

Residents voice building concerns at public hearing

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

have a maximum levy rate of \$3.50 per \$1,000 valuation.

One county resident, Mike Murray, expressed frustration about the six positions that we will be cut from the county.

“My main concern is the cut of employees [because] of the shortage of money in the county,” Murray said. “You have to get that money from somewhere, I think, to keep those employees going. Can you find anyplace to get it?”

Hackman’s answer was an emphatic no.

“The levy rates are maxed out. Our tax base is not growing,” he said. “It does not help the shortfall, especially when people signed up for exemptions of military and 65-plus. That’s less revenue coming in on property tax. ...

“We either have to grow the tax base or cut the amount of service that this county is used to.”

Two county residents — Robert Shatek and Dixie Zeien — also called on the county to sell the old Hugeback-Johnson funeral home building that is now home to the County Attorney’s Office and Emergency Management Agency and utilize more of the Heritage Center.

“There’s quite a bit of space at the county home, I think that’s quite the expense to operate both buildings,” Shatek said.

“Those are two buildings and there is not much activity going on in either one,” Zeien added a few minutes later. “Can they be consolidated?”

During its regular weekly board meeting, which started 13 minutes after the public hearing ended, Hackman went through what he hoped will be the timeline for the remainder of the “budget season.”

The board chairman said he hopes the board this Monday will approve setting the public hearing for the 2025-26 budget for April 14, which will give the county enough time to publish the legal notice in its two official newspapers next week.

He also said he felt that

the GS levy rate could come down slightly and expressed the same opinion about RSB. During a more-than-one-month-long process, the county has cut more than \$1 million from proposed budgets to help alleviate a relatively large gap between projected revenues and expenditures in GB.

During that process, six positions — three at Public Health and Homecare Services and one each from the Treasurer’s, Auditor’s and Sheriff’s Office — were eliminated. That means the county won’t be paying its share of six health insurance policy premiums, IPERs and other benefits that are covered by GS.

Hackman also pointed out that the projected RSB budget has a 25 percent ending fund balance and that includes a portion of the county’s two payments for Chickasaw County EMS.

Supervisors in February reached a consensus to raise the RSB levy rate by three cents, from \$3.52 to \$3.55 per \$1,000 valuation, but Hackman argued that the county doesn’t need the increase levy rate that is paid by rural property owners.

“We set our max levy rates. We can go down,” Supervisor Steve Breithach said. “I’d be willing to look at it next week when we get more numbers. I think we can drop RSB and GS some, but let’s make sure.”

Board members took no action on the budget but agreed to try to get the public hearing set on Monday.

Still, as Hackman pointed out, it’s been a challenging budget year, and he talked about what he and Supervisor Travis Suckow heard at a recent Chickasaw County Farm Bureau meeting.

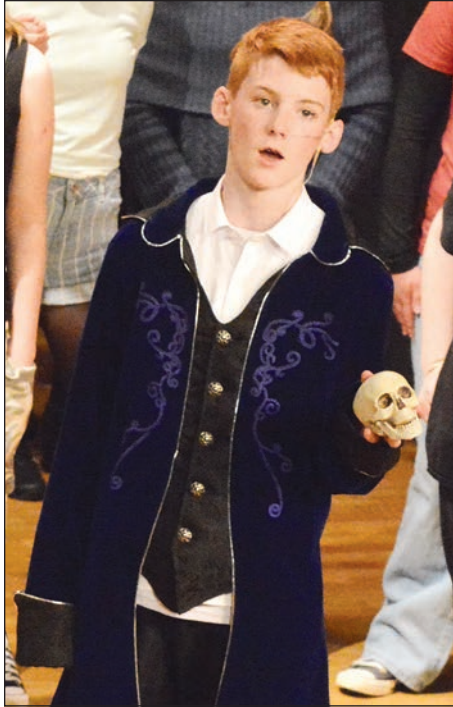
“I still heard don’t raise property tax, but don’t cut the service that they use or we use or that I use,” he said, “but that’s hard to do when you’re sitting in these chairs because every service is needed by somebody, right? That’s what makes this tough when our max levy has been maxed out for years.”



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Finding the joy in musicals!

The cast of “Grunch,” begin Friday night’s production with an energetic number as more than 50 students in grades 7-8 take part in New Hampton Middle School’s annual musical, which this year featured the title character finding that musical theater is a worthwhile endeavor.



Three New Hampton Middle School students — (from left) Colleen Schutte, Emma Praska and Levi Hansen — perform scenes in the musical that played to large crowds both Thursday and Friday evening in the New Hampton Elementary School Auditorium.



The title character, played by Landon Meyerhoff, talks with Dawson Monteith (above) while the characters played by Lexie Cordes and Jersey Roethler (right) make plans for their school’s musical.



Carnegie to host N-P art exhibition Sunday, has number of events set for April

One March event is still on tap for the Carnegie Cultural Center in New Hampton before a flurry of April events begin.

Nashua - Plainfield Community Schools will host its art exhibition this Sunday at the museum from 1:30 to 3 p.m., and refreshments will be served.

On Thursday, April 3 the center will hold a crockpot cooking class from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Space is limited and may be claimed by calling 641-394-2354.

On Saturday, April 5 a course in card making will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the center. Space is limited so registration can be made by calling the above number or email info@carnegieculturalcenter.org.

The next day, April 6 at 1:30 p.m. Chalk Painting with Amy Kuehn will take place. Two options are available, a “two bunnies and one egg” for \$15 or a “birdhouse and a bird” for \$35. Call to register.

There will be a Spring Tea Party on Sunday, April 13 from 1:30 to 3 p.m., “Lego Creations” will be presented on April 20 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and there will be a Sunday story hour on April 27 at 1:30 p.m., with milk and cookies.

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Bob Fenske/Tribune

Taking on a timeless classic!

St. Joseph Community School seventh-grader Kaden Abbas plays the cowardly lion to the hilt during the school’s second Missoula Theatre production of the 2024-25 school year on Friday night. Students were cast for the play based on “The Wizard of Oz” last Monday, rehearsed with traveling directors for much of the week and took the stage for two performances on Friday.



“Illusionists” Vivian Parrott, Ingrid Martinez and Alistair Shoemaker perform a scene, the Tin Man, played by fifth-grader Calvin Holthaus (right) walks after getting “oiled up” and before the play began, younger St. Joe’s preschoolers and kindergartners (below) who weren’t in the play sing a song for the crowd.



County gets good news on rock bids; work on Kenwood begins

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors received some good news on Monday when it opened rock bids for the fiscal year that begins on July 1. Two companies — BMC Aggregates and Bruening Rock Company — and County Engineer Roman Lensing said the county’s proposed budget was in line with the bids opened on Monday. “I will tell you guys that for the most part it appears to be in line with my estimate, plus or minus,” Lensing said, “so we should be good on budget as long as the budget passes.” Bruening had the low bid at \$1,669,034.43 while BMC’s bid came in at \$1,759,969.60, but

Lensing asked the board members to hold off on awarding the contract until next week so he could go over the bids. Lensing also told board members on Monday that work on an almost \$800,000 paving project on Kenwood Avenue began last week. The 0.7-mile project that will run from Highway 18 south to 210th St. is a joint project between the county and the city of New Hampton, and Lensing said that “pavement removal is in the process right now. They’ve been crushing the pavement to use as subbase.” He said if the weather cooperates, the project should be completed sometime in May.

Cedar Valley Hospice gearing up for its annual spring fundraiser

Cedar Valley Hospice is hosting a “night to remember” as it holds its spring fundraiser on Friday, April 11. RSVPs are due by this Friday, March 28. The event, which runs from 6 to 10 p.m., will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Falls and promises “a night packed with excitement, entertainment and honkey-tonk flair.” Among the draws are a silent auction, wine and spirit pulls, dancing — including line dancing — to live music from Flatland Ridge, whiskey tasting and raffle prizes. The heart of the program will spotlight the commitment to caregivers and those impacted by dementia. Tickets can be purchased online at www.cvhospice.org. The deadline to purchase your tickets for a full table (8 guests) is March 28. All silent auction items are also available for mobile bidding beginning on April 4 by

simply visiting the website at www.cvhospice.org.

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Soup Supper
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Congregational Church - 502 N. Jackson St., Charles City

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5:30 - Short program to hear about our mission as well as a testimony from one of our participants
6:00-7:00 - House Tour

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Nashua considers merging its EMS, fire departments

By KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

Both Nashua’s fire department and ambulance service each voted to merge together into a single city department. That was the news that came out of Nashua’s latest City Council meeting that was held on Monday, March 17, according to Nashua Area EMS Chief Dannon Mohs. In order to do so, an amendment to the city’s public ordinance code would need to be voted on and passed, which would also require public hearings. “We had some meetings with the fire department and the ambulance. The consensus was we’d like to join the two agencies into one,” said Mohs. “So the ambulance would be absorbed into the fire department so that we got one budget – make it simpler for you guys.” Nashua Area EMS and the Nashua Volunteer Fire Department are currently separate entities, with oversight by the city. The Nashua Volunteer Firefighter Association is also a separate organization that’s not involved with the city, but that volunteer group does vote on and make decisions within Nashua’s fire department. “Nothing that the fire association raises comes to the city,

unless it’s a check written to the fire department or the city, then it comes here,” said Council member Jake Johnson. Mohs said combining the two departments that help save lives in Nashua was the original plan. “Nothing will really change the way we operate,” said Mohs. “Instead of Nashua Area EMS, we’ll have like Nashua Fire and EMS Unit or something. Both agencies voted yes for it. That’s originally what it was designed to be when we first started doing negotiations.” Johnson, who is a firefighter for Nashua, stated the benefits of joining forces with the EMS service could help get more members to join the fire department and possibly lead to more money that can be generated to help the organization’s cause, which would in turn better protect Nashua’s citizens. “It will help with more grant opportunities and recruitment is what we’re hoping for,” said Johnson. Mohs said the Council was able to purchase a new ambulance from Hiawatha – a 2012 Chevy G4500 Life Line Type III ambulance – for \$28,000 after the old ambulance, which had to be put out of commission because of mechanical issues, was traded in. “Everything’s working good. Everybody seems to like it,” said Mohs.

New Hampton School Board to hold public hearing on levy Monday night

New Hampton Community Schools property owners will have a chance to speak out on the district’s proposed max levy rate for the 2025-26 school year when the School Board holds a public hearing this coming Monday. The school district published a rate of \$12.0210 per \$1,000 valuation, up 6.3 percent from this year’s rate that was \$11.3080 per \$1,000 valuation. If that rate holds, the district would collect \$6,848,944 in property tax revenue in 2025-26, up 9.8 percent from the \$6,232,623 the district will take in this year. But during a March 17 meeting, Superintendent Jay Jurrens told board members that the SSA would increase between 2 and 2.25 percent. In an interview last week, Jurrens said he expects the final levy rate will be somewhere between \$11.80 and \$11.90 per \$1,000 valuation. He said the school’s rate is increasing in large part because of three factors — growing enrollment, the district’s special-education deficit and increasing property and casualty insurance rates. Monday’s hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. and be held in the New Hampton High School Family and Consumer Science Room.

Fun in the Son to hold fundraiser for preschool and daycare this Sunday

Fun in the Son Day Care and Preschool, Fredericksburg, is having a dinner, silent auction, and bake sale on Sunday, March 30, from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fredericksburg Community Center. The menu includes lasagna, garlic bread, green beans, desserts, and beverages. A freewill offering will be taken for the meal. The silent auction consists of items contributed by local businesses and individuals. Anyone wishing to contribute an auction item or baked goods for the bake sale should contact Janiece Kramer at 563-237-6117. Fun in the Son Day Care and Preschool is a nonprofit, state licensed Christian child care center.

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Mass: Sunday, 7:15 a.m.

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It's more than a catchy song

'What Is Love' is a question we all need to ponder

Have you ever found yourself caught in the infectious beat of the song “What Is Love” by Haddaway?

It’s a catchy tune and simple yet profound lyrics — “What is love? Baby, don’t hurt me, don’t hurt me any-more.” This has resonated through decades, becoming a cultural phenomenon in the process.

When I hear it, I can’t help but feel a wave of nostalgia wash over me, reminding me of nights spent dancing with friends, carefree and full of laughter. But beyond its infectious beat lies a deeper question that we often grapple with: What is love?

In our fast-paced world, love can sometimes feel elusive or difficult to define. Yet, if we take a moment to pause and reflect, we might find that love is woven into the fabric of our daily lives — sometimes right in front of us.

Whether it’s the warmth of a friend’s embrace, the unwavering support of family,

or the quiet moments we share with ourselves as we practice self-love, these fragments all contribute to our understanding of love, with self-love being a crucial part of it.

We can turn to scripture to ground ourselves in a more profound understanding.

In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, we find a beautiful description of love that transcends romantic notions. It speaks of patience, kindness, and resilience. “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”

These characteristics remind us that love is not merely an emotion but a choice—a commitment to act gracefully and compassion, even in the face of challenges.

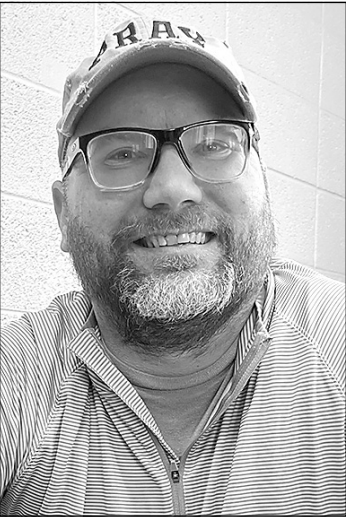
Additionally, 1 John 4:8 states that “God is love.” This powerful statement suggests that love is not just something we experience but a fundamental aspect of our existence. When we think of God as the

embodiment of love, we consider how we can manifest that love in our lives. How do we express kindness and understanding to others and ourselves?

Reflecting on these scriptures, I find myself pondering the ways I can cultivate love in my everyday interactions. It’s a reminder to be patient not only with others but also with myself.

After all, love is a journey filled with ups and downs. There are moments when we might feel alone or hurt, echoing that plea from Haddaway’s song. In those times, we must remind ourselves to embrace love, even if it feels challenging, and to recognize that love undeniably includes honoring our needs and boundaries.

So, what is love? It’s a tapestry woven from countless moments, a choice to engage with the world and those around us compassionately and authentically. It’s about vulnerability and strength, joy and



Josh Jacobs is the pastor at Harvest Church in New Hampton.

sorrow, grace and forgiveness. Love is both the spark that ignites our passions and the steady flame that guides us through life’s complexities. It’s a transformative force that can inspire and bring hope.

As we continue exploring this question — what is love? — let’s be open to the answers we discover within ourselves and our relationships.

Let’s commit to being vessels of love, allowing it to flow freely through our actions and intentions, knowing we are all on this journey together.

Cluster to host unique Lenten mission next week

The Good Shepherd Cluster will be holding its Lenten mission — “A 2,000 Year Head Start with St. Jude for the Jubilee of Hope” — next week at Holy Family Parish in New Hampton.

The mission will be held Monday through Wednesday, with mission preaching beginning at 6:30 p.m. on both Monday and Tuesday and a 6:30 p.m. St. Jude Mass scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The mission will be presented by Father Mike Ford, who is a staff member at the Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus in Chicago.

The Dominican Shrine of St. Jude offers hope to the downhearted and desperate. Staffed by the Order of Preachers, perhaps better known as Dominican Friars, the

Shrine opened in 1929 under the personal devotion of its founder, Father William Marchant, at that time pastor of St. Pius V Parish in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood.

The Shrine remains there today, where it ministers to pilgrims from far and wide, both in personal visits as well as through the internet.

The friars care for the largest relic of an Apostle outside of Europe on display at the Shrine, answer countless letters requesting prayers, and welcome faithful pilgrim visits every day.

A friar celebrates the Novena Mass of St. Jude nearly every Thursday of the year as well while conducting missions throughout the United States.

Ford has served as the director of the

Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus on two separate occasions; from 2013 to 2018, and again since July 2021 to the present.

In addition to the Shrine’s weekly novena schedule and attention to the hundreds of prayers requests received monthly, Father Mike travels all over the United States teaching about Catholic devotions. His topics include veneration of relics and novenas.

He has done presentations at parishes, universities, high schools, and numerous grade schools raising awareness of this wonderful and often overlooked part of our Catholic heritage. He also presents subjects ranging from general spirituality to more focused topics such as Dominican spirituality.

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.”
Immediately he received his sight
and followed Jesus along the road.
Mark 10:52

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Don't Lose Track of Financial Accounts

For years, people save and invest in 401(k) plans, IRAs and other financial accounts. They wouldn't lose track of this money, would they?

You might be surprised. About 1 in 7 people has unclaimed cash or property, totaling billions of dollars, according to the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators.

People lose track of their money for a variety of reasons: They change jobs and forget about their retirement accounts; they move and leave no forwarding address; they change names and don't notify former employers; or their employers go out of business or merge with another company.

Whatever the reason, losing tabs on accounts that could be worth thousands of dollars is never a good thing. What can you do to avoid suffering this type of loss?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Maintain good records. Keep records of all your financial, investment and retirement accounts — and let a family member know where these records are kept.

- Keep a manageable number of financial accounts. The fewer bank and brokerage accounts you have, the easier it will be to keep track of everything. You might even want to consolidate accounts when possible.

- Report your change of address. Whenever you move, contact your financial services providers and any former employers with whom you may have retirement accounts.

- Report name changes. If you change your name, notify new and old 401(k) plan administrators, banks, brokerages and any other institution connected to your money.

- Manage retirement accounts when you change jobs. If you leave your job, you might be able to leave your 401(k) behind with your old employer. But if you do, keep track of it. On the other hand, you could roll your old plan into your new employer's plan or into an IRA.

- Inform your financial professional about all your accounts. If you work with a financial professional, they can help you track your accounts,



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so inform them of all past and present IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans.

So far, we've looked at ways you can prevent losing track of financial accounts. But can you do anything if you suspect you've already left some money behind?

If you think you've lost tabs on an IRA, you can check old tax returns and bank statements to help you track your contributions and find the name of the financial provider that held your account. If it's a 401(k), you can contact your old employer's plan administrator. You can get some help from other sources, too. The Department of Labor recently launched a retirement savings lost-and-found database (lostandfound.dol.gov) that can help you find pension or 401(k) plans connected to your Social Security number. For a stray IRA, you can check unclaimed.org, the website of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators. And for various other sources of money — including uncashed checks from corporations and financial institutions, inactive brokerage accounts and unclaimed safe deposit boxes — you can check MissingMoney.com, the unclaimed property website of the National Association of State Treasurers.

These sites offer no guarantees of finding your lost or missing accounts or other sources of money, so you still may have to do your own sleuthing. But as the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" — which, in this case, means you'll help yourself greatly by tracking your accounts from beginning to end.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Chickasaw County Farm Bureau announces its 2025 scholarship winners

The Chickasaw Farm Bureau is proud to announce the five students who were each awarded \$800 scholarships to further their future careers.

The winners include Carrie Schwickerath, Colton Ashley, Grace Baker, Kinsley Hackman and Caleb Sinnwell.

Carrie Schwickerath is the daughter of Tony and Janet Schwickerath of New Hampton. She has been involved in 4-H, National Honor Society, FFA, Student Senate, Yearbook, Volleyball and plans to attend Iowa State University to study Animal Science and then Pre-Vet.

Colton Ashley is the son of Daniel and Melissa Ashley of Ionia. He has been involved in National Honor Society, FBIA, 4-H, County Council, FFA, Letterman, Baseball, Basketball and plans to attend University of Iowa to study Finance.

Grace Baker is the daughter of Marea Schmidt of New Hampton. She has been involved in 4-H, National Honor Society, FFA, Girl Scouts, Choir, Band, Yearbook, Student Government, Swimming and plans to attend Dordt University to study Biomedical Science.

Kinsley Hackman is the daughter of Jacob and Cassie Hackman of New Hampton. She has been involved in Volleyball, Basketball, Track & Field, Student Senate, Interact, Letterettes, National Honor Society and plans to attend Wartburg College to study Biochemistry.

Caleb Sinnwell is the son of Josh and Heather Sinnwell of Nashua. He has been involved in Silver Cord, National Honor Society, Cross Country, Track, Baseball, Choir and plans to attend Northwest Iowa Community College to study Powerline Technology.

Applicants were selected based on academic standing, leadership experience, civic involvement and their commitment to rural Iowa and the agricultural community.



Ashley



Baker



Hackman



Schwickerath



Sinnwell



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

Emergency personnel (above) salute as a procession of vehicles bring home Brock Schmidt on Tuesday afternoon while a black "ribbon" covers the sign in front of the Chickasaw County EMS ambulance station.

Schmidt fondly remembered by his fellow EMS employees

SCHMIDT: FROM 1

at Chickasaw County EMS as a "lead-in" to the Tribune's annual Progress section, but this past weekend, the focus of this piece shifted in a profoundly tragic way.

On Saturday morning, Brock Schmidt passed away while on duty. The EMT and his crew partner, Sam Streeter, had returned from an inter-facility transfer from MercyOne New Hampton Medical Center to Mason City. They wrote their report and turned in.

Later that morning, he was found dead in the bedroom at the station. He was just 41 years old and leaves behind a wife, Marea, two daughters and four stepchildren.

It was, in short, a gut-wrenching day. "We've all had really tough days in EMS. It goes with the territory," Knutson said Monday, "but Saturday was the worst day."

THE FLAG AT Chickasaw County EMS flew at half-staff Monday, and the service's logo by the front office door was covered with a black ribbon.

And two days after Schmidt's passing, the tone at the station was somber.

Employees of the service began gathering at the station soon after the news began spreading through the EMS ranks.

Two of the service's employees — Katie Gilmour and Garrett Raum — who are based with the ambulance in Fredericksburg came to New Hampton to handle any calls that came in while an ambulance from Cresco handled the call for an inter-facility transfer out of MercyOne New Hampton.

"The number of people who are supporting is freaking amazing," Knutson said, "and we know they're doing it for Marea and the family, too."

"It's what Brock would do for everyone else. He was not only an employee, but he was a really good friend not just to me but this whole community."

Schmidt, a graduate of Janesville High School, moved to New Hampton and quickly established himself as a community servant — volunteering for both the New Hampton Fire Department and the Chickasaw County Rescue Squad.

In 2015, he accepted a job offer from Chickasaw Ambulance Service owner Jeremy McGrath as a driver, and he eventually became an EMT.

"He was the guy who would give the shirt off his back for anyone," McGrath said Monday. "He was always happy, and I could ask anything of him, and he'd do it. We lost a one of the good guys, one of the really, really good guys, and it's just heart-breaking."

When Chickasaw County EMS began service on Jan. 1, 2023, Schmidt was one of the "originals," and at the time of his death, he was one of the service's three full-time employees. He, along with Brannon Anderson and Carly Sedivey, worked one day on, two days off.

"They all have their focuses," Knutson said, "and Brock's was the station. He took a lot of pride in it. You never had to worry about him finding something to do; he was always ready to chip in. He always put a lot of care and thought on how we



operate. He was very quick to say, 'Hey, let's try something different,' or if I tried to implement something different, he jumped in and helped."

AS HIS FELLOW Chickasaw County EMS employees, along with those from the Rescue Squad and law enforcement, gathered at the station this past weekend, they remembered a good man gone too soon.

They told "Brock stories" and through the tears and heartache, they shared a few laughs.

"We were going to Cedar Rapids one day, and I told Brock we didn't have to run old ladies off the road," Knutson said, recalling one of his favorites, "but we needed to get there fast, too. So we're going through Cedar Rapids and I see a car pass us. Never got old giving him crap that he was driving emergent and got passed. He'd look at me with that Brock aw-shucks look and swore he was going 15, 20 over."

On Monday night, a Decorah-based team was joined by another group from the Iowa State Patrol to hold what is called a "Critical Incident Stress Debriefing," something that usually happens after a particularly horrific incident.

"It's usually something you do after a bad accident, bad fire, something like that," Knutson said a few hours before the debriefing, "but I've been doing this for a lot of years and this is the first time I'm going to be a part of one for a fellow employee."

The EMS director paused and gathered his thoughts.

"We need it. ... We're a family because of the [crap] we go through, and his family became our family. ... That's what makes it so hard."

ASK ANYONE WHO knew Schmidt and they will tell you that as devoted as he was to EMS, the Rescue Squad and, back in the day, the New Hampton Fire Department, they all paled in comparison to his family, so, too, did the guns and hunting he loved.

"The utmost part of his life was his family," McGrath said. "I don't know anyone who was as dedicated as Brock was when



Photo courtesy of Joel Knutson

One of Brock Schmidt's passions was hunting, and here he enjoys a break with Joel and Danny Knutson while on an excursion to his cabin near Waukon. "He made such an impression on everyone, and I know that because Danny was one of those people. He just loved Brock," Joel Knutson said, "but then again, every-

one did." it came to work, but Marea, the kids, they were always at the top of his list. That was the inspiring part of Brock. He had his priorities set the way you're supposed to have them."

He was, his fellow employees will tell you, a damn good EMT, even if from time to time, they had to cajole him to get his reports written.

When it came to providing aid and comfort, though, Schmidt was top notch.

He was a big cowboy, one with a soft heart and a non-existent temper.

"I've seen him perturbed, I've seen him frustrated when things didn't go right," Knutson said, "but I never saw him get mad."

That's a pretty good trait in EMS.

"It is," Knutson said. "I know a lot of people say that this guy was the nicest guy in the world, never got mad. It's cliché, but with Brock, it's true. ... All of us here ..."

His voice trailed off as the emotions got the best of Knutson. It's OK, he didn't need to say it.

Brock Schmidt will be missed.

Struggling with a Sports Betting Problem?

If your gambling has gone from fun to out of control, 1-800 BETS OFF can help.

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Fundraiser for women's home set this Sunday

Magdalene's Light is a transitional-living home for women coming out of drug use and sex trafficking and is located in Charles City, and the organization is hosting a free-will donation soup supper at the Congregational Church in Charles City on Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m., with a short program at 5:30 to discuss the organization's mission.

There will also be an open house and tours, and donations can be dropped off with Carrie Becker at the New Hampton Public Library.

Now Open!

Services:
- Custom Processing (Beef, Pork, Deer)
- Retail Products (numerous cuts of beef and pork, patties, ground, brats, snack sticks and cheeses)
- Custom Meat Ordering

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Hours: M-F 8-5, Sat-8-12
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Almanac

	H	L	P
Wednesday	37	22	.67
Thursday	37	21	--
Friday	53	32	--
Saturday	54	32	--
Sunday	52	20	--
Monday	46	25	--
Tuesday	49	31	--

Forecast

Thursday: Partly sunny but slight chance of rain showers; high 61, low 47.

Friday: Mostly sunny and warm during the day with rain later in the day; high 75, low 50.

Saturday: Rain likely with a high of 63 and a low of 34.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain and snow; high 45, low 26.

Extended forecast: It's going to be a cool start to the work week as we'll have highs in the 40s and lows dropping into the 20s.

Meetings

MONDAY

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

History

- In 1912, In Washington, D.C., Helen Taft, wife of President William Taft, and the Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador, plant two of the 3,200 Yoshino cherry trees that were gifts from the Japanese government on the northern bank of the Potomac River, near the Jefferson Memorial.
- In 1929, Herbert Hoover becomes the first president to have a phone installed in the White House.
- In 1939, the University of Oregon defeats The Ohio State University 46–33 on March 27, 1939 to win the first-ever NCAA men's basketball tournament.
- In 1958, Soviet First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev replaces Nicolay Bulganin as Soviet premier, becoming the first leader since Joseph Stalin to simultaneously hold the USSR's two top offices.
- In 1977, two 747 jumbo jets crash into each other on the runway at an airport in the Canary Islands, killing 583 passengers and crew members.

Birthdays

- Famed NASCAR driver Cale Yarborough was born in 1923.
- American pop singer Fergie of the band The Black-Eyed Peas, turns 50.
- American pop singer and songwriter Mariah Carey turns 56.
- Film director Quentin Tarantino and former NFL star quarterback Randall Cunningham turn 62.

Corrections

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

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

Tribune

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Dennis Ray Leichtman, 72

Dennis Ray Leichtman passed away on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, peacefully at home surrounded by the love of his family.

Dennis was born on Sept. 6, 1952, in New Hampton to Kenneth and Doris (Kolthoff) Leichtman.

He grew up farming and continued to love what he did till the very end. He attended New Hampton High School, was highly involved in FFA, and graduated with the Class of 1970.

After graduation he continued to farm creating a homestead for his family to grow from. Dennis was married to Nancy Harrington in November of 1973. They had three children — Dan, Jennifer and David — and they later divorced in 1984.

Dennis lived his life for his family and was often known as willing to give the shirt off his back for anyone that was in need. Farming was the way of life, and he did enjoy having livestock for many years.

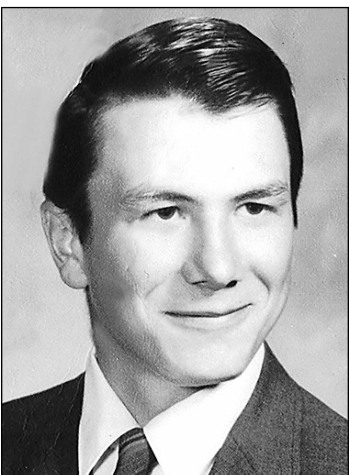
Dennis rarely faltered to have a good joke to tell with any conversation he had and always loved learning new ones. One of his favorite mottos was that “you have to grow old but that doesn't mean you have to grow up!”

Over the years he enjoyed collecting many different things such as ornate rocks found in the fields. Dennis would often display them around his grain bins, always telling the grandkids that it might be gold.

Never was it a surprise to have Grandpa call and want the kids to check out the moon or advise them to study and learn a new subject.

Dennis loved to learn about the history of things and would often teach all of his family what he had discovered.

As the family grew, Dennis continued to be active in knowing what all his family was part of and attended everything he could. He would often call



Dennis Leichtman

wanting to know how his children were doing but would first need to know how the grand and great-grandchildren were.

Frequently the phone would ring just so that Dennis could find out the score of the game or how the team/child had done, then one would hear, “That's all I needed, give hugs and big kisses.”

Dennis would always talk about how lucky he was to have such a talented and successful family and was proud to have this as his legacy.

Dennis is survived by his children, Dan Leichtman of New Hampton, Jennifer (Adam) Schillie of Waverly, and David (Jean) Leichtman of New Hampton; his grandchildren, Nikole (Brett) Brinning of Hiawatha, Sophie Schillie and Dax Schillie of Waverly, Isabel Leichtman (Wesley Wegman) of Billings, Montana, and Ava and Bryer Leichtman of New Hampton; and, of course, his great-grandchildren, Alice Brinning and Hayes Wegman.

Dennis is preceded in death by his parents and one grandson, Hayden Schillie.

His presence will be missed beyond measure, but the memories will live on forever.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

Condolences can be sent to Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly.

Richard Clark Knight, 88

Richard Clark Knight, age 88, died on Saturday, March 8, 2025.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at Fullerton-Hage Funeral Home, Charles City, with the Rev. Paula Hemann of the New Hampton Methodist Church officiating.

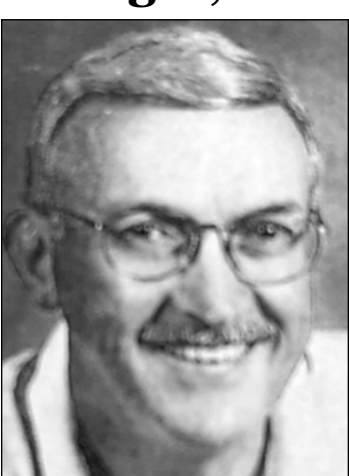
Richard Clark was born on Feb. 15, 1937, in New Hampton, the son of Arnold Ray and Irene Lucille “Hisrote” Knight.

He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps as a corporal after serving his country from 1956 to 1959.

Richard was united in marriage to Judy Ash, on October 26, 1974, in Charles City.

Dick was an inspector for White Farm until its closing. He then was the manager of Parkview Motel, and then worked at Floyd County Memorial Hospital and finally at the Floyd County Courthouse.

He lived in New Hampton for 30 years and then moved to Charles City and finally back to New Hampton.



Dick Knight

He was a member of the First Congregational Church and the Moose Lodge in Charles City. He enjoyed golfing and remodeling his home and liked horse racing and fishing.

He was an accomplished musician and sang songs. He wrote “The Iowan in Me” which became published. He also wrote poetry and received an award from the governor of Iowa.

Shirley Ann Haugland, 76

Shirley Ann Haugland was born Jan. 23, 1949, in Decorah to Zeno William Jr. and Gladys (Timp) Huber.

Shirley passed away March 10, 2025, at the age of 76.

She is survived by her husband, Loren; two daughters, Sherri Torres and Angel (Terry) Schwickerath, five brothers and sisters, Carol Zweibohmer, Dorothy Evango, Carl (Eileen) Huber, Dale (Karen) Huber and Barbara (Ron) Klimesh.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.



Shirley Haugland

Mary Geraldine ‘Gerry’ Kennedy, 95

Mary Geraldine “Gerry” Kennedy, age 95 of Clear Lake and formerly of New Hampton, died Saturday, March 15, 2025, at her home surrounded by her family.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 4, 2025, at Holy Family Parish in New Hampton with the Rev. James Goerend celebrating the Mass.

Interment will follow at Calvary Cemetery in New Hampton with Gerry's grandchildren serving as urnbearers.

Friends may greet the family an hour and a half prior to the Mass on Friday at the church.

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

Gerry was born on Nov. 6, 1929, in Lawler, to Frank and Edna (Daily) Galligan.

She spent her early years in Dubuque before her family moved to Calmar, where she attended school through most of high school. She completed her senior year at New Hampton High School, graduating in 1947. She then continued her education at Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls.

After college, Gerry worked at Sheakley and Kennedy Department Store and Riley Electric Store until 1950.

On Feb. 20, 1950, she married the love of her life, Ralph Kennedy, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in New Hampton. Together, they built a life filled with love and family. They loved to dance and truly



Gerry Kennedy

were best friends.

Gerry dedicated many years to public service, working at the Chickasaw County Auditor's Office from 1981 to 1988 before being elected and serving as Chickasaw County treasurer until her retirement in 2002. For several years she did the bookkeeping for Kennedy's Department Store.

She also served her community with dedication and integrity as a member of St. Joseph Rosary Society, Catholic Daughters of America, American Legion Auxiliary, Mercy Medical Auxiliary, Carnegie Cultural Foundation Board and Chickasaw Transportation Board, along with numerous other volunteer activities over the years.

After Ralph's passing, Gerry moved to Clear Lake, where she enjoyed living over a decade at Garden Park Village overlooking the beautiful Central

Rose ‘Beatty’ Marie Gebel, 73

Rose “Beatty” Marie Gebel, age 73 of New Hampton, died Thursday, March 20, 2025, at her home.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton with the Rev. James Goerend officiating.

Interment was held in the New Hampton City Cemetery.

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

Rose Marie “Beatty” Gebel, a cherished member of the New Hampton community and a beacon of warmth and generosity, passed away peacefully on March 20, 2025, at the age of 73. Born on Aug. 16, 1951, in New Hampton, Beatty's life was a testament to a loving nature and steadfast dedication to family, friends and work.

Beatty's early years were spent in the town of her birth, where she graduated from New Hampton High School. Her passion for learning led her to further her education at a technical school, where she honed the skills that would define her professional life.

On Aug. 17, 1974, she married her beloved husband, James, and together they built a life filled with love and mutual respect.

Throughout her career, Beatty was known for her strong work ethic and ability to connect with people from all walks of life. She began her journey as a waitress at Howie's Restaurant and Dan's Main Diner Cafe, where her warm



Beatty Gebel

smile and genuine interest in her patrons made her a favorite among the locals. Her career at the former United Phone Company showcased her versatility as she took on roles as an operator, clerk and installer.

Beatty's entrepreneurial spirit shone brightly when she opened her own telephone installation and repair business. For over 25 years, she provided exceptional service to the community, earning the trust and respect of her clients. Her industrious nature also led her to work at Featherlite Trailers for three years and at Hardees in New Hampton.

Before retiring, Beatty was employed at Super 8 and Southgate motels, where she continued to demonstrate her passion for hard work and her ability to make every guest feel at home. Her colleagues and customers alike will remember her as a person who always went above and beyond to ensure everyone's comfort and satisfaction.

Her interests extended beyond her work and family. Beatty loved to travel, seeking

Gardens. She cherished walking around the gardens, taking it all in, and sitting by the brick bearing her name for her 90th birthday. She stayed active in card clubs, Monday night burgers at Rookies, and social gatherings with dear friends who supported and cared for her.

Gerry will be remembered for her grace, kindness, and warm presence. She had a special way of making those around her feel valued and loved. Her elegance and class left a lasting impression on everyone who knew her.

Gerry is survived by two sons, Dan (Roxanne) Kennedy of Charles City, and Ed Kennedy of Plymouth; one daughter, Kathy (Pat) Carney of Clear Lake; seven grandchildren, Megan (Brian) Blackwood of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Nate Carney of Clear Lake, Chris (Nikki) Carney of Solon, Neil (Tracie) Kennedy of Urbandale, Kyle (Felicia) Kennedy of Urbandale, Matt (Jenny) Kennedy of Plymouth, Minnesota, and Katie (Matthew) McPheeters of Edina, Minnesota; 18 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and close friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Ralph in 2010; daughter-in-law Vicki Kennedy; one brother, Tom (Kay) Galligan; and sisters, Fran (Len) Nabak and Patricia, in infancy.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Holy Family Parish in New Hampton, St. Patrick's Church in Clear Lake, or Central Gardens in Clear Lake.

out new experiences and adventures that broadened her horizons. She found joy in playing Bingo with friends and indulging in her favorite Mexican cuisine. These simple pleasures were a testament to her ability to find happiness in life's everyday moments.

Those who knew Beatty would describe her as passionate, generous, and loving—qualities that she demonstrated through every facet of her life. Her passion was evident in the way she threw herself into her work and hobbies.

Her generosity could be seen in the countless ways she supported those around her, whether through a kind word or a helping hand. And her loving nature was the foundation upon which all her relationships were built, creating an enduring legacy of affection and care.

Family was the cornerstone of Beatty's life. She is survived by her loving grandson, Austin Gebel of Polo, Illinois, who brought immense joy and pride to her life. She was a beloved sister to Margaret (Larry) Riha of Fort Atkinson, Kathy Schamber of New Hampton, and Helen (Dan) Marion of Taylor Ridge, Illinois. Her presence will also be deeply missed by her nephew, Cody Marion, who will carry with him the lessons of love and kindness she imparted.

Beatty was preceded in death by her parents; her cherished husband, James, in 2012; her dear son, Tim Gebel, in 2017; and her brother, John, and sister Rosemary, who passed away in infancy. These losses, though profound, never dimmed her spirit or her ability to provide comfort to others in their times of need.

Property Transfers

Nicholas L. Leibold and Kendra K. Leibold to Nicholas L. Leibold and Kendra K. Leibold; PT LYING S L1 & E LOCUST AVE NW NW 18-95-12 PT LYING S L1 & E LOCUST AVE SW NW 18-95-12 PT LYING S L1 NE NW 18-12 EX COMM ON S LINE SE NW 18-95-12 EX L1 OF S1/2 & EX PARCEL B SE 08-95-12 W1/2 SW 09-96-12 EX COMM N1/4 COR NW NE 31-95-12 E1/2 EX PARCELS D & E NW 31-95-12E1/2 W1/2 NE 34-96-12 COMM 20'E SW COR OF E1/2 NE 34-96-12

Mark A. Huegel to Rhett J. Wuchter and Kelsey G. Wuchter; N256' S495' W370' N3/4 EX W200' SW NW 20-96-13.

Brittany McNeil to Travis McNeil; N65' W20' FREDERICKSBURG NO ADDITION Lot: 8 Block: 33 FREDERICKSBURG NO ADDITION Lot: 9 Block: 33 S65' W20' FREDERICKSBURG NO ADDITION Lot: 8 Block: 33.

Ammon N. Burkholder and Melisa I. Burkholder to Jason D. Gardner and Kari Gardner; PARCEL 2025-1 NE 20-97-13.

Ammon N. Burkholder and Melisa I. Burkholder to Jonathan Michael Gardner and Elaine Jane Gardner; PARCEL 2025-1 NE 20-97-13.

Glenn L. Hatzky and Sharon L. Hatzky to Anthony Garza; W55' NASHUA ORIGINAL PLAT NASHUA Lot: 6 Block: 14 W55' N1/2 NASHUA ORIGINAL PLAT NASHUA :ot: 7 Block: 14.

Chickasaw County Iowa to Justin D. Carpenter; ALL THAT PT OF ROADWAY EASEMENT PARCEL #2 NW NW 29-95-14.

Chickasaw County Iowa to Annette M. Wood;

ALL PT ROADWAY ROW EASEMENT PARCEL #1 SW SW 20-95-14.

Stacey S. Bendickson and Jackie D. Bendickson to Mason Lemke; E7R NASHUA COLERS ADDITION Lot: 1 & 4 Block: 7 E7R N18-1/2 NASHUA COLERS ADDITION Lot: 5 Block: 7.

Brian P. Young and Heidi K. Young to Jordan B. Feltz; E1/2 SW 31-96-14 NW SE 31-96-14 Parcel: 190531425002 Parcel : 190531425003.

Claire J. Lensing to Lensing Family Farms LLC; SE 25-96-11.

Deborah Darlene Bilharz to Samantha Wilson; COMM AT NE COR 05-94-14.

Duane Quirk EST and Lori Quirk EX to Dwight Schwickerath; NEW HAMPTON GARNANTS FOURTH ADDITION Lot: 10 Block: 1 BEG AT SE COR GARNANTS 4TH ADDITION L10 SE SE 07-95-12.

Regina K. Woodring to Regina K. Woodring TR and Regina K. Woodring REV LIV TR; FREDERICKSBURG OAK LAWN ADDITION Lot: 21 Block: 2 FREDERICKSBURG OAK LAWN ADDITION Lot: 22 Block: 2 FREDERICKSBURG OAK LAWN ADDITION Lot: 23 Block: 2 S1/2 FREDERICKSBURG OAK LAWN ADDITION Lot: 24 Block: 2 PARCEL B SE 31-95-11 W1/2 EX PARCEL B SW 04-94-11 E1/2 SE 05-94-11 W1/2 NW 09-94-11 NW 04-94-11 E1/2 NE 05-94-11 EX PARCELS A & B NW NW 03-94-11 W1/2 EX PARCELS A & B NE NW 03-94-11 W30A EX PARCELS A & B SW NW 03-94-11.

Virginia A. Smith TR, Phyllis R. Hambright TR and Bernice H. Felder Trust AGMT to Brian J. Meissen and Kathleen A. Meisen; PARCEL 2024-57 NW SW 35-97-13.

Brock Corbin Schmidt, 41

Brock Corbin Schmidt, age 41 of New Hampton, died unexpectedly Saturday, March 22, 2025, while on call serving his community at the Chickasaw County EMS station in New Hampton.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 31, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Hampton with the Rev. Dan Christansen officiating.

Cole Millard, Kyle Millard, Kody Waddell, Matt Crooks, Brannon Anderson and Jeremy McGrath will be serving as pallbearers. Jon Baker, Mel Anderson, Mark Meyer, Mitch Carroll, Wyatt Blazek, and Jeff Bernatz will be serving as honorary pallbearers.

Friends may greet the family from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 30, 2025, at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory in New Hampton, with memory sharing beginning at 5 p.m. Visitation continues one hour prior to services at the church in New Hampton on Monday.

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

Born on June 19, 1983, in Cedar Falls, Brock's early years were steeped in the values of community and service from his father and mother that would define his life.

A proud graduate of Janesville High School, Brock went on to pursue his passion for public service at Hawkeye Community College, where he earned a degree in police science.

His commitment to helping others was evident through his work in Emergency Medical Services and as a courageous firefighter in New Hampton. Brock's dedication to safety and responsible citizenship was further exemplified by his lifetime



Brock Schmidt

membership in the National Rifle Association and his active involvement in the Cedar Falls Gun Club.

On October 5, 2024, Brock married his beloved Marea Baker at the Old West Paint Church in Waterville, after a loving courtship of five years. Their union was a beautiful testament to love, blending their families in a home filled with joy, laughter and wonderful memories.

Brock's zest for life shone through his numerous interests and hobbies. Known as a jack of all trades — with the humorous exception of dancing — Brock's love for the great outdoors was unparalleled. Just like his father, he was "a true cowboy" at heart, often found hunting and fishing, which were not just pastimes but a way of life. His adventurous soul was never more alive than when hunting with Addison and Evelyn, leading can-am rides with the kids or spending tranquil moments at the family cabin.

Above all, Brock was an amazing father. His big, blended family was his pride and joy, and he cherished every moment he spent nurturing and guiding them. His love was a guiding

light, a source of strength and comfort that will continue to shine in the hearts of his children.

Described by those who knew him best as loving, adventurous and passionate, Brock's legacy is one of unwavering commitment to his family, his friends, and his community. His infectious smile, hearty laugh, and the tales of his escapades will be dearly missed but never forgotten.

Brock's life was a vivid tapestry woven with the love of his family, the loyalty of his friends, and the respect of his colleagues.

As we say farewell to this remarkable man, we celebrate a life lived to the fullest, marked by genuine kindness and a courageous spirit.

Brock is survived by his wife, Marea (Baker) Schmidt of New Hampton; mother, Pamela (Treptow) Schmidt of Janesville; son, Jonathan Baker of New Hampton; daughters, Addison Schmidt of New Hampton, Evelyn Schmidt of New Hampton, Kaylee (Andrew Coyer) Baker of Lamoni, Grace Baker of New Hampton, and Annabelle Baker of New Hampton; mother and father-in-law, Duane (Kathy) Wickman; brother-in-laws, Jeff Wickman, Paul Wickman, Adrian Montano and Greg Schmitt; sister-in-laws, Annette Montano and Sara Schmitt; Uncle Greg Treptow; Aunt Kim (Don) Blazek; cousins, Jamee (Brandon) Schmitt, Johanna Blazek, Wyatt Blazek, Jalyssa Blazek and Laurinda Karsten; godmother, Nancy Lockett; many nieces, nephews and friends; and father-figure Mel Anderson.

He was preceded in death by his father Jimmie Schmidt, his Godfather Jack Lockett and his grandparents.

David Allen Rasmussen, 86

David Allen Rasmussen, age 86, passed away Saturday, March 22, 2025, in the company of his family.

Friends greeted the family during visitation at Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 26, 2025. A rosary was said for all who wished to pray with the family prior to the visitation at 3:30 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. James Goerend officiating at Holy Family Parish in New Hampton.

Internment will be at St. Mary's Cemetery following the Mass.

The family welcomes those who wish to celebrate Dave's life with lunch at the church following interment.

David "Dave" was born Feb. 18, 1939, in Eagle Grove as the third of three sons to Howard and Dorothy (Wilson) Rasmussen of Hardy.

Dave graduated from the Renwick-Hardy Consolidated High School (now Boone Valley High School) in 1957.

Dave served in the Iowa Army National Guard unit of Eagle Grove from 1957 through his honorable discharge in 1960.

David graduated from Wartburg College, Waverly, in 1962 with a bachelor of arts in mathematics and education, with a minor in physics. David later received a master of arts in mathematics from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, in 1973.

After graduating from Wartburg, Dave began his teaching career in Lawler with the Turkey Valley Community School District as a high school mathematics teacher, while living in New Hampton.



Dave Rasmussen

That's when and where Dave met his future wife and the love of his life, Kay Dunn. Kay was a waitress at Holly's Café in downtown New Hampton, which Dave frequently visited. After dating for about a year, Dave and Kay were married in August 1963 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in New Hampton.

Dave and Kay moved to their current home on South Broadway in the fall of 1964, a house that Dave helped build and later added on to in 1979. Dave and Kay have lived in the same home for 60 of their 61 years of marriage. Dave and Kay welcomed their first son, Randy, to this house in August 1965 and then Terry in September 1967.

Dave taught mathematics and computer science at New Hampton Community High School from 1964 through 1994, when he retired.

A natural teacher, Dave loved to teach others and was passionate about learning, mathematics, and computer science, the last subject which was largely self-taught.

He always hoped to inspire his students with a passion for numeracy and lifelong learn-

ing. Dave was named the Young Educator of the Year in 1973 by the New Hampton Jaycees, a lifelong source of pride.

For recreation, Dave enjoyed hunting with his fellow teachers, fishing with family and friends (his prize: 6-pound, 2-ounce, 26-inch walleye caught in June 1997 on a Canadian fishing trip), card playing with family and friends (pinochle, 500, euchre, and hearts), puzzles of all kinds, watching sports on television with his sons (especially football) and later traveling through the U.S. with Kay after he retired since Dave was very patriotic from his military service and the history of his family in serving the country.

So it was with much pride that Dave received a Veteran's Quilt of Valor in 2021 in front of his family which was stitched by one of his former students, Elaine Keating of Cedar Falls.

Dave is survived by his wife, Kay; sons Randy (Soo) Rasmussen of Easton, Connecticut, and Terry (Cami) Rasmussen of Solon; grandchildren, Micah, Soren and Norah Rasmussen of Easton, Connecticut, Cari Ann, Ryan and John Rasmussen of Solon, and Jessica (Rex) Bryant of Solon; great grandchildren, Tyler, Max and Evelyn; brother-in-law, Joe Dunn, Elma; and sisters-in-law, Judy Dunn and Anita Rasmussen, Webster City.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Dorothy Rasmussen; brothers, Gerald and Donald Rasmussen; in-laws, Ben and Agnes Dunn; brothers-in-law, Bernard and Leonard Dunn and Francis Kramer; and sisters-in-law, Helen Dunn, Mary Kramerand Avis Rasmussen.

News Bits From Our Past

Compiled by Terri Josephson

Week of March 23 1950 (75 years ago)

• In general, WOI-TV, the television station of Iowa State College, is finding favor among television set owners in Iowa. A recent survey conducted by the college showed that 85 percent of those questioned were receiving both pictures and sounds in good fashion.

The survey indicated the programs wanted most were entertainment programs, educational, sports, music and children's programs.

1975 (50 years ago)

• The final individual statistics for the New Hampton High girls varsity basketball team were released for the 1974-75 campaign and it was a finely tuned 3-way scoring tie. Brenda Schuchhardt took the honors with 238 points, Lisa Gates accounted for 202 points and Greta Budweg closed with 195. All three girls were starting forwards in all 16 games. On the guard side for the Chi-sawette season Carolyn

Franke took the honors with 164 rebounds and 88 assists and Mary Amble had 196 rebounds and 30 assists.

This was the first year of cage competition for the New Hampton High girls since early in the 1920's.

2000 (25 years ago)

• Gene Hall is Senior Vice President, Liberty Group Publishing, and has served as Senior Vice President of the company since its inception in late 1997. He has direct responsibility for 35 newspapers and shoppers in six states including the New Hampton Tribune and the Times Plain Dealer in Cresco, which were recent Liberty Group Publishing acquisitions. • New Hampton senior Blake Flansche was named as

an Honorable Mention, All-State selection by the Iowa Newspapers Association in the Class 3A division of the post-season honors for Iowa boys basketball.

Flansche was leading scorer for the Chickasaw varsity with 273 points. He was also one of the top rebounders with 82 rebounds. He led the Chickasaws with 101 assists, blocked seventeen shots and was team leader in steals with 43. Flansche, a three-sport athlete, also won honors in football and track.

2015 (10 years ago)

• Students and community members in New Hampton are invited to join the New

Hampton Walking School Bus this spring. The Walking School Bus will walk to school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings April 7-May 19. The group will depart from Mikkelson Park at 7:15 a.m. and walk through neighborhoods on the south side of Highway 24.

The Walking School Bus will drop students off at New Hampton Elementary and St. Joseph Community School. A Walking School Bus is a group of students walking with adult supervisors and is a great way to get students and adults active.

• Five Star Cooperative held an open house for their new Liquid Fertilizer Load-Out

Facility. The new building was built because Five Star had outgrown the previous building.

Founded in 1916, Five Star Cooperative is governed by a board of nine producer/directors and believes in the best customer service available. They have the equipment, products and services available to make life easier on the farm.

2020 (5 years ago)

• A senior year in high school is supposed to be filled with fun memories. Unfortunately for seniors across the nation, they may not get to experience some of these moments due to the Coronavirus.

New Hampton's Kaylee

Eggerichs is just one of the many seniors this virus is impacting. After a standout basketball season that saw her average 12.4 points and 6.1 rebounds a game, Eggerichs was selected to play in an all-star basketball game in Cedar Rapids this spring. However, she won't be able to cap off her high hoops career at this event, as it is canceled.

Like Eggerichs, many other members of the Chickasaw senior class are missing out on experiences they won't be able to get back. All school activities for last week were called off, and it will stay that way for at least three more weeks and potentially even longer.

Legal Notice

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT CHICKASAW COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DORIS M. MILLER, Deceased, Probate No. ESPR003279 OF NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To All Persons interested in the Estate of Doris M. Miller, Deceased, who died on or about February 1, 2025.

You are hereby notified that on the 28th day of February, 2025, the last will and testament of Doris M. Miller deceased, bearing the date of the 31st day of October, 2019, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Vickie Nehl and Richard Miller were appointed 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 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 12th day of March, 2025.

Vickie Nehl
Executor of estate
207 S. Reinhart Ave.
Alta Vista, IA 50603

Richard Miller
Executor of Estate
1709 190th St.
New Hampton, IA 50659

Christopher F. O'Donohoe
ELWOOD, O'DONOHOE,
BRAUN & WHITE, LLP
Attorney for executors
101 North Locust Avenue,
P.O. Box 310
New Hampton, Iowa 50659
ICIS Pin #: AT0005848

Date of second publication
27th day of March, 2025.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED BUDGET

Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

City of: IONIA

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Budget at: Ionia City Hall, 101 W Iowa St, Ionia , IA Meeting Date: 4/7/2025 Meeting Time: 07:10 PM

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the City Clerk and County Auditor.

City budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult <https://dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals>.

The Budget Estimate Summary of proposed receipts and expenditures is shown below. Copies of the the detailed proposed Budget may be obtained or viewed at the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, and at the Library.				
The estimated Total tax levy rate per \$1000 valuation on regular property				10.03286
The estimated tax levy rate per \$1000 valuation on Agricultural property is				3.00375
At the public hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget.				
Phone Number (319) 239-0289		City Clerk/Finance Officer's NAME Donna Geerts		
		Budget FY 2026	Re-estimated FY 2025	Actual FY 2024
Revenues & Other Financing Sources				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	69,345	68,618	66,759
Less: Uncollected Property Taxes-Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Taxes	3	69,345	68,618	66,759
Delinquent Property Taxes	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	0	0	0
Other City Taxes	6	35,118	37,160	35,476
Licenses & Permits	7	357	357	764
Use of Money and Property	8	1,868	3,000	22,445
Intergovernmental	9	54,281	228,386	63,400
Charges for Fees & Service	10	124,000	131,000	92,840
Special Assessments	11	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	12	685	50,000	54,806
Other Financing Sources	13	0	263,145	124,363
Transfers In	14	20,500	21,445	2,713
Total Revenues and Other Sources	15	306,154	803,111	463,566
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses				
Public Safety	16	42,694	10,550	33,693
Public Works	17	89,000	304,000	55,708
Health and Social Services	18	226	226	226
Culture and Recreation	19	50,000	75,000	48,240
Community and Economic Development	20	5,000	0	8,443
General Government	21	39,000	39,400	30,070
Debt Service	22	0	0	0
Capital Projects	23	0	0	0
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	225,920	429,176	176,380
Business Type / Enterprises	25	139,917	564,533	261,909
Total ALL Expenditures	26	365,837	993,709	438,289
Transfers Out	27	20,500	21,445	2,713
Total ALL Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	386,337	1,015,154	441,002
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	-80,183	-212,043	22,564
Beginning Fund Balance July 1	30	666,895	878,938	856,374
Ending Fund Balance June 30	31	586,712	666,895	878,938

Parks & Rec searching for summer help

POOL : FROM 1

And that doesn't even include the four weeks in which the guards work swimming lessons in the morning or periodic pool parties that are held after the pool closes in the evening.

"If two of them are gone on vacation with mom and dad or if we don't get any weather closures — and we'd had summers where we've hardly ever been closed — it adds up," she said. "There's a reason we get burn-out so the more we can get, the better."

Years ago, potential lifeguards had to "fight" to get a job at the pool.

"Those days are gone," Hackman said. "I think it's a great job. You're outside all day, it's fun and all that, but we start guards at 12 bucks an hour, and we've done our best to raise pay the past few years, but I know there are jobs that pay more. And kids are just busier now days."

She said the Park Board is looking into some kind of "shift" pay for holidays and maybe even weekends in an effort to have the pool open on those days.

"We're trying to be creative," Hackman said, "and we're plugging away. But again, if you

Pool raising funds for new toddler slide

In addition to the installation of new filters, New Hampton Parks and Recreation Director Tara Hackman is hoping for one more "new thing" at the pool this summer.

Her department is currently raising funds to replace the toddler slide at the facility, and it's almost halfway there.

A new "turtle-surfing-on-a-wave" slide will cost \$37,000, and Hackman said the pool has received \$17,000 in donations and that she believes her department could cover the cost of the slide if it gets to within \$5,000 of the projected cost.

"It's something we'd love to have this year, but we're going to keep plugging away," she said. "The cost is crazy, but that's really a good price. The good part about it is that they're building them to last longer now so if we can get it, we'll have it for a number of years."

Those interested in donating can call Hackman at 641-394-5464.

know someone, please encourage them. We'd love to have more guards.

Meanwhile, the Parks and Recreation director said that improvements to the pool will be made in the next two months. Most notably, the facility will have two new filters installed sometime next month if Mother Nature cooperates. It will also get some new concrete work done.

"I know everyone says it's just March," Hackman said, "but it's really not that far away. We're two months away."

.....

Lifeguards aren't the only

"shortage" area for the Parks and Recreation Department.

It also is looking for workers to help with the department's T-ball program that is held on weekday mornings in the month of June as well as umpires to call youth baseball and softball games.

Hackman also said she is continuing to look for a summer parks employee, who will do a little bit of everything — from mowing to lining diamonds.

Those interested in any of the positions should call Hackman at 641-394-5464 to get the application process rolling.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Our last dose of winter, correct?

Chickasaw County's head custodian, Dave Gorman, spreads ice melt on the Courthouse Square sidewalk last Thursday after a winter storm gave Chickasaw County a glancing blow.

Officially, New Hampton received 2 inches of snow, and even though much of it melted after reaching the ground, high winds made for treacherous driving conditions and led area schools to send students home on Wednesday.

And we didn't miss the brunt of the storm by much. Seventeen miles to the west of New Hampton, Charles City recorded a six-inch snowfall.

The good news is that no major winter weather appears on the horizon; in fact, we're expected to be in the 60s today (Thursday) and the 70s on Friday before we cool down over the weekend.

St. Joe's to hold middle school open house

There will be an open house this evening (Thursday) at 5:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Community School.

Organizers are inviting the public to meet the teachers and take tours of the school while learning about the school's free tuition opportunities.

Women of Today to hold annual Easter Egg hunt April 19

The annual Women of Today Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 19, beginning at 10 a.m. Mikkelson Park.

The event will be held "light rain or shine."

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF LAWLER TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

You are hereby given notice that a public hearing will be held at 7:25 P.M. on April 7, 2025, at the Council Chambers in the City Hall in Lawler, Iowa, on the proposal to amend the City Code Ordinance 92.02 RATES FOR SERVICE. Water service shall be furnished at the following monthly rates within the City: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 92, WATER RATES, AND AFFECTING CHAPTER 99, SEWER SERVICE CHARGES, OF THE LAWLER MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING WATER AND SEWER UTILITY DISCONTINUANCE FEES

WHEREAS, the Municipal Code of the City of Lawler, Iowa, Chapter 92 provides for Water Rates; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 99 of the Municipal Code of the City of Lawler provides for Sewer Service Charges, and provides that the same discontinuance procedures and charges apply to Sewer disconnection as to water disconnection under Chapter 92. Specifically, Section 99.04 provides: "Sewer service may be discontinued or disconnected in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 92.04 if the combined service account becomes delinquent, and the provisions contained in Section 92.07 relating to lien notices shall also apply in the event of a delinquent account"; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that to provide for the administrative costs of providing notice of municipal water and sewer utility discontinuance, a fee shall be imposed for providing notice

24 hours prior to discontinuance of water or sewer services;

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that it is in the best interest of the City and its citizens to amend Chapter 92 Water Rates, to provide certain charges for notice of water and sewer utility shut-off.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Lawler, Iowa as follows:

Para. 1. That Chapter 92 of the Municipal Code of the City of Lawler, Iowa, Water Rates, is amended by deleting Paragraph 4, Fees, of Section 92.04, and inserting in lieu thereof the following new Paragraph 4:

4. Fees. The following fees shall be assessed as administrative charges associated with services provided by the City under this section.

A. Tag Fee. If full payment of a delinquent bill is not received by the

Clerk's office by close of business on the date set forth in the notice of delinquency, then a tagging fee of \$25.00 will be assessed to the customer at the time a 24-hour disconnection notice is placed on the door of the property.

B. Reconnect Fee. A fee of \$35.00 shall be charged before service is restored to a delinquent customer. No fee shall be charged for the usual or customary trips in the regular changes in occupancies of property

No. 24744

3/27/25 New Hampton Tribune

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CHICKASAW COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES March 17, 2025

The Board convened on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 9:08 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, Attorney David Laudner, Bob Fenske, member of media, Sheriff Ryan Shawver, Engineer Roman Lensing, Board of Health Joan Knoll, Terry Johnson, Assessor Raymond Armel, Jeanne Heit, Nancy Franzen, Treasurer Matt Ysbrand, Recorder Shirley Troyna, Kathy Shekleton, Bonnie Keller

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Carter to approve the agenda for March 17, 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Breitbach to approve minutes for meeting on March 10, 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Public Comment: A letter was read by Board of Health member Joan Knoll. Discussion on the re-audit for the City of Nashua. Public comment by Terry Johnson

Motion by Cerwinski, seconded by Suckow to approve EBS Administration Agreement for claims run-out for Chickasaw County for Flex Program and to end EBS Flex on June 30, 2025. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Motion by Breitbach, seconded by Suckow to approve renewal of current plan for healthcare for FY25-26 with a 5% increase. Roll call: Ayes: Breitbach, Carter. Nays: Suckow, Cerwinski, Hackman. Motion failed.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Cerwinski to approve Alternate Plan 17 Healthcare for FY25-26, renew of Life Insurance, and renew Dental Insurance. Roll call: Ayes: Suckow, Cerwinski, Hackman. Nays: Breitbach, Carter. Motion carried.

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Breitbach to approve RESOLUTION NO. 03-17-25-14 A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR A TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE AND FOR A TOWNSHIP CLERK WHEREAS, Iowa Code section 359.46 requires the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors to establish compensation for a township trustee, and Iowa Code section 359.47 states that a township clerk shall be compensated at the same rate of pay as a township trustee; and WHEREAS, the Chickasaw County Board of Su-

pervisors shall establish an hourly rate for a township trustee while engaged in official business and may establish a minimum daily pay rate for the time spent by a township trustee attending a scheduled meeting of township trustees; and WHEREAS, the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors intends to establish both the mandatory hourly rate as well as the discretionary minimum daily pay rate. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors that pursuant to Iowa Code sections 359.46 and .47 the hourly rate for a township trustee and for a township clerk while engaged in official business is set at \$1.00 per hour and the minimum daily pay rate for the time spent by a township trustee and by a township clerk attending a scheduled meeting of township trustees is set at \$50.00 per meeting, effective immediately, and that this Resolution replaces Resolution #03-09-20-21. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a township trustee and a township clerk requesting compensation shall submit a completed timesheet to the Chickasaw County Auditor, and that the Chickasaw County Auditor shall make said payment at least once each quarter during each fiscal year. HEREBY RESOLVED by the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors this 17th day of March, 2025. / s/ Ayes: Suckow, Breitbach Carter, Cerwinski, Hackman Attest: Sheila Shekleton, Auditor Detailed document on file at Auditor's office and on county's website https://www.chickasawcounty.iowa.gov

Motion by Suckow, seconded by Cerwinski to approve appointment of a Safety Coordinator, Ranae Carey, Secondary Roads, to be paid \$2,000.00 per year from General Services. Roll Call: All Ayes: Motion carried.

Discussion on the progress of repair of the Heritage Center due to water damage.

Budget work session:

Public comment by Board of Health Joan Knoll, Jeanne Heit, and Nancy Franzen

No committee assignments.

Motion by Carter, seconded by Breitbach to adjourn at 10:59 AM. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carried.

Jacob Hackman, Chairperson Board of Supervisors ATTEST: Sheila Shekleton, Secretary to the Board

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3/28/25 Nashua Reporter

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CITY NAME: LAWLER

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF LAWLER - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY

CITY #: 19-165

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: 4/7/2025 Meeting Time: 07:15 PM Meeting Location: Lawler City Hall

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

City Website (if available)

City Telephone Number (563) 238-3614

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year 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		12,687,159		13,048,808		13,048,808
Consolidated General Fund		104,763		104,763		106,682
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit		0		0		0
Aviation Authority		0		0		0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance		21,264		21,264		21,873
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)		4,124		4,124		4,176
Other Employee Benefits		2,434		2,434		2,486
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)		0		0		0
Taxable Value for Debt Service		12,687,159		13,048,808		13,048,808
Debt Service		58,056		58,056		104,675
CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX		190,641		190,641		239,892
CITY REGULAR TAX RATE		15.02627		14.60984		18.38422
Taxable Value for City Ag Land		493,954		515,820		515,820
Ag Land		1,484		1,484		1,500
CITY AG LAND TAX RATE		3.00375		2.87697		2.90799
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed						
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000	Current Year	Certified 2024/2025	Budget Year	Proposed 2025/2026	Percent Change	
City Regular Residential		696		959	37.79	
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000	Current Year	Certified 2024/2025	Budget Year	Proposed 2025/2026	Percent Change	
City Regular Commercial		3,073		4,286	39.47	

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:

Debt Service expenses decreased do a loan payoff.

No. 24743
3/27/25 New Hampton Tribune
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET

City of LAWLER
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

The City of LAWLER will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending the current budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

Meeting Date/Time: 4/7/2025 07:20 PM

Contact: Suzette Byrne

Phone: (563) 238-3614

Meeting Location: City Hall

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

REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES		Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended	Current Amendment	Total Budget After Current Amendment
Taxes Levied on Property	1	192,125	0	192,125
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Net Current Property Tax	3	192,125	0	192,125
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	4	0	0	0
TIF Revenues	5	0	0	0
Other City Taxes	6	61,571	0	61,571
Licenses & Permits	7	2,840	0	2,840
Use of Money & Property	8	6,720	0	6,720
Intergovernmental	9	134,771	0	134,771
Charges for Service	10	5,665,845	0	5,665,845
Special Assessments	11	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	12	0	0	0
Other Financing Sources	13	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Transfers In	14	5,028,848	0	5,028,848
Total Revenues & Other Sources	15	12,092,720	0	12,092,720
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES				
Public Safety	16	78,900	0	78,900
Public Works	17	118,326	0	118,326
Health and Social Services	18	0	0	0
Culture and Recreation	19	56,225	0	56,225
Community and Economic Development	20	10,050	0	10,050
General Government	21	69,590	0	69,590
Debt Service	22	113,734	8,600	122,334
Capital Projects	23	58,428	0	58,428
Total Government Activities Expenditures	24	505,253	8,600	513,853
Business Type/Enterprise	25	5,508,266	0	5,508,266
Total Gov Activities & Business Expenditures	26	6,013,519	8,600	6,022,119
Transfers Out	27	5,028,848	0	5,028,848
Total Expenditures/Transfers Out	28	11,042,367	8,600	11,050,967
Excess Revenues & Other Sources Over (Under) Expenditures/Transfers Out	29	1,050,353	-8,600	1,041,753
Beginning Fund Balance July 1, 2024	30	430,839	0	430,839
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2025	31	1,481,192	-8,600	1,472,592
Explanation of Changes: Miss calculated loan payoff amount.				

No. 24742
3/27/25 New Hampton Tribune
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On Tap for Chickasaws, Trojans

TUESDAY

New Hampton trapshooting vs. South Winn and Oelwein, 4 p.m. - handicap and doubles vs. Oelwein at 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

New Hampton trapshooting vs. Echo Valley and Butler Co., 4 p.m.

New Hampton soccer vs. Charles City, boys at 5 p.m., girls at 6:45 p.m.

New Hampton girls and boys track at Waverly-Shell Rock, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

New Hampton girls soccer vs. Clear Lake, 5 p.m.
Turkey Valley girls and boys track at North Fayette Valley, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

NH, Turkey Valley trapshooting at Nashua invite, 8 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

New Hampton trapshooting vs. Waverly and Turkey Valley, 4 p.m.

New Hampton boys track at Decorah, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

New Hampton boys golf vs. Charles City, 4 p.m.
New Hampton trapshooting vs. Nashua/Charles City, 4 p.m.

Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice • Legal Notice

CITY NAME:
NEW HAMPTON

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF NEW HAMPTON - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY
Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

CITY #: 19-167

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:
Meeting Date: 4/7/2025 Meeting Time: 07:00 PM Meeting Location: Community Center, 112 East Spring Street, New Hampton, Iowa
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 Telephone Number
(641) 394-5906

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		149,691,708		157,057,627		157,057,627
Consolidated General Fund		1,328,653		1,328,653		1,366,700
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit		0		0		0
Aviation Authority		0		0		0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance		187,779		187,779		223,762
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)		194,770		194,770		189,798
Other Employee Benefits		309,634		309,634		299,682
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)		0		0		0
Taxable Value for Debt Service		170,120,973		173,361,765		173,361,765
Debt Service		53,940		53,940		88,340
CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX		2,074,776		2,074,776		2,168,282
CITY REGULAR TAX RATE		13.81706		13.17798		13.75274
Taxable Value for City Ag Land		1,106,073		1,136,815		1,136,815
Ag Land		3,322		3,322		3,415
CITY AG LAND TAX RATE		3.00375		2.92220		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 2024/2025	Budget Year 2024/2025	Proposed 2025/2026	Percent	Change
City Regular Residential		640		718		12.19
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000	Current Year 2024/2025	Certified 2024/2025	Budget Year 2024/2025	Proposed 2025/2026	Percent	Change
City Regular Commercial		2,826		3,206		13.45

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 through \$150,000 of actual/assessed valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:
Cost of Living increases for all operating expenses.

No. 24703
3/27/25 New Hampton Tribune
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26.5, Postville 8, W. Central 3.
TURKEY VALLEY RESULTS
55 dash - 4. Isaiah Wheeler 7.34,
13. Tyler Forbes 8.56.
200 dash - 3. Kaden Schmidt
25.39.
400 dash - 2. Schmidt 57.21, 13.
Jacob Wurzer 1:07.55.
1,600 - 5. Jayden Rausch 5:39.21.
3,200 - 6. John Forbes 17:01.45.
55 hurdles - 4. Caleb Kriener
10.58.
4x200 - 11. Kriener, Tucker Tlusty,
Dawson Humpal, T. Forbes 1:57.71.
4x400 - 4. Schmidt, Wheeler,
Domminick Reicks, Dairean Keyes
3:56.79.
Distance medley - 5. Tlusty,
Wurzer, Keyes, Reicks 4:36.21.
Shuttle hurdle - 3. Wheeler,
Reicks, Keyes, Kriener 34.34.
Long jump - 14. Humpal 12-3.
Shot put - 13. T. Reicks 31-3, 15.
Wurzer 28-10.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
The Floyd Mitchell Chickasaw Solid Waste Management Agency invites all interested parties to attend a public meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m. at the FMC Landfill office, 3354 330th Street, Elma, Iowa 50628. The purpose of the meeting is to review the current solid waste programs and to discuss future solid waste activities. The meeting is a requirement of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to update the Floyd Mitchell Chickasaw Solid Waste Management Agency Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. The public is invited to participate in the discussion.

No. 24702
3/25/25 Charles City Press
3/27/25 New Hampton Tribune
www.iowapublicnotices.com

Legal Notice • Legal Notice

Notice of Sheriff's Levy and Sale IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR 19-CHICKASAW COUNTY.
State of Iowa 19-Chickasaw County Iowa District 19-Chickasaw County, Case # EQCV004350, Civil# 24-000484 US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust VS
Duane Eichenberger, Patsy Eichenberger, parties in possession, absolute resolutions investments, LLC, JHPDE Finance I, LLC
Special Execution
As a result of the judgment rendered in the above referenced court case, an execution was issued by the court to the Sheriff of this county. The execution ordered the sale of defendant(s)
Real Estate Described Below
To satisfy the judgment. The Property to be sold is
LOT ONE OF THE NW 1/4 OF THE NE 1/4 OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 94 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST OF THE 5TH P.M.
Property address: 2170 300th ST Fredericksburg, IA 50630.
The described property will be offered for sale at public auction for cash only as follows:

Legal Notice
Public Notice
The Chickasaw County Engineer's Office is accepting Bidding Proposals for the supply/delivery of structural steel for Bridge Replacement Projects L-FY26(01)–73-19 and L-FY26(02)–73-19. Bidding proposals are available in the Engineer's Office (8 E Prospect, New Hampton, IA 50659) and are due in the Engineer's Office by Monday, April 21st, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

No. 24740
3/27/25 New Hampton Tribune
www.iowapublicnotices.com

Legal Notice

Board Proceedings
The Board of Directors for the New Hampton Community School District met in a joint board session with Turkey Valley Community School District Board of Directors, Monday, March 17, 2025, in the High School FCS Room. President Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with directors Denner, Shawver, Superintendent Jurens and Board Secretary Roethler present.
Director Denner moved to approve the Agenda. Director Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Denner, Matthews, Shawver. Nays: none.
The two boards discussed how things were working between the two districts.
Director Denner moved to adjourn at 6:24 pm. Director Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Denner, Matthews, Shawver. Nays: none.
Attest: March 17, 2025
Jay Matthews Board President
Christy Roethler Board Secretary

No. 24739
3/27/25 New Hampton Tribune
www.iowapublicnotices.com

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John Deere Financial	178.96
KOHL'S.COM	60.31
Kwik Star	875.10
L & R Manufacturing, LLC	493.83
Lakeshore Learning Materials	121.95
LS Supply & Rental	1,160.00
Lunch Fund	247.84
Madison National Life Insurance	2,291.44
Matter Hackers	219.00
Mercy Medical Center-New Hampton	207.00
Mid Gage Plumbing	31.00
Mid-American Research Chemical	633.57
NAPA Auto Parts	30.56
Nashua-Plainfield Comm School	5,376.54
New Hampton Auto Body	1,297.97
New Hampton Schools	18.00
New Hampton Tribune	955.02
NHMU Fiber	310.00
Northeast Iowa Community College	28,362.60
Business and	28,362.60
Office World	3,462.70
Principal Life Insurance Company	784.34
Quadient Inc.	195.00
Rieman Music, Inc	453.67
Riley's Inc.	239.90
School Bus Sales	23.78
Schueh Ace Hardware	250.25
Schumacher, Timothy	16.00
Science Center of Iowa	699.00
Scrubber City Inc.	484.15
Skills USA IOWA	754.00
South Winneshiek Comm. School	430.43
Spratt, Damian	32.00
Subway	183.68
Superior Welding Supply	1,610.74
Teachers Pay Teachers (Teacher Supply LLC)	65.00
thyssenkrupp Elevator Corporation	181.05
Timberline Billing Service LLC3,709.45	
Toledo Physical Education Supply	832.20
Turkey Valley Community School	27,752.80
United Parcel Service	1.97
University of Northern Iowa	80.00
Ventris Learning	301.00
Vern Laures Chevy-Buick	28.50
VISA	(37.84)
Wagoner Bros. Repair	19.98
Walmart.com	19.98
Washington National Ins. Co.	800.10
Wayne's Truck Equipment & Parts, Inc.	300.00
West Music Company	427.88
WEX BANK	337.49
Windstream	1,922.96
Fund Total:	\$ 169,577.65
Capital Projects (33)	
EH Electric, L.L.C.	5,067.60
New Hampton Electric	4,911.70
Plunket Raysich Architects, LLP 945.00	
Ziegler CAT	2,037.86
Fund Total:	\$ 12,962.16
Physical Plant & Equipment (36)	
Marco, Inc.	1,939.05
Wagoner Bros. Repair	2,946.15
Fund Total:	\$ 4,885.20
Debt Service (40)	
UMB Bank.N.A.	600.00
Fund Total:	\$600.00
Attest: March 17, 2025 Jay Matthews Christy Roethler Board President Board Secretary	

No.24738
3/27/25 New Hampton Tribune
www.iowapublicnotices.com

After one indoor meet, Trojans set to head outdoors

TV TRACK: FROM 12

tape in second place in the 400 dash in 57.21 and was third in the open 200 in 25.39.

Another standout sophomore for Mark Scott's Trojans, Isaiah Wheeler, placed fourth in the 55-meter dash in 7.34.

TV's 4x400 relay ran to a fourth-place finish in 3:56.79 with the squad of Schmidt, Wheeler, freshman Domminick Reicks and junior Dairean Keyes.

TV begins the outdoor season this coming Tuesday, April 1 at the Frostbite Open, hosted by Sumner-Fredericksburg.

GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS

South Winneshiek 108, Kee High 92, North Fayette Valley 90, Clayton Ridge 51, Central Elkader 50, Turkey Valley 45, West Central 17, Postville 4, MFL MarMac 2.

TURKEY VALLEY RESULTS

55 dash - 9. Jenna Thronsdon 8.63, 11. Emersyn Hoffer 8.81.

200 dash - 5. Alexis Gruenberg 30.87, 12. Layni Schuchhardt 34.28.
400 dash - 3. Hazel Nieman 1:04.87.
800 - 6. Schuchhardt 3:21.93.
55 hurdles - 10. Brynlee Hayek 11.4, 14. Jocelyn Deslover 12.93.
4x200 - 3. Nieman, Thronsdon, Hayek, Makinley Lutgen 2:02.63, 11. Hoffer, Addison Steinlage, Deslover, Courtney Ball 2:14.92.
4x400 - 2. Nieman, Kendall Kuennen, Gruenberg, Isabella Stika 4:32.19, 9. Steinlage, Lutgen, Hayek, Hoffer 5:12.67.
4x800 - 2. Stika, Kuennen, Gruenberg, Schuchhardt 11:45.97.
Distance medley - 4. Lutgen, Steinlage, Thronsdon, Kuennen 5:16.33.
Shuttle hurdle - 3. Nieman, Thronsdon, Deslover, Hayek 40.6.
Long jump - 4. Kuennen 14.5, 9. Lutgen 13-3.5, 11. Schuchhardt 13.
Shot put - 7. Ellaney Bodensteiner 30-6.5, 11. Nora Chicken 26-3.

BOYS TEAM STANDINGS

MFL MarMac 112, C. Elkader 108, S. Winneshiek 69, Clayton Ridge 67.5, Turkey Valley 36, Kee 32, NFV

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Board Proceedings
The Board of Directors for the New Hampton Community School District met in regular session, Monday, March 17, 2025, in the High School FCS Room. President Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:30pm with Directors Matthews, Denner, Shawver, Superintendent Jurens, and Board Secretary Roethler present. Directors A. Schwickerath and N. Schwickerath were absent.
Director Shawver moved to approve the agenda with the exception of moving XI – A. Student Board Member Feedback between III and IV. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. 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, 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. There were present President Jay Matthews, in the chair, and the following named Board Members: Timothy Denner and Ryan Shawver. Absent: Nathaniel Schwickerath and Adam Schwickerath
Vacant: None

The President announced that this is the time, place and date to hold a hearing on the proposed Resolution to Continue Participation in the Instructional Support Program. The following persons appeared:
The President declared the hearing closed. Director Denner introduced the following Resolution and moved its adoption. Director Shawver seconded the motion to adopt. The roll was called, and the vote was: AYES: Jay Matthews, Timothy Denner and Ryan Shawver. NAYS: None
The President declared the Resolution adopted as follows:
RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE 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 has given consideration to continue participation in the Instructional Support Program as provided in Sections 257.18 through 257.21, Code of Iowa; and
WHEREAS, the Board has published notice of the time and place of a public hearing on
the Resolution; and WHEREAS, a hearing has been held upon the proposal to continue participation in the Instructional Support Program and any objections are overruled:
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:
1. The Board of Directors determines that it is consistent with the five-year finance plan to fund the ongoing programs and services of the School District and it is in the best interest of the School District to continue participation in an Instructional Support Program as provided in Sections 257.18 through 257.21, Code of Iowa, and to provide additional funding therefor for a period of five (5) years commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.
2. The additional funding for the Instructional Support Program for a budget

year will be determined annually 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.
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. Unless, within twenty-eight days following the adoption of this Resolution, the Secretary of the Board receives a petition containing the signatures of eligible electors equal in number to not less than one hundred or thirty percent of the number of voters at the last preceding regular school election, whichever is greater, asking that an election be called to approve or disapprove this action of the Board adopting the Instructional Support Program, this action of the Board is final and the Secretary is authorized and directed to certify a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Management.
In the event a petition containing the required number of signatures is filed with the Secretary of the Board within twenty-eight days of the adoption of this Resolution, the President shall call a meeting of the Board to consider rescission of this Resolution, or to direct the county commissioner of elections to submit the following question to the qualified electors of the School District at a special election.
If the Board determines to submit the question to the electors, the public measure to be submitted shall be as follows:
Shall the Board of Directors of the New Hampton Community School District, in the Counties of Chickasaw and Howard, State of Iowa, be authorized for a period of five (5) years to continue to levy and impose an instructional support tax in an amount (after taking into consideration instructional support state aid) of not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the total of regular program district cost for the budget year and moneys received under Section 257.14, Code of Iowa, as a budget adjustment in the budget year, and be authorized annually, in combination, as determined by the Board, to levy an instructional support property tax upon all 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 to impose an instructional support income surtax upon the state individual income tax of each individual income taxpayer resident in the School District on December 31 for each calendar year commencing with calendar year 2026, or each year thereafter, the percent of income surtax to be determined by the Board for each fiscal year, to be used for

any general fund purpose?
PASSED AND APPROVED this 17th day of March, 2025.
ATTEST:
Jay Matthews: President of the Board of Directors
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 for their respective positions.
WITNESS my hand this 17th day of March, 2025.
Christy Roethler
Secretary of the Board of Directors of the New Hampton Community School District
Director Denner moved to approve the consent agenda. Approve minutes of February 17, 2025, regular session. Approve the February monthly financial report and the March 2025 bill listing. Approve the following resignations from Alexis Martinek (2nd grade teacher), Dave Leichtman (High School Girls Varsity Basketball Coach), Andy Hugeback (7th Grade Wrestling Coach) effective at the end of the 24-25 school year. Approve the following transfer recommendations: Michael Stille from 3rd grade teacher to 2nd grade teacher and Stefanie Thronsdon from Literacy Leader to 4th Grade teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Approve Bryanna Carlisle, preschool teacher; Gracie Abbitz, 2nd Grade teacher and Bethany Jurens, 4th Grade teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. Approve Maddi Moorman, 7th grade girls track and Jenna Heeren JJV Softball pending suitable numbers or as a volunteer coach for the 2024-25 year. Approve the following volunteer coaches: Dwight Schwickerath (trapshooting), Paul Ewert (boys and girls golf), and Sarah Dungey (Soccer). All new hires are pending obtaining suitable licensure and passing appropriate background checks. Director

Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Hacker Nelson representative Michelle Martinek presented the FY2024 Audit.
Superintendent Jurens presented information on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Iowa DOT that would allow some of our staff to administer the knowledge test so a student can get their Instruction Permit to drive. Director Shawver moved to approve the MOU with the Iowa DOT. Director Denner seconded it. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Denner moved to approve the purchase of ALEKS for grades K-2 in the amount of \$11,002.50 for 5 years. Director Shawver 2nd the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Denner moved to approve the High School Sports photography contract with Troy Baas Photography. Director Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Shawver moved to approve the Wrestling and Soccer Program sharing agreement with Turkey Valley. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and R. Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Denner moved to approve the bid from Midwest Flooring LLC. in the amount of \$6,496.18 for the High School Choir room using SAVE funds. Director Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Denner moved to approve the bid from Midwest Flooring LLC. in the amount of \$16,172.16 for the Elementary Library using SAVE funds. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Shawver moved to approve the new door and installation quote from Darren Steinlage in the amount of \$8,100 for the additional 4th grade classroom in the elementary. This would bring the room up to code. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Denner moved to approve the Proposal from Nagle Signs Inc. to replace the current downtown sign in the amount of \$34,778.57. Director Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Superintendent Jurens presented information on updating the current phone system along with various quotes. Director Denner moved to approve the phone system quote from Northeast Iowa Telephone in the amount of \$33,510.86 using SAVE funds. Director Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Superintendent Jurens presented quotes for access points for internet throughout the district. Director Shawver moved to approve the quote from Reliable Network Solutions in the amount of \$5,287.79 using SAVE funds. Director Denner seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Denner moved to approve the purchase of 90 iPads for the incoming 5th grade students. The cost is \$29,160.00 and will come out of SAVE. Director Shawver seconded the motion. Ayes: Matthews, Denner and Shawver. Nays: none.
Director Denner moved to approve the purchase of protective case covers for the iPads from Bluum of Minnesota

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MCN

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MCN

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MCN

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Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton FFA’s five seniors — Carrie Schwickerath, Braelyn Rosonke, Beth Pickar, Aleah Eichenberger and Caleb Utley — and their parents (above) are honored during Saturday’s banquet while Schwickerath (right), who wrapped up her term as chapter president, receives a hug from Advisor Rachel Bauler during the “Senior Night” ceremony.



Plenty to celebrate; plenty to do

New Hampton chapter holds banquet, gears up for State Leadership Conference

BY BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com

The goal of the New Hampton FFA chapter’s annual banquet, at least according to its advisor, is to recognize achievement, leadership and accomplishments.

The chapter members accomplished their mission on Saturday, when they joined their family members, friends and community members — many of them who wore the blue corduroy back in the day — in the old New Hampton High School gym.

“The opportunities are endless in this organization, and I truly believe in giving each student the opportunity to not only learn and take part in these opportunities but also to strive to reach higher standards,” New Hampton FFA Advisor Rachel Bauler said.

“In my two years of teaching, the students never cease to amaze me, and I look forward to continuing to lead them in reaching their goals and advocating not only for themselves, but the agricultural industry as well.”

During the banquet, the chapter’s five seniors — Aleah Eichenberger, Beth Pickar, Braelyn Rosonke, Carrie Schwickerath and Caleb Utley — were honored along with their parents, the awards were handed out, a tasty meal was served by the National Honor Society, a new team of officers was installed and auctioneer Nick Noehl helped the chapter raise funds.

But for Bauler and her students, the banquet wasn’t the end of the journey.

New Hampton FFA has 22 students competing at the 2025 Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference April 14-15 in Ames.

The Experience the Action team that includes Schwickerath, Rosonke, Brooklyn McShane, Alexa Mashek and Kaidance Hall and Pickar in job interview qualified for the



Receiving the honorary degree are Tony and Janet Schwickerath, who were presented the award by the officer team that included (front row) daughter Carrie, (back row) Jennifer Eichenberger, Jacob McDonald, Kallie Angell, Rebecca Wickman, and Beth Pickar

state competition at the Northeast Iowa FFA District Convention earlier this month.

New Hampton also has students competing and representing in poultry evaluation, chapter display, farm business management, knowledge quizzes, delegates, Iowa Degrees and two proficiency awards.

The chapter is also gearing up for its annual greenhouse plant sale that will run May 1-3 and also practicing for career development events in the areas of ag mechanics, agronomy, floriculture, horse evaluation and vet science.

“The students truly have quite the goals

set for this spring and summer, so they are sure staying busy,” Bauler said.

The advisor said her goal is simple.

“I want the students to truly learn what it means to be an advocate when it comes to agriculture and their personal goals,” she said. “The National FFA Organization is a student-led organization, and that is what we have here at New Hampton. Since day one, I have structured it so that the students not only have leadership roles, but are also able to delegate, work together, and learn life skills as they are organizing the over 30 activities and events.”



Receiving academic achievement awards were (above, from left) Carrie Schwickerath, Beth Pickar and Aleah Eichenberger while the top-three sellers (below, from left) — Schwickerath, William Klassen and Jennifer Eichenberger — in the annual fruit sale are honored.



Receiving Chapter Star Awards are (from left) Carrie Schwickerath (agri-science), Beth Pickar (agriculture placement), Jennifer Eichenberger (farmer), Pickar (outstanding member) and Kaidance Hall (greenhand).



Receiving chapter degrees are (above, from left) Kelly Thronson, Brenna Thronson, Braelyn Rosonke, Alexa Mashek, Troy Federspiel and Addie Douglas while Greenhands honored Saturday included (front row, from left) Aiden Zeien, Karley Wickman, Bailee Tenge, Payten Steine, Wyatt Sabelka, Austyn Rosonke, Greenlee Pittman, (back row) Aiden Underwood, Ava Trende, Gretta Kuehner, Adrianna Kinley, Kaidance Hall, Luke Gorman and Carter Dreckman.





Becky Walz/Decorah Leader

Turkey Valley's Hazel Nieman (above) and Kaden Schmidt (below) compete on the track last week when the Trojans opened their 2025 season with the Upper Iowa Conference Indoor in Decorah.

Trojans produce stellar times at the UIC Indoor

By KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

Turkey Valley ran well in several events on Friday on the campus of Luther College during the Upper Iowa Conference track and field meet in Decorah.

Did the Trojans even exceed early-season expectations with those game efforts, in what amounted to the start to the spring track season?

"I would say they did," said TV girls track coach Sarah Bakula.

Bakula, who is in her second year as co-head coach alongside Dalton Hackman, saw several top finishes at the co-ed get-together that kicked off the indoor track season.

While the TV girls placed sixth overall in the team standings with 45 points, far back of winner South Winneshiek (108 points), the Trojans produced some stellar times for this early in the season.

One those better clips came from the 4x400 foursome of sophomores Hazel Nieman, Kendall Kuennen, Isabella Stika and freshman Alexis Gruenberg. The relay ran 4:32.19 to place runner-up to South Winn, who just clipped TV at the tape by running 4:31.94. That time by TV was 13 seconds faster than the Trojans' best time in the relay event from a season ago according to the state's stat-keeping website, Bound.

"We were really pleased with that, especially with the performance that all four girls laid down and the time that they ran through it," said Bakula.

TV's 4x800 team of Stika, Kuennen,

Gruenberg and senior Layni Schuchhardt ran almost three seconds faster than its PR from a year ago in 11:45.97, good for another runner-up finish.

TV's 4x200 placed third in 2:02.63 with the team of Nieman, junior Jenna Thronsdon, freshman Brynlee Hayek and junior Makinley Lutgen.

Nieman was on-point with a 1:04.87 in the open 400, faster than anything she ran last year as a freshman. That earned Nieman a third-place finish.

Bakula commended Nieman and Stika for their standout efforts in the indoor meet that was comprised of league foes South Winn, MFL MarMac, Kee High, Central Elkader, Clayton Ridge, North Fayette Valley, Postville and West Central.

"This is Bella's second year. We're seeing that growth, as well as Hazel (Nieman)," said Bakula.

Kuennen placed fourth in the long jump (14-5) – an event she's never competed in on the high school level.

"She's setting herself up to be at least one of the top long jumpers, assuming that she stays healthy and doesn't have any issues," said Bakula.

Gruenberg was fifth in the open 200 in 30.87.

The TV boys team placed fifth with 36 points. MFL MarMac took home top honors in the team standings with 112 points, four better than second-place Central Elkader (108 points).

Turkey Valley's Kaden Schmidt, a sophomore, had himself a day as he crossed the

SEE TV TRACK, 9



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Chickasaw girls show their potential with solid runs at Riverhawk

By KELLY TERPSTRA
sports@nhtrib.com

New Hampton freshman Aleigha Cahoy is poised for big things out on the oval this spring for her Chickasaws.

Ditto for senior Taylor Ries and sophomore Sophie Glaser.

The same could be said for almost the entire roster of Jeanette Laures' New Hampton girls track team in 2025.

In the second indoor meet of the season last week Tuesday in Mason City at the Riverhawk Invite, Laures tested the waters, so to speak, by entering several of her marquee athletes in different events than what took place a week earlier at the Wartburg Indoor.

"We got to see kids in different events that will allow us to make decisions moving forward," said Laures, in her 20th season as head coach at New Hampton.

Cahoy was front and center for the Chickasaws as she raced to the finals amongst 81 competitors in the 60-meter dash. Cahoy tied for 10th overall in the preliminary round of the sprint event with a clip of 8.48. She would go on to cross the finish line in 13th place in the finals in 8.52 out of 16 competitors.

Another star freshman for New Hampton, Jersey Pemble, ran the anchor leg on New Hampton's fourth-place 4x800 team, which finished with a time of 11:16 and included freshman Adrianna Kinley, sophomore Kinslee Rings and senior Natalie Nosbisch.

"Our freshmen are stepping to some big roles. Jersey ran a respectable 800 for her first one of the season. We look for them to contribute in big ways this spring along with the other freshmen as well," Laures added.

NH senior Taylor Ries flew around the oval with a blistering time of 2:35 to place third in the open 800. Not to be outdone, fellow senior Kinsley Hackman was seventh in the 400 dash (1:08).

Chickasaw sophomore Sophie Glaser competed to a

sixth-place finish in the 1,500

run (mile) in 5:37.

"Sophie is such a driven, focused athlete. I know she'll show a lot of progress throughout the season due to her work ethic," said the NH coach.

New Hampton's 4x400 relay of sophomore Capri Lester, Pemble, junior Ella Knutson and Rings placed fourth as well in 4:33.

The Chickasaw distance medley team of Cahoy, Hackman, Ries and Glaser worked its way to a third fourth-place finish for NH in 4:42.

"It's nice opportunity to get this race in during the indoor season as many indoor meets don't have that race," said Laures.

Lester also finished 11th in the 200 dash in 29.34.

New Hampton competed in the NEIC Indoor meet at Luther College in Decorah this past Tuesday.

The outdoor season opener is slated to go down in Waverly on Thursday, April 3 in the Go-Hawk Earlybird.

RIVERHAWK INVITE	
NEW HAMPTON RESULTS	
60 dash prelims -	10. Aleigha Cahoy 8.48, 26. Ava Leichtman 8.86, 29. Madison Shawver 8.93, 37. Zoey Kellogg 9.15.
60 dash finals -	13. Cahoy 8.52, 200 dash - 11. Capri Lester 29.34, 16. Leichtman 30.37.
400 dash -	7. Kinsley Hackman 1:08.12, 19. Ella Knutson 1:11.53.
800 run -	3. Taylor Ries 2:35.93, 9. Gretta Kuehner 2:53.78.
1,500 run -	6. Sophie Glaser 5:37.53, 20. Juanita Cardona 6:07.46.
60 hurdles -	28. Kadence Rings 11.38, 30. Bailee Tenge 11.46, 41. Sydney Laures 11.8.
4x60 -	7. Cahoy, Hackman, Leichtman, Shawver 34.07.
4x200 -	19. Kellogg, Laures, Rylie Vsetecka, Ava Trende 2:09.
4x400 -	4. Lester, Jersey Pemble, Knutson, Kinslee Rings 4:33.27.
4x800 -	4. Adrianna Kinley, Ki. Rings, Natalie Nosbisch, Pemble 11:16.74.
Distance medley -	4. Cahoy, Hackman, Ries, Glaser 4:42.33.
Shuttle hurdle -	9. Tenge, Ka. Rings, Laures, Knutson 44.51.
High jump -	16. Kinley 4-4, Pemble NH.
Long jump -	19. Tenge 13-10.5.
Shot put -	21. Braelyn Rosonke 27-7, 21. Ki. Rings 27-7, 38. Laures 22-7.

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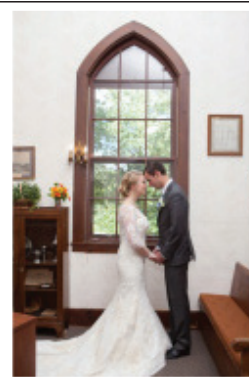


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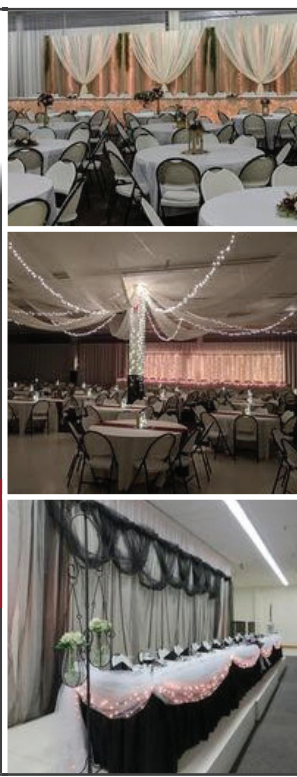
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Security State Bank's Grant Anderson (left) and Dustin Lewis discuss some banking business in Anderson's office.

Bob Fenske/Tribune

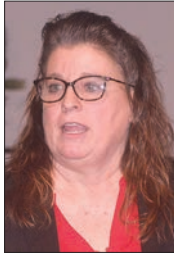
Progress, some seen, some not, being made

By Bob Fenske
editor@nhtrib.com

Go to dictionary.com, look up the word “progress” and the first definition you’ll find is this: A movement toward a goal or to a further or higher stage.

Notice it doesn’t say that movement can always be clearly seen.

Just ask New Hampton Economic Development Director Tammy Robinson, who during a recent interview, shared once again that her field is one where a lot of work takes place behind the scenes.



Robinson

“We might go for a long time without what you would call a major announcement from Megan or me,” she said, referring to her assistant, Megan Baltes, “but it doesn’t mean we’re just sitting around and twiddling our thumbs. We have things in the works, and sometimes economic development is happening but it’s just not that visual.”

Robinson has worked in economic development for more than three decades — first as an assistant to directors like Herman Meyer and Bob Soukup and for the past 14 years as the department’s director.

So she gets that there are ebbs and flows — like the recent news that Bay Valley Foods will be phasing out production later this summer at its New Hampton plant where 54 employees currently work.

“I don’t like it, I don’t think anyone should,” she said, “but at the same time, we have local industries who are hiring. We have a lot of jobs listed on our website right now.”

“And if they’re not listed, they should,” Baltes said, “because that’s where we’re pushing Bay Valley employees.”

The two listed off several New Hampton manufacturers who are seeking employees.

Asked if the so-called employee shortage was still an issue in New Hampton, Robinson said jobs are definitely available in Chickasaw County.

“It slowed down for a little bit, but seriously, look at our website, and that doesn’t include some places we know are looking,” she

SEE PROGRESS, 7

GROWING FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

SECURITY STATE EMPLOYEES
APPRECIATE BEING PART OF
BUILDING BANK FROM SCRATCH

By Bob Fenske
editor@nhtrib.com

In some ways, the timing was way off; after all, the day Security State Bank opened its doors in New Hampton five years ago came just a couple of weeks after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 30, 2020, though, Grant Anderson, Nick Winter, Dustin Lewis and Cindy Holthaus opened the doors to the mobile home their bank would call home for more than two years and welcomed customers to New Hampton’s newest bank.

They say timing is everything, and as strange as it sounds, the bank that has seen so many changes over the past five years may have nailed it when it came to opening during one of the strangest stretches in our lifetime.

Schools had closed two weeks earlier, numerous businesses followed suit, March Madness was canceled, ditto for pro sports, and heck, for a while, you couldn’t even go to a salon or a barber shop to get a haircut.

“People wanted that interaction,” Anderson said. “Nick and I were out and about every day on calls. People just loved you stopping out there, because no one had seen anybody. ...



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Security State Bank’s Nick Winter (above) talks with customer Colin Larsen while Cindy Holthaus (right) talks with another customer on the phone.

The timing was perfect; rates were low. I know it sounds strange, but in some ways, the timing was perfect.”

The bank that started with humble beginnings is going strong, and the

SEE BANK, 3





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'Right crew' at bank appreciates support of customers and community

BANK: FROM 2

"Original Four" have amassed a lifetime of stories in five short years.

"It's how a community bank should be," Security State Bank President and CEO Darin Johnson said.

"I knew we had the right crew when we decided to do this, and they've built something pretty special over the last five years. ... And you're right, it's a heck of a story."

ON FEB. 3, 2020, Anderson, Winter and Lewis resigned their positions at Fidelity Bank and Trust, and the next day, they went to work for Johnson's bank, one based in the northwest Iowa town of Sutherland.

Security State Bank had a branch in Elma so it wasn't as if he didn't have some connections to the area, but still, this was, well, a leap of faith — for both Johnson and his three newest employees.

"It was kind of a daunting task when you started with zero customers, zero deposits. We started from, I mean, literally from scratch."

They'd meet at Anderson's home each morning, go over their plans for the day and, as Lewis put it, "we really started working out of our vehicle right away because they had to get the trailer ready so we hopped in the truck every day and drove around talking to potential customers."

Oh yes, the trailer, which will always be part of Security State Bank lore.

Obviously, a bank needs a building, and Security State found one that mobile home that was home to a credit union for years and reached an agreement with the trailer's owner, Adam Geerts to rent it.

"It was set up basically for a bank," Lewis said and Anderson pointed out that "it had the drive-up window and everything."

So between Anderson's home and occasionally working out of the Elma branch, they laid the foundation.

Once the trailer was ready and the regulatory approval was in hand, the bank opened



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Security State Bank's Dustin Lewis, Nick Winter and Grant Anderson enjoy a light moment in the cramped office shared by Winter and Anderson at the "trailer" before the bank opened for business in March 2020 while the trio is joined by Cindy Holthaus for a photo (right) of the "Original Four" taken at the bank recently.

its doors to customers.

THE PLAN BACK in the winter of 2020 was for Holthaus to help train the bankers so that once the trailer was ready they could hit the ground running.

She had worked at People's Savings Bank in Elma since 1998, and at the time, she figured her daily trips to New Hampton were a temporary gig.

"She came down to do training, and we didn't give her back," Anderson said, "but seriously, she was a ..."

As the branch president searched for the right word, Lewis found it. "Lifesaver."

Remember, it was a strange time. One of the trainers for the new bank software lived in Nebraska and when she heard that interstate travel might be shut down because of COVID, she left.

"Banking is banking," Winter said, "but every bank has different procedures, software and all that, and Cindy knew all that stuff. If we had a question about how something was done, we went right to her."

Holthaus has absolutely zero — nada, zilch — regrets about staying on in New Hampton.

And, she too, has some stories about the trailer.

"I remember the first time I walked into it, it was like how are we going to make

this work? But we all got along so well," she said. "It was amazing. Those are some good memories from there. It brought us closer together."

THE FIRST YEAR the bank was open flew by fast.

The bank reached its year one goals in just three months and a week, and the bank's portfolio continued to grow. Some customers had worked with Anderson, Winter and/or Lewis for years, but a substantial number were new.

In the spring of 2021, Security State Bank broke ground on a new permanent location just off West Milwaukee Avenue across the street from Klunder's Kafe and Kwik Star.

The land was purchased from Lewis' grandfather, Vern Laures, and construction began that summer.

All the while, the folks of Security State Bank made that trailer work. Winter and Anderson shared an office that was adjacent to Lewis' even smaller office.

As Anderson put it, there was no "social distancing."

Winter was asked about sharing an office, and his answer came quick.

"It was a magical experience," Winter said, tongue firmly planted in cheek. "You know, you save a lot of time on inter-company memos. You



knew everything that was going on. It was hard to miss much. We were locked step for 2 1/2 years."

They made it work, knowing and hoping that the trailer was temporary quarters.

"If we did stay there, then we knew it wasn't working out," Lewis said.

"There had to be certain goals met before we could get to this," Anderson said, "and that happened a lot faster than we anticipated I think on both ends."

Their new building was completed in the spring of 2022, and on May 31, they made the move. Winter was free from Anderson; Anderson was free from Winter.

"I know I joke around a lot," Winter said, "and before I get serious, one more for you: We could always tell when we pissed Lewie off because you'd hear the blind on the window that was by our office go down. But seriously, we made it work. I think in a way it made us the bank we wanted to be."

THEY HAVE SETTLED in nicely at their West Milwaukee location.

All three bankers do installment lending, Lewis works

on the real-estate side and Anderson and Winter focus more on ag and commercial lending.

Holthaus, meanwhile, works in the lobby and other bank employees include Conner Rochford, Elissa Bundy and Colton Ashley, who is continuing the tradition of the bank employing students on a part-time basis.

"It is a fun place to work," Holthaus said, "but I think everyone here knows that our customers always come first. It's been a pretty amazing journey for all of us."

More than anything, though, the bank's employees, especially the "Original Four," appreciate that Johnson has been true to his word.

"He said it's going to be your guys' bank," Anderson said. "He took out his keys, put them down and said, 'You're going to have the keys to this thing, and you'll run it. You know the community and you know the people.' And that hasn't changed one bit in five years."

Johnson, for his part, said that he's appreciative of the efforts his New Hampton bank employees have given Security State Bank over the past five

years.

"The first thing is we're local," he said. "Our decisions for the bank there are made in New Hampton ... not Sutherland. I meant it when I said it five years ago and I'll always mean that. And I'm extremely happy with what they've done. They built a bank from the ground up and it's a pretty cool story."

And in many ways, it's reinvigorated those who come to work at the bank every day, especially Anderson, who began his banking career in 1986 right after receiving his degree from Iowa State University.

"We definitely had humble beginnings," Anderson said, "but to be a part of something like this — to go from where we were five years ago to where we are now — it's hard to describe. I'm just proud that I get to be part of something like this."

He paused for a moment and smiled.

"And I think all of us in this room realize we wouldn't be where we're at without our customers and our community," he said as both Winter and Lewis nodded their heads in agreement. "We can't thank them enough."

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Service remains king for longtime family-owned business

Geerts Plumbing and Heating has been a staple in Northeast Iowa for over 45 years

By Kelly Terpstra
sports@nhtrib.com

Keeping up with the times, but also continuing a tradition of honest work with a loyal customer base that expects nothing but the best. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Perhaps that's why Geerts Plumbing and Heating in New Hampton has been able to be as successful as they have been in Northeast Iowa catering to customers' needs for well over 45 years now.

The family-run business – owned by Adam and Brenda Geerts – has also been able to adapt and expand in an ever-changing landscape that can at times be difficult for any company.

The Geerts family has helped area residents with HVAC repair, maintenance, installation, service, plumbing and a whole lot more for three generations, dating back to Geerts' grandpa Louis Geerts, then Adam's father Steve Geerts.

"Our tagline, if you will, is fast professional service, but along with that is the biggest thing that we try to provide is exceptional service. We feel that being a small company in a small town we have to deliver the best service possible. So it's our goal to give five-star service every time," said Adam Geerts.

Geerts' business is rooted in family values. Louis Geerts started his own business in New Hampton called Louis Geerts Plumbing and Heating – which he later sold and became New Hampton Plumbing and Heating. Louis worked for that company until his retirement in 1984.

Adam – a 1998 New Hampton High School grad – would tag along and assist his grandpa on house calls growing up.

"When I was a kid, I remember helping my grandpa check boilers at the church and going on other service calls he had," said Geerts. That valuable experience helped him learn the trade and sharpen his skills when one day he purchased his father Steve's business.

Steve – the current mayor of New Hampton and the fire chief of the town for 24 years – founded the modern day incarnation of Geerts Plumbing and Heating in 1978. Adam said his uncles Ted and John, along with Steve, were three of Louis' six boys in the family that all worked in the plumbing/HVAC trades.



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

The "tagline" for Adam Geerts' family-owned business may be "fast professional service" but he will quickly add that providing exceptional service is a key for small businesses like the one he owns with his wife Brenda.

"When my dad started, it was just him and a nephew Scott Geerts," said Adam.

Geerts' current business has expanded three times and has been at its current location at 913 N. Linn Avenue since when Adam was a senior in high school back in '98.

"The first location was across the road from New Hampton Electric. I think that was basically a one-stall garage. The second location was where the current Zip's driveway is now," Adam said.

Steve employed Adam for many years and with his son returning to the family-owned business full-time in 2008, Adam and Brenda bought out his father three years later in 2011.

"I worked for my dad in high school and then when I graduated high school I went to a tech school," said Adam. "I worked for dad on and off for quite a few years and also worked at a wholesale house as an HVAC manager in Waterloo."

Adam said his father still has a role and impact with the business he founded when "Charlie's Angels," bell-bottom jeans and platform shoes were all the rave.

SEE GEERTS, 7



Photo courtesy of Adam Geerts

Geerts Plumbing and Heating employee DJ Schueth works on an air-conditioning unit.

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Nashua barber Tom Johnson gives John Fox a haircut at his shop that is located on Main Street.

Carrying on tradition

Nashua barber follows in his father's footsteps

By Kelly Terpstra
sports@nhtrib.com

An antique cash register sits near the front of Tom Johnson's barbershop in downtown Nashua.

A Nashua-Plainfield sports calendar adorns a backdrop of large mirrors on the wall. Right nearby there's the customary and required blue jar filled with combs and scissors ready at Johnson's disposal to cut and trim the hair of countless patrons that walk through his door.

This was and still is on a much smaller scale nowadays – America at its finest.

They just don't make 'em like this much anymore.

Gone are the red, white and blue barber poles outside almost any shop across the nation. Salons, studios, hair-dressers and stylists have taken over the large share of customers that once needed no appointment to get a quick clip around the ears.

Vic and Tom's Barbershop – as it's still called as an homage to his late father, World War II veteran Victor Johnson – could well be the lone remaining walk-in barbershop in Chickasaw County.

It's been a staple in downtown Nashua at 320 Main St. over 70 years since his father first opened his own barbershop in the mid-50s at the exact same location. Tom took over not long after graduating high school in 1984.

Forty-one years later – a building that has stood the test of time through decades of incremental change in the United States – almost remains untouched and the same as it did not much longer then when the "Second World War" ended back in '45.

You can open the door to Johnson's barber-shop in downtown Nashua and take a step back in time.

Virtually nothing's changed at Tom's shop since Ronald Reagan was president of the U.S. and one of the most famous singers at the time – Madonna – first came on to the scene on MTV.

"There's been very little change. I think the only thing we really changed is the paint on the wall a couple times," said Johnson. "Everything else – the flooring – is the same when I got here."

And that's exactly the way he wants it and so



The antique cash register at Vic and Tom's Barbershop can be seen as the proprietor takes a gander out the window while waiting for his next customer.

do his loyal customers.

Johnson's price for a haircut is affordable at \$12, although the cost of a cut rose to \$12 in early February. He accepts straight cash – no card or Apple Pay. If cell phones weren't a big thing back in the 80s when Michael Jackson was doing the "moonwalk," why would they be in 2025 when you sit down in Johnson's barber stool?

If it's not broke, don't fix it.

Johnson said the majority of his customers are from out of town.

On a beautiful spring day in mid-March a few Friday's ago, John Fox, who lives just up the road on the Avenue of the Saints in nearby Midway, stopped in for a cut. He's been getting his hair trimmed by Johnson for 30 years – since 1995.

"My mom always cut my hair until she passed away, then I had to find a barber," said Fox. "It was the first time I had a haircut outside of home."

What's changed about Johnson since that time according to Fox?

"He's a little more gray," smiled Fox. "We all get older."

Johnson laughed in between cuts of Fox's fading salt-and-pepper hair and said "a lot less hair," chuckled Johnson.

Soon after Fox ponied up and paid for his

SEE BARBER, 7

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Retirement beckons for high school secretary

McGrath ready for next chapter but she'll miss students and co-workers

By Kelly Terpstra
sports@nhtrib.com

The squeaking of tennis shoes racing down the hallway to get to class on time or the zipper on a backpack sliding in place to secure a textbook.

The crumpling of paper, the crinkling of a candy wrapper or a student sharpening their pencil.

Life is an auditory landscape. A cacophony of motion and noise – bells and whistles – especially in a school setting.

Maybe that's what Karen McGrath will miss the most about New Hampton High School when she calls it a career in a few months.

"It's going to be quiet. It's always so quiet when the kids leave school. I hate that day," said McGrath. "It's like the beginning of the year, too, when you come back to work and the kids are gone – it's too quiet when they're not in the building."

McGrath's last day of school will be Friday, May 23 after 13 years as a beloved secretary at NHHS.

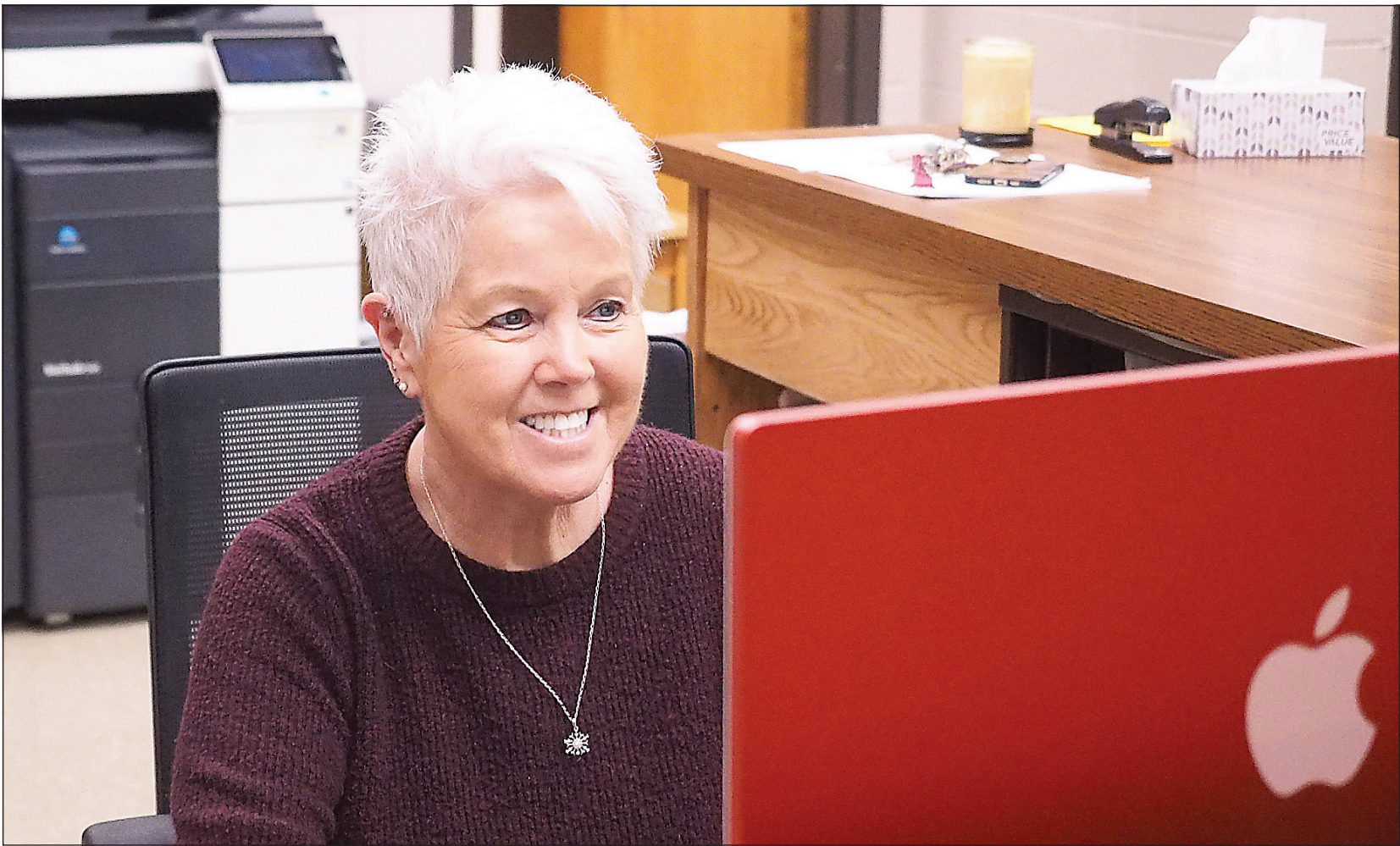
There at her desk, just past the front entrance of the school where she first started working in the 2012-2013 academic calendar year, sets a dish of candy.

Everybody loves a sweet treat.

When your week's not going as planned or life has got you down – McGrath oftentimes extends her hand to a student that's had a difficult day to offer up a bit of sweetness in the form of the confectionery concoction. Along with McGrath's kind words and encouragement, the simple pleasure of biting into something soft and chewy can brighten up anyone's day.

"I keep my stash of candy. It makes them feel better," McGrath laughed. "They all need to have a piece of chocolate. Even if we have kids in here that are struggling that need a timeout – I offer 'em chocolate."

Those encounters or discussions might not last long, but her students will surely remember the moments when they could reach out and



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

For the past 12 years, Karen McGrath has been a mainstay in the New Hampton High School office where the secretary has helped innumerable students and staff members in a variety of ways.

talk to someone that would listen – that cared and understood.

"Just talk to them and listen," she said about the best advice she has for somebody dealing with a young adult that may be dealing with problems teenagers face nowadays. "They want somebody to listen to 'em."

Lending a kind ear is just part of McGrath's day, as she punches in and unlocks the doors to the school around 7:30 a.m. The first period buzzer sounds at 8:05 a.m. sharp.

McGrath, a 1978 NHHS grad who was a barber for a couple years fresh out of high school, says she likes routine.

"Mornings are busy taking calls, logging calls in and taking attendance. If kids are unexcused you have to call parents and make sure where they're at," said McGrath.

That's important to remember. Keeping tabs on where students are at during the day is one of the most important aspects of her job.

"Most of the daily stuff is keeping track of students and their whereabouts," said McGrath. "Keeping them accountable – especially the past few days when it's been so nice out. They've been naughty."

McGrath also makes sure that she's not

heavy-handed or enters into interrogation mode when handling a student that has broken the rules. Discipline is sometimes necessary – but she's not militant about it.

"I don't quiz them too much on it," said McGrath about an incident that may need correction or a situation that occurred that may need more investigation.

McGrath said Principal Matt Manson is another authority figure in the school that she works along with. They reside in the same office.

"Matt deals with them and sometimes they spend time with me," said McGrath.

Of course there are excuses. Patience and the right attitude are essential, she said, in dealing with those justifications for behavior that isn't in line with school policy.

"You hear it all," said McGrath.

Those interactions – no matter how big or small – oftentimes have a positive outcome.

"You see some kids and if they're naughty they visit me quite often. As they get older you see them mature and you don't see them as often," said McGrath. "They'll stop in and talk to you. Most of them I get along with."

But there's a lot more that McGrath does during school hours – where no one day is the same as the other.

That's something she dealt with as a law enforcement dispatcher for Chickasaw County for roughly 17 years prior to taking the secretary job at New Hampton.

"It was always something different – always different stuff going on," said McGrath. "It wasn't boring. It was helping people."

Key word – people.

That's what McGrath really loves.

"You have to be a people person," said McGrath. "You gotta have the right personality. You gotta multi-task, but a lot of it is who you are as a person to be able to do the job. I think working as a dispatcher helped me to be able to do this job – just being able to work with all different kinds of people."

In the end, that's what she'll miss the most – the people.

"I'll miss the people and the students," said McGrath. "I love working with people in all aspects of it. You couldn't put me in a job where I didn't deal with people."

One thing is for certain – students and colleagues alike will also miss McGrath's smile, her understanding warmth, her firm way of speaking – but in a nice way – and her candy.

That means retirement is just around the bend for the mother of three boys – Matt, Josh and Jeremy.

She may not be away that long – at least in a full-time capacity. McGrath said she would be interested in substitute teaching.

"I have to be off four months because of IPERs," said McGrath. "I like to have something to do. I don't really have any plans right now. I'm going to do some quilting and golfing."

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Bob Fenske/Tribune

Mikkelson Park, home to Heartland Days each summer, is part of a parks system that city officials say is a strong draw to potential new residents.

Housing is New Hampton's top priority

PROGRESS: FROM 2

said. "I think people would be surprised to see what's out there right now."

Robinson and Baltes were asked what the No. 1 challenge facing New Hampton is today, and they quickly answered in unison.

"Housing."

"Daycare and continuing to fill our industrial park will all continue," Robinson said. "That doesn't go away, but IDC [the Industrial Development Corp.] is pretty much said they have to focus on housing."

Robinson's answer to those who say why isn't more being done on the housing front is that it's an "incredibly challenging" issue.

"It's not like city and business leaders don't see it," she said, "but how do we get over that hump? Trust me, if there was an easy answer, we would have snatched that up years ago. It's the infrastructure that is so costly, and finding ways

to incentivize that is just really hard."

She said her office is looking at a variety of housing options — ranging from duplexes to triplexes to a workforce housing project that will have a pre-built home placed on an empty lot and then be sold.

The home consists of three bedrooms and two bathrooms, and Baltes said "it's affordable to the average person, it's why it's called workforce housing. It's a way to replace dilapidated housing."

Robinson said that the home, which will be placed on a vacant lot on South Chestnut Avenue that is owned by the IDC is being used as a test case.

"If it works, it's something we'll keep pursuing," she said. "We have to be creative when it comes to housing."

Robinson said other projects in the works are placing two new roads in the city's south-side industrial park that is currently home to ATEK and Mid-American Energy.

"We're actively recruiting. Now, they're going to be smaller companies, that's our focus," she said. "We're not looking for the 1,000-employee companies, we're looking for the smaller companies. If you're going to do that, they have to be shovel ready, and if we don't have shovel ready in the industrial park, we're not going to get anywhere."

New Hampton remains attractive to companies for a variety of reasons. One, it's size makes development go quicker.

"It doesn't take a year to get permits," she said, "and it all can be done in a relatively short amount of time and that's huge for industries."

And there are the amenities — ranging from its schools to the hospital to the parks system — the city has.

"I still give a lot of community tours," Robinson said, "and if they have young kids, obviously the school is on top of the list, but everyone wants to see the hospital, wants to see the parks. It matters, and it helps."

Geerts a makes pitch for the trades

GEERTS: FROM 4

"He still helps out here and there," said Adam. "He works with the newer, younger guys and helps train them on the basic skills and some of the old school stuff."

How much has changed for the business Steve started out 47 years ago? That answer isn't black and white, but one Adam answered the best he could.

"We kind of still do everything we've always done, but we're trying to specialize more into certain avenues with essentially the trade deficit we're in," said Geerts. "The trades are in a deficit, so sometimes it's tough to grow and continue to expand on certain parts of the business."

Projections indicate that by 2027, there will be a shortfall of about 550,000 plumbers nationwide.

Adam said there is starting to become somewhat of a resurgence in the trade industry — but like anything, it can take time to build up to what it once was decades ago.

"They're starting to," said Adam Geerts. "The awareness is definitely there. The main point I would like to see is the younger generation really looking at getting into the trades, whether it's plumbing, HVAC, welding, electrical — whatever it is. You're going to see some of these jobs start turning into six-figure jobs in the near future. It's obviously important — it's a necessity. You have to have plumbing. You have to have heating. You have to have electrical."

Adam said the cost is pretty reasonable to enroll in a trade school, get your feet wet, learn the skills necessary to do the job and enter the workforce in a relative short amount of time.

"If you take somebody that's completely green and run 'em through an apprenticeship program — that's four years, 8,000 hours of training to get to where they could take their journeyman test," said Geerts. "After that it goes on for a while to really develop your service skills and stuff like that. They can come out of college and have it paid off pretty quick."

While a lot in the HVAC industry and

what Geerts deals with on a daily basis hasn't changed, the way to go about finding solutions and fixing problems has. A major invention and innovation that has altered almost everyone's lives — whether it's in business or just in everyday life — is Artificial Intelligence, known as "AI." It's been a game-changer for Geerts' chosen profession.

"The technology is probably the most rapid change that we're seeing," said Geerts. "I use A.I. almost all day — in some form of it."

How does this "machine learning" affect installing an A.C. unit or setting up a house call for a repair?

Geerts explained.

"It doesn't, you still need a human to turn a wrench, hang the pipe or carry something up the ladder. Where it does help is for accelerated learning like with the use of virtual reality labs, you can use VR now to learn almost every aspect of Plumbing/HVAC before you have to do it in the field," said Adam.

Geerts Plumbing and Heating serves customers in New Hampton, Fredericksburg, Lawler, Nashua, Charles City, Alta Vista, Elma and the surrounding area. Adam said his company will usually drive around a 30-mile radius outside of New Hampton to meet his customers' needs.

Geerts Plumbing and Heating has 14 employees — including Adam's wife Brenda and his cousin Justin Geerts.

The current location comprises over 11,000 square feet and includes a showroom.

Geerts also provides well pump work, water conditioning, septic systems, underground water and sewer lines, gas fireplaces and geothermal as well. Adam said his business has expanded its well-pump services.

Adam said his father will celebrate his 70th birthday soon. Of course Steve is proud of his son continuing the family business and legacy of serving customers in northeast Iowa.

"I feel like he is relieved that I am running the business right and continue to carry on the tradition of service and taking care of the customers," said Adam.

Customers come from wide area

BARBER: FROM 5

cut, the rumble of a bright green motorcycle engine could be heard as Jamie Jones of Charles City pulled his fancy and tricked-out custom motorcycle up to the curb in front of Johnson's business.

He was in need of a cut. "I've been coming here for a long time," said Jones.

Not as long as Fox, but when Johnson was out of commission after he suffered a torn bicep back in May of last year, Jones was left without a place he trusted to get his hair cut. Johnson was off of work for about three months but opened up his shop shortly thereafter on a part-time basis three days a week. Doctor's orders.

"When he wasn't able for a few months last year, it was kind of a pain in the ass running around trying to get my haircut. I had to go up in Osage. Everywhere else it seemed like you had to make an appointment. I went to two of them actually. They turned me away because you had to have an appointment. Then the third lady was like, 'come on in, I'll do you up.'"

Jones said that third person to cut his hair actually knew Johnson and went to barber school with him.

Johnson couldn't pin-point exactly how many customers he sees on average throughout the week, but it pays the bills and has allowed him to do the things he wants to do.

"It's been enough to keep me here," said Johnson. "I know what I'd like to see every week, but I don't always get that. That's one of — I don't want to say negatives — on not taking appointments. Some weeks we're busy, some weeks we're not so busy."

Johnson's shop is an amazing tale of perseverance and longevity.

Johnson's father was a gunner in WWII and was actually a prisoner of war during his time in combat in the European theater. Tom said he owes his business to his father. "Vic" was a licensed barber for 50 years and a volunteer fireman for 22 years. Tom has followed in his father's footsteps in that line of work also as he's the current Fire Chief in Nashua.

"Vic" passed away in 2006 at the age of 80.

"I was fortunate my dad was there. He had already been here probably 40 years," said Johnson. "He was pushing people on me when I first started. People my age coming in — I was gaining them. So it was a pretty good deal for me. He really helped get me boosted in here and keeping me here."

Tom decided to stick around for a while, he liked the job so much.

"If he wasn't there — when I got out of high school I didn't know what to do," said Johnson. "I'm pretty grateful, really, for 40 years of being able to support a family."

Of course Johnson could tell you some stories about the people he's met over the course of four decades.

"I enjoy meeting some people that I probably wouldn't have the chance to meet if I wouldn't have been doing this. It's really cool when you're



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

Longtime customer Jamie Jones gets a haircut from Tom Johnson recently.

getting invited into what's going on in their life," said Johnson. "You keep up on how their kids are progressing, what's going on with their folks — in their world, what's going on with their work life. That's always been a plus in this profession, I guess."

You'll hear it all in a barbershop, that's for sure. That includes talk of politics, the price of eggs, sports, the weather outside — you name it. Johnson just lends an ear and tries to not sway too far either way on opinions or controversial matters. Not to say he stays on the fence, but any good shop owner knows their customers well and to not draw their ire.

"I've been fortunate to listen to a lot of interesting facts — some not so-facts," laughed Johnson. "People's opinions — I'm here to listen. That's my job. I don't try to steer anyone one direction or another. I don't necessarily agree with everybody that comes in here, but they're nice people and I'm here to listen."

Johnson said there's several reasons why walk-in barbershops are falling by the wayside while his business remains strong to this day.

"I shouldn't speak for the industry by any means, but I think a lot of it is just the fact that the benefit packages that they can get at a factory job or something like that — 401 (k)'s. There's all this stuff you need to do on your own and it takes time. It takes time to build a clientele up. Some people just don't have the patience to sit there for years and years to build up the numbers that you need," Johnson added.

Johnson also said barbers who solely cut hair and don't take appointments are more scarce because of other monetary reasons as well.

"It's a money thing. The money in this industry is with chemical services. The perms, the colors — you get return business often and you can charge more," said Johnson. "You're able to tie products to it. Straight-up haircuts — there's just not a lot of them doing just that anymore."

His established business also holds job security, which means the money he's generated from his business can't be all that bad.

"When I was going to school they always said this is a job you'll never be laid off on," said Johnson. "They're right. Thankfully, I've never had a day where I got skunked and nobody showed up."

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Instructor takes to road less traveled to his shop

New Hampton industrial technology teacher takes plenty of paths before landing a gig he enjoys 'a lot'

By BOB FENSKE
editor@nhtrib.com



Damian Spratt took the road less traveled to teaching; in fact, one might be able to argue that the New Hampton High School industrial technology instructor went on a route no one had taken before.

"I took a lot of different paths," he said during a recent early morning interview in his classroom. "Put them all together, and it brought me here, and honestly, I have no regrets. I could go to industry and make two to three times more than I'm making now, but I enjoy it. I enjoy it a lot. ... This is essentially my personal shop that I get to manage, and I get to impact a lot of young people. That's pretty cool."

But the road from Greene, where Spratt graduated from high school back in 2006, to New Hampton just may be the curviest one ever taken.

Try to keep up with us: High school to culinary to the military to college to starting a catering company to managing a coffee shop to working as a paraprofessional and janitor to college again (and honestly, we missed a few academic pursuits in an effort to condense space) led to Spratt landing that "pretty cool" job at New Hampton High.

He remembers that day a few years ago when he came to the school to interview for the open industrial technology teaching position. At the time, he was finishing up work on his teaching career at the University of Northern Iowa and was being heavily recruited by a school in Illinois.

"If I went to Illinois, it was three hours away and I'd probably have

Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton High School industrial technology student Paul Schwier (right) helps Israel Ortiz with a project on the engine lathe during a metal fabrication class in the school's shop.

SEE SPRATT, 2

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An industrial tech story: Like mother, like daughter

New Hampton High School looks to debunk stereotypes when it comes to trades like welding

By Bob Fenske
editor@nhtrib.com

Austyn Rosonke knows that she's not the stereotypical welder, but then again, neither was the New Hampton High School freshman's mother.

But she hopes just like Chelsi Rosonke, she's helping break the mold when it comes to how women view the trades.

Austyn may be three years away from graduating high school — don't remind her — but as of now, her plan is to go into fabrication and welding. If she does, she'll be following in her parents' footsteps.

You see, Austyn is a budding star in her school's industrial technology program. She's the president of the Skills USA chapter, and she'll join four other New Hampton students in competing at the organization's state competition in Des Moines April 10-11.

"I've always been interested in what my parents do and that kind of inspired me to go into the industrial tech stuff we have," she said, "but I'll be honest, I wasn't expecting to get as involved as I am when I started, but I am really glad that I did."

So too, is her industrial technology teacher

SEE ROSONKE, 8



Bob Fenske/Tribune
Austyn Rosonke, who joined her parents for a picture in a Tribune story 5 1/2 years ago, studies for her upcoming Skills USA state competition.



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Bob Fenske/Tribune
New Hampton High School industrial technology teacher Damian Spratt (above) goes over the plan for the day with his building trade students who are constructing a shed that has been sold to one of Spratt's fellow faculty members.

Teacher is definitely a lifelong learner

SPRATT: FROM 1

to stay in a hotel Monday through Friday and come home until my wife and I could buy a home," he said. "I thought about it, but then I saw this job opening, applied and came up for an interview."

And suddenly Illinois didn't seem like such a good option.

"They gave me a tour," Spratt said, "and I saw the all the equipment and the size of the shop and man, I thought, this has a lot of potential."

AFTER GRADUATING from high school, Spratt headed to North Iowa Area Community College to take culinary classes.

"I love cooking, and I lived in the old NIACC dorms back then," he said, "but I had a friend who lived with his grandparents in [Mason City] so I'd go over there a lot. They had a kitchen in the basement, and I cook things up and take them upstairs, and I remember the grandparents telling me, 'You can come over anytime.'"

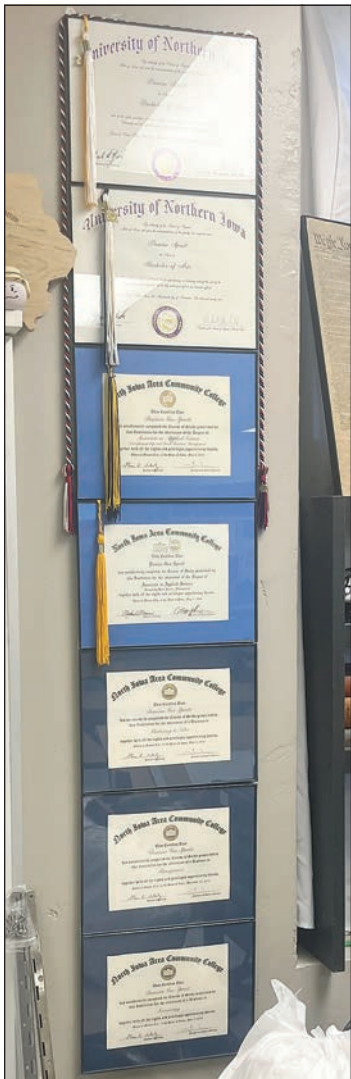
After NIACC, though, he switched paths and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he worked as a weapons loader at an air base in Minot, North Dakota, or as he put it with a laugh, "in the middle of nowhere."

Asked about winters in North Dakota, and he smiled as he recalled the mantra — "freezing is the reason" — he and his fellow airman used to recite.

Spratt said he considered making the Air Force a career, but in the end, the toll on his body was enough to lead him to leave the military when his enlistment was up and head back to college at UNI to earn a business degree.

He started that catering company, worked as a manager at a Scooters in Waverly and then became a janitor and paraeducator at Tripoli, and it was there, that he found his calling.

"I thought this is kind of fun, but I'm not making much money," he said, "so I reached out to the VA and said, 'Hey, I



Damian Spratt's classrooms includes the diplomas and certificates he's earned from higher-education institutions over the years. "It shows that I was doing something during the 15 years I went to colleges," he says with a laugh, "but seriously, I think of myself as a lifelong learner. I always have my nose in a book."

know I'm out of GI bill, but I'd like to pursue something else, I need money,' so they had me take the test for [vocational] rehab and they said, here's the list of different jobs."

One of the occupations that popped up was teacher.

"So the next question was what do I want to teach? I don't want to teach math, I

don't want to teach history. It was like I wanted to be a handyman so why not teach that."

Back to school he went, and he had found his passion.

IT'S 7 A.M. at New Hampton High School, and as usual, Spratt's shop is open.

He commutes from Readlyn every day, waking up long before dawn so he can get a workout in at the Chickasaw Wellness Complex before heading over to the school, where he has "open shop" every day, beginning at 7.

In March, most of the students in his room and shop are members of New Hampton's Skills USA chapter — a club if you will for industrial technology kids — who are working on their projects and practicing for the upcoming state competition.

As his students geared up for state, Spratt shared the story of the ever-changing world of industrial technology, and to put it mildly, these are not our parents' industrial arts classes. And it's certainly not taught in the same shop our parents — mostly fathers — used years ago.

When New Hampton voters approved a \$19.415 million bond referendum in 2017 to build a new middle school, part of the package included a new industrial technology and vocational agriculture center, one that almost doubled in size thanks to community donations.

"It's nice, to say the least," Spratt said. "It gives us a lot of options."

And New Hampton students have plenty of those when it comes to industrial technology classes they can take.

Spratt listed the classes he teaches, and it's a long lineup that includes introduction to drafting and graphic design, intro to manufacturing, building trades, advanced building trades, metal working and advanced manufacturing. There are also two "block"

SEE SPRATT, 3



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SPRATT: FROM 1

The classes listed earlier in this story were in that order for a reason; in short, each, as Spratt



Bob Fenske/Tribune

And he brings in others to drive home that point. On display in that classroom are hats from numerous businesses and colleges who are just as important to the program as the tools



"If you're willing to put in the work," he said, "you're going to get the results. It's those who aren't willing to put the effort in who don't get the results. That's life, not just here in my program but everywhere else, too."

A composite image for an automotive service advertisement. The background is a collage of three photos: a red alignment machine in a garage, a close-up of a tire, and a close-up of a vehicle's front end. Overlaid on this are two red banners with white text. The top banner reads 'New State of the Art Alignment Machine'. The bottom banner reads 'We sell all Makes and Brands of Tires'. At the bottom left is a crossed wrench and screwdriver icon, and at the bottom right is the text 'We service all makes and models of vehicles. Our technicians are GM & Chrysler certified.'

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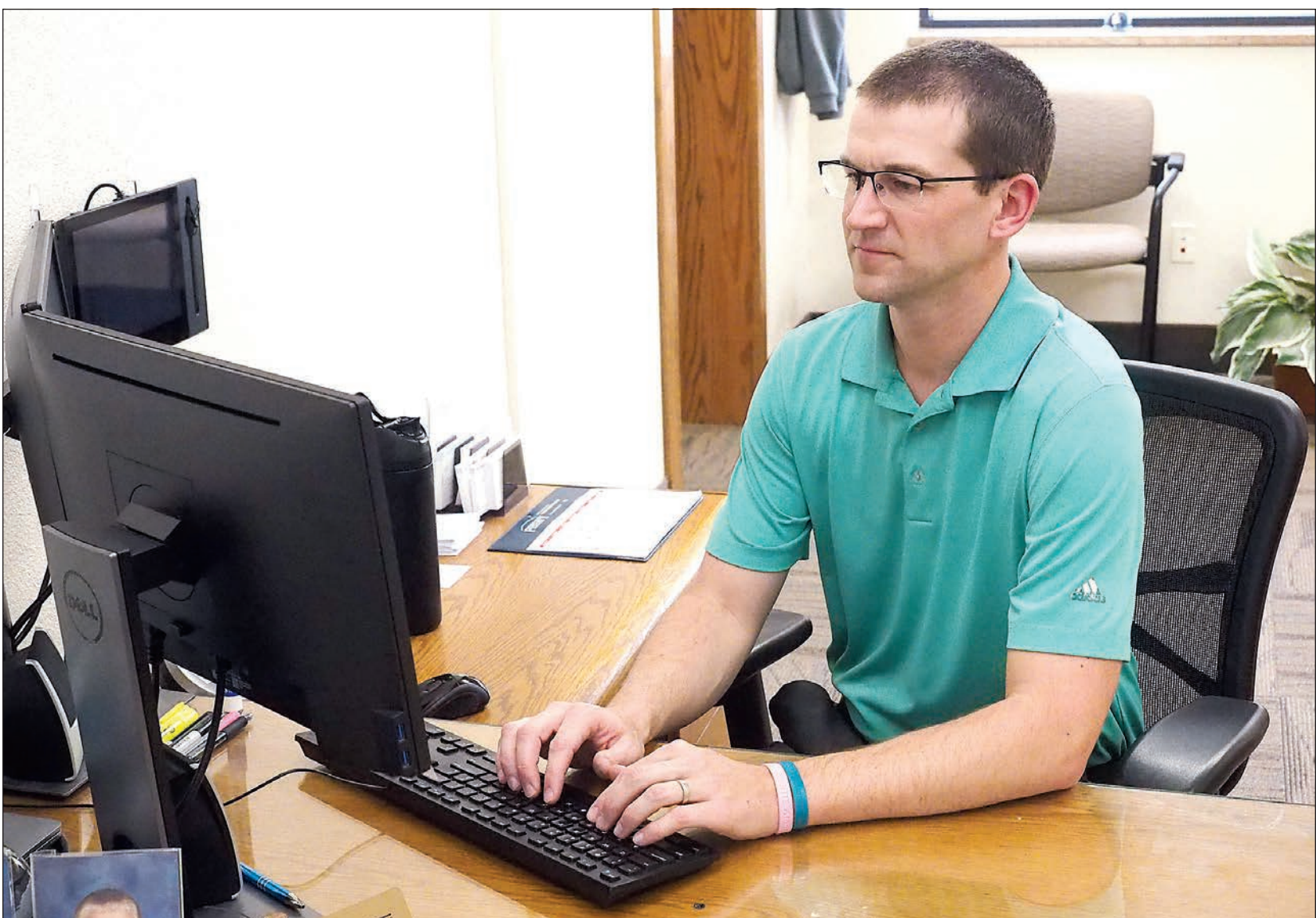
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Integrity matters to banker, new golf coach

Fidelity's Brad Shatek gears up for what will be a busy spring

By Kelly Terpstra
sports@nhtrib.com

Family, faith and honesty. When it comes to banking, farming and even the sport of golf – each of those impactful values matter. Maybe that's why Brad Shatek – Vice President of Ag/Commercial Loans at Fidelity Bank & Trust in New Hampton – has had such a tremendous impact with his customers. “There's trust both ways,” said Shatek, a 2006 New Hampton High School graduate who has worked in the banking industry for around 15 years and almost five at Fidelity. Shatek – recently announced as the new New Hampton boys golf coach – also loves the links game. He talked about what golf and banking have in common – a winning combo if you pay attention to detail, practice integrity and focus on what matters. That also means creating strong bonds with individuals – whether that's in his office at 25 N. Chestnut Avenue in New Hampton, out on a family acreage talking to a farmer or explaining to one of his golfers the right way to hit off a tee or chip on to a green when there's a strong wind from Mother Nature that may impact a shot. It's all about risk and reward for all involved, but strong ties and understanding are very important. “At the end of the day banking is still a relationship industry. We're looking to build that relationship with our customers and to know them on a personal level – deeper than kind of what the numbers show or what you can see on a piece of paper,” said Shatek. Shatek, who has been married to his wife Jamie – a middle school teacher at St. Joe's in New Hampton – for almost 13 years, talked about how his day unfolds. Word of warning – he's the father to three



Fidelity Bank and Trust's Brad Shatek works on his computer at the bank's downtown New Hampton location last week, but life is getting even busier for the 2006 New Hampton High School graduate as he's in the first year of leading Chickasaws like Adam Ewert (below) as the new boys golf coach at his alma mater.

kids – ages eight to one-and-a-half. That task of raising a family can obviously be challenging, but at the same rewarding – much like his job and his aptitude to hit a golf ball. “That can be hectic at times to get everybody up and moving and get fed,” said Shatek. Throw in his new “other” job title as head coach of the Chickasaw linksters and it adds another dimension, but that's one facet of his life he knows he can be manage and be successful at. Confidence is also key. “It's going to be a balancing act for sure,” said Shatek. “It's going to entail making sure I can still do that job while also getting my stuff done here. It's going to be a time management, definitely. In general, banking is a little bit flexible. You can come in a little bit early. This isn't necessarily a busy time.”

SEE BANKER, 5



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Photo courtesy of Brad Shatek

Brad Shatek and his wife, Jamie, pose for a photo after claiming the championship at the New Hampton Golf and Country Club's annual husband-wife tournament.

Shatek says he ‘wears many hats’ as a community banker at Fidelity

BANKER: FROM 4

For instance, when the farmers are in the field is when Shatek has more down time – relatively speaking.

“When the farmers are busy is usually when we’re not and vice versa,” said Shatek. “When the crops are out, farmers have done their work. That’s our time to look at how their year went. I like the variety. No two days are similar.”

Without getting too specific, Shatek described what he does at his full-time job, which is providing loans for farm operations, although it’s not that simple. The mechanics of the job – so to speak – vary on a day-to-basis.

“My title and my primary responsibility is in lending, but being in community banking you wear many hats,” Shatek said. “You have to have knowledge in a lot of different areas, not only your products, but your customers and what their business or their farm operation entails

“You have to have a good sense of what they need or what they’re looking for from their bank.”

Shatek also deals with numbers – which he said is what drew him to the banking industry where he worked for a decade at People Savings Bank in Elma before getting hired at Fidelity. He also said he started out as a teller at a bank in Cedar Falls, where he graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 2010 with a double major in finance and real estate.

“The vast majority of what I handle is loans – whether that be for a car, for a farm operation, to buy a farm, to buy equipment – things like that,” said Shatek. “That’s what I’m dealing with on a day-to-day basis as far as the nuts and bolts of my job.”

Shatek has also to look ahead and deal with the unpredictable nature of the ebb and flow of the Dow Jones and the commodities market.

“A customer might have a question on what interest rates are doing or how the stock mar-

ket is or where I kind of see things going in the commodities market,” said Shatek.

His opinion matters – that’s also what makes a good coach out on the greens and fairways of a golf course. Simply put, bouncing advice, ideas and thoughts off people helps reduce risk. It also forms a better understanding of people’s wants and needs – basically what they want to accomplish in the agriculture industry.

“Are they making money or are they losing money?” said Shatek about his farming clients. “Are there places they should look for improvement?”

Checks and balances. There are parallels to golf and banking – as stated before. If your swing isn’t producing a desired outcome off a tee – change it. If a golf ball is hooking when you want it to slice, pick another club.

Easier said than done – but Shatek is there to help on both accounts. That means problems may arise that require solutions. Answers are often just around the corner if you see eye-to-eye and reach an agreement or compromise.

“Banking and golf, I think a big value of both is integrity,” said Shatek.

That also means confidentiality is of the utmost importance.

“If someone tells me something about their operation, that’s where it stays,” said Shatek.

Shatek is one of the area’s best golfers – as evident by his fifth title won at last year’s Josie’s MidSummer Classic alongside playing partner Craig Kobliska.

Shatek played all four years on the golf team for former NH coach Tom Sauser.

Shatek’s said the Chickasaws’ best team was in 2005 – when they missed cracking the state tournament by just a single stroke that year at the district meet.

“I had a great experience there,” said Shatek, who said he still remains close friends with some on that team he played with two decades ago. “It was a really good time. I enjoyed it.”

Starting off a Sunday with EMS

Chickasaw County EMS Director Joel Knutson (left) and Brock Schmitt, an EMT with the service, trade information during a “shift change” as the Tribune spent part of a day with the service that provides ambulance coverage to rural Chickasaw County and six cities.

Bob Fenske/Tribune
See STORY, Page A1





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The beginning of an era

Milkhouse Candle Company founders, Eric and Janet Sparrow, have strong ties to agricultural America. It’s their Midwest upbringing that inspired the creation of a cleaner, healthier candle experience.

From a dream to reality

Starting off as a hobby for the couple in 2002, their candle making began in canning jars bought at local auctions. They shared their creations with friends, family, and co-workers, and suddenly they started getting more requests for candles.

Years after the original candles were produced, Milkhouse has grown into a thriving company that continues to produce soy and beeswax candles. The company employs over 100 people, 70% of which are women, and has three locations in northern Iowa.



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55 years and counting for New Hampton Electric

Daughter who came home to work with her parents has no regrets

By Bob Fenske
editor@nhtrib.com

As Lori Quirk stood near the “memorial” for the parents she worked side by side for so many years at New Hampton Electric, she couldn’t help but smile when she was asked if there were challenges being involved in a family business.

“I really did love working with my parents, and people asked me all the time if we had spats or things like that,” she said, “and I don’t know, I’m sure we did, but you know what? At the end of the day, we could always sit down and have a beer together.”

Much has changed in the business that brought Lori Quirk home to New Hampton 31 years ago, but she will tell you that she doesn’t have a single regret about that decision.

And the company that Duane and Marge Quirk founded in 1970 when they purchased Seeliger Electric is still going strong as it celebrates a milestone anniversary — 55 years in business — in 2025.

Lori Quirk said her father worked at the Oliver tractor plant in Charles City and for Harry Gilbert before the couple decided to strike out on their own.

“At Oliver, Dad had to deal with the layoffs,” she said, “and our family was growing. He wanted something that he could count on. He and Mom knew they’d have to work at it, but anyone who knew my parents knows they weren’t afraid to work.”

New Hampton Electric was first located at 6 E. Main St., and in 1973, it moved a block to the west, where it remained for four years. In 1977, the Quirks purchased the old C&H Lumber building in the 200 block of East Main Street, where it has remained ever since, albeit with three major additions.

Lori Quirk said she has fond memories of growing up around the business.

“At one time, we had appliances,” she said, “and I remember Dad had TVs, too. I remember



New Hampton Electric owner Lori Quirk poses for a photo in the company’s office on Main Street, where she pays tribute to her parents — Duane and Marge (below) — who started the business in 1970.

that because it would be the Super Bowl and someone wasn’t going to miss the game so we

SEE NH ELECTRIC, 8

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CASE II

Cedar Valley Hospice programs aim to help

New dementia program and new office pave the way to serve more families

by **Stephanie Abel-Hohenzy**
Cedar Valley Hospice
shohenzy@cvhospice.org

2025 is shaping up to be an eventful year for benefiting more families in the Cedar Valley. We’ve already received some exciting accreditations and ratings that place us at the center of providing excellent patient-centered care. Add to it a new Waverly office location and a new dementia GUIDE Model launching on July 1.

High quality care
Cedar Valley Hospice has received a 5-star rating from Medicare.gov, making it the only hospice in the area and one of nine in the state of Iowa to receive their highest honor.

The 5-star classification is determined by analyzing the satisfaction ratings by asking caregivers if they received timely help, had good support and communication, were trained on how to care for their loved one, and ultimately, if they would recommend this hospice to others.

In late January, the Community Health Accreditation Partner, Inc. (CHAP) announced that Cedar Valley Hospice was awarded CHAP Accreditation under the CHAP Standards of Excellence.

CHAP Accreditation is a voluntary process that determines that a program demonstrates the industry’s highest nationally recognized standards for quality, safety and compliance. Simply stated, adherence to CHAP’s standards leads to the highest quality care for patients and families in Cedar Valley Hospice’s service area of 15 counties in Northeast Iowa.

Waverly office moves to downtown
Cedar Valley Hospice’s Waverly office opened its new office location at 300 East Bremer Ave, Suite 100 and have had an office in Waverly since 1997.

Our patient census has consistently risen over the years, along with the need for more staff, and thus, more space to grow. The new office location will also provide increased visibility and accessibility for the community.

“We want people to see us as a resource,” said Cedar Valley Hospice Director of Marketing

Jennifer Siech. “Yes, we care for the majority of hospice patients in their homes or at a facility, but we also have grief services that are available to the whole community at no cost plus other services like advanced care planning and help navigating the healthcare system with our palliative care program.”

New Medicare program will help families living with dementia
Dementia takes a toll on not just the people living with the disease but also on their loved ones and caregivers in a way that almost no other illness does. About 6.7 million Americans currently live with Alzheimer’s disease or another form of dementia, a number that is projected to grow by nearly 14 million by 2060.

At Cedar Valley Hospice, 33% of our patients have some form of dementia. To help address the unique needs of our population, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have selected Cedar Valley Hospice to participate in the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model. It is aimed at supporting people with dementia and their caregivers.

Beginning July 1, Cedar Valley Hospice will start enrolling Medicare-eligible individuals into the GUIDE Model, which has three goals:

- Improve the quality of life for people living with dementia
- Enhance support for caregivers of people living with dementia
- Help people remain in their homes and communities longer

Cedar Valley Hospice Executive Director Michaela Vandersee is excited for us to deliver key supportive services to people with dementia and their caregivers.

“Under the model, an interdisciplinary team will provide comprehensive, person-centered assessments and care plans, care coordination, and 24/7 access to a support line,” she said. “A care navigator will also help them access services and supports, such as meals and transportation through community-based organizations.”

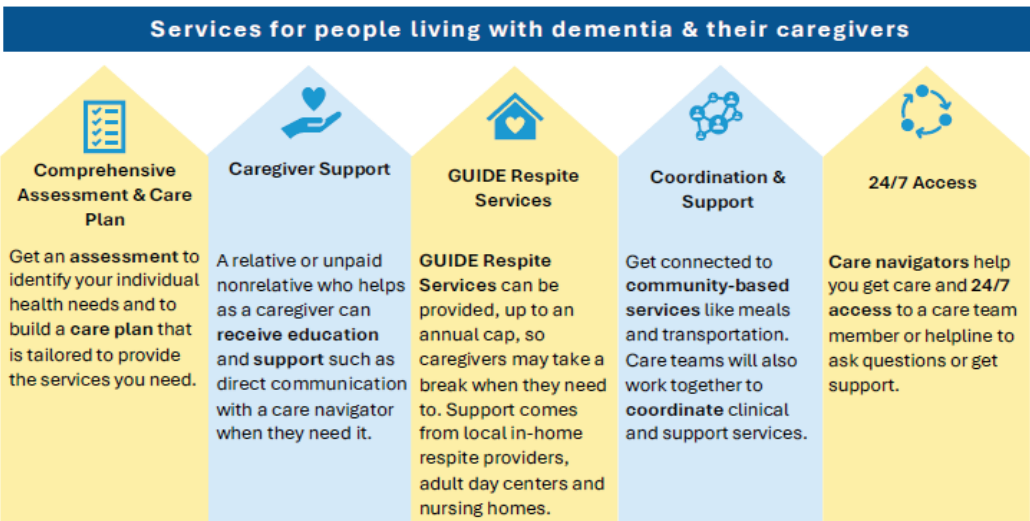
The GUIDE Model will also provide respite services for qualified patients, enabling c



Photos courtesy of Cedar Valley Hospice

Office and volunteer coordinator Cortney Manning welcomes visitors into Cedar Valley Hospice’s new office building in downtown Waverly. Staff there visit patients and families from Bremer, Butler, Chickasaw and Floyd counties. There are also community grief support meetings that occur monthly at this location. Join us for an open house on Thursday, May 1 from 4 to 6 p.m. to see the office and to visit with staff.

Beginning July 1: The dementia GUIDE Model



aregivers to take temporary breaks from their responsibilities, with the goal of preventing or delaying the need for facility care.

Once development is complete, Cedar Valley Hospice will begin to welcome patients July 1.

More volunteers needed
We are seeking volunteers age 17-90 to donate their time and compassion to serve patients and their families.

They support the organization in several ways,

including visiting patients and families, fundraising/event coordination, office assistants, Hospice Home greeter, rest-assured calling and more. All volunteers who visit patients must participate in 16 hours of training to better understand the role.

For more information or to get on a list for the next volunteer training, call the Waverly office at 319.352.1274. Also, remember that it’s never too soon to call and learn how we can help you with your healthcare or grief support, complete your advance directives and more.

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New Hampton student's welding and dancing not combination one hears often

ROSONKE: FROM 2

and the chapter's Skills USA advisor, Damian Spratt.

"To do what she's doing at this age just shows you that gender doesn't mean anything," he said. "Obviously, she has that role model in her mother, but she's such a hard worker. Yes, she's talented, but it's the work ethic that really matters."

"She basically picked up welding and two weeks later qualified for state. That's crazy."

Austyn said that she remembers well when her mother was featured in the Tribune's Women in the Workplace section in the fall of 2019. At the time, Chelsi worked as a welder at Omega Machine Tool Inc., and she and her husband's business — Full River Fabrication, which makes custom metal creations — had just purchased a state-of-the-art "plasma table."

Back then, Austyn was just a couple of weeks into fourth grade, but "I remember you coming out and taking out picture like it was yesterday. It was pretty cool to see my parents and my mom in the paper."

Fast forward 5 1/2 years, and the Rosonkes have another welder in the family.

"There are so many different stereotypes," she said, "that even at districts, I was confused for a male a few

times, and that alone makes me hope more girls go into the trades and get certified."

Her mother is understandably proud.

"She does have a talent for it," Chelsi said, "and she's picked it up really fast. But I think what makes me most happy is that she works at it, and I don't really care what it is, to see that work ethic and that goal setting, that's what makes me most happy."

These days, Austyn is a busy girl; in addition to welding, she's a dancer who was part of New Hampton's prop team that won a state championship this past December and was installed as an officer during the FFA annual banquet that was held this past Saturday. She also trains horses and has started to barrel race.

And while she spends numerous weekends dancing this spring, she's also focusing on that Skills USA state competition next month.

"State is much more advanced," she said. "You do like one thing at districts and I learned that in like two weeks. ... I practice two, three hours a day, both here [at school] and at home."

But she has a great support system, not only from her parents but also the folks at R&R Welding, which is located near the Rosonke's rural New Hampton home.

"I think that is an upper hand



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

New Hampton High School freshman Austyn Rosonke performs a solo routine at the annual Dance Showcase this past January.

at state," she said. "I have so many people surrounding me that are like professionals in this, and I have all of what I need at home or a mile away at R&R."

And she's hopeful that more girls will see the value in industrial technology and the trades.

"I think it really depends on how you learn," she said, "and if you want to go into one of these skilled

trades or if you want to go into something that people all need, a lot of it depends on how you learn. ... Like in industrial tech, just from experience, I am much better out in the shop than in here doing different testing and stuff like that."

As the school day neared its end, the interview wrapped up. She was asked about her hectic schedule, and she laughed.

"Dance and welding take up a long time," she said with a smile, "and I'm guessing you don't hear that said every day, do you?"

Actually, the reporter of this story who is celebrating 40 years in journalism this year told her he has never once heard that sentence uttered.

"I'm glad I was the first," she said, "but I hope I'm not the last."



Photo courtesy of Lori Quirk

New Hampton Electric has gone through three expansions, including this one in the 1980s, since it moved to its current location in 1977.

Daughter carries on the tradition her parents built at New Hampton Electric

NH ELECTRIC: FROM 6

had to get a TV out there right away." She paused and laughed.

"And those suckers were heavy, too."

But the electric business was always the company's proverbial bread and butter.

Lori Quirk graduated from New Hampton High School in 1988, attended and received a degree from the University of Iowa and moved to Des Moines for a couple of years.

So what prompted her to make the move back to New Hampton?

"Mom and Dad needed help," she said, "and that was really it. We were and are a family business. You help each other out, and like I said, I liked working with them."

She said she helped here parents "computerize," worked on working up estimates and like her brothers, Brad and Brian, received a master

electrician license.

"It helped me with being the office manager," she said before adding with a laugh, "but I don't know if you really want me being our electrician."

Marge Quirk passed away in 2019 after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's Disease, and Duane died in December 2023. But they built a foundation of serving Northeast Iowa agricultural, residential, and commercial electric needs.

"They were incredible parents, and they set an example for all of us when it comes to hard work and generosity," Lori Quirk said. "I miss them every day, and that's why I have this."

She pointed to the "memorial" that included photos of her parents, as well of a picture of the company's "yard" and trucks.

"It's nice to come to work every day, and see that," she said. "It reminds me to keep working hard and take care of what they started."



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