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#LIVELIKECARSON



by Gidal Kaiser
sports@oelweindailyregister.com

Carson McGrane was supposed to work for the shoes. James and Jodi McGrane bought then-12-year-old Carson a pair of Rudis Kyle Snyder Caliga wrestling shoes, as a gift once Carson bench pressed his weight.

Size 11. Colored midnight black and battle red.

An incentive, one might call it. Carson was close. Not quite at the number, but close. So, James relented.

“These were like, the shoes to get that year. I had them ordered, but he wasn’t going to get them until he bench-pressed his

weight,” James said, more than five years later.

James and Jodi sat at their kitchen table, the shoes — adorned with autographs from members of the Iowa wrestling team — placed just so near a corner of the table.

“For some reason, that night, I don’t know ... we didn’t go to the football game, it was a Friday night, and (Jodi) made lasagna and we had a little family dinner at the table,” James continued. “I gave him (the shoes). For some reason. I don’t know why. You know? Have no idea why. But he got to try them on and wear them once, and we messed around and practiced his hik-

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WAPSIE PINES TREE FARM

Fairbank, Iowa

by Diane Rubin

Regardless of what's going on in your family's life, as soon as November arrives, families begin to think about their holiday traditions! One tradition that becomes more precious each year, for young and old alike, is visiting a Christmas Tree farm, and finding the perfect Christmas tree!

How fortunate we are in the Fairbank area to have Wapsie Pines Tree Farm, located just 3 miles West, and ½ mile North on Hwy 281. There are more than 30,000 plus growing trees on more than twenty-five acres! The Scotch pine is still a favorite, but in the past few years, fir trees have become more and more popular! "Families want bigger and bigger trees each year" commented Bob Moulds, owner of Wapsie Pines. "This year, we have more tall trees than we've ever had, in almost all varieties, but the firs seem to be the most sought after," he went on to say. All trees for sale are tagged with their size and price. You can cut your own, or there are helpers available. You also can have your trees bailed/netted for more convenient transporting and setting up.

Bob's son Brian and his wife Susie have had a major role in the tree business the last few years. "I don't know what I would do without them" Bob said. "Susie along with a group of longtime friends have a big part in making all the fresh, decorated wreaths, boughs, door swags, mantle pieces, cemetery décor, centerpieces, porch pots, fresh garland etc." You will also find a beautiful selection of miscellaneous gift items, whether for yourself, or someone who is hard to buy for! And there will also be the 2023 Wapsie Pines ornament once again!

Wapsie Pines will open Black Friday, November 24th at 9 am until 5 pm, and each weekend from 9-5 thereafter through December 10th, weekday hours Monday through Friday 1-5pm.

Please note, Santa Claus will only be at the tree farm for the first weekend.



TRAGEDY ON A SUNDAY MORNING IN NOVEMBER

By Betty Brandt Passick,
bbpassick@comcast.net

(from Gangster in Our Midst, 2017, "While You Were Gone," Ch. 25)

Sweeney would never forget the fire at the Methodist Church on Sunday morning, November 8, 1942.

Shortly after the sun came up, he'd gone to the well shed to pump water, so folks had water for bathing before church. Waiting for the tower to fill, he sat on the bench outside the engine house, relishing the tranquility of an empty Main Street, thinking it might be what he liked best about life in a small town. In many ways, Oxbow still had a Wild West feel: wide barren dirt Main Street with run-down steel bridge crossing the Little Wapsie, and nineteenth century architecture with cloth canopies overhanging a rolling, weathered boardwalk. Four hundred souls already called this place home when the northern part of the township was platted in 1854.

An hour later, he returned to the well shed. Just as he flipped the switch to turn off the pump,



FAIRBANK M. E. CHURCH.

the fire siren sounded. Within minutes a few old duffers raced toward the engine house.

"It's the Methodist church!"

someone hollered.

Sweeney scanned the skyline above the church, straightaway

seeing a thin veil of black haze.



He followed the men inside the engine house to help ready the 1928 Model A truck, its sides encumbered with soda-acid cylindrical tanks to maintain water pressure, tanks transferred from the old Maxwell truck. Minutes ticked down before the truck's rounded nose emerged through the double-wide doors and the red beast turned west onto Main Street, siren sounding, yellow-rubber-jacketed and black-helmeted men clinging to straps on its sides, their feet planted on wide steel rudders. Sweeney's among them.

At the scene, firemen uncoiled

the long flat canvas hose, attaching one end to the firetruck tank, while Fire Chief Frank Miller grabbed the slender black nozzle at the other end. Soon a tenuous stream of water began to flow, but by then a thick black cloud cloaked the white wooden structure built in 1870. More locals arrived—men, women and children—who pulled buckets from the truck and quickly formed brigades. One line extended from a fire hydrant in the next block; a second stretched from the river to the church. Each soon delivered pails of water for dous-

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GOELLER FAMILY CAR RALLY

by Judy Neil

In 2004 two sisters put their heads together and started a tradition we call the "Goeller Family Car Rally". Our car rally has a different meaning than what you may expect. It has nothing to do with fancy cars! Our family has been known to do some unique and crazy things throughout the years.

It started out on Mother's Day, May 8th, 2004 and we asked that all the siblings of Judy (Goeller) Neil, Cindy (Goeller) Hagenow and Jerry Goeller meet at the Fairbank Island Park. The requirements were to have at least 2 adults in each vehicle...the more the better! Each vehicle was given a list of instructions with questions to answer which eventually would lead them to an undisclosed destination. The ride was timed and trophies and prizes were awarded for the correct answers on the instructions and also their mileage. Departure times were 10 minutes apart. Each vehicle was given small bottles of water and a sack of goodies to enjoy along the way. The instructions referred to signs, objects,

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WAPSIE VALLEY NEWS



It is hard to believe that the month of October is half over and the cooler weather has definitely arrived. A big congratulations to all of our fall activities and the success that each of our teams has had this year. The strong traditions continue in the valley!

Over the next few months I am going to be sharing information in regards to school finance in Iowa. I feel this is an important topic for all patrons to have a basic understanding of so that you are knowledgeable about what schools can and cannot do with funds. It will also help you understand how staffing and facilities decisions are made.

Iowa School Finance
Iowa school finance can be difficult to navigate. Below are a few basic concepts that will start you on your way to a general understanding of where school funding comes from and how it can be spent.

Iowa school finance is based on the number of students in the district. The total amount of money a district has is determined primarily by the number of children enrolled. The Iowa Legislation sets the

amount that school districts receive per child. That amount currently is \$7424. Except for a few specific tax levies dedicated to specific purposes, the state prohibits districts from levying as much local money as they might otherwise want to fund the school district. Therefore, when the number of students enrolled in the district increases, the amount of money for the district increases. On the contrary, when the number of students decreases, so does the amount of money available to the district. Schools are a labor-intensive business, with about 80 percent of a district's General Fund made up of staff salary and benefit costs.

People often wonder how the

district's tax rate is figured. The district's tax rate is set by the school foundation formula. There are only limited steps a school board can take to increase or decrease the property tax rate. Each tax levy has a limited purpose and the General Fund is for everything else. Property valuation has a big impact on the overall tax rate.

Certain funds have to be spent on certain things. Although it may not make sense that the district has enough money to pave a parking lot, remodel a building, or buy computers but not enough money to hire teachers (or vice versa), that's how the state law works. These are different pots of money that can be used only for specific, legal purposes.

Next month I will discuss the different types of funds in the district budget and what those funds can be spent on. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support and Go Warriors!

Chris Hoover
Superintendent



Thank you for everyone who showed up to help straighten gravestones at the Fairbank Cemetery on October 21st. We appreciate your help. Adam Costello, Benny Rue, LeAnn Sigglekov, Ken & Lamar Little.

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CARSON
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ing the football in the living room that night. It was just a three-of-us night.

“That’s one of the one’s that sticks out, though. He wasn’t going to get them until he bench-pressed his weight, and he was almost there. He was almost there.”

The night was Sept. 14, 2018. A day later, tragedy.

A week later, a movement was born.

As the Class of 2024 sets up for the football team’s Senior Night, #LiveLikeCarson is many things to many people. A mantra. A creed. An ethos.

“It feels like — it’s like the way of life,” Jacob Schoer said. “The way you should live. Carson lived an awesome life. He did everything correctly, everything with a purpose.

“He didn’t take the low route ... he did the big things that mattered, and the little things that lead up to the big things. He was a person where you could lean on him, and he was going to be a good friend. He was a good person to everyone.”

It was termed an accident.

Carson was mowing a lawn that Saturday. At one point, he shut the lawn mower down and stepped away from it. At some point, the mower began to roll backward on an incline, and pinned him underneath. Carson was removed from under the mower and transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

“That day, his boss told him he didn’t need to worry about mowing,” Schoer said. “Just the way he was, he wanted to get everything done when he was asked to do it. Do it immediately, get it done — that’s the person he was.”

“You start something, you finish it,” youth coach Rhino Cox said. “That was his attitude. Maybe the lawn didn’t need to be finished that day, but he knew it was a job to do, and he was never going to let anybody down.”

In the immediate aftermath, the community rallied around James and Jodi, and Carson. A bench dedicated to Carson at a community park. For a time, the Wapsie youth tournament was named the Carson McGrane Memorial tournament.

A giant rock sits next to the McGranes’ porch, with a Wapsie Valley Warrior head laser carved onto it. ‘Carson James’ is lasered on in script, as is the phrase ‘Forever a Warrior.’

And the hashtag was born.

“I don’t even know who started it,” Jodi said. “The boys?”

James: “I don’t know. Amber (Decker)?”

Jodi: “Yeah, Amber probably started it.”

“It was on t-shirts that week,” she continued. “They had shirts before the funeral. Because everyone wanted to wear shirts to the funeral.”

“Living like Carson was mentioned by Jodi’s sister when family and friends were gathered at their home in the days following his death,” Amber Decker



said. “The support was overwhelming, and I think it was her sister, Jill, who discussed Carson’s character and how if we all lived like Carson the world would be a better place.

“#LiveLikeCarson came from that. We put the saying on t-shirts and a local grandma designed the CM, while James also wanted the Warrior incorporated.”

The hashtag adorns t-shirts, wristbands, stickers, emblems, a giant sign outside Wapsie Valley’s wrestling room.

“The Live Like Carson theme, to me, is you do things the right way,” current Wapsie Valley head wrestling coach Brian Krall said. “Carson did things the right way. He was a good young man. Paid attention. Was polite. Please and thank you. Had manners. He was a good young man.”

Carson joined the Wapsie Wrestling Club when he matriculated from Oelwein to Fairbank.

“He was a youth wrestler so therefore Rhino, I, and several other dads running the WWC were all excited to have a new boy join the team,” Justin Decker said. “Carson was pretty clumsy at first. He just hadn’t grown into his body yet. He struggled. He wasn’t the most naturally gifted boy in the room by any means. But there was just something different about him. He always made eye contact with you. You could tell when we were coaching him, he was listening ... and soaking it in like a sponge. He was eager to learn.”

“For a while my dad was taking me, Carson, and Jake (Schoer) to the high school three a week to train and lift weights, and we were only in sixth grade at the time,” Kanen Decker said. “He never made excuses and just put his head down and worked for everything. Soon enough, his sixth-grade year, he placed at the state wrestling tournament, and it was so awesome because he dedicated himself to getting better and it all paid off for him.”

The Iowa AAU Kids State Championships in February, 2018. The 5th-6th grade 148-pound bracket. Carson was forced to win a fourth match on the tournament’s first day to reach Sunday’s placement rounds, and earned a 4-3 decision with what James termed as aftereffects of being slammed hard the previous match.

Carson won his first match Sunday, 2-0 in overtime, to advance, and faced Nathan Beitz. Beitz won a fourth-grade championship at 118 pounds.

“The second match, he was going out there,” James starts to grin. “Jake goes, ‘That kid won state last year.’ I was like, ‘Jake, shut up.’

“Carson went out and beat him on mat 3.”

The score was 9-2, and Carson’s sixth win. He ended the tournament in fourth place, going 6-2. Carson followed placing sixth in the 11 & 12 150-pound division at the Corn Cobb Nationals, held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

“I remember telling Rhino and Torrey (Martin) at Carson’s last AAU tourney in Des Moines, ‘This kid’s gonna be really good someday, isn’t he?’” Justin recalled. “Their response, ‘Yes, he is.’”

The pictures are nearly the same size.

On one side of a McGrane living-room wall is Carson, in wrestling stance and gear. On the other, he’s in a center stance, ready to hike the football.

“He also played football and was going to have a great junior high year because of all the work he did to better himself and get big and strong,” Kanen said. “But let me tell you that kid was gonna be an absolute animal on the football field and a very good wrestler on the mat.”

The football team carries a Wapsie Valley jersey, No. 55, with them when they march on the field every Friday. The group marches, with Tucker Ladeburg and Schoer each holding one arm of Carson’s jersey.

That quartet — Carson, Kanen, Ladeburg and Schoer — jelled from the minute Carson moved to Fairbank, to hear everyone tell it. Senior signs for Kanen, Ladeburg, Schoer and Dallas Tisue are posted near Carson’s rock at the McGrane household. Ladeburg plays center, McGrane’s position. It was happenstance at first, but it’s become an honor.

“It’s always in the back of my mind. There’s never a moment where I forget about him,” Ladeburg said. “It just really sucks. He’s not living out his senior year with his friends. I’ve known him since preschool. It just sucks knowing that I can’t have our senior year with my best friend, my buddy.”

Players and coaches hold up an outstretched hand in a ‘five’ to open the fourth quarter in his honor.

“He would be with us, every step of the way,” noted Schoer, who added last week’s 55 points against AGWSR felt like a tribute to McGrane.

Back in 2018, the school district postponed homecoming and related activities for the high school a week. It postponed the junior high football, volleyball and cross-country events that Monday.

“A lot of people were like, ‘We’re going to play for him,’ ‘We’re going to work on everything he stood for and that’s the way we’re going to live the rest of our lives,’” Schoer recalled.

“They’ve asked me and James if we want to participate ... we’re not doing that,” Jodi said. “We’re not going to be able to — I’m not going to be able to go out there.

“Homecoming this year, for me, was tough. Frankly, this year is going to suck.”

“That’ happens to be tonight’s Senior Night ceremony for the Class of 2024. It’s a trigger, as was Sept. 15 and myriad Facebook memories that pop up seemingly every other day.

James stopped bowhunting, though he and Carson did it just a few times. Jodi’s last venture with Carson was a fishing trip — “He loved to fish. And that fish is on the wall. Still.” — and they’ve attended events over time to cheer on Wapsie. To cheer on Carson’s friends.

James is still close with most of them, specifically Kanen, Ladeburg and Schoer. He’ll go fishing or hunting with them, or snowmobiling or whatever. There is a hunt he purchased at a recent venison supper.

“It’s supposed to be this fall at some point,” James said. “I might give it to a couple of his little buddies. Tell them to go for a weekend, try to get a big one.”

Be of service to others. It’s what Carson was about. It’s what the community has done since Sept. 15, 2018. There is some comfort in that.

“I do (feel that way),” Jodi added. “It’s helped a lot.

“His legacy is still on. He’ll never be forgotten. Everyone still talks about him. It will never go away.”

TRAGEDY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

few choir chairs and two preacher chairs before brazening unstoppable flames curled around external walls and roofline. The frame hissed and crackled. Stained-glass windows popped. Sweeney noticed in the middle of the next block, atop the back stairs outside the apartment above Lehmkuhl Hardware, their children looked on.

After the last flames were extinguished, Rev. Winter poked amongst the hot, smoking rubble for any salvageable vestiges. Only the resolute brick chimney stood in the background.

Families continued to arrive for the worship service. A farmer, Delbert Haberkamp, told Sweeney: "My daughter, Carol, said she wasn't coming to Sunday school and church this morning because every week Oxbow has another fire. I guess I'll go back home now and tell her it's a good thing she stayed home... 'cause this morning the Methodist Church burned to the ground."

Chief Miller approached Sweeney, saying: "The fire probably started from an overheated furnace. The fire was discovered before the start of Sunday school on the top floor."

Rev. Winter established a church rebuilding fund before the day's end.

I wrote the historical novel *Gangster in Our Midst* to record historical slices of Fairbank (called 'Oxbow' in the novel), which encompasses the 1920s-1980s – including the day the Methodist Episcopal Church burned eighty years ago.

According to one record, the first M. E. Church structure was built in 1864 of stone, with the aid of the Presbyterians, and organized with eight members. In 1870 the congregation erected a larger church (photo, courtesy Howard Durham, Fairbank Historical Society) on First Street, south of the current Don's Truck Sales. Beautiful stain-glassed windows adorned the church. The steeple was added in 1878. A large addition followed later that included a full basement, kitchen, fellowship hall on the ground floor, and six classrooms upstairs. The church was rededicated in October 1900 by Dr. Guy Potter Benton, president of Upper Iowa University. Rev. C. C. Winter (s 1937-1943) was pastor at the time of the fire.

The destruction of the church represented more than the loss of a place of worship for the community. On May 5, 1891, the first election in Fairbank Township had been held in the church basement. Not until 1929 did the town erect a city building, plus jail and engine house east of the current post office. The town siren was installed in 1930. A new water system that ran the length of main street happened in 1931, according to a member of the Fairbank Historical Society.

Numerous Fairbank locals aided in my research of the story of the day the M. E. Church burned.

Bob Maricle (1923-2019), a Fairbank Fire Department member for many years, and fire chief from 1957-1959, said the department's first motor-driven fire-

truck, the 1924 Chevrolet Maxwell, had a water pump, ladder, hoses, and related firefighting equipment, plus two tanks that required a mixture of soda and acid and water to maintain water pressure. In 2018 the truck went on display at Heartland Acres Agribition Center in Independence as part of the "Who Answers the Call" exhibit, a tribute to Firefighters and EMS personnel. The truck has since returned to the Fairbank firehouse, built in 1986, at 301 Grove Street. A 1928 Model A truck replaced the Maxwell. The soda and acid tanks from the Maxwell were transferred to that unit. The Maxwell photo is courtesy Fire Chief Chris West.

Frank M. Miller (1894-1970) is believed to be F. E. D's longest-serving member, 1915-1944. The department was formed February 6th, 1902, after nine businesses on the south side of the first block of East Main Street were wiped out. Miller ordered several businesses torn down to keep the fire contained. Two men suffered near-fatal injuries. The loss was estimated at \$15,000. Frank's family owned and operated Miller Hardware.

Carol (Haberkamp) Murphy (1935-2021) said her family were life-long members of the M. E. Church. She told of a conversation with her father, Delbert Haberkamp, on the morning the church was destroyed by fire. "It was a good thing the fire was discovered before the start of Sunday school held on the top floor," she noted. Carol's family resided on a farm west of Fairbank.

Deane (Fink) Lehmkuhl was a child of

six years when, from the top of the back stairway leading to the apartment above Lehmkuhl Hardware (where her family resided) on the south side of the second block of East Main Street, she watched the fire fully engulf then consume the church. Watching from her crow's nest, she remembered it was "scary."

'Sweeney' is a fictional character based on Charles "Bill" William Hahn (1879-1962) who served as town marshal from 1916-1949. His daughter, Verlie (Hahn) Trower (1916-2018), though nearing one hundred years in age during 2016 interviews with her, was still sharp as a tack as she told stories about the years her father was marshal. His job responsibilities included water superintendent that involved pumping water 4-5 times a day to maintain the required level of water in the tower to meet the needs of the town. Verlie added she had played piano at the M. E. Church since a young girl; she was twenty-six when the church burned.

Until a new church could be built, Sunday school and church services were held in the Fairbank High school, according to an article in the Oelwein Register. While the piece stated, "the church burned to the ground," two ornate chairs were saved from the fire. The Masons, who met above the Fairbank State Bank, used them for many years.

Today the church at 107 2nd Street, built in September 1943, is known as Fairbank United Methodist Church.



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FAIRBANK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Fairbank Historical Society met October 24 at the Fairbank Library for the monthly meeting. 7 members were present. Maurice and Wilma Welsh donated 2 Fairbank Days posters from 1980 and 1987, and Ron Miller donated copies

of photos from his parents. The All School Reunion is planned for Saturday August 3rd, 2024. Everyone who went to a Fairbank elementary school, public or parochial, is welcome. It is in the planning stages but will be held at the Ameri-

can Legion. The next meeting will be on Tuesday November 28th at 1:30. Hopefully at the Historical building. Please join us, it is so fun to hear about the history of Fairbank and the surrounding area.



The Fairbank Historical Society will sponsor the "2024 Fairbank All School Reunion" on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at the Fairbank American Legion. Times have not been set yet. The reunion will be open to everyone that went to one of the Fairbank Elementary Schools, as to not limit which high school you attended or the years attended, Fairbank High School, Immaculate Conception High School, Oelwein Sacred Heart High School, Wapsie Valley High School or others. It will be a great time to visit and reminisce.

We are still in the planning stages. We will not charge a "reservation fee" but we will charge a nominal fee at the door to cover expense. We will mail out letters later, we don't have address for everyone so please Direct Message us if you plan to attend. There will be a "cash bar".

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

Pastor Jacob Swenson

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 10:00 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

Rev. Scott Jans

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

If there are any changes or corrections, call Kathy Risse (319) 635-2122.

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**CAR RALLY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**

cause they may be lost and lead you astray!" Each car was asked to bring a cooler, a favorite snack and lawn chairs. Each rally has included a stop at a cemetery. Some were educational in that a relative was buried there or an unique tombstone was present like at the Lima Cemetery.

The first thing the 2 sisters had to do was find the final destination and then work backwards searching to find the most interesting route. As the gas tanks went down the husbands said all they saw the week prior to the event was 'tail lights and dust'! Those early years the route was taken many times to perfect the miles and time and to be sure all the clues were still in place. Finding a final destination was never a hard task as Our Iowa has many interesting sights to see! We wanted to make it be fun and educational for the whole family!

That first car rally took us on a 45 mile track which took us over 2 1/2 hrs with planned stops along the way. That rally ended back to our brother Jerry's home after he packed his cooler, snack and chairs and took them for a ride!! We all enjoyed a cookout at the end of the day!

The next few years took us to a couple more parks and then eventually as we went farther but always within the state of Iowa we were able to find overnight accommodations for us to spend the night such as at Waterpark Motels, Barn on the Bluff near Elkader, The Barn House near Epworth, and the Amana Colonies. Those overnights required us to start planning way in advance to make those accommodations and the families enjoyed those the most!

Adventures took us canoeing down the Turkey River in Elkader, and kayaking down the Wapsie River to a pasture for a "Pasture Picnic". Who has ever heard of a "Pasture Picnic"? A portion of the pasture is fenced off for the picnic only near the river and you don't have to be so careful where you step! Cattle curiously watched from the outside!



photo of late Jerry Goeller (Goofy)

Our families have grown as we added boy/girlfriends, grandchildren and now some great-grandchildren. We have gone full circle after nearly 20 years and we are back to one day rallies. We still start at the same place with instructions to an undisclosed destination. To simplify it we don't keep mileage nor is it timed...too many bathroom stops required now. We still have trophies and prizes for 'best costumes' and answering the questions. The answers must match what the 2 sisters have put down! Sometimes they question the sister's answers. A rule is a rule and they must think in the minds of those sisters!

Every year as we near the end of the rally the question is asked... "What did the Tom Cat say when he got his tail caught in the lawn mower? It won't be long now!"

Our August 2023 "Goeller Family Car Rally" took us to Backbone State Park for a fun filled day of games, hiking, food and much

laughter! The theme was "Goofy" honoring our beloved brother who recently passed away and his nickname was "Goofy"! We had nearly 50 people attending! The costumes were extraordinary! It may have been the 'BEST CAR RALLY EVER'! (We may have said that every year!!)

We two sisters have decided to retire this year! The family didn't want to let this family tradition end. Two of Cindy's daughters Kim and Mindy have stepped up and will carry on this family tradition! It's another next generation sister dual team! We hope the next generation to come will find it in their hearts to continue on..... "A Family Who Rallies Together Stays Together!"

This was submitted by sisters Judy and Cindy by the suggestions of many friends that have always found this "Goeller Family Car Rally" intriguing! Hope you enjoy it, too!



The past two months have been pretty eventful for the Fairbank community. We had our last music in the park for the year in September and it was amazing to listen to a hometown singer making her dreams come true. Our sports teams having been killing it with district and playoff rounds happening. The road construction seems to be making progress as well. I hope you guys have a great fall.



From Ava

Happy Birthday Dixie Frank



Happy Birthday Michelle Weepie

Enjoy your special day, Please send birthday cards to 1201 135th street, Fairbank Iowa.



Happy 30th Anniversary

Bill and Beth Dixon Married Nov. 6th 1993 at the Little Brown Church



A Public Rosary Rally was held at Immaculate Conception Church on October 15th sponsored by the America Needs Fatima Organization. We came together to pray for world peace and the protection of our United States. Over 22,000 rally's were held on that day across America.

2ND ANNUAL WAPSIE WRITING CONTEST

By **Betty Brandt Passick**,
bbpassick@comcast.net

What most people don't realize is that I began writing – as a poet. I was a young girl when I took the initiative to correspond with a noted poet, Lillian Dirksen, whose works I found published in the Sumner Gazette. My maternal grandmother lived in Sumner and subscribed to the paper. I was a shy child but found the confidence to write to Lillian to ask for her feedback on my poems. To my surprise, she took the time to respond and offered a few kindly-worded suggestions. Little did she know how much she encouraged me to continue to hone my writing skills. I've now published four books: two historical crime novels and two significant memoirs. Book 5 will be available in early 2024.

With this background, I announce the Second Annual Wapsie Writing Contest. The objective of the contest is to encourage children, in particular, and adults to write more and improve their communications



Do you consider yourself a storyteller? Do you have a great story you've always wanted to put to paper and share with others? Showcase your storytelling ability in the

2nd Annual Wapsie Writing Contest

Subject: Of your choosing
Length: 100-1500 Words
Genre: Nonfiction, Fiction, or Poetry
Format: MS Word

3 Age Categories:
Adults — 19 years and older
Youth — 12 to 18 years
Children — under 12 years

Judging: by Committee
Winners/Stories (each category): Published in *Fairbank Islander*.

Submissions: bbpassick@comcast.net

- CONTEST STAGES:**
- 1) Submission: **Jan. 1, 2024**
 - 2) Deadline: **March 15, 2024**
 - 3) Judging
 - 4) Winners Announced

skills.

Entries will be accepted after January 1, 2024. Adults (19 years and older), youth (12-18 years), and children (11 years and younger) are invited to write about a subject matter of their own choosing. Genres can be non-fiction, fiction, or poetry. The length must be 100 to 1,500 words. Participants are limited

to one entry. Submissions must be in MS Word format and submitted to bbpassick@comcast.net. The deadline for entry is March 15.

Winning a writing contest comes with perks, as Marcus Washington from Waterloo has realized. He won the 2023 Wapsie Writing Contest in the adult category for his short

story, "Some truths are better left to dreams." The story was published in the fall edition of WINK: Writers IN the Know magazine.

"It's a great opportunity, and I greatly appreciate it," Marcus said – adding that currently he is writing his first book in a series of stand-alone novels in an interconnected universe that is the

playground of gods and features heroes and heroines of color.

Nadia Giordana, editor of WINK magazine, noted this regarding the story, "He demonstrated good composition, and his words were expressive and insightful."

WINK magazine features art, humor, poetry, and the pleasures of a writer's life. The publication is published in Spring Park, Minnesota and is available in print and digitally through Amazon.com for \$8.00. Giordana also produces and hosts IAWWTV.org TV show and WhereWomenTalk.com.

Maria Streif from Maynard won the 2023 writing contest in the youth category for her poem "Snowflakes." Arianna Minikus from Waterloo won in the children's category for her short story "My Amazing Trip!"

I'm looking forward to reading each submission, as are the rest of the judges. Each judge is a writer or has taught writing in a variety of genres. We're hoping to receive double the number of entries from the previous year.

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In Honor of our Veterans

WAPSIE VALLEY VETERANS DAY MEAL & CEREMONY

Friday, November 10th

All veterans are invited to join us at Wapsie Valley Jr/Sr High School for a meal at 11:30am. RSVP required. Veterans Day ceremony will begin at 12:30pm.

Wapsie Valley students in kindergarten through 12th grade will be in attendance at the ceremony to honor our local veterans and their families.

TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE, PLEASE RSVP WITH JENNI GROSS BY NOVEMBER 1ST WITH THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING.
JGROSS@WAPSIEVALLEYSCHOOLS.ORG

Fairbank Fire and EMS Begins Fundraising Campaign 1st in Iowa Rural Rescue Response Trailer

The Fairbank Fire Department wants to always be proficiently prepared and well trained for all emergency situations that occur in our community and surrounding areas. Farm accidents and grain bin entrapments are frequent occurrences that happen here in Northeast Iowa and the throughout the Midwest grain belt. Having the correct equipment available at a moments notice is a challenge, and can greatly change the success of positive outcomes. Our goal is, and always will be, crew safety, patient care, and property protection. Rural emergencies are unique in nature. Agricultural practices and equipment continue to change and the rural fire departments must evolve along side them. A Rural Rescue Response Trailer will help us continue to provide excellent response time, safety, patient care, and tools to continue our mission at the Fairbank Fire Department.



vac capable of moving more than 1,000 bu/hr. The R3 concept became a reality in Gibbon MN, in 2022. It was the result of many hours of thought and drafting ideas by the Gibbon Volunteer Fire Department.

Partnering with Alum Line of Cresco IA, and Christianson Systems of Blomkest MN. To finalize the prototype and lock down a cost. The Gibbon Fire Department now has the 1st of its kind R3 in service, (Picture Above) and they are hoping to help equip many small rural fire services with their own R3.

In mid September five members of our department went to Gibbon, MN and we came home with the mission. "We will make this happen for Fairbank and surrounding communities." We spent three hours, looking, taking pictures, and asking many questions about how to make this goal a reality. Starting immediately, we will began our fundraising campaign. We plan to finance the entire project with funds donated from farm related businesses, farmers/ landowners, and anyone who feels that this is a worthy cause. We have also applied for funding through the newly established AgRevival Rural Rescue Foundation.

It is the goal to raise \$100,000 to buy and equip a new state of the art Rural Rescue Response Trailer. We intend to have it in service by next summer. Fairbank Fire will be assembling a focused response team to specialize in operating the R3 and will hold training sessions for the entire department as well as the neighboring com-



munities we serve as mutual aid. The idea is to be a centrally located response team, that would be dispatched upon request to serve Fairbank, Oelwein, Hazelton, Independence, Jesup, Dunkerton, Readlyn, Sumner, Oran, Westgate and any other surrounding area that would need this type of service.

We are pursuing donations now and in the next several months to make the R3 a reality. If you have any questions please reach out to any Fairbank Fire R3 committee members. Janice Martins, Justin Ritter, Dick Chapman, Bryce Kleitsch, Conner Jones, Carson Woods, Chris West, Drake Mangrich or any other member. We will have more informational meetings soon and keep updating our progress. If you or any business that you work with in the Agriculture Industry would like to visit with

us, we would love to come to your home or business and share and show details of the R3, and how your (tax-deductible) donation can HELP US, HELP YOU. We are very excited about this project. Any amount of donation is welcome and will help us make the R3 a reality. We have already received a very generous donation of \$10,000 from a local farmer! (whom stated he is, "challenging other area farmers" to support this effort) As always, we are amazed with the amount of support the community of Fairbank gives us. It allows for us to provide excellent service when emergencies happen. Donations can be mailed to : Fairbank Fire Dept. R3 Fund.

P.O.Box 28, Fairbank, Iowa 50629 or call Janice at 563 920 5016 or Chris at 319 361 3460 for questions and donation forms.



- 21st Annual -
WAPSIE VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

FALL DINNER & AUCTION

Join us to support Wapsie Valley Community School District. We've raised over \$500,000 in 20 years for school programs, teacher grants & scholarships, and we invite you to continue to build on the tradition of excellence!

Friday, November 17

American Legion, Fairbank, IA



➤ **5:30-7:00 pm, Dinner**
Menu: BBQ pork sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, baked beans & dessert
Live entertainment during dinner featuring alum *Emily (Erhardt) Bauer '15*

➤ **7:00 pm, Live Auction**
Follow us on Facebook for auction item details:

 **Wapsie Valley Education Foundation**

www.wapsievalleyschools.com/198355_2

Current Board Members:

Nichole Griesse	Jill Krall
Joey Rigdon	Annette Hyde
Tanya Hagenow	Darren O'Donnell
Doug Sheppard	Mitch Coffin
Lisa Oberle	
Alex Schmitz	
Mischa Matthias	



MAKE A DONATION
Visit our website, contact a board member or scan the QR code to go to PayPal to support our schools. All gifts are tax deductible.

We are a 501(c)3 organization. 100% of the money donated goes to student programs & scholarship.



What's Cook'in

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."
JOHN F. KENNEDY

This creamy pumpkin fluff dip has the perfect amount of pumpkin spice flavor and only has 4 ingredients. If you like pumpkin pie, you will like this dip. Only takes five minutes to make it.

Fall Pumpkin Fluff Dip

16 oz. tub Cool Whip	15 oz. an solid-pack Pumpkin
1 - 5 oz. pkg. of Instant Vanilla Pudding	1 tsp. Pumpkin Pie Spice



In large bowl, using a mixer, whip pumpkin, vanilla pudding (dry mix only, DO NOT make the pudding), and pumpkin spice. Fold in the Cool Whip. Chill and serve with cinnamon graham crackers, Nilla Wafers, or apple slices. Also good with ginger snaps!



Comfort food done right from the Queen of Country.

Dolly Parton 5-Layer Dinner

1st layer: 3 lg. Russet Potatoes, thinly sliced
2nd layer: 1 lb. ground beef, browned & crumbled
3rd layer: 2 lg. Onions, sliced & rings separated
4th layer: 15 oz. can diced tomatoes
5th layer: 1½ green bell peppers, chopped
Kosher salt & freshly ground black pepper
Olive oil, for first layer

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13" baking pan with butter. The most important thing to remember for this recipe is seasoning, seasoning, seasoning! You might even want to switch things up and use garlic salt or herbs! Be sure to season the ground beef while it's cooking, and then continue with plenty of seasoning on each layer so you end up with flavor throughout. Start with a layer of sliced potatoes and drizzle olive oil over this layer. Continue with the other layers. Cover tightly with foil. Bake for 2 hours.

Saltine English Toffee

2 sticks real butter
1 c. brown sugar sugar
1 sleeve of saltine crackers
12 oz. pkg. Milk Chocolate Chips
Crushed Pecans (optional)



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line cookie sheet with aluminum foil and spray with cooking spray. Place crackers on cookie sheet, flat & touching, in one layer. In med. sauce pan, melt butter, then add sugar and boil for 3 minutes. Pour mixture over crackers. Bake 6-7 minutes. Remove from oven, scatter chocolate chips over crackers, wait till chips melt (5 or 6 min.), then use a spatula to spread evenly over toffee. Crushed pecans can be sprinkled on top.... this is optional. Place in the freezer for ½ hour, then remove and break into pieces and enjoy!

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Fairbank Fire Department Open House, it was a great turnout! We offered hands only CPR, truck tours, races putting on fire gear and good ol' fellowship! We were so excited to see all the young faces and their interest in all the activities.

If you would like more information on becoming a member, please reach out to one of our volunteers or stop by City Hall and they can get you in contact with Chief West.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our department!



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Hello Ladies!

Join us for our 3rd Ladies Night Out!

Thursday, November 9th, 2023
5p-8p

Fairbank American Legion

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**Deadline for December publication is
November 27th.**
**Please contact Melaine Buzynski at
319-404-7116**
Or email fairbankislander@gmail.com
Please send us your celebrations.
Celebrations are free to submit.



Immaculate Conception Church Presents

Live Nativity
Go back to the First Christmas!!

Sunday, December 3; 4:30, 5:00, and 5:30
 (Guided Tours on the half-hour beginning at 4:30)
 Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall.

*We would love to have community members join us as "actors" Interested?
 Contact Kim Weepie by text at 319-240-5912*



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TOWN & COUNTRY
REAL ESTATE

MERCYONE BABYSITTER CLINIC

These 19 young ladies had a fun morning at completing the MercyOne Babysitter clinic. Instructor Rachel Begg covered topics from child care to emergency situations to running their business. The Fairbank Fire Department is happy to sponsor these types of programs.



NIDA Sends 9 Dancers to Talent on Parade Master Class

The Northeast Iowa Dance Academy was awarded a Dance Directives Master Class scholarship at the February 22, 2023, Talent on Parade Competition for a Large Group routine called "SUNFLOWER." On Sunday October 8th, 9 of the SUNFLOWER participants headed to the Dance Directives class held in Des Moines at the Iowa Events Center. NIDA Dancers attending were Kennedy Benesh, Aryeana Bolender, Sara Cook, Hazel Fauser, Mallory Gissel, Leah Knepper, Julia Kuennen, Addison Mustard, and Karlynn Sandhagen.

The one-day event consisted of a full day of classes filled with variety, fun and skill building taught by master teachers, college professors, tour dancers, dance curriculum writers and leading studio owners.

Throughout the classes, the instructors watched for hard workers, enthusiasm, and demonstration of learned skills. Scholarships and other recognition were awarded following the conclusion of the final class period. Scholarships were awarded to NIDA dancers Kennedy Benesh, Hazel Fauser, Mallory Gissel and a gift certificate to Karlynn Sandhagen.

\$200 Summer 2024 Pre-Pro Pre-Teen Summer Workshop- Hazel Fauser, Kennedy Benesh

2024 TOP Regional Solo Scholarship = Free solo entry to a 2024 Regional TOP Event Location of choice - Mallory Gissel

\$50 Gift Certificate for Talent on Parade merchandize at any 2024 Regional Competition event.



Front Row (L-R) Leah Knepper, Mallory Gissel, Kennedy Benesh, Hazel Fauser Back Row (L-R) Karlynn Sandhagen, Addison Mustard, Sara Cook, Aryeana Bolender, Julia Kuennen.



Recently Riverview park (gazebo) had a large cottonwood tree removed. The age of the tree is unknown but we know it has witnessed and experienced many wind storms , lightning strikes and floods over the years. Photo graphed is the trunk that was removed so new drainage system could be installed. Photos courtesy of Ted Vorwald.

November



November 15 , 2023 @ 11:30 AM

Tableware and beverages provided.

Sponsored by IC Parish Life Committee



Grant Writing 101 Workshop for Non-Profits and Communities Nov. 8th

Representatives of nonprofits, local government, schools and other organizations in Buchanan County are encouraged to register for the Grant Writing 101 workshop. The workshop will be presented at Heartland Acres Event Center, 2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence on Thursday,

Nov. 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Grant Writing 101 will provide hands-on training in seeking grants and writing successful grant applications. There will be no fee for participant as it is being sponsored by the Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach, Independence Area Chamber of Commerce, and Buchanan County Economic Development – but registration is required by Nov. 7 at <https://go.iastate.edu/84LBM8>. A light meal will be provided at the start of the workshop.

Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop with them to the workshop.

Grant Writing 101 will be presented by Mark Reinig, Community and Economic Development Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. He has extensive experience writing and reviewing grant applications and working with various federal, state,



local and private foundation grant programs. Reinig will assist workshop participants in exploring various public and private funding sources, and provide instruction and tips on planning projects and writing successful grant applications.

For more information about the workshop, contact Lisa Kremer at director@growbuchanan.com, 319-334-7497.

DENNIS J. RICHARDS

November 16, 1963

Dennis Richards age 59 of Fairbank passed away at his home after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was born November 16, 1963 in Sumner the son of Kenneth and Dorothy (Pint) Richards. Dennis married Jenny Rundle on November 21, 1998 in Fairbank at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Dennis grew up on the family farm in rural Fairbank with his parents and seven siblings. This is where his hard work ethic began along with his love for anything to do with farming. Dennis graduated from Wapsie Valley High School in 1982. He worked the majority of his life starting at Oran Ag Services all the way to what is now Innovative Ag Service which spanned the next 25 years and 8 months. During his time there he was an exceptional chemical and fertilizer applicator. He will be missed by his fellow employees and all the farmers that he applied for over the years. In addition to his job in town he also did custom round baling. Dennis served on the Oran Volunteer Fire Department from 1984-2018. Dennis was a quiet caring man of few words.



He is survived by his wife, Jenny, three children; Jessica (Levi) Vogel of Jesup, Abigail (Ryan Snyder) Rundle of Waverly and Matthew Richards of Fairbank, five grandchildren; Alex, Gable, Stella, Isla and Waylon, three sisters; Mary (Ron) Seeley of Roscoe, Illinois, Pam (Sammy) Balakrishnan of Elgin, Illinois and Julie (Scott Blasberg) Happel of Tripoli, two brothers; Bob (Nancy) Richards and Ron (Kelly) Richards both of Fairbank, a sister-in-law, Jean Richards of Fairbank, two brothers-in-law; Dave Happel of Fairbank and Jerry Marlow of Oelwein along with MANY nieces and nephews.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Jim Richards, a sister, Deb Marlow and a granddaughter, Ava Westphal.

Visitation: 4:00-8:00 PM Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at Woods Funeral Home, Fairbank, Iowa.

Dennis requested to have a private family burial without church services which will take place at a later date in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Fairbank.

Memorials: may be directed to the family for later designation
Online condolences can be left at www.woodsfuneralhome.net

IVADEL JOSEPHINE LULOFF

March 11 1922 - October 7, 2023

Ivadel Luloff, age 101, of Fairbank and formerly of Independence passed away October 7, 2023 at her home. She was born March 11, 1922 in Masonville, Iowa, the daughter of Paul and Laura (Hearn) Shonka. She was baptized on March 30, 1922 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Masonville. Ivadel attended Middlefield Township School through the 8th grade. She then attended 9th and 10th grade at Lamont High School. Ivadel moved to Brandon and did housework for several families. On March 17, 1940, Ivadel was confirmed into the Lutheran faith at Zion Lutheran Church in Jubilee. On March 23, 1940 she was united in marriage to Lyle Luloff at the same church. They farmed in the Brandon area for 29 years. Ivadel worked at Micro Switch as a "pot dip" solderer from 1957-1965. The next 21 years she worked at Geater Manufacturing in Independence as a machinist, retiring April 30, 1987.



Her love for family, cooking, gardening, flowers, traveling, and dancing brought her a lot of joy and happiness. After retiring she enjoyed quilting for family and the EWALU Auctions. Ivadel volunteered at the Buchanan County Senior Center and assisted with the Friday night "Hoe Down" dances. Ivadel never missed sending a birthday card and was strong in her faith.

Ivadel is survived by her daughter, Rosemary (Larry) Bachman, five grandchildren; Brad (Kathy) Bachman, Brenda Sickles, Becky (Keith) Thurm, Barbara (Mike) Lorenz and Brittany (Carlos) Abisambra. 13 great-grandchildren; Abby Bachman (Andrew Mitchell), Adam (Jasmine) Bachman, Ben Bachman, Anna (Chris) Bickers, Jacob Sickles, Krystal (Dan) Rasmussen, Amanda (Tanner) Kelchen, Joshua Thurm, Cody (Alondra Hernandez), Daniel and Claire Lorenz, Emma and Lucas Abisambra, five great-great grandchildren: Kashton, Aspyn, Charlie, Kaysen and Quincy. She is also survived by her sister, Dottie Cleghorn, and her daughter-in-law, Gail Luloff. She is preceded in death by her husband, Lyle; her son, Gary; her parents; one grandson, Brandon Luloff; one grandson-in-law, Randy Sickles; and her brother, Paul Shonka.

Visitation: 4:00-7:00 PM Thursday, October 12 at Woods Funeral Home and for one hour before services at the church on Friday.

Funeral Services: 10:30 AM Friday, October 13 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 512 5th Street NE, Independence.

Interment: Mount Hope Cemetery, Independence

Memorials may be directed to Cedar Valley Hospice or to the family for later designation.

Online condolences can be left at www.woodsfuneralhome.net

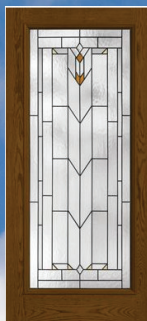
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CITY COUNCIL MEETING

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 25, 2023. Mayor Bill Cowell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk. Agenda item #4 was expected to need some changes and was not ready for the council to approve yet. Erickson/Coffin to remove item #4 - Approve Resolution 2023-18 - Resolution Approving an Appeal Process for the State Setoff Program. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Af-

ter removal Coffin/T. Woods to approve the amended agenda. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. There were no public comments during the public comment section. Williams/T. Woods to approve the minutes of the September 11th Regular Meeting. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Williams/Coffin to approve Brittany Fuller and Michelle Laube's attendance at the IMFOA Fall Conference on October 18th, 19th, and 20th 2023 in Des Moines. The City Hall office will be closed on Thursday and Friday. The clerks will be available remotely via City Hall phone. Please leave them a message during that time and they will get back to you as training allows. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Coffin/Erickson to set the Trick-or-Treat hours for Tuesday October 31st, 2023, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. During the department reports, Dakota informed the council that the department is working on getting everyone qualified for the new rifle and shot gun and that he was able to get the AED connected to Wi-Fi which will allow the AED to have all the proper updates and it will also know when to order new parts. Also, the patrol car is going to the shop in November for a recall and a transmission issue. Brian stated that the main line of Main Street had been poured and that the water main work on Fourth Street was done to Grove Street. The power outage on Thursday was believed to have been

caused by an animal and that they had been experiencing issues at the sewer plant regarding the control panel. Councilwoman Erickson said that clean up at the Fairbank Cemetery had begun and that the stones were looking very nice. After they are clean it was suggested to get some spray and forget solution to help with the upkeep of some of the older gravestones. Williams/Coffin to adjourn at 6:21 PM. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Bill Cowell, Mayor
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday October 9, 2023. Mayor Pro Tem R. Woods called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Coffin, T. Woods, Erickson, R. Woods, and Williams. Absent: Mayor Cowell. Also, present at City Hall: Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

Williams/T. Woods to approve the agenda after removing the agenda item on Discussion - Hiring a Seasonal Employee. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

There were no public comments during the public comment section. Councilman R. Woods asked public works when Main Street was planned to open to traffic. Brian stated possibly next Tuesday or Wednesday but that is pending weather. That will be discussed more during the department reports at the end of the meeting.

T. Woods/Williams to approve the minutes of the Sept. 25th Regular Meeting. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Erickson/T. Woods to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Receipts for the month of September were: General, \$40,130.83; Special Revenue, \$31,136.49; TIF, \$8,472.68; Capital Projects, \$33.46; Permanent Funds, \$21.33; Proprietary, \$161,208.53; and Transfers In, \$27,055.00. Disbursements for the month of September were: General, \$40,966.74; Special Revenue, \$5,753.16; Proprietary, \$169,728.37; Capital, \$26,428.50; and Transfers Out, \$27,055.00. Balance on hand at close of business on September 30, 2023, was \$5,129,519.23.

Coffin/Erickson to approve the liquor and beer license renewal for the Fairbank Food Center. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

The council reviewed the current Investment Policy. The Deputy Clerk/Treasurer was added to the authorized individuals to invest public funds and a section on depositories was added. The bond amount of one hundred thousand dollars per authorized individual will stay the same until more information is received and it will be discussed at a future meeting. Williams/T. Woods to approve the review of the Investment Policy. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Reviewing options for new Christmas Décor for Main Street took place. The council felt that maybe a survey would be good to conduct to try and get some input from the public. City Hall will work on the survey along with Councilman Williams. This will be on the agenda for the meeting on October 23rd and maybe shipped in time for Christmas.

The yard waste area was discussed. Currently, the key is allowed to be checked out at City Hall from 9 am to 5 pm during the week and is also opened and available during the day on Saturdays. There have been no issues, and this system allows the area to be easily monitored. No changes were made to the current rules. Reminder commercial use would still only be allowed for the compost pile and the rule of nothing accepted by residents larger than four inches and longer than six feet would still be in effect. Erickson/T. Woods to approve the payment of bills. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

ACCESS SYSTEMS, Services \$ 159.87
AERO-MOD, Equipment \$ 4,311.40
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, Supplies \$ 57.54
APGA, Annual Dues \$ 445.00
GARRETT BARNES, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
BEST SERVICES, Annual Services \$ 1,292.14
MIKAYLA BIXEMAN, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
BLACK HAWK WASTE DISPOSAL, Services \$ 5,830.68
BODENSTEINER IMPLEMENT CO., Supplies \$ 21.63
BOUND TREE MEDICAL, LLC., Supplies \$ 437.61

AIDEN BRADY, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
TAYLOR BUHR, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
BUTLER COUNTY REC, Electric \$ 62,128.71
BUTLER COUNTY REC, Services/Equipment \$ 39,533.22
IAN BUZYNSKI, Lifeguard Refund \$ 50.00
CASEY'S GENERAL STORE, Gas \$ 881.49
CLAYTON ENERGY CORPORATION, Natural Gas \$ 2,417.62
CLAYTON ENERGY CORPORATION, Reservation \$ 5,544.54
TANNER CURLEY, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
DANKO EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT, Supplies \$ 6,170.00
BEN DELAGARDELLE, Cell Phone/Clothing Reimbursement \$ 556.01
BRIAN DELAGARDELLE, Cell Phone/Clothing Reimbursement \$ 575.00
DGR ENGINEERING, Services \$ 468.00
ALYXANDRA DIXON, Lifeguard Refund \$ 50.00
DON'S TRUCK SALES, Supplies \$ 72.90
ECHO GROUP, INC., Supplies \$ 916.74
HAILEY EITZENHFFER, Lifeguard Refund \$ 50.00
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & EQUIP, Services \$ 1,400.00
FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CLUB, 2024 Member Dues \$ 30.00
CITY OF FAIRBANK, Electric & Gas \$ 6,635.48
CITY OF FAIRBANK, Utility Deposit Applied \$ 200.00
FAYETTE CO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, EMA Dues \$ 504.86
BRITTANY FULLER, Mileage/Meal Reimbursements \$ 178.61
GRAINGER, INC., Supplies \$ 60.10
GWORKS, Annual License & Support \$ 6,075.00
HARDWARE HANK, Supplies \$ 52.40
HAWKEYE FIRE & SAFETY COMPANY, Supplies \$ 315.40
MANHATTAN HUEBNER, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
ASHLYN HYDE, Lifeguard Refund \$ 50.00
HAYLEY KLEINHEKSEL, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
IAMU, Safety Training Dues \$ 488.25
IOWA ONE CALL, Locates \$ 21.60
IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES ASSOC., Water \$ 9,864.00
IOWA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOC., Training \$ 120.00
IPERS, Benefits \$ 6,022.31
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, Supplies \$ 25.88
HUNTER KANE, Lifeguard Refund \$ 50.00
CHLOE KLEINHEKSEL, Lifeguard Refund \$ 50.00
NICK KUKER, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00
ISABEL LARUE, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
LITTLE WAPSIE COMMUNICATIONS, Static IP Addresses \$ 20.00
LUMBER RIDGE HOME SOURCE, Shipping \$ 33.17
MANATTS, Supplies \$ 316.00
MEDIACOM, SW Plant Phone Line \$ 47.10
MICROBAC LABORATORIES, INC., Testing \$ 512.50
MODERN BUILDING PRODUCTS, Supplies \$ 1,419.30
NSB/HSA - H S A Contributions \$ 625.00
NSB/HSA - H S A Payroll Deductions \$ 380.00
NE SECURITY BANK, Payroll Processing Fee 9/1/23 \$ 10.00
NE SECURITY BANK, Payroll Processing Fee 9/15/23 \$ 9.00
NE SECURITY BANK, Utility ACH Service Charges \$ 20.00
OELWEIN PUBLISHING, Publishings \$ 168.16
OFFICE TOWNE, Supplies \$ 11.98
AIDAN OLDFATHER, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
OLIVIA OLDFATHER, Lifeguard Refund \$ 50.00
OVERHEAD DOOR CO.OF WATERLOO, Supplies & Services \$ 355.60

PRATT'S PEST CONTROL \$ 95.00
PREMIER TECHNOLOGY \$ 57.50
RACOM CORPORATION \$ 4,536.96
RANDY'S LAWN CARE & SNOW \$ 1,400.00
ROBERTS, STEVENS,PRENDERGAST P \$ 1,649.50
SAM'S CLUB MC/SYNCB \$ 229.88
CARVER SCHARES, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
WESTON SCHARES, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
SHIELD TECHNOLOGY CORP, Services \$ 450.00
STOREY KENWORTHY/MATT PARROTT, Supplies \$ 45.99
STUART. C. IRBY CO., Supplies \$ 2,460.00
LYDIA STUBER, Lifeguard Refund \$ 95.00
SUBSURFACE SOLUTIONS, Annual Subscription \$ 492.00
AUTUMN SULLIVAN, Lifeguard Refund \$ 50.00
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMP, Life Policies \$ 82.70
SUPERIOR WELDING SUPPLY CO., Supplies \$ 124.57
TEAM LABORATORY CHEMICAL CORP., Supplies \$ 816.00
THE SHRED MASTER, LLC., Services \$ 167.20
TREASURER-STATE OF IOWA, Sept Sales Tax \$ 2,402.18
TREASURER STATE OF IOWA, September WT Excise Tax \$ 1,369.13
TREASURER-STATE OF IOWA, State Withholding Tax \$ 3,295.41
U. S. TREASURY, 941 Taxes \$ 7,661.41
U.S. BANK, August PEFA Commodity \$ 1,842.24
USA BLUEBOOK, Supplies \$ 567.27
UTILITY EQUIPMENT CO., Supplies \$ 437.59
VAN METER INC., Equipment \$ 1,928.57
VERIZON WIRELESS, Cell Phones \$ 142.86
VISA, Avaya Phone System/Email Accounts/Training/Supplies \$ 1,725.42
WEBSITES TO IMPRESS, INC., Annual Hosting & Backup \$ 400.00
WELLMARK, October Premium \$ 3,976.87
ROXANNE WENNER, Services \$ 150.00
WESCO RECEIVABLES CORP., Equipment \$ 4,503.55
WINDSTREAM ENTERPRISE, Gas Alarm Phone Line \$ 67.16
KATHIE WOLFGRAM, Rebate \$ 325.00
The Library Board Approved the Following Bills on October 4, 2023:
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, Supplies \$ 154.92
BAKER & TAYLOR INC., Books \$ 746.89
ANGELA BERG, Mileage \$ 15.72
CITY OF FAIRBANK, Electric & Gas \$ 182.97
FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CLUB, 24 Member Dues \$ 30.00
HGTV MAGAZINE, Subscription \$ 22.00
IAMU, Safety Training \$ 69.75
PRATT'S PEST CONTROL, Services \$ 45.00
NE SECURITY BANK, Payroll Processing Fee 9/15/23 \$ 1.00
VISA, Microsoft Emails & Avaya Phone System \$ 53.18
ROXANNE WENNER, Services \$ 200.00 During the department reports Brian explained more on the Main Street project and stated that everyone is hopeful of getting Main Street open for traffic next week. They are planning to pour the last radius at the intersection of East Main and 3rd Street that next day. Also, a second crew will be brought in to tackle the sidewalks on East Main Street. Public Works was asked to add some gravel to the deep ruts located at some of the corners in town due to the detoured traffic. Williams/T. Woods to adjourn at 6:39 pm. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. Ron Woods, Mayor Pro-Tem
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES

Wapsie Valley CSD Regular School Board Mtg October 16, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance
1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:30PM

A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe-Van Daele (excused)
B. Administration: Supt. Hoover, Board Sec. Arndt, & Principals Murphy, &

Forsyth-Myers (excused) Others: Justin Davie & Vaughn Gross
2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the agenda in striking Spotlight on Education as presented. Motion carried 4-0

3. Public Comment - Mr. Davie reported out on the great success and educational trip to Germany was last summer. Also presented the trip to Costa Rica that is being planned. Probably will be minimal fund raising for this trip as the costs are usually picked up by parents and students.

Mr. Gross reported on infrastructure, cast iron pipe disintegration-this was talked about when Mark Owens worked here. Career & Technical Student Organization programs are required for school year 24-25 for Business, Industrial Technology, and Family Consumer Science. Possible stipends for these positions? Family Consumer Science has already implemented this program.

Keep in mind our tight budget for curriculum needs.

4. Consent Items - Motion by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Aiello and a language change in the September 18, 2023 minutes replacing Hurley with Myers. Motion carried 4-0 FYI-Sunshine Larson requesting her 8th grade & 12th grade sons to open enroll to Wapsie from Oelwein, Heather Clark Collins request her 10th grade daughter to Wapsie from Oelwein, & Chastity Jensen request her kindergarten son to Wapsie from Oelwein. Out-Brianna Freitag request to open enroll her TK son to Denver

5. Spotlight on Education - Struck

6. Reports-Board - Discussed Rural #3, Land owner not interested in signing any agreement at this time. Hope to open discussions again to come to an agreement.

Superintendent - Report included Safety building walk through, Parent/Teacher Conferences, & Events.

District: Report included Parent/Teacher Conferences, & Professional

Development
7-12 Principal Murphy - Report included Mood Meter, District Career Academic Planning, Infinite Campus training, & Activity Updates.

PK-6 Principal Myers/Forsyth - Fire prevention, and Parent/Teacher Conferences

7. Personnel - Resignations - Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the resignation of Mike Duffy - P/T custodian effective 9-21-23 and thank him for his service to the staff and students of WV! Motion carried 4-0

Contracts: Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the following contracts, Courtney

Schmitz, Base 1/Year 1-\$1,955 JH Girls Basketball Coach, Michelle Harrington-\$12.67 P/H

Special Education Associate, Stephanie Davie-JH Girls Basketball Coach, Base 1/Year 0-\$1,955,

Casey O'Donnell-JH Boys Basketball Coach, Base 1/Year-\$1,955, & Volunteers, Deb DeHaan,

& Viv Rourke - Elementary as presented. Motion carried 4-0

8. New Business
Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the trip to Costa Rica the summer of 24 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Arndt discussed the Certified Annual Report, Special Education Supplement & Transportation

Report
Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the Limited English Proficient allowable growth cost of \$38,447.64 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the repayment of \$214,599.60 from lunch to general fund for previous year's salary and benefit expenditures as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve 23-24 early retirement packages for

Certified and Classified staff accepting up to 5 applicants from each group as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the 23-24 District Career & Academic Plan as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to update the sick leave payout information in the 23-24 Classified Handbook as presented. Motion carried 4-0

9. Board Talking Points - Discussed fans and sportsmanship. Email sent by Mr. Hoover regarding the cost of not putting air conditioning in the locker rooms.

10. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to adjourn at 7:35PM. Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully, Kim Arndtz

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Linda Letson, Librarian
Susan Frost, Librarian
Therese Steggall, Librarian
Bridget Seemann, Librarian
Roxie Wenner, Custodian

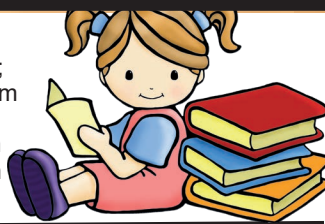
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Wednesday 9 -11 am
1-5 pm
Thursday 1-6 pm
Friday 1-5 pm
Saturday 9-12



Fairbank Public Library Gift Basket Fundraiser



212 E Main Street ~ Fairbank, IA

thru November 30th at 5:00 pm

Gift baskets along with who donated the items will be displayed throughout the Library and a silent auction will be held. We will also have all the baskets on display on Thursday, November 9th at the Fairbank Legion for "Ladies Night Out!" We will be raising money for new materials and programming for the Library.

We are looking for local businesses to put together theme baskets or gift certificates/cards for the silent auction. We greatly appreciated the items that you have donated in the past. If you wish to donate again this year, please have the items dropped off as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support of the Fairbank Public Library.

Angela Berg, Library Director

**Come and Shop Ladies Night
on Thursday, November 9th from
5pm-8pm at the Fairbank Legion and
check out all the library gift baskets!**

In Loving Memory

Donald Taylor

The Kindness Club

..... from the Fairbank Community Club

Warren Finch

Heartland Skies

.....from Adam, Julie,
Sylvia & Weston Costellos

THANK YOU for your support FALL BOOK SALE!

Fontana Visits the Library...

Wednesday, December 6th at 1:00pm
Wednesday, January 3rd at 1:00pm
Wednesday, February 7th at 1:00pm
Wednesday, March 6th at 1:00pm



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November 18th
@ 10am

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Presentation

from
Graphic Novel
Author

Eric Gapstur!

NEW HOLIDAY BOOKS!



Santa is Coming to the
Fairbank Library!



Join us on Saturday,
December 2nd
@ 9:00am
for a Story & Visit!



PENDING

208 - 4TH ST S.E., INDE.



PENDING

510 - 1ST ST W, INDE.



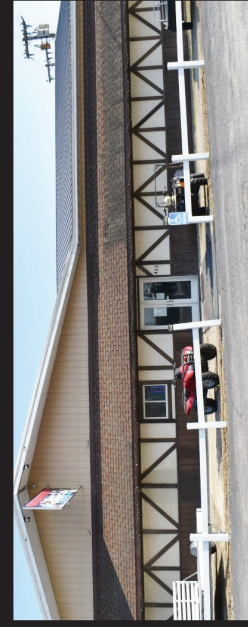
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