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County goes down layoff road

Supervisors reach consensus to cut 4 1/2 positions from county payroll

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors reached a consensus Monday to eliminate the equivalent of 4 1/2 full-time employees from its workforce in an effort to solve what continues to be a tricky 2025-26 budget.

Board members reached the agree-

ment to lay off one employee from the Treasurer's Office, one from the Auditor's Office, one from the Sheriff's Office and 1 1/2 from Public Health and Homecare Services.

The decision came during a department head meeting that took up almost two hours of the board's weekly meeting as supervisors laid out the numbers that they were dealing with when it came to General Basic (GB), one of

three tax-levying funds they control.

As of Monday, they said, they had a \$363,000 shortfall when it came to having the recommended 25 percent-of-expenditures ending fund balance when the next fiscal year ends on June 30, 2026. They also said that proposed GB expenditures were \$749,000 more than projected revenue.

"We all know the issue, expenditures are higher than revenue," Board

Chairman Jacob Hackman said early in the discussion on the budget. "How many more years can we use the ending fund balance to float this county forward?"

For more than an hour, though, the board made little movement on the budget, although they, along with a number of department heads, banded

about several ideas.

Conservation Board Director Chad Humpal asked board members to set their goal on cutting \$363,000 from

SEE SUPERVISORS, 3

Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

Cheering on the Chickasaws at state!

New Hampton/Turkey Valley cheerleader Kadence Rings shouts encouragement to the Chickasaws' Jayden Bucknell as he wrestles in the 138-pound consolation bracket at the Class 2A state wrestling tournament last Thursday at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. The Chickasaws had a solid trip south as Carter Cajthaml took second at 132, Bucknell finished eighth at 138 and Chase Humpal competed at 165.

See STORY, Page 12

State auditor: County should not have given Nashua \$50,000 for dam

Report cites the fact that city didn't own dam when the county made ARPA funds available

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

Chickasaw County "improperly awarded" \$50,000 of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the city of Nashua, State Auditor Rob Sand said in a report that was released Monday afternoon.

What happens next, though, when it comes to the money that the Board of Supervisors gave the Nashua to help with engineering costs on the dam that is located in the city remains up in the air.

Sand, in the cover letter to the report of a readit completed by Chief Deputy James S. Cunningham, wrote that "because the city did not own the dam at the time the funds were awarded, the County improperly awarded the ARPA funds to the City."

But Sand also pointed out that "City and County officials believed the City owned the dam at the time the funds were awarded."

Nashua City Clerk John Ott said on Tuesday that the city's official comment on the report is that "our city attorney is meeting with the Chickasaw County attorney to see how we proceed." He did say that the ownership of the dam was a "technicality" and that the city now has legal proof that it owns the dam that created Cedar Lake, a cornerstone of the county's second-largest city.

The State Auditor's report agreed, stating that a quit claim deed that was prepared by the MidAmerican Energy Corporation and grants

SEE DAM, 3

When we eat Lions breakfast, kids see clearer

Annual fundraiser helps support KidSight program

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

When the New Hampton Lions Club holds its annual Pancake and French Toast Breakfast a week from this coming Sunday, the money raised undoubtedly will help a young child in New Hampton see the world a whole lot clearer.

Then again, helping the blind and sight-impaired has been a part of the national Lions Club mission for almost 100 years.

And it starts with local chapters like New Hampton's, where the KidSight program is as much a part of the school year as the first day of classes, snow days, Christmas break and the last day of classes.

Ask longtime Lions Club member Virgil Pickar and he sums it perfectly: "We do all the leg work and send the pictures down to them, and they will look at them, and they

Pickar

Photo courtesy of Virgil Pickar

New Hampton Lions Club member Adam Zeien (left) and Andrew Zweibohmer get ready to put another youngster through the KidSight program this past fall.

can tell if there's a problem already with vision."

He readily admits that he may not understand the science behind the specialty camera, but he will also tell you that within a few weeks of those photos taken with that camera being sent to the University of Iowa's Stead Family Children's Hospital, he's seen New Hampton kids sporting new eye glasses.

The \$10,000 camera was purchased by Lions Clubs in New Hampton and

SEE LIONS, 5

Area librarians vent frustrations over proposed new state laws

Bills in Des Moines, funding from county present challenges for librarians like New Hampton's Becker, Nashua's Hackman

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

New Hampton Public Library Director Carrie Becker admits that, for a while at least, she endured some sleepless nights recently. And she wasn't talking, either.

Becker was that frustrated with what's happening in the Iowa Legislature these days when it comes to bills concerning state libraries.

Those proposed laws ranged from modifying provisions related to public libraries that are eligible to receive state assistance under the Enrich Iowa program to removing protections for schools and libraries, making them subject to Iowa's obscenity laws without exemptions for education, art or history.

If the latter bill passes, the

SEE LIBRARIES, 5

Legislative forum set for Saturday in New Hampton

The two lawmakers who represent Chickasaw County in the Iowa Legislature are scheduled to appear at a town hall meeting on Saturday in New Hampton to discuss the 2025 Legislature.

State Rep. Charley Thomson, R-Charles City, and State Sen. Sandy Salmon, R-Janesville, are both expected to attend the legislative forum being sponsored by the Chickasaw County Farm Bureau that is set to start at 9 a.m. at the New Hampton Community Center.

They will provide updates on the session and also take questions and comments from constituents.

\$125 Single Copy

State kids

Meet the eight youngsters who will represent the Chickasaw Elite Wrestling Club at state AAU

Page 11

A great partner

Our editor remembers one-of-a-kind car salesman, the one and only Vern Laures

Page 2

All-NEIC

Conference coaches tab Leichtman, Schwickerath for all-league honors

Page 12

TOWN HALL MEETING

NEW HAMPTON COMMUNITY CENTER
112 E. SPRING ST., NEW HAMPTON

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025
STARTING AT 9:00 AM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Briefs

Parks and Rec to hold mother-son bowling outing on March 8

The New Hampton Parks and Recreation Department will hold its annual Mother-Son bowling outing on Saturday, March 8.

The event includes bowling and a pizza and desert dinner with the “first shift” of bowlers taking the Bowlaway Lanes at 5 p.m. and the second group beginning bowling at 6:15 p.m.

The cost is \$40 for each mother and son, and additional sons will cost \$15.

For more information or to sign up for the event, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 641-394-5464.

‘A Matter of Balance’ begins March 24 at NH Public Library

Would you like to improve your balance? Do you want to feel more comfortable participating in your favorite activities? Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A) is offering “A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls,” an award-winning workshop designed to increase the activity levels of older adults with concerns about falling.

During eight two-hour sessions, participants learn to:

- Promote exercise to increase strength and balance
- Set realistic goals for increasing activity
- Improve the environment to reduce fall risk factors
- View falls and fear of falling as controllable

The Centers for Disease Control report that falling is the most common cause of injury in people over 60. More than one-third of adults aged 65 years and older fall each year. Don’t become a statistic!

Take active steps to reduce the risk of falls; register today for A Matter of Balance. Classes will be held at the New Hampton Public Library, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday and Thursday, March 24 through April 17.

Preregistration is required by contacting Carrie Becker, New Hampton Public Library director, at 641-394-2184. A minimum of eight participants is required.

Each participant will receive a detailed training manual.

The program costs for the workshop is being covered by the New Hampton Public Library.

Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging serves 18 counties in Northeast Iowa and is one of six Area Agencies on Aging in Iowa.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

In the Tribune’s “50 and counting” story on Vern Laures, he posed for a photo between a new Chevrolet Impala and the 1964 version of the car that he sold when he first got started in the car business back in 1964.

It’s tough to say goodbye to a one of a kind

It was one of those early December days that we Iowans want to hang onto as long as we can.

Sure, there was a nip in the air, but the sun shone brightly as I made my way out to Vern Laures Auto Center to talk to the dealership’s namesake who was celebrating 50 years in the business.

As I walked in, Vern Laures greeted me with a big smile and said, “How you doing, partner?”

I had known Vern for more than four years by then, and I knew I could joke with him. So I did.

“You know, Vern,” I said as serious as I could keep myself, “we’ve known each other for a few years now and you always call me partner, but not once have I gotten a check from the dealership.”

He gave me that smile that was unmistakably Vern Laures’ and laughed.

“You’re the silent partner.”

For years after, whenever I’d run into Vern — be it at the dealership on New Hampton’s north side, Josie’s or a sporting event — he’d flash that smile and say, “How you doing, silent partner?”

It makes me beyond sad that I



Bob Fenske has been the editor of the New Hampton Tribune since 2009, and he can be reached by email at editor@nhtrib.com.

won’t hear that greeting, our little inside joke, again. Vern Laures passed away last week, and I, like countless other area residents, are still coming to grips with a world that doesn’t include Vernie anymore.

For 40 years, I’ve been working at newspapers so I’ve written my share of workplace anniversary stories, yet with apologies to the others, few, if any, can hold a proverbial candle to that almost perfect early December day more than 10 years ago.

Heck, when I got done interviewing Vern, I remember coming back to the office and answering a question from the Tribune publisher and owner, Dave Stanley, who asked “how it went?”

“Hell Dave, by the time we were halfway through, I wanted to buy a car on the spot.”

Vern Laures, even in retirement, was that good of a salesman. Then again, he was born to do it.

What separates the good from the great in sales, I believe, is that ability to connect, that ability to forge relationships, and although I never bought a car from Vern — I have purchased a few from his sons, Perry and Mitch — from what I hear, he had that gift.

Most New Hamptonites know the story. Vern got his “college education” at Gamble’s and then in 1964 went to work for Bill Huebner at the dealership that was located in the lot that now houses our city’s summer ice cream parlor.

Six years later, Vern bought an ownership stake in the dealership, and in 1976, it moved to its current location on North Linn Avenue. In 1981, after Huebner suffered a fatal heart attack, Vern took over sole ownership, and Vern Laures Auto Center was born.

Back in 2014, I wrote a paragraph that I thought summed up my silent partner the best.



Vern Laures greets customers back in December 2014 when the vehicle dealership that carries his name celebrated its 50th anniversary.

So much has changed in the car industry, but Vern Laures hasn’t. If he had to choose between a car sale and a relationship, there’s little question he’d choose the latter.

Not to be cocky, but I thought that nailed the man.

What made him special was his ability to connect. Lots of folks in sales talk a good game, but no matter where you met up with Vern, he was genuinely interested in you, your kids and your life.

As his obituary in this edition of the Tribune reminds us, it was a longstanding tradition of Vern and his wife, Jean, to head to the local tavern at 5 o’clock to enjoy a cocktail together.

I would call Terri Josephson up at Josie’s to order a pizza, and she’d tell me that my pizza would be done at so-and-so time, but Jean and Vern were there so I’d better come 15 minutes early otherwise my pizza would get cold while we talked.

I loved the stories he told, but I also appreciated that every single time, he’d ask about the boys — both when they were in high school and after they headed off to college.

He was genuinely interested in them and not just how they were doing on the football field or the

baseball diamond or in the throwing ring.

When Vern saw that Josh had graduated from St. Ambrose and that Noah had made academic all-Big Ten, he gave me a little good-natured grief at the expense of my athletic ability.

“OK, so maybe they didn’t get their athletic genes from you,” he said more than once, “but they must have gotten their smarts from you, right?”

But to me at least, he seemed just as proud of Josh’s graduation as he was my oldest son’s all-state honors in football and baseball. Ditto for Noah’s academic honor compared to winning a shot put title at the Drake Relays and going on to becoming a Division I athlete.

I loved those 10, 15 minute conversations for another reason, too.

Just watching Vern with Jean was a treat. He and “my Jeanie” had a marriage most of us can only dream of, and my heart aches for her and for the Laures clan.

There was only one Vern Laures, and thank God he touched so many lives, including mine, during his 85 years on this Earth.

Rest in peace, silent partner.

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MARCH 11 2025

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Highlights

9:00 a.m.: Registration begins with coffee and Dough & Joe Bakery Donuts. Lunch catered by U2 BBQ.

Keynote: Rodney Rulon, Farmer, "The Real World Economics of Soil Health." Along with two local speakers.

Round table discussions with multiple topics to follow!

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Thanksgiving meal helps out food pantry

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner Committee makes a donation at the Chickasaw County Food Pantry in mid-February of money raised when 375 meals were served on Thanksgiving Day at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Representing the committee are (from left) Susanne Hauge, Kathy Beckman, Bob Beckman, and pantry board members Pam Pickar, Gregg Shattuck and Lois Shattuck.

Photo courtesy of Kathy Beckman



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jake Hackman (second from right) goes through budget numbers during a session with department heads that was held Monday during the board's weekly meeting.

Supervisors say more budget challenges likely

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

the GB budget and then continue to budget-process cutting for the 2026-27 year.

"I'm just going to pick on myself. Let's say there's four of us, you're going to tell me I have to get down to three people," Humpal said. "That would give me a year and a half, right, to make that decision so I could say, 'Listen, one of the four of us has to find a job.' That gives us a year and a half for myself or one of my three guys to go find a job."

Board members, though, didn't believe they could wait another year without looking at reducing the number of people the county currently employs.

"We can trim the 363 and we're still in the same boat next year," Supervisor Travis Suckow said. "We're just kicking it down the road."

"I think we're to the point where us as a board is going to have to tell them," fellow board member Issac Carter said, "because nobody's going to volunteer and say, 'Yeah, I will lose somebody.' Of course, they're not going to do that. We're just going to have to do it. ... Otherwise, we're going to be here another year, doing the same thing, and the next week doing the same thing and we're going to be right up to end and not have a decision."

"... It is what it is. Nobody wants to do, no one. We don't want to do it; none of you guys want to do it. ... But it has to be done."

AT TIMES, THE mood in the room was one of frustration.

County Attorney David Laudner expressed concern that little progress has been made on a budget solution for GB and that supervisors either didn't present the department heads options or know how much savings would come from ideas like instituting a hiring freeze.

"So a month ago we sat here and the problem was GB," Laudner said, "and it's still GB. So we sharpened our pencils. What are the options? Have you guys talked about options, I mean do you have plans A through F and which ones are the best, worst options? I don't think any of us are going like any of the options, but do you have options on the table?"

Later in the discussion, he said that part of his frustration "is we don't know what the options are going to save us. We have three options right now but we don't even know what they're going to save us."

Hackman said his ideas included some layoffs, the sale of a county building or two to save on maintenance costs and taking a hard look at the county's home care programs.

When it comes to the number of buildings the county owns, the board chairman referenced the number of non-county offices that are located in the Heritage Center.

"I hate to say to these non-profits, 'Go find your own buildings' and just take care of the county departments," Hackman said.

He also said while he understood the importance of home care services, he wasn't sure the county could justify what he called the \$428,000 "gap" between Public Health and Home Care Services' expenditures and revenues.

Supervisor Scott Cerwinske said the difference was \$35,000 during the 2014-15 budget year and will be \$428,000 this year.

"The gap is just getting bigger," Cerwinske said, "and at what point do we say we have to quit this? ... We don't know what the federal government is going to do with Medicare, Medicaid. At what point do we call it?"

Public Health Director Lisa Welter, though, asked the board to give her time to work on a way to keep home care part of her department, and Board of Health member Jeremy McGrath, too, said that cutting home care entirely would cost the

Reducing number of supervisors comes up during budget meeting

It's come up before and it will almost for sure come up again, but part of the budget discussion, albeit a small one, during Monday's Board of Supervisors meeting Monday centered on the number of officials sitting "around the table."

In short, should Chickasaw County reduce the number of supervisors from five to three?

"We're all talking about all departments so you guys are one as well," County Engineer Roman Lensing said. "Personally, I don't want that to happen, but I think it's at least a discussion point."

In Northeast Iowa, only Chickasaw, Mitchell and Winneshiek County have five members on their board of supervisors; the rest of the counties have three representatives.

In the past, those who have been proponents of shrinking the size of the Board of Supervisors have touted the cost savings that would include cutting salaries and benefits by 40 percent.

But it would also mean a supervisor would be representing 4,000 county residents, instead of 2,400.

Current Board Chairman Jake Hackman said he knows that there are those who would like to reduce the number of supervisors, and he cautioned them to make sure if they petition for the question to be brought to voters that the document is written correctly.

"I understand if the money is an issue," he said, "but you have the districts or at-large [question]. ... I would not want all three members from a city, I'd just say good luck so just make sure you get your petition right, whoever's watching and be ready for the consequences."

But those cost savings would be years in the future. The earliest the question could come to voters is in 2026 and if that bid was successful, a three-member board would not begin until after the November 2028 election.

— By Bob Fenske

county thousands of dollars in revenue.

McGrath asked about the possibility, in an effort to save jobs, of the county adopting a furlough program in which employees would have to take one week off a year, pointing out that "a lot of companies do that."

When Suckow proposed eliminating two "nurses," Welter said that would gut home care services.

"I can guarantee that our revenue, you can cut that in half," Welter said. "I'm not opposed to looking at people and seeing where we can cut, but two nurses is huge to cut."

Suckow also said that he'd favor eliminating a position in the Treasurer's Office, another one in the Recorder's Office and finding a way to share the county's Environmental Health director — either with another department head or another county.

That irked Recorder Shirley Troyna, whose office has just two employees.

"You're going to cut my one person, but you're going to leave four in Sheila's office," she said,

referring to the Auditor Sheila Shekleton. "Seriously, do you look at my revenue?"

CARTER THEN said he felt at least four jobs needed to be eliminated and suggested that the cuts in the courthouse come from the treasurer's and auditor's office, and supervisors also discussed the need for a "floater" who can cover work in all three elected officials' offices that are located in the courthouse.

Supervisor Steve Breitbach told Sheriff Ryan Shawver that he would probably be "in the mix, too," and board members also said that even though Engineer Roman Lensing's budget does not come from GB — its taxpayer funds comes from Rural Services Basic (RSB) — that he was probably correct that county leaders would take a hard look at hiring replacements when workers, regardless of what department, leave the county.

In short, more than one supervisor indicated favoring a hiring freeze, one with few exceptions.

Board members also agreed to cut a part-time home care aide position and also asked Welter to layoff a full-time home care worker or take two full-timers and have them work part-time.

Supervisors agreed to meet today (Thursday) to see what the effect of the layoffs would have on the budget, and although only the wages will affect GB — benefits like health insurance, FICA and IPERS come from the General Supplemental (GS) fund — Hackman said, along with other cuts made Monday, "we should be really close."

BOTH SUPERVISORS and those who head county departments know the budget issues aren't going away anytime soon.

"The thing is we know we got the GB that we can only take in so much money, but Des Moines is going to want to cut that even more," Breitbach said of state lawmakers, "so we're probably going to have to make hard decisions now so we can operate in the future. They want to cut property taxes and that's what we survive on."

He asked Lensing what would happen, for example, if his Secondary Roads Department wasn't able to fill potential vacancies because of retirements or resignations.

"It's going to cut services," Lensing said. "Can we operate? Yeah. Are we going to offer the same amount of services? No. I mean that's a simple equation."

Breitbach, later in the meeting, agreed. "We have no choice," Breitbach said. "We're not going to be able to provide the services that we've been able to provide for the last how many years."

And Laudner said he believes the county leaders have more to do.

"If you look at these numbers, there's no way to continue to run the next year, two, three years, even with small raises and cutting around the edges," he said. "You're going to have to take on more work or people are going to have to merge positions. Period, end of story. There's no mathematical way to do it. Sorry, that's not what people want to hear but that's reality."

And the county attorney also hinted that a wage freeze might not be an answer.

"I would rather have 80 employees who are happy, moving forward in their jobs and getting increases and advancing than a 100 who are limping along just to limp along," Laudner said. "Maybe that's easy for me to say because I'm down to two people."

The Zipper

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Dine In or Carry Out

State auditor says ARPA funds awarded before city owned dam

DAM: FROM 1

ownership of the dam to the city was filed with the Chickasaw County Recorder's Office on Dec. 3, 2024.

The issue, according to the report, is that the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors approved Nashua's request for \$50,000 to help with engineering costs for the dam during a meeting on July 31, 2023 — 16 months before the controversy over who owned the dam was finally cleared up with the filing of the quit claim deed.

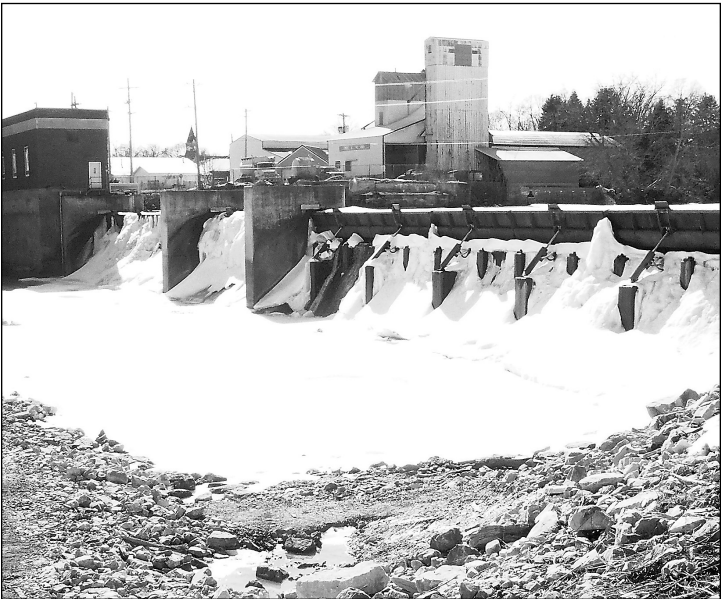
The filing of the deed appeared to finally end the question of dam ownership that had festered since 1988 when the State Auditor's report said that city "was to acquire the dam as a gift" from the Iowa Public Services Company (IPSC), a forerunner to MidAmerican Energy.

But the report noted that in an April 1991 filing of a quit claim deed, "ISPC did not quit

claim deed the hydro-electric plant or the dam to the City of Nashua." The report noted that despite not having ownership of the dam, "the City continued to repair and maintain it" and "believed it owned the dam during this period."

The report, though, found no fault with the city for making repairs to the dam because it had "entered into a lease agreement in which stated 'during the lease term the City would repair, maintain and keep the Hydro Plant and Dam structure in good repair and keep the dam and floodgates in good repair and operation condition,' [thus] the City would be responsible for the repairs and maintenance."

When it came to the ARPA funds, the State Auditor's recommendation was that county officials "should work with legal counsel to determine the propriety of the \$50,000 awarded to" Nashua.



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

The Nashua dam is caked in snow and ice on Tuesday afternoon, the day after the State Auditor's Office released a reaudit report that stated Chickasaw County "improperly awarded" the city of Nashua ARPA funds.

Briefs

New Hampton musicians to put on Jazz Dessert Concert March 7

New Hampton High School's annual Jazz Dessert Concert will have a new twist this year as it will include both instrumentalists and vocalists.

The concert will be held on Friday, March 7, and will include performances by both the New Hampton High School and Middle School Jazz Bands, as well as the high school's show choir.

Tickets are available at the door for the 7 p.m. concert, and as always, plenty of tasty desserts will be on hand.

Deadline for residents to apply for heating assistance is April 30

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation (NEICAC) is taking applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) through April 30.

LIHEAP customers will need to provide the following when applying for LIHEAP:

- The social security number of each household member, regardless of age;
- a copy of their most recent heating and electric bill; and
- documentation of gross income for everyone living in the home for the previous 30 calendar days, the most recent 12 months or for the previous calendar year.

To qualify for the program, residents must meet income guidelines that are 200 percent of poverty.

A household of one must have an income of \$30,120 or less, and for each additional member of the household, add \$10,760 to determine eligibility.

For more information, Chickasaw County residents should call 563-379-8761, Winneshiek residents should call 563-387-4958, Fayette residents should call either 564-379-8761 or 319-283-2510 and Bremer residents should call 319-352-4532.

Fair putting out the word, seeking candidates for royalty

The Chickasaw County Royalty coordinator is searching for candidates to enter the competition for the Chickasaw County Fair Queen, Little Miss and Little Mister titles.

"Our applications are currently open and will close April 30," said Trinity Brincks, who is the county coordinator. "We offer prizes for our littles and scholarships for our queens."

All candidates must reside in Chickasaw County. Queen candidates must be between the ages of 16-21 and little candidates must be between the ages of 5-10 (boys and girls).

Contact Trinity Brincks with questions at diamondrabbity@gmail.com or 563-237-5122

Lions Club 53rd Annual Pancake & French Toast Breakfast

Sunday, March 9
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
New Hampton High School Cafeteria
710 W. Main Street

Tickets:
Adults (advance) \$8.00
Adults (at the door) \$8.50
Children 12 & under
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Purchase tickets from Nosbisch Insurance or any New Hampton Lions Club Members



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641-394-2105
Father Jim Goerend
Mass times: 4 p.m., Saturday; 8 and 10 a.m., Sunday; Spanish Mass, 11:30 a.m., Sunday; Ash Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

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; 4 p.m., Ash Wednesday.

HARVEST CHURCH
481 S. Linn Ave.
harvestcares.com
641-394-4380
Pastor: Josh Jacobs
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: 10:30 a.m.

JERICO
JERICO LUTHERAN
2512 120th St., New Hampton
saudejerico.com
Pastor Peter Faugstad
Service time: 8:30 a.m., Sunday Divine Service).

SAUDE
SAUDE LUTHERAN
2949 Stevens Trail, Lawler
saudejerico.com
Pastor Peter Faugstad
Service time: 10:30 a.m., Sunday Divine Service; 7 p.m., Ash Wednesday.

IONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
firstumcnewhampton.com
Service time: 9 a.m. Sunday.

ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC
Father Jim Goerend
Mass: Ash Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Saturday, March 8, 6 p.m.

LOURDES
OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC
Rev. Telesphore Dusabe
Mass time: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Ash Wednesday, 6 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, 7:15 a.m.; Ash Wednesday, 7 a.m.

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Bruce Miller
107 Wood St. Elma
Service time: 9 a.m. Sunday.

ELMA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Pastor Paula Hemann
207 Plum Street Elma
Service time: 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

God gives us rainbows

They remind us that God is always with us, walking with us

I’ve been watching and listening to all the news broadcasts and decided that I needed to write on something other than the Gospel for this week.

I looked to the first chapter of Ezekiel where Ezekiel had a vision of the glory of God. Like many of the prophets, his vision was full of dramatic and fantastic images.

But one of the images was like a rainbow – full of many colors and revealing the diversity of creation.

In the dream, God’s glory resembled the

spectrum of color we see in a rainbow. As I read those words, I could see a rainbow in my mind.

Rainbows have a way of showing up when we need them. I have a little colored window art version of a rainbow that hangs on my patio door.

The colors always remind me of the promises God made to Noah and all people that God is always present with us ... through the goods and the bads.

No, we don’t always see a rainbow but we know that God is always

with us, walking with us when life gets to be tough and difficult to navigate.

No matter the devastation you’re experiencing, God’s promise is life. No matter the depth of your grief, God’s promises is life.

No matter how foggy it is when we look to the horizon, God’s promise is life abundant and eternal. A promise many of us need in this world currently.

I have found myself looking at my rainbow on the window a lot lately – maybe you need one



Pastor Sue Cira serves Immanuel Crane Creek Lutheran Church in rural Lawler and is also a transitional pastor at Trinity Lutheran in New Hampton.

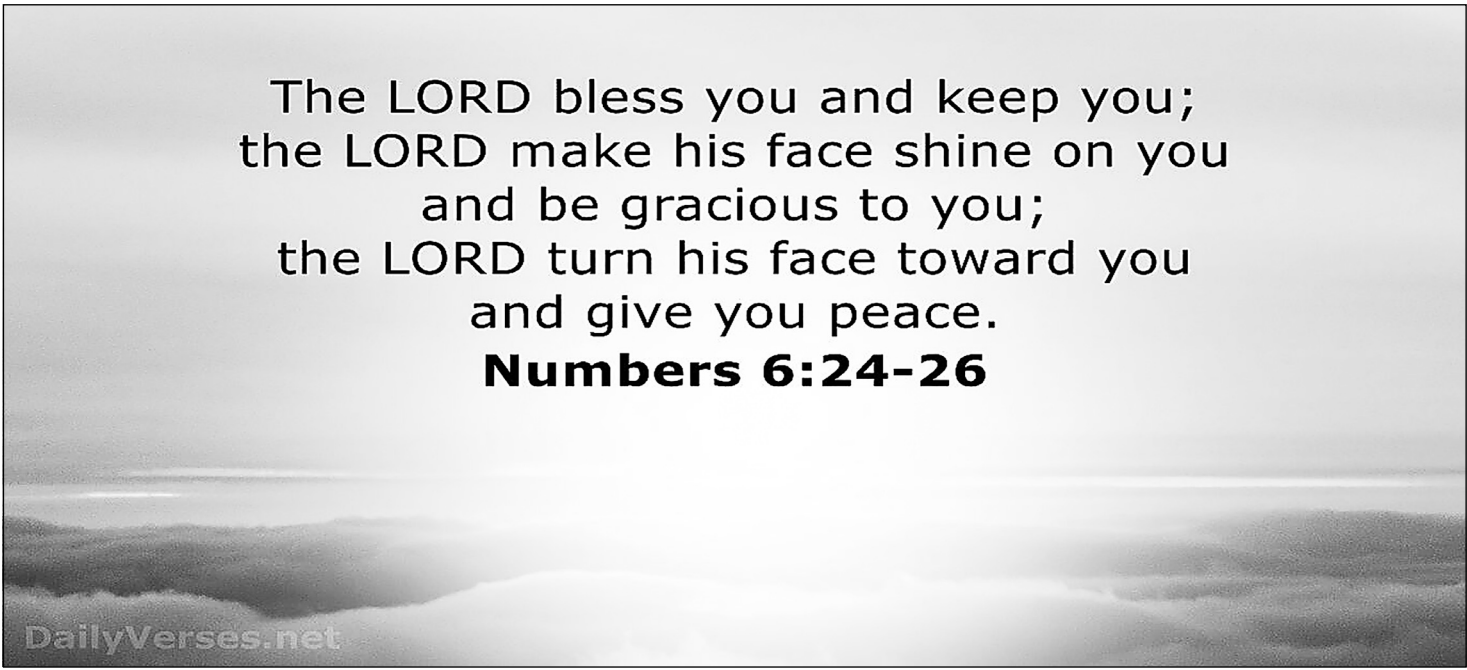
too. May God give you glimpses of hope and reminders that you are never alone.

CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

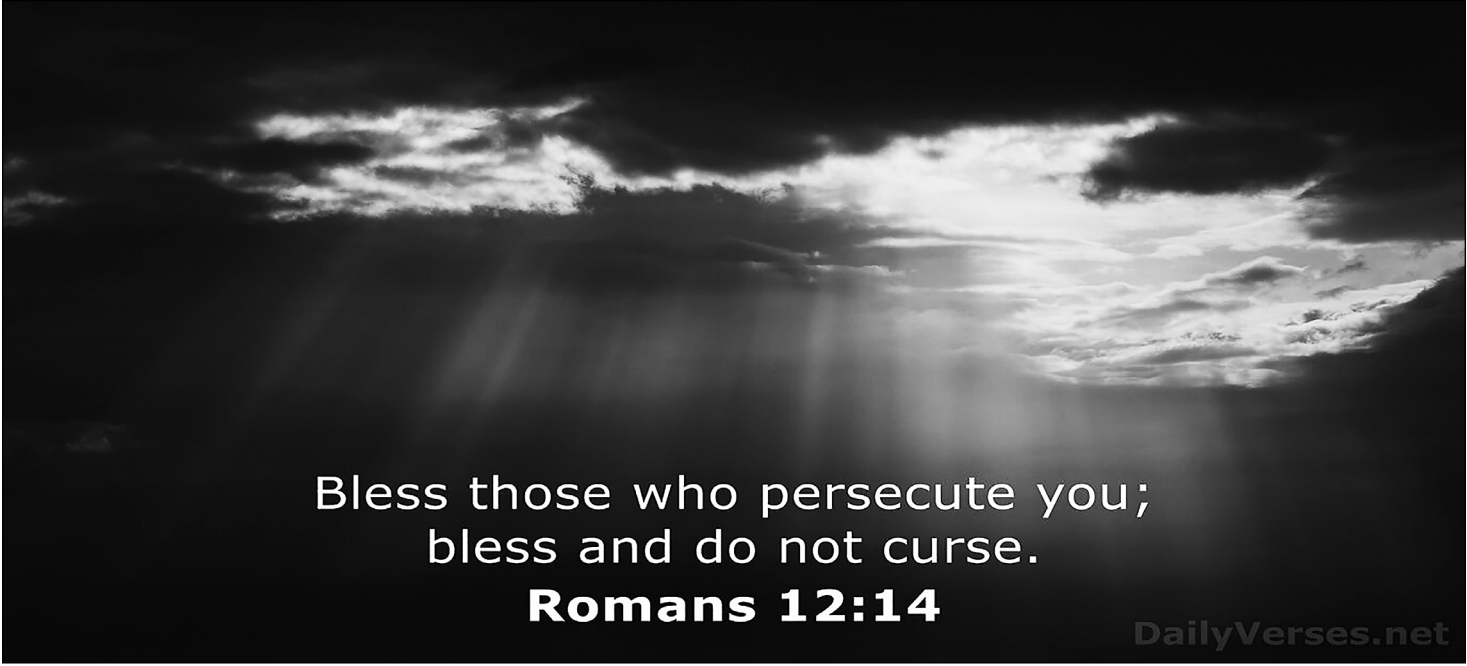
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A.M. ON SUNDAYS



The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.
Numbers 6:24-26



Bless those who persecute you;
bless and do not curse.
Romans 12:14



Church Services

NORTH WASHINGTON
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Father Jim Goerend
Mass: Saturday, March 1, 6 p.m.

NASHUA
LITTLE BROWN CHURCH
littlebrownchurch.org
Pastor Drew McHolm
Service times: Sing-A-Long Service, 10:15 a.m., and worship service at 10:30 a.m., Sunday.

REPUBLIC CHURCH
1794 280th St., Ionia
Pastor Sarah Namukose
Service time: 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
314 Brasher Street
Pastor Sarah Namukose
Service time: 9 a.m. Sundays.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
300 Merrill St.
Pastor Todd Burrichter
Service time: 9 a.m. Sundays.

CEDAR POINT CHURCH
310 Main Street
Pastor Darin Cerwinske
Service time: 6:30 p.m. Friday.

ST. MICHAELS CHURCH
602 Cedar Street
Father Tom Heathershaw
Service time: 6:30 p.m. Saturdays.

ST. JOHN’S UCC - PLEASANT HILL
10009 Union Ave.
Pastor Drew McHolm
Service time: Sunday, 9 a.m.

LAWLER
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
3030 Highway 24
Father Nick Radloff
Mass: Saturday, 4 p.m.; Ash Wednesday, 6 p.m.

IMMANUEL CRANE CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH
2616 140th St, Lawler
Pastor Sue Cira
Service time: 9:30 a.m., Sunday.

FREDERICKSBURG
ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
222 S. Washington Ave.
Pastor Ron Koch
Service time: 8:30 a.m., Sundays.

PEACE UCC CHURCH
221 Oak St.
Pastor Scott Smith
Service time: 9 a.m., Sundays.

FREDERICKSBURG UNITED METHODIST
111 S. Hamilton Ave.
Pastor Alex Johnson
Service time: 10:15 a.m., Sundays.

WAUCOMA
ST. MARY CATHOLIC
218 3rd St. NW
Father Nick Radloff
Mass: Sunday, March 9, 8:30 a.m.

ST. LUCAS
ST. LUKE CATHOLIC
215 East Main
Father Nick Radloff
Mass: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

PROTIVIN
HOLY TRINITY
124 N. Main St.
Father Nick Radloff
Mass: Sunday, 8:30 a.m.; Ash Wednesday, 8:45 a.m.

LITTLE TURKEY
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
3303 160th St.
Father Nick Radloff
Mass: Sunday, March 9, 10:30 a.m.

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Women Caregivers Face Financial Challenges

On March 8, we observe International Women’s Day. Although this event celebrates women’s achievements, it’s still true that women, especially caregivers, face significant financial hurdles. How can these challenges be met?

To begin with, let’s look at some concerning statistics connected to American women in the “sandwich generation” — those who care for children and parents or other relatives — from a study by Edward Jones and research firms NEXT360 and

Morning Consult:

- Nearly half of women report feeling financially strained.
- Almost two-thirds of women say caregiving duties have harmed their ability to save for their own financial goals.
- More than half of women have had to reduce their professional responsibilities due to caregiving, resulting in the loss of potential income. So, if you’re a sandwich-generation woman, what can you do to improve your financial outlook? Consider these suggestions:

- Establish your own financial goals. Depending on the length and complexity of your caregiving duties, your own financial goals could be affected. For example, you may need to change your retirement date from what you had originally intended, or else adjust the retirement lifestyle you had envisioned. However, this doesn’t mean you shouldn’t try to establish your own short- and long-term financial goals and then create a strategy for achieving them. In doing so, you may find it helpful to work with a financial professional.
- Contribute as much as you can to your retirement accounts. Your caregiving obligations may be preventing you from working as many hours as you like, or perhaps even from accepting a higher- paying position. In either case, your ability to contribute to your retirement accounts may well be diminished. Nonetheless, each month try to put in as much as you can afford to your



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IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. And if you do get salary increases, think about boosting your monthly contributions to your plan.

- Don’t rush into taking Social Security. You can start collecting Social Security as early as age 62, and you might be tempted to do so if you’re feeling some financial pressure because of your care-giving responsibilities. But your monthly benefits can be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or later. So, if you can find other ways to bridge this gap — possibly through a spouse’s income or your own savings — it may well benefit you to wait as long as you can before collecting.
- Maintain separate finances. If your parents are concerned about falling behind on their bills, they might suggest combining their bank accounts with yours. This may not be a good idea — if your finances get tangled with those of your parents, you could end up paying for some of their expenses, even if they can afford to do so themselves. Consequently, try to keep your finances separate.
- Create a financial power of attorney. You may want to see whether your parents will agree to give you a financial power of attorney, so you can make decisions on their behalf should they become incapacitated. Such an arrangement can help protect them and you.

There’s no sugar-coating it: Caregiving can be financially taxing on caregivers. But by taking the appropriate steps, you may be able to help reduce some of the stress involved.

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



Bob Steenson/Charles City Press

Nashua firefighters deal with billowing smoke as they put water on a barn fire about halfway between Nashua and Charles City on last Wednesday afternoon.

Area firefighters battle both blaze and the cold

BY BOB STEENSON
Of the Charles City Press

Firefighters from four area departments responded to a barn fire last Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 19, about halfway between Nashua and Charles City.

Nashua Fire and Rescue, the Charles City Fire Department, Colwell Fire Department and Ionia Volunteer Fire Department were called to the blaze at the intersection of County Road 240 and Windfall Avenue, about 4¼ miles northwest of Nashua and about a mile inside Floyd County.

Nashua Fire Chief Tom Johnson said the barn, which contained hay and equipment, was a total loss. He said a block heater in the metal-sided building may have caused the fire.

Firefighters were on scene for 3 to 3½ hours, said Johnson, and they were called back to the scene on Thursday a little before 6:30 p.m. because the fire had rekindled.

The temperature at the time was 4 degrees, and he said that made it more difficult to work

the scene.

“It was chilly, not going to lie,” Johnson said. “We’ve had colder days with fires, but it was dang frigid. It’s never easy at a fire scene, and it’s tougher when you have weather like we had for this.”

The fire produced billowing clouds of smoke that surrounded the building in the frigid temperature, and Johnson said the burning hay made it difficult to get at the fire.

Part of the effort involved shuttling water to the farmstead to fight the fire.

“We worked well together, and a lot of that is that we’ve worked together a lot before this,” Johnson said about the fire departments that responded to the scene.

“In this day and age, mutual aid is really important, and we appreciate the help we got from the other fire departments,” he said.

There was a good turnout of Nashua firefighters, but having four departments at the scene “helped out a lot,” said Johnson.

— Tribune Editor Bob Fenske contributed to this report.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton Public Library patrons Gentry Winter and Pam Pickar share a light moment as they do a little painting together during a program Monday afternoon.

New Hampton library director has issues with proposed bills

LIBRARY: FROM 1

Iowa Library Association says that librarians could face misdemeanor or felony charges, as well as civil lawsuits over materials in the library.

“I do feel like libraries are being attacked,” Becker said during an interview earlier this week. “It’s so frustrating and it’s like we don’t value something that is so good for so many Iowans. These are scary times, and it was beating me up. I wasn’t talking to my husband, I wasn’t sleeping, and finally, I realized I had to let it go. It is what it is, and we’re going to do the best we can.”

She said most concerning to her is that books that have been “banned” at school and public libraries have, in her opinion, nothing to do with obscenity and sex. To prove her point, she showed the reporter a website that has a list of books banned in Iowa school libraries.

They include classics like “1984” and “Animal Farm” by George Orwell, “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker and “Invisible Man” by Ralph Ellison as well as young-adult titles like “Twilight” by Stephanie Meyer and “Forever” by Judy Blume.

But maybe most painful to Becker are when she sees lawmakers taking aim at children’s books like “Hair Love” and “The Story of Ruby Bridges.”

“There is absolutely nothing obscene or sexual about books like that,” Becker said. “I would go to jail before I would take those books off the shelf. Where are we going?”

Nashua Public Library Director Heather Hackman wholeheartedly agreed when it

came to how she felt about the bills making their way through the Legislature before its “first funnel” early next month.

“The [Iowa Library Association] put out something yesterday that I think shows you how far this could go,” Hackman said. “Say you found it obscene that we had books on the New York Yankees, we could get sued. I know that sounds far-fetched, but do we really want to go there?”

The association, in a Facebook post last week, labled the bill “dangerous” and said it would “have a chilling effect on libraries and schools, undermining Iowans’ First Amendment rights and opening the door to censorship and legal liability for educators and library professionals simply for doing their jobs.”

The association said obscenity is already defined by law and said it must be defined by the courts, “not by political pressure.”

Then again, one of the bills being considered in Des Moines, is one that would deny state funding to any libraries that pay dues to organizations that engage in advocacy work, i.e., the Iowa Library Association.

The news out of Des Moines came on the heels of a setback for local libraries earlier this month.

During a meeting in January, the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors reached a consensus to grant the six county libraries — Nashua, Alta Vista, Fredericksburg, Ionia, Lawler and New Hampton — the 6 percent increase in funding librarians had requested during a meeting in early December.

But board members on Feb. 10 backtracked on providing the \$139,700 in fund-

ing for 2025-26 and instead reached a new consensus that will set county funding for libraries at \$124,338, the same amount it provided during the 2023-24 fiscal year and a reduction of 5.7 percent from the \$131,798 the facilities received from the county for the current fiscal year.

“It’s disappointing. I understand it, they have a tough job to do and they need to cut budgets,” Hackman said, “so I get that. What’s concerning to me and all of us librarians really is what happens if it’s the \$100,000 [in total funding] that they’ve talked about.”

If that current consensus holds, Nashua will receive \$1,044.26 less in funding next year than it did this year from the county. New Hampton would see its county funding cut by \$1,910.26.

“On top of the state taking away library levies a couple years ago,” Becker said, “it’s disconcerting to say the least. But it’s not done yet, right?”

And that’s the concern.

Under state law, counties are required to levy 6.75 cents per \$1,000 valuation for library services, which in Chickasaw County’s case would mean the minimum it must fund libraries is \$48,284.

“I don’t even want to go there,” Becker said. “I know budgets are really hard — I get that — but I feel like we’re just getting squeezed.”

“For my own sanity, though, I have to let it go as much as I can except to say that obviously, I believe in libraries and I believe what we offer — the programs, the books, the information, the togetherness — is so valuable to our communities.”

Lions Club answered a call from Helen Keller century ago

LIONS: FROM 1

Fredericksburg, and Pickar said that the process is literally having the child look at a light, the photographer snapping a photo and said picture being sent to Iowa City.

“The University of Iowa will come back and talk to the teachers, the coordinators and they’ll say, ‘We think your child should go see an optometrist.’ Like I said, we do the leg work.”

Pickar reaches out to the schools and daycare centers to set up “picture day” and does the talking and the positioning of the children, who are ages 3 and 4. Fellow Lion member Andrew Zweibohmer fills out the paperwork, and another Lion, Adam Zeien, handles the picture-taking chores.

This past November, the New Hampton Lions snapped pictures of 140 kids from New Hampton Elementary Preschool, Sunrise Preschool, Little Sprouts Daycare and Northeast Iowa Community Action’s Head Start program.

“That’s by far 30 or 40 higher than we’ve ever had before,” Pickar said, “and, you bet, being involved in KidSight is meaningful to me. You think about kids. One of the first things they do is they throw whatever they

have in their hands away, but kids who can finally see, don’t want to take their glasses off. They say, ‘I can color, I can see.’ This is kind of one of those you-really-feel-good-about-it-at-the-end-of-the-day things.”

He proudly showed a calendar from several years ago that featured Briggs Hill, the son of New Hampton couple H.B. and Samantha Hill.

Briggs’ mother wrote a testimonial for the KidSight program for the calendar.

“The first time he put his glasses on me, he just looked at me and waved,” Samantha wrote. “He said, ‘Hi Mom!’ That’s when it really hit home how bad his vision was. The Iowa KidSight vision screening that is offered at the schools, I’m very grateful for the program.”

“That’s why we do this,” New Hampton Lions Club President Rick Kramer said, “and that’s why we appreciate guys like Virgil, Adam and Andrew. Virgil’s been doing this a long time ...”

Pickar interrupted his fellow Lions Club member and laughed.

“I think he’s calling me old,” but Kramer remained undaunted.

“Seriously, he does a great

job with this. All three of those guys do,” he said, before pausing and laughing, “and yes, I probably am calling him old.”

But the Lions work doesn’t just stop with the picture taking. The club has helped a number of children from low-income families pay for eye exams and glasses, and to boot, they’ve also helped a number of less-fortunate residents purchase hearing aids.

“It’s all because of our fundraisers,” Kramer said, and Pickar jumped in to add, “which is why I wanted to talk to you, hopefully we can drive a little business up for the breakfast.”

Even before the question — how did the Lions get so involved with eye care? — Pickar pulled out a copy of the Winter 2025 edition of the Lions Magazine, one that fea-

tures a story headlined “100 Years of Unstoppable Spirit.”

The story recounts how Helen Keller appeared at the ninth annual Lions Club International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, on June 30, 1925, and made her plea.

“I appeal to you Lions — you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind,” Keller said. “Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the blind in my crusade against darkness.”

Almost a century ago, the Lions answered the call.

“It’s a pretty cool story on how we got started with this,” Pickar said, “and now Lions all over the world — here in New Hampton and everywhere else — get the reward of helping kids see the world a whole lot clearer. That’s neat.”

To my friends, neighbors, & family, This is 80 years of building “thank you’s.” You are all so loving, dear, and thoughtful. Thank you for the “wonderful” memories I can reflect on & cherish. It has been a great life because you are a part of it. God Bless you all & remember “Jesus loves you!”

Joyce Klunder
80 & climbing 😊

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Almanac

	H	L	P
Wednesday	4	-10	--
Thursday	16	-7	--
Friday	18	3	--
Saturday	29	16	--
Sunday	45	34	--
Monday	46	29	--
Tuesday	48	28	--

Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high of 43 and a low of 27.

Friday: Mostly sunny, windy and warm with a high of 55 and a low of 25.

Saturday: Mostly sunny and cooler with a high of 36 and a low of 18.

Sunday: Mostly sunny; high 41, low 27.

Extended forecast: We'll get the work week off to a warm start with highs near 50 before cooling into the 30s by the middle of the week but little, if any, precipitation.

Meetings

MONDAY

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

History

- In 1827, a group of masked and costumed students dance through the streets of New Orleans, marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi Gras celebrations.
- In 1844, revolutionary fervor boils over on the eastern side of the island of Hispaniola as the Dominican Republic declares its independence from France.
- In 1935, 6-year-old Hollywood star Shirley Temple receives the first-ever kid-sized, "juvenile" Oscar.
- In 1960, two decades before the famed "Miracle on Ice," another underdog U.S. Olympic hockey team defeats the Soviet Union team 3-2 in the semifinals at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California
- In 1980, the long-lost glasses of rocker Buddy Holly, who died in the deadly plane crash in 1959, were found — filed away in an envelope in a court clerk's office in Mason City.

Birthdays

- American author John Steinbeck, whose works includes "Grapes of Wrath," was born in 1902.
- American actress Elizabeth Taylor was born in 1932.
- "House of Cards" actress Kate Mara turns 42.
- American singer Josh Groben turns 44.
- NBA Hall-of-Famer James Worthy turns 64.
- American consumer advocate Ralph Nadar turns 91.
- American Emmy and Academy Award-winning actress Joanne Woodward turns 95.

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.

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Pat Arnold, 79

Pat Arnold, age 79 of Elma, died Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, at UnityPoint Health-Allen Hospital in Waterloo.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Immanuel Lutheran Church-Crane Creek in rural Lawler with the Rev. Sue Cira officiating.

Interment will be held at Saude Lutheran Church Cemetery, rural Lawler.

Friends may greet the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Elma. Visitation continues an hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Pat Arnold left us peacefully on Feb. 19, 2025, at Allen Hospital in Waterloo, with her family by her side. She was born on Aug. 3, 1945, in Elma, the daughter of John and Margaret (Kobliska) Beecher. Pat's life was a testament to her unwavering dedication to her family, her passion for her work and her love for the simple joys of life.

Pat's journey began in the small town of Elma, where she grew up with a close-knit community that shaped her into the thoughtful and friendly individual everyone knew.

Her education at Immaculate Conception High School in Elma, completed in 1963, provided the foundation for her nurturing spirit.

At a teen hop, Pat's life took a turn for the romantic, as she met a musician who captured her heart, Wayne Arnold. The connection was undeniable, and the couple solidified their love by exchanging wedding vows on Aug. 31, 1968, at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Lourdes. Together, they welcomed their beloved children, Brian and Jill, and created a home filled with love and laughter.

Pat embodied the essence of a farm wife, embracing the rural way of life with grace and resilience. Her days were spent tending to the needs of the farm alongside her family, yet she also pursued a career that spoke to her caring nature. As a lab technician in New Hampton, Pat found joy in caring for patients, leaving a lasting impact on those she served through her kindness and professionalism.

Her journey through the professional world continued as she embraced new challenges at Donaldson's, where she thrived for several years. Later,



Pat Arnold

she joined the team at the Elma Express, always ready to greet customers with her signature smile and warmth. Pat's presence in the workplace was a bright light, and her friendly demeanor made her a beloved figure in the community.

Beyond her work, Pat's zest for life shone through in her hobbies and interests. An avid player of Scrabble, she reveled in the thrill of competition, her mind as sharp as ever. Euchre tables were livelier with Pat's presence, her competitive streak paired with an infectious sense of fun. A die-hard LA Dodgers fan, Pat followed every game with intensity, her passion for America's pastime unwavering.

Pat's love for her community was evident in her daily routine, which often included morning coffee gatherings at local spots. These moments allowed her to stay connected, discussing current events and sharing stories with friends and neighbors.

However, the true roots of Pat's life were her family. She poured her heart into being involved in their lives, celebrating their achievements, and providing unwavering support. Family events were her greatest treasure, and she cherished every opportunity to be a part of their lives.

Pat is survived by her children, Brian Arnold of Elma, and Jill (Kevin) Smith of Clive; three grandchildren, Tyler Smith, Haley Smith and Hannah Smith; one brother, Lindy Beecher of Eagan, Minnesota; and five sisters, Sharon Gansen of Elma, Betty Jo (Jack) Hastings of Alta Vista, Mary (Bill) Roths of Cedar Falls, Marcia (Greig) Grimm of Charles City, and June (Arnie) Laures of Waukon.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and husband, Wayne in 2024.

Lois L. Gaede, 85

Lois L. Gaede, age 85 of Fredericksburg, died Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, at the Hillcrest Home in Sumner.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, at Peace United Church of Christ, Fredericksburg, with Pastor Scott Smith presiding.

Interment will be in Rose Hill Cemetery, Fredericksburg. Friends may greet the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, at the Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Fredericksburg. Visitation continues an hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday.

Edward Alfred Mahlstedt, 88

Edward Alfred Mahlstedt, age 88 of Nashua, died Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, at MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center surrounded by family.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua, with Pastor Drew McHolm presiding.

Interment will follow at Greenwood Cemetery in Nashua. Friends greeted the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, at the Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua. Visitation continues an hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Thursday.

Lawrence ‘Larry’ Ewing, 69

Lawrence “Larry” Ewing, age 69 of Elma, died Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, at his home.

A private family Celebration of Life will take place at a later date.

Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in Elma has been entrusted with Lawrence's arrangements.

Ronald Dietz, 88

Ronald Dietz, age 88 of Nashua, died Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, at Hillcrest Homes in Sumner.

Services are pending with Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory/Olson Chapel in Nashua, and for more information, call 641-435-4134.

Vernon ‘Vern’ Michael Laures, 85

Vernon “Vern” Michael Laures, age 85 of New Hampton, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, at St. Marys Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 24, 2025 at Holy Family Parish in New Hampton with the Rev. Brian Dellaert and the Rev. Mark Osterhaus celebrating the Mass.

Interment followed at St. Mary's Cemetery in New Hampton with Vern's grandchildren serving as pallbearers.

Friends greeted the family from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton. Visitation continues an hour prior to the service on Monday at the church.

Vern was born on April 7, 1939, in New Hampton, the son of Leo and Alvetta (Weigel) Laures.

Vern grew up in New Hampton and graduated from New Hampton High School in 1959. During his high school years, he was known for his spirited performance as the Big Bopper at the Howard County Fair and for working alongside his father, collecting and hauling trash to the city dump. He came from humble beginnings, a fact he never forgot, and despite his successes in life, he remained a humble man, always grateful for the blessings bestowed upon him.

Vern met the love of his life, “My Jeanie,” Jean Adams, at a dance, and the two quickly became inseparable. They were married at Immaculate Conception Church in North Washington and together built a life full of love, laughter and unwavering devotion. Their union was blessed with four children — Lisa, Perry, Tracy, and Mitch—who were the light of his life. Vern often said he was the luckiest man alive, not because of his business success but because of his family. “Faith, family and friends are what this life is all about” was one of his most cherished sayings, a sentiment that defined how he lived each day.

After the couple were married, Vern was a young man working for Bob Gilbert at the Gambles store in New Hampton when he heard about a job opening at Huebner Chevrolet. Bill Huebner, new to the car business, needed help to run the dealership. After meeting Vern, he decided to hire him — not for the parts department, as Vern thought, but to sell cars.



Vern Laures

Vern quickly found his footing in the role.

His years at Gambles had earned him the trust of nearly everyone in town, and his honest, personal approach made customers feel at ease. “I knew nearly everyone in this town,” Vern recalled. “I don't care if they bought a pound of nails or a riding lawn mower — I knew the people, and they put a little bit of trust in me because of that.”

Back then, selling cars was a bit different. Customers often asked him to bring cars out to their farms or homes to take a look. His first new car sale — a 1964 Impala Super Sport — is still a fond memory.

As the business grew, it quickly outgrew its original location downtown, which had previously been an implement shop. “It wasn't much,” Vern said of the old building. “We had no place to park the cars, but we made it work.” In 1975, the dealership moved to its current site on Linn Avenue, a space that allowed for more inventory and better service.

In 1981, Vern became the sole owner of the dealership after Bill passed away. Bill had been more than just a boss — he was a mentor and a friend, even co-signing a loan to help Vern buy into the business years earlier.

Renaming the dealership Vern Laures Auto Center, Vern carried forward the values they had built together — honesty, hard work and putting people first. Reflecting on his career, Vern said, “The best part of the car business has always been the people. I met so many and made so many friends—so many beautiful people.”

Vern and Jean shared many adventures together, taking trips to Las Vegas where they saw Elvis in person, exploring Switzerland, cruising the Mediterranean and Alaska and

enjoying countless weekends at the river. Of all these travels, the most special to Vern was the family trip to Silver Muskie Lodge, a place he visited many times but held particularly dear when the entire family was together.

A man deeply dedicated to his community, Vern gave generously to New Hampton, supporting numerous projects that helped the town grow and flourish. He took great pride in giving back to the community that had supported him throughout his life. His generosity, kindness and unwavering respect for all people made him a beloved figure in New Hampton.

Vern and Jean cherished their daily tradition of heading to the local tavern at 5 o'clock to enjoy a cocktail together, a simple yet special ritual that brought them joy and companionship. Vern never met a stranger — he treated everyone with respect and kindness, no matter their circumstances.

Vern will be remembered for his loving heart, humble spirit and the deep and abiding love he had for his family and friends. He leaves behind a legacy of generosity, laughter, and love that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Vern is survived by his wife, Jean Laures of New Hampton; four children, Lisa (Jim) Lewis of New Hampton, Perry (Mary) Laures of New Hampton, Tracy (Rich) Dahl of Cedar Falls, and Mitch (Jeanette) Laures of New Hampton; eight grandchildren, Dustin (Kyra) Lewis of New Hampton, Jenny (Jack) van der Meer of New Hampton, Adam Laures of Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin, Paige Laures of Cedar Falls, Cael Laures of New Hampton, Ava Dahl of Cedar Falls, Sydney Laures of New Hampton, and Carson Laures of New Hampton; three great-grandchildren, Charlie van der Meer, Maddie van der Meer and Jameson “JJ” Lewis; one sister, Kathy Lensing of New Hampton; and three sisters-in-law, Joan Jacobsen of Des Moines, Pat Wilcox of Elma, and Diane (Dave) Baethke of Elma.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two grandchildren in infancy, Evan Laures and Taylor Dahl; in-laws, Harold and Helen Adams; four brothers-in-law, Gilbert Lensing, Dave Jacobsen, Larry Wilcox and Bill (Ella Mae) Adams; and one sister-in-law, Harriet (Bob) Seelhammer.

In lieu of flowers please direct memorials to the family.

Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Wendt, 90

Elizabeth “Betty” Wendt, age 90 of Fredericksburg, died Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, at Whispering Willows Assisted Living and Memory Wing in Fredericksburg.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Frederika with the Rev. Evan Meester officiating.

Interment was held at St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery in rural Fredericksburg.

Friends greeted the family from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton. Visitation continued one hour prior to services at the church in Frederika on Wednesday.

Elizabeth (Betty) Wendt was born in Hopkinton, on Dec. 30, 1934, to Karl and Rachel (Ralston) Kuriger. Betty was one of nine children.

The family moved to Cedar Falls, where she grew up and attended school.

Betty loved to roller skate, and it is how she met the love of her life, Lynford Wendt. They dated and were married on Sept. 19, 1954. The couple moved to Fredericksburg on



Betty Wendt

the family farm and raised four children — Larry, Linda, Lorna, and Lesa.

Betty started working at Sara Lee in New Hampton in 1972, the year they opened, and retired in 1996 when her husband became ill.

Lynford and Betty moved to New Hampton in 1997. After Lynford's passing on Dec. 18, 2002, Betty continued to live in New Hampton until 2023, when she moved back to Fredericksburg.

Betty enjoyed working on the farm, doing jigsaw puzzles, playing solitaire, occasionally visiting the casino with the

ladies and spending time with her family and friends.

Betty is survived by her four children, Larry (Lanette) Wendt of Waverly, Linda (Dale) Wurzer of Sumner, Lorna Wendt of Fredericksburg, and Lesa (Roger) Venem of New Hampton; seven grandchildren, Nathan (Tara Karsten) Wendt, Kari (Joey) Landis, Christopher (Tiffany) Wurzer, Kelly (Steve) Lantow, Traci (Jason) Hendries, Matthew (Ashley Lantow) Wurzer and Shawn (Nicole) Wurzer; step-grandchildren, Teresa (Shelby) Stapleton, Dan (Christine) Venem and John (Alicia) Venem; 10 great-grandchildren, eight step-great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Ellen Kuriger; and brother-in-law, Raymond Scoles.

Elizabeth is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lynford, in 2002; granddaughter, Michelle (Bryan) Schulmeister, and her eight siblings, sisters Mildred (Karl) Hanson, Theresa (Don) Wiley, Rosemary (Jerry) Jenkins, Florence Sherbon, and Margaret Scoles, and brothers Phillip (Thelma) Kuriger, Ray Kuriger and Paul (Carol) Kuriger

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to St. Croix Hospice.

Property Transfers

Randall J. Kuennen and Laura M. Kuennen to Carol Gaul, William Kuennen, Susan Rieland and Robert Kuennen, Katherine Elsbernd, Jennifer Kuennen, Randall J. Kuennen LE and Laura M. Kuennen LE; LAWLER JAMES LYNCH 2ND ADDITION Lot: 2 Block: 1 LAWLER JAMES LYNCH 2ND ADDITION Lot: 9 Block: 1 LAWLER JAMES LYNCH 2ND ADDITION Lot: 10 Block: 1 VAC ALLEY BETWEEN LOTS 2 & 9 & 10 LAWLER JAMES LYNCH 2ND ADDITION Lot: 1.

Betty JM Wadey EST, Betty J M Wadey EST, William R. Wadey EX and Lisa Wessels EX to William R. Wadey, Douglas Wadey, Wesley Wadey and Lisa Wessels; N112' NASHUA CENTRAL ADDITION Lot: 1 Block: J N112' NASHUA CENTRAL ADDITION Lot: 2 Block: J.

Walter Wendland and Janet Wendland to The Coffee Station of Fredericksburg LLC and Coffee Station of Fredericksburg LLC; S74'

FREDERICKSBURG ORIGINAL PLAT (FB) Lot: 12 Block: 12.

Kyle R. Neitzke and Paula Neitzke to Jennifer R. Rapenske; BEG 33'N & 297'E SW COR SE NE 07-95-12.

Rodney L. Hinz to SFV LLP; E1/2 EX SW 18-96-14.

Leo J. Koenigsfeld and Linda K. Koenigsfeld to Leo J. Koenigsfeld TR, Linda K. Koenigsfeld TR, UNDIVIDED ONE HALF INTEREST Leo J. Koenigsfeld Trust and UNDIVIDED ONE HALF INTEREST Linda K. Koenigsfeld Trust; W66AC NW 30-95-13 EX BEG AT SE COR NE NE 39-95-13 Parcel: 191130225001 Parcel: 191130100001.

Victor V. Fencel and Sharla Fencel to Timothy C. Fencel; UNDIVIDED ONE HALF INTEREST NE NE 24-97-11.

Jason R. Hall to Megan Bierschenk; NASHUA IVERSONS ADDITION Lot: 8 Block: 1.

Pearle LeVerne Roths, 88

Pearle LeVerne Roths, born Feb. 24, 1936, in Ionia, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, surrounded by her loved ones.

Raised in Ionia by her parents, Anita and Laverne Cleveland, Pearle was the beloved sister to Doris, Mary, Jane, Loretta, June, Ralph and Roger.

On May 7, 1955, Pearle married Lawrence “Junior” Roths, with whom she shared a loving partnership until his passing on June 13, 1995. Together, they raised six children — Jeff (Cindy), Craig, Rhonda (Tony), Larry (Ruth), Janet (Mark), and Lisa (Mike). Pearle’s legacy also lives on through her 16 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and another great-grandchild expected to arrive soon.

A woman who treasured her family, Pearle was known for her nurturing spirit and spunky



Pearle Roths

personality. She found joy in gathering with friends and family, whether on camping trips, playing card games, or enjoying a friendly round of bingo.

Pearle was an avid golfer and dancer, always embracing life

with enthusiasm. She also loved to take walks, watch sports, and lose herself in a good book.

Pearle’s grandchildren will remember her as being resilient, meticulous, authentic, and caring. She was fun, funny, and, as they lovingly called her, “the GOAT” — the greatest of all time. Her warm presence and remarkable strength will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

A burial service will be held in Ionia this summer.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the Alzheimer’s Association at www.alz.org in her memory. Cards can be sent to 1008 N Ricardo, Mesa, AZ 85205.

To receive updates on current or future services and shared memories for Pearle Leverne Roths, please see www.dignitymemorial.com.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR THE NEW HAMPTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the New Hampton Community School District, in the Counties of Chickasaw and Howard, State of Iowa, will hold a hearing upon its Resolution to Consider Continued Participation in the Instructional Support Program. The hearing will be held in the High School Family and Consumer Science Room, 710 West Main, New Hampton, Iowa 50659, on March 17, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.

The Board of Directors is considering continued participation in the Instructional Support Program as provided in Sections 257.18 through 257.21, Code of Iowa, for a period of five years, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

Additional funding for the Instructional Support Program for a budget year will be determined annually by the Board of Directors and will not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total regular program district cost for the budget year and moneys received under Section 257.14, Code of Iowa, as a budget adjustment for the budget year.

Moneys received by the District for the Instructional Support Program may be used for any general fund purpose.

The Instructional Support Program shall be funded by instructional support state aid and a combination instructional support property tax levied annually upon the taxable property within the School District commencing with the levy of property taxes for collection in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and an instructional support income surtax imposed annually, the percent of income surtax to be determined by the Board for each budget year to be imposed upon the state individual income tax of each individual income taxpayer resident in the School District on December 31, 2026, and each year thereafter.

NEW HAMPTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Christy Roethler
Secretary of the Board of Directors

Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CHICKASAW COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DARLENE J. ERNST, Deceased CASE NO. ESPR003268

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF CO-EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Darlene J. Ernst, Deceased, who died on or about August 19, 2024:

You are hereby notified that on January 24, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Darlene J. Ernst, deceased, bearing date of September 30, 2009, was admitted to probate in the above named court and that Wallace J. Ernst and Diane LaRue were appointed Co-Executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further 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 of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated February 21, 2025.
Lance Michael Gritters, ICIS#: AT0003068
Attorney for Executor
Stumme, Collins, Gritters & Epley, PLLC
303 1st Ave NE
PO Box 836
Waverly, IA 50677

Date of second publication 3/6/25

Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR Chickasaw COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Marion L. Bush, Deceased PROBATE NO. ESPR003275

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Marion L. Bush, Deceased, who died on or about September 26, 2024:

You are hereby notified that on February 20, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Marion L. Bush, deceased, bearing date of April 20, 2016, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Patricia L. Bush was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further 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 of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated February 20, 2025.
Patricia L. Bush, Executor of Estate
3325 270th Street
Fredericksburg, IA 50630

Patrick B. Dillon, ICIS#: AT0001973
Attorney for Executor
Dillon Law PC
209 E 1st Street
Sumner, IA 50674

Date of second publication March 6, 2025

Briefs

MercyOne scholarship applications due April 1

MercyOne New Hampton is accepting applications for Friends of MercyOne Healthcare Scholarships, in the amount of \$750. Five scholarships are available to graduating seniors or non-traditional students who reside in the MercyOne New Hampton service area.

Applicants must plan to further their education in a health care field. Some qualifying fields of study include but are not limited to medical records technicians (transcription and coding), pharmacy and pharmacy techs, laboratory techs, radiology techs, dietetics, physical / respiratory therapy, psychology/mental health, as well as nursing and pre-medicine.

The scholarship will be awarded to students who exemplify character through academic achievement, volunteerism, and extra curricular participation. In awarding the scholarship, strong consideration will be given to students with financial need. However, the scholarship may be awarded to a promising student regardless of financial need.

Students interested in the scholarship may download an application at www.mercyone.org/newhampton (search “scholarship”). The completed form must be returned no later than April 1 to MercyOne New Hampton, Friends of MercyOne Scholarship, 308 N. Maple Ave., New Hampton IA 50659.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Monteith at 641-394-1626.

Fruit tree management workshops set for March

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering two fruit tree management workshops on fruit tree pruning and grafting.

A Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop will be held Wednesday, March 19, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Dan and Mary Burkhardt’s orchard located at 28500 Granite Rd, Ossian.

Participants will hear a presentation on why and how to prune fruit trees by ISU Extension and Outreach Commercial Horticulture Specialist, Patrick O’Malley.

A Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop will be held on Tuesday, March 25, at Jim and Sue Updegraff’s home located at 20315 Lincoln Rd, West Union, presented by Patrick O’Malley. Space is limited and preregistration is required before March 18.

Check in will start at 5 p.m. and beginning at 5:30 p.m., each participant will watch a grafting demonstration and then practice a whip and tongue graft with apple rootstocks, taking home two grafted trees.

To register contact Deb Kahler at dkahler@iastate.edu or call 563-425-3331.

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CHICKASAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS’ MINUTES FEBRUARY 18, 2025

The Board convened on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 9:07 AM with members Breitbach, Carter, Cerwinski Suckow and Hackman present in the Boardroom on the second floor of the Court House, New Hampton, Iowa. Chairperson Hackman called the meeting to order. Also present were Board Secretary Sheila Shekleton, Bob Fenske, member of media, Terry Johnson, Conservation Director Chad Humpal, Sheriff Ryan Shawver, Stapleton Township Trustees: Paul Mashek, Steve Kuennen, Tom Brincks and Clerk Donald Arens, Custodian Dave Gorman, Assessor Office Laura Wickham, Treasurer Shirley Troyna, IGHP Denise Ballard

Board chair tried the YouTube channel three times and it did not work

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Cerwinski to approve the agenda for February 18, 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Carter to approve minutes for meeting on February 10, 2025 and February 11, 2025. Motion amended to approve minutes for meeting on February 10, 2025. Roll Call: Ayes: Breitbach, Carter, Cerwinski, Hackman. Abstained: Suckow. Motion carried.

Motion Breitbach, seconded by Carter to approve minutes for meeting on February 11, 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Public comment. Supervisor Hackman wanted to share what a budget session is. That when the supervisors are in budget session a lot of ideas get thrown out but not acted on.

Iowa Governmental Health Care Plan Board (IGHCP) Denise Ballard present different scenarios of health insurances for Chickasaw County Employees.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Cerwinski to approve compensation up to six meetings for Stapleton Township clerk and three trustees. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Breitbach to approve Resolution 02-18-25-05 for Competitive Highway Bridge Program 28 E Agreement. /ss/ Hackman, Chair, Ayes; Suckow, Breitbach, Cerwinski, Carter ATTEST: /ss/ Sheila Shekleton, Auditor. Detailed document on file at Auditor’s office and on county’s website <https://www.chickasaw-county.iowa.gov>

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Suckow to approve Resolution 02-18-25-06 FY2025 County Five Year Program Amendment Version 1.0. /ss/ Hackman, Chair, Ayes; Breitbach, Suckow, Cerwinski, Carter. ATTEST: /ss/ Sheila Shekleton, Auditor. Detailed document on file at Auditor’s office and on county’s website <https://www.chickasaw-county.iowa.gov>

Secondary Road updates by Engineer Roman Lensing.

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Carter to approve carpet bid from Midwest Floors, LLC for \$2,508.02 to come out of the building budget for the Sheriff Department. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Cerwinski to approve RESOLUTION 02-18-25-04 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAT OF: Parcel 2025-4 IN the Nw1/4 OF THE NE1/4 OF section 9 all in Township 95 NORTH, Range 11 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., Chickasaw County, Iowa WHEREAS, ON The 18th day of February, 2025 at a regular meeting by the Board of Supervisors, Chickasaw County, Iowa a minor subdivision plat of Parcel 2025-4 IN the Nw1/4 OF THE NE1/4 OF section 9 all in Township 95 NORTH, Range 11 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., Chickasaw County, Iowa has now been considered and should be approved. N O W THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Board of Supervisors, Chickasaw County, Iowa that said Minor Subdivision Plat be approved, accepted and the Chairman is hereby directed to certify this Resolution of Approval. PASSED AND APPROVED on this 18th DAY of FEBRUARY, 2025. /ss/ Hackman, Chair, Ayes; Suckow, Cerwinski, Breitbach. Abstained: Carter. ATTEST: /ss/ Sheila Shekleton, Auditor. Detailed document on file at Auditor’s office and on county’s website <https://www.chickasaw-county.iowa.gov>

Motion by Cerwinski, seconded by Suckow to set public hearing for March 3, 2025 at 9:10 AM for the Amendment #2 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget and direct auditor to publish Notice of Public Hearing—Amendment of Current Budget in the New Hampton Tribune on February 20, 2025 and Nashua Reporter on February 21, 2025. Roll call: Ayes: Cerwinski, Suckow, Breitbach, Carter, Hackman. Motion carried.

Recessed: 10:37 AM
Convened: 10:42 AM
Budget work session
Consensus of the Board of Supervisor to have General Supplement Levy at 1.92.
Consensus of the Board of Supervisor to have Rural Services Levy at 3.55.
Committee assignments.
Supervisor Carter, February 12, 911 Service Board
Supervisor Hackman, February 12, Emergency Management Commission
Supervisor Suckow, February 6, Workforce Development
February 7, Iowa Governmental Health Care Plan Board (IGHCP)
Motion by Suckow, seconded by Carter to adjourn at 11:50 AM. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.
Jacob Hackman, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
ATTEST: Sheila Shekleton, Secretary to the Board

No. 24680
2/27/25 New Hampton Tribune
2/28/25 Nashua Reporter
www.iowapublicnotices.com

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New Hampton Schools Board Proceedings

The Board of Directors for the New Hampton Community School District met in regular session, Monday, February 17, 2025, in the High School FCS Room. President Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with Directors Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, N. Schwickerath, R. Shawver, High School Principal Matthew Manson, and Board Secretary Roethler present.

Director Denner moved to approve the agenda. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director Denner moved to approve the consent agenda. Approve minutes of January 20, 2025, regular session, January 13, 2025 special session, February 6, 2025 special session and February 10, 2025 special session. Approve the January monthly financial report and the February 2025 bill listing. Approve the following resignation from Newelle Dalton (1st grade teacher) and Karen McGrath (High School Secretary) effective at the end of the 24-25 school year. Approve the resignation of Sara Brincks (elementary para) effective February 14, 2025. Approve the following recommendations: Diane Ollendieck to 1st grade teacher and Raquel Bohr to 1st grade teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Kayla Holschlag as High School Math teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Gannon Shekleton as JIV Baseball Coach for the 2024-2025 season. Kayla Burke as volunteer high school girls track coach, Jason Meyerhoff and Dave Coltrain as volunteer high school soccer coaches. All new hires are pending obtaining suitable licensure and passing appropriate background checks. Director N. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the board resolution on Senior Citizen Pass to the following: The District will issue a lifetime pass to anyone who lives in the district or had children graduate from New Hampton High School that has reached the age of sixty (60). This pass is only valid for home events and will not cover prepaid events, such as musicals and special events. The pass will not be valid for state events. The back of the pass will list the events that are covered. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Discussion on the school start date was held.

Eight Grade Middle School students Paige Stumme and Claire Miller presented their Oratory speeches to the board. Director A. Schwickerath moved to approve the request to raise funds, along with contributing \$1,000 to be applied towards the cost to attend the out-of-state events in Kansas City & Washington, D.C. Director N. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the Trapshooting team to attend Nationals in July. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none. Director Matthews Abstained.

Director Denner has moved to appoint R. Shawver to serve on the facilities committee and the CWC Committee to replace the opening with previous board members’ resignation. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

High School Shop teacher Damian Spratt presented information on hosting a Skills USA Open Shop Night fundraiser. Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the fundraiser. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

High School Shop teacher Damian Spratt presented information on hosting a Skills USA Open Shop Night fundraiser. Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the fundraiser. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

High School principal Matthew Manson presented maintenance agreements with Stalker Sports Floors. Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve Option 1 on a three-year contract with Stalker Floors. Elementary Gym: \$5,625 Middle School Gym: \$3,750 and the Competition Gym: \$2,825. Director R. Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the MOU with Northwestern College and the three-year MOU approval with University of Northern Iowa. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

High School Principal Manson and Elementary Principal Steele presented information on the growing enrollment in the elementary school and the need to adjust staffing appropriately. We recommend keeping all the sections the same this year except for reducing 3rd grade to 3 sections and increasing 4th grade to 4 sections. Doing this will allow us to advertise for the sections we need and move current staff accordingly. Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the section changes and the addition of hiring one more teacher to cover the changes. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director A. Schwickerath moved to approve the registered apprentice form in Appendix D for the TRPA Apprenticeship. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

High School Principal Matthew Manson presented information on resolution to participate in the budget guarantee for the next school year. This is all local property tax, but it helps cushion our budget when we are experiencing declining enrollment. This allows us to have at least 101% of this year’s budget available for next year. Following discussion director N. Schwickerath moved to adopt the following resolution: RESOLVED, that

the Board of Directors of New Hampton Community School District, will levy property tax for fiscal year 2025-2026 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa. Director R. Shawver seconded the resolution. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

The Board of Directors of the New Hampton Community School District, in the Counties of Chickasaw and Howard, State of Iowa, met in Regular session on February 17, 2025, in the High School Family and Consumer Science Room, 710 West Main, New Hampton, Iowa 50659, at 6:30 P.M., on the above date. The Board of Directors provided a hybrid option for the members of the Board to participate in the meeting. There were present President Jay Matthews, in the chair, and the following named Board Members: Timothy Denner, Adam Schwickerath, Ryan Shawver and Nathaniel Schwickerath.

The President of the Board called up for consideration the Resolution to Consider Continued Participation in the Instructional Support Program which requires that a public hearing be held on this proposal.

Director Nathaniel Schwickerath introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption. Director Adam Schwickerath seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called, and the vote was:

AYES: Jay Matthews, Timothy Denner, Adam Schwickerath, Nathaniel Schwickerath and Ryan Shawver
NAYS: None

The President declared the Resolution adopted as follows:

RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that to continue the current level of services and to fund the ongoing programs of the School District, continuation of participation in the Instructional Support Program for a period of five years is necessary and in the best interests of the District and its residents and students; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors wishes to consider continued participation in the Instructional Support Program as provided in Sections 257.18 through 257.21, Code of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the authorization for the current Instructional Support Program will expire on June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution sets forth the proposal of the Board of Directors, including the method that will be used to fund the program; and

WHEREAS, notice of the time and place of a public hearing must be published:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved:

1. The Board of Directors wishes to consider continued participation in the Instructional Support Program as provided in Sections 257.18 through 257.21, Code of Iowa, for a period of five years, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

2. The additional funding for the In-

structional Support Program for a budget year shall be determined annually and shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total regular program district cost for the budget year and moneys received under Section 257.14, Code of Iowa, as a budget adjustment for the budget year.

3. Moneys received by the District for the Instructional Support Program may be used for any general fund purpose.

4. The Instructional Support Program shall be funded by instructional support state aid and a combination instructional support property tax levied annually upon the taxable property within the School District commencing with the levy of property taxes for collection in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and an instructional support income surtax imposed annually, the percent of income surtax to be determined by the Board for each budget year to be imposed upon the state individual income tax of each individual income taxpayer resident in the School District on December 31, 2026, and each year thereafter.

5. The Secretary is authorized and directed to give notice of a public hearing to be held in the High School Family and Consumer Science Room, 710 West Main, New Hampton, Iowa 50659, on March 17, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.

6. Following the public hearing the Board intends to take action on the question whether to continue participation in the Instructional Support Program.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of February, 2025.
Jay Matthews, President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST: Christy Roethler
Secretary of the Board of Directors

CERTIFICATE STATE OF IOWA COUNTY OF CHICKASAW

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Board of Directors of the New Hampton Community School District, in the Counties of Chickasaw and Howard, State of Iowa, do hereby certify that attached is a true and complete copy of the portion of the corporate records of the School District showing proceedings of the Board, and the same is a true and complete copy of the action taken by the Board with respect to the matter at the meeting held on the date indicated in the attachment, which proceedings remain in full force and effect, and have not been amended or rescinded in any way; that the meeting and all action was duly and publicly held in accordance with a notice of meeting and a tentative agenda, a copy of which was timely served on each member of the Board and posted on a bulletin board or other prominent place easily accessible to the public and clearly designated for that purpose at the principal office of the Board pursuant to the local rules of the Board and the provisions of Chapter 21, Code of Iowa, upon reasonable advance notice to the public and media at least twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the meeting as required by law and with members of the public present in attendance; I further certify that the individuals named therein were on the date thereof duly and lawfully possessed of their respective offices as indicated therein, that no board vacancy existed except as may be stated in the proceedings, and that no controversy or litigation is pending, prayed or threatened involving the incorporation, organization, existence or boundaries of the School District or the right of the individuals named therein as officers to their respective positions.

WITNESS my hand this 17th day of February 2025.
Christy Roethler
Secretary of the Board of Directors of the New Hampton Community School District

Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the superintendent contract with Erik Smith. Director R. Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to approve the first budget hearing date for March 24, 2025, at 6:30pm in the High School FCS Room. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner, A. Schwickerath, R. Shawver and N. Schwickerath. Nays: none.

There will be a joint board meeting with Turkey Valley in the High School FCS room prior to our regular board meeting on March 17, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

The next regular board meeting will be March 17, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Director N. Schwickerath moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Director A. Schwickerath seconded the motion.

Monthly Bills
February 2025
General Fund (10)

Vendor Name	Amount
AFLAC	90.27
Ag Vantage FS	3,749.22
Amazon Capital Services	3,065.22
Bauler, Rachel	34.53
Blackhawk Automatic Sprinkler	312.50
Bodensteiner Implement Company	230.88
CAM Community School District	8,827.40
Casey’s Business Account	282.82
Chickasaw Wellness Complex	300.00
City Laundering Co.	1,228.63
Counseling & Family Centered Services, Inc.	9,900.00
Denver Community School	8,362.52
EMS Detergent Services	69.50
Fareway	1,685.69
Five Star Cooperative	4,874.10
FM Controls, Inc.	2,499.00
Frisbey, Angela	1,674.00
Fritcher, Katie	1,197.00
Geerts Plumbing & Heating	2,232.47
Glenn, Jill	16.00
Hackman, J	15.00
Hackman, Jacob	100.00
Hanson Tire Service	4,283.75
Hawkeye Alarm & Signal Co	570.00
Heartland AEA 11	38.28
Herrf Jones, Inc.	504.26
Iowa Department of Human Services	7,108.36
ISFIS, Inc.	300.00
IXL Learning	2,850.00
J.W. Pepper & Son Inc.	110.00
Jendro Sanitation Services Inc.	1,641.00
John Deere Financial	161.90
Kwik Star	707.20
L & R Manufacturing, LLC	103.22
Lexia Learning Systems, LLC	3,800.00
LS Supply & Rental	640.59

Lunch Fund	683.25
Madison National Life Insurance	2,296.40
MARCO	368.25
Mason City Comm. School	87.36
McDonald, Cory	339.50
Mercy Medical Center-New Hampton	120.00
Mick Gage Plumbing	63.89
Mid Country Machinery, LLC	2,184.82
MITKO Specialty Sales & Service	1,695.05
Mohawk Electric	368.25
NAPA Auto Parts	39.95
Nashua-Plainfield Comm School	25,355.82
New Hampton Tribune	312.69
NHMu Fiber	310.00
Northeast Iowa Community College Business and	296.14
Community Solutions	4,423.61
Office World	660.00
On Track Signs	99.00
Orkin	610.36
Pearson Education	1,046.00
Pfaffle, Steve	784.34
Principal Life Insurance Company	55.00
R & R Welding	281.33
School Bus Sales	512.81
Schueh Ace Hardware	109.58
Scrubber City Inc.	689.64
Stanton Electric	660.00
Swisher & Coht, P.L.C.	54.00
Teacher Innovations	181.05
thyssenkrupp Elevator Corporation	978.71
Turkey Valley Community School	63,523.68
Vern Laures Chev-Buick	248.97
VISA	923.92
Wagoner Bros. Repair	3,424.25
Walmart.com	87.96
Washington National Ins. Co.	800.10
Waverly Shell-Rock School	10,372.32
Wayne’s Truck Equipment & Parts, Inc.	250.00
Weber Paper Company - Division of Capital Sanitary	368.44
Windstream	1,888.11
Ziegler CAT	500.00
Fund Total:	\$201,358.36
Capital Projects (33)	780.00
Babcock Services	29,623.14
Blum of Minnesota, LLC	4,665.81
EH Electric, L.L.C.	8,718.50
Five Star Telecom Inc.	33,000.00
Little Sprouts Daycare	2,336.36
Mick Gage Plumbing	5,402.87
New Hampton Electric	3,373.60
Premier Furniture & Equipment	87,900.28
Fund Total:	\$ 87,900.28
Physical Plant & Equipment (36)	1,939.05
Marco, Inc.	5,995.68
Wagoner Bros. Repair	\$7,934.73
Fund Total:	Management (22)
Community Insurance of Iowa	1,791.00
EMC Insurance Companies	423.23
Grundmeier Consulting	14,707.52
Fund Total:	\$16,921.75
Attest: February 17, 2025	
Jay Matthews Board President	
Christy Roethler Board Secretary	

No. 24672
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News Bits From Our Past Compiled by Terri Josephson

Week of Feb. 23 1950 (75 years ago)

• The city council met in regular session Monday evening with the mayor and all the council present. Claims amounting to \$6,120.39 were audited and allowed. Clayton Werner was rehired as caretaker at East Park for the coming season at a salary of \$125 per month.

• An elderly be-whiskered gentleman on a bicycle with a minimum amount of baggage that he carried in the bicycle basket was around town on Wednesday.

He was enroute Minneapolis to Florida, but he was not cycling all the way as he caught a ride from Cedar Rapids to New Hampton with an ad salesman and seemed to be looking for another ride on Wednesday.

1975 (50 years ago)

• A young area woman was honored last week by members of Saint Joseph Community Hospital for having served over 100 hours as a Candy Stripe volunteer at the New Hampton facility. Wilma Zeien, a sophomore at the New Hampton High School, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Zeien of rural New Hampton, completed her over 100 hours of Candy Stripe service in some two years in the program.

Her sister, Teresa, who also served over 100 hours as a Candy Striper was a member of the program for three years before beginning work as a nurses aid at the hospital.

• In February of 1948, the S & S Firestone Store opened for business on 12 E. Main St. in New Hampton.

The store is owned by Jack Gorman and Jack Kendall, who are both active in the operation of the business.

S & S Firestone 27th Birthday Sell-A-Bration: Litton Microwave, \$299.75; Hardwick Gas and Electric Ranges, All New 1975 Models Now In Stock, Trade-In Your Old Range Now!; Freezers, From \$219.27; Philco's 2-Door Refrigerator-Freezer, \$299.27, White, Avocado, Harvest Gold; Philco's 25" Color Console TV, \$529.27; A drawing will be held for a FREE Hamilton Heavy Duty Electric Dryer, Stop In to Register.

2000 (25 years ago)

• The Upper Iowa wrestling team traveled to Indianola last Thursday and defeated the Simpson Storm 26-11. Former NH wrestler Cory Beckman was an 11-1 winner at 149, bringing his record to 18-9 on the year. The Peacocks are now 13-7 in dual meets.

• The Wartburg College wrestling team will be after an Iowa Conference record, eighth

consecutive wrestling championship when they participate in the IIAC Tournament at Young Arena, Waterloo on Feb. 17. Zac Weiglein of New Hampton at 125 will return as an IIAC champion for the Knights. Weiglein will be seeking his third title.

• Jeff Freidhof, a senior co-captain on the Luther College wrestling team, has qualified for the NCAA Division III National Wrestling Tournament for the third time in as many years.

Freidhof, who wrestles at 165, and is a two-time All-American, is currently ranked eighth in the country. Freidhof will travel to the national meet posting a record of 26-13.

2015 (10 years ago)

• Noah Fye and Keaton Geerts, New Hampton's two state tournament wrestlers, racked up 27 points to give the Chickasaws a 21st place finish. Coach Nick Hemann said, "You take two guys, you score that many points and you're doing something right."

Fye took third at 106 and Geerts finished fifth at 120.

Fye capped a banner freshman season with a record of 42-3. Geerts set a record with 47 victories this season, and

the sophomore is almost a lock to become the 20th Chickasaw in school history to record 100 career wins.

• Chickasaw County is now one of the few counties that has converted its 911 systems to be able to receive texts from individuals in distress. Livermore Telephone and Communications said Chickasaw County is about number 12 out of 115 operations that are in the process of converting to the updated software.

The Chickasaw County dispatchers, located at the Chickasaw County's Sheriff's Office, will start receiving texts within about six months.

2020 (5 years ago)

• Fifty years ago, Bill Roths wrestled at the state tournament as a New Hampton High School senior. Twenty-years ago, Roths sang a rousing rendition of the National Anthem before the 1995 state tournament finals. Last Saturday night, Roths joined another legendary wrestling official, Doug Manley, to lead the best tradition in Iowa high school sports, the state wrestling tournament grand march.

• Evan Rosonke stood in the hallway at Wells Fargo Arena

and tried to fathom what had just happened.

The New Hampton/Turkey Valley senior wrestler was a state champion. And the second-ranked Chickasaw did it in his fashion using two big

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ORDINANCE #899 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF NEW HAMPTON ZONING & SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

MAP AMENDMENT. The following real estate located at 409 W Jefferson Street within the City of New Hampton shall be rezoned through a map amendment from (R-2) Moderate Density Residential to (M-1) Light Industrial and/or Manufacturing, legally described as:

THE ALLEY SEPARATING LOTS 1, 2, AND 3 FROM LOTS 4 AND 5, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, ALSO DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, THENCE NORTH TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, THENCE IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 5, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO THE NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, THENCE SOUTH TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 4, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, THENCE EAST TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING;

AND LOTS 4 AND 5 IN BLOCK 10 IN RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA;

AND

moves in which he scored nine points on his way to a 10-5 decision over third-ranked Dylan Winkel of Central Lyon George-Little Rock to claim the Class 2A 195 pound state championship.

ALL PROPERTY WEST OF BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO THE CITY OF NEW HAMPTON, IOWA WITH THE NORTH AND NORTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF THIS PROPERTY EXTENDING TO THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE ST. PAUL AND MILWAUKEE RAILROAD IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 95 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., CHICKASAW COUNTY, IOWA.

INTEGRATION WITH CODE. Each section, provision or part of this ordinance which is followed by a section number set off by parentheses shall be inserted in the New Hampton Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance, through the 2024 New Hampton Municipal Code as indicated by said section number and hereafter shall be cited by reference to said section number.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect after its final passage and publication as provided by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th day of February 2025.

BY: STEVE GEERTS, MAYOR ATTEST: KAREN CLEMENS, CITY CLERK

No. 24668 2/27/25 New Hampton Tribune www.iowapublicnotices.com

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CITY NAME: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF IONIA - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY CITY #: 19-164 IONIA Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows: Meeting Date: 3/24/2025 Meeting Time: 06:45 PM Meeting Location: Ionia City Hall, 101 W Iowa St, Ionia At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Website (if available) City Telephone Number (319) 239-0289

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Property Tax	Certified 2024 - 2025	Budget Year Property Tax	Effective 2025 - 2026	Budget Year Property Tax	Proposed 2025 - 2026
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service		6,728,673		6,804,465		6,804,465
Consolidated General Fund		56,319		56,319		56,953
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit		0		0		0
Aviation Authority		0		0		0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance		7,865		7,865		7,871
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.		0		0		0
Unified Law Enforcement		0		0		0
Police & Fire Retirement		0		0		0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)		3,387		3,387		3,444
Other Employee Benefits		0		0		0
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)		0		0		0
Taxable Value for Debt Service		6,728,673		6,804,465		6,804,465
Debt Service		0		0		0
CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX		67,571		67,571		68,268
CITY REGULAR TAX RATE		10.04223		9.93039		10.03286
Taxable Value for City Ag Land		348,626		358,430		358,430
Ag Land		1,047		1,047		1,077
CITY AG LAND TAX RATE		3.00375		2.92107		3.00375
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed						
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000	Current Year 2024/2025	Certified	Budget Year 2025/2026	Proposed	Percent	Change
City Regular Residential		465		523		12.47
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000	Current Year 2024/2025	Certified	Budget Year 2025/2026	Proposed	Percent	Change
City Regular Commercial		2,054		2,339		13.88

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

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current: Increase in property tax valuations, operational expenses, public safety, property insurance, and employees' wages and benefits.

No. 24662 2/27/25 New Hampton Tribune www.iowapublicnotices.com

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CITY COUNCIL COUNCIL CHAMBERS MONDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2025 7:00 P.M.

The City Council of the City of New Hampton met in regular session in the Council Chambers at 112 East Spring Street, New Hampton Iowa at 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 17, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Geerts at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Schwickerath, Speltz, Denner, Humpal, Larsen, Porath. Also in attendance were City Attorney Todd Prichard, Conrad Rosendahl and Casey Mai.

1. Approve meeting agenda
2. Approve City Council Minutes of February 3, 2024.
3. Approve City Claims of \$56,261.38
4. Fire Department Minutes 2-3-25
5. Approval of new Fire Department members: Kaitlyn Jacobs, Adalberto Uribe
6. Department Head Minutes 2-4-2025
7. Park & Rec Minutes 2-5-25
8. Library Board Minutes 2-4-2025
9. Approval of Standing Committees
10. 5th Annual 5K Request Their Fight is Our Fight -April 25th, 2025
11. Summary of Iowa Supreme Court Ruling on Sidewalk Liability
12. Finance Reports
- 13.

FUND RECEIVED DISBURSED GENERAL \$46,346.99 \$175,092.97 ROAD USE TAX \$44,061.13 \$40,888.05 SPECIAL REV/EMPLOYEE BEN \$3,172.00 \$18,197.66 SELF INSURANCE FUND \$10,258.35 \$7,097.04 LOCAL OPTION TAX \$66,290.90 \$5,975.00 HOTEL/ MOTEL TAX \$775.55 \$5,338.80 HOTEL/ MOTEL TAX CAP RES \$271.81 \$0.00 TIF- INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL \$675.64 \$0.00 DEBT SERVICE \$305.33 \$0.00 LIBRARY SPECIAL PROJECTS \$1,157.94 \$0.00 ROADS CAPITAL PROJECTS \$15,665.57 \$5,997.30 STORM WATER CAPITAL PROJECTS \$5,573.51 \$13.65 CAPITAL PROJECTS \$6,880.36 \$9,301.98 WATER UTILITY \$42,714.18 \$35,333.45 SEWER UTILITY

\$69,743.17 \$59,723.29 WASTEWATER PROJECT \$80,489.80 \$80,489.80 SOLID WASTE \$33,097.95 \$33,434.53 CAPITAL PROJECTS-WATER \$4,803.66 \$11.15 CAPITAL PROJECTS-SEWER \$4,757.13 \$11.15 CUSTOMER DEPOSITS \$1,737.00 \$1,118.00 TOTAL \$438,777.97 \$478,023.82

Moved by Larsen, seconded by Humpal; that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Ayes – Five. Nays – None. Absent – Porath. Motion carried.

A. 7:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE CHANGE

Mayor Geerts announced now is the time and place fixed for the public hearing to receive public comment with regard to the amendment to the zoning map regarding the rezoning from R-2 (Moderate Density Residential) to M-1 (Light Industrial and/or Manufacturing the following described property:

THE ALLEY SEPARATING LOTS 1, 2, AND 3 FROM LOTS 4 AND 5, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, ALSO DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 3, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, THENCE NORTH TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, THENCE IN A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 5, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO THE NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, THENCE SOUTH TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 4, BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA, THENCE EAST TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; AND LOTS 4 AND 5 IN BLOCK 10 IN RAILROAD ADDITION TO NEW HAMPTON, IOWA.

AND ALL PROPERTY WEST OF BLOCK 10, RAILROAD ADDITION TO THE CITY OF NEW HAMPTON, IOWA WITH THE NORTH AND NORTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY LINE OF THIS PROPERTY EXTENDING TO THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE ST. PAUL AND MILWAUKEE RAILROAD IN THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 95 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., CHICKASAW COUNTY, IOWA.

The Council investigated and found

that the time and the place of the hearing had in accordance with the law as directed by the Council been published in the New Hampton Tribune on the 6th day of February, 2025.

Mayor Geerts asked for oral comments. There were none. Mayor Geerts asked for written comments. There were none none. Mayor Geerts declared the hearing closed.

The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the request of Stanley and Mary Ann Trask of Stanley W. Trask Living Trust to rezone their property at 409 West Jefferson at their February 11, 2025 meeting. Moved by Denner, seconded by Schwickerath; That an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF NEW HAMPTON ZONING & SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE, receive its first consideration. Ayes - Schwickerath, Speltz, Denner, Humpal, Larsen, Nays - None. Absent-Porath.

Mayor Geerts declared the motion duly carried and declared that the ordinance had been given its initial consideration.

Moved by Speltz, and seconded by Larsen; that the statutory rule requiring an ordinance to be considered and voted on for passage at two Council meetings prior to the meeting at which it is to be finally passed be suspended. The Mayor put the question on the motion and the roll being called. Ayes - Schwickerath, Speltz, Denner, Humpal, Larsen. Nays- None. Absent-Porath.

Whereupon, the Mayor declared the motion duly carried. Moved by Larsen, seconded by Humpal; That the ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. 899 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF NEW HAMPTON ZONING & SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE now be put upon its final consideration and adoption. Ayes - Schwickerath, Speltz, Denner, Humpal, Larsen. Nays- None. Absent- Porath. Whereupon, the Mayor declared the motion duly carried and the Ordinance #899 duly adopted.

Staff has received the Calhoun-Burns & Associates agreement for the annual bridge inspection. Moved by Denner, seconded by Larsen; That Resolution No. 6710 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGREEMENT WITH CALHOUN-BURNS & ASSOCIATES FOR THE ANNUAL BRIDGE INSPECTION, be approved. Roll Call: Schwickerath, Speltz, Denner, Humpal, Larsen. Nays - None. Absent – Porath. Resolution approved.

Staff has completed all the documentation for the purchase of the property at 341 South Chestnut Avenue except the final deed. Staff is hoping to get the signatures in February 2025.

Mayor Geerts has appointed a committee to discuss & make recommendations regarding improving both pedestrian and vehicular safety; the members are: Casey Mai – Public Works Director, Christy Roethler – School Board Secretary/Purchasing Manager, Jay Jurens – School Superintendent, Lynn Schwickerath – Resident, Paul Irvin – Resident, Mindy Humpal – Council Member, Deb Larsen (Chair)–Council Member

Steve Geerts – Mayor. Public Works Director Casey Mai updated the council on the WWTP and street projects.

Moved by Speltz, seconded by Humpal; that the meeting adjourn at 7:32 pm. Ayes –Five. Nays – None. Absent – Porath. Motion carried.

ATTEST: KAREN CLEMENS, CMC City Clerk STEVE GEERTS, Mayor COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 7:00 PM CITY - WRITTEN SINCE FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Iowa Department of Revenue, Sales Tax 3,962.72 USPS, Postage for Utility Bills..... 196.28 Windstream, Phone Service (Water Sewer)..... 216.61 TOTAL WRITTEN 4,375.61 CITY - TO BE WRITTEN 20/20 FX, Labor to set up new laptop (Sewer) Troubleshooting (PD)..... 502.40 Auto Value, Wiper Blades (Street) Oil & Filter (Sewer) 69.98 Axon Enterprise, 2 Day Instructor Course (Police) 2,500.00 Black Hills Energy, Natural Gas (PD WA Clerk Cust ST Fire SR Carnegie) 6,611.85 Chickasaw Co Clerk of Court, Court Fees (Police) 35.00 Five Star Coop, Diesel (Fire Street) Gas (WA SR) Grease Bolts (Water) 419.84 Iowa Dept of Public Safety, IA State Invoice Jan - March 2025 (Police) ... 300.00 Iroc Web Design Services, Annual Hosting & Domain Renewal (Clerk Econ) 100.00 Jendro Sanitation, Refuse Pickup (Fire PD Carnegie Clerk Cust SR St) 400.17 Kuhn, Jim, Basic Wastewater Training, Mileage (970 x .7), Lunch (SR)..... 1,249.00 Kwik Star, Gas (Police Street) Diesel (Street) 982.78 L & R Manufacturing, Valve Covers (Street) 34.17 Microbac, Testing Fees (Water) .. 70.00 MiEnergy, Electric Service (Sewer)

..... 77.29 NAPA, Supplies (Street Sewer) Door Struts (Fire) 212.40 New Hampton Electric, Replace Bad Timer & Fuse on Grit Pump (Sewer) 333.40 New Hampton Municipal Utilities, Phone & Internet (St Carnegie Fire PD Clerk Econ SR) 702.51 New Hampton Tribune, Minutes & Claims, 2024 Wages, Intent to Fill (Clerk) 480.52 New Hampton, City of, Utilities (Clerk PD ST Fire Carnegie WA SR Custodial) 12,359.43 Oakland Corp, Annual Laserfiche Cloud Renewal (Clerk) 3,255.00 Phillips Plumbing & Heating, Replace Motor in Entryway Heater (Comm Ctr) 661.00 Rapid Printers, Supplies (PD SR Fire) Billings (WA SR) Paper (Clerk Econ) 695.94 Riley's Inc, Copy Fee (Clerk PD Econ) Color Copier (Econ) 3,395.00 Schueth Ace Hardware, Supplies (Water PD Clerk Sewer Fire) 106.77 T & K Tractor Repair, Engine 321- Service & Replace Steering Sector (Fire) 2,007.66 US Cellular, Phone & Data Charges (St Sewer Fire WA Zoning Police)..... 473.26

USA Blue Book, Refrigerated Sampler, Aux Cable (Sewer) 8,186.80 Utility Equipment Co, Plug Valve (Sewer) 727.40 Visa, Training Book, Computer, Scanner, Cables, Membership Fees, Battery Charger, Straps (Fire) 2,592.89 Visa, Gsuite Fee, MidState Crime Membership, Hotel for Conference, Pizza for Training, Mount (PD) 897.00 Visa, Monitor, Mount, Adapter, Safety Workshop, Welding Screens (Street) 786.28 Visa, Bluebeam Subscription (Water) .. 470.80 Visa, Microsoft Fees (Sewer) 155.78 Visa, Zoom Fee, Envelopes (Clerk) Sales Tax Credit (Cust) 33.45 Total to be Written 51,885.77 Plus City Written 4,375.61 TOTAL TO BE APPROVED 56,261.38

PAYROLL -WRITTEN SINCE FEBRUARY 3, 2025 EFTPS, Federal and FICA Tax 11,064.94 Empower Retirement, Deferred Comp .. 875.00 11,939.94

AIRPORT -TO BE WRITTEN MiEnergy, Electric Service 162.50 CEMETERY -TO BE WRITTEN Jendro Sanitation, Refuse Pickup 19.64 New Hampton, City of, Utilities .. 71.04 90.68

PARK & REC -TO BE WRITTEN

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS PROJECT M-2025-01

Chickasaw County will receive sealed bids for LIMESTONE RESURFACING until 10:00 A.M., CDT, on the 24th day of March 2025, at the Office of the County Auditor, Courthouse, New Hampton, Iowa, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Specifications and bidding documents may be obtained from the Office of the County Engineer, Courthouse, New Hampton, Iowa 50659.

A certified check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid, or satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable Surety, shall be submitted with the bid.

The County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive technicalities, or to readvertise for bids, if the best interest of the County will be served thereby.

No. 24666 2/27/25 New Hampton Tribune 2/28/25 Nasshua Reporter www.iowapublicnotices.com

Legal Notice

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CHICKASAW COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of Probate No. ESPR003270

WARREN W. MEANS, Deceased, NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To: Shaun Means, Chantel Means, and Brandon Means

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 29th day of January, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of Warren W. Means, deceased, bearing date of December 13, 2017, was admitted to probate in the abovesamed Court and that Patricia Means Neuroth and Rhonda Means Plamann were appointed co-executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the Will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further 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 abovesamed district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated This 20th day of February, 2025.

Patricia Means Neuroth Co-Executor of Estate 32191 G Avenue Conrad, IA 50621

Rhonda Means Plamann Co-Executor of Estate 9433 Harbor Greens Way Unit 506 Seminole, FL 33776

Daniel L. Fretheim ANDERSON, WILMARTH, VAN DER MAATEN, FRETHEIM, EVELSIZER OLSON, NOBLE, LYNCH & ZAHASKY 212 Winnebago P.O. Box 450 Decorah, IA 52101 (563) 382-2959 Email: dan.fretheim@andersonlawdecorah.com

Date of third publication: March 13, 2025

No. 24669 2/27/25 New Hampton Tribune 3/6/25 New Hampton Tribune 3/13/25 New Hampton Tribune www.iowapublicnotices.com

Iroc Web Design Services, Annual Hosting & Domain Renewal 50.00 New Hampton, City of, Utilities 713.68 Rapid Printers, Copy Paper..... 130.00 US Cellular, Cell Phone Service .. 64.09 Visa, Basketball Medals, Scoreboard 234.38

LIBRARY -TO BE WRITTEN Black Hills Energy, Natural Gas..... 1,192.15 New Hampton, City of, Utilities 116.32

Visa, Books, Microsoft Fees, Ink Cartridges, Tissues, Cricut Subscription Games, Postage, Pizza, Bookmarks Misc 1,590.18 LIBRARY - WRITTEN SINCE FEBRUARY 3, 2025 20/20 FX, Computer Labor 50.00 Baker & Taylor, Books 750.65 Black Hill, Gas Service 371.76 Cengage Learning, Book 275.90 Center Point Large Print, Books .. 328.27 EastWest Library Books, Books 453.89 Fareway Stores, Water, Cookies for Programs 24.84 Iowa Communications Network, Long Distance Charges 4.30 Jendro Sanitation, Garbage & Recycling 62.00 Kanopy, Streaming Services 92.00 Lightbox Learning, Books 98.20 New Hampton Municipal Utility, Phone & Internet 173.96 2,685.77

PARK & REC - WRITTEN SINCE FEBRUARY 3, 2025 Iowa Department of Revenue, Sales Tax 26.82 AgVantage FS, LP for Park Shop 259.12 Black Hills Energy, Natural Gas..... 37.81 Full River Fabrication, Memorial Benches 2,542.50 Jendro Sanitation, Dumpsters 114.00 New Hampton Community School, Custodial Fees for Basketball Tourney 225.22 New Hampton Municipal Utility, Phone & Internet 87.78 New Hampton Tribune, Health Booklet Ad 278.00 Rapid Printers, Paper 65.77 Rebecca Wickman, Reimburse for Soccer Recertification 62.50 3,699.52

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CITY CLERK

The City of Charles City, IA (7,396) seeks a City Clerk/ Finance Director responsible for record keeping, financial, and management functions. Desirable qualifications include a bachelor's degree in business management, accounting, finance, or a related field and a minimum of three or more years of related experience or any equivalent combination of education and progressively responsible experience. Candidates should have knowledge in record management, governmental accounting, budget development, computer software and financial analysis. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate performance as a self-motivated and problem-solving employee with managerial skills. Salary range \$70,000 - \$85,000, dependent on qualifications.

Apply online at www.cityofcharlescity.org and include a cover letter and resume.
Deadline for application is 5:00 p.m. on March 7, 2025.

The City of Charles City is an equal opportunity employer.

CHICKASAW COUNTY FARMLAND FOR SALE

The Bernice H. Felder Trust is offering for sale for cash a farm of 127.48 acres, more or less. Possession will be given April 11, 2025. The current tenant's lease has been terminated. The property is located in Washington Township described as:

The West One-Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter and the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter and the West One-Half of the Southwest Quarter (except Parcel A and Parcel 2024-57 in the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter) and a road twenty feet wide across the Northwest corner of the East One-Half of the Southwest Quarter of all in Section Thirty-Five, Township Ninety-Seven, Range Thirteen West of the 5th P.M.

Sealed bids may be delivered or emailed to the offices of Elwood, O'Donohoe, Braun & White, LLP at 101 N Locust Avenue, New Hampton, Iowa 50659, Iowa by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Emailed bids will be kept confidential and sealed bids will be opened that afternoon. The persons submitting the five highest bids will be invited to an auction to be held at the offices of Elwood, O'Donohoe, Braun & White, LLP at 101 N Locust Avenue, New Hampton, Iowa on March 28 at 1:30 p.m. and will have the right to raise their bid at that time. The successful bidder will be required to pay 10% down on the date of sale. Balance of purchase price will be paid on April 11, 2025. Seller reserves the right to reject all bids. Announcements made the day of sale take precedence. At any time after Sunday, March 2, interested parties may request all available information regarding the farm in person, at the New Hampton office, by calling (641) 394-5943 or by emailing kit@elwoodlawfirm.com.

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Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Bidding starts | Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 8:00 AM
Bidding closes | Thursday, March 13, at close of live event
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STOP HIV IOWA

'Intangibles' put Chickasaw senior on final all-NEIC team

ALL-NEIC: FROM 12

she's also tough, hard-nosed and possesses plenty of heart. It's that fight and drive that made her one of the better players over the course of the last season of the longstanding league in Iowa that she played in – known as the Northeast Iowa Conference.

“With her being smaller in a lot of those situations, she's going to take some contact. It's a rough sport. There's no doubt about it,” said Leichtman about his daughter's propensity to sustain and overcome physical play, find a way to get the ball through the nylon and help her team win games.

Leichtman – a second-team NEIC pick a year ago as a freshman – cracked the first team this year as the league's second-leading scorer (16.8 ppg) behind Waukon senior Keira McCormick (19.3 ppg).

“Sometimes you've gotta play a lot bigger than you are,” said the NH head coach, who just completed his fourth season with the Chickasaws. “You can't worry about when somebody's six foot or whatever the case may be. You put on the same pair of shoes. Ava's fully embraced that. She's willing to go toe-to-toe, chin-to-chin with anybody, it doesn't matter what their height is.”

In the final year of the NEIC – without charter member Charles City (no varsity girls hoops squad in 2024-2025) and Waverly-Shell Rock (now competing in sports as an independent) – the league was down to just four girls basketball teams.

That means NEIC coaches selected five girls for first team and seven for the second-team squad.

Joining Leichtman on the all-league squad that was announced recently as a second-teamer was senior guard Cora Schwickerath, one of the best distributors of the basketball in her conference. She was second in the league in assists (3.5 apg) to Waukon junior Elle Wilkins (4.2 apg).

“We talk about scouting,

We're looking at teams and how to scout. Cora's at the top of the list as an all-around player,” said Leichtman. “She's one again like Ava, that her height doesn't let be her limiting factor.”

Both those starting guards for Leichtman – who were two of the five captains New Hampton selected this year – helped the Chickasaws lead the NEIC in free-throw percentage (62.7 percent) and 3-point accuracy (27.9 percent). NH was also tops in the conference in terms of free throws made per game (11.3).

Leichtman shot 67.5 percent and Schwickerath produced a 61.1 clip at the charity stripe.

“That says a lot of what we're doing and what we're building,” said David Leichtman.

Amazingly, Leichtman was second on the team in rebounding (5.3 rpg) and tied for seventh in the NEIC.

“A big factor with Ava is her rebounding,” said Leichtman. “She was able to secure some boards, putbacks and and-1's that really made it difficult on teams when you have somebody of her size outrebound you.”

Leichtman was also second in the league in 3-point percentage (31 percent) and makes (35) from beyond the arc. Schwickerath led the NEIC in three-point percentage (35.6).

“She's got the athleticism to play a complete game and knock down shots,” said Leichtman about Schwickerath.

Schwickerath averaged 5.7 points a game, but it's her intangibles – like her court vision and leadership – that really exemplify her contribution on and off the court.

“She rebounds the ball well. She passes the ball well. She sees the court,” said David Leichtman.

Leichtman has one speed out on the floor and that is full throttle, no matter what type of defense her opponents throw at her.

“One thing that a lot of teams try to do is face-guard Ava. That's a difficult defense because Ava has the ability of



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune
Chickasaw senior Cora Schwickerath puts up a shot versus Decorah in an NEIC game this winter.

All-NEIC Girls Basketball		
FIRST TEAM		
Charley Curtis	Crestwood	Jr.
Keira McCormick	Waukon	Sr.
Ava Leichtman	New Hampton	Soph.
Claire Storhoff	Decorah	Soph.
Brooklyn Fromm	Decorah	Jr.
SECOND TEAM		
Lydia Williams	Crestwood	Sr.
Mea Shelton	Crestwood	Soph.
Reese McCormick	Waukon	Sr.
Elle Wilkins	Waukon	Jr.
Cora Schwickerath	New Hampton	Sr.
Renae Wilson	Decorah	Jr.
Sydney Thompson	Decorah	Jr.

scoring from deep at the basket and anywhere in between. So if you put somebody within arm's reach of her at all times, she's going to use that as a strength,” said David Leichtman. “She understands that their shoes are headed in the wrong direction. Her shoes are headed downhill.”

It's that defense from Schwickerath that really impressed coach Leichtman.

“In her tenure in the conference for four years, she's been a big defensive person for us,” said Leichtman. “She's really turned her offensive game into that. She's really been a lockdown defender.”

Decorah (11-12, 5-1) – the league champs – ended up getting four players named to the all-league squads. Waukon

(15-8, 4-2) finished runner-up in the conference and earned three selections – the same as third-place finisher Crestwood (12-9, 3-3). New Hampton (5-16, 0-6) finished fourth in the NEIC.

Leichtman mentioned that had a few votes swung in New Hampton's direction, there could have been a couple more Chickasaws that would have gotten recognized on the all-conference team.

“This has been one of the years I'm most proud of. Normally, we have about one girl, maybe two that were outside of the conference voting looking in. This year we got three or four that were knocking on the door and with a bigger vote could have been in,” the Chickasaw coach added.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Spring has sprung ... at least in the sports world

New Hampton boys track team members (above) go through some stretching drills while Chickasaw coach Scott Jenkins (below) talks with some of his distance runners on Monday when the team held its first practice of the season.

The girls track team, meanwhile, held its first practice on Tuesday as both teams prepare for their indoor seasons that begin on Monday, March 10, when the girls head to Waverly for a meet at Wartburg College. Both teams will compete at another indoor meet at Wartburg on Tuesday, March 18, before wrapping up the indoor season with the Northeast Iowa Conference Indoor that will be held on Tuesday, March 25, at Luther College in Decorah.



Shout out to the Turkey Valley winter sports teams!

Thanks to our Trojan student-athletes and coaches for representing our school and communities this season

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The girls basketball team had a brilliant turnaround season, going from 7-15 in 2023-24 to 16-6 in 2024-25 as the Trojans claimed a share of the Upper Iowa Conference title. Team members included (front row, from left) Ashlyn Busta, Delaney Busta, Layni Schuchhardt, (second row) Makinley Lutgen, Kendall Kuennen, Addison Steinlage, Hazel Nieman, Madalyn Vsetecka, Brylee Hayek, Miyah Byrne, (third row) assistant coach Frank Wilson, head coach Steve Hoffert, Emersyn Hoffert, Annika Bodensteiner, Ella Ives, Ellaney Bodensteiner, Bella Stika, Callie Busta, Haylee Hanson and assistant coach Ashley Walz.



The boys basketball team rebounded from a 1-4 start to play .500 basketball the rest of the season – finishing 10-13 overall and 7-9 in the Upper Iowa Conference. Team members included (front row, from left) Jordan Kriener, Kaden Schmidt, Jayden Rausch, Logan Busta, Caleb Kriener, Wyatt Maklenburg, Cale Langreck, Ryan Lukes, (back row) head coach John Izer, Mitchell Kriener. Treyton Franzen, J.D. Kruse, Alex Hanson, Jonah Orvis and assistant coaches Justin Izer and Adam Hanson.

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Photos courtesy of Anthony Hable

Youth wrestlers head to AAU state meet!

Eight Chickasaw Elite Wrestling Club members — (from left) Carter Drewelow, Jameis Hill, Max Kellogg, Liam Langreck, Jet Lester, Will Neville, Mark Peterson and Markavion Peterson — will take to the mats at Wells Fargo Arena this weekend for the AAU state tournament. The boys, who are in grades 3-8, punched their tickets to the state tournament by finishing in the top-four at the district tournament that was held in Waverly earlier this month. They will be led by coaches Anthony Hable, Jaydon Mitchell and Mitch Kellogg as they compete for state medals this weekend.

Cajthaml, Bucknell end seasons on state podium

STATE: FROM 12

period. The frenzied pace evolved into an 11-11 tie, but a reversal gave the NH/TV star the lead back a few seconds later with a 13-11 advantage. Cajthaml ended any thought of wrestling on the backside with a pin in 5:37.

“I’m super proud of Carter. He’s really entertaining to watch. He’s super offensive,” said NH/TV head coach Matt Paulus. “He likes to score points and he’s very talented.”

That set up a showdown in the quarters with No. 2 seed Aaron Boone (50-4) of Washington, who placed sixth at state last winter at 120 pounds.

Cajthaml, an all-conference catcher this past summer for the orange-and-black Comets, hit a home run down 6-1 with 48 seconds left in the match. He locked up a cradle — which ended up being a seven-point move (takedown with near-fall points tacked on) — to tie the match at 6-6. He continued to apply pressure and hit the jackpot with four more nearfall points with 23 seconds remaining in the third period.

That was all she wrote as he survived to turn the tables for a 10-6 decision over Boone — who would end up finishing fourth.

On to the semis.

“The cradle opened up and I hit it and got some extra points. Bonus points won the match to ice it, then it’s barbecue chicken from there,” said a pumped Cajthaml inside the tunnel at Wells Fargo Arena near the entrance to the locker rooms.

If Cajthaml wasn’t humming by then and having had slipped it into another gear, he sure has an expert poker face and is good at fooling his opponents because he raced into the finals on Friday evening with a pin in 5:09 over Cyler Cirks (34-11) of Humboldt, who was seeded 11th.

“Carter’s a true competitor. He’s very good in several sports. He has that trigger that can go off for him, that when he gets in tight situations he knows how to keep competing and wrestle through positions,” said Paulus. “He is a guy that likes to rise to the occasion and he had a great opportunity in front of him.”

Once again, the cradle got the job done. He utilized that finishing maneuver — a trademark technique to put grappler’s on their back that many a wrestler have encountered much success with.

“I’m not even quite sure how it happened,” smiled Cajthaml. “It felt amazing. After I pinned him it was just super cool to see all the coaches excited and stuff. It was a great time.”

Paulus talked about his star Chickasaw — who stands just 5-7, but packs plenty of punch to go along with a ton of heart. “He’s definitely kind of deceiving. He’s not the tallest guy in the world, but he’s very strong and athletic. He’s quick,” said Paulus.

Cajthaml also demonstrated he’s awfully clutch with the clock winding down, whether he’s on his feet or on the ground. That means he can go on attack mode and strike from any spot on the mat — no matter the time.

“He’s got a very offensive style. He’s exciting. People want to buy tickets, people want to come to duals to see a guy like that wrestle that’s going to put points on the board and keep going forward. His style is relentless,” Paulus added.

Hedeman — whose only loss at state during his four-year run with Union came against Webster City’s Carson Doolittle in the 2024 state finals by a score of 3-1 in sudden victory — pinned Cajthaml in 1:35.

“We knew that Hedeman — he’s a monster,” said Paulus. “He’s the guy at the end of the level so to speak. That’s where we want to be. That’s what you want to be like in these next few years.”

Cajthaml’s training partner — junior 138-pounder Jayden “Bucky Bucknell — was back at state for a second year in a row and stood tall when his back was against the wall on Thursday versus Will Griswold (27-15) of Center-Point Urbana.

Bucknell (44-14) — who was seeded



New Hampton/Turkey Valley’s Carter Cajthaml (above) looks for an opening in his Class 2A 132-pound championship bout with Union’s Jace Hedeman on Saturday while teammate Jayden Bucknell (below) picks up back points in his 138-pound first-round match against OABCIG’s Caden Spetman Wednesday night.



12th — stared at a 10-3 third-period deficit before he worked a reversal with 1:32 left. Five seconds later Bucknell remarkably secured a pin as his headlock — which he wrenched from seemingly out of nowhere — stuck and he stayed alive with a win by fall at the 4:33 mark of the match.

“It means a lot that I won that match. That pushed me through and got me wrestling the best that I’ve wrestled since I’ve started,” said Bucknell.

There’s something about Bucknell in the postseason that lifts his mat prowess to another level, plus he’s as unpredictable and funky as they come for a high school wrestler.

“You have to watch when he’s on the mat,” said Paulus. “You can’t keep your eyes off him. He likes to wrestle through positions. He likes funky stuff. He likes rolling around and he’s super dangerous. He showed that down at the state tournament as well. It’s hard to beat a guy that doesn’t quit, either. He doesn’t quit until the final whistle blows.”

Bucknell talked about the momentum he carried into his last match on Thursday after the huge come-from-behind pin over the CPU grappler. That positive energy translated into cruising on to the “bloodround” on Friday with a 17-2 tech fall over Ben Kusar (29-8) of Perry to end Thursday’s festivities.



NH/TV’s Chase Humpal picks up nearfall points in the first period of his match against Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont’s Blake Johnson in a second-round 165-pound consolation match.

Jenn Kalainoff and Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

Bucknell has come a long way after being the 24th seed at 132 pounds in his first state tournament appearance. He said working with Cajthaml and his Chickasaw coaching staff to get better on his feet was a difference-maker this winter. He also overcame a turf toe suffered at the Farr Jebens Invite over in Maquoketa Valley last month after Cajthaml’s knee accidentally smashed his big toe while the pair was warming up. He rested a week to allow the injury to heal somewhat, then got back after it and dealt with the pain.

“He grew a lot just as a person and also a wrestler this year,” said Paulus. “He’s learned that he needs to keep his dangerous style and we’ll never get that out of him. We don’t want to. We want him to always be dangerous. He just needs to solidify some things and be a little more solid in some of his basics.”

Blake Johnson (43-10) of Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont ended Chickasaw junior Chase Humpal’s drive for the podium stand on Thursday with another stunning pin as he won by fall in 3:08 over the Chickasaw 165-pounder after trailing 8-1 headed into the second period.

“He was winning that match by quite a few points there and was looking really good — probably the best he’s looked all year. You get to the state tournament and you get some funky guys in there. He was really long and caught us in a bad position. It was a tough one to lose,” said the NH/TV head coach.

Humpal was seeded 24th in his weight class and finished his 2024-2025 campaign with a mark of 15-20.

“He gained a ton of valuable experience just getting to the state tournament,” said Paulus. “It made him hungry and I’m excited that he’s going to have a bright season next year as well.”

NH/TV has crowned 42 individual state champs.

Paulus took over as head coach of NH/TV in January of 2019 and has coached three state champs in Evan Rosonke (195 pounds, 2020) and Carson Babcock (170, 2021) in addition to Braden McShane last year (215 pounds). Paulus — a 2011 New Hampton alum — placed fourth at state (103, 112, 119) in three consecutive years.

TOP-10 AND NH/TV TEAM SCORES	
Burlington-Notre Dame	129, Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont 107.5, Union 103.5, Davenport Assumption 99.5, Sergeant Bluff-Luton 98, Mount Vernon 88, Independence 87.5, West Delaware 83, Williamsburg 76, Anamosa 74.5 31. New Hampton/Turkey Valley 33.5.
NH/TV RESULTS	
132: Cajthaml placed second. Champ. Round 2 - Cajthaml pinned Tyce Hanson (Okoboji/HMS), 5:37. Quarterfinal - Cajthaml dec. Aaron Boone (Washington), 10-6. Semifinal - Cajthaml pinned Cyler Cirks (Humboldt), 5:09. 1st Place Match - Jace Hedeman (Union) pinned Cajthaml, 1:35.	
138: Bucknell placed eighth. Bucknell dec. Caden Spetman (OABCIG), 8-1. Champ. Round 2 - Cadyn Wild (Davenport Assumption) maj. dec. Bucknell, 15-4. Cons. Round 2 - Bucknell pinned Will Griswold (Center Point-Urbana), 4:33. Cons. Round 3 - Bucknell tech fall Ben Kusar (Perry), 17-2. Cons. Round 4 - Bucknell dec. Jacob Harrison (Ballard), 11-5. Cons. Round 5 - Wild (Davenport Assumption) tech fall Bucknell, 18-2. 7th Place Match - Jaxson Lundgren (North Fayette Valley) tech fall Bucknell, 22-5.	

165: Chase Humpal did not place. Champ. Round 1 - Carter McGregor (Algona) pinned Humpal, 3:03. Cons. Round 2 - Blake Johnson (Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont) pinned Humpal, 3:08.

Despite loss, Trojan girls have plenty of reasons for optimism

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

The Turkey Valley girls basketball team may not have liked the way their season ended, but the Trojans certainly returned to form in 2024-25.

The Trojans had reeled off 10 straight winning seasons before dropping to 7-15 last winter, but they needed just one year to get back to normal as they closed out the season with a 17-6 record after falling to Kee High 46-28 in a Class 1A regional semifinal last Tuesday night.

And the future looks bright. The Trojans next winter will welcome back a wealth of talent next winter. Junior Addison Steinlage led Turkey Valley in scoring, averaging 12.3 points per game, while sophomore Bella Stika averaged a double-double — 10.3 points and 14.1 rebounds a game.

Throw in three more players — junior Annika Bodensteiner and sophomores Ellaney Bodensteiner and Hazel Nieman — who started at least one game for the Trojans and a slew of athletes who saw meaningful minutes this season, and coach Steve Hoffer knows there’s reason for optimism.

“When I look at how far this team came this year — if it takes that same jump next year, we could be really good,” he said after the Kee game. “It’s going to take work in the offseason — it does for every team in every sport — but as disappointing as this is, we do have a lot of nice building blocks.”

Against Kee, Hoffer admitted his team just had one of those proverbial nights where nothing seemed to go right. Turkey Valley shot just 21.2 percent from the floor, hitting 11 of 52 shots. Although Kee didn’t shoot all that much better — 14-for-43 for 32.6 percent — the Kee Hawks got a 22-point performance from Addison Winters to pick up the win.

KEE HIGH 48, TURKEY VALLEY 26									
TV	7	13	0	8	-	28			
Kee	11	12	14	9	-	46			

Addison Steinlage 4-19 3-7 12, Annika Bodensteiner 1-7 0-0 2, Layni Schuchhardt 0-2 1-2 1, Bella Stika 3-8 0-2 6, Delaney Busta 2-6 0-0 4, Ellaney Bodensteiner 1-4 0-0 2, Hazel Nieman 0-2 1-4 1, Makinley Lutgen 0-1 0-0 0, Ashlyn Busta 0-1 0-0 0, Kendall Kuennen 0-0 0-0 0, Brynlee Hayek 0-0 0-0 0, Ella Ives 0-0 0-0 0, Miyah Byrne 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 11-52 5-15 28.

3-point field goals - Steinlage 1-12, Lutgen 0-1, Nieman 0-1, Schuchhardt 0-1, A. Bodensteiner 0-3.

Rebounds - Stika 11, Steinlage 9, Nieman 3, E. Bodensteiner 3, A. Bodensteiner 2, D. Busta 2, Schuchhardt 1, Hayek 1.

Assists - Steinlage 1, A. Bodensteiner 1, Schuchhardt 1.

Steals - Steinlage 2, Stika 1, A. Busta 1.

Blocks - A. Bodensteiner 1.

Chickasaw Women's Pool			
Week 17 Feb. 19			
	W	L	GB
Dak’s Tap I	89	64	0
Kenny’s Tavern I	88	65	1
NH Country Club	82	71	7
Bowlaway Lanes	81	72	8
Kenny’s Tavern II	79	74	10
Hide A Way	78	75	11
Dak’s Tap II	60	93	29
The Office	55	98	34

RESULTS

The Office - 5, Kenny’s Tavern I - 4
Dak’s Tap I - 7, Dak’s Tap II - 2
NH Country Club - 5, Hide A Way - 4
Bowlaway Lanes - 6, Kenny’s Tavern II - 3
THREE-GAME WINNERS
The Office - Lauri Parker & Caryn Stewart
Dak’s Tap I - Pat Halvorson & Sheila Schwicketh; Dee Brannon & Sue Bouska
Bowlaway Lanes - Christine Venem & Michelle Krieg



New Hampton/Turkey Valley’s Carter Cajthaml works to get a pin over Okoboji/HMS’ Tyce Hanson during “the round of 16” at the Class 2A state wrestling tournament last week.

SPIRITED RUN AT STATE

NH/TV’S CAJTHAML TAKES SECOND AT 132; BUCKNELL BREAKS THROUGH TO GET FIRST PODIUM FINISH

By Kelly Terpstra
sports@nhtrib.com

Carter Cajthaml stepped on to the mat with nothing to lose against an all-time Iowa great Saturday night at Wells Fargo Arena.

He wasn’t even supposed to be wrestling for a state championship at 132 pounds underneath the bright lights and on the big stage of “Championship Saturday” – the culmination of a week-long effort to crown state title winners in downtown Des Moines.

But there he was with one thought on his mind – winning. The tension was high – the atmosphere electric.

Immortality stood just one match away for the New Hampton/Turkey Valley sophomore.

Union, La Porte City’s Jace Hedeman had other plans.

Hedeman – literally seconds away from being a four-time state champ in one of the biggest prep wrestling states in the nation – ended Cajthaml’s fairytale run to the finals via a first-period pin.

“Just being down in the finals’ atmosphere was so cool. There’s so many people there just watching you,” said Cajthaml. “It was super fun, even though I didn’t get the outcome I was wanting.”

But what a breakthrough week it was for Cajthaml, who was seeded seventh in his weight bracket in Class 2A and put together a package of matches – especially considering the circumstance and pressure attached to those state bouts – that made it the run of a lifetime.

So far that is, as Cajthaml and his Chickasaw coaching staff firmly believe he’s just getting started in a mat career that could know no bounds.

It’s that trust in one’s self and belief that got Cajthaml just one step away from the top of the podium stand in potentially becoming the 43rd Chickasaw wrestler all-time to wear a gold medal around their neck after



NH/TV’s Jayden Bucknell (above) checks the clock during his consolation round match against Will Griswold of Center-Point Urbana while the Chickasaws’ Chase Humpal (left) fends off a takedown attempt by Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont’s Blake Johnson.

be in the finals. That just kind of happened because I wrestled hard a few matches and then I got there,” said Cajthaml. “Going into it I was just hoping to place.”

But Cajthaml (49-7) got white-hot after a wild ride was taken in his opening state match on Wednesday against No. 10 seed Tyce Hanson of Okoboji/HMS. Fireworks went off early as Cajthaml led 10-5 after one

SEE STATE, 11



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune
New Hampton’s Ava Leichtman splits a couple of defenders on her way to the basket during a game against Central Springs earlier this month.

Chickasaws land pair on all-NEIC

Coaches tab Leichtman for first team; Schwickerath named to second squad

By Kelly Terpstra
sports@nhtrib.com

It might be a stretch – no pun intended – that New Hampton sophomore point guard Ava Leichtman truly stands 5-7.

That’s what her official height was listed as on the Chickasaw girls basketball roster this winter.

It also makes her accomplishments out on the court –



Schwickerath

she was one of two Chickasaws to be named to the final all-NEIC girls basketball teams – all that more impressive as the jitterbug, undersized backcourt star for her father stands out on the hardwood no matter where she is on the floor.

“That’s her number-one strength is she knows she can score anywhere between there. She’s going to find out what you’re made of,” said David Leichtman about Ava’s ability to generate points from 3-point land, mid-range jumpers or drives to the bucket.

While Ava is small in stature,

SEE ALL-NEIC, 10



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Driving to the tourney

Former New Hampton basketball star Drake Wemark drives to the basket during Wartburg’s game with Coe on Saturday, and the Knights’ win propelled them into the American River Conference tournament. For more on Wemark’s season, see next week’s Tribune.



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