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Bob Fenske/Tribune

Brock Rasing plays the role of Santa while Benson Carolan has Elvis down pat during the New Hampton Elementary School Winter Concert that was held before a packed house in the New Hampton High School gym on Monday evening.

A ROUSING, ENERGETIC KICKOFF

NEW HAMPTON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, MUSIC TEACHER BRING PLENTY OF ENTHUSIASM TO FIRST CONCERT OF THE SEASON

BY BOB FENSKE

editor@nhtrib.com

The students Erica Koster teaches have energy to burn so it's probably a good thing that their teacher is, to put it mildly, wildly enthusiastic.

"Their wild and crazy matches mine," she said Tuesday morning on a day when the New Hampton Elementary School music instructor could take a deep breath.

After all, Koster's biggest concert of the year — the Winter Concert — was in the books.

Performed before a packed audience at the high school's competition gym, the event kicked off what we often call "concert season" in New Hampton schools. On deck are the St. Joe's Christmas Concert, the New Hampton Middle School Winter Band/Choir Concert and

Kindergartners Landon Lechtenberg and Blakely Holthaus perform a song with their classmates during Monday's concert.

CHECK OUT OUR CONCERT PHOTO PAGE!

— PAGE 3

the New Hampton High School Winter Music Festival.

The spotlight, though, first shone on the kids of New Hampton Elementary School.

They knocked it out of the park. Heck, Santa was in the building. So was Elvis.

"I came up with the theme when someone from Osage said their music teacher's concert was so amazing and they said she had a kid play Elvis," Koster said. "She gave me voice lessons when I was in high school — I'm originally from Osage — so I reached out to

SEE CONCERT, 5

County's elected officials make pitches for raises

With no Compensation Board, county leaders take cases directly to Board of Supervisors

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

One by one, the elected officials of Chickasaw County took the floor at a Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday to talk about potential pay raises they would like to receive when the 2025-26 fiscal year begins next July 1.

Gone was the "middle man" — the Compensation Board — that for years had come up with pay raise recommendations and delivered them to supervisors.

The reason? A new state law now allows board of supervisors to navigate the salaries of elected officials without a comp board, and earlier this year, Chickasaw County's supervisors decided that they would take over the now-defunct board's work.

Granted, according to the new state law that gave them the opportunity to not have a Compensation Board, supervisors are "required to show their work" on how they come up with raises for elected officials, but truth be told, board members are a long way away from making any final decision on what pay raises will look like in 2025-26.

Instead, Tuesday's meeting served a dual purpose. First, Recorder Shirley Troyna, Treasurer Matt Ysbrand, Auditor Sheila Shekleton, Sheriff Ryan Shawer and Attorney David Laudner presented their pitches. So, too, did members of the Board of Supervisors.

The requests — not all of which were set in stone — ranged from 3 percent to 8 percent.

The second purpose of the meeting was to give the elected officials a chance to explain not only the work each office does but also the makeup of those offices to newly-elected District 4 Supervisor Issac Carter, who will take office on Jan. 1 and replace fellow Republican Matt Kuhn, who did not seek re-election, on the board.

Carter said that he has watched most of the Board of Supervisors' meetings online, and

SEE SUPERVISORS, 11

Thanksgiving Dinner another hit

Organizers of annual event say they have 'system' that works

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

The "system" worked to perfection again, and what has now become a rite of Thanksgiving in New Hampton hit yet another home run on the holiday.

Since 2014 — with one notable exception, the COVID-19 year of 2020 — Trinity Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall has been home to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and the event seems to just keep getting bigger and bigger every year.

Yes, the number of meals served last Thursday was about the same as 2023, but more people "dined in" it seemed.

"We're really happy with the turnout," Community Thanksgiving Dinner Committee member Kathy Beckman said. "The point has always been 'no one eats alone,' but over the years, it's



Bob Fenske/Tribune
Volunteers serve up the meal during the annual Community Thanksgiving Meal last week.

become a tradition for families to have their Thanksgiving at the church. It's nice to look out and see the Fellowship Hall full and people enjoying each other's company."

And while the meal lasts a mere two hours, it takes months of work to prepare for

SEE THANKSGIVING, 7



Erica Clemens, a New Hampton native who now lives in Nicollet, Minnesota, gets ready to purchase a gift at Schueh Ace Hardware on Saturday morning.

It's a cold but fruitful Small Business Saturday

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

Despite the "Liz Curse," it turned out to be a pretty decent Small Business Saturday in New Hampton this past weekend.

"For the most part, despite the cold, it was a

pretty solid day for our stores," New Horizons Chamber Director Liz Zweibohmer said. "We probably didn't have any records, but I didn't hear anyone say they were disappointed. We had a good crowd downtown and out and about

SEE CHAMBER, 20

Lights are on!

Little Light of Mine flips the switch on a bigger, better holiday lights display

Page 2



Openers

Chickasaw bowling, boys basketball, boys wrestling teams compete

Page 19





Photo courtesy of Brittany Bierle



A horse-drawn wagon (above) makes its way through Mikkelsen Park on opening night of the Little Light of Mine display last Friday, when a group of residents (below) check out the Memorial Board that is one of scores of displays that make up the annual holiday event.

Forecast better for second Little Light of Mine event

BY BOB FENSKE

editor@nhtrib.com

Jason Rude is thanking his proverbial lucky stars that he'll be shooting off fireworks this weekend for the Little Light of Mine Committee.

Yep, sometimes a week can make a heck of a difference.

The annual holiday display at Mikkelsen Park flipped the switch last weekend and kicked off its 2024 season with two nights of horse-drawn wagon rides through the park.

Put it this way: Those were some downright frigid wagon rides as temperatures were in the teens and wind chills were near 0, but if the Thanksgiving weekend proved anything, we're a hearty bunch up here. Friday night, for example, more than 350 folks took part in the wagon rides to see the lights set up by the committee and scores of area businesses, organizations and families.

And now, Little Light of Mine is getting ready for its second big event in as many weekends as Santa will be at the light display from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and when the big fella is done talking with area kiddos and parents, the night sky will fill up with fireworks.

That's where Rude and J&M Displays comes into play. They're the fireworks guys.

"Absolutely, we'd much rather do it this weekend than last," Rude said. "It makes the fingers work a little better, especially



when you're dealing with a lot of intricate stuff."

Not that he hasn't experienced some bone-chilling cold over the years at Little Light of Mine.

"Yeah, I've whined and moaned the whole time some years," Rude said with a laugh. "We can do it, but we like it when it's 40 a lot better than it's 0. Trust me, we like that a whole lot better."

And Rude said he's excited for the show

that benefits what has become a New Hampton tradition — lighting up the crown jewel of the city's park system.

"This is the largest budget we've had for a show out there," he said, "and I think it's going to be a good one."

Although this is the last "big event" the Little Light of Mine Committee will put on, there's still plenty of time to enjoy the lights as the display will be on each evening through the end of the year.



Little Light of Mine displays will brighten Mikkelsen Park through the end of the year.



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15 9-2:00	16 9-5:30	17 9-5:30	18 9-5:30	19 9-5:30	20 9-5:30	21 9-2:00
22 9-2:00	23 9-5:30	24 9-2:00	25 closed	26 closed	27 closed	28 closed
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Snapshots from an energetic concert!

Let's start with Weston Kuehn (left), who definitely has a career waiting for him on stage as he nails the look for a song titles "So Sad at Santa's Pad" during the New Hampton Elementary School's Winter Concert Monday night that also featured Aubree Factor (above) as "Elf 4" and cute kindergartners like Lane Tiemessen (right) singing with their classmates.



Zach Kennedy (above) plays the role of "Jerry Lee," the piano guy, while McKinlee Felper (right) is all focus as she plays the xylophone during a song performed by first-graders.

Winter Concert photos by the Tribune's Bob Fenske



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Finnley Pitz (above) and Kayden Hansen (below) perform at the concert.



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when you **talk, test, treat**.



talk

Talk with your partner **before** having sex.
Talk about **when** you were last tested and suggest getting tested together.
Talk to your healthcare provider about your sex life. Ask them about HIV and STI testing: including what tests you need and how often.

test

Get tested! It's the only way to **know for sure** if you have an HIV or another STI.
Many STIs **don't cause any symptoms**, so you could have one and **not know**.
If you're not comfortable asking your regular provider for an HIV or STI test, find a clinic that provides confidential testing that is free or low cost.

treat

All STIs, including HIV, are treatable. If you test positive for an STI, work with your healthcare provider to get the right treatment.
If you test positive for HIV, your provider or testing location will help connect you to treatment & resources!
Ask about partner services to get your partner tested and treated. Avoid having sex until you and your sex partner both complete treatment.

STOP HIV IOWA

Chickasaw County Community Foundation accepting grant applications through Jan. 15

Grant applications can now be submitted to the following foundations for the 2025 grant cycle in Chickasaw County, with a submission deadline of Jan. 15 at 5 p.m.

Grants are awarded to projects within the program areas of arts and culture, community betterment, education and youth development, environment and animal welfare, and health and human services.

The online grant application can be

found on the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa's website at www.cfneia.org/grants/grant-opportunities. Technical support will be available to applicants until 5 p.m. on Jan. 15. Grant recipients will be announced in March.

Grants are available to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Tax-exempt organizations classified as other than 501(c)(3) are also eligible, if and only if, the proj-

ect is deemed charitable; please contact Dotti Thompson at 319-243-1358 or dthompson@cfneia.org to discuss the project's eligibility prior to submitting a proposal. Grants selections are made in an effort to create a better quality of life for people in these counties. A local impact committee reviews the applications from charitable organizations serving their community.

The Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa (CFNEIA), is also

seeking new volunteers to serve on their impact committees beginning in March 2025.

The impact committee position description and volunteer interest form can be found at www.cfneia.org/volunteer. Individuals may complete a volunteer self-interest form or may nominate someone else, such as a colleague, community leader or friend, to connect the Community Foundation with to explore their interest in serving

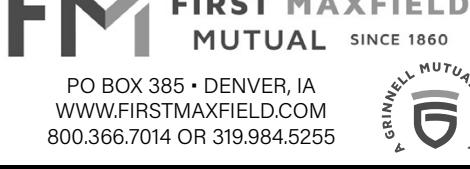
as a volunteer. The deadline to submit a volunteer interest form for initial consideration is Jan. 15.

The impact committee seeks to understand the needs of their county to ensure alignment between those needs and Foundation grants. The primary function and responsibility of the committee is to invest in nonprofits through the discretionary grant process, which distributes over \$100,000 annually in each county.

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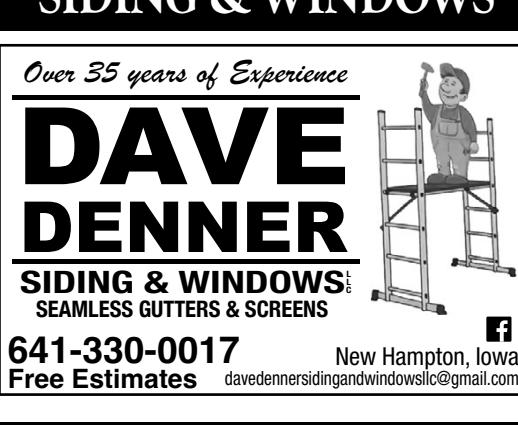
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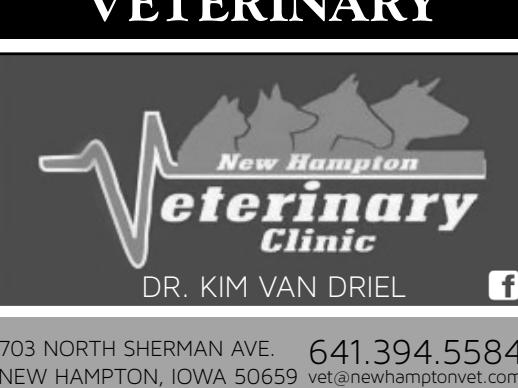
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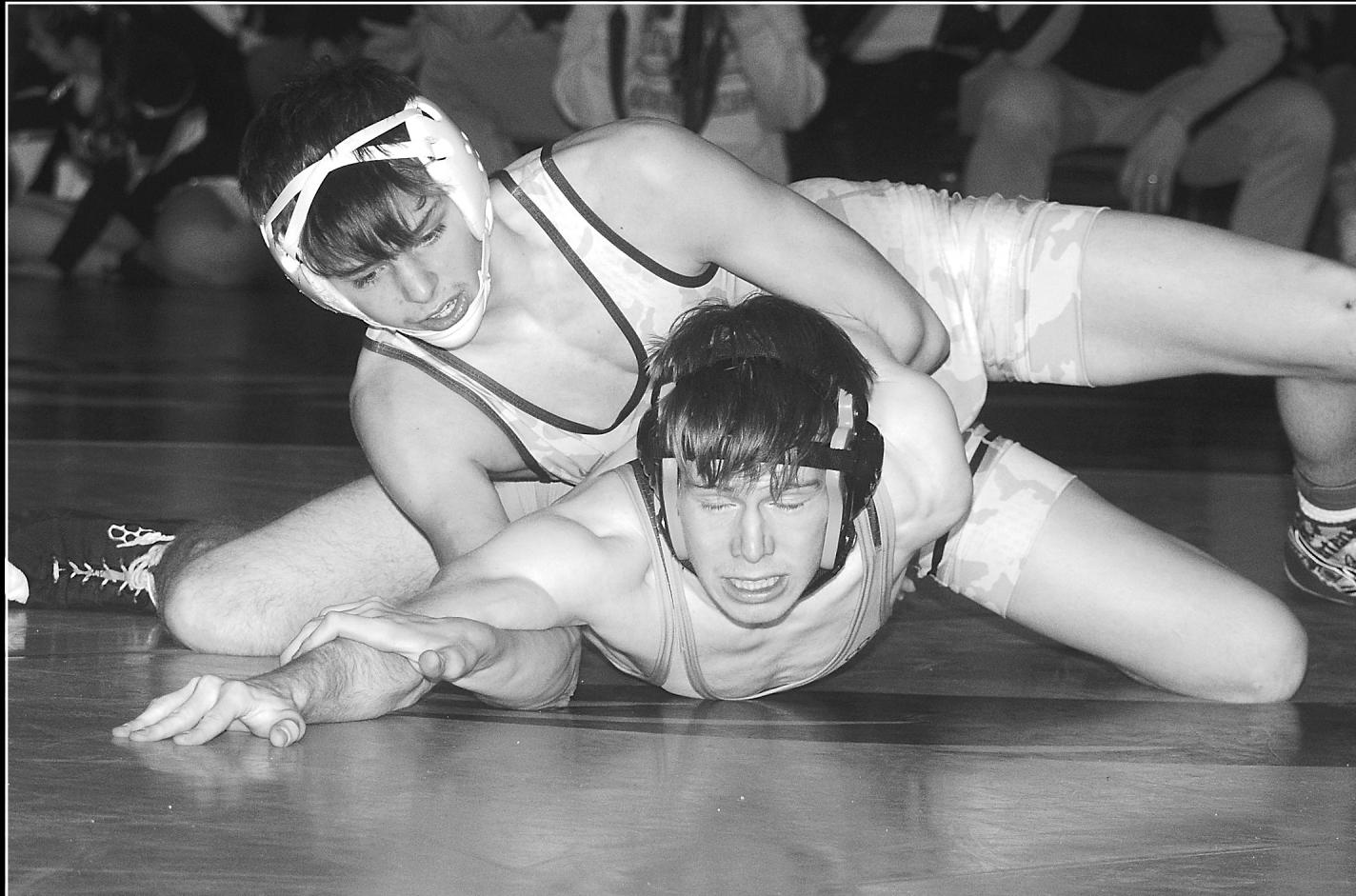
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WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Your guide to the 2024-2025 basketball, wrestling and bowling seasons



New Hampton/Turkey Valley's Braiden Schaufenbuel



New Hampton's Cora Schwickerath



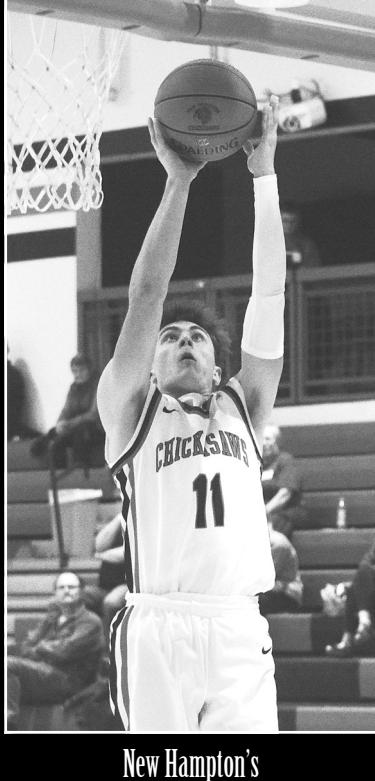
Turkey Valley's Delaney Busta



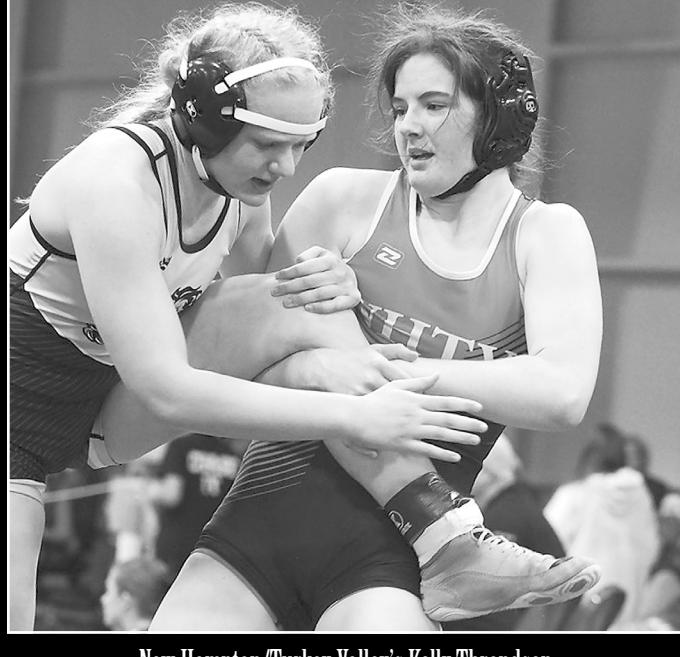
New Hampton's Reid Rausch



New Hampton's Jamison Porath



New Hampton's Adam Ewert



New Hampton/Turkey Valley's Kelly Thronsdon



New Hampton's Jackie Pickar



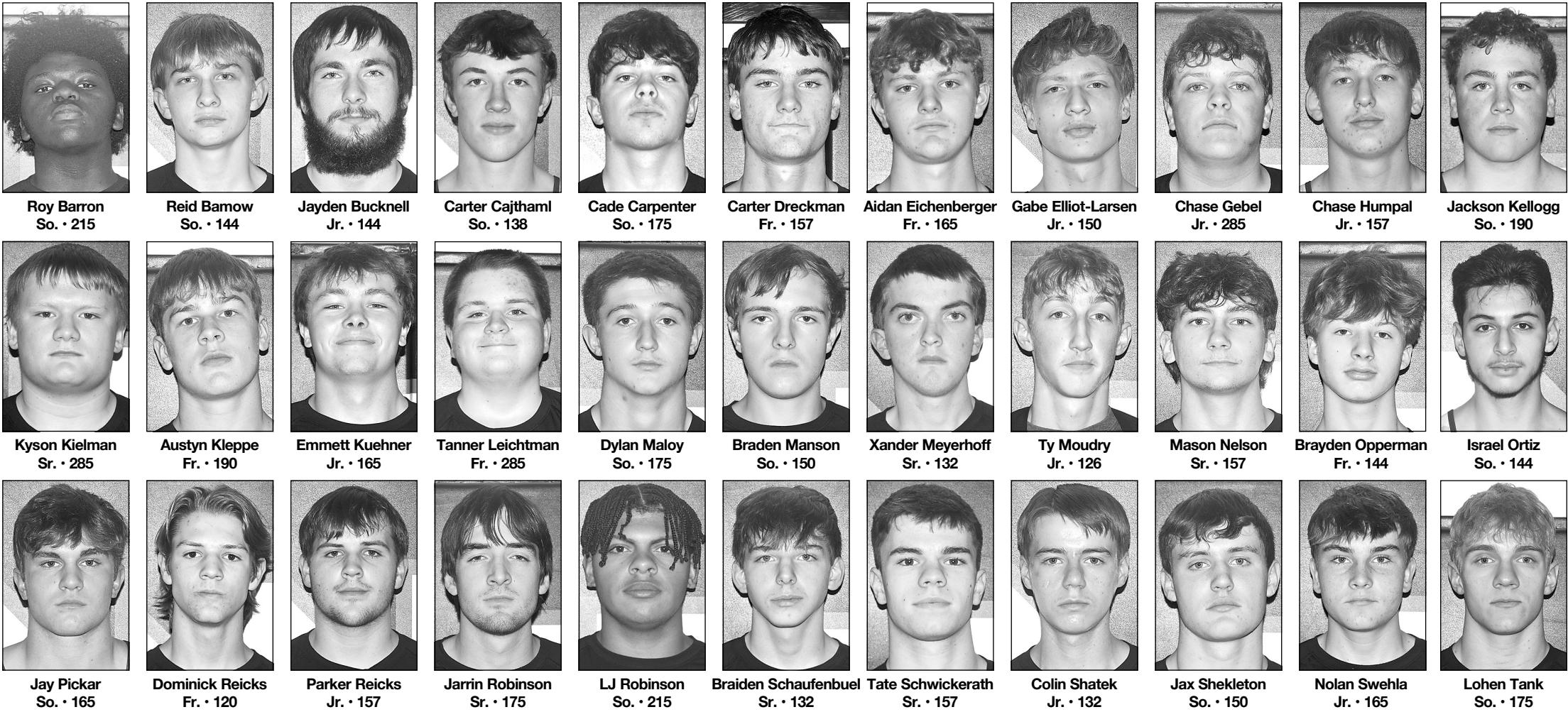
New Hampton/Turkey Valley's Jax Shekleton



Turkey Valley's Logan Busta

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RAW AND PROMISING

IT'S A TWO-WAY STREET WHEN IT COMES TO DEPTH FOR CHICKASAW BOYS

BY BOB FENSK
editor@nhtrib.com

If the first criteria for a deadlocked dual was number of 157 pounds, New Hampton/Turkey Valley boys wrestling team could play for a tie every single meet and finish the season undefeated.

"It's crazy, because we had seven guys try out at '57 this morning," said NH/TV coach Matt Paulus, who is entering his fifth full season at the helm of the Chickasaws. "We have some weights where we have a lot of guys and then we're still trying to find a '6 and a '13. We have really good numbers, makes for good practice partners, especially in the middle

weights, and then we have others we can't fill. It's a little nuts."

But two weeks of preseason workouts has Paulus and his coaching staff excited about the 2024-25 season, which began on Tuesday night when the Chickasaws took part in a quadrangular at South Winneshiek.

"It's been kind of fun. They're raw — very raw — but they're very hard workers," he said. "We talk about it, even if you don't know what you're doing, as long as you put the effort into it, we can teach you what you need to know. ... I'm really proud of their efforts."

He pointed to Saturday's tryouts and the level of competition he saw in the room throughout the day.

"Everyone was wrestling hard at the

end of matches," he said, "and we were impressed with that."

It's not that NH/TV doesn't have veterans in the lineup; in fact, four of this season's Chickasaws ended their 2023-24 seasons at the Class 2A state tournament.

Jayden Bucknell, a junior who will move up to 144 this year, capped a 30-23 sophomore season by going 3-2 at 132 and was just one win away from making his way on to the medal stand. Jax Shekleton closed out his freshman season at 150 with a 20-15 record that included a first-round win at state, and the sophomore will stay at the same weight this winter. And Braiden Schaufenbuel, who is bump-

Aiden Underwood
Fr. • 190

Bryar Usher
Sr. • 157

Caleb Utley
Sr. • 165

Francisco Valdez
Fr. • 190

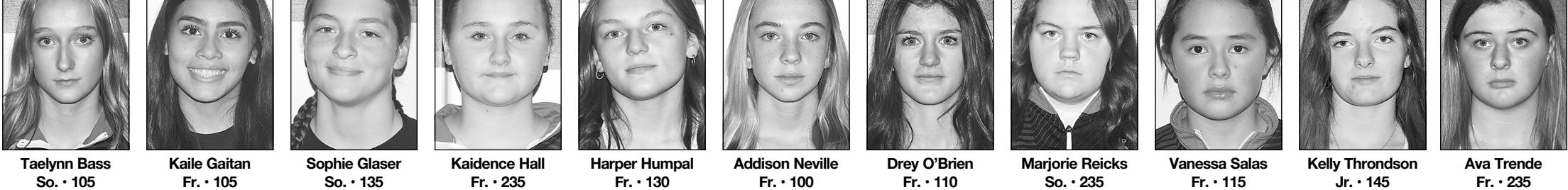
Aiden Zeien
Fr. • 150

including 215-pound state champion Braden McShane and 157-pound fifth-place finisher Karson Kolbet.

So when Paulus was asked if he would like another week without competition, his answer was relatively quick.

"We could have used it," he said. "It depends on the year. Like last year, we had 12 seniors so it's not as big of a deal, 'let's go compete.' We could probably use another week, but you don't get it, so here we go."

SEE NH/TV BOYS, 18



Young Chickasaws look to build on 'rather well' start

Returning state qualifiers Thronson and Glaser lead New Hampton/Turkey Valley roster dominated by freshmen

BY BOB FENSK
editor@nhtrib.com

As young and inexperienced as his New Hampton/Turkey Valley girls wrestling team is, Caleb Ciavarelli certainly liked the way the Chickasaws got out of the gate.

"I think we started off rather well," the Chickasaw coach said, referring to NH/TV picking up a dual win and having five girls place in the top-eight at the always tough Independence tournament during the season's opening week last month.

"With it being such a young squad, I think we showed we are

definitely on the right track."

The Chickasaws roster numbers 11 and is led by two returning state qualifiers — junior Kelly Thronson and sophomore Sophie Glaser — but youth will have to be served this year as seven of the 11 Chickasaws are freshmen.

"We're kind of hopefully going to continue that," Ciavarelli said. "If we can keep getting kids from our middle school program — it's half stay with basketball and half stay with wrestling — we'll start seeing our numbers grow. ... We're always starting over, it feels like, so it's nice to have a group of girls who have wrestled at least in mid-

dle school and come in with some knowledge."

The two state qualifiers are definitely the leaders of the team, the NH/TV coach said.

Glaser went 30-19 as a freshman and went 1-2 when the best wrestlers in the state of Iowa gathered in Coralville last winter for the state tournament. Thronson, meanwhile, came on strong late in the season, finishing 23-16 and qualifying for her first state tournament.

"Kelly's the more vocal one, no doubt about that," he said, "and she's a great leader for our young girls. Sophie may not be as loud,

she's not the talker Kelly is, but just by example, she's a great leader. They have two different styles but they both work on our team. ... Having two girls in the room who have had the success they've had, been to state and all that, it's huge. They can tell the girls, 'Here's how it's done, here's where you go.'"

The Chickasaws also welcome back one other wrestler who competed at the regional meet last fall as Taelynn Bass, who went 23-20 in 2023-24, is moving up from 100 to 105 this year.

And then there are the freshmen — girls like Addison Neville (100), Kaile Gaitan (105), Drey

O'Brien (110), Vanessa Salas (115), Harper Humpal (130), Kaidence Hall (235) and Ava Trende (235) — who went a combined 17-16 during the opening week of the season.

The issue for the Chickasaws is that they will have to forfeit at least three weights — 155, 170 and 190 — in dual meets.

"I think we have a strong nucleus this year," Ciavarelli said, "and we don't have a senior out so if we can keep these girls together, add some more kids from the middle school program next year and

SEE NH/TV GIRLS, 18



Raelen Manderfield
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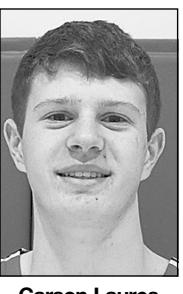
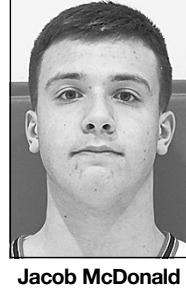
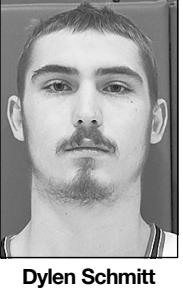
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Jr. • 6-5 • CKye Rausch
Fr. • 5-11 • GReid Rausch
Sr. • 6-2 • G/FCaden Rochford
Jr. • 6-2 • GDylen Schmitt
Jr. • 6-2 • F

Looking to move up

Chickasaws ready to put two-win season behind them

BY KELLY TERPSTRA

sports@nhtrib.com

Nineteen losses versus just two wins. There's no easy way to put it – the 2023-2024 New Hampton boys hoops season last winter was a difficult sled.

NH head coach Ryan Rausch is hoping those hard lessons learned from more setbacks than not will be pivotal in transforming a team and program that is excited to get back to its winning ways.

"There are no two ways around the fact that last year was tough and frustrating for all of us, but our guys stayed together and always played hard," said Rausch, now in his seventh year as Chickasaw head coach. "I think those struggles have made them all better players and teammates. As much as you would like to never have to go through that, it makes you better as a player and person."

Rausch said effort, leadership, as well as taking care of the basketball and being better shot makers should help the Chickasaws find the fuel to energize themselves in order to pull out victories.

"As much as we always want to win, sometimes there are more lessons for us when we lose or when things are not going so well. These guys are motivated to get that season off their backs and show people what they are capable of individually and as a group," Rausch said. "Our offense seems to generate a really good amount of open looks and the guys just need to make more shots – plain and simple."

New Hampton graduated a key starter last season in the form of leading scorer Cael Laures, an all-conference NEIC second-team pick as a forward who averaged 13 points and over seven rebounds a tilt. Two other NH starters have also graduated in guard Ben Kramer and forward Nick Brincks. New Hampton's Carter Newbrough (guard) started two games as a senior last year and also graduated.

Back this year for Rausch are starters Adam Ewert (senior guard), Reid Rausch (senior guard/forward) and junior guard Caden Rochford, who started eight games last year as a sophomore.

Ewert averaged just over eight points a game and pulled down 3.6 rebounds per contest. He came up with 21 steals and knocked down 14 three-pointers. He was the team's assist leader

with 48. Ewert stands 5-11, but can play much bigger than that as his athletic ability allows him to come up with many clutch shots down low.

Rausch, listed at 6-2 on New Hampton's roster, averaged just over three points a game and drilled 10 three-pointers. He's looking for a breakout year on the hardwood and will aim to bump those numbers up big time in his final year as a Chickasaw. He missed some time last year out on the court as he played in 17 out New Hampton's 21 games. When healthy, he'll be a steady presence on the court and like Ewert – has been on the varsity roster since his freshman season.

Rochford, also 6-2, has tremendous upside in his third year on the varsity squad. He gained valuable experience last year stepping into an increased workload and netted 4.7 points per game to go along with 22 made 3-pointers – which was second to Laures' team-leading 25 on the team.

Ryan Rausch is super pumped about each of his three returning starter's ceilings – which are awfully high and easy to see if you pay attention to New Hampton basketball – even in the slightest. The biggest goal for this trio – especially early on – will be remaining positive and battling obstacles that will be set forth upon the team by challenging opponents.

"Reid, Adam and Caden have played a lot of basketball for us and have seen a lot. We are looking forward to them setting the tone for us as far as leadership, how we play, and handling situations as they come," said the NH head coach.

In addition to those three aforementioned starters, returning senior letterwinners Jake Schwickerath (guard) and Ryan Willadsen (forward) will also be penciled into Rausch's starting five.

Rausch's projected starters have helped show the ropes – so to speak – to newcomers and underclassmen.

"They have done a nice job of helping our more inexperienced guys feel confident and comfortable," said Ryan Rausch.

SEE NH Boys, 16

NEW HAMPTON BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Dec. 5	at Osage JV/V	5:15/7:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	Turkey Valley JV/V	2/5 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Waukon JV/V	5:30/8 p.m.
Dec. 12	Waukon 9	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	Decorah 9	7 p.m.
Dec. 17	Decorah JV/V	5:30/8 p.m.
Dec. 18	at Charles City 9/JV/V	4:15/5:15/7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20	Crestwood JV/V	5:30/8 p.m.
Dec. 21	Indee at Upper Iowa Holiday Classic V	Noon
Jan. 3	Sumner-Fredericksburg JV/V	5:15/7:45 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Clarksville JV/V	5:15/7:45 p.m.
Jan. 9	at Crestwood 9	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 13	Keel High JV/V	5:15/7:30 p.m.
Jan. 17	Waukon JV/V	5:30/8 p.m.
Jan. 20	at Waterloo Columbus JV/V	5:15/8 p.m.
Jan. 23	at Waukon 9	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 24	at Decorah JV/V	5:30/8 p.m.
Jan. 27	at North Butler JV/V	5:15/8 p.m.
Jan. 30	at North Fayette Valley JV/V	5:15/8 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Decorah 9	7 p.m.
Jan. 31	Charles City 9/JV/V	4:15/5:15/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	South Winnesheik JV/V	5:15/7:45 p.m.
Feb. 6	Central Springs JV/V	5/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	at Crestwood JV/V	5:30/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 13	Crestwood 9	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Oelwein JV/V	6/7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Class 2A district tournament begins	

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Chickasaw girls will have to be versatile**NH GIRLS: FROM 15**

scrimmaging – which is a huge, huge factor when you talk about girls basketball and where we're at fundamentally and where we can go once we tie some game-like reps into working on a day-by-day basis," said Leichtman.

Ava Leichtman is one of the conference's best ball handlers out on the perimeter and is deadly from beyond the arc. The junior point guard is also one of the premier back-court stars in the NEIC at slicing and dicing defenses, drawing contact and heading to the charity stripe. She averaged just over 12 points a game and was fifth-best in the NEIC in made treys with 34. Leichtman averaged four rebounds a game and right at two steals.

"Ava looks to continue to improve her game in all aspects on the court," said David Leichtman.

Schickerath netted over six points of offense a contest and tallied well over four rebounds a tilt. She tied with Ries for the team lead in assists (47).

Pickar – along with Schickerath – is an adept defender and tallied 2.5 points per game. Pickar also averaged 3.5 rebounds a game.

"Cora and Jackie are primed for great seasons," said David Leichtman. "They're definitely our leaders. They've been through the program. They know the system."

NH junior forward Jordan Thronsdson – who scored 19 points in 21 games as sophomore – came up with 4.3 rebounds per game and will be one of Leichtman's key starters down low. Thronsdson – at 5-8 – is the tallest player on the roster along with junior Chloe Weigel, sophomore

New Hampton boys coach wants to play a lot of guys early in year**NH Boys: From 15**

New Hampton will bring a lot of bodies out onto the court – at least early on – according to Ryan Rausch. That means several new faces will have ample opportunity to have an impact and make their presence known.

"Especially early on, we are going to play a lot of guys," said New Hampton's seventh-year coach.

Those up-and-coming players that will log minutes are juniors Braxton Bundy (5-9 guard), Dylan Schmitt (6-2 forward) and Jacob McDonald (center). McDonald is New Hampton's tallest player at 6-5, but has limited varsity experience, as do Bundy and Schmitt. Trenton Horner, a junior guard, will also vie for playing time as this is the first year he's been on the varsity roster.

"Braxton, Dylan and 'Big Jake' all need to step up and have good minutes. Trenton is a good shooter who just needs to get more comfortable and physical," said Ryan Rausch.

Ryan Rausch said he's also expecting big things out of his three freshmen – 5-11 guard Kye Rausch (Reid's little brother), Carson Laures (6-3, guard/forward) and six-foot guard Ethan Carter. The NH head coach said all three have played a lot of competitive basketball and encountered a fair amount of success along the way.

"Obviously you would rather give freshmen more time, but we just don't have that luxury anymore. It will also pay nice

Cayce Crawford and freshman Ainslea Pint (all listed at 5-8).

That means New Hampton will once again want to push tempo with a fast-paced style of play that can force turnovers and get easy fast-break points to compensate for its lack of height in the half-court set.

"With our size, everybody has to play at a 1-5 position," said David Leichtman. "We've had to pretty well come with a positionless basketball concept."

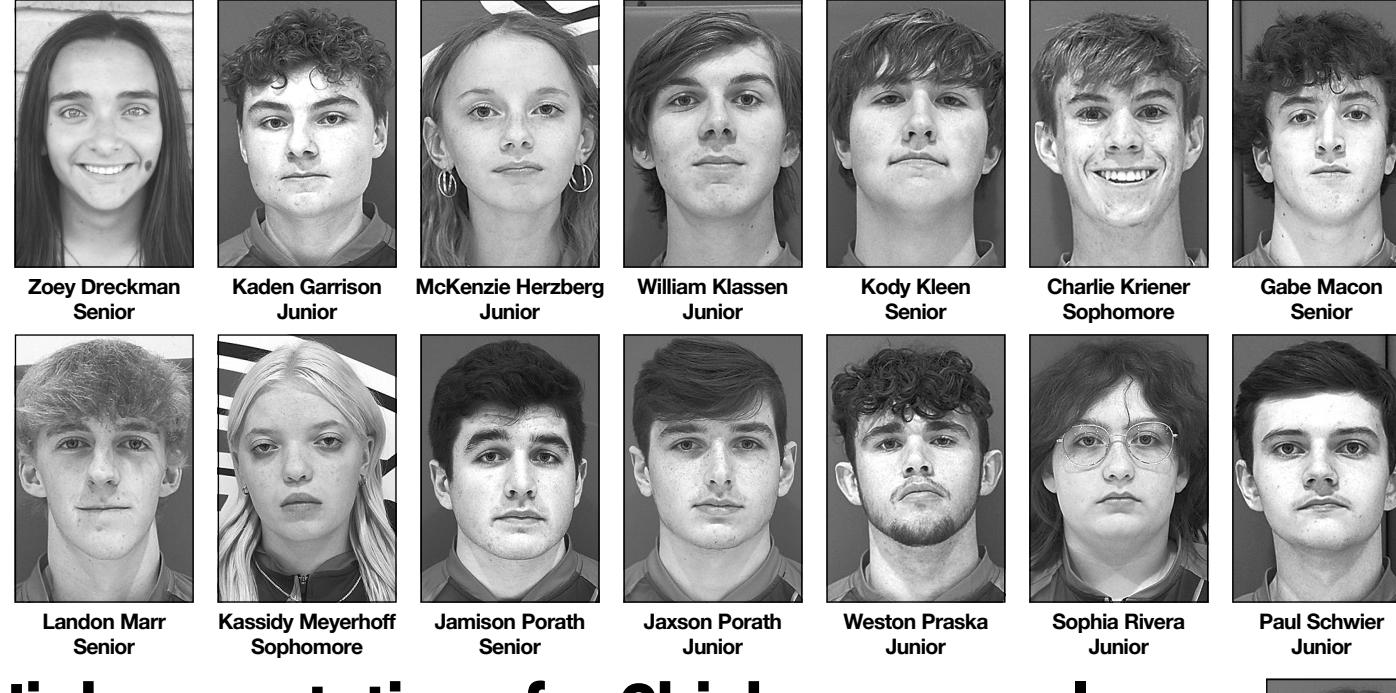
Weigel will start at forward and racked up 2.2 points of scoring last year and 2.1 rebounds a tilt.

"Chloe and Jordan – as juniors – have really stepped up. They're part of our strength," said Leichtman. "They're two very tough kids who go out and give it their all."

Players off the bench for New Hampton will be Crawford (forward), junior guard Tegan Dungey and sophomore guard Kayme Hackman. Aleigha Cahoy – a freshman standout volleyball player last fall – is also in Leichtman's rotation.

There are just five teams in the NEIC now after Waverly-Shell Rock's departure at the start of the 2024-2025 school year, but with Charles City not having a varsity team, New Hampton has just six conference games this winter.

New Hampton added several new teams to its schedule in the form of Grundy Center (away), Aplington-Parkersburg (home), Summer-Fredericksburg (away), Hudson (away) and at North Butler. Leichtman also said NH could take on Riceville in the regular season, but that game has not been officially added to the schedule as of this week.

**High expectations for Chickasaws on lanes**

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

Andy Aries has high goals for his New Hampton Chickasaws – more so than most for a squad that will be competing in just its third year of existence.

His program has come that far in a relative short amount of time.

What exactly will enable these Chickasaws to reach those lofty expectations?

As corny as it sounds – play like a team in what most people consider an individual sport.

"What it's going to take for that, though, is everybody's going to have to be clicking almost all the time. When somebody's not, we're going to have to pick 'em up and be able to do it," said Aries.

NH made history last year by sending its first individual ever to the state tournament in Jamison Porath. The left-hander finished off a fine junior campaign by placing 28th with a three-game series of 540 in the 32-man state bracket in Class 1A at Cadillac XBC (Xtreme Bowling Center) in Waterloo.

In fact, two Chickasaws came awfully close to making it a trio competing down in Black Hawk County at the state meet.

That productive pairing – Charlie Kriener and Gabe Macon – were new to the varsity program last winter but still managed to place sixth and seventh respectively at the state qualifier.

"To be able to announce three kids in the top eight – it's remarkable for our second year," said Aries. "The feedback that you get from that, that's the biggest thing. If the leadoff people can give you that type of feedback, it works wonders to go down the rest of the line."

New Hampton started out the season 0-9 last year and getting off on the right foot before the Christmas break may prove beneficial to help build confidence – which is also key in knocking down shots.

New Hampton shot just 26 percent from beyond the arc last year and averaged over 16 turnovers a game. Those critical stats will have to improve if New Hampton's wants to up its win total from a year ago.

With two weeks of practice

underneath its belt – New Hampton is ready to test the waters and see what this winter hoops campaign brings.

"I have really liked several things about this group. First....

our leadership," coach Rausch said. "Our older guys want to build this thing the right way. Our guys are motivated to win. We practice at a very high intensity level."

NEW HAMPTON BOWLING SCHEDULE

Dec. 5	at Waterloo Columbus	4 p.m.
Dec. 13	Waukon	4 p.m.
Dec. 19	at Grundy Center	4 p.m.
Jan. 7	West Delaware	4 p.m.
Jan. 10	Tripoli	4 p.m.
Jan. 14	Summer-Fredericksburg	4 p.m.
Jan. 17	at Charles City	4 p.m.
Jan. 28	North Fayette Valley	4 p.m.
Jan. 31	Forest City	4 p.m.
Feb. 5	Conference Baker Tourney at Waterloo	9 a.m.
Feb. 14	Waverly-Shell Rock	4 p.m.
Feb. 17	Girls regional tournament	10 a.m.
Feb. 18	Boys regional tournament	10 a.m.
Feb 24-26	State Tournament at Waterloo	TBD

games and produced the team's high series during the regular season with a 429.

Macon (senior)

and Kriener (sophomore) will be two of New Hampton's top bowlers in Aries' senior-laden lineup.

Jamison's younger brother – Jaxson Porath – is also slated to go in NH's six-man varsity lineup. Chickasaw senior Kody Kleen is another New Hampton bowler to look out for in 2024-25.

Kriener and Jaxson Porath are New Hampton's leadoff bowlers – two very crucial roles that will be counted on this year to get the Chickasaws started out on the right foot with positive energy.

"The key is to get everybody started. I've got two very capable leadoff bowlers this year," said Aries.

The rest of Aries' lineup consists of juniors Kaden Garrison, William Klassen, Weston

SEE NH BOWLING, 18



Vanessa Snyder
Freshman



Connor Stummie
Sophomore

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Chickasaws open bowling season with sweep of Oelwein

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

With an extra bowler compared to the four they had last year, the Chickasaw girls bowling team broke a school record in the season opener at Viper Lanes in Oelwein last week Tuesday.

The New Hampton contingent of Sophia Rivera, Vanessa Snyder, Cassidy Meyerhoff, Zoey Dreckman and McKenzie Herzberg etched their names in the record books in the first meet of the season with a team total of 1,461 to the Huskies' 828.

Don't be surprised if they re-break that team scoring record relatively

soon.

"This year we actually have five girls now. It does make a huge difference," said New Hampton head coach Andy Aries. "Being able to bowl with five and not having to take a zero because of missing somebody is outstanding."

Rivera, a junior, was meet medalist with a 213, followed by first-year roller

- freshman Vanessa Snyder (206). NH sophomore Cassidy Meyerhoff notched a 200 series and another first-year bowler in senior Zoey Dreckman came up with a 194. McKenzie Herzberg, a junior, tallied a 182.

New Hampton's baker round produced a score of 466.

"Two of my girls that just started

this year bowled very, very well for their first meet," said Aries.

The NH boys, which return all their starters from a season ago, topped Oelwein 2,704 to 1,898.

"Obviously, it could have been better but it was still a very good first

SEE NH BOWLING, 12



Becky Walz/Decorah Leader

NH/TV's Tate Schwickerath (above) competes against Clear Lake's Aiden Hippen at 157 pounds in a season-opening double dual at Calmar on Tuesday evening and the Chickasaw coaching staff (below) surveys the mat action.



Chickasaw wrestlers start season with quad sweep

NH/TV gets wins over Clear Lake, South Winn and Central, head to always-tough Independence tourney this weekend

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

When you start to break down Matt Paulus' New Hampton/Turkey Valley lineup, you'll find plenty of bright spots that are waiting to bust out this winter and take their talent to another level.

They've also got grit.

The Chickasaws showcased some of that heart and determination in the season opener at Calmar on Tuesday – a quad versus the host South Winneshiek Warriors, Clear Lake and Central Community that NH/TV swept.

Barely.

NH/TV – with a horde of new faces out on the mat for 2024-2025 – slipped past Clear Lake, 43-42, by criteria (less forfeits). Then Paulus' perennial-power squad proceeded to shred Central Community (63-5), followed by a nice win over the host Warriors, 44-23.

Obviously – especially early

on – the Chickasaws have plenty of room for improvement, but Paulus is eager to see his youthful squad mature and get better as the season starts to pick up steam.

"Collectively, overall our guys were hungry to get some competition in. We talked about it afterwards, we're just a planted seed right now on how good we can get this season with these young guys," said Paulus. "I'm happy to see these guys grow and throughout the season I think they're going to really surprise people."

Paulus' lower to middle-weights flexed their muscles as state qualifiers from a year ago – senior Braiden Schaufenbuel (132) and junior Jayden "Bucky" Bucknell (144) – each powered their way to three pins apiece to shine amidst the four-team fray.

"We have a solid lineup with five or six guys in a row that really push each other in the room, so that helps a lot," said Paulus. "There's some serious talent there. They're a big spark plug for us for duals, especially giving up two weight classes. You've got to make up some hay somewhere."

A newcomer to the lineup – freshman 120-pounder Dominick Reicks – worked his way to victory by two decisions and stuck Clear Lake's John Hamilton in 2:52.

SEE NH/TV BOYS, 12

Hot Knights run past Chickasaws

Top of Iowa East power Mason City Newman pulls away for 82-38 win over New Hampton

BY KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

For those that didn't notice – the New Hampton Chickasaws led the Mason City Newman Knights at one point in each team's season opener on Monday night.

Granted, that advantage Ryan Rausch's NEIC squad held was 5-4 roughly two minutes into the fray, but the point is his Chickasaws did some good things in Game No. 1 of the season – even in an 82-38 blowout loss.

New Hampton could not survive an onslaught of points that erased its one and only lead in the first quarter and a devastating string of 15-consecutive points in the second period that took all of two minutes for the victorious Knights to accomplish.

The Chickasaws never recovered after Reid Rausch's splash down from beyond the arc that trimmed Newman's lead to 20-15 with 7:22 to go before half. Then the Knights ratcheted up the pressure, turned the non-conference tussle into a track meet and shot 56 percent from the floor to make it a long evening for the Chickasaws – even with the 35-point continuous clock rolling.

"I feel bad for our guys because they feel like they're snake-bitten a little," said Ryan Rausch, in his seventh year as

New Hampton's Caden Rochford (above) puts up a reverse layup while teammate Ethan Carter (below) drives the baseline during the Chickasaws' season opener Monday night.

Chickasaw head coach. "We'll have periods where we'll play real good and then it's just like this 16-0 run. We give up runs and we've got to try to find ways to stem that. We've gotta get a bucket. We gotta stop the pace

SEE NH BOYS, 12



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supporting our businesses."

The chamber director couldn't help but laugh about her so-called curse.

"I'm serious, the Curse of Liz — our Christmas events always seem cold — was alive and well," she said about a morning in which temperatures struggled to climb into double digits. "I don't know what it is, but since I started, it's cold. I swear I'm not doing it on purpose."

The curse appears likely to extend through tonight's (Thursday) Live Windows and Light Parade. The forecast is, in a word, blustery with temperatures in the teens.

"We have a lot of warming stations," Zweibohmer said of the event that runs from 5 to 7 p.m. and includes the Light Parade at 5:30. "I can't stress

that enough, and luckily, it's been frigid the last two years and it didn't seem to matter. People love this event."

One highlight of Small Business Saturday was the official unveiling of the Festival of Trees, a contest in which 17 area non-profits decorated trees and residents can cast votes in the form of donations to the organizations.

Zweibohmer said the turnout Saturday at the New Hampton Municipal Utilities building was strong.

"It was really steady, and I don't think we had any time when there wasn't somebody in the building," she said. "We got a lot of great comments on the contest and especially the trees. They're just beautiful, and what was really nice about it is that we saw a lot of out-of-town people who were either



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Small Business Saturday participants check out the Festival of Trees at the NHMU building.

home for the holidays or here just to check out what we have to offer."

The NHMU building will also be open tonight for voting, and the American Legion Fae Stine Post 38 will be serving pork loin sandwiches

— or just warm up — to donate to the

non-profit organizations.

"That's so cool and we appreciate our veterans doing this," she said, "and with the soup contest at [First Citizens Bank], you can fill up and warm up on both sides of downtown, right?"

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