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# New Hampton Chickasaw County TRIBUNE

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## County budget season nears end

Supervisors set final public hearing on 2026-27 levy, budget for April 13

By **BOB FENSKE**  
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All that's needed now for Chickasaw County's 2026-27 budget and tax levy is for supervisors to sign off on the proverbial dotted line. This much is for sure: It's been a much quieter "budget season" for county leaders than it was a year ago. "It's a working document,

always subject to change," Board of Supervisors Chairman Jake Hackman said Tuesday morning when board members approved setting a public hearing on the budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. "In my opinion, it's a well put together budget ... one that keeps the taxpayer in mind." The setting of the public hearing for 9:10 a.m. on Monday, April 13, came during a budget work session

that lasted for less than 15 minutes on Tuesday. The weekly meeting was pushed back a day so that all five supervisors could be in attendance, but the heavy lifting, if you will, had been done weeks earlier. The budget, as published in this week's Tribune, isn't balanced, but that's a little deceiving, supervisors say.

Yes, the county will spend about \$700,000 more than it takes in during 2026-27, but much of that "overspending" is for capital projects in which revenue will be received during the current fiscal year but won't be spent until next year. "That's a fair way to put it," Hackman said following the meeting.

"We have the two TIF projects — the county engineer's [office] building and the B22 [repavement] project — and the courthouse

SEE BUDGET, 5

## As always, it's a tad bittersweet at FFA Banquet

New Hampton chapter bids fond farewells to seniors and advisor

By **BOB FENSKE**  
editor@nhtrib.com

In many ways, the annual meeting and banquet of the New Hampton FFA chapter that was held on March 21 resembled most of the chapter's previous meetings. The president reflected on the year that was, the chapter's seniors received a fond farewell, awards were handed out, FFA members and their guests enjoyed a tasty meal, officers were retired and their new officer team was installed and folks opened their wallets and helped the FFA Alumni raise thousands of dollars during a live auction.

SEE FFA, 3



Bob Fenske/Tribune

New Hampton FFA Advisor Rachel Bauler poses with the outgoing officer team after she received the chapter's honorary degree.



Bob Fenske/Tribune

Air Force Col. Matthew P. Lynch reaffirms his military oath during his promotion ceremony that was held Sunday afternoon at the Starlite Ballroom in Lawler.

## RETURNING TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

2002 Turkey Valley High Graduate Thanks Many During Moving Promotion Ceremony in Lawler

By **BOB FENSKE**  
editor@nhtrib.com

When Matthew Lynch learned that he was going to be promoted to colonel, he thought for a while about where he should have his promotion ceremony. Many officers — both in his beloved Air Force and the other military branches — have their ceremonies near where they are stationed at the time, but it didn't take long for the 2002 Turkey Valley High School graduate to go

against the grain if you will. Lynch is currently the chief of staff for the Office of Military Commissions in the office of the secretary of war, but instead of holding his promotion ceremony in the Washington, D.C., area, he went a thousand miles off course. "I started thinking about areas in the nation's capital ... and then it came to me, I wanted to do this back where it all started — in Lawler, in the Turkey Valley school district, Northeast Iowa, where I set my roots," he said Sunday afternoon during the ceremony cele-

brating his promotion to full-bird colonel. As he spoke, the Starlite Ballroom was packed with family members, friends, former teachers and community members. It's not every day, after all, that a Lawler boy becomes an Air Force colonel. It was a day to celebrate not only Matthew Lynch, but it was also a day to celebrate his parents, his brothers and the community that made him who he is today. It was a day in

SEE PROMOTION, 5



Kelly Terpstra/Tribune

## Kicking off the 'hunting' season!

Children take part in the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Mikkelson Park that was sponsored by Prairie Lakes Church this past Saturday morning, and more hunts are on the way this Saturday morning. See STORY, Page 2

## County gets good deal on note for latest TIF project

Supervisors accept Luana bid for \$1.85 million

By **BOB FENSKE**  
editor@nhtrib.com

The Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors continued to move ahead Tuesday with its second tax-increment financing (TIF) project. And, at least according to the county's bond consultant, they got a "good deal" in the process. Board members voted 5-0 to accept a resolution to purchase \$1.85 million in general obligation capital loan notes for the repaving project of County Road B22 from Alta Vista to Highway 63. Piper Sandler's Garrett Pochop, whose firm serves

as the county's bond consultant, said the county received seven bids from banks and recommended that supervisors approve the offer made by Luana Savings Bank for an average interest rate of 3.987 percent. Pochop, who joined the meeting by phone, said the Luana proposal also has what he called a "very flexible Call feature, which gives the county the ability to either eventually refinance the bond or pay the bond off early. It's an excellent proposal, one we recommend you approve." Board members agreed to

SEE SUPERVISORS, 3

**Lots of participants**  
Say this for New Hampton and Turkey Valley, both have plenty of students out for spring sports  
Pages 10-12



**A heck of a day**  
Tribune editor shares his "goosebump" story from All-State Speech Festival  
Next week's Trib



**UIC champs**  
New Hampton boys win team title at conference indoor meet  
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