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Fairbank ISLANDER

SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

OCTOBER 2, 2024

Compiled by Fairbank Community Club - Designed by Waverly Newspapers and Printed by Oelwein Publishing Co.

VOLUME 5, NO. 10

Fighting the ag fatality statistics



TAYLOR NOHREBERG PHOTO

Fairbank Fire and Rescue's R3 Committee — Bryce Kleitsch, Conner Jones, Dick Chapman, Janice Martins, Justin Ritter, Drake Mangrich and Carson Woods — is ready for fall harvest season with the ready-to-go R3 Trailer thanks to generous community support.

Fairbank Fire owns Iowa's first-ever R3 Trailer

BY TAYLOR NOHREBERG
reporter@oelweindailyregister.com

Farming is associated with many risks, and Fairbank Fire and Emergency Medical Services are upping their game when it comes to grain bin accidents during the busy harvest season.

Fairbank Fire and EMS now possesses the first-ever R3 (Rural Rescue Response) trailer in the state of Iowa, a dream that came to life thanks to generous donors of nearby Fairbank and further. Janice

See TRAILER, A2

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT. 6-11

The Fairbank Fire Department introduces this year's fire prevention week theme and events

"SMOKE ALARMS. Make them WORK for you!"

This year we would like to get the word out there on the happenings during fire prevention week. We spend lots of time in the community, the schools and the daycare to help spread awareness of fire safety.

See PREVENTION, A8

WAPSIE VALLEY HOMECOMING ROYALTY



COURTESY PHOTO

From Left to Right: Kylee Moulds, Dallas Tisue, Natalie Gray, Aidan Oldfather, Peyton Curley, Weston Schares, Kenzie Snyder, Josh Leistikow, Avery Jones and Kanen Decker.

2024 COMMUNITY PEP RALLY

FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FANS ARE INVITED TO SUPPORT YOUR WV ATHLETES!!

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3
7 PM @ WVHS GYM**

JERSEY AUCTION!	GIFT CARD RAFFLE! 3 FOR \$5	SPEAKERS FROM 1997, 2007 & 2012 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS!	BURNING OF THE WV!	CROWNING OF THE KING & QUEEN!	CHEERS... SKITS... FUN FOR ALL!
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FOOTBALL - CHEER - VOLLEYBALL - CROSS COUNTRY

A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR



MAYOR JASON KAYSER

will know where my house is". Well, maybe. But will an ambulance or engine company of new members, a recent Fairbank Police hire, or a Sheriff's Deputy know who you are or where you live? In an emergency seconds count, and locating the emergency is critical. The city code chapter 150 requires you to place (numbers) to the street in figures not less than two and one-half inches in height and of a contrasting color with their background". Please take time to place numbers in a conspicuous place if you have not done so. Finally, as you have read in this addition, Trick-or-Treat is October 31 from 5:30-7:30. The City Council has again elected to close streets at Collins Rd. & Christians Trail, 6th St. & Front St., and 6th St. & Forest St.. Residents will still be able to traverse to and from their homes, but through traffic will not. On that note, I am planning on having a Mayor's Trick-or-Treat at our residence. We will have spooky music playing and kids and adult treats. If you have time, you are more than welcome to stop by!

The City Council is in the next phase of deliberating and prioritizing a comprehensive list of projects and goals set forth by the Council, city staff, and myself with input from the citizens. Our intention is to publish the list soon, have a public hearing for citizen's further input, then have a solid plan of goals and projects for the future. This action is intended to give the city a solid roadmap going forward in the budgeting process to not only be good stewards of taxpayer money, but also budget funds for our community's wants and needs. While walking around the city, I have noticed several buildings that still lack building numbers. One reason I was recently told went something like this: "The fire department

Fighting the ag fatality statistics

CONTINUED FROM A1

Martins, Fairbank Fire and EMS and R3 Committee member, organized the fundraising efforts after fall 2023 safety training prompted the \$75,000 purchase.

"I went online and found this story from a fire department in Gibbon, Minnesota, that they were going to create this R3 trailer," she said. "Brought it back to the station and I thought, 'There's no other in the state of Iowa, they were the first ones ever, they were the ones that designed it,' and I asked the group if they wanted to pursue it."

The group of seven R3 Committee members went up to Gibbon, Minn., and came back with a plan. With only seven trailers going into production by the Gibbon Fire and Rescue Department, it was full steam ahead as the group needed \$15,000 to secure their trailer.

Martins came back to the station and asked the department for the funds. Other trailers were spoken for and the Committee would have had to wait another year until production began again. Funds weren't hard to come by as the farming community rallied to assist, Martins said.

"By that time, I'd already had three of my first donations," Martins said. "My first donation was from a local farmer for \$10,000. It gives me goosebumps thinking about it to be honest. The response was amazing."

Fundraising efforts began with demonstrations and informational meetings to "anyone who is involved with grain," Martins said.

Community members who wanted to see what the trailer was about were welcomed to contact the department for a demonstration.

To help with funding efforts, Martins applied for an Ag Safety grant through Farm Credit Services of America and was awarded \$25,000. She said the department received over 250 donations ranging from \$10 to the biggest of \$25,000 from FCSA.

Production is still ongoing for the seven R3s, but the second trailer has rolled out of production from Cresco, Iowa, and ready for use in Scale Mound, Ill. The fire department of Gibbon saw the need for the equipment back in 2019 as Minnesota had 12 grain entrapments with 11 fatalities, and a call for an entrapped victim on Oct. 8, 2019, was the sign they needed to personally design and produce a trailer that contained everything the department would need in that instance.

Gibbon Mayor Steve Klukas said in an interview with Beck's Day Ever series that the tool is a necessity for area departments.

"Speaking as a mayor to other mayors in the area, it would be extremely great to have something like this in all your areas," he said.

The trailer is unique for a couple reasons — one being the specialized equipment ready-to-go on the trailer that would waste time for an entrapped victim.

"The special thing about the R3 is it has a gran vac on board," Martins said. "It's a gas-driven grain vac, so we can run that vac without electricity at any site, and we also know that we always have one and have the right equipment because other grain vacs have to

hook to tractors."

R3 is equipped to handle grain bin entrapments, confined space rescues, lifts, stabilizations and other emergencies. Martin says that precious time is necessary when dealing with entrapments as they happen quickly.

"Once we get in and we have an entrapped patient or victim, we put tubes around them to stop grain flow. Then the next job is to get corn away from that victim," Martins said. "Before we used coffee cans."

The trailer itself and the vacuum costs \$75,000. Other tools like metal cutters, safety tools, ropes and harnesses are other costs incurred with a purchase such as this. Lettering was done by the department themselves.

The R3 Committee set a fundraising goal at \$100,000 with hopes of getting the trailer ready for use in fall 2024. The team was met with donations from all over the county, something Martins said shocks her.

"We met our goal last January," Martins said. "We still have been raising a little bit. I was so overwhelmed at the amount of support. It kind of was my baby and now we put it in service and had it for a month. Backing it into the firehouse was pretty cool."

Martins said that if the department receives a call today, they are ready to go to serve and lend a hand in the surrounding areas of Oelwein, Dunkerton, Oran and Jesup.

"It's a regional response," Martins said. "We are housing it, we own it, but we want it to belong to the whole area."

Fairbank ISLANDER
SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Sponsored by:
Fairbank Community Club
Fairbank, Iowa 50629

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fairbank-ia.org/newsletters.php

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Fairbank Public Library
P.O. Box 426, Fairbank, IA 50629

For information, call:
Melaine Buzynski 319-404-7116
or the Fairbank Library 319-635-2487

FAIRBANK CITY TRICK-OR-TREAT



City trick-or-treat times will take place on Thursday, October 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Streets will be closed at the following intersections: Collins Rd and Christians Trail, 6th St. and Front St. also 6th St. and Forest St.

We hope everyone has a safe and fun time this halloween

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RETIREMENT

TED VORWALD

After 57 years of active, selfless, and dedicated service, Ted Vorward retired from active duty on September 1st and was immediately voted on as an Honorary member of the Fairbank Fire Department.

His retirement letter read in part "I believe the department has the best officers and members I have seen in all the years.." VERY HUMBLING AND HONORED COMING FROM TED. Honorary members enjoy all the privileges of active members for life with the exception of voting rights, and actively engaging in emergency scenes; they can still assist.

In 1966 Ted and Jan moved to Fairbank from the Twin Cities to work in the body shop downtown with another long-time member and friend, Bob Maricle and got Ted to join on December 1, 1966. Ted was one of the first EMT's, served as a Lieutenant, Captain, Training Officer, and Assistant Chief. Ted also served the City of Fairbank as Public Works Director for over 30 years, and is still an active volunteer for the City.

CONGRATULATIONS and now sleep sound at night! A formal recognition will take place at the Annual Banquet in March.



BIRTHDAY

HAPPY 7TH BIRTHDAY CADEN MATTHIAS ON OCTOBER 6

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



BIRTHDAY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DIANE NEIL ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY ON OCTOBER 25.

Happy Birthday



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OCTOBER SPECIALS OF THE MONTH

Special of the MONTH

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39⁹⁹

3-A-40-B-C Rechargeable Heavy-Duty Commercial/Residential Fire Extinguisher 322712



34⁹⁹

2-In-1 10-Year Battery Photoelectric Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarm 518633 w/Voice Alerts 526543* *MA members only.

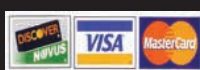


Special of the MONTH

While Supplies Last!

9⁹⁹

30" Poly Head 48" Wood Handle Clog-Resistant Leaf Rake 745078

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4-H ATOM BOMBERS

PASSING THE PEN TO NEW REPORTER

The September meeting of the Atom Bombers 4-H club ended my 1st year of 4-H. I have enjoyed it very much and encouraged any one interested or have questions to contact the ISU extension office, their number is (319)334-7161.

I learned so much this year and made some new friends. The fair was a lot of fun and winning ribbons made it even better.

Thank you for reading my articles and hope that you enjoyed them. Now it is time to hand over the job of reporter to Cambree Happel.



ALIVIA WEEPIE



**FROM THE DESK OF
CAMBREE HAPPEL**

Atom Bombers 4H club last met on September 9th at 4pm at IC Hall in Fairbank. There were 17 members present along with 7 guests. Kennly Happel acted again as President due to absent officers. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Riya Kelly. The 4H pledge was led by Gavin Gross. This month's roll call question was, "What are you looking forward to most this year?" The Secretary's report was given by Charlie Sweeney, and the Treasures Report was given by Cece Sweeney.

Important information from the Iowa State Extension Office:

Registration is currently open. Go to 4H online to sign up, choose Buchanan county, and Atom Bomber 4H club! Contact Ali Happel for any questions (319) 721-2150.

This month we selected new club officers and club committees. Officers will be sworn in during the October meeting. We had a presentation by Riya Kelly on how to give yourself a relaxing foot bath. We can't wait to try! We also had a guest presenter, Terri Zuck, teach us how to make homemade apple pie. It was a lot of fun and we can't wait to try them!

Help us celebrate National 4H week October 6th-12th by wearing green on Tuesday October 8th. Members also picked up signs to hang on their locker during the month of October.

Our next meeting will be held after volunteering at Red Rock Farm on Sunday October 13th. Our club will be volunteers between 1pm and 5pm. Come say Hi! We will also be hosting a winter clothing collection for Helping Hands Clothing Closet.



Guest presenter Terri Zuck teaches Atom Bombers 4H Club how to make apple pies.



BOOK YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE TODAY!

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Website: ajscamperrentals.com



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Celebration of Life Janet (Jan) A. Harrington

August 24, 1939 - September 20, 2024



Diploma RN from Mercy School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She worked as a Registered Nurse in obstetrics, labor and delivery, and always had a passion for working with babies and new mothers.

Jan was united in marriage to Leonard (Len) P. Harrington on June 9, 1962, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Fairbank, Iowa and became a devoted mother and grandmother to 8 children, 14 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. She was a guiding light to her children, teaching them the values of kindness, humility, patience and perseverance, creating a home filled with warmth, prayer and unconditional love. Jan's family was her greatest pride and joy!

In 1990, Jan obtained her BSN from Northern Illinois University, and later focused her nurs-

ing work in the field of lactation advocacy as a certified lactation consultant (IBCLC). She started her own business in Edwardsville, Illinois providing direct lactation support to new mothers in their homes. One of her most significant professional accomplishments was starting a lactation program at Marion General Hospital, Marion, Indiana which is still thriving today.

Jan leaves behind a legacy of unwavering loving devotion to her family and her Catholic faith, a testament to the beautiful life she lived. Her devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Rosary was an anchor in her life, offering her strength in times of challenge, and joy in moments of celebration. Her passing leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew and loved her, but her spirit will continue to inspire and guide us. Her memory will be trea-

sured forever as we hold her close in our hearts and remember the light that she brought into our lives. May she rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

Jan is survived by her husband of 62 years, Len Harrington, children Joan (Steve) Kula, Anne (Dan) Cerny, Kathleen Harrington, Maureen (Andrew) Russell, Daniel (Ellen) Harrington, David (Julissa) Harrington, Meagan Harrington, and Bridget Harrington (Eric Pietras), her grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be directed to St. Patrick's Church, Anamosa or Hospice of Mercy.

The Harrington family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the compassionate staff from Mercy Home Care and Hospice of Mercy, whose kindness and care provided comfort in Jan's final days.

ANAMOSA, IA
Janet (Jan) A. Harrington, age 85, passed away at home surrounded by her beloved family on Friday, September 20, 2024.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 27, 2024, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Anamosa. Burial took place at 3 p.m. at St. Mary Cemetery in Waverly.

Born on August 24, 1939, Jan was the oldest child of Frank D. Miller and Mary J. (Neil) Miller. After she graduated from Fairbank High School in 1957, Jan received her

Celebration of Life

Elaine Marie (Springer) Ernst

May 3, 1928 -
September 11, 2024

Elaine Marie (Springer) Ernst, age 96, of Martin Suites in Cedar Falls, passed away September 11, 2024. She was born May 3, 1928, in Lawler, IA to William and Inez (Barnes) Springer. She was a proud 1946 graduate of Assumption Catholic High School in Cresco, IA. She later went on to marry Donald Ernst on May 1, 1948, in Cresco, IA. She passed away in May of 2013. They had seven beautiful children, Alan, Mike Tom, Dale, Cathy, Debbie and Mary. Elaine was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; three brothers, LaDon, Dewain and William Springer; and one son-in-law Thomas Sharp.



While busy at home with her children, Elaine still found time to work for Dr. Donald Bickley for 40 years as a receptionist. In her spare time, Elaine was a member of Make-A-Wish for 30 years, and had the opportunity to be part of granting her last wish in 2023. She was also a member of Highland Association for 30 years, Fairbank Community Club, and the V.F.W. In 2023 Elaine received the State of Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award for outstanding volunteer service for giving her time volunteering for 25 years of service.

Elaine was a longtime member of St. John's Catholic Church and a member of the Rosary society until they closed. She then became a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Cedar falls. When she moved to Fairbank she became a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church till her passing.

Elaine is survived by 4 sons, Alan (Brenda) Ernst of Waterloo, Mike (Angie) Ernst of Waterloo, and Dale (Dan Dana) Ernst of Cresco; three daughters, Cathy Ernst Benz of Evansdale, Debbie Ernst of Waterloo, and Mary Sharp of Fairbank; 11 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren; eight step grandchildren; two stepgreat grandchildren; and one great great grandchild. one brother Kevin Springer of La Selva Beach, CA, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Western Home Communities, Martin Suites, Winding Creek in Jesup, and Cedar Valley Hospice for their excellent compassion they provided to Elaine and her family during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Cedar Valley Hospice in memory of Elaine.

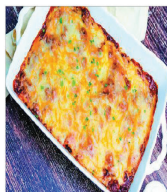


What's Cook'in

"A diet is the penalty we pay for exceeding the feed limit!"

Chili Cheese Burritos

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning
- 3/4 c. water
- 10 burrito-size flour tortillas
- 24 oz. can chili w/ no beans
- 1 pkg. Mexican blend shredded cheese (16 oz.)



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook ground beef in skillet until brown. Drain, rinse, and return to skillet. Add taco seasoning and water. Let simmer on low heat while you heat the tortillas. Add 2-3 spoonfuls of meat to each tortilla. Top with 1 tbsp. of cheese. Roll the tortilla and put it into a greased 13x9 pan, seam side down. Once all 10 tortillas are added to the pan, top with the can of chili. Add the remaining cheese to the top of the chili. Put dish into heated oven and bake for 10-15 minutes until cheese is bubbly.

Cinnamon Apple Pie Bake

- 2 pks. cinnamon roll dough with icing
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1 tbsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 2 granny smith apples, diced
- 1 c. brown sugar, packed



Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cut the cinnamon roll dough into 3 even strips, then cut those strips in 3 pieces, making 9 pieces total per roll. Set aside the icing. In a medium bowl, combine eggs, milk, cinnamon, and vanilla, stirring until smooth. Set aside. In a pan over medium heat, combine butter, apples, and brown sugar, cooking until sugar starts to caramelize, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat. Sprinkle the cinnamon roll pieces evenly in a greased 9x9 baking dish. Pour the egg mixture on top, followed by the apples. Bake for 25-30 minutes, until golden brown. Drizzle the reserved icing on top. Serve with ice cream!

We need recipes to publish. If you would like to share your favorite recipes, you can drop them off at the Fairbank Library or email them to: Fairbankislander@gmail.com

Celebration of Life Dean Edward Brase

June 1, 1952 -
September 24, 2024

Dean Edward Brase passed away on September 24, 2024.

Visitation will take place Thursday, October 3, 2024 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Dahl-Van Hove-Schoof Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

1825 W 12th Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613



SEND OBITS TO

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WAPSIE VALLEY SCHOOL CORNER



CHRIS HOOVER
SUPERINTENDENT

- Participation in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program resulting in a change of residence

- Change in the status of a child's resident district such as removal of accreditation by the Iowa State Board of Education (State Board), surrender of accreditation, or permanent closure of a private school after March 1

- Revocation of a charter school contract as provided in section 256F.8

- Failure of district negotiations for whole grade sharing or the rejection of a whole grade sharing agreement after March 1*

- Failure of district negotiations for reorganization or rejection of a proposed reorganization plan after March 1*

- Failure of district negotiations for a dissolution agreement after March 1*

- Loss of accreditation or permanent closure of a private school after March 1

Circumstances not defined above that would be considered good cause (and subject to the approval of the board of the resident district and the board of the receiving district) include:

Repeated student harassment that the resident district cannot adequately address or

The child has a serious health condition that a school district cannot adequately address

JH/HS Facility Improvements

The Wapsie Valley Board of Directors approved borrowing against future proceeds of SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education- AKA one cent sales tax) monies to make facility improvements at the Junior High/High School building. These improvements will include continuing with the HVAC system and updating the track and football field. We are also looking for potential options to expand our parking. Please understand that these updates, and where the money comes from, do NOT affect property tax rates.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to another great year at WV! Thank you for your support and Go Warriors!

Sincerely,
Chris Hoover
Wapsie Valley
Superintendent

OPEN ENROLLMENT 2025-26 School Year

March 1- Application deadline for students in grades 1-12 to open enroll for the upcoming school year.

March 2- Applications for students grades 1-12 will be denied unless the parent or guardian is able to demonstrate good cause.

Open Enrollment Application for the 2025-2026 School Year -

The application and process for open enrollment are outlined in the open enrollment application. Please mail, email, or fax copies of the application to your resident school district and the district you would like for your child to attend. For contacts, addresses, or fax numbers for school districts, please visit the districts' websites. Do not send your application to the Iowa Department of Education.

The following circumstances are considered "good cause" and are acceptable conditions for a timeline waiver for open enrollment if the change occurred or began after March 1 (or September 1:

- Change in family district of residence
- Change in child's residence from one parent or guardian to the residence of a different parent or guardian
- Change in the state in which the family residence is located
- Change in the marital status of the student's parents resulting in a change in resident district
- Change in guardianship or custody proceeding that results in a change in resident district
- Placement of the child in foster care resulting in a change of residence
- Adoption
- Participation in a foreign exchange program
- Initial placement of a preschool student in a special education program requiring SDI

BIRTHDAY

HAPPY 40TH BDAY SHOUT OUT TO MITCHELL COFFIN. LOVE JETT IVY AND REMI.

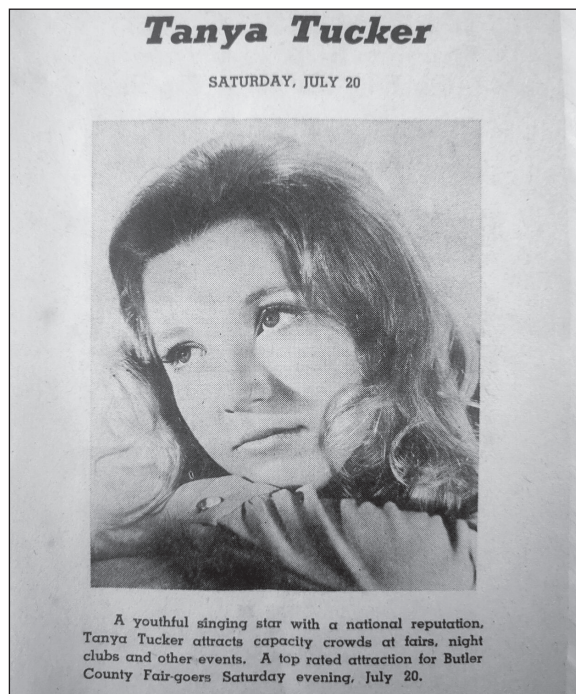


COLUMN BY
JD FRANCIS

Not long ago, while scanning through various radio stations in my truck, I had a hit and landed on a newer Tanya Tucker song. My appetite doesn't call much for this newer country music but her song, "Bring My Flowers Now," touched me to the marrow. I found that the lyrics seemed to mirror out a reflection of my own life. As I listen to her song, I'm listening as an older man now, silently clawing my way back to where used-to-be was really there, and there is where I once belonged.

I parked my truck in my driveway, turned up the music, sat back, and willfully allowed Tanya to lead me back to a memory I've held close for 50 years now. I was 16 years old and had, only two months prior, received my driver's license and began dating Sue Phelps, who went on to be my wife of 48 years now. (I've been a patient man!). I asked Sue to accompany me to a Tanya Tucker concert at the Butler County fair in July of 1974. It was hard to

Until we don't



COURTESY PHOTO

15-year-old Tanya Tucker, from the fair books of July '74. Supplied by Vice President Steve Dilger of the Butler County Fair.

believe, we were both 16 years old and this up-and-coming artist was only 15 years old when she performed at the fair that year. I really liked her voice and her first few records, "Delta Dawn," "Lay With Me in a Field of Stone," and "Blood Red and Going Down," in 1972. As it turned out, young Tanya won an award for the Most Promising Female Vocalist of '72, and all accomplished at 13 years old.

Sue and I were excited to attend and watch this new "hailstorm" country singer, who was only a year younger than we were. As an additional spice to the mix, I even got to drive the two of us to the show in my own '67 Impala. Life was good!

I'll never forget walking up to the stage, when at one point, Tanya walked out to the front edge,

as if to meet me there. She was wearing a floor-length blue dress with ruffles on the sleeves and collar. Tanya, Sue and I, all had one thing in common; our lives were just beginning and in full bloom.

It's likely this 1974 memory is what drew me to Tanya's new song, "Bring My Flowers Now," which is an elderly Tanya, reflecting back on her own life. That part is easy to follow in her lyrics, "bring my flowers now, while I'm living, I won't need your love when I'm gone. Don't spend time, tears and money on my old breathless body, if your heart is in them flowers, bring them on."

Tanya went on to sing, "if you've got love, you're sitting on a gold mine. But you can't take it with you when you go. So don't wait to help your sis-

ter, forgive your brother and your neighbor.

"We all think we have time, until we don't."

While listening to her song, I could feel the lyrics as deep and clearly as I could hear them. I remembered staring up at her on stage at the Butler County Fair when she was only 15 years old, in the spring of her life and career. Somewhere in between, the music went on to fill the empty spaces, and now Tanya Tucker has written a song reflecting back on her own lifetime. It seems the lyrics have spelled out both an ending and a beginning. The ending of her talented career and yet the beginning of realizing her own mortality.

I turned off my truck when the song ended and just sat and reminisced for a while. Tucker's new song was in so many ways a reflection, a story of my own life. I remember Tanya's Butler County Fair concert as if it were yesterday, and in the same breath, in that same moment, I remember having that same place in time in common with her. A time where it all began and all of the distance, all of the reflection, in between. "We all think we have the time, until we don't."

Writer's Note: After 14 grammy nominations, "Bring My Flowers Now" earned Tanya Tucker her first Grammy Award as Best Country Song of 2019.

Public Rosary Rally Planned in Fairbank

All are invited to join us for a Public Rosary Rally on Saturday, October 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the Rosary Prayer Garden at the Immaculate Conception Church in Fairbank. This rally is sponsored by "America Needs Fatima" and is one of more than 22,000 being held across the United States that day. Join us as we pray for our nation and our world.

This event will be held outside, so please dress for the weather and bring your own chair. In the event of inclement weather the rally will be held in the church hall.



October Community Potluck on Oct. 16



The Immaculate Conception Parish would like to extend a personal invitation to all Fairbank residents to join us for our monthly Community Potluck at the IC Church Hall. This social event is sponsored by the IC Parish Life Committee and held at 11:30 on the third Wednesday of each month. We ask that guests bring their favorite dish to share as they gather for lunch and fellowship with friends and neighbors. The next potluck will be held on Wednesday, October 16th at 11:30. We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Church Services



United Methodist Church

107 N. 2nd Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
319-635-2932
Worship Service: 9:15 AM



St. John Lutheran Church

(MISSOURI SYNOD)
208 N. 4th Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
319-635-2181
Worship Service: 10:30 AM



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

302 W. Main Street
Fairbank, Iowa
319-635-2211
Father Ray Atwood
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM
Wednesday Mass: 8:30 AM
1st Saturday Mass: 8:30 AM



Lord of the Harvest

Prayer and Praise Center
101 South 4th Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
Saturday Night 7:00 PM
Sunday Service: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 9:00 AM



First Baptist Church

304 Grove Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
Rev. Mike Anderson
Worship Service: 9:00 AM
Sunday School: 10:00 AM

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT. 6-11

The Fairbank Fire Department introduces this year's fire prevention week theme and events

CONTINUED FROM A1

Here is our list of events.

Tuesday October 8th: We will spend the morning at Fairbank Elementary.

Wednesday October 9th: We will spend the day at the rural Amish schools and in the evening beginning at 6pm, host Operation EDITH (Exit Drill In The Home). Operation EDITH is an event that involves the fire department driving around in trucks looking for homes with their porch light on. Having your porch light on indicates that you have practiced your escape plan with your family, that you know what to do in the event of a fire and where your safe spot to meet up is. Kids love seeing the trucks and we love families staying safe. Please practice this and be ready to see us Wednesday night at 6!

Thursday October 10th: We will spend the morning at Little Island Daycare.

This week is intended to not only teach your children about fire safety and prevention but to also get them comfortable with firefighters, especially firefighters in their protective gear which can be very scary to some kids. During our visits we will read books, do activities, spend time with the kids and present the winners of this years Fire Prevention Posters. This week is always a lot of fun, stay involved and ask your kid(s) questions about their day, we can't wait to spend it with them!

-The Fairbank Fire & EMS Association



WORTH THE TRIP



IC Faith formation group leads trip to Shrine of Our Lady Guadalupe and The Rose Convent in Wisconsin

BY MICHELLE WEEPIE

37 people from Fairbank and the surrounding area enjoyed a one day bus trip on September 24th sponsored by the IC faith formation group.

Stops included the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and The Rose Convent both in LaCrosse, Wis.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe contains a multitude of devotional areas, beautiful statues, a Memorial to the Unborn, a Rosary walk, Votive Candle Chapel and much more. The group enjoyed a wonderful tour as they walked along manicured hedges and beautiful pots of flowers.

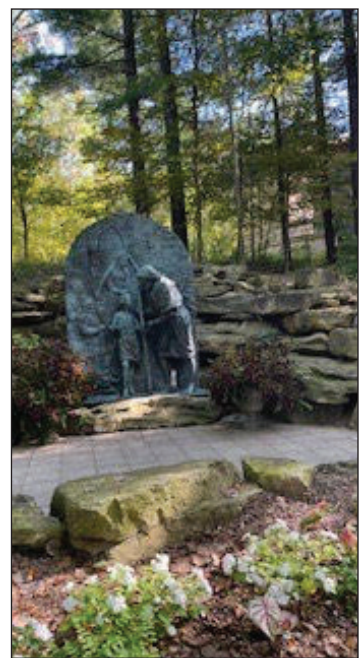
St. Rose Convent is the Mother house of the Franciscan sisters of Perpetual Adoration. The Chapel of

Angels is recognized as one of the most beautiful in the United States and is listed on the national register of historical places. The Adoration Chapel is the site of perpetual adoration of the Blessed sacrament. Since August 1, 1878, at least two Franciscan sisters have maintain a 24 hour prayer vigil praying for the Church, community and the world.

A big thank you to Fred and Leslie Frost for arranging the tour of Saint Rose.

The group ended the day with food and beverages at Toppling Goliath brewing Company in Decorah.

For more information on either The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe or St. Rose please check out their websites.



K C's PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, OCT 6
9:00AM - NOON

Immaculate Conception Parish Hall,
Dine-in or Carry-out

'ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT' PANCAKES



with sausage links, eggs, toast, fruit, coffee, milk, and juice

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Sponsored by IC Knights of Columbus

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FREE WILL DONATION

Immaculate Conception - Fairbank Fall Dinner

SUNDAY, October 20

IC Church Mass 10:00AM

Serving 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Roast Beef, Ham

Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Baked Beans,

Coleslaw, Rolls, & Beverages

Soft Serve Ice Cream & Dessert

Adults: \$15 Ages 5-11: \$7

4 & under Free Carry Outs Available

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WAPSIE VALLEY'S 1974 FOOTBALL REUNION

Wapsie Valley football pays homage to successful beginning

BY GIDAL KAISER

sports@oelweindailyregister.com

FAIRBANK — Wapsie Valley's football program has qualified for the state playoffs 34 seasons.

The first season was 1974, and members of that team — led out by Hall of Fame head coach Jerry Southmayd and assistants Chris Davis and Steve Doden — celebrated the start of Warrior football's playoff run prior to Friday night's game at Jerry Southmayd Field.

The 1974 Warriors came off a 5-3 season and improved on that mark, going 8-1. It went 8-0 in the regular season and is the first in school history to go undefeated/untied during the regular season. The team was crowned Cedar-Wapsi conference champions; it was Wapsie Vally's first outright conference title in school history.

Iowa's third season of state playoffs saw the Warriors qualify as one of the four-team Class AA field. They lost by two points in their AA semifinal. The Cedar-Wapsi conference offensive and defensive players of the year were from Wapsie Valley, along with nine all-conference members. Southmayd was named coach of the year.

Bryan Welsh was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl while five of the six seniors played collegiate

See REUNION, A10



PHOTOS BY GIDAL KAISER | OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER

Legendary Wapsie Valley Hall of Fame coach Jerry Southmayd and his wife Lori lead members of the 1974 Warriors football program onto the field Friday in Fairbank. Wapsie celebrated the 50th anniversary of its first state playoff qualifier.



Assistant coach Steve Doden and wife Ann.



Assistant coach Chris Davis and wife Sharon.

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Wapsie Valley football pays homage to successful beginning

CONTINUED FROM A9

athletics.

Gruetzmacher (Northern Iowa), Pavelec (Wartburg), Roling (NIACC) and Welsh (Upper Iowa) played football and Seydel wrestled.

Wapsie Valley won five state championships, earned runner-up status once and accumulated multiple conference and district titles since that first playoff qualifier.

Those in attendance were Southmayd and his wife Lori; assistant coach Chris Davis and his wife Sharon; assistant coach Steve Doden and his wife Ann; and band director Mike Peterson.

Starters who participated were center Al Weber, special teamer Larry Holub, guard and linebacker Rick Heubner, guard and defensive end Terry Gruetzmacher, nose guard Bryan Welsh, offensive tackle Rick Seydel, halfback and defensive back Jerry Gipper, tailback and cornerback Mark Owens, fullback and defensive end Ron Roling, wide receiver and strong safety Greg Matthias, tight end and linebacker Steve Pavelec, and defensive tackle Tom Little.

Others in attendance were offensive guard Greg Tagtow, team manager Kim Fink and cheerleader Kris Matthias.

The team also paid homage for three starters who passed away — offensive and defensive tackle Ron Little, quarterback Pat Miller and cornerback Rande Wegner.



Left: Rick Heubner, Terry Gruetzmacher, Bryan Welsh and Rick Seydel. Right: Greg Tagtow, Kim Fink and Kris Matthias.






Left: Rick Seydel and Jerry Gipper. Right: Mark Owens, Ron Roling and Greg Matthias.



Left: Steve Pavelec and Tom Little. Right: Al Weber and Larry Holub.



2024-2025   

WAPSIE VALLEY BLOOD DRIVES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH
1:30pm - 6:30pm
Multipurpose room, HS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH
1:30pm - 6:30pm
Multipurpose room, HS

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH
1:30pm - 6:30pm
Multipurpose room, HS

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- ◆ sponsor an event



If these walls could talk

BY BETTY BRANDT PASSICK
bbpassick@comcast.net

The building renown for over a century as “The Little German School” in Fairbank met its demise on July 17th.

Within hours, an excavator had demolished the wooden structure, leaving behind only the cherished memories of hundreds of students who’d attended the K-8th Lutheran grade school throughout its lifetime.

“The building has sat empty for a handful of years and aged to the point it could not be repaired or maintained,” said Rev. Ronnie L. Koch, vacancy pastor for St. John’s Lutheran Church, who is serving the small congregation following Rev. Jacob Swenson’s recent decision to accept another call.

“The congregation considered moving the building to another location, but it would never have survived the move. There was only one answer: demolition.”

First house of worship built by German Lutherans

The structure began as the first permanent house of worship built by German Lutherans who arrived from nearby Independence to the village of Alton (later, renamed Fairbank) in 1854-1855. Initially, they met in their homes, then the public schoolhouse.

The Lutheran Society in Fairbank was finally organized on November 18, 1868, with Rev. Buehrer in charge of the congregation. Membership totaled seventeen adults. That same year, on a lot presented by F. J. Everett – one of the town’s founders – the Lutherische St. Johannes Gemeinde Church, construction by Bleitsch Bros. of Jesup, was built and dedicated, according to 100th Anniversary History of the Congregation.

St. John’s became one of five German churches in the village, one Roman Catholic and four protestant – Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian – each established about the same year.

These early Lutheran parishioners were not without formal theological training, hymnals, catechisms and other materials at their disposal. The Lutheran Church in America was started shortly after the first Saxon and other German immigrants arrived in America in 1847 and established a new church body: the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri,



Above left: First church erected 1868. Above right: St. John’s parochial school in 2024. (Photo: Jason Kayser) Right: School demolition. (Photo: Gayle Lehmkuhl)

Ohio and other states. The appropriate materials followed, all printed in German.

Monday through Friday, the church doubled as a school, with the pastor teaching every grade. Lutherans believed the parochial school was the best way to produce an intelligent future church membership and to prepare the children for time and for eternity, disciplined with God’s Word, and all school branches taught in the light of Holy Writ.

The growing congregation necessitated building a larger house of worship during Rev. Theo Wolfgram’s pastorship (s 1889-1993). The contract was let to H. S. Schmeelke, and in September 1891 a new church was constructed east on the premises, its entrance facing 208 N Fourth Street.

The original church building was repurposed as a one-room Christian Day School.

Transition from German to English

During WWI – instigated by Germany – German-speaking immigrants across America found themselves stigmatized by their neighbors for speaking and teaching the German language. At the time, there were roughly eight million German-speaking Americans, making them the largest non-English-speaking group in the United States. Germans as a group were quickly suspected of being spies for their homeland.

Soon after the United States entered the war, the Iowa State Council of Defense began to purge Iowa libraries of pro-German literature and burned German-friendly library books.

Then, on May 23, 1918, Iowa Gov. William Harding proclaimed a ban on the use of all languages other than English in public conversation, in churches and schools, and in telephone conversa-

tions. The governor’s so-called “Babel Proclamation” not only affected Germans, it also hit Danes, Norwegians, Dutch and other foreign-speaking immigrants in Iowa. No fewer than 23 non-German ethnic groups protested the governor’s decree.

The decision was made by Rev. F. Bruch (s 1919-1930) to begin alternating between German and English during weekly church services. The school, however, continued to teach classes in German, as the materials were still only available in German.

Rev. August Bartels fined for teaching German

In March 1920, the Rev. August Bartels, pastor at nearby St. John’s Lutheran Church Maxfield – believed to be the first church in Bremer County – was fined for unlawfully teaching German in the Maxfield school. He challenged the law and was supported in his challenge by the Iowa Synod.

Meyer v. State of Nebraska (No. 325) – by then, multiple schools in myriad states had joined forces to fight state “Babel Proclamation” laws – argued on February 23, 1923 before the US Supreme Court, and decided on June 4, 1923, determined: “A state law forbidding, under penalty, the teaching in any private, denominational, parochial or public school, of any modern language, other than English, to any child who has not attained and successfully passed the eighth grade, invades the liberty guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment and exceeds the power of the State.”

Though the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right of citizens to teach and speak in non-English languages, great damage had been done to the German language. After the war usage fell into steep decline.

School Accreditation

Initially, teaching America’s children had never been considered a profession, but rather a transient activity undertaken primarily by men in non-farming months or prior to developing careers in fields like law and medicine. The position fully opened up to women when the 19th amendment to the U.S. constitution was ratified in 1920.

In 1923, Iowa parochial schools were visited by state inspectors to assess their accreditation status. That year, St. John’s school obtained accreditation from the Iowa Committee on Secondary Schools.

The first paid teacher was Adoline Steggall (1924-1925), followed by Evelyn Pook (1925-1927), and Leona Klammer (1927-1928). Rev. F. W. Busch served as teacher until the end of his pastorate (1929), then Nora Meyer (Jan. 30-end of school year), Victor Vollrath (1930-1932), John Weber (1932-1937), Gerhardt Potratz (1937-1950), and Fern Lange (1951-1959).

Rev. H. J. Heilmann (s 1930-1965) in 1932 organized a Sunday School in the congregation, plus a Saturday School for Lutheran children who attended the K-12 grades at the Fairbank public school. Parents with children enrolled in the church school were encouraged to give accordingly. A statement of each family’s giving was annually distributed within the congregation. Along with a nominal salary, teachers received periodic benevolences from congregational members: chicken, a stack of firewood, a laundered shirt, or any other item of value to the teacher.

St. John’s school continued until in 1959, the same year the entirety of parochial and country schools closed as a result of the consolidation of the Iowa public school sys-



tem. The last two 8th grade students to graduate were Elaine Hein and Lois Lehmkuhl.

Mr. Gerhardt Potratz

“It was sad day for me when the school closed... another, when I learned the old schoolhouse had been taken down,” said Geraldine “Deane” (Lehmkuhl) Fink, who has fond memories of the years 1941-1949 she attended the school. Mr. Potratz was her teacher all eight years.

She recalls he always wore a suit and tie and wing tip shoes. He may have had a birth defect or some childhood illness as one leg was shorter, so he limped. He had a hump back and a barrel chest and wasn’t very tall. His straight brown hair was always brushed straight back. He had a widow’s peak in the center of his forehead. When he got mad, his hair would fall to each side and curl along his cheeks.

Each child was required to stop by his big oak desk at the front of the room at the start of the school day to recite an assigned Bible passage or a part of the Catechism.

“The top desk drawer was where a length of rubber hose was coiled and used for disciplinary purposes. The big boys occasionally would swipe it during the noon hour when Mr. Potratz was at the cafe downtown for lunch and throw it in the river or burn it

See WALLS, A15

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It has taken a village to evolve as an industry, and I had the pleasure of learning more about those roots in New York City last month!

This was my first trip to NYC and while overwhelming, it was an honor to visit such an iconic city. We stayed at the beautiful Essex House on the edge of Central Park and ventured to lower Manhattan in the financial district for our trainings. We began our meetings in CitiBank then walked to Ground Zero over lunch. I was in sixth grade when 9/11 happened, and with my dad and many other family members serving as volunteer firefighters, that day always chokes me up. It was surreal to stand there and envision the chaos of that morning. I will never forget that part of my time in NYC.

We also toured the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street. I hadn't realized the NYSE has not been open to the public since 9/11. One can only gain access as an IPO or as a partner to the exchange. The gentleman who hosted our travels, Ron Shurts, CEO and co-founder of Annexus, went public and partnered with NYSE in 2016 and has been leading the innovation of annuities and indices ever since.

As a native Iowan, (the insurance and annuity capital of the world) I have seen a ton of annuity products cross my desk. Some of these products brought excellent value to the client's portfolio. Some were sold for the wrong reasons, (i.e. high commissions) and were not in the best interest of the client. Annuities tend to get a bad rep because of the way agents have historically used fear and uncertainty to push products that padded their own pockets. The industry seems to be moving in the right direction – away from those sales tactics – and more towards indices and product features that benefit the client.



Annuities can be very complex but can also solve for many scenarios if they are presented in a transparent, non-biased way...

If we need to explore an annuity, we only work with A-rated companies and we vet options with the right balances of bonuses, guarantees, and liquidity features for the client.

There is never a one-size-fits-all approach.

If you ever feel compelled to buy something because an agent or advisor is pushing, you should always explore a second opinion and confirm that it is indeed the best step towards your future success.

There is always room to innovate, and I have been very lucky to work with a team that pioneers that same school of thought. I am happy to have experienced the gears that are turning behind the scenes. We are in great hands with a focus on **“where the puck is going, not where it has been”** - Mr. Ron Shurts. We don't have to live in New York City to receive exceptional service and I am proud to provide that level of care to those who need it most!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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Lorena Westendorf
The Very Best Pumpkin from Mike & Sandy Tagtow

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If these walls could talk

CONTINUED FROM A11

in the stove. Big mistake! The guilty party got the first whipping with the new hose."

The school walls consisted of cream-colored wood paneling with vertical grooves on the lower half; the upper half, painted institutional green. The tall, narrow window frames were white, without curtains. White globe lights hung from the ceiling on long cords. A big, black pot-bellied wood stove sat in back of the room, a pile of wood and a bucket of coal stored behind it. A metal shield surrounding the stove was spaced at the bottom so as to leave room for wet boots to dry or warm in the winter; mittens were draped over its top.

A picture of George Washington hung along one wall, Abraham Lincoln on another. The west wall held a tapestry with the words to the Pledge of Allegiance. "The words, 'Under God' were not in the pledge initially – they were added later. There was an 'Amen' at the end, however," she noted.

Students recited the pledge at the start of each school day, standing, right hand placed across the heart.

On the back wall hung a very ornate framed picture of Martin Luther – the catalyst of the 16th-century Protestant Reformation – staring down on all us Lutheran children.

"His eyes seemed to follow you as you crossed the room."

The School Day

The school day started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 4 p.m., with two 15 minute recesses, plus an hour for lunch. Students hung their coats and boots, and parked playground equipment (homemade softball and a bat) and packed lunches in the hallway that ran along the north side of the building. A wash pan sat on a counter beside the pail of water and a long-handled drinking cup. Kids who lived in the country took turns fetching water from the pastor's house next door. Town kids erased the blackboards and swept the floor at the end of each school day.

Mr. Potratz wrote the daily schedule on the large blackboards. Above them, left to right were the 26 letters of the alphabet, in cursive and print.

"We never had a penmanship class...we just naturally learned to write what we saw daily. Likewise, pull-down maps on rollers hanging



COURTESY PHOTO

(Back) Doreen Hein, Linda Lehmkuhl, Gwen Miller, Betty Fox, Kurt Lehmkuhl, Gerold Faust, Derold Faust, Marie Fratzke; (2nd row) Lois Lehmkuhl, Elaine Hein, Santa Claus, Lynn Miller; (3rd row) Louis Hein, Carol Hein, Neil Lehmkuhl, Larry Miller, Beverly Polege, Butch Polege, Robert Fox; (front) Dale Fox, boy Edgington. Photo: Doreen (Hein) Wilson

above the blackboards provided a ready reference to anyplace in the world we were studying."

Twenty to thirty students made up the K-8th grades, aligned in five or six rows of desks, younger grades beginning on the west side of the room, ending with a single row of 8th graders on the east side.

"I was the only one in my class until third grade when Hazel Gipper came to school," she noted.

Students were primarily taught the 3 R's – reading, writing, and arithmetic – but never literature, art, or any fluff. "But we did have contests to find things in the Bible and lots of spelling bees. And boy! could we ever diagram sentences. We knew the parts of speech when we went into the public school."

Recitations happened in the front of the room where students sat on a long bench awaiting their turn.

Often, during Bible History or Church History classes – which made up a large portion of the school day – Mr. Potratz would have younger children sit in one of the double desks with an older child for a Bible game. He would read a passage and then whichever two-some found it in the Bible first won that round.

An old upright piano sat at the front of the room. Mr. Potratz loved music and played for our opening hymn. He also played the organ for Sunday Devine church services.

"Of course, we Lutherans loved to sing... and if there was an arithmetic test coming up on the schedule late in

the day, to delay the test we would all beg to sing. He would oblige, and we might sing out of the old golden book that had WW1 songs in it... 'When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again, Hurrah, Hurrah,' or 'In the Prison Cell I Sit Thinking Mother Dear of You.' We especially loved to sing 'Onward Christian Soldiers' while we stomped our feet in time to the music."

Among Mr. Potratz' best teachings was having us form a Junior Business Club to learn Robert's Rules of Order for conducting meetings and making decisions as a group. "We planned various events and learned from mistakes. Our biggest mistake was planning to have a fortune teller at a Halloween party – Mr. Potratz pointed out that was against our religion."

Everyone took recess at the same time. When it was rainy or too cold to play outdoors, students played games on the blackboards like "Hangman" and "Initials" and sometimes a relay game called "Telephone." Seated on the bench, the end person would whisper something in the next person's ear. That person would pass it on to the next one. The last person had to say aloud what he'd heard, which usually was something quite different from the initial whisper. Another game was "Button, Button, Who's Got the Button?"

The divided (boys and girls) toilet was south of the school. Students had to hold up their hand to be excused by the teacher. Permission was granted only after recitation of a Bible passage, the 10



FERN LANGE

Commandments, or maybe a Psalm, depending on his mood.

Basement is dug

Deane believes in spring 1947 the basement was dug under the school. Alfred Kalenske dug it out using a scoop and horses just before the end of the school year. The basement eventually held a ping-pong table, two lunch tables, and two blackboards...and still left plenty of room to jump rope and other games on cold or rainy days. She's not sure when the facility got running water or indoor toilets. Students often ate lunch seated at the picnic table south of the school.

Miss Fern Lange

Doreen (Hein) Wilson says she only had Mr. Potratz as her kindergarten teacher in 1950. Miss. Fern Lange replaced him.

"Miss Lange was a creative teacher, who encouraged students through writing and reading assignments, painting and coloring decorations for various entertainments; acting and singing were also a part of every day in some form."

Doreen remembers participating in multiple class productions.

"I don't remember anyone ever putting up a fuss when asked to do something by Miss Lange. When there wasn't a student to play the piano, she would take on that role as well (she played with one finger), or as narrator, or dresser, or read a part not filled."

The Rev. Kurt Lehmkuhl, the only student to have attended St. John's school who became a pastor believes he received a quality education at the school.

"Students were given a lot of worksheets to complete throughout the day, and while they worked, they listened to upper classes being taught, plus we got a review of earlier subjects each time



GERHARDT POTRATZ

younger student had their lessons... I listened and learned a lot."

As he prepared to attend public high school, people in the community told him, "Wait 'til you get to the big school, and you'll be in trouble."

Instead, he found he was way ahead of everyone in his class and graduated valedictorian in 1961. Then he went off to college and graduated Concordia Lutheran Seminary in 1971. He pastored the next 30 years at Peace Lutheran Church in Arlington, Minnesota.

Another school memory: "And no one ever got bullied... During recess we played ball on the open lot to the west by the cemetery, the teacher too. If a kid couldn't hit a baseball, the next time he was at bat, he found four hands on the bat to help out."

One specific moment comes to mind about Mr. Potratz: "We always had rehearsals for the lengthy Christmas Eve services at the church. One year, I was repeatedly caught talking and asked to stop. Ultimately, he called me to the front of the room for a spanking. As I bent over, Mr. Potratz proceeded to place one of his own hands across my backside, so each strike was against his own hand. The lesson was still useful to everyone in the room."

Rev. Heilmann, Kurt remembers, was a relaxed, friendly person. Kids got a half hour of catechism with him daily. "That's a lot of Christian education."

In the school's final years, it was used for overflow church-related activities, and occasionally rented for child care.

St. John's had 15 pastors in its first 100 years, each who also served as teachers at the school. Likely, each teacher and student had similar stories as these.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday September 9, 2024. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Gruetzmacher. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk. R. Woods/Gruetzmacher to add an agenda item on Approval of Application and Agreement for use of Highway Right-of-way for Utilities Accommodation. Motion carried. Erickson/Gruetzmacher to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Williams/R. Woods to open the public hearing on proposed amendment to the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Fairbank Urban Renewal Area. Motion carried. An email was received from the Wapsie Valley Superintendent, Chris Hoover, that stated that the school district had no objections to the Urban Renewal Amendment and Clayton Ohrt with the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors called and left a voicemail stating that no one would be able to attend the consultation meeting set for August 22nd but stated no comments about the amendment. No other comments, oral or written, were received. Williams/Erickson to close the public hearing on proposed amendment to the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Fairbank Urban Renewal Area. Motion carried.

Gruetzmacher/R. Woods to approve Resolution 2024-23 – Approve Urban Renewal Plan Amendment for the Fairbank Urban Renewal Area. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Gruetzmacher/T. Woods to approve Resolution 2024-24 – Resolution Authorizing Economic Development Grant Agreement with J. S. W. Enterprise, LLC and Authorizing Internal Advance for Funding of Economic Development Grant Thereunder. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. John Welsh was present to discuss the project and stated that they are currently waiting on the windows for the 1897 Café. He is working on repairing ceilings and flooring and is hoping to get all the mechanicals, heating and air etc., running soon as the electrical has started.

R. Woods/T. Woods to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: August 26, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Report for August 2024, Approval for Brittany Fuller and Michelle Laube's Attendance at the IMFOA Fall Conference from October 16-18, 2024, and the Payment of Bills. The bill listing will be placed at the end of the minutes. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Treasurers Report for the Month of August 2024: Revenues - General, \$21,814.52; Special Revenue, \$27,562.02; Capital Projects, \$60,035.68; Permanent Funds, \$72.32; Proprietary, \$162,260.40; and Transfers In, \$27,055.00. Disbursements - General, \$73,534.38; Special Revenue, \$161,636.60; Proprietary, \$160,384.06; and Transfers Out, \$27,055.00. Balance on hand at close of business on August 31, 2024 was \$5,393,954.63. There was no one present during the informal public comment section.

The shelter replacement at Veteran's Park is still being discussed and worked on. The park committee is trying to get quotes and see what grants are available to find out what all can be done there.

A texting system called Text My Gov was discussed. The system would allow for mass communication via texting to be utilized by the city. It seemed favorable amongst the council, but they wanted more information gathered before a decision could be made.

A service agreement for a ClientCare Managed Service with Premier Technology was presented to the council for added security with technology and better Wi-Fi distribution at City Hall. The monthly cost stated \$187.90 which included two PC-Standard packages and 12 PC-Lite packages. This would cover everyone's laptops and the desktop computers at City Hall and in the Police Department. Williams/ Gruetzmacher to approve the Service Agreement with Premier Technology. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

The added agenda item of Approval of Application and Agreement for use of Highway Right-of-way for Utilities Accommodation was discussed. There was some work being done in the right-of-way along Hwy 281 within

the City limits that needed to be approved by both the city and the IA DOT. The IA DOT thought that the work being done would be a benefit to the area but that there just needed to be documentation and approvals done. Williams/Gruetzmacher to approve the Application and Agreement for use of Highway Right-of-way for Utilities Accommodation at the location of 502 Grove Street. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. During the council/mayor comments, Councilman Gruetzmacher stated that all the tile had been laid at the ball diamond. He wanted to thank the following volunteers who worked over thirty hours over their holiday weekend to get the work done: Thomas Roe, Jonathon Schilling, Caleb Erickson, and Tracy Gruetzmacher. He also stated that The Kernels Foundation increased their grant award to the city to \$5,000.00 and that he knows the ball diamonds don't look the greatest right now but that they will soon. Mayor Kayser asked the council to turn in their employee evaluations to him by November so that he can have them completed by November 30th. He also stated that he had been working with the police department on serving some nuisance abatements.

During the department reports, Brian told the council about a pipeline facility security threat that had happened in central Nebraska. The Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities sent out an email and wanted to remind everyone to be aware of their surroundings and to report anything that looks out of place. Nick had been working with John Welsh regarding an electrical upgrade at the 1897 café. Public works got the well house removed and well #3 has been capped. They are also working on a new gas service west of town. Police Chief Drish updated everyone on some of the activities that the department had been up to.

During the planning session part of the council meeting, the goals that were discussed and written down on a list at the meeting on July 22nd were each addressed as to importance level of low to high. This list will continue to be reviewed at future planning session meetings.

Williams/Erickson to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Motion carried.

- Bills for the Month of September 2024
- Amazon Capital Services, Supplies \$19.96
 - Arnold Motor Supply, Supplies \$63.07
 - Bodensteiner Implement Co., Supplies \$22.50
 - Bound Tree Medical, LLC., Ambulance Supplies \$105.18
 - Lonnie Brewer, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$75.00
 - Bryan Rock Products, Supplies \$4,778.42
 - Butler County Rec, Electric \$76,902.68
 - Butler County Rec, Services \$19,585.28
 - Campbell Supply-Waterloo, Supplies \$244.00
 - Carrico Aquatic Products, Supplies \$10.07
 - Casey's General Store, Gas \$695.93
 - Clayton Energy Corporation, Natural Gas \$1,917.36
 - Clayton Energy Corporation, Reservation \$5,569.54
 - D & S Portables, Inc., Rentals \$800.00
 - Dakota Supply Group, Supplies \$672.84
 - Davis Lawn Service, Services \$1,552.00
 - Brian Delagardelle, Clothing/Cell Phone Reimbursement \$186.74
 - Display Sales, Supplies \$2,444.90
 - Don's Truck Sales, Services \$385.05
 - Echo Group, Inc., Supplies \$34.71
 - Electrical Engineering & Equip., Equipment \$1,838.02
 - Fairbank Food Center, Concessions \$6.99
 - Fairbank Postmaster, Rental \$162.00
 - City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas \$7,343.00
 - City of Fairbank, Utility Deposit Applied \$200.00
 - Brittany Fuller, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$75.00
 - Gordon Flesch Company Inc, Copier/Printer Fees \$114.14
 - IA Dept of Natural Resources, Permit Fee \$210.00
 - IMFOA, Fall Conference \$00.00
 - Iowa One Call, Locates \$18.10
 - Iowa Prison Industries, Signs \$80.00

- Iowa Regional Utilities Assoc., Water \$10,952.32
- Ipers, Benefits \$5,916.75
- J.S.W. Enterprise, LLC, Catalyst Grant Award \$ 60,000.00
- Jetco, Inc., Equipment & Services \$3,672.00
- John Deere Financial, Supplies \$89.99
- Kiesler's Police Supply, Supplies \$635.07
- Kirkwood Community College, Training \$69.00
- Kluesner Sanitation, LLC., September 2024 Pick-up Fees \$8,229.25
- Nick Kuker, Clothing/Cell Phone Reimbursement \$373.81
- Kwik Trip Inc., Gas \$38.32
- Michelle Laube, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$75.00
- Little Wapsie Communications, IP Static Addresses \$ 20.00
- Lumber Ridge Home Source, Shipping \$33.94
- MercyOne Waterloo Medical Center, Services \$ 110.00
- Meyer's Custom Chevy, Supplies \$1,360.00
- Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Testing \$750.00
- Modern Building Products, Supplies \$307.69
- NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 8/1/24 \$10.00
- NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 8/15/24 \$9.27
- NE Security Bank, Non-Sufficient Check Charge \$4.00
- NE Security Bank, Utility ACH Service Charge \$ 10.00
- NSB/HSA - H S A Contributions \$625.00
- NSB/HSA- H S A Payroll Deductions \$200.00
- Oelwein Publishing, Publishings \$309.75
- Pratt's Pest Control, Monthly Pest Control \$95.00
- Quick Med Claims, Ambulance Billing \$418.73
- Randy's Lawn Care & Snow, Services \$2,575.00
- Shield Technology Corp., Software \$450.00
- Storey Kenworthy/Matt Parrott, Supplies \$478.50
- Storm Lake Fire Dept., Training \$130.00
- Sun Life Assurance Comp, Life Policies \$74.55
- T & R Service Company, Equipment \$6,883.04
- Team Laboratory Chemical Corp., Supplies \$1,544.00
- Teleflex LLC, Ambulance Supplies \$937.50
- Thomas Electric Motor Service, Services \$86.40
- Treasurer-State of Iowa, August 2024 Sales Tax \$ 2,605.98
- Treasurer State of Iowa, August 2024 Water Excise Tax \$1,259.26
- U. S. Treasury, 941 Taxes \$9,843.75
- Utility Equipment Co., Supplies \$165.38
- Verizon Wireless, Cell Phones \$178.05
- Visa, Training/Microsoft Email Accounts/Hotel/Avaya Phone System \$2,081.68
- Waterloo Tent & Tarp Co., Supplies \$42.00
- WBC Mechanical, Equipment & Services \$1,715.17
- Wellmark, September Premium \$3,979.56
- Roxanne Wenner, Services \$150.00
- Windstream Enterprise, Gas Alarm Phone Line \$68.00
- The Library Board Approved the Following Bills on September 4, 2024:
- Amazon Capital Services, Supplies \$130.47
- Angela Berg, Mileage \$14.41
- Baker & Taylor Inc., Books \$646.97
- Davis Lawn Service, Services \$61.00
- City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas \$171.94
- Gordon Flesch Company Inc., Copier/Printer Fees \$46.44
- Overdrive, Inc., eBooks \$500.00
- Pratt's Pest Control, Monthly Pest Control \$45.00
- NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 8/15/24 \$0.73
- US Cellular, Hotspots \$117.96
- Visa, Microsoft Email Accounts/Avaya Phone System \$53.37
- Roxanne Wenner, Services \$200.00
- Jason Kayser, Mayor
- Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday August 26, 2024. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, and T. Woods. Absent: Gruetzmacher. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

T. Woods/Erickson to approve amending the agenda to add Approve Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey for the Fourth Street Sidewalk Project under new business item 7.d. Motion carried.

Williams/R. Woods to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

There were no public hearings. Erickson/Williams to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: August 12, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes and Cigarette Permit for the Fairbank Food Center. Motion carried.

There were no comments during the informal comment section.

T. Woods/Erickson to approve the donation of a park bench from Jim Fink. He will work with the Public Works department on placement. Motin carried.

Another quote for a Bobcat skid loader was presented that had a few changes from the quote received at the last meeting which included a ride control addition. That quote was for \$64,604.29. Discussion on purchasing used or new took place. Both skid loaders would work for all the attachments the city currently owns. The new skid loader would come with a two-year warranty. T. Woods/R. Woods to approve the purchase of the new machine at \$64,604.29 and to split the cost up between all the equipment savings accounts by percentage. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

Lisa Kremer was present from the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission to present the council with information regarding past accomplishments and on upcoming and active BCEDC Programs.

There were no new discussions or information regarding the shelter replacement at Veteran's Park.

Kevin Bodensteiner and Janice Martins from Fairbank Fire and EMS and on behalf of the Buchanan County Emergency Management Services were present to talk to the council about the essential service tax levy that will be on the ballot this fall for all of Buchanan County. Also present was Chris West, Fairbank Fire Chief; Jake Schwartz and Jenna Beck from the Fairbank EMS; John Kerkove, Independence EMS; and Kim Lingenfelter and Dan Walter from the Jesup EMS. The rate proposed is seventy-five cents per thousand and will be for fifteen years. Each community would be able to keep their share of the levy but there is nothing in writing yet on how that would work. There will be town hall meetings in various locations in Buchanan County and information will be shared when those are scheduled.

Another step was needed before the sidewalk project along Fourth Street could be started and go out for bid. The grant process is now requiring a historic architectural reconnaissance survey to be completed. Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. out of Cresco was only one of two people that offered to do the survey but Mayor Kayser explained that Jon Biederman, the city engineer, said that the second company stated they would have to receive training first. Williams/Erickson to approve the proposal for a historic architectural reconnaissance survey for \$4,520.00 by Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. The field work would likely begin the first week of September. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Councilman R. Woods stated that Dave Mudderman with Quality Truck Rebuilders had called him regarding some electrical issues at the shop. Brian said they would investigate it to see what was going on. Mayor Kayser stated that nuisance abatements were served and that other abatements were being addressed as well. He also announced that another grant written by the City Clerk for the ball diamond upgrade project had been awarded to the city. The Black Hawk Gaming Association matched the award received from the Buchanan County Community Foundation for another \$15,000.00 to put towards the project. That past week, he had met with Premier Technology about some security upgrades for technology at City Hall that were recommended after an ICAP audit. He asked everyone to review the information sent out about the possibility of a mass texting program that could be purchased through a company for the city. Mayor Kayser planned another goal setting session for after the next council meeting and stated he is going to retrieve quotes for lighting upgrades to the council chambers.

During the department reports, Fire Chief West stated that they had had a busy month with some good training and that the Amish safety training day brought in 293 individuals from 75 families. He also received the updated ISO rating but hadn't had time to review it. Brian stated that Nick had been gone a few days for Gas training and they all attended Wastewater training that past Thursday. Butler County REC was in town and replaced 4 poles that needed to be updated. He presented a picture of the snake from the pool, and it showed damage underneath from what appears to be from picking at it. The snake was new that past year and it cost over \$14,000.00 and it may possibly be ruined. He also stated that they had noticed the bathrooms at the facility were not being cleaned after they had reminded pool staff frequently. These things will be noted for next year's staff training. Mayor Kayser reminded everyone that there is an opening on the pool board if anyone is interested. Police Chief Drish started off by thanking the council for their courteous and professional behavior during the essential service tax levy conversation as other communities had not gone the same way. He also thanked the Fire and EMS volunteers, stating that the Amish safety day was very successful. He attended on behalf of the DNR. He was still waiting on the camera system for the car and informed everyone that the school resource officer, Mitch Frank, had attended the first day of school and was looking forward to another year with the students. Williams/Erickson to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Motion carried.

Jason Kayser, Mayor
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Wapsie Valley CSD

- Regular School Board Mtg
September 16, 2024
Pledge of Allegiance
1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:30PM
 - A. Directors: Wolfe, Aiello, & Kaufman. Auel, & Sauerbrei (excused)
 - B. Administration: Chris Hoover, Principal Forsyth, Murphy, Myers (excused)
 - C. Board Secretary: Kim Arndt, Others: Brian Stark, Vaughn Gross, Addison McElhose, Mae Wedemeier, Carmen Wille, Clint Munk, Carizma Sander, Reagan Szurley, and virtual participants.
 2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve the amended agenda adding September 11, 2024 minutes for approval and moving item 4 to 3 and 3 to 4 as presented. Motion carried 3-0
 3. Mae Wedemeier & Addisyn McElhose explained fundraisers for FFA fruit and the national convention trip to Indianapolis. The board thanked them for presenting and gave their ok for fruit sales and the national trip.
 4. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to table Phase 3 HVAC project as presented. Motion carried 3-0 Brian Stark will get us more information on different HVAC scenarios with cost and present them at the October meeting.
 5. Public Comment - Carizma & Reagan Szurley presented fundraisers for FCCLA for homecoming including movie night, waffle breakfast, & REC night. The board approved all events.
 6. Consent Items-Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Kaufman and an open enrollment: Makayla Begley request to continue open enrolling her 3rd grade student from Oelwein to WV after a family move as presented. Motion carried 3-0
 7. Board-How did Run, Hide Fight go? Went well per TJ Murphy. Our Rural teachers and students are always welcome to present at the board meeting in Spotlight in

Education. Mr. Forsyth said they may present sometime in the Spring.

Superintendent-Report included, accepting student teacher practicum, trip to Athens, Rome, & Florence, FCCLA fundraisers, Homecoming events, Spotlight on Education, HVAC change order, & Facilities.

PK-6 Principal Forsyth & 7-12 Murphy: Homecoming, Professional Development, Back To School Night, School, WE Time, Ambassadors, & Activity Updates.

8. Personnel - Resignations-Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve the following resignation as presented: Jaden Kuethe-JV Boys Basketball and thank him for his service at WV. Motion carried 3-0

Contracts: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve Carol Westpfahl-Special Education Associate-\$13.42 P/H, & Linda Reding-Administrative Assistant MS/HS-\$16.24 P/H as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Addendum: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve the following addendum-Christy Tiedt - BA/15 to BA+15/15=\$52,914 (BASE) + \$7,086 (TSS) = \$60,000 as presented-Motion Carried 3-0

Termination: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the termination of Jessica Westcott-JH/HS Head cook and Destiny Quario-JH/HS Cook as presented. Motion carried 3-0

9. New Business-Will bring early retirement options for fiscal year 2024 to the meeting in October.

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve FY24 Special Education Allowable growth of -\$293,807.69 as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the 28E Teacher/Librarian with Gladbrook-Reinbeck for the 24-25 school year as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to terminate the soccer sharing agreement with Waverly CSD effective the 24-25 school as presented. Motion carried 3-0

10. Board Talking Points - Disappointed in starting over in prioritizing our facility projects

11. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to adjourn at 7:23 PM. Motion carried 3-0 Respectfully, Kim Arndt

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Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: **2-year commitment:** Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. **Regional Sports:** RSN surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. **NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change):** Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protectand transactional fees. **Premium Channels:** 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starzand DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. **Remote:** The DISH Voice Remote with Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. **Other:** All packages, programming, featuresand functionality and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$9.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Estate Garage Sale

407 5TH STREET N • FAIRBANK

**Friday & Saturday,
October 4th and 5th
7:30 am – 5:30 pm**

Collectable Angels (over 130) - Willow Tree, Boyde Bears, Isabelle Bloom, Thomas Kinkadee Collection, Budweiser Christmas Village with train, Furniture, End Tables, Coffee Tables, Dishes, Antiques, Sewing Machines, Outdoor Furniture and Décor, Lamps, Pictures, Vintage Jewelry, Christmas Tree and Décor, games, Knick Knacks, books, and much more.



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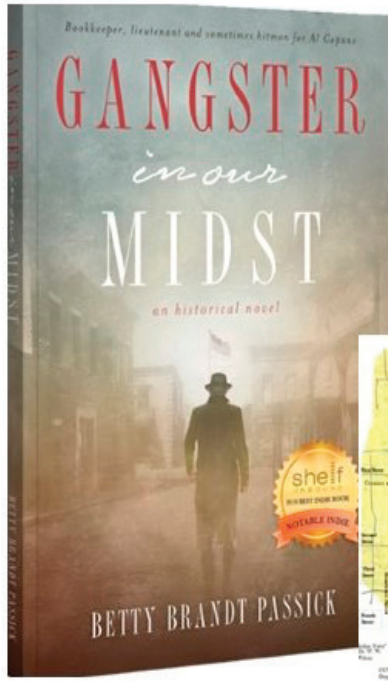
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119 E. Main Street • PO Box 467 • Fairbank, IA 50629
319-635-2526 Fax: 319-635-2162

2024 *Gangster* Tour (Fairbank, IA)


**Saturday, October 5
4 - 6 pm**

**\$10.00 per person
(at the door)**




RSVN (limited): bbpassick@comcast.net
Meet: Cool Art & Books, 202 East Main St.
Transportation: On your own, carpooling encouraged

4 pm - Driving-walking tour, 6-8 sites (from novel Gangster in Our Midst)
6 pm - Costa's for dinner, optional (Dutch treat)



Fairbank Native & Tour Guide:
Betty Brandt Passick

St. Peter Lutheran Church Oran, IA
Italian Supper
Saturday, November 2, 2024
5 to 7 pm

Featuring:

- Lasagna, Spaghetti & Meatballs,
- Lettuce Salad,
- Bread Sticks & Desserts

Carry Outs Available
To Order: Call St. Peter 319-638-6441 3-7 pm on 11/2

**Free Will Donation
Bake Sale Items**

Also Collecting Canned Items for His Hands Food Pantry

October COMMUNITY POTLUCK



BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH!

OCT. 16, 2024 AT 11:30 AM

Tableware and beverages provided.
Sponsored by IC Parish Life Committee.




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NEW LISTING

1115 - 2ND ST. SE, OELWEIN



Updated 2 Story on Lg Corner Lot, 3 Bed, 1 1/2 Baths, Appliances, 2 Car Gar, F/P, Full Bsmnt, Updated Shingles, Siding, Some Flooring & Paint.
Great Location

\$225,000

NEW PRICE



824 PROSPECT ST., JESUP

\$240,000

NEW PRICE



730 PROSPECT ST., LAMONT

\$240,000

NEW PRICE

Buyer Incentives



116 5TH ST. NW, OELWEIN

\$119,000

NEW LISTING

503 KING ST., FAYETTE



4 bedrm, 2 bath, 2 story home, 1 car det gar., c/air, wood floors, Located in close to UIU.

\$110,000

NEW LISTING - ACREAGE

16283 50TH ST., OELWEIN



Easy Location
1 mi N of Oelwein, 1968 Ranch, 1,728 sq' main + 1,10 sq' Bsmnt, 4 bedrms, 3 baths, walk out bsmnt, 2 car tuck under gar + 36'x26' det gar.

ADVANCED, REALTORS®, LLC



814 S. Frederick, Oelwein 283-2242

Lori Beierschmitt, Broker/Owner

Cell: 319-238-1700



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