepted the fact that she will never fully recover from the gunshot that changed her life. But she said she now lives a life with purpose. She is engaged and will get married a year from now.

Still, her message was simple. Life isn't perfect; it never will be.

"I actually struggle the same amount, if not maybe a little more, in my current life with things — with challenges, emotions, struggles," she said. "The difference now, versus then, I'm just stronger."

"Mentally, I am the strongest I've ever been and that is because of my efforts in therapy. ... It takes work."

She paused for a moment.

"The basics take work, trust me, I know that now," she continued, "but trust me, it's worth it. You're worth it."

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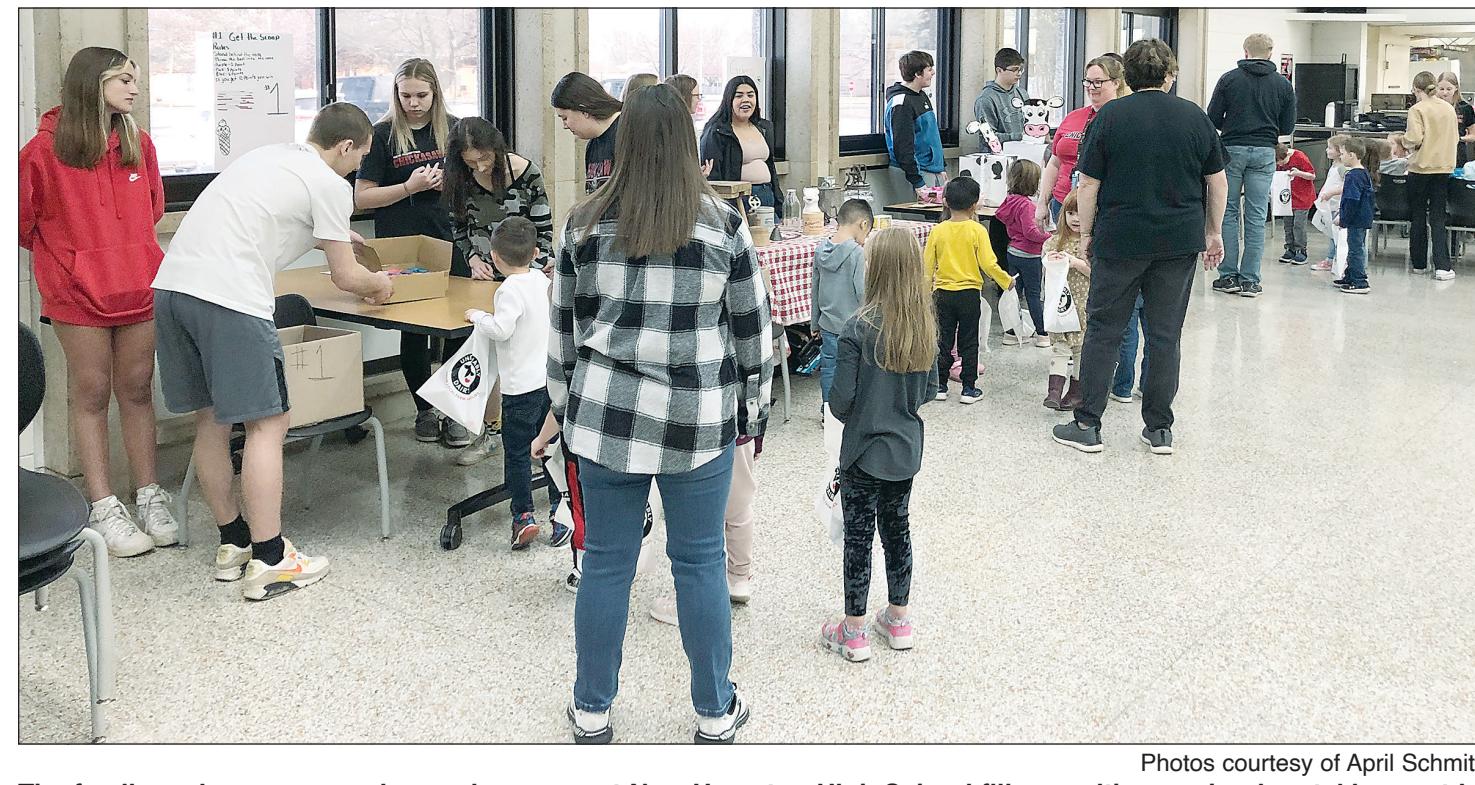
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Photos courtesy of April Schmitt

The family and consumer science classroom at New Hampton High School fills up with preschoolers taking part in the "Dairy Carnival," where high school students like (below, from left) McKenzie Sweitzer, Isabelle Broughton and Emma Elliott served up delicious treats and led preschoolers through a variety of games.

## Students put on unique carnival focused on dairy

### Special to the Tribune

New Hampton High School family and consumer science (FCS) instructor April Schmitt and the students in her "Foods II" class went the extra mile for area preschool students recently when they put on a program highlighting dairy nutrition.

The essential question was how do you teach preschool students about dairy?

The two sections of Foods II students came up with a Dairy Carnival as a way for students to learn about dairy nutrition.

Schmitt wrote a grant and NHHS FCS program was awarded \$1,928 for the project "Dynamic Dairy Unit (including a Dairy Carnival)" from the McElroy Excellence in Education Enrichment Grants. The grant allowed Schmitt to purchase equipment to make homemade ice cream, Dutch ovens to make pudding, chef coats for professional attire and many more culinary items for the FCS program.

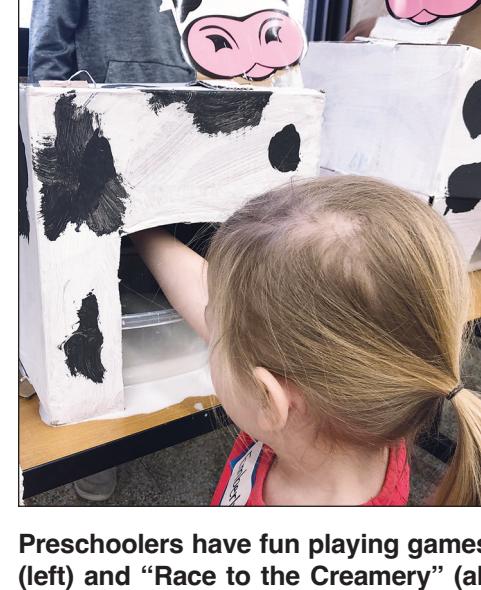
The Dairy Carnival attracted a big crowd that included 33 high school students, 55 preschoolers and 22 staff members.

Chickasaw Farm Bureau's Outreach Coordinator Jessica Rochford donated dairy coloring books and her time to help during the event. The students "mooved" through 10 stations learning about dairy nutrition. The Foods II students came up



with a carnival game about dairy nutrition, name of the game on a poster, skills learned, materials needed, and rules of the game. Prizes were given at each station donated by Midwest Dairy Supplies and some were purchased with grant money.

The students were asked different questions at each station then they were able to play the games and get a prize. The stations were:



Preschoolers have fun playing games like "Milk the Cow" (left) and "Race to the Creamery" (above) at the carnival that served as the New Hampton High School Family and Consumer Science Department's Foods II second-semester Project Based Learning project.

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Rev. Jerry Kopacek

**Mass:** Sunday, March 24,

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.

# The Good Shepherd gives life

Jesus' Word gives you the life that He won for you

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul."

These are the words of Psalm 23 — comforting words.

They are in stark contrast to Psalm 22 just before it which begins with these words, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

As different as their content seems to be, the two Psalms are connected. Both are about Jesus, the eternal Son of God who took on human flesh.

Jesus explained the connection when He said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

Then He added these bold words, "I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:17-18).

Jesus was predicting His death and resurrection. No one was going to stop the Good Shepherd from dying for the sheep, and no one was going to stop

Him from rising again in victory over their worst enemies.

Psalm 22 is Jesus' anguish on the cross, suffering for the sins of the whole world. Psalm 23 is His ongoing care for His people while they walk "through the valley of the shadow of death."

Jesus came to save you, and He still comes to guard you, comfort you, and guide you. He does these things through His powerful Word. He says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

His Word is the green



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

pasture that feeds you and the still water that quenches your thirst. His Word gives you the life He won for you. His Word restores your soul.

## Christians gear up for 'Holy Week'



to Trinity College, Maundy Thursday reminds Christians to love others as Jesus loves them.

**Good Friday**

Good Friday commemorates the trial of Jesus and his resulting death sentence, torture, crucifixion, and burial. It's hard to characterize any of those things as "good," which can cause a little confusion among Christians and non-Christians alike.

However, Trinity College indicates that, in this context, "good" connotes something holy or pious.

**Holy Saturday**

Holy Saturday concludes Holy Week. Even though many faithful Christians awake early and don their Sunday best on Easter morning, Holy Saturday celebrations are not muted.

On Holy Saturday, Christians may attend a late-night Easter Vigil service that includes a liturgy and the celebration of the Eucharist. The two-part celebration commemorates the Eucharist as symbolic of the emergence from darkness into the light.



The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

**1 John 3:24**

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## Church Services

**NASHUA****LITTLE BROWN CHURCH**

littlebrownchurch.org

Pastor Drew McHolm

**Service times:** Sing-A-Long Service, 10:15 a.m., and worship service at 10:30 a.m., Sunday.**REPUBLIC CHURCH**

1794 280th St., Ionia

Pastor Sarah Namukose

**Service time:** 10:30 a.m. Sundays.**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

314 Brasher Street

Pastor Sarah Namukose

**Service time:** 9 a.m. Sundays.**CEDAR POINT CHURCH**

310 Main Street

Pastor Darin Cerwinski

**Service time:** 6:30 p.m. Friday.**ST. MICHAELS CHURCH**

602 Cedar Street

Father Tom Heathershaw

**Service time:** 6:30 p.m. Saturdays.**ST. JOHN'S UCC - PLEASANT HILL**

10009 Union Ave.

Pastor Drew McHolm

**Service time:** Sunday, 9 a.m.**PLAINFIELD****UNITED METHODIST**

404 2nd St.

319-276-3195

Pastor Roberta Robbins

**Service time:** Sunday, 8:30 a.m.**LAWLER****OUR LADY OF MT.****CARMEL CATHOLIC****CHURCH**

3030 Highway 24

Father Nick Radloff

## How Can You Manage Student Loan Payments?

If you have student loans, you likely received a "payment vacation" over the past few years, due to legislation related to COVID-19. But if you're like millions of other borrowers, you may have recently been required to resume your payments. How will this affect your overall financial situation?

Of course, the first thing that comes to mind is the effect on your monthly cash flow. But the amount of pressure you feel will depend on your income and the size of the required payments. If these payments do represent a real challenge, you may need to adjust your budget and spending habits as best you can. However, there might be other steps you can take to help ease the burden or possibly reduce the repayment time.

Here are a few suggestions to consider:

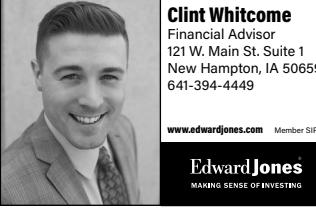
- Sign up for autopay. Falling behind on your student loan payments can lead to late fees, and if you were to become truly delinquent, you could face even bigger troubles, such as wage garnishment. To avoid these problems, you can enroll in autopay, in which you move money automatically from a checking or savings account to your student loan provider.

In addition to staying current on your loan, you might earn a .25 percent rate reduction, which is offered by many lenders and loan services to those who enroll in autopay.

- Refinance your loan. With a steady income, a reasonably good credit score and a manageable number of other debts, you might be able to refinance your student loan and reduce your interest rate, which will enable more of your monthly payments to go toward the principal.

- Look for employer benefits. Some employers — typically the larger ones — offer student loan repayment help to employees, so check with your human resources department.

- Make extra payments. If



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you feel strapped just making your regular student loan payments, you may not be able to make extra ones. But if you can afford to add to your payments consistently, you could pay off your loan earlier than you had thought. But just because you make an extra payment, the money doesn't necessarily go toward reducing your principal — student loan services generally apply payments first to late fees and then to accrued interest. If you pay online, you should have an option to apply extra payments to the principal. Your loan servicer could also provide you with other ways of paying more toward principal.

- Choose a payoff strategy. If you have multiple student loans, and you can make more than the minimum payments, you may want to be strategic in how you pay off your loans. You could choose the "snowball" method by getting rid of the smallest loans first — a technique that can give you feelings of momentum and satisfaction. Or you could take the "avalanche" approach by first going after the loans with the highest interest rates.

Either route could save you more money in the long run. It can certainly be challenging to deal with student loan debt. But with patience and diligence, and by exploring all your repayment options, you may be able to help yourself make progress toward putting these loans to rest.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Bob Fenske/Tribune

**State Rep. Charley Thomson listens as his State Senate counterpart, Sandy Salmon, makes a point during Saturday morning's legislative forum that was put on by the Chickasaw County Farm Bureau.**

## Lawmakers cover wide variety of issues at legislative forum

### FORUM: FROM 1

AEAs to the idea that the wide-ranging services AEAs offer have led them away from their core missions.

But those wide-ranging services, Thomson said, should be seen as a positive. He compared the AEA services to rural electric cooperatives and rural telephone companies.

"The beauty of the co-op ... is that businesses in rural Iowa don't want to go to the last line, they don't want to go to the most remote farmstead to put in your broadband but the co-ops exist to do that," he said. "The same theory in my view applies to AEAs. The AEAs are a system where Tripoli, the smallest of the school districts ... pick a small town, even if you're in Rudd, you can get pretty high-quality state services for your child at a far better price."

Thomson added that "it appears the governor wants to move from a co-op model to a fee-for-service model, and I think that could easily leave the rural districts high and dry."

Salmon agreed.

"You have a district like Tripoli or like Clarksville or maybe Turkey Valley or something like that, and they don't get enough money to provide their own services. Without the pool of money ... are those rural schools still going to provide those services? That's the question, and that's what we can't get assurance about. That's why I've not supported the bill so far."

She also said she appreciates the fact that AEAs can help its member school districts in a relatively short amount of time.

"They can respond and help school districts very quickly — like almost turn on a dime — like they did with the Perry shooting," she said.

The two legislators also said that the final funding for Iowa's K-12 schools has yet to be determined. Both said it appears likely that lawmakers

will agree to raise the minimum pay for the state's teachers but said that the two chambers have yet to agree on an increase to State Supplemental Aid (SSA), the amount of funds school districts receive for each student it serves.

Reynolds, in her State of the State address two months ago, proposed a 2.5 percent increase but the House has approved a 3 percent increase.

Salmon said the Senate remains uncommitted about how large of an increase to SSA because of budget concerns.

"We don't know how it's going to fit with the budget to do the teacher's salary increases, the school aid increase and whatever needs to be done to reform these AEAs," she said. "There's a lot of moving parts to that."

The state senator said that work on the budget will begin in earnest this week after the Revenue Estimating Conference meets to set its projections for the state during the 2024-25 fiscal year.

"The three main areas are education, Medicaid and public safety," she said, "and we'll see where we end up. It's the same as always: More requests come before us than taxpayers can fulfill."

Among the other issues covered during the hour-long forum included:

- Both lawmakers expressed enthusiasm for the work lawmakers are doing when it comes to protecting Iowa farmland. They touted a new bill that Salmon said puts "more teeth" into state laws that do not allow foreign ownership of farmland, and they also say they support efforts that would not allow state agencies to outbid farmers for land.

"Nobody wants out-of-state

interests or the state bidding against farmers for farmland," he said, "because it distorts the market terribly."

- Salmon touched on the controversy generated by House File 718, which was passed into law in 2023, and while counties and cities say they are struggling with its ramifications,

Salmon said, at most, lawmakers may slightly alter the bill this year.

"We've had some blowback from counties and cities about that," she said. "What we're doing this year [is] we may tweak that bill some, but we're going to let them go through a budget cycle to see how things

work and then come back next year with the next step in the plan for the property taxes."

- And Thomson again voiced his displeasure with so-called speed cameras, saying he thinks the state should put the kibosh on them.

"The only people who are in favor of speed cameras are city officials, who like the money. They're trying to combine that with the hands-free driving bill, which is a shotgun marriage of two proposals," he said during the meeting and he added later that "if they want to raise taxes, they should find another way to do it."

# Open House

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## Briefs

### Sheriff, auditor and supervisor file nominating papers for primary

Chickasaw County's auditor and sheriff, along with one of three supervisors up for election, all have filed papers to be on the ballot for the June 4 primary.

The filing period opened on March 4 and candidates who want to be on the ballot for the primary have until 5 p.m. on Friday, March 22, to turn in their candidate papers to the Chickasaw County Auditor's Office.

Filing last week were Republican Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Republican Sheriff Ryan Shawver and Democratic District 1 Supervisor Steve Breitbach.

All three are seeking their first full four-year terms in office. Breitbach won a special election in 2021 to fill the vacancy created by the death of Rick Holthaus. Shekleton won an election in 2022 to fill the term vacated by Stephanie Mashek earlier that year and Shawver was appointed sheriff in January 2023 after Marty Hemann retired.

Two other county seats are also on the ballot this year. Republican Jake Hackman is currently finishing his second term as the District 3 supervisor while Matt Kuhn, also a Republican, is completing his first term as the District 4 supervisor.

While county candidates have until March 22 to file, state candidates must have their nominating papers turned in by March 15 to be on the primary ballot.

State Rep. Charley Thompson, R-Charles City, is the lone candidate to file thus far in District 58.

The other legislator, State Sen. Sandy Salmon, R-Janesville, who represents Chickasaw County, is not up for election this year.

### Iowa State 'top 2 percent'

The following area students are ranked among the top 2 percent of students in their college at Iowa State University.

New Hampton: Peyton Anderson, Sophomore, Ivy College of Business; Aydin Ries, Sophomore, College of Engineering.

Ionia: Greta Glaser, Senior, Ivy College of Business and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

### UIU grads

Upper Iowa University is pleased to announce the names of its December 2023 graduates. Students from the area are:

Sumner: Elizabeth Diers

Nashua: Amber Iriarte

### Morningside grads

There were 52 Morningside University students that graduated with bachelor's degrees and 53 students earned graduate degrees in December 2023.

The list includes Ionia's Abigail Wolf and Hannah Holthaus and Dawn Wiebecke of Nashua.

**Almanac**

	H	L	P
Wednesday	53	28	--
Thursday	53	31	.05
Friday	41	19	.10
Saturday	39	15	--
Sunday	49	30	--
Monday	73	30	--
Tuesday	68	44	--

**Forecast**

**Thursday:** Showers likely and a thunderstorm possible with a high of 50 and a low of 33.

**Friday:** Chance of snow early in the morning but turning sunny; high 49, low 32.

**Saturday:** Partly sunny but slight chance of a pop-up shower; high 52, low 27.

**Sunday:** Sunny but blustery with a high of 40 and low of 21.

**Extended forecast:** We'll start off the week on the cold side with a Monday high of 37 and low of 25.

**Meetings****MONDAY**

- Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors, 9 a.m., Courthouse.
- New Hampton School Board, 6:30 p.m., High School Family and Consumer Science Room.
- New Hampton City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall.

**History**

• In 1950, the Federal Bureau of Investigation institutes the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list in an effort to publicize particularly dangerous fugitives.

• In 1964, Jack Ruby, the Dallas nightclub owner who killed Lee Harvey Oswald — the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy — is found guilty of the "murder with malice" of Oswald and receives the death sentence.

• In 1991, in the face of widespread questioning of their guilt, British authorities release the so-called "Birmingham Six," six Irish men who had been sent to prison 16 years earlier for the 1974 terrorist bombings of two Birmingham, England, pubs.

**Birthdays**

• German-born theoretical physicist Albert Einstein was born in 1879.

• Astronaut Frank Borman, who commanded the Apollo 8 mission that was the first to go into lunar orbit, was born in 1928.

• The late Kirby Puckett, the Hall of Fame Minnesota Twins outfielder, was born in 1960.

• American Olympic gold medalist gymnast Simone Biles turns 27.

• NBA great Stephen Curry turns 36.

• American comedian and film star Billy Crystal turns 76.

• Actor Michael Caine and record producer Quincy Jones Jr. both turn 91.

**Corrections**

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

If you see an error, please call Editor Bob Fenster at 641-394-2111.

**Tribune**

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641.394.2111**Ellen Webber, 58**

Ellen Webber, affectionately known as the "Queen of Orange," passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at the age of 58, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter and vibrant spirit.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 15, 2024, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1790 14th Street in Marion, with Father Sean Smith officiating the Mass. A livestream of the service will be available.

Friends may greet the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Ashton Hill Farm, 803 Vernon Valley Drive in Cedar Rapids.

Her family and friends will be making remarks and sharing their favorite memories beginning around 6 p.m. The family

**Ellen Webber**

requests that you wear something orange.

A full obituary can be found online at [www.murdochfuneralhome.com](http://www.murdochfuneralhome.com).

**Elverna Mary Praska, 90**

Elverna Mary Praska, age 90, of New Hampton, died Sunday March 10, 2024, at Linn Haven Rehab & Healthcare in New Hampton.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 16, 2024, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Lawler, with the Rev. Nick Radloff celebrating the Mass.

Interment will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Lawler following the service.

Friends may greet the family from 9 to 10:15 a.m. prior to the service on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Lawler. A Rosary Service will be held at 8:30 a.m. prior to the visitation at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church in Lawler.

Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton has been entrusted with arrangements.

**Myrna Moore, 89**

Myrna Moore, age 89 of Fredericksburg, died Monday, March 11, 2024, at her home surrounded by her family.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 15, 2024, at Hillcrest Baptist & Brethren Church in Fredericksburg with the Rev. Scott Smith officiating.

Interment will be held at the Apostolic Cemetery, rural Elgin.

Friends may greet the family from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Fredericksburg. Visitation continues an hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

**Briefs****LifeServe in Fredericksburg today**

A LifeServe blood donor day will be held at the Sumner Fredericksburg Middle School today (Thursday) from 1-5 p.m. at 300 Main Street, Fredericksburg.

Every two seconds, someone needs a lifesaving blood transfusion. Your local hospital relies entirely on blood donors from the community through LifeServe. Let's paint the town green with acts of kindness! Roll up your sleeve and be a hero this St. Patrick's Day season.

Schedule an appointment at an upcoming blood drive in your community today by going to [lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://lifeservebloodcenter.org) or call 800-287-4903.

**Students embark on four-day weekend**

New Hampton Community Schools and St. Joseph Community School students are gearing up for a four-day weekend.

No school will be held Friday because it is a comp day for instructors after two evenings of parent-teacher conference were held while Monday is a professional development day for staff members, meaning no classes will be held.

Joseph Glaser, age 92 of New Hampton, died Friday, March 8, 2024 at his home surrounded by his family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in North Washington with celebrants the Rev. Kenneth Glaser (son) and the Rev. Ryan Glaser (grandson).

Interment will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery, North Washington.

Friends may greet the family from 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton. Visitation continues an hour prior to the Mass on Wednesday at the church.

Online condolences for the Glaser family can be left at [www.hugebackfuneralhome.com](http://hugebackfuneralhome.com).

Born on the family farm near North Washington, Joe was the son of Jack and Clara (Dockendorf) Glaser. He grew up in a bustling household with 11 siblings, where he learned the value of hard work and the importance of family bonds.

Joe's journey took a significant turn when he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1950 during the Korean War. Proudly serving his country on the Korean Coast, Joe carried the spirit of patriotism with him throughout his life. His commitment to honoring veterans was evident in his pivotal role in bringing the Chickasaw County Veterans Memorial to New Hampton.

On Aug. 24, 1954, Joe exchanged vows with the love of his life, Phyllis Biwer, at Immaculate Conception Church in Elma. This union brought forth 10 children, and together, Joe and Phyllis embarked on the beautiful journey of raising a large and loving family.

Joe's community involvement extended beyond the church, as he was a steadfast member of his local card club since 1965 and held numerous

**Joseph Glaser, 92****Joe Glaser**

Farming was Joe's lifelong passion, and he cherished every moment spent tending to the land. From Nashua to Elma, and eventually settling only a quarter mile from his birthplace outside North Washington, Joe's connection to the land ran deep.

Joe also loved his cows, tending to many dairy cows over his years of farming. Even after retiring from farming in 1996, he continued to contribute his strong work ethic to New Hampton Lumber and later Superior Lumber, leaving an indelible mark on his community.

For over 60 years, Joe was a devoted member of Immaculate Conception Church in North Washington, where his faith played a central role in his life. He actively participated in various church organizations, including the Catholic Order of Foresters, North Washington Rosary Society, Catholic Financial Life, the IC Men's Choir and also teaching a religious education class (CCD) for many years.

Joe's community involvement extended beyond the church, as he was a steadfast member of his local card club since 1965 and held numerous

leadership positions.

Some of his notable achievements include being recognized as the Outstanding Conservation Farmer in 1998, serving as President of the Farm Bureau on three occasions, contributing as a School Board member at IC NW, receiving the Diamond Performance Award in 2007, and holding key roles in the VFW and American Legion.

Joe's legacy lives on in the hearts of his loving family, friends, and a community that benefited greatly from his tireless efforts and compassionate spirit. His memory will be forever cherished as a beacon of hard work, faith, and selfless service to others.

Joe is survived by seven sons, Steve (Shirley) Glaser of Nashua, Chuck (Nancy) Glaser of New Hampton, Phil (Theresa) Glaser of New Hampton, Father Ken Glaser of Cedar Rapids, Jerry (Diane) Glaser of Prior Lake, Minnesota, Ed (Lynn) Glaser of Asbury, and Jim (Janet) Glaser of New Brighton, Minnesota; three daughters, Bev (Norman) Brus of Waverly, Diane (Dan) Sumner of New Hampton, and Linda Rosonke of New Hampton; 24 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; one brother, Barney Glaser of San Francisco; two sisters, Mary Ann Valley of Orland Park, Illinois, and Luella (Phil) Jorgenson of Cedar Falls; one sister-in-law, Priscilla Silario of Phoenix.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Phyllis in 2010; siblings, Margaret Zubrod, Elizabeth (Dan) Huber, Harold (Luella) Glaser, John Glaser, Frank Glaser, Paul (Rosie) Glaser, Vince (Lois) Glaser, Don Glaser; sister-in-law, Fran Glaser; brother-in-law, Brian Valley; one son-in-law, Dale Rosonke.

City of New Hampton to Marlys Uglum; Parcel 2023-43 SW SE 07-95-12.

Timothy Atleson Atty In Fact and Hiroko Atleson to Tony Jirak; L12 OF AUDITORS PLAT NUMBER 2017-1 27-97-12.

Wendel R. Miller and Delane A. Miller to Windy Acres LLC, LOT 1 EX PARCELS SW NE 19-94-14.

R. Hubka TR, Dean D. Hubka Trust and Shirley R. Hubka Trust to Wayne Thordson and Dale Thordson; N1/2 SW 23-97-11 W1/2 SE SW 23-97-11 EX PARCEL B & PARCEL 2023-27 SW SW 23-97-11.

City of New Hampton to Marlys Uglum; Parcel 2023-43 SW SE 07-95-12.

Timothy Atleson Atty In Fact and Hiroko Atleson to Tony Jirak; L12 OF AUDITORS PLAT NUMBER 2017-1 27-97-12.

Stanton Electric to Contract Manager, authorize chair signature, make sure we have liability insurance, and payment will come from EMS budget and ARPA budget. Supervisor Kuhn called a question.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to move forward with a 28E agreement with the City of New Hampton for a locally led PCC Paving Project on Kenwood Ave. from 210th Street to US Highway 18 and direct County Attorney to draw the contract up with terms of a five-year contract, interest free, and five annual payments. The first payment set for July 5, 2025. Roll Call: Aye: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn. Motion carried.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Breitbach to approve the EMS remodeling project contract for \$169,162.00, with Stanton Electric to Contract Manager, authorize chair signature, make sure we have liability insurance, and payment not to exceed \$64,000.00 will come from ARPA budget and the rest from EMS budget. Roll Call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn. Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to amend motion to pay the \$169,162.00 for the EMS remodeling project out of EMS fund Supervisor Hackman called a question. Roll Call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow. Nays: Breitbach, Kuhn, Cerwinski. Motion failed.

Motion by Kuhn, seconded by Breitbach to amend 1st motion to approve the EMS remodeling project contract for \$169,162.00, with Stanton Electric to Contract Manager, authorize chair signature, make sure we have liability insurance, and payment not to exceed \$64,000.00 will come from ARPA budget and the rest from EMS budget. Roll Call: Ayes: Kuhn, Breitbach, Cerwinski. Nays: Suckow, Hackman. Motion carried.

Discussed Health and Dental Insurance renewal.

Budget work session

Consensus of the board to set Public Hearing for Tax Levies for March 25 at 1:00 PM next week's meeting.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve RESOLUTION 03-04-24-11 FOR A COUNTY TO AWARD CONTRACT & DELEGATE CONTRACT SIGNING IN DOC EXPRESS WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, hereafter referred to as "the Board", believes the Bridge Replacement - PPCB Project BROS-C019(11)-5F-19, hereafter referred to as "the project" is in the best interest of Chickasaw County, Iowa, and the residents thereof. The project is defined as Traffic Signs Project on B-16, B-22, B-28, B-33, B-44, B-54, B-57, T-76, V-56, V-64, 225th St., Kenwood Ave. & South Linn Ave.; and WHEREAS, the Board has sought appropriate professional guidance for the concept and planning for the project and followed the steps as required by the Code of Iowa for notifications, hearings, and bidding/letting' and WHEREAS, the Board finds this resolution appropriate and necessary to protect, preserve, and improve the rights, privileges, property, peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of Chickasaw County and its citizens, all as provided for in and permitted by section 331.301 of the Code of Iowa; and IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Board to accept the bid from Iowa Plains Signing, Inc. in the amount of \$65,770.00 and awards to associated contract(s) to the same; Dated at Chickasaw County, Iowa, this 4th day of March, 2024 /ss/ Scott Cerwinski, Chairman, Aye: Kuhn, Breitbach, Suckow, Cerwinski, Chairman, Aye: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Kuhn, Cerwinski. Motion

**Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice**

		NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Proposed NEW HAMPTON Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025		
Location of Public Hearing: New Hampton High School FCS 710 West Main St. New Hampton, IA 50659		Date of Public Hearing: 3/26/2024	Time of Public Hearing: 06:30 PM	
Location of Notice on School Website: <a href="https://www.new-hampton.k12.ia.us/page/school-budget-information">https://www.new-hampton.k12.ia.us/page/school-budget-information</a>				

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present oral or written objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed budget.

	Current Year Final Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2024	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Dollar Levy (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2025	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2025
General Fund Levy	1 4,342,987	4,342,987	4,459,634
Instructional Support Levy	2 64,632	64,632	36,437
Management	3 430,559	430,559	670,771
Amana Library	4 0	0	0
Voted Physical Plant and Equipment	5 0	0	0
Regular Physical Plant and Equipment	6 182,296	182,296	187,439
Reorganization Equalization	7 0	0	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	8 0	0	0
Debt Service	9 884,750	884,750	910,665
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10 5,905,224</b>	<b>5,905,224</b>	<b>6,264,946</b>

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$100,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:

The reasons for the tax increase is because we had a large special education deficit, we are expecting a 15 to 20 percent increase in our Property Casualty/Liability Insurance, and we've been notified that we have to assume an unlimited 1% deductible for wind/hail damage.

No. 23773  
3/14/24

**Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice**

CITY NAME: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF ALTA VISTA - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY CITY #: 19-161  
ALTA VISTA Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:

Meeting Date: 3/28/2024 Meeting Time: 06:00 PM Meeting Location: Alta Vista City Hall- 110 E Weber St. Alta Vista, IA 50603

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Website (if available)

City Telephone Number (641) 364-2975

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2023 - 2024	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2024 - 2025	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2024 - 2025
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	3,966,850	3,657,269	3,657,269
Consolidated General Fund	33,658	33,658	31,032
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	17,965	17,965	25,947
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	0	0	0
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)	5,462	5,462	5,988
Other Employee Benefits	8,862	8,862	8,982
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	0	0	0
Taxable Value for Debt Service	3,966,850	3,657,269	3,657,269
Debt Service	0	0	0
<b>CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX</b>	<b>65,947</b>	<b>65,947</b>	<b>71,949</b>
<b>CITY REGULAR TAX RATE</b>	<b>16.62469</b>	<b>18.03176</b>	<b>19.62729</b>
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	406,439	526,783	526,783
Ag Land	1,221	1,221	1,582
<b>CITY AG LAND TAX RATE</b>	<b>3.00375</b>	<b>2.31784</b>	<b>3.00313</b>
<b>Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed</b>			
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	Current Year Certified 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025	Percent Change
City Regular Residential	909	912	0.33
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	Current Year Certified 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025	Percent Change
City Regular Commercial	909	912	0.33

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$100,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:

Increase cost of wages, supplies, repairs, fuel, and insurance

No. 23765  
3/14/23

**Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice**

CITY NAME: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF LAWLER - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY CITY #: 19-165  
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:

Meeting Date: 4/1/2024 Meeting Time: 07:05 PM Meeting Location: Lawler City Hall

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Website (if available)

City Telephone Number (563) 238-3614

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2023 - 2024	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2024 - 2025	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2024 - 2025
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	11,849,251	12,687,159	12,687,159
Consolidated General Fund	100,778	100,778	104,763
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	19,863	19,863	21,264
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	0	0	0
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)	3,769	3,769	4,124
Other Employee Benefits	2,108	2,108	2,434
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	0	0	0
Taxable Value for Debt Service	11,849,251	12,687,159	12,687,159
Debt Service	16,821	16,821	58,056
<b>CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX</b>	<b>143,339</b>	<b>143,339</b>	<b>190,641</b>
<b>CITY REGULAR TAX RATE</b>	<b>12.09695</b>	<b>11.29796</b>	<b>15.02627</b>
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	484,151	493,954	493,954
Ag Land	1,454	1,454	1,484
<b>CITY AG LAND TAX RATE</b>	<b>3.00320</b>	<b>2.94359</b>	<b>3.00375</b>
<b>Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed</b>			
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	Current Year Certified 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025	Percent Change
City Regular Residential	661	696	5.30
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	Current Year Certified 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025	Percent Change
City Regular Commercial	661	696	5.30

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$100,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:

Increase in long term debt.

No. 23764  
3/14/23

**An opportunity to explore!**

New Hampton High School students visit with representatives of colleges and businesses at the Iowa BIG North Opportunity Fair that was held Tuesday.

Photo courtesy of Krissy Anderson

**Legal Notice - Legal Notice**

The Lawler City Council met in regular session on March 4, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Mark Mueterthies presided. Council members present: Scheidel, King, Wilson and Roberson.

Council members absent: Croell.

Others present: Jay Uhlenhake, Ryan LaRosa-Fehr Graham, Jane Lynch and Cathy Humpal.

Motion made by King to approve the Agenda.

Second by Scheidel. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Motion made by Scheidel to approve the previous minutes and approval of current bills.

Second by King. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Motion made by Scheidel to approve the spring clean-up. It was decided to just have a can drive. The city would like

spring clean-up to be April 20th or April 27th depending what would be available for Jendro to bring the dumpsters. Suzette will call Jendro.

King discussed a city garage sale and

can drive with donated items for sale to

raise money for Christmas lights during

spring clean-up.

Motion made by Scheidel to open

Public Hearing to accept Box Culvert

bids. Second by King.

Ayes: Scheidel, King, Wilson and

Roberson.

Nay: None.

Absent: Croell.

Motion passed.

Nick LaRosa with Fehr Graham pre-

sented the bids for the replacement of the

box culverts within the city.

Motion made by King to accept the 4

bids for 4 culverts from Bacon Concrete

LLC of Postville, IA for \$815,665.50 for

the base bid work. Second by Roberson.

</div

## NEWS BITS FROM OUR PAST COMPILED BY TERRI JOSEPHSON

**Week of March****1949 (10 years ago)**

• At a cost of approximately \$4000, a new cement block building was built recently on East Main Street in Lawler, by the Alpha Telephone Company. The building will house a new switchboard, office and living

quarters for the operator. In addition there will be a full basement which will serve as a supply room for telephone equipment. The new structure will be heated by oil. Mrs. Stella Shekleton is the operator.

**1974 (50 years ago)**

• After over 100 years of

looming down from one of Lawler's highest hills, like a giant shepherd protecting its parish flock, the old Our Lady of Mount Carmel church building is being razed. Father John Moran and his parishioners hope to replace the historic old structure with a small "memo-

rial cemetery chapel" in which many of the old building's religious items and memorabilia will be preserved.

**1999 (25 years ago)**

• The New Hampton varsity boys basketball team won a District championship in the Class 3A district finals

at Luther College against Decorah. New Hampton took an early lead against the Vikings and never looked back, never trailing. At the half, the Big Red led 30-27, and it stayed fairly close the rest of the way. The Chickasaws won 61-53.

The Chickasaws beat Waukon in the first round, and will play fourth-ranked West Delaware in the 3A substate game.

Custom Foods sponsored a coffee and cake party to celebrate the final sale of the firm to Dean Foods. Jon Nicolaisen, president of Custom Foods, spoke briefly about how pleased he and his family are that a well respected firm, Dean Foods, had purchased Custom Foods.

**2014 (10 years ago)**

• Mercy Medical Center-New Hampton's own Emergency Department Charge Nurse and member of the Chickasaw Ambulance Service Jessica Durnan has been selected as one of the 100 Great Iowa Nurses for 2014.

Honorees selected for this award represent the top nurses in Iowa whose courage, compassion and competence stand out among their peers. Durnan lives in New Hampton with her husband, Ed and two boys

Christopher and Charles.

• The New Horizons-Chamber Home Show held Sunday at the New Hampton High School gymnasium drew a large crowd. A breakfast was held and a variety of vendors turned out with financial, construction, in-home businesses and non-profit entities having booths. The New Hampton Home Show was originally a trade show sponsored by the fire department but was taken over by the chamber some years ago.

**2019 (5 years ago)**

• Noah Stochl, a 2013 New Hampton High School graduate, has always been competitive. He played a number of sports in high school and while an undergrad at Central College.

And while his athletic competition days are over, unless one counts golfing with his dad and brothers, Stochl has found new competition and it earned him and two other Iowa law students a trip to San Antonio later this month, when they will participate in the National Trial Competition (NTC) finals. Stochl, Micah Hawker-Boehnke and Sean Lancaster won the NTC regional competition that was held in Lincoln, Neb., last month to advance to the national tournament.

**Board directs county attorney to make changes to contract for EMS director****EMS: From 2**

people's plans ... kids being out of school, things like that."

Suckow suggested that board members set Knutson's salary at \$80,000.

"We're back where we started a year and a half ago," County Attorney David Laudner said. "Is there an expectation for rig hours contained in therein or is that just administrative work and we let it run it non-paramedic if there is not a paramedic available?"

Hackman quickly responded. "Straight \$80,000, get the job done," Hackman replied. "Take hours, take calls."

But Supervisor Matt Kuhn said he was frustrated with how Suckow came up with the \$80,000 figure.

"I just find it interesting that we just pick a number and looking at the comments and what the surrounding areas pay, I think we're a little low," Kuhn said. "And every other time we compare it to other counties and what everyone else is doing ... but yet, we're not doing that now."

Kuhn then asked Knutson

**Christopher and Charles.**

"I guess we won't know for another year," Knutson said. "If for \$80,000, I can get it done in a reasonable amount of time ... I think that's agreeable. To me, it's tolerable."

But he asked board members what would happen if midway through the contract and he was "working a ton more" because of staffing levels.

"You can always come back. They're under no obligation to change it," Laudner said, "but you can always come back and ask them to change it."

Hackman said he'd be "open for that."

In the end, board members voted 2-1 to direct Laudner to make changes to the contract and present it to them at this coming Monday's meeting.

Hackman and Suckow voted in the affirmative, and Kuhn cast the lone nay vote. Cerwinski was not at Monday's meeting during the contract discussion, and the fifth supervisor, Steve Breitbach, as he has on all votes on Knutson's, abstained because he is related to Knutson.

**Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice****CHICKASAW CO. CLAIMS LISTING 02/26/2024**

20/20 FX LLC, PC HARDWARE-SEC ROADS .. POSTAGE-SHERIFF DEPT..... 560.42

AG VANTAGE FS INC, DIESEL & BRUSH CHEMICAL ..... 2,406.50

AHLERS & COONEY, P.C., PROF SVCS/BOND RELATED & HR SVCS..... 2,055.50

AIRGAS, INC., EMS-O2 CYL RENTAL ..... 217.43

AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, MOSHER START UP UNIFORMS 259.63

AUTO VALUE OF NEW HAMPTON, EMS-WINDOW CLEANER.. 35.98

BLACK HILLS ENERGY, NAT GAS-LEMC-CSB,COURTHOUSE-JAIL,RECYCLING,MISC SHOP .. 4,474.48

BLACKHAWK AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS, INC., FIRE SPRINKLER INSPECTION ..... 235.00

BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT COMPANY, HERITAGE MATERIALS ..... 57.45

BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC, EMS-SENSORS,IV KIT,MED SUPPLS ..... 307.54

BRUENING ROCK PRODUCTS INC, WINTER CONTRACT SAND..... 5,784.09

C. H. MCGUINNESS CO. INC., #1982 CAGE UNIT..... 383.92

CHICKASAW CO SHERIFF, SERVE PAPERS ..... 390.21

CHICKASAW COUNTY POSTAGE METER, POSTAGE METER-MV & GS ..... 3,000.00

CJ COOPER & ASSOC INC, CLEARINGHOUSE QUERIES ..... 30.00

CULLIGAN WATER CONDITIONING, 5 GAL BOTTLE/COOLER RENTAL ..... 46.70

EASTERN IOWA TIRE INC, TIRES... 11,686.29

FAREWELL STORES INC, POP-COURTHOUSE..... 105.84

FAYETTE COUNTY, JAN, 2024 INMATE BOARDING ..... 1,550.00

FLOYD COUNTY SHERIFF, INMATE BOARDING-JAN & FEB, 2,145.00

FREDERICKSBURG, CITY OF, FEES FOR LEACHATE .02/2024 LAND-FILL CONTRACT ..... 187.50

GALLS PARENT HOLDINGS LLC, CO SHERIFF-STREAMLIGHT ..... 70.28

GATR OF CEDAR RAPIDS INC, PARTS #24..... 123.98

HACKMAN, JACOB J, LODGING & MILEAGE..... 367.21

INTERSTATE BATTERIES OF UPPER IOWA, PARTS #56, #44, #42 ..... 1,755.50

INTOXIMETERS, DRY GAS, CO SHERIFF..... 125.00

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, STOCK PARTS ..... 254.52

IOWA DNR, STORM WATER PRE-

MIT CTY LINE BRIDGE.... 175.00

KOCH OFFICE GROUP, COLOR COPIES - OFFICE ..... 107.81

KOTTKIE, RICH, VA COMM MITG 2-13-24 ..... 25.00

KUEHN, KATHRYN, VA COMM MTG 2-13-24 ..... 25.00

L & R MANUFACTURING LLC, STOCK PARTS ..... 1,775.64

LA COMMUNICATIONS INC, RADIO ADS-HELP WANTED ..... 200.00

LAWSON PRODUCTS INC., ELECTRICAL PARTS & SUPPLIES FOR REPAIRS ..... 971.53

LEAF CAPITAL FUNDING LLC, COPIER LEASE..... 412.73

LIDDELL-TIEDT, TONYA, SHEFFIFF-UNF REIMB ..... 26.98

LOU'S LP CO., LP AT THE 911/MULLER TOWER ..... 290.00

MERCY HEALTH SERVICES - IA CORP, DOT RANDOM DRUG TESTING ..... 120.00

MIDAMERICAN ENERGY CO, INTERSECTION LIGHTING.... 7.32

MIENERGY COOPERATIVE, INTERSECTON LIGHTING & SAUDE SHOT ELECTRICITY ..... 251.50

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC, EMS-RADIO MEDIC 3 ... 4,196.34

NEW HAMPTON, CITY OF, UTLS CO-BLDGS ..... 5,109.83

NOSBISCH, RANDY, VA COMM MTG 2-13-24 ..... 25.00

R & R WELDING INC, NH SHOP DRAINS & FLAT STEEL 3,099.58

RAPID PRINTERS / OFFICE WORLD, SERTA CHAIR,ENVELOPES, BUSINESS CARDS,LABELS,VA POSTCARDS ..... 1,039.72

RILEY'S INC, CONF ROOM TABLE,OFFICE SPPLS,COPIER SVC,TONER,CHAIR MAT2,10.21

SCHUETH, ACE HARDWARE, COURTHOUSE SPPLS, MTRLS,HARDWARE,EMS FAN ..... 204.73

SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON INC, CHCBS WATERMAIN EXT. 2,202.20

SPEICHER, DEAN, VA COMM MTG 2-13-24 ..... 25.00

STANTON ELECTRIC, OUTSIDE REPAIRS ON INTERSECTION LIGHTING 18/EXETER .... 211.65

SUPERIOR LUMBER INC, LUMBER,NASHUA SHOP DOOR..... 518.09

SUPERIOR WELDING SUPPLY, WELDING SUPPLIES ..... 444.87

TELECOM SERVICES OF IOWA INC, NEW FAX LINE INSTALLATION ..... 145.00

VERN LAURES AUTO CENTER INC, PARTS #16 & #9,VEH REMOT-BATTERY ..... 298.16

ZIP'S OUTFITTERS, CO, SHEFFIFF-LINDSAY UNIFORMS 128.64

Grand Total: ..... 62,763.50

**Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice**

COUNTY NAME: CHICKASAW COUNTY	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	COUNTY NUMBER: 19
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The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County tax asking as follows:

Meeting Date: 3/27/2024 Meeting Time: 06:00 PM Meeting Location: Courtroom, 3rd Floor of the Courthouse, 8 E Prospect, New Hampton, IA 50659

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.

County Website (if available)  
<https://www.chickasawcounty.iowa.gov/>

County Telephone Number  
(641) 394-2100

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2023/2024	Budget Year Effective Tax 2024/2025	Budget Year Proposed Tax 2024/2025
Taxable Valuations-General Services	922,031,747	934,724,123	934,724,123
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates	4,776,130	4,776,130	5,823,472
<b>Tax Rate-Countywide</b>	<b>5.17386</b>	<b>5.10967</b>	<b>6.21964</b>
Taxable Valuations-Rural Services	665,508,448	671,612,468	671,612,468
Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies	2,209,055	2,209,055	2,485,638
<b>Tax Rate-Rural Additional</b>	<b>3.31935</b>	<b>3.28918</b>	<b>3.70100</b>
<b>Rural Total</b>	<b>8,49321</b>	<b>8,39885</b>	<b>9,92064</b>

**Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed**

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed Tax 2024/2025	Percent Change




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# CLASSIFIEDS

New Hampton Tribune • nhtribune.news

Thursday • 03.14.24 • A9

## HELP WANTED

**POLICE OFFICER:** Indianola Police Department is taking applications for the positions of Police/Patrol Officer. Obtain applications by visiting <https://indianolaiowa.applicantpro.com/jobs>, choose Police Officer. Deadline 5/10/2024 EOE

## BUSINESS SERVICES

## BUSINESS SERVICES

**INSURANCE ASSOCIATES OF LAWLER, INC.** Auto, Home, Farm, Crop & Commercial Insurance. John Cuvelier and Renee Thronson - Agents, 402 East Grove St., Lawler, IA. Phone: 563-238-5131. [www.insuranceofflawler.com](http://www.insuranceofflawler.com)

**MELROSE INSURANCE** Mark Melrose 641-228-4543

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**FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES** Curtis Franzen-Agent Ph: 641-394-3020 Auto, home, farm, business, life and annuities. 515 W. Milwaukee, New Hampton. [curtisfranzen.fbsagents.com](mailto:curtisfranzen.fbsagents.com)

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## LAND AUCTION

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Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM

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a person who is in charge of and determines the final content of a text, particularly a newspaper or magazine.

## Com-mu-ni-ty

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## Board to hold night public hearing

### SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

public hearings that county cities and school districts will also be holding.

Because of legal publication rules, the earliest the hearing can be held is Monday, March 25, but when Supervisor Travis Suckow said Sumner-Fredericksburg Community Schools will be holding its public hearing that night, board members moved to the following day.

The four supervisors at the meeting agreed, but when Board Chairman Scott Cervinske, who was unable to attend most of Monday's meeting, texted Supervisor Jake Hackman and said he had a prior commitment, board members finally settled on Wednesday, March 27 as the public hearing date.

That will mean that the county will not be able to approve a second legal publication until April 1, a week later than supervisors had been considering. Laudner, though, said even if the board holds the hearing on March 25 or 26, he still felt they needed time to digest the comments it will receive.

"I think you're going to wait until the first anyway," Laudner said, "because what happens if you get a lot of feedback ... you're going to have to spend significant time reworking your budget, correct? If you're going to come off with where you're at, after a public presentation,

you're not going to do that overnight or in an hour. ... Well, it took you three months to get where you're at now."

And board members do expect to get that feedback when they convene the hearing at 6 p.m. on March 27 in the Chickasaw County Courthouse third-floor courtroom.

That's because Chickasaw County's tax-asking will increase by almost 19 percent in the fiscal year that begins on July 1.

The three major levies — General Basic (GB), General Supplemental (GS) and Rural Services Basic (RSB) — will bring in more than 20.4 percent in revenue next year than it will this budget year.

Throw in reduced levies for things like debt service and the Pioneer Cemetery Commission, and Hackman said the county's tax-asking will increase by 18.95 percent.

The county's levy for GB is already maxed out at \$3.50 per \$1,000 valuation so revenue from that levy will increase by just 1.4 percent — from \$3,227,111 to \$3,271,534.

But GS tax-asking is set to jump from just a little more than \$1.08 million to \$2.09 million, an increase of 93 percent. That's because higher costs in GB next year means the county won't be able to transfer money from that fund to GS as it has done in recent years. The

levy rate for GS would increase from \$1.17233 per \$1,000 valuation to \$2.23213 per \$1,000 valuation.

In recent years, the county has also used ending fund balances to offset tax-asking increases.

RSB tax-asking would increase from \$2.21 million to a almost \$2.49 million, in large part because supervisors want to give 95 percent of the base RSB revenue to Secondary Roads and they are considering moving the costs of two sheriff's deputies from GB to RSB.

"I still think there's an opportunity to lower GS, at least a little," said Supervisor Matt Kuhn, who also added that the supervisors could consider moving just one deputy into RSB.

Board members, though, decided to go ahead and approve the max levy as it was presented Monday. That, in effect, does leave them some wiggle room, if you will.

Under Iowa law, once a maximum levy is published as a legal notice, a county's board of supervisors can't increase the levy or the tax-asking.

Boards, though, do have the option of lowering tax-asking after a notice is published.

"I think we're going to hear from some people, no doubt about it," Hackman said Monday afternoon. "We're far from done, in my opinion, when it comes [to the budget and levy]."

### A healthy increase in tax-asking

Here are the three main levies Chickasaw County uses to fund its annual budget and how they will change when the new budget year begins on July 1.

Fund	23-24 levy	23-24 revenue	24-25 levy	24-25 revenue	Percent
General Basic	\$3.50	\$3,227,111	\$3.50	\$3,271,534	1.4
General Supplemental	\$1.17233	\$1,080,925	\$2.23213	\$2,086,426	93.0
Rural Services	\$3.31935	\$2,209,055	\$3.70100	\$2,485,638	12.5

### Legal Notice • Legal Notice

#### City of Alta Vista Council Meeting Monday, March 4, 2024

The regular meeting for the City Council of Alta Vista convened on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm with the following Council members present: Kayla Pride, Adam Roethler, Samantha Slick, Richard Heying, and Amy Laures in the Alta Vista City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Burt Ostert.

Agenda was discussed. Slick made the motion, seconded by Heying to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

February 12, 2024 regular meeting minutes were discussed. Roethler made the motion, seconded by Heying to approve the February 12, 2024 regular meeting minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Citizen Forum: Barb McAvoy brought up possible ways the town can make money for projects. One being a donation bin. Dustin Meirick brought up removing all dead ash trees in the City in one year and having a payment plan to pay off the total over the course of a few years.

Agreement for General Law Enforcement Services was discussed. Sheriff Shaver was present to answer any questions. The rate per capita for services will increase from \$15.00 to \$16.50. The total amount will be \$3,745.00. Laures made the motion, seconded by Slick to approve the Agreement for General Law Enforcement Services with the Mayor being the signer. Roll call vote. Ayes: Pride, Roethler, Slick, Laures, Heying. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Library was discussed.

Fire Department was discussed. Trustees approved the Fire Departments budget. The 2004 International Pumper has an issue with the primer that needs repair. During a fire call on March 2, a hose got caught in a wheel. A new hose will be installed.

EMS was discussed. First responders were discussed. AED Placement was discussed. Slick made the motion, seconded by Pride to place the AED device in the Assured Partners entryway, pending the new owner's approval. Roll call vote. Ayes: Roethler, Slick, Laures, Pride, Heying. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Grants were discussed. Council will ask if Joel Knutson would be able to teach a CPR class for residents in Alta

Vista. Clerk applied for a grant for the S White and W Weber St replacement with INRCOG. Gilmore going south out of town will be closed starting March 11. County Engineer Roman informed that the road may be open as soon as May 27.

ICAP Risk Control was discussed. Todd Christianson from ICAP met with Mayor Ostert, Dale, and Jarrett to discuss risk control. The following are recommendations for the City to do: conduct documented sidewalk inspections and enforce ordinance for repairs, develop written employment and volunteer policies, conduct motor vehicle record checks, conduct employee and volunteer background checks, confirm privately owned vehicles have adequate insurance coverage, ensure inflatables are permitted according to state requirements, obtain herbicide applicators license and certifications, prohibit plugging of appliances into power strips at the library, install GFCI outlets in park shelter, and update community room rental agreement. Mayor Ostert, Dale, and Jarrett are working on these currently.

Public hunting was discussed. Insurance advised against hunting on public property. Consensus of the Council is to not allow hunting on public property.

Insurance was discussed. Insurance premium increased by nearly \$8,000.00. Mayor Ostert will contact Lacey Mader for quotes for other insurance coverage.

Heying made the motion, seconded by Slick to approve the insurance premium, unless Mayor Ostert can get similar insurance for a lower rate. Roll call vote. Ayes: Roethler, Pride, Heying, Slick, Laures. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Budget was discussed. Roethler made the motion, seconded by Heying to have the public hearing for the Proposed Tax Levy on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm. All ayes. Motion carried. Wages were discussed. Roethler made the motion, seconded by Pride to budget for a 3% increase in employee wages. Roll call vote. Ayes: Heying, Roethler, Slick, Laures, Pride. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Delinquents were discussed.

Water was discussed.

Sewer was discussed.

Streets were discussed.

Sanitation was discussed.

Parks were discussed.

Municipal Hall was discussed.

Electric was discussed.

Solar panels were discussed.

Financial reports were not present due to ClerkBooks not being fully setup. No new applications for the Treasurer position since February's meeting.

Disbursements were discussed. Roethler made the motion, seconded by Heying to approve the disbursements. Roll call vote. Ayes: Heying, Roethler, Laures, Slick, Pride. Nays: none. Motion carried.

S White and W Weber were discussed.

Ordinance book was discussed.

Council will go through rest of the Ordinance book at the April meeting.

Ordinance 2024-1 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Council is tabling Ordinance until we get feedback from attorney Nate Schwickerath.

Possible auction was discussed. Clerk will contact auctioneer to see about rates and if City has enough to sell.

Bank was discussed. Laures asked when we switched bank locations from Elma to New Hampton. Clerk stated it was more convenient to take deposits to New Hampton on his way to his other job. Laures stated that an employee from Elma told her that the account left Elma when Cindy left. Clerk started making deposits in New Hampton once that branch opened. Clerk stated he would have deposited the money there regardless if Cindy worked there. Clerk stated that he didn't feel it would be an issue as it was the same bank, just a different location. Laures felt it should have been requested before going to the New Hampton location. After discussion, Council felt no motion was need to approve the New Hampton location for the clerk to deposit monies as it is still the same bank.

Mayor Pro Tem was discussed. At the February 12 meeting, Laures stated that she had second thoughts about being Mayor Pro Tem and that Heying would be Mayor Pro Tem instead. Laures stated that she had a conversation with Mayor Ostert and that she will remain as Mayor Pro Tem.

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The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-3 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-4 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-5 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-6 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-7 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-8 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-9 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-10 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-11 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-12 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-13 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-14 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-15 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-16 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-17 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-18 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-19 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-20 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

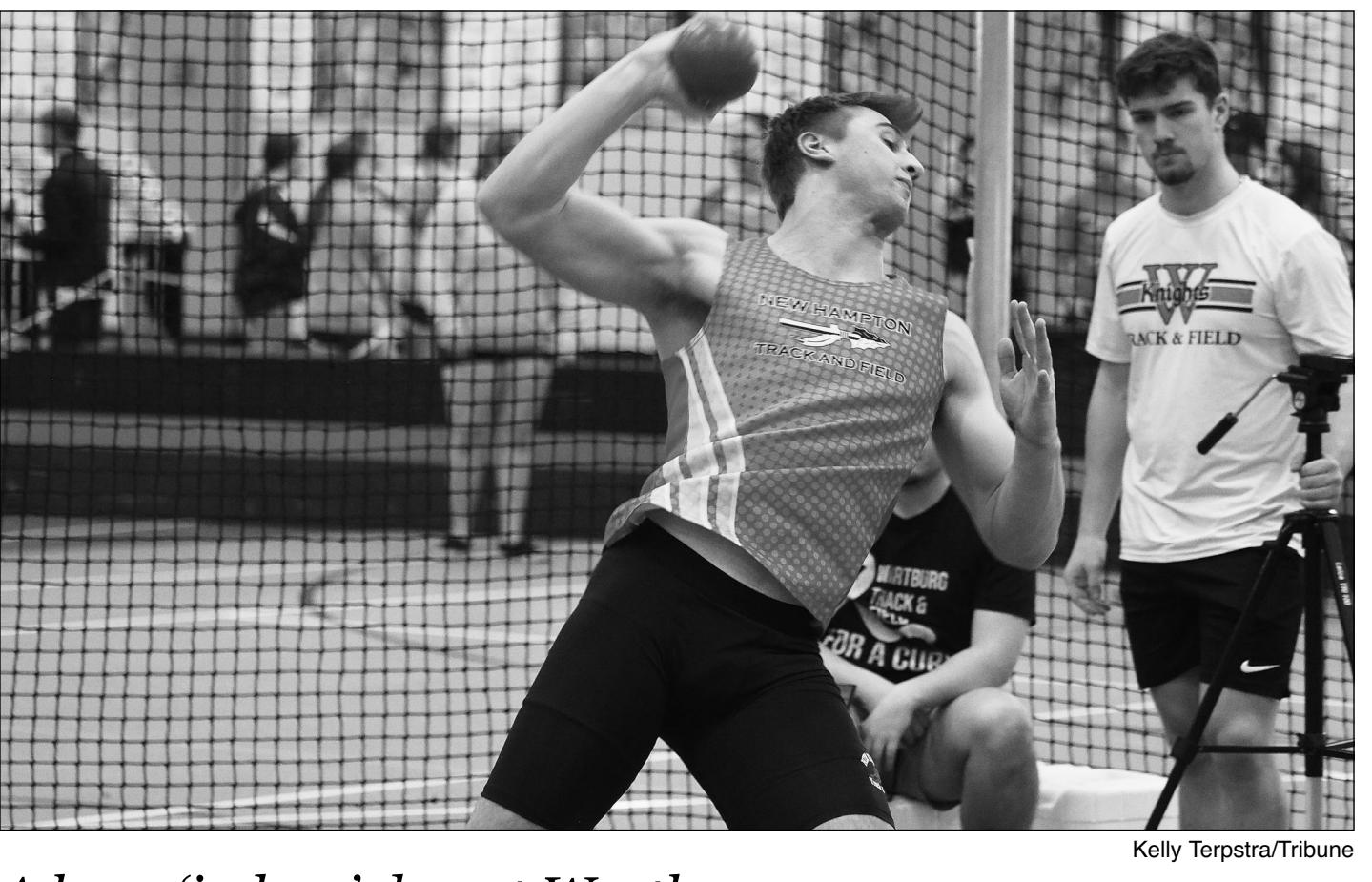
Ordinance 2024-21 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-22 was discussed.

The Ordinance is to update the Vicious Dogs and Cats section in Chapter 55.

Ordinance 2024-23 was discussed.



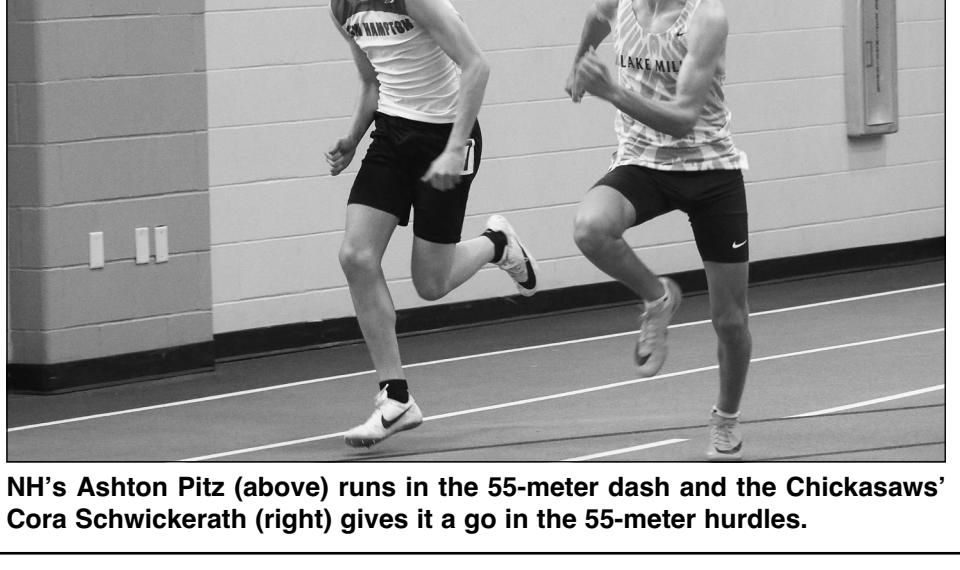
Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

## A busy 'indoor' day at Wartburg

New Hampton's Braden McShane (above) throws the shot put during an indoor meet that was held at Wartburg College on Tuesday.



Taylor Ries (left) of New Hampton leads off the 4x800 Chickasaw relay and Dylan Maloy (above) runs in the 55-meter dash on Tuesday.



NH's Ashton Pitz (above) runs in the 55-meter dash and the Chickasaws' Cora Schwickerath (right) gives it a go in the 55-meter hurdles.

## Former Chickasaw makes most of opportunity to return to the shot put ring

### FENSKE: FROM 12

In 2021 the NCAA began allowing Division I athletes playing baseball, basketball, football and ice hockey to transfer schools and start playing immediately – it's called a first-time transfer waiver.

Prior to this change, athletes had to sit out a season.

For athletes headed to a third school, the NCAA considers waivers on a case-by-case basis.

This is where it gets tricky.

Would Fenske be willing to sit out a whole year if his transfer waiver was denied?

He was going to find out.

Fenske said it took around five months to prepare the transfer waiver.

"The waiver was extremely extensive, probably 30 pages of proof of all the things I went through in my college experience that's led me to here," said Fenske.

"In a process that's supposed to take 28 days, it took them over 90 days to get back to me. They denied it the first time, but they left hope that the appeal would go through. That appeal was supposed to take seven days. The appeal took nearly 20 to get back to me."

Eventually, Fenske was denied the waiver, which would force him to sit out the entire 2023 season.

"Basically I was suspended for the whole year because I transferred twice as an undergrad," said Fenske.

That didn't stop Fenske from having an impact on his team.

"My mindset the entire way through was just show up every day, give everything you have and prepare for the game like you would play so you can help out," said Fenske.

Hard work didn't stop for Fenske – who was still able to practice and make himself and his teammates better.

"Since it got denied, my focus went right into – I don't have time to sit around and be sorry for myself," said Fenske. "Let's get to work every day. Whatever time I have left – that I'm going to make the most of it so when I'm done I can live with the fact that I gave everything I had."

The Salukis – with Fenske as their No. 1 fan on the sideline at games – went 8-5 last fall and lost to No. 4 Idaho in the second round of the FCS playoffs in an overtime thriller, 20-17.

Fenske said he's changed his major three times – he's now studying for a bachelor of science degree with a focus in sociology.

What are his thoughts about the upcoming Saluki football season this fall?

"I was their starting left tackle coming into Week 1 [last year]," said Fenske. "As of right now I plan on being our starter anywhere on the line that they need me at."

**REMEMBER, FENSKE** just isn't your normal everyday offensive lineman, as he's also a track champ.

So when an opportunity arose last month to compete in a college track and field meet and throw the shot – he pounced on the idea.

"There was a shot put on the ground and I asked if I could throw it," said Fenske. "I threw it far enough that one of the coaches asked if I would come and compete in the meet. I thought about it for a little bit. I texted my head coach and my position coach to make sure that it was okay. They both gave me the OK."

Low and behold – the former Drake



Photo courtesy of Noah Fenske  
Former New Hampton student-athlete Noah Fenske poses for a picture with his Southern Illinois football teammates and coaches who came out to support him at an indoor track meet in Carbondale, Illinois.

Relays champion has still got it as he won the Don DeNoon Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 17 in Carbondale.

"I went in there thinking I could win it," said Fenske. "I wasn't winning until probably the third or fourth throw."

Fenske went into the home invite at SIU unseeded and hadn't picked up a shot up in years. As he wasn't seeded, he threw first.

"I went in there with a mark of zero feet," said Fenske. "I didn't expect to throw as good as I did. I actually had workouts the day before and I was pretty sore. I'd been going pretty hard at that."

Fenske won the shot put competition with a toss of 53-11.25 (fourth

## New Hampton coach likes how her upperclassmen start track season

### GIRLS TRACK: FROM 12

Pickar came up with a 16th-place showing in the open 800 in a time of 2:45.31. Pickar ran on the state-qualifying 4x800 squad last year as a junior.

"Megan ran two 800s faster than where she started last year. She has put in a lot of time in the off-season, so we expect her to have a great season," said Laures.

Ries is also a critical component back for the Chickasaws and looks to flourish out on the oval this spring. Ries helped New Hampton medal (eighth place) in the 4x400 at state in Des Moines last spring and she was also on the 10th-place state sprint medley relay.

"Taylor put in a lot of hard work this winter as well with basketball and is in good shape. We anticipate that she'll run a few more 800s this year as she has a great work ethic," said Laures.

NH junior Kinsley Hackman – who led off NH's 4x400 relay at state – placed 21st in the 200-meter dash (29.38) and 41st in the 60-meter dash (8.76). There were 87 entrants in the 60-meter dash.

Hailee Pesek – NH's senior that anchored both the sprint med and 4x400 – ran in just once race (4x400) on Tuesday.

"We backed off a bit on Hailee on Tuesday as she is nursing a quad strain, but we expect her to have another great year as well," Laures added.

Chickasaw freshman Kinslee Rings was 17th in the 400 dash with a time of 1:09.

New Hampton freshman Ava Leichtman was 25th in the long

jump (13-8) and sophomore Madison Shawver was 26th in that same event with a leap of 13-7.5.

New Hampton senior Claire Geerts – who placed 19th at state last year in the shot put – finished eighth in the event at Mason City with a heave of 31-8. Rings was 17th overall with a toss of 29-7.

"I was really happy where our upperclassman started off the year. I was also really pleased with our throwers, and I expect that they will continue to improve throughout the season as well," said Laures. "This meet gave us an opportunity to really see where our conditioning was at."

### NEW HAMPTON RESULTS

60 dash - 41. Kinsley Hackman 8.76, 58. Ava Leichtman 8.99, 61. Madison Shawver 9.02, 73. Kayme Hackman 9.32.

200 dash - 21. Ki. Hackman 29.38,

36. Braelyn Roson 31.73.

400 dash - 17. Kinslee Rings 1:09.6, 29. Sydney Laures 1:11.7.

800 run - 16. Megan Pickar 2:45.31, 38. Madalyn Van Wey 3:11.56.

1,500 run - 11. Sophie Glaser 5:30.84.

60 meter hurdles prelims - 39. Laures 11.47, 42. Kadence Rings 11.54, 45. Capri Lester 11.66, 63. Cora Schwickerath 12.87.

4x200 - 19. Ki. Hackman, Jenna Heeren, Ka. Hackman, Leichtman 2:04.8.

4x400 - 12. Taylor Ries, Natalie Nobsch, Kaitlyn Gebel, Hailee Pesek 4:34.77.

4x800 - 12. Pickar, Nobsch, Gebel, Ries 11:04.91.

Shuttle hurdle - 12. Laures, Lester, Ka. Rings, Schwickerath 46.02.

High jump - Rosonke NH.

Long jump - 25. Leichtman 13-8,

26. Shawver 13-7.5.

Shot put - 8. Claire Geerts 31-8,

17. Ki. Rings 29-7, 53. Amiya Kellogg 21-8.

## More Chickasaw boys will take to the track at final two indoor meets

### BOYS TRACK: FROM 12

Beau Serie in the 60-meter dash both took 20th in their respective events.

"It's a lot of the little things that you see in a first meet," Jenkins said. "Our handoffs in the 4x1 weren't close to what we need them to be but it's our first meet, it's March. We'll get there; it's just going to take some time. I told the guys we took that it was a start and we'll get better."

The Chickasaws were without their top sprinter, senior Braden McShane, who is still not completely recovered from a hamstring injury. Sophomore sprinter Dylen Schmitt also missed the meet because of an illness.

Still, it was a start. Veterans like Praska, Serie, Zeien, Bryce Flugum were joined by track newcomers like Jay Pickar and Adam Ewert at the meet held on the campus of Iowa State.

More Chickasaws will take

to the track on Tuesday, when New Hampton headed to an indoor meet at Wartburg College.

The Chickasaws will compete in the NEIC Indoor at Luther College in Decorah this coming Tuesday before they head outdoors on March 28, when they travel to Waverly for a coed meet.

"You know, after a couple of weeks of practice, it is good to get a meet in," Jenkins said. "It's a good gauge to see where we're at and it's good for both the kids, as well as the coaches. Sometimes, you need a meet for everyone to see where we need to practice more and the things we need to shape up."

### NEW HAMPTON RESULTS

60 prelims - 20. Beau Serie 7.57, 41. Jay Pickar 7.81.

400 - 20. Ethan Praska 55.85.

Shot put - 6. Marshall Zeien 43-11.5

4x100 - 22. Adam Ewert, Bryce Flugum, Pickar, Serie 47.67.

Distance medley - 16. Ewert, Pickar, Serie, Praska 3:58.66.

about the experience of winning another track meet – far removed from his glory days of high school.

"I had a ton of my buddies show up, getting rowdy at the track meet," said Fenske.

"It was a good time. They were pretty fired up because it's not every day that somebody just goes and does something for the first time in five years and goes out and wins."

Does Fenske have any interest in joining the track team and proving his mettle once more to be able to perform at an elite level?

"It's always out there," said Fenske. "I love track, right now my focus is on football and becoming the best football player I can be and try to compete for a national title here."

**THE FUTURE STILL** remains bright for the Chickasaw legend and he's still not ruling out the chance of one day playing professional football.

Fenske might have fallen down in his quest to become the best he could be – but he picked himself off the ground and continues to fight for what he believes in.

"When I look at failures, I don't necessarily look at them as just being I failed. Failure's not final," said Fenske.

"Just go out, learn from it and just be the best version of yourself. I'm proud of myself in that sense that I have given every last bit of who I am to achieving that lifelong dream."

That means Fenske will just take it one snap at a time from here on out and see how it all shakes out.

"That's always been the goal," said Fenske about playing in the NFL. "I've failed five years now at that goal. My goal is that year six that I won't fail again."

# SPORTS

New Hampton Tribune • nhtribune.news

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Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton High School alum Noah Fenske helps his Southern Illinois football teammates warm up before the Salukis' "rivalry game" against Southeast Missouri State last fall.

## READY TO PLAY SOME FOOTBALL

AFTER NCAA KEEPS FENSKA ON SIDELINE IN 2023, FORMER CHICKASAW CAN'T WAIT TO RETURN TO GRIDIRON

By KELLY TERPSTRA

sports@nhtrib.com

Noah Fenske is happy where he's at – now he just wants to play some football.

It's been a long, winding road for the New Hampton former all-state football player and school record holder in the shot put and discus over the course of the last five years.

The current Southern Illinois Saluki has encountered several detours and roadblocks in a gridiron career that he one day hopes could lead to an NFL roster spot.

In the meantime, he's excited to just be able to put on a helmet at this point and help his FCS squad located in Carbondale, Illinois, win a championship.

"Anything I can do to help the team, not only to help the team, but to help myself," said Fenske, a 2019 NHHS alum.

Fenske's journey and new home in southern Illinois – close to the Mississippi River and a little less than a two-hour drive south from St. Louis – seems like light years ago compared to when he was a three-star recruit that signed on to play for the University of Iowa and head coach Kirk Ferentz.

That was right before Christmas in 2018.

Fenske redshirted in 2019 and played in one game at center versus Minnesota for the Hawkeyes in 2020. Then he made a decision that would alter the course of his life forever.

He decided to transfer. At the time he thought it was the right move.

Hindsight is often 20/20.

"My time at Iowa was definitely greatly appreciated," said Fenske. "At Iowa I struggled personally with a lot of things, where I felt that I needed to make a move. I'm extremely grateful for Coach Ferentz, Coach (Chris) Doyle, Coach (Raimond) Braithwaite and Coach (George) Barnett in my time there. They definitely helped mold me into a better human being."

Fenske talked about his struggles in Iowa City – mainly, his mental well-being.

"Yes, Iowa has this legacy for people to succeed, but their formula for me was not working at the expense of my mental health," said Fenske.

The 6-6, 300-pound lineman who wears No. 53 for SIU, didn't know where he



During Southern Illinois' spring football game in 2023, Noah Fenske celebrates a first down picked up by the offense.

would end up after his path to playing time at Iowa was cut short.

**HE PACKED HIS** bags and headed to the Rocky Mountains out west.

## Chickasaws' Zeien picks up medal at ITCA

New Hampton boys track team get first chance to gauge itself at indoor meet in Ames

By BOB FENSKA

editor@nhtrib.com

New Hampton boys track coach Scott Jenkins knew his team's season opener would be an uphill battle; after all, the Chickasaws were without one of their best athletes and the Iowa Track Coaches Association's Indoor Championships is ... well, in a word, tough.

"It was about what I expected," Jenkins said Friday, the day after a small contingent of Chickasaws made the trip to Ames to compete in the ITCA meet. "I hoped for a little bit more in a few things, but we're not quite there yet. We're just not deep enough, but it was good for our guys to get a chance to compete. It kind of gets that blood flowing."

New Hampton had just six entries in five events and brought home one medal as

senior Marshall Zeien threw the shot put a career-best 43-11.5 to place sixth.

"After the first throw, Marshall was pretty consistent," Jenkins said of the senior who

qualified for the Drake Relays and last year's Class 2A state meet a year ago. "It's a solid start for him, but we also expect to see that distance increase."

New Hampton competed in

a pair of relays – taking 16th in the distance medley and finishing 22nd in the 4x100 – while Ethan Praska in the 800 and

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## Chickasaw girls help break in a new venue

New Hampton girls track coach sees plenty of positives at first indoor meet of the season

By KELLY TERPSTRA

sports@nhtrib.com

Twenty-three schools broke in the new indoor track facility at Mason City High School last week Tuesday.

The indoor season opener for Jeanette Laures and her New Hampton Chickasaw girls track team saw a large portion of NH athletes compete against the likes of large Class 4A schools such as Dowling Catholic, Johnston, Southeast Polk, Linn-Mar and Fort Dodge – to name a few.

"The facility at Mason City is fantastic. For their first year they ran it efficiently and we liked that we were able to compete against some bigger schools," said the NH head coach.

Laures will count on several freshmen on her roster this spring that should have a big impact for the Northeast Iowa squad that has around 30 girls out for the sport.

"We have some freshmen who will have to play a vital role this year as we look to fill our lineup. These indoor meets are an opportunity to see where our strengths and weaknesses are," said Laures.

One such Chickasaw fresh-

man – Sophie Glaser – finished 11th in the 1,500 run in 5:30. Glaser, who was a state qualifier in cross country in the fall and in wrestling this winter, is obviously one of those freshmen that Laures is talking about.

Another freshman, Kailyn Gebel, ran the third leg in each of the 4x400 and 4x800. Each of those NH relays competed at state last year and will have a different look this season.

Each relay placed 12th – with the 4x400 team of juniors Taylor Ries and Natalie Nosbisch, to go along with Gebel and senior Hailee Peseck ran a 4:34. The 4x800 squad of senior Megan Pickar, Nosbisch, Gebel and Ries crossed the tape in 11:04.

Even as talented as some of Laures' ninth graders are – it sure doesn't hurt for some of the more experienced Chickasaws to help show them the ropes in their first actual varsity track meet.

"We have a young team and so I do think it was slightly intimidating for our younger girls, but we also have a great group of seniors this year that helped our freshmen handle the differences between indoor season and outdoor season," said Laures.

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Grant Anderson and Dustin Lewis (left) prepare another batch of French Toast while Don Dixon readies some sausages at the annual New Hampton Lions Club Pancake and French Toast Breakfast that was held Sunday.

## Lions Club members keep same jobs year after year

### BREAKFAST: FROM 1

December are, in many ways, like the breakfast.

"Same thing happens at those," Zeien said. "You get a job, you keep it."

Events like the breakfast that was held on Sunday are the key for various Lions Club projects to become a reality and also support the club's annual scholarship program.

Zeien said some of the proceeds from this year's breakfast will go to helping make sure that "Stop the Bleed" kits are fully equipped and in all of the classrooms at New Hampton schools. Over the years, the Lions have also worked on an almost infinite number of construction projects. Lions Club members helped build most of the shelters at Mikkelsen Park, construct the dock at Garnant Park and the new press box on the "visitor's side" of the New Hampton High School.

"It's one way we can give back to our community for supporting us so well," Zeien said. "We're happy to do it, and events like the breakfast, they help us do that."

Here's the deal, though: Breakfast weekend 2025 will look a lot like this



past weekend.

Lions Club members will gather on Saturday at the high school and set up. They'll go home and "lose" an hour of sleep because of the start of Daylight Savings Time. But they'll get up early on the second Sunday of March and serve hundreds of folks a meal.



Terry Johnson (left) mixes up pancake batter in the kitchen while Lions Club members (above) dish out the food to breakfast out in the cafeteria.

"I always say it's a little motivation for people to come out," Zeien said. "Sure you're going to lose an hour of sleep, but you're going to get a big breakfast out of the deal. It's not a bad trade, right?"

It isn't, and when the 2025 New Hampton Lions Pancake and French Toast Breakfast rolls around, the same guys will be manning the same jobs ... and probably giving each other a little good-natured grief.

"We have fun with it," Zeien said. "We're not above giving each other a hard time, but every year, it always seems to come together. You know the saying if it ain't broke, don't fix it? That's where we're at with this."

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