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**Collection Dates:**  
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**August 25th - 30th**

**Drop-off Location:**  
New Hampton High School Wooden Pen to the North of the Greenhouse

If you have any questions or would like to assist the chapter in other ways, feel free to contact the New Hampton High School or email Advisor Rachel Bauler at [r\\_bauler@new-hampton.k12.ia.us](mailto:r_bauler@new-hampton.k12.ia.us)



Please have your cans in durable bags

# New Hampton TRIBune

Chickasaw County

Your Community. Your Team. Your Media.

[www.nhtribune.news](http://www.nhtribune.news) • Thursday, August 22, 2024 • 18 pages • Issue 34 • Volume 150

## City tackles how to pay for capital projects

At the top of list is wastewater treatment plan but City Council also learns of other requests during work session

By BOB FENSK  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

New Hampton city leaders spent almost 90 minutes Monday night discussing how it will pay for a plethora of potential capital improvement projects, and while no definitive decisions were made during a City Council committee as a whole meeting, it's likely that city water and sewer rates will be

increasing sooner rather than later.

During Monday's work session that preceded the regular council meeting, council members heard from a number of department heads who spelled out their needs and also met with Piper Sandler's Travis Squires, who discussed how the city could pay for capital improvement projects.

At the top of the list is the city's new wastewater treatment plant, one

that Iowa Department of Natural Resources say must be up and running by 2036.

City officials learned last week that it moved a step closer to securing financing for the \$28 million plant that would replace one that DNR officials say does not comply with current state and federal regulations. That's because the city's application for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) has

been accepted for inclusion in the Intended Use Plan (IUP) project priority list.

The city's application will go before the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) for approval on Sept. 17, and Public Works Director Casey Mai on Monday laid out a potential timeline for the new wastewater

treatment plant.

He said the DNR has approved the city's facility plan, which means New Hampton can proceed with coming up

**SEE PROJECTS, 5**

## So far, so good for area crops

ISU Extension agronomist: Corn, soybeans are looking 'really good'

By BOB FENSK  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

It seems like an eternity ago, but the reality is it was just three months ago when ISU Extension Agronomist Terry Basol and the farmers he works with were fretting big time about getting fields planted.

So Basol will be the first to admit that he's a little stunned these days when he visits corn and soybean fields in the area.

"If you would have told me in May, we'd be sitting where we're at right now, I don't think I would have believed you," he said, "but here we are and I'll stand by what I wrote up the other day in my crop chat newsletter. Corn and soybeans are looking really good in the area."

He paused for a moment and laughed.

"Now, you know I always say we still have a long ways to go — I probably say it the day before we harvest — but right now, we're in really good shape," he said. "We could use a shot of rain, but I think we have enough subsoil moisture to pull from that we're going to be good."

And despite the challenges of a rainy planting season that came on the heels of a year-long drought, crops throughout the state are in solid shape according to the latest USDA Iowa Crop and Condition Report that came out on Monday and showed that 77 percent of both the corn and soybean crop was in either good or excellent condition while just 5 percent of both mainstays are in very poor or poor condition.

Although the first half of August was dry — New Hampton received 1.73 inches of rain

**SEE CROPS, 2**

## Council gives police chief OK for 'comp time'

City leaders approve Rosendahl request to bank up to 80 hours

By BOB FENSK  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

New Hampton Police Chief Conrad Rosendahl figured he'd ask, and City Council members on Monday gave him an affirmative answer when it came to allowing him to "bank" up to 80 hours in comp time each year.

Rosendahl made the request during Monday's council meeting as he asked city leaders to consider allowing him to take comp time when he works more than 90 hours in a pay period.

"The reason I'm asking is from what I understand the previous chiefs weren't willing to do the extra time required to make this thing work," he said. "I'm OK if you say no, but if you don't ask ..."

He said that he set the threshold at 90 hours per pay period "because there is some expectation as a salaried employee that you're not going to work in excess of 80 hours."

Rosendahl added if the council approved the policy, he would be granted one hour of comp

**SEE CITY COUNCIL, 5**



Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton Parks and Recreation Director Tara Hackman (left) and her assistant, Kayla Flick, pose for a photo in the department's equipment room at the New Hampton Community Center.

## ALWAYS LEARNING, ALWAYS ON THE GO

HACKMAN AND FLICK APPRECIATE GIVING AREA RESIDENTS PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES WITH PROGRAMS, PARKS

By BOB FENSK  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

New Hampton Parks and Recreation Director Tara Hackman's philosophy comes down to the fact that her city's residents, especially its kids, should grow up with plenty of great opportunities and experiences.

"Just because we're a small town," she said, "it doesn't mean we can't have big experiences."

Nicole Wurzer began her career in health care at the bottom of the proverbial totem pole.

Yet those years she spent as a certified nursing assistant — better known by its acronym CNA — as a high school and college student years ago made a lasting impact on the MercyOne New Hampton Family Clinic nurse practitioner.

"It's such a tough job," Wurzer said, "and I don't know how to put it but let's just say you don't get treated very well — not by every-

CHECK OUT MORE WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE STORIES!

— SECTION B

As a department, that's what we want to give people in our community. We want, for example, for our kids to have options, to find the activities that really grab their interest."



body, mind you — but I think my CNA experience really made me the kind of provider I want to be. Everyone has a role in healthcare,

**SEE WURZER, 6**

And sometimes that means trying a bunch of them, and Hackman and her assistant, Kayla Flick, offer a bevy of them.

Hackman served in Flick's position for more than 12 years before "moving up" to the director position when Rick Kramer retired in early 2023.

It's been a whirlwind 1 1/2 years for

**SEE PARKS & REC, 3**

## Attorney returns home to practice law

By BOB FENSK  
[editor@nhtrib.com](mailto:editor@nhtrib.com)

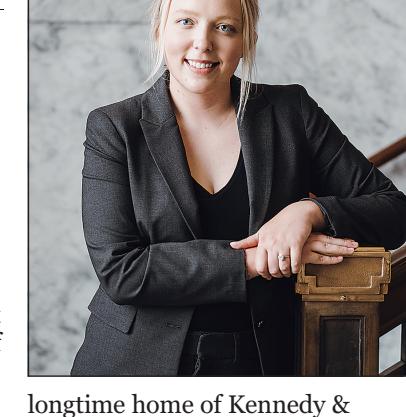
Let's put it this way: Tori Beyer must be a fast learner.

She breezed through the University of Iowa in three years, majoring in criminal justice and law ethics.

She completed law school at the University of North Dakota in 2 1/2 years.

And now she's practicing law — for at least four days a week — just up the road from her hometown of Fredericksburg.

"I guess I would say I'm really goal-oriented, and when I set my sight on something, I do go after it," she said from the Dillon Law office that until June 30 was the



longtime home of Kennedy & Kennedy. "To be honest, I didn't know if I'd come home, but I'm

**SEE BEYER, 6**

## New teachers

New Hampton welcomes 12 new educators while Turkey Valley has one new instructor

**Page 3**

## Dam talk

Chickasaw County supervisors vote 3-2 to stay in Nashua

dam 28E agreement

**Page 2**

## Go time!

New Hampton ready to kick off fall sports with Meet the Team event

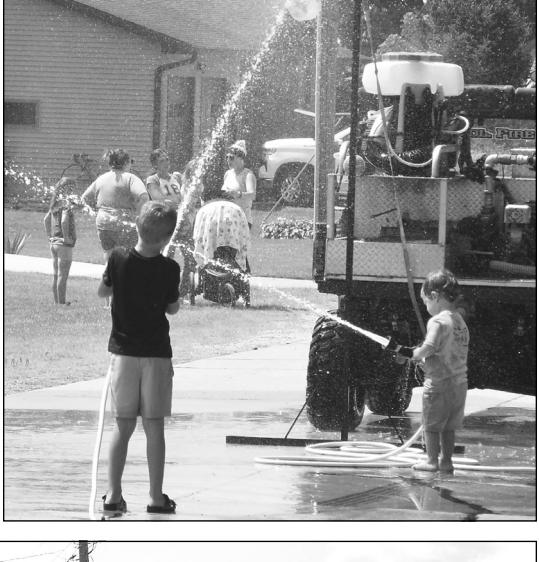
**Page 10**



Bob Fenske/Tribune

## Good times at Czech Days!

Let's put it this way, Czech Days knows how to finish with a flourish as big crowds turned out Sunday for the final day of the annual celebration put on by Holy Trinity Church. In addition to dancers (above) taking the floor and swinging the music of Mollie B and Squeezebox, the final day of the three-day celebration included (clockwise below), the cake walk, bingo, kids playing water ball (some more successfully than others) and more children playing at Protivin's version of the "beach."



Parking is at a premium near Holy Trinity Church Sunday on the final day of the three-day Czech Days festival that concluded Sunday in Protivin.

## Agronomist says area crops are 'catching up' with rest of the state

### CROPS: FROM 1

during the first 20 days of the month, about an inch less than the city usually receives during the first two-thirds of the month — the latest USDA report showed that 84 percent of farmland in the Northeast District have either adequate or surplus topsoil moisture content.

"The plus side is that with the cooler weather, at least for July and August, we've had, we haven't really put plants under a lot of stress," Basol said. "We're in good shape right now. A timely rain would be nice, but compared to last year at this time, we're sitting in great shape."

Basol, however, did urge farmers to continue to scout their fields and be on the lookout for aphids, which have found the recent relatively mild weather to their liking.

"The cooler temps are great for keeping the stress away, but these 70s, up to 80 degree temperatures are what aphids like,"

he said. "We're hearing reports and I'd just tell people to keep scouting and stay on top of it."

Still, Basol said the northeast part of the state has for the most part "caught up" with the rest of the state when it comes to crop progress as 79 percent of the corn crop is at the dough stage and 27 percent is now at the denting stage. More than 90 percent of soybean plants are blooming and almost 80 percent of soybean plants are setting pods.

"We were basically the last ones to get the crop into the ground," he said, "and we've made really some pretty remarkable progress the last couple of months. Again, I'll say it, we're not there yet. We don't get there until we bring it in the fall but we have the potential for a really good crop this year."

As for a timely rain, though, the forecast for at least the near future is bleak as there is little, if any chance, of precipitation through at least Wednesday.



## County will remain in dam 28E agreement

Supervisors vote 3-2 after New Hampton resident once again expresses his concerns over ownership of dam

By BOB FENSKY  
editor@nhtrib.com

Chickasaw County will remain in an inter-governmental agreement with the city of Nashua and the Chickasaw County Conservation Board that was designed to support the dam located in Nashua despite the fact that little, if anything, has been done with the agreement since it was signed in March 1988.

After a relatively lengthy discussion that included New Hampton resident Terry Johnson once again questioning the city of Nashua's ownership of the dam and him urging supervisors to give notice that the county would exit the 28E agreement, supervisors voted 3-2 to remain a part of the inter-governmental body.

Johnson has a number of times in the past year stated that it is his belief that the city doesn't own the dam, and last year, he took exception to the county giving the city \$50,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help with engineering costs for the repair of the dam.

When Supervisor Jake Hackman said that County Attorney David Laudner had stated that the "intent" of the actions taken in 1988 were to deed the dam to the city, Johnson quickly interrupted.

"Intent doesn't buy you a cup of coffee, Jake," he said.

Laudner, though, respectfully disagreed.

"I know the city attorney is working with Mid-American Energy to have that quit-claim deed cleaned up; in fact, I offered suggested language that I would put in there to make it clearer," he said. "Both [Nashua City] Attorney [Dave] Skilton and I have worked on the language.

"It's my understanding — I talked to him a couple of weeks ago — that it's typical corporate America. He's waiting for attorneys from Mid-American and other folks to analyze it and get it signed and approved. It's in the process of being done — to clarify the drafting error."

He also said that he believes a court would find that Nashua

owns the dam. The city is working on a \$1.3 million repair project.

Still, Johnson said he didn't understand the point of having the 28E agreement when it's "never had a meeting, no one was ever appointed to that board."

Johnson, who attends numerous board meetings, pointed out that Mid-American is still paying taxes on the dam so that "tells me it didn't transfer."

He wondered how Nashua could purchase general obligation bonds when it doesn't have title to the dam.

"That's a question for the Nashua City Council and for the Nashua city attorney," Laudner said. "Again, I'm not trying to be curt with you but other than — and that's a big deal, I know we've talked about that — other than the \$50,000, these guys don't have any interest in that dam."

"I mean they do inherently because it's part of the country and it's good for economic development, but as far as actual legal title and the ramifications of the hydro plant are not [these guys'] concerns."

Johnson, though, wouldn't budge and asked supervisors to get out of the 28E agreement and possibly draft a new one when the dam ownership was clarified.

Supervisor Matt Kuhn made the motion to exit the agreement.

"We need to stay away from this," he said. "I don't think it's our place to help them with their deed. They have their own attorney hired."

When Supervisor Steve Breitbach seconded the motion, Hackman expressed his support for the dam and the 28E.

"So you don't guys care about boating, swimming, fishing, skiing, skating and other winter sports," he said, "... for recreation purposes, public use, like the 28E agreement states."

Kuhn called for a vote but only he and Breitbach supported the motion while Hackman was joined by Travis Suckow and Scott Cerwinski and the county remained part of the inter-governmental agreement.

### Voters can begin to request absentee ballots next week, filing deadline is Wednesday

Area residents who want to run with non-party affiliation, i.e., as independents, for elected county and township positions have until Wednesday to get on the general election ballot.

The same goes for candidates who will be nominated by petition and those nominated by either the Democratic and Republican parties for offices in which they didn't have a candidate on the ballot.

And those who want to get a jump start on requesting absentee ballots for the Nov. 5 election can do so, beginning on Tuesday, but Chickasaw County Auditor's Office officials are reminding those who request absentee ballots won't get them anytime soon. That's because state law allows ballots to be mailed only after early voting begins, which this year will be on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Republicans who won nominations via the June primary included Jake Hackman (Supervisor District 3), Issac Carter (Supervisor District 4), Sheila Shekleton (county auditor) and Ryan Shawver (county sheriff). Democrats who won nomination in the primary included Steve Breitbach (Supervisor District 1) and Joan Knoll (Supervisor District 3).

As of Monday, the Auditor's Office officials have said that they have not received any filings from candidates seeking county offices.



### A really cool way to remember Sydney

New Hampton area residents line up at noon Tuesday to purchase hot dogs and chips during an event to mark the one-year anniversary of the death of 22-year-old Sydney Lau. For four hours on Tuesday, songs performed by Lau, a 2019 graduate of New Hampton High School were played in the downtown area to remember a life gone too soon.

Poor Richard's donated hot dogs and chips for the event, and money collected at the freewill donation meal will be donated to the Iowa Donor Network.

Terri Josephson/Tribune



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

New Hampton Parks and Recreation Director Tara Hackman welcomes those attending the dedication ceremony at Kindness Square earlier this summer.

## Small projects just as important as 'biggies' for Parks and Rec staff

### PARKS & REC: FROM 1

Hackman as the department's director. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of an organization that oversees youth sports, offers a variety of non-sports programs, runs the swimming pool and oversees six parks, a new all-inclusive playground, Kindness Square celebrated its grand opening earlier this summer and the third and final phase of the TRIBE Trail was constructed and will officially open soon.

It's been a hectic year and a half for Hackman, and it's also been an 18-month time frame in which Hackman has been reminded that she's a lifelong learner.

"I learn something new every single day in this job," she said. "It's a lot to take in. Just the pool, for example, I can tell you that it's a lot to take in, process and make sure our facility meets all the regulations we have to follow. And that's just one aspect of my job."

Make no mistake about it, though, Hackman enjoys her job. So, too, does Flick, who came on board in the spring of 2023.

"I think one of the things that's so rewarding is that you know you're helping so many people, especially kids and their families, have really neat experiences," Flick said. "I love that we're helping keep our community active."

Both women are proud of the six parks - Mikkelsen, Runion, Garnant, Sheakley, Randall and Stoltz - that make up the city's system. Some are large; some, like Sheakley and Randall, are pure neighborhood projects, but Hackman said all are important.

"Obviously, we talk a lot about Mikkelsen, it's a park few cities our size have," she said, "but we take pride in all of our parks. The small parks are just as important as the big ones."

And that means "small improvements" are just as important as big ones.

Hackman said it's important that playground equipment is maintained, that new features are added to parks and that her department also looks for smaller projects to keep parks

fresh.

She pointed out that the Wooden Wonderland was recently power-washed and will be "sealed" — a project that will cost about \$7,000.

"We have to keep what we have in good shape," she said. "We've done a lot of big projects the last 10 years — Garnant, the pool improvements, Kindness Square, the TRIBE Trail — but the small ones are just as important, too."

And not all new editions to the parks, Hackman said, have to be big.

She pointed out that one of the more popular pieces of playground equipment the department installed is the zip line that went into Mikkelsen Park several years ago.

"It doesn't always have to be the huge new playground or trail to have an impact," she said.

She and her assistant, though, want a big impact when it comes to its recreation programs.

In a typical year, Hackman said Parks and Recreation will have up to 3,000 registrations for its programs, and Flick said that one thing she's learned is that the department is always working a season ahead.

"So when summer is going on," she said, "we're not forgetting that it's summer and we have a lot going on but we're kind of in the fall mode and even looking — peeking really — at winter. I think that's one thing I do enjoy is no two days here are ever alike."

And the women of Parks and Recreation say they mesh well.

"I always say Kayla's the people person," Hackman said, "and she's a wizard when it comes to the phone and getting people's questions answered. I think we have a really good team, and in a small department like ours, that's really important."

And the members of the team, albeit a small squad, say the goal is to continue to offer the residents in and around New Hampton big experiences.

"Just giving kids a chance to explore their interests," Flick said, "that's such a big deal for me, and I know it is for Tara, too."

## Chickasaw County

On behalf of the Chickasaw Rescue Associations, members of the Chickasaw County

Rescue Squad, citizens of Chickasaw County, visitors to Chickasaw County,

and folks passing through Chickasaw County, we owe you a HUGE amount

of gratitude for assisting in making our annual Chickasaw Rescue Associa-

tion Golf Tournament fundraiser an absolutely AWESOME Event.

Your support allows Chickasaw County Rescue Squad to continually improve our education/training, provide upgraded and higher quality gear and supplies for our county wide first responders, and upgrade and

improve our other equipment. Due to your generous support of 2024's golf

fundraiser, Chickasaw Rescue Association will be able to outfit our Unit

#525 Chevy pickup with a "Pickup Pack" that will allow us to carry more

life and property saving equipment and supplies.

Again, we cannot express how much we appreciate your support.

It is truly humbling to experience such an outpouring of support from individuals and businesses in our communities and county. We truly thrive to be someone's "Little bit of good" on their worst day, so please know that you are helping us succeed in making a difference.

Sincerely,

Chickasaw County Rescue

Squad Golf Committee

Rescue Squad



## New Hampton welcomes 12 educators to the district

The New Hampton High School Media Center was filled to the brim last Thursday as the school district welcomed 12 new educators — although some of them are familiar faces.

A day later, the new educators joined the rest of the staff for the first of five professional development days that are being held before classes throughout the district kick off this Friday.

Here is a look at the dozen educators who took part in new-teacher orientation:

### Carissa Conary

**Position:** Fourth-grade literacy.

**Education:** Marion High School and University of Northern Iowa.

**Why did you become an educator?** I always loved working with kids and want to have a greater impact on their life while also keeping them safe.

**What are you looking forward to as a Chickasaw?** Meeting people in the community and interacting with staff in all schools.

**Anything else you would like to share about yourself?** I love to stay active, hang out with friends and watch sports!

### Newelle Dalton

**Position:** First-grade teacher.

**Education:** Center Point-Urbana High School and Luther College.

**Why did you become an educator?** I wanted to become a teacher to help grow and build little minds and hearts. Being surrounded by students is the most authentic and heartwarming job.

**What are you looking forward to as a Chickasaw?** I'm most looking forward to meeting my students and getting to know them and their families.

**Anything else you would like to share about yourself?** I teach dance in Decorah and I enjoy hiking, painting, crafting and running!

### Katie Fisher

**Position:** Special education director/504 coordinator.

**Education:** Charles City High School, Loras College (undergraduate degree) and University of Northern Iowa (graduate degree).

**Why did you want to become a school psychologist?** I wanted to be an advocate for kids.

**What are you looking forward to as a Chickasaw?** I am looking forward to working in a fantastic district in the community that I call home.

**Anything else you would like to share about yourself?** I have two kids who attend New Hampton schools — Nora is in eighth grade and Grant is in third grade.

### Kori Jirak

**Position:** iJAG (career education specialist) coordinator.

**Education:** New Hampton High School and the University of Iowa.

**Why did you want to become an educator?** To help make positive impacts on students' lives and help set them up for their future after leaving high school.

**What are you looking forward to as a Chickasaw?** I am excited to reconnect to the community I grew up in!

**Anything you would like to share about yourself?** This is the first year iJAG is being implemented and I am so excited to bring my passion to make this program thrive.

### Sydney Keifer

**Position:** High school ELL instructor.

**Education:** Charles City High School

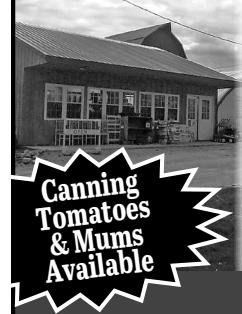
## Lunch for a cause set for Sept. 5

On Thursday, Sept. 5 a "So Long Summer Lunch for a Cause" will be held next to Riley's Inc. in New Hampton from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or until all is gone.

Choices are a pork sandwich meal - which includes chips, dessert and drink - for \$10 or a stand-alone sandwich for \$7. The meal is donated and grilled by the Chickasaw County Pork Producers.

Pre-orders are appreciated, with deliveries of 10 meals or more available.

Orders must be submitted by Sept. 2 to info@carnegieculturalcenter.org, and proceeds will go toward the Carnegie Cultural Center to fund programs and day-to-day operations.



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Cucumbers  
Green Peppers  
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Fresh Eggs,  
Honey,  
Jams & Jelly  
& Much More!



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

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**Small projects just as important as 'biggies' for Parks and Rec staff**

**PARKS & REC: FROM 1**

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students, encourage good decision making, and help develop good problem solving skills.

**What are you looking forward to as a Chickasaw?** Working in the community I have lived in most of my life and hopefully make a positive impact in my community.

**Anything else you would like to share about yourself?** I am looking forward to working in the same building as my wife who is a new teacher to New Hampton this year as well.

**What led you to become an educator?** I love working with kids and seeing them grow!

**What are you looking forward to as a TV Trojan?** Being "home" and being a Trojan again! I'm excited to be in the same district with family.

students, encourage good decision making, and help develop good problem solving skills.

**What are you looking forward to as a Chickasaw?** To get to know the community and being a part of a great school!

**Michael Stille**

**Position:** Third-grade teacher.

**Education:** Nashua-Plainfield High School and University of Northern Iowa.

**Why did you become an educator?** I have always enjoyed working with kids and I wanted to make a positive impact on students.

**What are you looking forward to as a Chickasaw?** I am looking forward to getting to know the community and being a part of a great school!

**Abbi Treichel**

**Position:** First-grade teacher.

**Education:** Dunkerton High School and University of Northern Iowa.

**Why did you become an educator?** To make a lasting impact on student learning and lives.

**What are you looking forward to as a Chickasaw?** Meeting new people and building meaningful professional relationships within the community.

**Anything else you would like to share about yourself?** I like to draw, sing and spend time with my cats.

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# CHURCH

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Thursday • 08.22.24 • A4

## Church Services

### NEW HAMPTON

#### TRINITY LUTHERAN

223 S. Water  
trinitylutherannewhampton.org  
641-394-2552

Pastor Dan Christensen  
**Service times:** 6 p.m.  
Wednesday; 9 a.m., Sunday.

#### HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC

202 N. Broadway

641-394-2105

Father Jim Goerend

**Mass times:** 4 p.m.,  
Saturday; 8 and 10 a.m.,  
Sunday.

#### NEW HAMPTON

#### METHODIST

201 N. Locust Ave.

Pastor Paula Hemann  
**Service time:** 9 a.m.  
Sunday.

#### REDEEMER LUTHERAN

611 W. Court St.  
saudejerico.com

Pastor Peter Faugstad  
**Service time:** 4 p.m.  
Saturday Divine Service

#### HARVEST CHURCH

481 S. Linn Ave.  
harvestcares.com  
641-394-4380

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

#### PRairie Lakes

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

Pastor Cory Orr  
**Service times:** 9 a.m.,  
Sunday.

#### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4 E. Court St.  
**Service time:** 9 a.m.  
Sunday, joint service with

Ionia UCC in Ionia.

#### JERICHO

#### JERICHO LUTHERAN

2512 120th St., New  
Hampton  
saudejerico.com

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

#### SAUDE

#### SAUDE LUTHERAN

2949 Stevens Trail, Lawler  
saudejerico.com

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

#### IONIA

#### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

firststumenewhampton.com  
**Service time:** 9 a.m.  
Sunday, joint service with

New Hampton UCC in  
Ionia.

#### ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC

Father Jim Goerend  
**Mass:** Saturday, 6 p.m.

#### LOURDES

#### OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC

Rev. Telesphore Dusabe  
**Mass time:** Saturday, 4  
p.m.

#### ALTA VISTA

#### ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC

Rev. Telesphore Dusabe

**Mass time:** Saturday, 6  
p.m.

#### ELMA

#### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC

Rev. Telesphore Dusabe

**Mass:** Sunday, Sept. 1,  
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, Aug. 31,  
6 p.m.

# We believe the difficult

Belief is a conviction that makes a difference in one's life

I watch some of the detective shows on television and am surprised by the number of people who witness an event but are unsure of what really happened. They are unable to describe what took place and by whom.

Now, I must admit that I would probably have the same problem if in their place – especially if I was distracted or afraid, so I suppose I shouldn't be surprised, but for some reason, I wonder about the reactions of people.

Do they realize what they've seen and believe it? Or do they see it but still wonder if it really took place in the way they thought.

For a few weeks now the gospel texts have

been from the Book of John, specifically Chapter 6. These scriptures include the feeding of the 5,000 with two fish and five loaves ... and many other teachings of Jesus. This week we find the reaction of the disciples to all of these teachings.

The disciples have been with Jesus since the beginning of the chapter, so they were first hand witnesses to the feeding miracle, of Jesus walking on the water, and present to listen to all of what Jesus was teaching.

They believed all that Jesus taught and were convinced that was who and what he said he was ... the Son of the living God. They told Jesus they would not leave him.

However, many of the people listening decided that what Jesus was teaching was too difficult to understand and accept, and so did not believe.

Belief needs to move out of the head and into one's whole being and is shown, then by the actions one does. Belief is a conviction that makes a difference in one's life.

Some of the people hearing Jesus' words were unable to make the switch to believing. They left the group to go their own ways ... to return to what was rather than continuing on the path of what is coming.

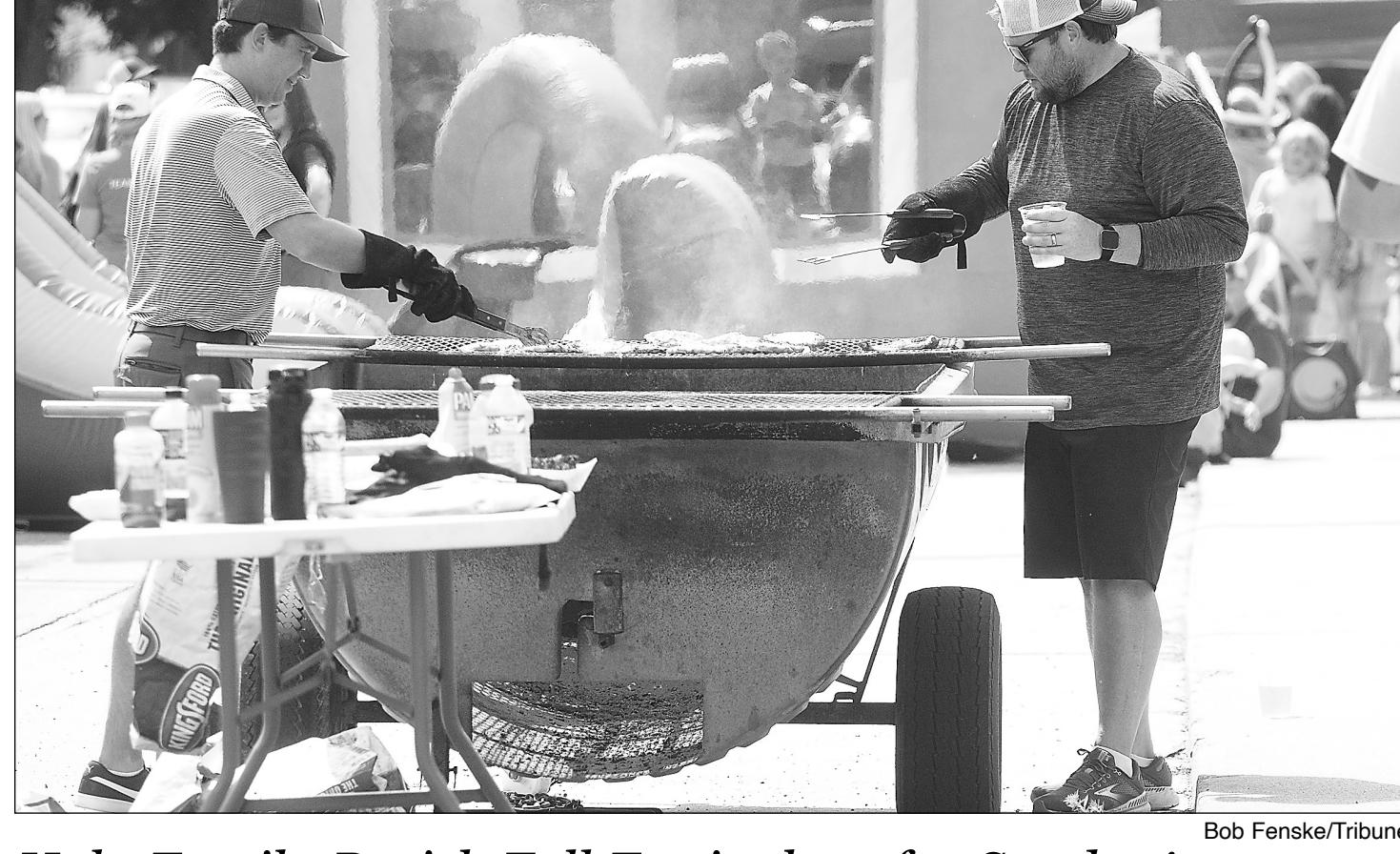
We are called to believe in Jesus not just because of what Jesus said, but also because of what he



Pastor Sue Cira serves Immanuel Crane Creek Lutheran Church in rural Lawler.

did.

Death on the cross for us. Jesus did not fight back. Jesus did not call down an army of angels. But, in the end, the tomb is empty – resurrection has taken place. We have gained eternal life. And we continue to follow and believe Jesus.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

## Holy Family Parish Fall Festival set for Sunday!

The Fall Festival is one of the biggest events on the Holy Family Parish calendar and it takes place this Sunday in and around the Parish Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and live music will be performed by Bruce Bearinger Band during the event that will also include the FFA Kid's Tractor Pull, Bingo and Peach Cart Company on site serving beverages.

Meal tickets, as well as \$5 raffle tickets, can be purchased at the Parish Office but will also be available at the festival.

And church members are sending out a reminder that all community members are welcome to attend and enjoy a day filled with tasty food, fun activities and plenty of great conversations.

I have swept away your offenses like a cloud,  
your sins like the morning mist.  
Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

**Isaiah 44:22**



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## How to Be A 'Seasonal' Investor



**Clint Whitcome**  
Financial Advisor  
121 W. Main St. Suite 1  
New Hampton, IA 50659  
641-394-4449  
[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) Member SIPC

As we transition from summer to autumn, change is all around us — leaves are taking on new colors, temperatures are dropping, and the days are getting shorter. But you can also experience different seasons in various aspects of your life — including when you invest. What are the seasons of an investor's life? And how should you respond to them?

The first such season may happen when you are in your 20s and just starting out in the working world. At this stage in your life, it's especially important to prioritize your financial goals. At the top of your mind may be a short-term goal, such as saving for a down payment on a house.

To help achieve this goal, you'd generally want to save in "cash" accounts and invest in fixed-income vehicles that offer preservation of principal. At the same time, you don't want to disregard a longer-term goal — in particular, saving for retirement. While you may not be able to afford to put much away, every amount helps. And you'll want to invest for growth.

Now, as the seasons of your life progress, let's consider your early middle years. At this point, you've moved past the down payment on your home and you're well into paying a mortgage regularly. And you might even have retired your student loans. But now, you may have another major goal — helping build resources for your children's college education or other post-secondary training. For this objective, you could consider several options, one of which is a 529 education savings plan, which can provide federally tax-free earnings and withdrawals if the money is used for qualified educational expenses. But you're also moving closer to retirement, so, if you can afford it, you may want to increase your contributions to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

As the seasons continue to move on, and you find yourself in your later middle years, your

financial situation may have changed significantly. Now, your children may be out of school, your earnings may have grown to their highest level, and you might even have paid off your mortgage. Given these factors, you may now be able to devote more of your resources toward your retirement by ramping up your IRA and 401(k) contributions even further, and possibly also considering other investment vehicles. And you may want to inject more balance into your portfolio, possibly lowering its overall risk level somewhat, especially in the years immediately preceding your retirement.

Once you move into your retirement season, you may need to continue, and possibly accelerate, the movement toward a more balanced portfolio — one that provides you with more income-producing opportunities.

Some investments provide current income, while others provide it in the future, but all of them can contribute to your ability to enjoy your retirement life-style. However, you still need some growth-oriented investments to help keep you ahead of inflation. Plus, it's a good idea to keep at least a year's worth of living expenses in cash and another few years' worth in short-term, fixed-income investments.

By doing so, you can help avoid having to sell assets in a down market. The seasons of your life may come and go more quickly than you realize — but you can be prepared for them by making the appropriate investment moves.

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*



New Hampton City Council members meet with Piper Sandler's Travis Squires via Zoom during a committee as a whole meeting that was held Monday before the regularly scheduled council meeting.

## City leaders grapple with how to pay for capital projects

### PROJECTS: FROM 1

with full-blown drawings and plans for the new plant, which Mai said will take up to a year to complete. The DNR then must review and approve the drawings and plans, which could take another six months.

That means construction on the plant could begin in the spring of 2026 and take anywhere from two to three years.

But that \$28 million — plus interest as well as a \$1.4 million no-interest loan for preliminary work must be repaid, and both Squires and Mai said Monday that the council must consider raising water and sewer rates.

"No one wants to do it," Mai said, "but honestly, we don't have a lot of choice in this. We have to start collecting funds, and it has to be sooner, rather than later. ... We can't just keep passing the buck. We've done that for too long now."

Squires told council members that having "dollars up front is certainly advantageous to you."

He explained that the city would have the option to pay back the loan over a longer period of time, but his recommendation was to stay with a 20-year payback plan, instead of extending the life of the loan.

"You'll pay a lot more interest in exchange for a slightly less payment," he said. "It's, in my opinion, not worth it because in the long run it will cost you a lot more money."

Mai also mentioned that wastewater treatment plants have a "life expectancy" of between 30 and 40 years, which means if the city stretched the loan payoff to 40 years, "we're just going to be right back where we are today."

Squires said he would meet with Mai in coming weeks and the two could hammer out proposed rate increases that would help the city be in a solid position once it must begin repaying the loans for the plant.

"It's time to remove a couple of the Band-Aids," he said. "The longer you wait, the more steep those rate increases will have to be."

**ALTHOUGH THE** wastewater treatment plant topped the list of capital

### Public works director details needed road projects for city

New Hampton Public Works Director Casey Mai presented five potential road projects to the City Council during a committee of the whole meeting on Monday night.

The price tag? \$7,148,865.60.

But Mai said last week, the four road reconstruction road projects, as well as a parking lot reconstruction, are all desperately needed.

"They're in bad shape, and they should have been done years ago," he said. "I know I keep saying it, but we can't just keep kicking the can down the road. All it does is get way more expensive. We have to take care of our infrastructure."

The projects Mai brought to the council on Monday include:

- The reconstruction of South Broadway Avenue from West Garfield to Main at a cost of \$2,627,928.

- The reconstruction of North Maple Avenue from the railroad tracks north to Milwaukee Street at a cost of \$679,449.60.

- The reconstruction of Logan Street from South Linn to Alta at a cost of \$2,115,705.60

- The reconstruction of Cleveland Street from South Linn to South Locust at a cost of \$1,240,444.80.

- The reconstruction of the so-called Mikkelsen Parking Lot that sits across the street to the west of the Police Department at a cost of \$485,337.60.

improvement projects, it was certainly not the only one discussed Monday night.

New Hampton Fire Chief Toby Schwickerath for the third time since December asked the city to consider helping the department purchase new trucks, citing the age of the current Fire Department fleet, as well as increasing costs to maintain its current vehicles.

Schwickerath said the cost of the trucks

would be around \$1.65 million, and despite Council member Deb Larsen's urging for the department to consider "repurposing" vehicles in its current fleet, Schwickerath said he did not feel that was a good option for the department.

Parks and Recreation Director Tara Hackman also asked the council to consider helping her department purchase two new filters for the city's swimming pool, and she said the \$100,000 project needs to be done as soon as possible.

The reason? The current filters are 25 years old and no longer made.

"That means if they go down, we can't get the parts to fix them," Hackman said Tuesday morning. The night before she said because there is a three- to six-month waiting period to obtain and install the filters, "if we turn them on next spring and they don't work, we can't open for the 2025 season."

Mai also discussed the need for the city to proceed with street projects in the city.

Add it all up, and the council has millions of dollars of projects to consider in coming months and years.

Squires went through several possible funding options for the city if it proceeds with capital improvement projects. He pointed out that the city could use local option-sales tax (LOST) funds that are earmarked for the city's ambulance costs and infrastructure needs, tax-increment financing (TIF) funds or sell bonds to finance some of the projects.

"You do have tough decisions, I won't argue that," Squires said but added that New Hampton currently "has lower debt than most cities your size, especially as a county-seat town."

Council members indicated that they will in all likelihood hold another committee as a whole work session before deciding how to proceed with the capital improvement projects.

"We have our work cut out for us," council member Mindy Humpal said, "and as helpful as this has been tonight, I still think we need more information and we're going to keep working on getting that information so we can make the best decisions for our town."

## City will give owners time to remove dead trees

### CITY COUNCIL: FROM 1

time for each hour worked over 90 in a pay period. He said since starting working with the department he has yet to work more than 90 hours during a two-week period, but he also said the comp time would help him spread the work out if an officer left the department or was out on medical leave for a considerable amount of time.

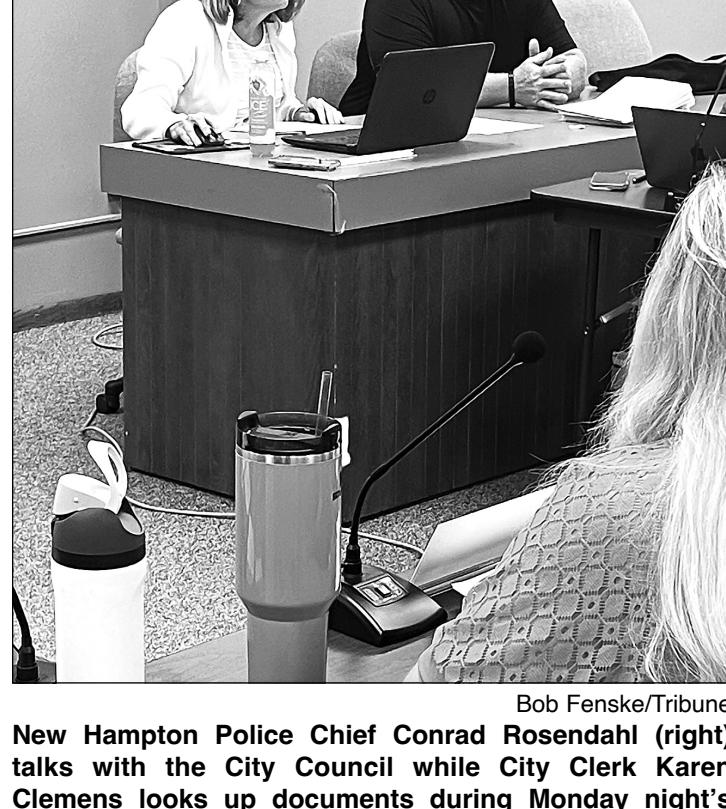
He emphasized that he would be OK with whatever decision the council made.

"I'm just seeking the council approval, and if you think you're opening a can of worms for other salaried employees, I'm OK with that, too," he said. "You're not going to hurt my feelings. I won't cry."

Council members were inclined to grant Rosendahl's request, especially when it came to the police department.

"I think the dynamics of that department, the requirements of staffing of that department, in the day-to-day but also just historically [where] we find ourselves shortages for extended periods of time ... and having a chief who has a desire to try to make it work and not that dump that load on everyone else in the department, I would move for approval of comp time," Councilwoman Mindy Humpal said.

Fellow council member Katie Fisher, though, said she felt Rosendahl's comp time "bank" should be capped at 80 hours and her fellow council members agreed, approving Humpal's motion on a 6-0 vote.



New Hampton Police Chief Conrad Rosendahl (right) talks with the City Council while City Clerk Karen Clemens looks up documents during Monday night's meeting.

"Somebody in the department made a comment about 'ghost hours' and I'm not about ghost hours," Rosendahl said.

"I'm about being up front and honest. ... That's just me, that's how I operate. ... I don't think this is going to come into play that often, but I appreciate that you're willing to work with me

on this."

Also on Monday, council members discussed the issue of dead trees that are currently on private property throughout the city.

Two years ago, the city hired a tree firm to take out scores of dead trees from city rights-of-way, and Public Works

Director Casey Mai on Monday told council members that he believes there are approximately 127 dead trees on private property in the city.

Most, but not all, are ash trees that have been infected with the emerald ash borer, and Mai said the issue is that "they do become like glass."

He said he was worried about trees falling on homes, sidewalks and city streets and asked the council to give him the go-ahead to send out a letter to residents telling them they needed to have the trees removed.

The issue, though, is that under city code, city officials can tell property owners that they have 30 days to remove trees before the city can take them out and assess the costs on the owner's property tax bill.

"That's not a realistic timeline, I can tell you that much right now," Mai said. "Contractors are two, three months out right now before they can get to a property."

Instead, he suggested having the council give him the OK to send out a letter to residents with dead trees in their yards and get back to the city who they have contracted to have the tree removed.

"And then we give them, say, until next year — like July 1 — to have the trees removed before we hire someone to remove the tree and [assess] the property owner."

The council agreed and unanimously voted to have Mai put together the letters and send them to property owners.

**Almanac**

	H	L	P
Wednesday	72	59	.38
Thursday	81	59	--
Friday	77	62	.06
Saturday	77	61	--
Sunday	80	57	--
Monday	76	55	--
Tuesday	75	56	--

**Forecast**

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny with a high of 75 and a low of 60

**First day of school:** Partly sunny with a high of 77 and a low of 63.

**Saturday:** Sunny and warmer with a high of 84 and a low of 68.

**Sunday:** Sunny and warmer still with a high of 88 and a low of 68.

**Extended forecast:** We'll have a warm start to the work week with mostly sunny skies, highs in the 80s and lows dropping into the 60s.

**Meetings****MONDAY**

• Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors, 9 a.m., Courthouse.

**History**

• In 1851, the U.S.-built schooner America bests a fleet of Britain's finest ships in a race around England's Isle of Wight and wins the first of what becomes sailing's most prestigious prize, the America's Cup.

• In 1864, the International Red Cross is founded in Geneva, Switzerland.

• In 1922, Irish revolutionary and Sinn Fein politician Michael Collins is killed in an ambush in west County Cork, Ireland.

• In 1950, officials of the United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA) accept Althea Gibson into their annual championship at Forest Hills, New York, making her the first African American player to compete in a U.S. national tennis competition.

• In 1968, in the streets of Prague and at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, Czechs protest against the Soviet invasion of their nation.

• In 1989, Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers becomes the first pitcher in major league history to register 5,000 career strikeouts.

**Birthdays**

• Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, the American who commanded coalition forces in the Gulf War, was born in 1934.

• Actress and comedian Kristin Wiig turns 51.

• American singer-songwriter Tori Amos turns 61.

• Hall of Fame baseball player Paul Molitor turns 68.

• Bill Parcells, who coached the New York Giants to two Super Bowl titles, turns 83.

• Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame outfielder Carl Yastrzemski turns 85.

**Corrections**

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

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

**Tribune**

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**Sondra Sue Elliott, 83**

Sondra Sue Elliott, age 83 of Fredericksburg, died Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, at her home.

A private family service will take place.

Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Fredericksburg have been entrusted with Sondra's arrangements.

Born on Oct. 28, 1940, in rural Gasconade County, Missouri, daughter of Benjamin C and Beatrice Jordan Schwinken, Sondra had an older brother (William) and a younger sister (Betty Bea). They lived on a farm and enjoyed picking peaches in the orchard.

She and her siblings attended Sunday school at the Fredericksburg Evangelical country church. In March 1947, the family moved to Iowa and farmed near Ionia. They spent many weekends and holidays with the Deppe family.

In 1952, the family moved to a farm west of Fredericksburg. Sondra would attend Fredericksburg High School where she met a very nice boy, named Bill Elliott. She recalled going their first date to a movie in New Hampton.

Sondra graduated from Fredericksburg High School in 1958 and attended Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, receiving a two-year teaching degree in 1960. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in elementary education from the State College of Iowa, now the University of Northern Iowa, in 1963.

She and Bill later married on June 7, 1964, in Fredericksburg. To this union, two sons — Kip and Tod (Tracy) of Sumner; five grandchildren, Cassie, Bryce, Carter, Maxwell, and Maree; brother, William Schwinken of Denver; and sister, Betty Bea (Edward) Louis of Faribault, Minnesota.



**Sondra Elliott**

She served as an elementary teacher in Denver, Sumner, and Fredericksburg and retired from teaching in 1998. After retirement she went on to serve as a member of the Fredericksburg Community School Board of Education for seven years.

She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren whether it was here in Iowa or in Wisconsin.

She always had chocolate chip cookies and peanut M&Ms for them whenever they would stop by.

She spent countless hours shuffling "the boys" to and from farm sites and folks at McDonald's probably knew her by name.

Sondra is survived by her husband, Bill; two sons, Kip (Jodi) of Hudson, Wisconsin, and Tod (Tracy) of Sumner; five grandchildren, Cassie, Bryce, Carter, Maxwell, and Maree; brother, William Schwinken of Denver; and sister, Betty Bea (Edward) Louis of Faribault, Minnesota.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

In lieu of flowers please direct memorials to the family.

Sondra was a dedicated elementary teacher for 31 years.

In lieu of flowers please direct memorials to the family.

**Dorothy Ann Lansing, 94**

Dorothy Ann Lansing, age 94 of New Hampton, died peacefully on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023, at Linn Haven Rehab and Health Care in New Hampton.

Dorothy requested that her body be donated to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for educational purposes.

Inurnment will now be on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, at 1:30 at New Hampton City Cemetery with a graveside service.

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

**Darlene Jean Ernst, 97**

Darlene Jean Ernst, age 97 of New Hampton, passed away on Monday, Aug. 19, 2024, at MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center with her family by her side.

A private family service will be held.

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

**Briefs****Carnegie Cultural Center to hold card party this Saturday morning**

All ages are invited to New Hampton's Carnegie Cultural Center on Saturday as the facility is hosting a card playing event.

From 11 a.m. to noon card-playing novices to expert players are encouraged to join organizers in playing card games.

**Farmer's Market vouchers good through Oct. 31 are available**

Farmer's Market vouchers are still available through Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging. The vouchers can be used at local Farmers Markets now through Oct. 31.

The Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program provides qualified seniors aged 60 and over with vouchers that can be exchanged at farmer's markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agriculture programs for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey.

If you are interested in receiving vouchers, please contact NEI3A at 1-800-779-8707. Required forms will be mailed to you to complete and return. You can also download the form at <https://nei3a.org/our-services/farmers-market-checks/>.

Eligible participants in the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program must be 60 years of age or older at the time of the application, live in the service area of Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging and meet income guidelines (no more than \$27,861 for a household of one and \$37,814 for a household of two).

Each eligible participant receives 10 vouchers, worth \$50.00. You can only receive vouchers once per program year. Call 1-800-779-8707 today to get your application.

**Blood drive set for Aug. 27**

LifeServe Blood Center will hold its monthly blood drive on Tuesday, Aug. 27, at the New Hampton Community Center.

The drive will run from noon to 5:30 p.m., and appointments can be made by calling 800-287-4903, texting LIFESERVE to 999-777 or by going online to [lifeserve.info/schedule](http://lifeserve.info/schedule).

**Robert 'Bob' Brincks, 74**

Robert "Bob" Brincks, age 74 of New Hampton, died Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024, at his home.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024, at Holy Family Parish, New Hampton with the Rev. James Goerend celebrating the Mass.

Interment was held at Calvary Cemetery, New Hampton, with military honors being conducted by Alta Vista VFW Post 4069.

Friends greeted the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19, 2024, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton. Visitation continued an hour prior to the Mass at the church on Tuesday.

Robert Peter Brincks, known affectionately as Bob to his friends and family, passed away peacefully on Aug. 15, 2024, in his hometown of New Hampton, where he was also born on May 12, 1950. Bob's life was a testament to the values of hard work, dedication and the joy of adventure.

Bob's early life was rooted in the close-knit community of New Hampton. He attended St. Mary's Catholic School until the eighth grade and graduated from New Hampton High School in 1968. During his school years, Bob contributed to the family farm, learning the virtues of diligence and responsibility that would be hallmarks of his life.

After high school, Bob bravely served his country in the Vietnam War as a member of the US Army. Upon receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to New Hampton and began a career at Sara Lee. It was there that Bob



**Bob Brincks**

met the love of his life, Betty Praska, bonding over shared drinks after work. The couple married on Sept. 7, 1974, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Protivin and soon started a family that would grow to include three sons — Brian, Jeff and Tim.

Bob's professional life was largely spent at Supersweet Feeds in New Hampton, where he was known for his unwavering work ethic and dedication. His colleagues respected him for his commitment and loyalty, traits that Bob exemplified until his retirement in 2015.

Retirement did not slow Bob down; instead, it offered him and Betty the opportunity to embrace their adventurous spirit.

The couple embarked on numerous bus trips throughout the United States and Canada, exploring the beauty of Alaska, the charm of Key West and the wonder of international destinations like Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii. These journeys were more than vacations; they were chapters in a

story of shared exploration and love.

Bob's adventurous heart was matched by his faith and thoughtfulness. He was deeply involved with the Knights of Columbus, particularly with their Bingo Events. His knack for the game and his generous spirit earned him the endearing title of "Bingo King" among his peers.

Above all, Bob was a family man. He cherished spending time with his family and was actively involved in the lives of his grandchildren. His presence was a source of stability and joy, and his guidance was sought after and valued. Bob's ability to listen, his thoughtful advice, and his boundless love for his family will be deeply missed.

Those who knew Bob would describe him as a man of adventure, deeply faith-filled, and exceptionally thoughtful. He had a knack for making every person he met feel important and valued, and his legacy of kindness and warmth is sure to live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Bob is survived by three sons, Brian (Mindy) Brincks of Bondurant, Jeff Brincks of Rochester, Minnesota, and Tim (Karla) Brincks of Milan, Illinois; three grandchildren, Liam, Zoey and Mason Brincks; two brothers, Ron Brincks of New Hampton, and Dewey (Mary) Brincks of Lawler; and three sisters, Linda (Tom) Sauer of Walker, Karen (Tom) Oberg of Moline, Illinois, and Donna (Rich) Houser of New Hampton.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edwin and Elizabeth; wife, Betty in 2024; and brother, Jerry Brincks.

**Grandmother inspired Wurzer to pursue healthcare****WURZER: FROM 1**

and every role is important."

Wurzer graduated from Sumner-Fredericksburg High School in 2008 and the dream was to become a nurse.

She had a grandmother who had fought illnesses for years, and often Wurzer accompanied her to doctor's appointments.

"I remember going with her to the Mayo Clinic at a young age, and I loved the idea of helping people, just like the ones who did their very best for my grandma," she said. "I think my grandmother, more than anyone, really led me down the career path I chose."

Wurzer attended Allen College in Waterloo and obtained her bachelor's degree in nursing in 2012 before accepting a job with Bremer County Public Health. Traveling the county, she provided nursing care to patients in their homes.

"It was a challenge, not that I didn't enjoy it," she said, "but when you're in a home, it's just you. I think what I loved about it is you really got to know your patients on a personal basis. It was a job I thoroughly enjoyed."

While she worked, though, she pursued another longtime goal, becoming a nurse practitioner or a physician's assistant. She chose the former because she said it was easier for her to continue working.

"Going to school to be a PA would have been tougher," she said and added with a laugh, "I still had bills to pay. And my parents had taught me that was important. When I was in high school, I played sports, was involved in school but they expected me to pay my bills so I had a job, I was a CNA."

When she received her ARNP degree from Allen College, she accepted a job at MercyOne. Her timing, she said with a quick smile, was not impeccable.

"But right now, we're just trying to get to the first day of school," she said with a laugh. "Seriously, it's a profession I'm proud to be a part of because every day I come to work

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

Floyd Mitchell Chickasaw Solid Waste Management Agency  
Unapproved - Executive Board  
Minutes August 6th, 2024

On Tuesday August 6th, 2024 in the Meeting Room at the Floyd Mitchell Chickasaw Landfill at 5:30 p.m. the regular meeting of the Executive Board of the Floyd Mitchell Chickasaw Solid Waste Management Agency was held in person and by Zoom.

Chairman Scott Cervinske was in the chair. Executive Board members Jerry Joerger, Brock Waters, Dave Swenumson, Steve Geerts, were in the Board Room. Present by Zoom: Sydney Hartog, Absent: Dennis Keifer, Trevis O'Connell and Keith Horgen.

Employees Present: Christian Fox, Director, Lori King, Office Manager.

Guests Present: None

A motion was made by Geerts, second by Waters to approve the consent agenda, minutes from the July 2024 Executive Board Meeting, and Summary List of Bills for July 2024 as presented. All members present voting aye, motion carried.

Financial Report- Jerry Joerger presented the Financial Report. Joerger stated that we were 83% through the budget and everything was right on target. He also stated that we do not have any CD investments maturing until later in the year. After some discussion, a motion was made by Swenumson and second by Geerts to approve the Financial Report. All members present voting aye, motion carried.

Discussion/Decision of annual budget numbers. Joerger presented the draft 2024-2025 budget for the Floyd Mitchell Chickasaw Solid Waste Management Agency. He stated that the Finance Committee met and came up with these budget figures. Joerger stated that the Operating Expense column included raises for the employees. The raises went as follows- A 5% salary increase for salaried employees, Lori King would get a \$2.11 per hour increase, Ed Shindeler and Collin Brinkman would receive a \$2.00 per hour increase. After further discussion, a motion was made by Joerger to recommend the budget to the full board for approval, second was made by Wa-

ters. All members present voting aye, motion carried.

Discussion possible decision regarding Director vacation days- It was recommended that at Director Fox's 5 year anniversary date this November he should receive an additional 2 days of vacation. When Fox reaches his 10 years of service he shall receive one more day of vacation and then fall under the handbook policy regarding vacation days for employees. After further discussion, a motion was made by Joerger and second by Waters to approve the proposal. All members present voting aye, motion carried.

Discussion/possible decision on update of current vacation policy for employees- King brought to the attention of the board, an adjustment to be made to the current handbook policy for employee vacation days. The proposal included removing the allowance for completed periods of service at 20 years and replacing it with 12 and 15 years of service. The employees would receive 1 additional day off at each of these completed periods of service. After some discussion a motion was made by Waters and second by Swenumson to approve this proposal as stated. All members present voting aye, motion carried.

Discussion/Discussion 2024/2025 Radio Ad contract- Fox brought to the board, a new contract from Coloff Media.

Fox stated that the prices had stayed the same from the previous year and that the only change was to involve KCHA with our ads. After little discussion, a motion was made by Geerts and second by Waters. All members present voting aye, motion carried.

Discussion/Discussion on LP contract for 2024/2025- Fox brought to the attention of the board, LP contracts for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. He stated that the four year average LP use was just over 6,000 gallons. After some discussion, a motion was made by Joerger to contract 6,000 gallons through TAS in Elma, Iowa for \$1.45 per gallon, second by Geerts. Members voting aye, Brock Waters, Jerry Joerger, Steve Geerts, Sydney Hartog. Members voting nay, Dave Swenumson. Motion carried.

There being no further items requir-

ing board action, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m. with a motion by Steve Geerts and second by Dave Swenumson. All members present voting aye, motion carried.

September minutes will be published in the Enterprise Journal. A copy of these minutes can also be found on our website finlandfill.org.

Scott Cervinske, Chairman  
ATTTEST: Christian Fox, Secretary  
**Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Solid Waste Management Agency Expenses by Vendor Summary July 2024**

Alliant Energy .....	1,245.20
Cardmember Service.....	773.15
Carolina Software .....	400.00
City Laundering .....	402.74
Culligan .....	36.94
Dennis,Keifer .....	59.12
Enterprise Journal .....	66.05
Farmland Hardware .....	42.90
Fox, Christian .....	40.36
Geerts, Steve .....	68.50
Hartog, Sydney .....	40.36
Heartland Insurance Risk Pool52.530.00	
Horgen Keith .....	72.52
Innovative Ag Services .....	1,617.38
Jendro Sanitation .....	310.00
Joerger, Jerry .....	236.48
Liberty Tire Recycling Services MN .....	3,010.02
Lori King .....	74.99
Mason City Public Utilities .....	13,120.70
Midwest Electronic Recovery ..	3,461.80
New Hampton Electric .....	367.19
NORTH IOWA BROADCASTING .....	650.00
O' Connell, Trevis .....	57.78
Omnitel Communications .....	219.06
PowerPlan .....	2,997.91
Riley's Inc .....	14.56
Scott Cervinske .....	300.80
Smith AG, INC. ....	18,254.80
Swenumson, David .....	123.60
The Retrofit Companies, Inc. ....	1,038.99
US Cellular .....	43.98
Waters, Brock .....	59.12
Ziegler Inc .....	7,944.14
TOTAL .....	109,683.14

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**Legal Notice**

**CHICKASAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES AUGUST 13, 2024**

The Board convened on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 11:30 AM with members Breitbach, Suckow, Hackman and Cervinske present in the Boardroom on the second floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa. Absent: Kuhn, Chairperson Cervinske called the meeting to order. Also present were Attorney David Laudner, Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Bob Fenske, member of the media.

Motion Hackman, seconded by Suckow to approve the agenda for August 13, 2024. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Suckow, Breitbach, Cervinske. Absent: Kuhn Motion carried.

Motion by Hackman, seconded by Breitbach to set public hearing for August 26, 2024 at 9:10 AM for the Amendment #1 of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget and direct auditor to publish Notice of Public Hearing - Amendment of Current Budget in the New Hampton Tribune on August 15, 2024 and Nashua Reporter on August 16, 2024. Roll call: Ayes: Hackman, Breitbach, Suckow, Cervinske. Absent: Kuhn Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Breitbach to adjourn at 11:39 AM. Roll call: Ayes: Suckow, Hackman, Breitbach, Cervinske. Absent: Kuhn. Motion carried.

Scott Cervinske, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors  
ATTTEST: Sheila Shekleton,  
Secretary to the Board

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**Legal Notice - Legal Notice****NOTICE OF SALE**

The contents of Storage Unit #68 Located at: C Storage 625 S Linn Ave New Hampton, IA 50659 And rented in the name of: Kate Smith (Gamblin)

Will be sold at public auction sale on: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 1:30PM

Contents of said unit consist in part of: Personal, Household, and Misc Items

MINIMUM BILL WILL HAVE TO BE \$500 per unit.

If the tenant of the above storage unit pays rent due before the auction, the sale will be canceled without notice.

No. 24223

08/22/24 New Hampton Tribune  
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**Legal Notice - Legal Notice****THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CHICKASAW COUNTY****IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF**

Marie A. Siglin, Deceased

CASE NO. ESPR00329

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Marie A. Siglin, Deceased, who died on or about February 7, 2018:

You are hereby notified that on August 5, 2024, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing

of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated on August 20, 2024.

William J. Siglin, Administrator  
903 8th Street  
Charles City, IA 50616

Judith O'Donohoe, ICIS#:  
AT0005849

Attorney for the Administrator  
ELWOOD, O'DONOHOE, BRAUN & WHITE, LLP  
116 North Main Street  
PO Box 307  
Charles City, IA 50616

Date of second publication 8/29/24

No. 24225

08/22/24 New Hampton Tribune  
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**Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice - Legal Notice****ELECTRIC UTILITY - COMMUNICATIONS BOARD ROOM MONDAY AUGUST 12, 2024 5:00 PM.**

The Board of Trustees of the New Hampton Municipal Light Plant met for a regular meeting on Monday August 12, 2024 at 5:00 pm in the board room at the Communications Office at 112 East Main Street, New Hampton, IA.

Board members present were Cantu, Anderson and Babcock. Berns and Dahl were absent. General Manager Brian Quirk, Attorney O'Donohoe and City Clerk Karen Clemens were also present.

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Anderson at 5:01 pm.

Moved by Babcock, seconded by Cantu; that the agenda be approved.

2. Staff is working on small trouble tickets

Moved by Babcock, seconded by Cantu; that the meeting adjourn at 5:43 pm. Ayes - Three. Nays - None.

Absent - Berns and Dahl. Motion carried.

Iowa Department of Revenue .Sales Tax June ..... \$1,493.00 |

NCTC, Video Programming ..... \$16.20 |

Fiserv Card Connect, Updater Fees May & June ..... \$45.00 |

Butler Bremer Communications Voice & Internet ..... \$649.29 |

Cedar Falls Utilities, Jan- May Shared IPTV Costs ..... \$9,231.51 |

Eide Bailly, Microsoft 365 ..... \$74.50 |

Five Star Coop, Gas ..... \$95.74 |

Waverly Utilities, Transport .... \$899.95 |

New Hampton, City of, Utility Bill ..... \$522.49 |

Aureon, Transport Service .... \$2,685.00 |

Butler Bremer Communications, Wholesale Voice ..... \$8,635.72 |

USA Television, Video Programming ..... \$1,237.50 |

Visa, PPE, Battery Backup .... \$262.72 |

US Cellular, iPad Service & Device Payment ..... \$65.57 |

Black Hills Energy, Gas Service ..... \$37.73 |

Cedar Falls Utilities, Wholesale Bandwidth, Fiber Point to Point ..... \$5,515.33 |

Madison National Life Insurance, Term Life, AD&D, Supplemental Life ..... \$73.85 |

Payroll Account, July Salaries ..... \$31,127.70 |

Reimbursement, Medical Reimbursement ..... \$612.02 |

Calix, Inc Cloud Support July & August ..... \$2,472.26 |

Cedar Falls Utilities 28E Agreement July ..... \$1,223.45 |

FARR Technologies, Professional Fees- Systems Integration ..... \$1,662.50 |

Fiserv CardConnect, Monthly Fee .....  |

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**PAYROLL CHECKS WRITTEN SINCE JULY 8, 2024**

AFLAC, Supplemental Insurance ..... \$72.18 |

America's Variable Life Insurance, Deferred Comp ..... \$90.00 |

America's Variable Life Insurance, Deferred Comp ..... \$90.00 |

America's Variable Life Insurance, Deferred Comp ..... \$90.00 |

EFTPS, FICA & Federal Taxes ..... \$90.82 |

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## STREET SUPERINTENDENT

The City of Charles City is seeking an individual with strong management skills to lead the work of the Street Department and its employees. This individual will perform a variety of supervisory, administrative, skilled, technical and maintenance work in the planning, construction, operation, repair, maintenance and replacement of the City's Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drainage facilities and systems. Qualified applicants must possess a valid State of Iowa Commercial Drivers License-Class A with air brake and tanker endorsement or an ability to obtain one within six months of hire date. Applicant must live in or be willing to relocate within a ten-mile radius of Charles City. Applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug test, random IDOT drug testing, criminal background check and physical.

Apply on-line at [www.cityofcharlescity.org](http://www.cityofcharlescity.org). Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on September 6, 2024.

The City of Charles City is an equal opportunity employer.

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## LAND FOR SALE

## HOG SITES FOR SALE



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

New Hampton's cross country teams take a break from their practice on Tuesday morning to mug for the camera. The Chickasaws are set to open the season a week from today (Thursday) when New Hampton travels to Wildwood Golf Course in Charles City.

## Cross country team's workouts include both work, fun

### NH XC: FROM 10

Speaking of fantastic freshmen, Ohrt sent sophomore Sophie Glaser to the state meet in Fort Dodge last fall. The then-freshman placed 58th at the end of the season meet. NH also came close to sending senior Megan Pickar to state as well, but she just missed out on cracking the state field with a 20th-place finish at regional competition. Also returning this year for the girls team alongside Glaser is senior Natalie Nosbisch, as well as juniors Tegan Dungey and Ella Knutson. All three ran on New Hampton's eighth-place team at state in 2022.

But even in such an individual sport as cross country, the team matters most.

"It's a lot like golf and wrestling. Your score counts towards the team, but everybody gets their own individual score," said Ohrt.

Just what other exciting and interesting undertakings have Ohrt's cross country runners taken part in during previous seasons in preparation for the regular season?

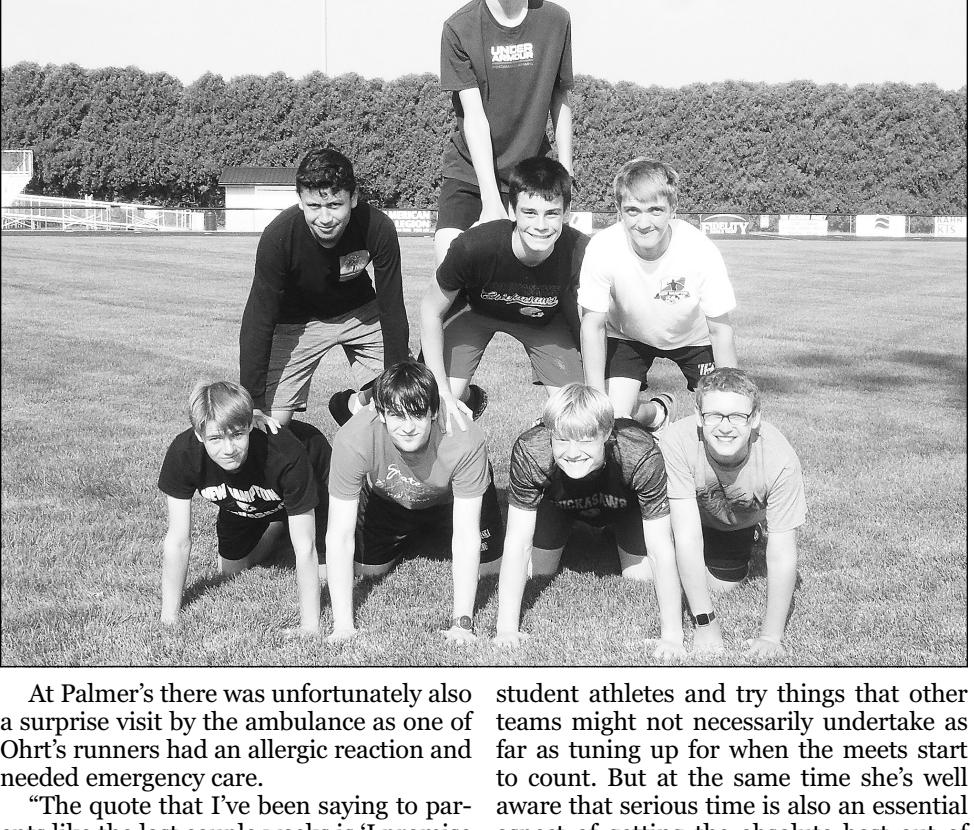
There's plenty.

"It's always tradition on the last day of camp we've done something fun just as a team building activity," said Ohrt. "We've zip lined. We've done high ropes' courses at Luther. We went tubing. We do pool workouts, with pool resistance. You don't think that's much of a workout, but it is."

Just to clear the air – Ohrt's runners do sign waivers of liability before taking part in the fun activities, which obviously come with risk.

Ohrt talked about jazzing up practice, adding a little spice to the routine of running and getting better at a sport that at times can be drab and for a lack of a better term – boring.

"You have to break up the monotony. If you're just going to go out and run and run and run all the time, yeah, that's great, but you also have to vary it up a little bit to give different muscle groups a break," said Ohrt.



At Palmer's there was unfortunately also a surprise visit by the ambulance as one of Ohrt's runners had an allergic reaction and needed emergency care.

"The quote that I've been saying to parents like the last couple weeks is 'I promise I'm not trying to kill your kids,'" joked Ohrt.

Ohrt – who ran collegiately for Elmhurst College (now Elmhurst University) – during her college days in the late 90s and early 2000s – talked about some of her runners having a fear of heights during the ropes course exercise.

"You're way up in the air and there were kids that were deathly afraid of heights and they tried it. No one was forced to do it. I didn't want to scar these kids for life," smiled Ohrt.

Ohrt loves to step out of the box with her

student athletes and try things that other teams might not necessarily undertake as far as tuning up for when the meets start to count. But at the same time she's well aware that serious time is also an essential aspect of getting the absolute best out of her team. That means stressing fundamentals and sharpening the mind, body and spirit to sync as one. That also means time is a very valuable commodity in trying to accomplish the team's goals.

"Once in a while you gotta get after 'em, but I'm hardly a drill sergeant," laughed Ohrt. "I tell them I promise to get you out of practice on time or if they need to get done early for something, I will get it – as long as we're working hard when we need to. There's a time to play and there's a time to work hard."

### Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice

#### City of Alta Vista Council Meeting

Monday, August 12, 2024

The regular meeting for the City Council of Alta Vista convened on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 pm with the following Council members present: Samantha Slick, Kayla Pride, Rick Heying, and Amy Laures in the Alta Vista City Hall. Adam Roethler was absent. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kurt Ostert.

Agenda was discussed. Laures made the motion, seconded by Slick to approve the agenda. Ayes: Slick, Pride, Heying, Laures. Nays: none. Absent: Roethler. Motion carried.

July 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes were discussed. Slick made the motion, seconded by Heying to approve the July 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Ayes: Slick, Pride, Heying, Laures. Nays: none. Absent: Roethler. Motion carried.

July 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes were discussed. Slick made the motion, seconded by Heying to approve the July 8, 2024 regular meeting minutes. Ayes: Slick, Pride, Heying, Laures. Nays: none. Absent: Roethler. Motion carried.

City attorney was discussed.

Fire Department was discussed.

Library was discussed.

Budget amendment was discussed.

A budget amendment is needed. Will set date and time at the September meeting.

Resolution 2024-8-7 to close the Fire Department Money Market account and transfer the funds to the Fire Department fund in the General Account for SCBAs was read. Laures made the motion, seconded by Pride to approve Resolution 2024-8-7. Roll call vote. Ayes: Slick, Pride, Heying, Laures. Nays: none. Absent: Roethler. Motion carried.

Resolution 2024-8-8 to transfer \$2,750.00 from the LOST account to the General fund in the General Account for tree removals was read. Roll call vote. Ayes: Slick, Pride, Heying, Laures. Nays: none. Absent: Roethler. Motion carried.

S White and W Weber St project was discussed.

Vicious animals were discussed.

Mayor Ostert played the Sheriffs body cam footage from the May 2023 dog bite incident. Council made no changes to their decision made back in November 2023.

Insurance claim was discussed. Clerk will contact other contractors for quotes to repair City Hall and Fire Department roof from the damages caused by the communication tower falling.

Nuisance properties were discussed.

Clerk will send letters to residents vio-

lating Ordinance 150.03 – Duty to Trim Trees.

Ordinance book was discussed.

Speed cameras were discussed.

Speed cameras were installed on S White and W Weber St. The results of the speed camera on S White study is as follows:

in a 6 day period, 4,229 cars passed the camera, the average speed was 31 mph,

the total enforceable violations was 891, and the fastest speed recorded was 66 mph in a 25 mph zone. The results of the speed camera on W Weber study is as follows:

in a 6 day period, 4,268 cars passed the camera, the average speed was 26 mph, the total enforceable violations was 239, and the fastest speed recorded was 60 mph in a 25 mph zone.

Sidewalks were discussed. After discussion, Dale and Jarrett will mark sidewalks on Washington and Jackson that have trip hazards.

Trees were discussed. Clerk will look into trees and brush blocking doors causing safety issues.

LP bids for winter fill were discussed. Five Star's bid was \$1.46 prepaid or \$1.50 with no deposit, IAS's bid was for a \$1.45 prepaid or \$1.50 with no deposit, and Stacyville L.P. Gas Company was for \$1.42 prepaid or \$1.46 with \$.25 per gallon with no refund if contract is not fulfilled. Pride made the motion, seconded by Slick to contract 4,000 gallons for winter fill with IAS Stacyville at \$1.50 with no deposit. Ayes: Slick, Pride, Heying, Laures. Nays: none. Absent: Roethler. Motion carried.

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## Volleyball coach says there's 'something special' about team

# SPORTS

New Hampton Tribune • nhtribune.news

Thursday • 08.22.24 • A10



Members of the New Hampton cross country teams (above) take to the track while Connor Stumme (below) helps Jarrin Robinson stretch out before Tuesday morning's practice.

Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

## Chickasaw runners mix hard work with fun

New Hampton's cross country teams get in their workouts but also bond with fun events like visit to Waterloo amusement center

BY KELLY TERPSTRA  
sports@nhtrib.com

Choose your own adventure. That could be a tagline for Jamie Ohrt's cross country team.

Not that the longtime Chickasaw head coach that has guided her New Hampton harriers for the last 12 seasons is using that as a recruiting tool to get more athletes out to run in a sport that is definitely underestimated on how actually difficult an endeavor it really is to succeed in.

Either way, you can count on a few things when you sign up to run for Ohrt and her Chickasaws.

A – you're gonna have fun.

B – you are also going to work hard.

What did that mean for the New Hampton XC squad – which is comprised of 25 high school athletes and 15 middle school runners – on the last day of camp a few weeks ago?

Well, it meant a trip to an amusement center – specifically Palmer's Family Fun in Waterloo.

Once there, New Hampton harriers had their pick of mini-golf, driving around a race track with go-karts, taking your swing at batting cages, laser tag or even a giant jumping pillow.

No word yet if any Chickasaws took part in flying high into the air on that inflatable tube.

We'll have to get back to you on that one.

These team-building activities – New Hampton also rode bikes along with Pedal and Play Sports owner Brandon Hemann just last week in Decorah – help create a rock-solid bond among teammates. At the same time these pre-season excursions – which are almost akin to field trips – provide many fun-filled moments that can lead to greater success down the road on cross country courses sprinkled around this area of the state. They also create team spirit and unity.

"You want them to come together as a team, but you also want them to work hard individually to better the team – to do the greater good for



tively straightforward – get your workout in, but at the same time capture photos of at least 10 of the following items on a list that they were provided. The group with the most unique photos wins a prize.

"We did that the first day as kind of a "get to know you" because my team's unique. We have seven through 12 for camp. It is boys and girls. I love it because it motivates the young kids to get to hang out with the high school kids. The high school kids have a good opportunity to be positive role models," said Ohrt.

While Ohrt and her Chickasaws enjoyed their ride with Hemann – who also does repair work on bikes and sells the cycles along with sporting goods apparel and equipment at his Main St. store in New Hampton – there's always the unexpected.

Accidents do happen and while riding on the bike trails in Decorah, sophomore runner Connor Stumme took a spill off his bike and over his handlebars as he was racing down a hill on the 12-mile loop course. Stumme, who battled hip and foot issues all last year during his first year of competition on the varsity level, hopes the mishap will be the only time he has to worry about a potential injury. Despite those setbacks out on the course as a freshman in 2023, Stumme was Ohrt's top runner on the boys side.

"I was back with some kids who were kind of struggling, that don't bike ever," said Ohrt when she witnessed Stumme's wreck. "He's my walking wounded."

Ohrt talked about the decision to ride up in Decorah with Hemann, which has become a tradition. For kids that didn't have a bike, Hemann supplied one.

"Every year we go to Decorah with him to go on the bike trail. We focus on different muscle groups, cause they're not running. They're biking," said Ohrt.

**SEE NH XC, 9**

## Chickasaws ready to line up against someone else

First-year head coach says football team will benefit from its scrimmage against Decorah

BY BOB FENSKE  
editor@nhtrib.com

After a week of camp and two weeks of practice, New Hampton's first-year head football coach knows his team needs to face game situations.

And Chad Pemble and his Chickasaws will get just that on Friday when New Hampton will host Decorah in a controlled scrimmage that is part of Meet the Team Night.

"While we can simulate live

situations and game scenarios in practice," Pemble said, "we need an opponent to truly get a game-like experience. We need to compete against an opponent, so we can get a better idea where we need improvement, what we may need to change,

what is going well, etc."

He added that Friday's scrimmage, which will include all levels of the two teams' football programs, also will allow his Chickasaws to get a little "game experience" before the Aug. 30 season opener at Denver.

"A scrimmage allows us to go through pregame and game experiences," he said, "so when Game 1 happens ... we feel better prepared, thus giving us a better chance for success."

The schedule for Friday's scrimmage, which is open to the public, is as follows:

- 5:40: Freshman/JV warm-up.
- 6 p.m.: Freshmen vs. freshmen, with each team running

**SEE NH FOOTBALL, 9**



Bob Fenske/Tribune  
New Hampton's Payton Erlandson blocks a teammate during the Chickasaws' football practice on Tuesday afternoon.

## NOTICE of EARLY DEADLINE

Due to Labor Day on Monday, September 2nd

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## ON TAP FOR CHICKASAWS, TROJANS

### FRIDAY

New Hampton Meet the Team Night, 4:30 p.m.

Turkey Valley meet the Team Night, 5:30 p.m.

New Hampton football scrimmage vs. Decorah, 6 p.m.

### TUESDAY

New Hampton JV and varsity volleyball at Nashua-Plainfield, 5 p.m.

Turkey Valley cross country at Woods Edge Golf Course, Edgewood, 6 p.m.

### THURSDAY, AUG. 29

New Hampton cross country at Charles City, Wildwood Golf Course, 5 p.m.

New Hampton JV and varsity volleyball at Charles City vs. Charles City and Denver, 5:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, AUG. 30

New Hampton football at Denver, 9th grade at 5 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, AUG. 31

Turkey Valley football vs. Fremont-Mills at Valley Stadium, Des Moines, 7 p.m.

### MONDAY, SEPT. 2

New Hampton JV football vs. Denver, 6 p.m.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 3

New Hampton varsity volleyball vs. MFL MarMac and Turkey Valley, at MFL, 5 p.m.

TJ JV football at Gladbrook-Reinbeck, 6 p.m.

# Women in the Workplace

Putting the spotlight on the women who make our businesses and organizations tick!

NEW HAMPTON TRIBUNE & NASHUA REPORTER

AUGUST 2024 | B SECTION

## Journey worth it for NHMU's Becky Babcock

Customer service representative says she loves being part of telecommunications firm's growth

BY BOB FENSK  
editor@nhtrib.com

Becky Babcock walked through the doors of New Hampton Municipal Utilities four years ago, and she will be the first to tell you that her knowledge of telecommunications was minimal at best.

But NHMU General Manager Brian Quirk will tell you he didn't care.

"Becky's great with people, and that's what we really needed as we got this thing off the ground," he said. "We could teach the rest, but the people skills, we needed that from the start."

Fast forward four years, and NHMU is thriving, touting the fact that it has 55 percent market saturation. The municipal-owned telecommunications firm offers internet, cable television and phone service and Babcock, in many ways, is the front person of the four-person staff.

It wasn't like she was unhappy in her past jobs;

in fact, Babcock will tell you that she enjoyed her work in HR and office managing that she held at the Heritage Center for 20 years and loved the work she did as a paralegal for five years at the New Hampton law firm of Elwood, O'Donohoe, Braun & White.

But she was intrigued back in 2020 when Quirk called and offered her a job with the start-up telecommunications firm.

"To be part of something brand new, that was so exciting," Babcock said, "and it was something I decided I really wanted to be a part of. When I walked in, we didn't have a single customer, we hadn't even really started our test customers. I learned a lot that first year and then, boom, it just took off."

By the summer of 2021, NHMU was hooking up hundreds of customers.

"It was crazy, like a good crazy, though," Babcock said. "I think what I'm most proud

**SEE BABCOCK, 4**



Kelly Terpstra

New Horizons-Chamber Director Liz Zweibohmer poses for a photo in the downtown area of New Hampton.

## TRUE TO HER ROOTS

NEW HORIZONS-CHAMBER DIRECTOR SAYS HER HOMETOWN IS 'SUCH A SPECIAL COMMUNITY'

BY KELLY TERPSTRA  
sports@nhtrib.com

As a standout track and volleyball athlete at New Hampton, Liz Laures led the charge for her Chickasaws on the oval and out on the hardwood.

That's how many New Hampton sports fans remember the 2014 NHHS grad that was also a member of the National Honor Society.

She's back!!!

Fast forward 10 years and that front-row hitter near the volleyball net and successful hurdler now goes by Liz Zweibohmer. You're bound to run into or cross paths with the engaging community leader if you spend any decent amount of time in the town she grew up in.

But anybody that's gotten to know the smiling face that's now the executive director of New Horizons-Chamber realizes that the hometown girl from

New Hampton has come a long way from those humble roots.

Perhaps that's what keeps the mother of a one-year-old daughter – named Mya – so grounded and thankful for all that she's able to contribute to a community that is thriving with her help. Zweibohmer's dedicated effort and goal is simple – make New Hampton the best it can be.

Zweibohmer's career path took off when she decided to return home.

"I didn't see myself coming back here, but I know New Hampton is such a special community. I feel like in New Hampton we're so lucky to have the community that we do," said Zweibohmer. "You drive down Main Street and all of our store fronts are full."

Zweibohmer, who said she had a "COVID wedding" back in 2020 when she married her husband Andrew – a

**SEE ZWEIBOHMER, 3**

## Insurance agent happy plans changed

Boyd grateful that 'another year' turned into 36-year, and counting, stay in New Hampton

BY BOB FENSK  
editor@nhtrib.com

When Connie Boyd moved to New Hampton in December 1988, she didn't expect to be staying long.

Almost 36 years later, she's a Chickasaw for life.

"When I moved up to New Hampton, Bill told me 'we'll stay another year and then we're probably moving,' so at the time, yes, I figured this would just be a blip in time," she said. "Obviously, things changed and I'll say this, I'm glad they did. This is home."

Bill, just for the record, is her husband, and over time, they became mainstays in the heart of Chickasaw County. He coached and taught; Connie worked first at the old First National Bank and then moved to the corner of Main Street and South Walnut Avenue to work for what was then Ryan Insurance and is now Nosbisch Insurance.

She began work at the insurance agency that also is home to the Chickasaw Mutual Insurance Association in August 1991 and settled in quite nicely. For 33 years she has worked for three different owners – Ben Ryan, Tom Ryan and now Randy Nosbisch.

**SEE BOYD, 8**



Connie Boyd wears many hats both at her place of employment – Nosbisch Insurance – and in the community of New Hampton.

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# Taking on the counseling challenge

Nashua-Plainfield's Kalainoff wants to emphasize the 'human side' of education

BY BOB FENSKE  
editor@nhtrib.com

Nashua-Plainfield counselor Jenn Kalainoff will be the first to admit that how she views students is probably different from classroom teachers at her school district's 6-12 building.

"When we're talking about academics or a new program, I think I see things differently than other people, just because of my counseling perspective," she said. "The lens I look through is different at school because I'm not a math teacher, a science teacher. The social, emotional part of it or the human side, that's what I'm focused on. Not that teachers don't, but it's just a little different as a counselor."

And as she gears up for another school year, Kalainoff will continue to use the lens that she hopes has not only served her well but also hopefully done the same for her students.

For almost a quarter of a century — first as an at-risk coordinator and then as a counselor — Kalainoff said her focus has been on the "human side" of education. And each year, she says, the challenges grow.

The counselor will be the first to say that mental health issues have been a part of the school setting, but she also believes that technology — especially the use of cell phones — has helped create a mental health crisis that the education system deals with on a daily basis.

"Maybe we talk about it more, maybe we recognize mental health more now," she said, "but when you add the challenges of social media I think it's just a lot harder to be a kid right now than it was when I was a child."

"If I was having trouble with friends, I could just go home and I wasn't connected. If my landline didn't ring, then I didn't have to talk to them, where now with that device in their hand, they're connected 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That's hard and it's not healthy."

And that makes these challenging times for



Bob Fenske

Nashua-Plainfield school counselor Jennifer Kalainoff, who works with students in grades 6-12, takes a break in her office as she prepares for the start of the 2024-25 school year.

**"MAYBE WE TALK ABOUT IT MORE, MAYBE WE RECOGNIZE MENTAL HEALTH MORE NOW, BUT WHEN YOU ADD THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL MEDIA, I THINK IT'S JUST A LOT HARDER TO BE A KID RIGHT NOW THAN IT WAS WHEN I WAS A CHILD."**

— NASHUA-PLAINFIELD SCHOOL COUNSELOR JENN KALAINOFF

school counselors.

Kalainoff's husband, Ben, is a science teacher at Nashua-Plainfield, and she said that when he brings work home with him, that work — papers and tests that need to be graded — is in a bookbag.

"My work does not come home in a bookbag," she said. "I carry my work kind of internally. It can be really overwhelming when you realize what some kids are going through. ... For some

students, academics is at the bottom of the list when you're talking about what they're having to deal with."

So her job, she says, is to help those students and families have the right resources.

At times it can be a daunting challenge, but make no mistake about it, Kalainoff loves her job.

"I think being part of a team that wants to help kids become productive members of society, to succeed, there's no better job," she said. "Yes, like I said, it can be overwhelming, it can feel overwhelming, at times, but to see so many people work together to help kids, it's just ... well, it's just rewarding."

**KALAINOFF GREW UP** in Grundy Center, graduating with a class of under 50, in 1996.

She attended Simpson College in Indianola, where she competed both in cross country and track, and searched for the right career fit.

"I knew I wanted to help people," she said, "but it's like I tell kids all the time, sometimes it's OK to not know what you want to do; sometimes you have to eliminate what you don't want to do."

In college, she worked with the juvenile

**SEE KALAINOFF, 6**



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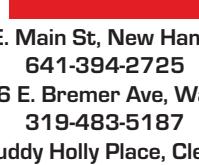
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# Chamber director's goal is bring vitality to city

## ZWEIBOHMER: FROM 1

Crestwood High School grad – wasn't quite sure what she wanted to do for a job when she enrolled at Iowa State University to study supply-chain management and marketing.

"It was a very up-and-coming major. I didn't really know a lot about it," Liz said. "A lot of people in supply-chain management will go work for Fortune 500 companies."

The major did end up working well with Zweibohmer's chosen profession – which centers on essentially being the liaison between businesses and the community in New Hampton.

Supply-chain management is a lot about efficiency and so I apply that daily with a lot of our planning of events or even with just a non-profit. We don't have a big budget, so efficiency and all of that stuff ties into it. At the end of the day our goal is to bring vitality to New Hampton and make it a place that people want to live and stay," she said.

Zweibohmer took over as director of New Horizons in August of 2022. She's never looked back and it's her A+ personality and welcoming presence that will surely keep New Hampton reaching for the stars.

"I didn't know what a Chamber of Commerce does, but I was like, this sounds fun," Zweibohmer said. "That's kind of where I fell in love being part of the Chamber of Commerce."

Let's rewind a bit to right after Zweibohmer graduated from her prep alma mater.

So the big question arose – what did Zweibohmer want to do with her life?

She found out, but it took taking chances and the process of trial and error to narrow down her passion.

"I really didn't and it kind of freaked me out," said Zweibohmer about what major she wanted to focus on in college. "I am a planner. I'm always planning stuff. It drives my husband crazy. That's just kind of how I am. So when it came to graduating high school and getting to college – you had to pick a major – and I was like 'I don't know!'"

The technical term or textbook definition of supply-chain management is a set of methodologies and tools used to improve business processes by reducing defects and errors, minimizing variation and increasing quality and efficiency – that's a succinct definition of the field of study pulled off a Google search.

Zweibohmer's job is obviously a lot more than just that as personal interaction and getting to know members of the community of approximately

3,500 is key, something that seems to come naturally for the New Hampton native.

"We work really closely with businesses and whether they have questions. We're just kind of that central hub. We help promote local events that are going on. A lot of events we put on ourselves that deal with retailers and drawing people to town, whether it's to shop or just attend an event – things like that," said Zweibohmer.

Zweibohmer also puts her own personal touch – along with co-workers and committee members – on some events to give shoppers or downtown dwellers an interesting take or new concept on a much-attended event like New Hampton's "Live Windows" or the town's Holiday Open House.

"We put our own little spin on it," said Zweibohmer. "We have a lot of events that go back from as far as I can remember growing up here. Last year we wanted to add to that so we did a lighted parade. It's still the same, but we add a little bit extra to it – whether it's something new that we want to try or we've seen other towns do."

There's also retail promotions that Zweibohmer and her community members (a large portion of those are volunteers) put on like "Ladies It's Your Day" and "Ho, Ho, Ho." And of course there's the biggest celebration of them all put on by New Horizons – Heartland Days, which takes place in June.

"We have so many events that it's hard to keep track of," laughed Zweibohmer.

As stated earlier and like a lot of young adults growing up in the midwest, Zweibohmer wasn't quite sure where her schooling would lead her. But after a summer internship at Grinnell's Chamber of Commerce, she had a pretty good inkling that this particular line of work might be the right fit.

"When I was getting there, I kind of found my way. I attribute a lot of that to my internships," said Zweibohmer.

Zweibohmer also found out what she likes and doesn't like in terms of potential jobs working through those internships.

"In the case of Grinnell, that was kind of my light bulb moment. Wow, this is really cool," Liz added.

Liz lived in Ames for four years and also did an internship in Pella. That community south of Grinnell is home to Pella Corporation – a manufacturer of windows and doors, where Liz worked for a summer.

But through it all, New Hampton was always in the back of her mind and a familiar place that ended up



Bob Fenske and Dorothy Huber

Whether it's announcing the selection of Theresa Rasmussen and her husband Sam as the 2024 Heartland Days Parade grand marshal (above) or taking part in one of New Horizon-Chamber's many Christmas events (below), Liz Zweibohmer brings an infectious enthusiasm to her role as the organization's director.

calling her back home.

"Every time I would just kind of compare it to New Hampton and how amazing of a community it is," said Zweibohmer. "It was nice to know everyone. You run into somebody at the grocery store and they're saying, 'hey, how was your vacation last month?' Just the little things that really make it an amazing place."

Zweibohmer said she took part in her school's 10-year reunion last weekend – which took place at Bowaway Lanes in New Hampton.

"It's a good family, friendly-type activity. It's really fun to see everybody. My classmates are still around here and many of them have started families," said Zweibohmer.

In an ever-changing time and era where countless young adults are leaving their birth places in droves to big cities across the nation, Zweibohmer's story is one of never say never and a coming home journey that is a true success story.

"Some of the people who said they were leaving and never coming back are here," smiled Zweibohmer.

A whole host of people are surely glad the former Chickasaw volleyball star made the right decision to stay and stick around in New Hampton because the town wouldn't be the same place without Liz Zweibohmer – that's for sure.



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# NHMU job has been rewarding for Babcock

## BABCOCK: FROM 1

of is not only that we offer great products — our internet is amazing — but we do it at a really good price and with great customer service."

Her job has grown over the years; in fact, she pointed to a white board in the back of her office and laughed when asked what her job currently entails.

"A lot of people think it's just customer service for the utility," she said, "but that white board, trust me, that white board keeps me really busy."

In addition to signing up new customers and maintaining current customer accounts for NHMU, she also works on a variety of projects for the New Hampton Municipal Light Plant. Babcock makes sure numerous regulatory reports are filed for both the light plant and the utility, and that white board contains a list of what reports have to be filed in what month.

"I'll tell you this much, I'm glad I had that legal background at the law office," she said with a smile. "Have you ever filed a regulatory report? Trust me, a little law background helps — helps a lot."

Her most challenging job?

A quick mischievous smile crossed Babcock's face before she answered.

"Herd the cats," she said as she pointed toward the back of the building that was once New Hampton's Dollar General Store. That's the area where Quirk, Technician Supervisor Vance Cook and Technician Eric Robinson work.

All kidding aside, though, Babcock said she is blessed to be part of the team that brought state-of-the-art telecommunication services to the city she has called home for almost 30 years.

"We all have our different strengths, I think that's been the key for us," she said, "but what amazes me about our little team is that we all put our customers first. Watching Brian, Vance and Eric work with people and helping our customers, I know I'm in the right place. I've loved all the jobs I've had, but this has been so much fun to be a part of and I can't wait to see where we're at four years from now."

Babcock grew up in Nashua and graduated from what was then Nashua High School, where she participated in volleyball, basketball and track, as well as golf for a year.

After spending three years in Cedar Rapids, she returned to Chickasaw County, married Brad Babcock and had two sons — Max and Carson.

She figured if she had stayed in the big city she would have adapted, but she has no regrets about raising her family in a city New Hampton's size.

"I think what makes a town like ours so special is that everyone is looking out for everyone else," she said. "The boys would always ask me how do you know all this and I would always smile and say, 'I know people — lots and lots of people.' But seriously, it's safe and it gave our boys a lot of opportunities."

And NHMU gave Babcock a new opportunity and in more ways than one, too.

The building is also home to New Hampton High School's Iowa BIG North program, which is one reason that Babcock is ready for the school year to start.

"First off, it's way too quiet here in the summer," she said, "but really, I miss not having the kids around. They bring an energy into the building, and I love watching them take ideas and run with them."

Some of those ideas have directly benefited NHMU as Iowa BIG North students helped with a marketing plan for what was then the start-up utility and also helped plan NHMU's open house that was held in 2023.

And although Babcock is not ready to trade places with Cook or Robinson, she's learned a lot about telecommunications in a relatively short amount of time.

"Honestly, I look at the 2020 Becky and think man, she was dumb," Babcock said with a laugh.

She, though, is downright proud of the utility.

"I think what means the most to me is that we are so reliable," she said, "and the way the world is now — so many more people work from home — that's an absolute must. To be a part of it almost from the beginning, that's really been rewarding."



Kelly Terpstra

Joyce Laures has been living out her dream job for the past 43 years at Dungey's Furniture and Flooring.

## It's all about the people for Joyce Laures

For 43 years Dungey's has been like family for interior decorator/sales person

BY KELLY TERPSTRA

[sports@nhtrib.com](mailto:sports@nhtrib.com)

Joyce Laures is part of a furniture family.

Those are her words.

If you know her or happen to meet her — it's easy to see that the New Hampton resident is truly living out her dream job.

Laures — who will mark 43 years of dedicated and loyal employment at Dungey's Furniture this coming October as a interior decorator/sales person — is also a professional.

The St. Lucas native and Turkey Valley grad is also as personable as they come.

You'll notice that right away when you walk through the doors at an institution and business in New Hampton that has been thriving for over 60 years.

"Dungey's mean a lot to me. They are my family," said Laures. "They have always looked out for me. They make you feel needed. They just are good people. If they weren't, I wouldn't be here 43 years."

When you enter the sprawling showroom at 904 Carty Avenue — just behind the New Hampton McDonald's — you'll see an array of beds, sofas, dining room sets, carpet selections and so much more. You also might be graciously greeted by Laures at the longtime establishment in New Hampton that first started creating a rapport with customers clear back in 1963.

"The customers are what's kept me here so much," said Laures. "We look out for each other. I think New Hampton helps each other and we work for each other. I think it's a very family-orientated town."

Laures remembers all too well her start in a profession that began at Northeast Iowa Technical Institute (NITI), a community college in Calmar that is now called Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC).

She had just graduated high school in 1978 at TV and decided to major in interior or decorating at NITI — this was after her friend had broached the subject.

"It's working with color, design, style, texture, fabrics," said Laures.

Actually, Laures' passion and creative flair to coordinate, plan and improve the look and feel of a space began long before she was a teenager.

Joyce married her husband Greg in May 1981, just a few short months before she started at Dungey's. The pair raised two kids — a son and a daughter who both graduated from New Hampton High School.

It didn't take long for Laures to establish herself at her place of employment. She broke down a critical element of what she does — connecting with a customer and meeting their needs.

"You basically kind of do an interview with the customer as they come in," said Laures.

She also talked about the vision she has for her clientele and how to match that up with what they want — whatever product or service that might be.

"You have to come here to touch it and feel it," said Laures. "Most people like to come to a facility and have everything on hand."

Those interactions with customers are

not only a sale made, but a relationship and friendship created. That's what drew Laures' to this line of work.

"Satisfaction of myself and the client," said Laures. "The gratification and the happiness."

What have been some of the changes in an industry that Laures has been a part of for decades?

"Wireless remote furniture is a big deal in the last 10 years," said Laures.

Another question — did Laures think she would be with Dungey's for as long as she has?

"I thought, is there something else out there that I'm missing?" said Laures. "There wasn't."

Laures talked about what really is at the heart of what she does — which is of course beautifying one's home, but it's also something much more substantial.

"It's the people. It's the people that come through the door everyday," said Laures. "It's always somebody different and you meet someone all the time. Then you start talking and they know someone that knows someone."

"Next thing you know you've waited on that generation, which is the generation before me. Then the generation of my age and now the generation below me and my kids' generation."

Joyce Laures can sell furniture and make your home a beautiful and happy place to live — there's no doubt about that. But what she's also excellent at doing is making you feel that you matter and you're a part of her family, just as much as Joyce is to the Dungeys.

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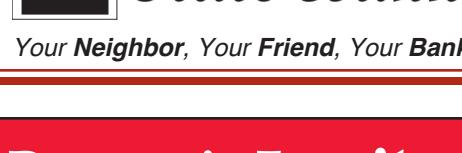
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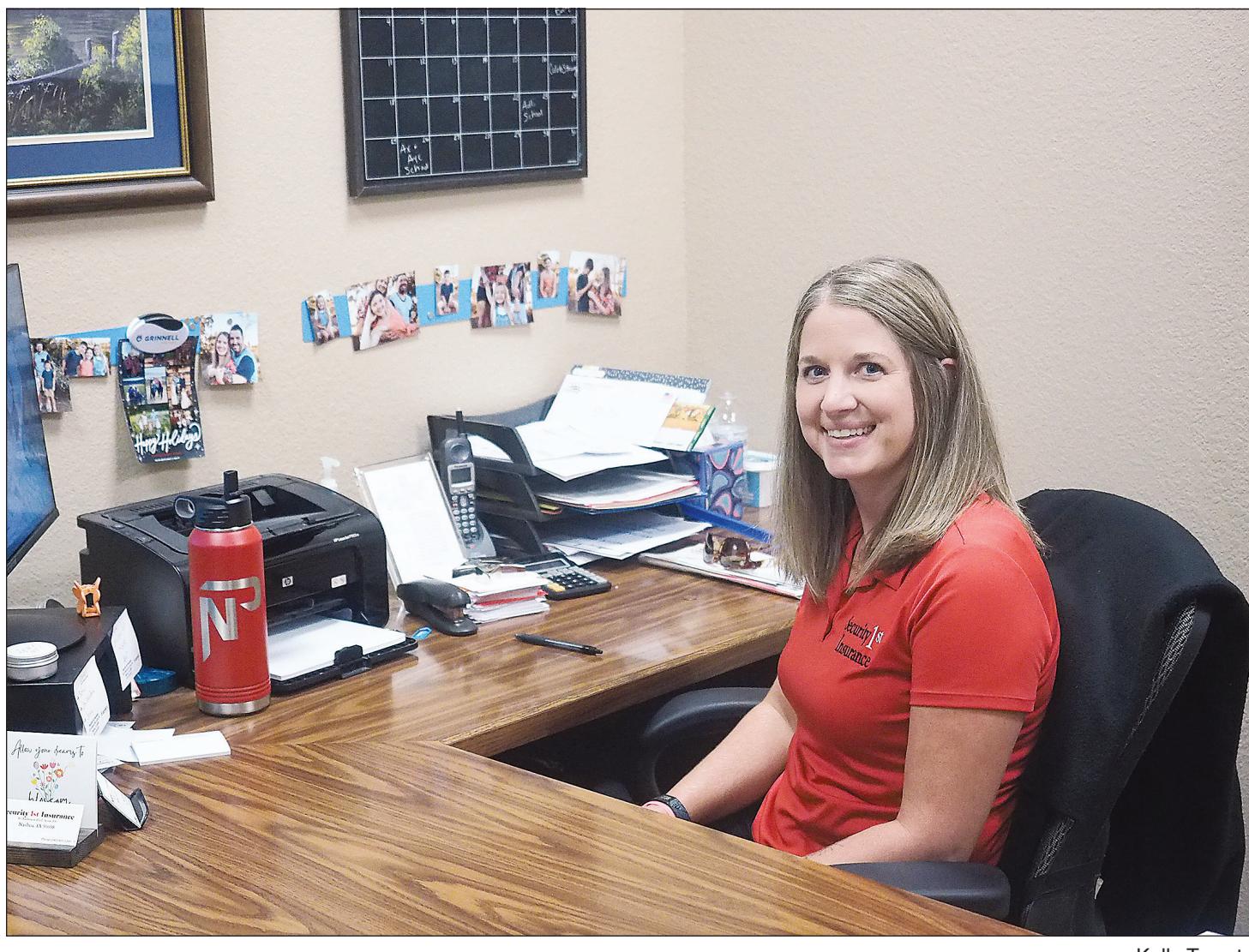
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New Nashua-Plainfield Athletic Director Ami Hagen poses for pictures both at the Huskies' football stadium and in her office at Security 1st Insurance, where she works as an agent.

Kelly Terpstra

## Living a busy life!

N-P AD has plenty on her plate but appreciative of living and working in a supportive community

BY KELLY TERPSTRA  
[sports@nhtrib.com](mailto:sports@nhtrib.com)

As she's stepped into a new role – Ami Hagen knew her supportive and tight-knit community would be there for her.

That's just part of what being a Nashua-Plainfield Husky is all about.

Hagen – a 2002 N-P grad – is the new Athletic Director at Nashua-Plainfield and she talked about her new job that helps guide and facilitate Husky athletes and the squads they are a part of.

That's just one facet of her administrative title that involves numerous duties and tasks for the busy wife and mother of three that is living life to the fullest.

"It's way more than I ever thought it was going to be," laughed Hagen.

"Luckily, Suzy (Turner) has already been incredible and she's been working with me the last couple months. Dean (Youngblut) is awesome and Jay (Marley) has been really good. The coaches have been incredible. This transition period – it's definitely new – but everyone's been awesome."

Hagen – who is an insurance agent at Security 1st Insurance (right next

to Subway) in Nashua – took over N-P's AD position from Turner, who was the athletic director at N-P for the last two years. Turner, a history teacher at N-P, took over the AD job from Josh Smith, a social studies teacher and Husky girls basketball coach that manned the position for eight years according to Hagen.

Hagen may be new to the job, but she says she's up to the challenge. Specific functions of AD's are scheduling, lining up officials and game-day preparations – but that's just scratching the surface.

"It's a lot. Suzy explained it. You work kind of a week-by-week," said Hagen. "You've got the games and you've got to also prepare for the next sport. You also have to prepare a year from now. It's at least a three-fold process. There's lots of different levels."

One thing is for certain – Hagen is no stranger to the hallways of N-P or the success the Huskies have achieved on the athletic level.

She's a former state qualifier for Jeff Trost's Husky golf team and was also an all-conference hoops player at N-P. Hagen – whose maiden name is Franzen – played basketball and then volleyball for one season at her alma

mater as well.

"I'm proud of this community," said Hagen. "Growing up here, I was proud to be a Husky."

Hagen is married to Chris Hagen – who currently sits on the N-P School Board. They have three children together – 12-year-old daughter Adli (seventh grade), a nine-year-old son Axton (fourth grade) and six-year old daughter Aycie (first grade).

Hagen knew there was a spot open for the AD spot at N-P, so she ended up taking six courses – four hours a piece – to be in compliance and have all of her ducks in a row, so to speak, so she could be considered for the job.

"I knew it was available and they hadn't had any interest. I always thought it would be interesting," said Hagen.

Hagen is actively involved in N-P youth sports. She's the YSF (youth sports football) coordinator. The flag football program began the week of Aug. 12 and sports a six-game schedule that starts on Sept. 7.

Hagen also coaches summer-rec basketball, which her son is a part of and coaches her youngest daughter's youth softball team.

A first this year at N-P is that all

students in middle school and in high school will receive free admission to all 2024-2025 home N-P athletic events. Hagen said the N-P Booster Club and Missy Sinnwell had a large hand in getting that done.

"Missy Sinnwell spearheaded it and she got five donors to donate so much and so now every student at N-P gets to go to athletic events for free. The elementary age needs to come with a paid adult," said Hagen. "That's huge, that's great."

Hagen said she's already enjoying working with her fellow colleagues and the community as a whole and the school year has not yet begun. The first day of school for students at N-P is Friday, Aug. 23.

"We've got great staff. We've got great coaches. The future is so bright," said Hagen. "The parents that are working towards it, the student athletes and faculty – everyone is on board. I'm excited, I really am. I'm not going to lie, I'm a little stressed right now, I'm a little overwhelmed, but in the end, I am excited."

Ami said that she's lived outside of Nashua on two separate occasions. She's glad she's back and can't think of a better place to live in and to raise

her family – oh, and cheer on her Huskies.

"I moved away, I went to college and lived in the Chicagoland area for a while and then moved back here just because I love the small town. I love our community," said Hagen.

Chris and Ami's oldest child – Adli – was diagnosed with a disease called HSP (a disease that causes inflammation and bleeding in the small blood vessels).

"It's a rare disease that she was diagnosed with when she was young," said Hagen.

That disability obviously involves some extra special care and attention that Adli requires. Hagen mentioned that the comfort and assistance exhibited by the community and citizens that help support the N-P School District and the Hagen family as a whole is heartwarming. Ami said the community has held several meal fundraisers over the years for Adli and the Hagen family.

"The community – the way they support us and back us up is out of this world. I couldn't imagine not raising my kids here. This is the place where she needs to be – where we need to be, for sure," said Hagen.

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# Counselor: It takes team to work for student success

KALAINOFF: FROM 2

courts system and also at a youth shelter. She enjoyed her work, but she also worried about a career in a field that has a high burnout rate.

Working in a school interested her, but Kalainoff said "I knew being a classroom teacher wasn't a passion for me."

So instead, she became an at-risk coordinator at East Union Community Schools before accepting a similar position at Nashua-Plainfield two years later. In 2008, she received her school counseling license and became a counselor at the old middle school in Plainfield.

"The title's changed, but really my job hasn't changed all that much since I got here," she said. "I'll say it again, it's about focusing on the human element, about finding the resources students and their families need."

At times, her job can be hectic; after all, her biggest responsibility at the high school level is to help make sure students have their credits and they are on track to graduate.

"If they're not there, how do we get there? That can take a little work," she said, "and so the beginning of each semester, trust me, can be chaos — hopefully somewhat controlled chaos."

AT A SMALL school like Nashua-Plainfield, counselors can wear a number of hats, and Kalainoff is no exception.

She is an advisor to the Husky Leadership Team, she is the homecoming coordinator and she coaches the Huskies' cross country teams.

Kalainoff went to a small school and has always worked in small school districts. She wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

"Kids have so many opportunities at our school," she said. "You can be in sports, music and everything else and you don't have to choose," she said. "If you're at West Des Moines Valley, can you be an Aiden Sullivan and play football and be the drum major in the band? I don't think so."

But she believes the biggest benefit districts like Nashua-Plainfield have is a sense of community.

"I think when tragedy has struck our community and it has, my first question always is, how do you do that in a big school? I can't imagine dealing with a class of hundreds of kids or a community of thousands and going through those tragedies," she said. "Here, people know how to support each other. We know each other. Everyone just takes care of each other."

**KALAINOFF AND HER** husband have four boys — Evan, who will student teach this fall; Isaac, who works at Zoetis in Charles City; Eli, who will be a junior at Nashua-Plainfield; and Zeke, who starts high school this fall.

The boys will be the first to tell you that mom loves using her camera.

"It's a hobby," she said of photography, "and it probably started when we started having kids. There were a lot of days where I'd set up the tripod and we'd go out and take pictures."

She laughed when asked how the boys felt about that.

"I got a lot of mom-and-her-camera looks," she said, "but I find joy in taking pictures. They're memories that last forever."

In recent years, she has taken numerous photos for the Nashua Reporter and has provided pictures from various Husky games and meets.

In 2020, she helped the



Bob Fenske

Nashua-Plainfield school counselor Jenn Kalainoff shares a light moment with members of the Class of 2019 before the school's annual commencement ceremony.

paper cover the state wrestling tournament and has also chronicled the Huskies' successes at state track meets.

"You're right there, and I really do appreciate that," she said. "You do miss being a part of the Husky crowd and there's something to be said about that, except, like at the state wrestling meet, I know what the pictures look like from up in the stands of Section 224. I'm glad it's worked out, and it's been a great calming hobby for me."

**HER MAIN FOCUS**, however, will remain her kids — both her sons and the boys and girls who walk the hallways of Nashua-Plainfield each day.

She hopes she's making a difference and she knows that there are those who believe schools take on too much these days.

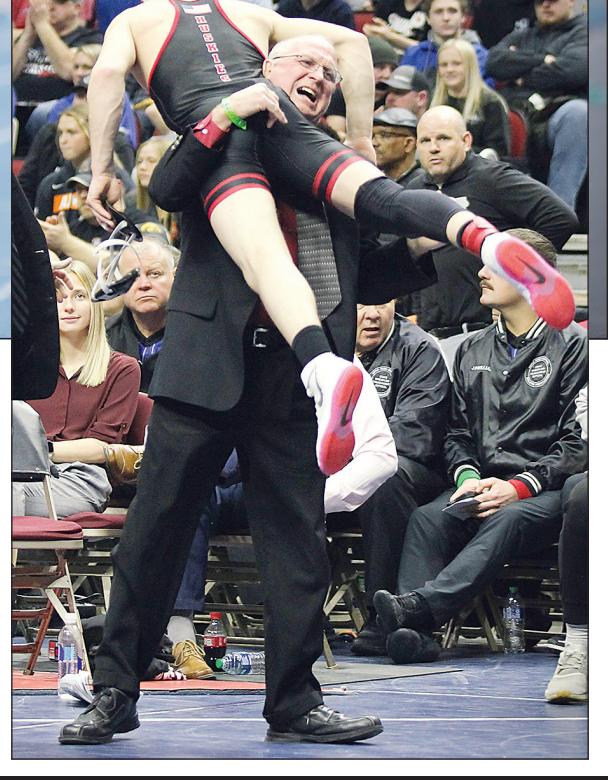
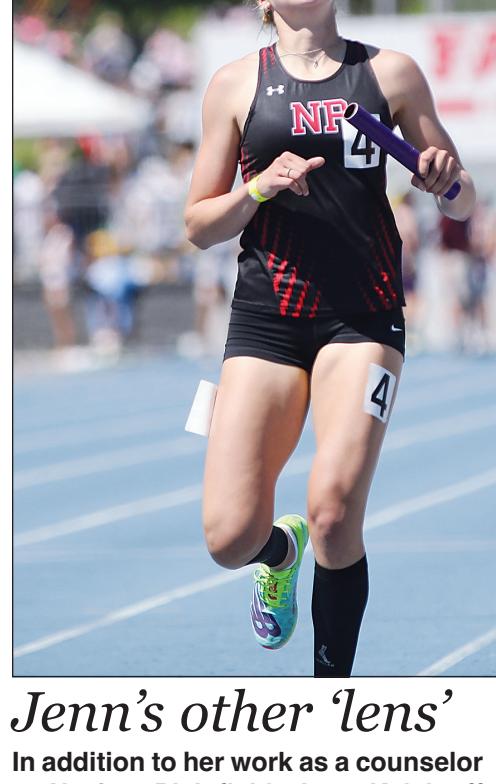
"There's so much that goes on outside of school that we're dealing with inside of school," she said. "It's easy to say it's

not a school problem because it didn't happen at school but it is a school problem because we have to have the right tools to help our students function."

And she's grateful that she's part of a team of Huskies.

"To me, in my job, we have to work together as a team," she said.

"Nothing beats the power of a team, bouncing ideas off of each other, and knowing that no one has to do everything alone."



## Jenn's other 'lens'

In addition to her work as a counselor at Nashua-Plainfield, Jenn Kalainoff has also helped the Nashua Reporter with its sports coverage and her photos — like the one of Kadence Huck (above) crossing the finish line in the distance medley at the 2024 state meet and Garret Rinken (right) jumping into the arms of coach Al Frost after winning a state title in 2023 — are, in a word, excellent.

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# Cedar Valley Hospice provides 5-star resource

Organization's steep knowledge makes it the perfect support tool for your family

BY STEPHANIE-ABEL-HOHENZY  
Cedar Valley Hospice

For 45 years, Cedar Valley Hospice's mission has been to provide compassionate care and support to families.

It started with only a few committed volunteers who believed in serving our community. Today, that sentiment continues with its growing staff of 120 employees and 300 volunteers who serve over 15 counties.

## The Cedar Valley Hospice Experience

Many significant moments have led to our organization's success over four decades, none more important than providing the highest quality care for families in our community during life's most challenging times.

Whether you are caring for a loved one who needs extra support or grieving the death of someone close to you, Cedar Valley Hospice can help. By choosing to call, it means you do not have to travel your journey alone.

Making the call sooner rather than later ensures a better quality of life for the patient and support for the whole family.

As part of the Cedar Valley Hospice Experience, you receive:

- A team of experts to care for your physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

- An award-winning organization with highly trained staff to Cedar Valley Hospice standards.

- The knowledge to help you and your family navigate your illness or grief.

- A commitment to fulfill our mission of ensuring the highest level of knowledge, respect and compassionate care.

"It is amazing to be able to put patients' minds at ease," said Jenny Stangl, hospice nurse. "Knowing we are there to offer comfort, provide education and prepare families for the next steps in their journey together."

## 5-Star Care

For our steadfast commitment to quality care, we have recently received a 5-star rating from Medicare.gov, making Cedar Valley Hospice the only hospice in the area and one of nine in the state of Iowa to receive such an honor.

It is determined by a hospice satis-

faction survey which asks caregivers if they received timely help, had good support and communication, were trained in how to care for their loved one, and ultimately, if they would recommend this hospice to others.

Beyond this milestone, the organization has also been consistently named as the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier's Best of the Best and an Employer of Choice. They are also a 5-time Gallup Exceptional Workplace winner, which is a global award that recognizes the most engaged staff and workplaces.

## Learn the Truth about Hospice & Palliative Care

When you hear the word hospice, it's easy to shy away from learning more because let's face it – no one wants to talk about hospice. The reality is that there are so many misconceptions about hospice and palliative care and people need to educate themselves so they can be prepared.

"We think of dying because it is, but it's the quality of life... it's making those moments matter that is so significant," said Karol Rae Hoth, founding member of Cedar Valley Hospice. "We are here for you when you need us. The sooner you call, the more time you can have to experience true quality of life."

**Hospice care:** For those with a serious illness measured in months not years. Care is provided by an interdisciplinary team who visit your home or nursing facility and provide physical, emotional and spiritual support. A nurse is available 24/7, which helps reduce stress and hospitalizations. Services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurances.

**Palliative care:** For those with a serious illness, regardless of life expectancy or prognosis. Care is provided by a nurse and social worker who come to your home and offer support and guidance.

You can still be seeking curative treatment while using this extra supportive care. Examples of diagnosis include: COPD, heart disease, dementia and cancer.

For Clint Whitecome of Waverly, whose mother died on the Cedar Valley Hospice program, the care and knowledge he received enabled him to focus on spending quality time with

## SUPPORT & CARE IN 2023

**927**

### Hospice Care

Our team of experts provide physical, mental and spiritual care & support for families. 927 patients were cared for in their homes or a facility for an average of 71 days.

**51**

### LINK Palliative Care

A program for those facing a serious illness who may still be seeking curative treatment. 51 patients received care in their homes or a facility for an average of 265 days.

**145**

### Cedar AIDS Support System

Provided case management and coordinated services for those living with HIV. A record number 145 clients received assistance from this grant-funded program.

**3,709**

### Adult & Youth Grief Services

Provided support through counseling, phone calls, monthly mailings, support groups and events to 3,709 people in our community at no cost.

his mother.

"I remember being on the patio and just seeing my mom's radiant smile with the sunshine on her face, and it's a lasting memory of what I have of my mom instead of something different if we would have had to have been the ones providing the care for my mom,"

he said. "You got to have a partner, someone who has experienced it, who knows what's going on, and someone you can lean on and ask questions. Cedar Valley Hospice was just that for our family."

It's important to feel in control of your healthcare. Let Cedar Valley

Hospice help you navigate the health-care system, get answers to important questions and, ultimately, manage your symptoms and help you Make Each Moment Matter. It's never too soon to call and explain your situation and see how their programs can help support you and your family.

## Hospice to host butterfly 'Release and Remember' fundraiser on Sept. 8

Celebrate someone you love at the 13th annual Cedar Valley Hospice Release and Remember fundraiser on Sunday, Sept. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the RiverLoop Amphitheatre in Waterloo. This meaningful event draws hundreds of supporters to the banks of the Cedar River for an afternoon that has become a tradition of honoring the community's loved ones in an extraordinary way.

The event, free and open to the entire community, will feature food (while supplies last), kids activities and live music with Flatland Ridge, culminating with a short program and the release of 1,000 monarch butterflies.

Community members are encouraged to dedicate one or several butterflies as a tribute to someone important to them. For a donation, a butterfly will be dedicated in their honor. Tribute names will be displayed at the event if the donation is received by Aug. 23. Release and Remember T-shirts are also for sale online, at any Cedar Valley Hospice location (excluding the Hospice Home) and at the event while supplies last. You can also have a chance to open a box of butterflies at our event. You must be 18 years old or older and be present at the event for this special opportunity.

This year, we ask that the community submit their stories about Release and Remember or their experience with Cedar Valley Hospice. Many of these stories will be on display at the event and in an online memory webpage. To submit your story, email Haley Bell at [hbelle@cvhospice.org](mailto:hbelle@cvhospice.org).

At the event, wheelchair ushers will be on hand at the handicap accessible entrance to the Amphitheatre near the Phelps Youth Pavilion where handicap parking is also available.

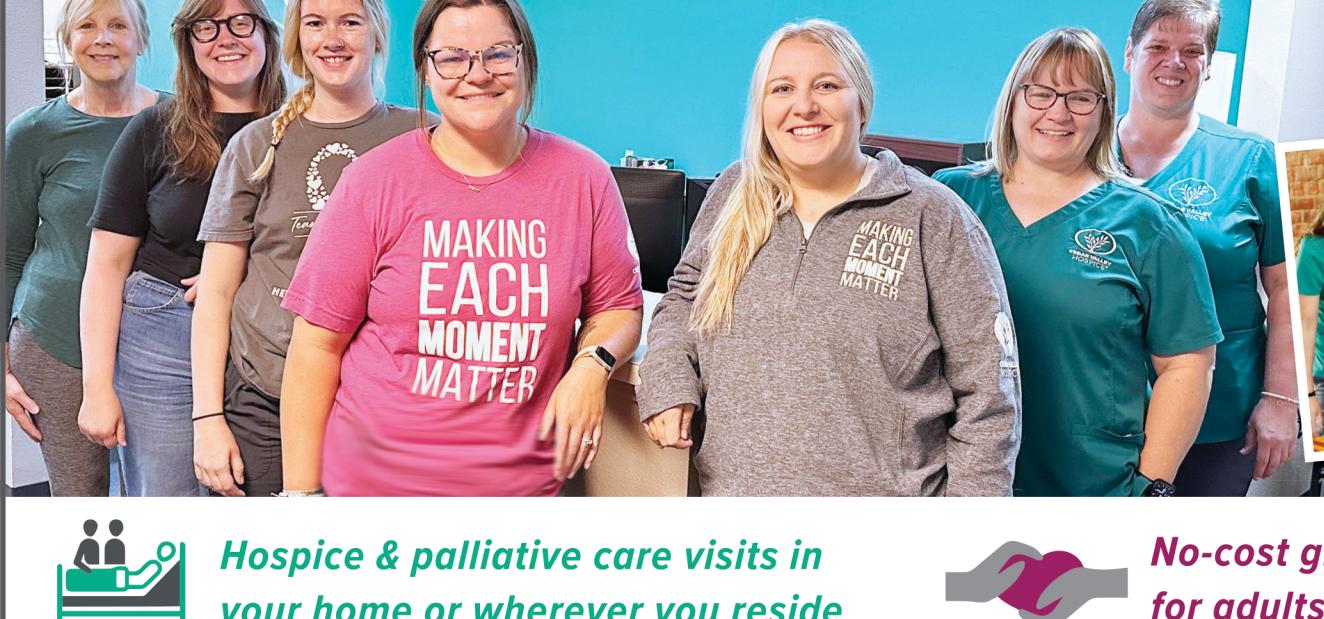
For more information or to dedicate a butterfly, visit [www.cvhospice.org](http://www.cvhospice.org).



Jon Turtle Hall  
Bruce Gill  
Sharon Gill  
Ivan M. Gipper  
James Girsch  
Jim Girsch  
Kathleen Girsch  
Timothy Girsch  
Cheryl Glessner  
Davie  
Nellie  
Clifford  
Virginia  
Sam  
D  
Mark  
Donna Warren Nelson  
Jody Westemeyer  
Nelson  
Stacy Nuss  
Elizabeth Porter  
Virginia Pratt  
John Pratt  
Betty Lou Halligan  
Charles (Chuck) Halligan  
Leo Heine  
Bonnie He  
John Heip  
Mildred Halupnick  
Robert Ham  
Paul Hamilton  
Anna Hamman  
Duane Hamman  
Deborah Hammargren  
Bernice Hammond  
Robert F. Hammond  
Kathy Hanegan  
Gary M. Hanks  
Ambrose Hansen  
Betty L. Hansen  
Darl  
Anna Heine  
Leo Heine  
Bonnie He  
John Heip  
Marie Heis  
Diane Heit  
Marvin He  
Nancy He  
Ray Hemm  
Richard H  
Harlan He  
Chela Her  
Glen F.

Cedar Valley Hospice

A woman writes a special message to her loved one next to his name at the dedication station during a past Release and Remember fundraiser. To dedicate a butterfly for a loved one, visit [cvhospice.org](http://cvhospice.org).



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# Boyd's favorite job is definitely being a grandmother

**BOYD: FROM 1**

— and has loved almost every minute of it. "Every job has its days," Boyd said, "and this isn't an exception, but those days are few and far between. I still like coming to work every day, and I don't know how many people can say that after 33 years at one job. That's one of the reasons I never left."

Much has changed since that December day back in 1988 when she moved from Cedar Rapids to New Hampton. She and her husband were married in February 1989, they raised three children, all of whom are now married and they now are the proud grandparents of Stone, Stella and Carsyn.

But one thing hasn't: She still likes going to work.

**CONNIE BOYD GREW** up in the small Iowa town of Norway. If you're a baseball fan, that means something, for the Tigers were, in short, a powerhouse — winning 20 state championships on the diamond between 1965 and 1991, the year the school closed its doors forever.

"I always laugh when I tell people I'm from Norway," she said, "because baseball always comes up in the conversation."

Sports have always been a big part of her life. Her three brothers played baseball for the Tigers, and she, too, was an athlete — playing guard in 6-on-6 basketball and catcher and first base on the softball team.

Even before the question — was Norway softball like Norway baseball — was finished, Boyd had a quick answer.

"Uh, no," she said with a laugh. "Most people didn't make it to the top of the hill to watch us girls."

After graduating from high school, Boyd attended Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, where she majored in retail management and after graduating — "I'm going to give away my age here," she said with a laugh — she went to work for Montgomery Ward, a national chain of department stores before taking a job at United Fire and Casualty.

One summer, though, she met her future husband, who was playing for Norway's baseball town team.

"My brothers were on the team, and one thing led to another, and here we are."

**SHE LAUGHED WHEN** asked about the timing of her wedding.

"You know, I'm still waiting for my honeymoon," she said, "because we got married on a Saturday and Bill had to coach a junior high basketball game on Monday."

And while she enjoyed working at the bank, she was ready for a more 9-to-5 job, if you will.

"We worked Thursday and Friday nights and Saturdays, too," she said, "and with a husband who coached and having a baby, I thought I'd apply for this job. ... Again, I didn't know if it would stick, but I've worked with some great bosses — Ben, Tom and Randy all are different but they've all been great bosses in their own ways — and obviously, I must enjoy it. I'm still here, right?"

Today, she jokes that she's a "jack of all trades" at the insurance agency.

She's an agent who works mostly with auto



Bob Fenske

Whether attending Park Board meetings or helping out with events like Breakfast with Santa, Connie Boyd says her 30 or so years on the board has been rewarding and offered her a chance to "give back" to her adopted hometown.



and home policies, serves as the agency's office manager and does some underwriting, just to name a few of her jobs.

"She's the glue that holds us together," Nosbisch said and then added with a smile that contained a hint of mischief, "or maybe it's the other way around."

Boyd said one of the pluses that comes with working at an insurance agency in a small city like New Hampton is the fact that she knows most of her customers.

"I either know them or I know of them, and I think that's a big difference between our agency and say one in like a Cedar Rapids," she said. "You're not a number here; we know you and we're going to do the best we can to get the coverage you need and we're going to give you the best customer service we possibly can."

And she said there's another positive that comes with working at a small agency. She knows her co-workers — Nosbisch and fellow agent Andrew Zweibohmer — well.

"We give each other a lot of grief, which is why we're doing this interview back here with

the door closed because I know they'd be giving me a hard time," she said before pausing and smiling, "and I'd give it right back to them. ... But seriously, they have the same work ethic, the same doing-everything-we-can-for-our-customers attitude."

**THROUGHOUT HER** long career at Nosbisch Insurance and Chickasaw Mutual, Boyd has remained active at home and in the community.

Her three children — Dylan, 33; Nolan, 30; and Abby, 26 — were all active in school, especially in sports and she spent countless hours coaching them, going to their games and attending their other school activities.

"One thing about living in a small town and working here, I just had a couple of blocks to go for their concerts and things like that," she said. "This has always been a place where we've been able to put our families first and I'm very appreciative for that."

Boyd has also been a longtime member of the New Hampton Park Board, although she said

after more than 30 years on the board, this will be her last term.

"I'm really proud of the recreation programs we have, the parks we have," she said. "A lot of people over the years have made them a priority, and I hope in some small way I helped. We may not always have agreed, but the people I worked with on the board and in the office, they always had the same goals I had — give our kids opportunities and make sure we had a great park system."

Over the years, she's had plenty of titles — insurance agent, office manager, Park Board member, wife, mom, coach, you get the idea, right? — but as much as she enjoyed her 33 years at the insurance agency and the three decades or so on the Park Board, she in recent years has found her favorite job.

"Definitely being a grandmother," she said. "Hands down, the best job in the world."

**THE BOYD KIDS** are, well, not kids anymore.

"We got them all married off," she said with a laugh.

But she's not going anywhere. Like we said, she still likes going to work, and she still loves New Hampton.

Boyd and her husband, at least when he's not working as one of the best high school baseball umpires in the state, attend countless Chickasaw sporting events.

"We always went to our kids' games and we have a few years before we can go for the grandkids," she said, "but sports have always been a big part of our lives so we keep going. We have friends' kids playing and you know, even if we don't know the kids, it's still fun."

So is she a Norway Tiger or a New Hampton Chickasaw?

The answer comes quickly.

"Oh, I'm definitely a Chickasaw," she said. "Sure, I still brag about Norway, but this is home no question about it. Maybe we were only going to be here for a year or two, but I'm glad we stayed. It was a great place to raise our family, and I have no regrets."

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