

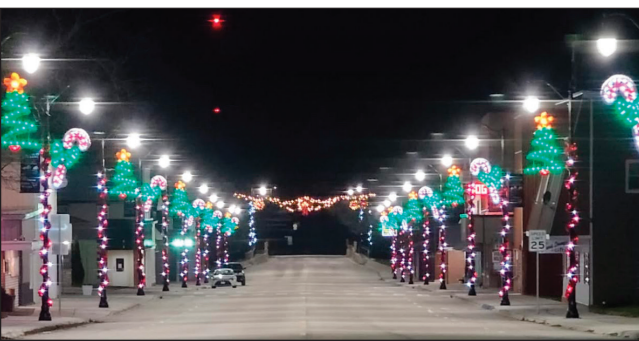
# Fairbank ISLANDER

SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

JANUARY 1, 2025

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

VOLUME 6, NO. 1



## Get a head start on New Year's resolutions

After the rush of the holiday season has largely ended, and the excess of the season starts to weigh on celebrants' minds, it is customary for many people to start thinking about the changes they want to implement in the new year. According to a Pew Research Center survey of United States adults conducted in January 2024, 30 percent of people reported making at least one resolution, with half of this group making more than one. The survey also found that young adults are the most likely to make New Year's resolutions, with 49 percent of those between the ages 18 and 29 saying they have made a resolution.

It's never too early to start thinking about what to improve upon in 2025, or which goals to set. Here are some common resolutions and how to implement them.

- Exercise more. Getting in shape is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions every year. Gym member-

See RESOLUTIONS, A2

## Fairbank American Legion's annual Casino Night Feb. 1



Black jack, spinning wheel, dice game, left right center and more at the annual Fairbank American Legion's Casino Night on Feb. 1 starting at 6:00 p.m.



## THE 123<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER'S DANCE

**Fairbank Firefighter's Dance to take place Jan. 25 with raffle, comedian, live music and more**

The Fairbank Fire Department relies heavily on your generous donations to maintain the highest level of emergency services to the community. Please join us on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at the Fairbank American Legion to enjoy stand up comedian Kevin Cahak & music by 3rd Offense. Doors open at 6:30 PM, Keven Cahak: 7:30 PM - 9 PM, 3rd Offense: 9 PM - Midnight.

### Retirement of Ted Vorwald

After 57 years of active, selfless, and dedicated service, Ted Vorwald retired from active duty on September 1st and was immediately voted on as an Honorary member of the Fairbank Fire Department. In 1966 Ted and wife Jan moved to Fairbank from the Twin Cities to work in the body shop downtown with another long-time member and friend, Bob Maricle. Ted joined the FFD on December 1, 1966. Ted was one of the



COURTESY PHOTO

**Above: Fairbank Fire Department participates in Fire Prevention Week at Fairbank Elementary. Right: After 57 years of active service, Ted Vorwald retired on Sept. 1 and was voted on as honorary member of the Fairbank Fire Department.**

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

See FIREFIGHTER, A4



## Santa visits the Fairbank Library with Miss Fairbank

Miss Fairbank 2024, Kennedy Kane got to be Santa's helper at the Fairbank Library on Dec. 7. Here are a few photos from Santa's visit.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Above: Oliver and Ellie Little, son and daughter of JJ and Emily Little. Right: Harper, daughter of Abby and Andrew Mitchell. See more photos on A3.**





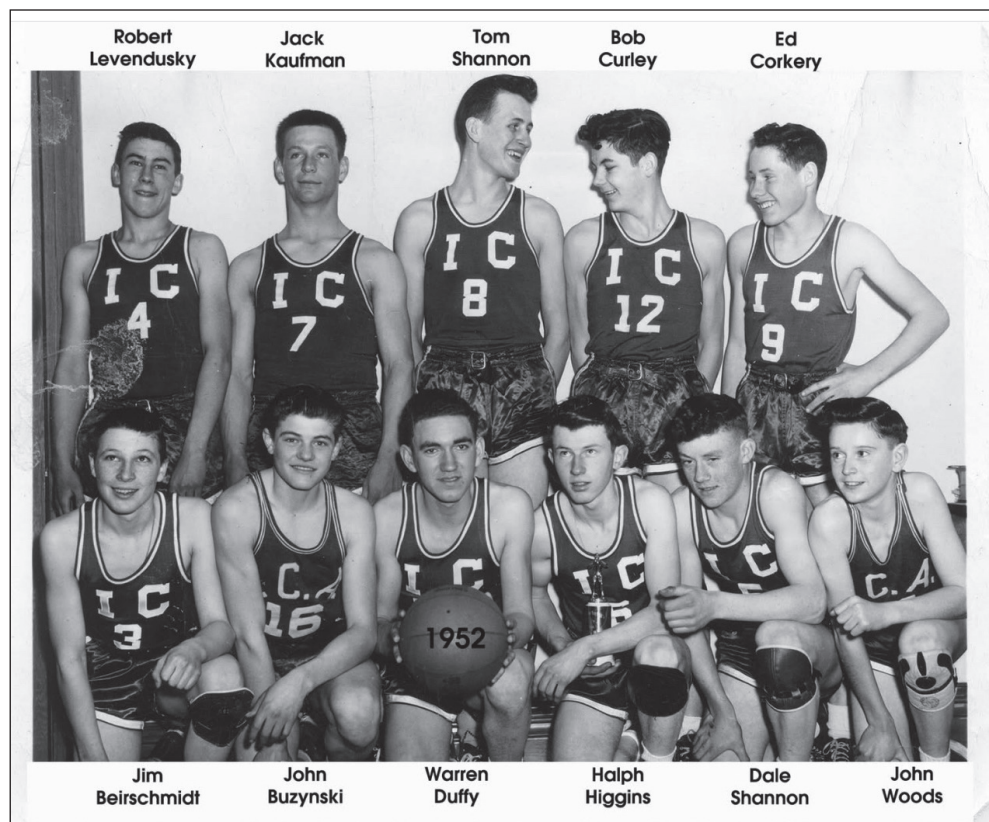
# BLAST FROM THE PAST

## HISTORICAL FAIRBANK

Follow Facebook page Historical Fairbank for more photos of the past.



Interior of Lehmkuhl Hardware on November 27, 1950.



I.C. Basketball team in 1952.

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# Santa visits the Fairbank Library with Miss Fairbank



**Harper French, daughter of MaKenna and Brandon French.**



**Spencer Hill, son of Eric and Jessie Hill.**



**Evelyn and Jackson Williams, daughter and son of Andrew and Shelby Williams.**



**Bryce Wells, son of Alyssa and Brian Wells**



**Greyson and Collins Odneal, son and daughter of Kyle and Taylor Odneal.**



**Kylie and Drew Kauffman, daughter and son of Amy and Derek Kauffman.**



**Miss Fairbank 2024, Kennedy Kane with Santa.**

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# THE 123<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER'S DANCE

CONTINUED FROM A1

an active member within the community.  
**What happened in 2024?**

- We have two newly certified EMT's, one EMT who completed Fire Fighter 1 training, and one EMT enrolled in Paramedic training.
- The R3 (Rural Rescue Response) trailer is in service, and we are in process of restocking it with the required tools and equipment.
- Hosted a successful pancake breakfast and spaghetti supper.
- Participated in many community events including, Fire Prevention Week, Amish Safety Day, Parades and more.
- Assisted in over 140 calls for service including medical/injuries, fires, car accidents, storm spotting, and more.

## 2025 fundraiser

This years fundraiser will consist of raffle items purchased by the Fairbank Fire & EMS Association.

- Raffle Items:
- Milwaukee M18TM 6-Tool Combo Kit
  - \$250 in Fairbank Dollars



COURTESY PHOTO

## First training with the R3 trailer at Poet.

- \$150 Modern Building Gift Card
- \$100 Costas's Gift Card
- \$50 in Fairbank Dollars

Please fill out your raffle ticket completely and legibly so we can deliver your prizes.

Enclosed tickets (\$10 each) will get you entered into the raffle and admission to the dance!

Any donations wanting to be made towards a specific project/item must be marked as such.

All contribution to the Fairbank Fire & EMS Association is tax deductible (Tax ID #93-4249512).

## Being Active in the Community

We continue to provide information and education to our community to keep our citizens and visitors safe.

In a typical year, our members make contact with well over 1000 people of the public, teaching fire and life safety education. We are excited and prepared to continue our mission of community risk reduction by education and training.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Fairbank Fire Department, not only at our annual fundraiser, but all year long!

## Members of the Fairbank Fire Department as of Dec. 31, 2024

Italic = Advanced EMT, Paramedic or Nurse

### Firefighters

Nick Curley (16 years)  
 Shawn Davis (15 years)  
 Gabe Oldfather (14 years)  
 Ryan Westemeier (12 years)  
 Tim Zimmerman (11 years)  
 Chance Beierschmitt (9 years)  
 Cody Kleitsch (9 years)  
 Adam Bachman (7 years)

## Your Volunteer Fire Department:

- Is committed to reducing the incidents of fires, rescues, and medical emergencies.
- Continually trains to be prepared for any incident.
- Embraces innovative ways to educate people on life safety, respond to fires and emergencies, and cares for the sick and injured.
- Maintains the community's emergency vehicles and equipment.
- Supports each other in times of need and in dealing with difficult situations.
- Is an unbelievably dedicated group of individuals.

Jake Schwartz (6 years)  
 Carson Woods (5 years)  
 Conner Jones (5 years)  
 Ryan Rausch (5 years)  
 Matt Johnson (3 years)  
 Justin Ritter (3 years)  
 Jordan Cowell (3 years)

### Firefighter/EMT

Jason Kayser (31 years)  
 Brad Gordon (21 years)  
 Drake Mangrich (20 years)  
 Robert Gipper (20 years)  
 Kevin Bodensteiner (16 years)  
 Chris West (EMR) (14 years)  
 Courtney Rochette (11 years)  
 Collin Woods (7 years)  
 Janice Martins (4 years)  
 Bryce Kleitsch (2 years)

### EMT

Cindy Woods (24 years)  
 Dick Chapman (6 years)  
 Amy Kaufman (6 years)  
 Elaine Zimmerman (6 years)  
 Alexis Rausch (6 years)  
 Kim Gray (3 years)  
 Ayla Reese (2 years)  
 Jenna Beck (1 year)

### Medical Director

Dr. Katie Baker (4 years)

### Auxiliary Members

Mike Pint - Operator/Mechanic (3 years)  
 Fr. Ray Atwood - Chaplain (7 years)



COURTESY PHOTO

Vehicle accident with AirCare.



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# Immaculate Conception Church

## Founded by people of rugged faith and an abundance of hope

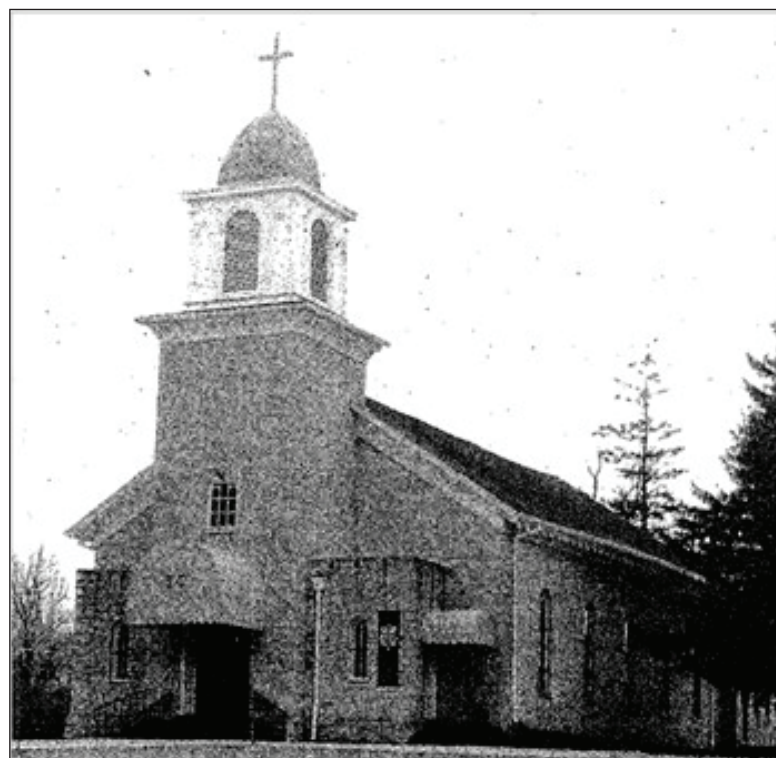
BY BETTY BRANDT PASSICK

bbpassick@comcast.net

(CONTRIBUTORS: DEB TREBON LAMBO, MAURICE WELSH, AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE)

Immaculate Conception Church, built in 1868, first appeared on the Fairbank Plat Map in 1886. The township was organized in 1855 by F. J. Everett and C. W. Bacon, natives of New York. The first Fairbank census in 1880 recorded 223 inhabitants. Most immigrants were of German and Irish decent. Likewise, Roman Catholic priests primarily came from Germany and Ireland – perhaps because the customs of both countries dictated the oldest son would inherit the family farm and land. That left the other males in the family with few good choices. One alternative was one that guaranteed respect, admiration and room and board: the priesthood.

I.C. Church recorded its meager beginning thusly: Down the Wapsipinicon River, through wooded districts and over fertile prairies, the first settlers of Fairbank traveled to mass, offered sometimes in the McCuniff schoolhouse and sometimes family homes. In 1858, Rev. John Sheils [Shields] was the first resident pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waverly, serving 1856-1867. He attended the small congregation regularly and designated the temporary church as the church of the Immaculate Conception. The parish soon became a mission of Independence under the care of



Rev. John Gosker. During those years, many new families arrived, bringing with them a rugged faith and an abundance of hope, carrying out permanent homes in the wooded district a mile at a time. It wasn't long before their homes stretched along both sides of the Wapsipinicon River and on the fertile fields of the Fairbank vicinity.

Ten years later, Rev. Eugene Sullivan, who would serve the parish from 1868-1875, became the first resident pastor—and oversaw the construction of the 44 ft. x 90 ft. stone church, built with stones from the six-acre lime quarry on the southern part of the property. The structure remains the second oldest church

in Buchanan County (the oldest being St. James Episcopal Church in Independence, built in 1856).

The Beierschmitt and Trebon families were among the church's founders – and instrumental in the church's construction. Johann "John" Anton Beierschmitt and Henry G. Trebon (pictured) initially traded a team of horses for the lime quarry and eventually donated the quarry to the church. John, who had been a builder and stonecutter in Germany, was among those who physically helped build the church. Below are brief early histories of these two families:

John Anthony Beierschmitt (1825-1903), age 21, and two



COURTESY PHOTO

Above: Henry G. and Anna Burke Trebon. Left: I. C. Church - Archdiocese photo.

uncles and their families immigrated from Germany to America in 1846 and initially settled in Pottsville, PA. In 1849 John married Maria Kerns (1829-1912), who had immigrated from France. Their first child, Catherine, was born a year later. John, his wife, and baby – along with Maria's parents, John and Lena Linn Kerns – then relocated to Lester Township in Black Hawk County. In March 1856, John and Maria Kerns sold land a few miles west of Fairbank to their daughter and son-in-law – and so the Beierschmitt farming lineage began.

Henry G. Trebon (1835-1908), age 20, in 1855 immigrated with his parents Martin and Marianna Jesse Trebon from Prussia (Poland), plus two older brothers, Joseph and Michael, and two younger sisters, Wilhelmine and Marianna Matilda. In 1856 Henry married Anna Burke/Burschinsky (1839-1934) in Wisconsin, before moving to the Jesup area then Fairbank, where they purchased land about 18 miles northeast of Waterloo on the Buchanan County border.

Henry appears to have been the first of the brothers to build a log cabin around 1861. Henry and Michael seem to have had a close relationship as their farms were a short walk down the road from each other. All of Henry's siblings – at least, the eight who survived into adulthood – ultimately immigrated to the United States, the last sibling to arrive in 1866. Eventually, John and Anna had 13 children.

Largely, every immigrant to the Fairbank area has a similar story.

During the following years, three pastors overlapped at Immaculate Conception: Rev. Gerald M. Stack, Rev. Eugene Sullivan – and Rev. Thomas J. Murtagh, who served 1875-1887. By then the parish was made up of 160 families and nearly 600 communicants originating from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, and Poland. By 1875, the parish owned a church

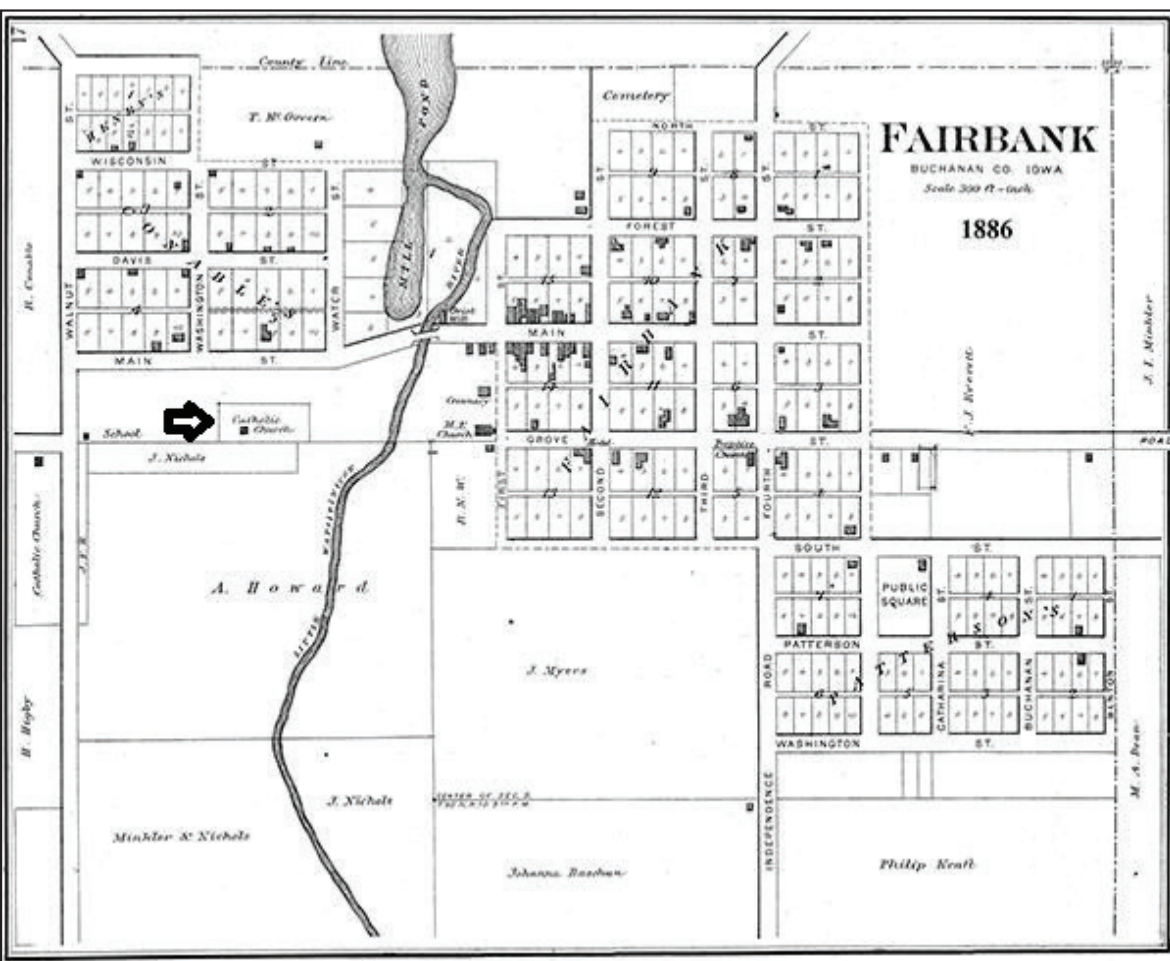
plus a pastoral residence worth about \$8,000.

Rev. Murtagh was promoted by his Bishop in 1887; Rev. John Tobin succeeded him, and in 1895 he directed construction of a frame school – Immaculate Conception Academy – to house both the Holy Ghost Sisters from Dubuque, Sister Mary Bona Kelly, Sister Mary Petronella, and Sister Mary Katherine – and their classes. Their first task was to instruct a group of children for their First Holy Communion. Charles Miller, then a small boy – who became a Catholic priest in 1912 – was a member of that class. Rev. Tobin also oversaw a large addition to the church and completion of interior decorating. After 12 years of faithful service, he died suddenly in 1899 at age 40. Upwards of 90 priests attended the ceremonies and solemnities of the holy high mass held at Immaculate Conception.

Over the years, the Beierschmitt and Trebon families became connected by marriage. In 1895, John and Maria Beierschmitt's son, John A. Beierschmitt married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Trebon, the daughter of Henry G. and Anna Trebon. Then, in 1914, Henry G. Trebon's niece by marriage – wife of Johan was Maria Magdalena Kerns, whose brother Daniel had a daughter, Susan – married George Trebon, nephew of Henry G. Trebon.

Rev. Aloysius J. Wagener cared for the congregation following the death of Rev. Tobin. Msgr. William T. Donahue was appointed parish pastor in November 1899. He quickly became known for his oratory skills, and the church was regularly filled to capacity.

The Holy Ghost Sisters were replaced in 1907 by five Sisters of the Presentation. By this time, the faculty increased to four teaching Sisters and one full-time music teacher. Eight grades and a normal training course were taught. Because of a



COURTESY PHOTO

1886 plat map of Fairbank - I.C. Church V2.

See IMMACULATE, A6



# Immaculate Conception Church

## Founded by people of rugged faith and an abundance of hope

CONTINUED FROM A5

new state requirement, the tenth grade was added to qualify students for teaching certificates.

Msgr. Donahue celebrated his 25th anniversary as a priest in 1913—sixteen years at Immaculate Conception. The congregation presented him with a gold chalice, still a part of the parish's collection of sacred vessels used for Christmas, Easter, and First Holy Communion.

Rev. Charles Miller, Rev. Joseph Campbell, and Rev. Lawrence P. Craney served the parish from January to July 1915 – until Msgr. John Q. Halpin's arrival that year. Archbishop James J. Keane ordered the building of a new rectory, and the Sisters moved from the school to a home of their own choosing to allow for more classroom space. Fire destroyed the school in 1916. Classes were taught in an unused store in the town until a new facility could be constructed. The first class to graduate in 1917 included Alice Shields, Clare Miller, Vera Peters, Laurena Beierschmitt, Mary Welsh, Gertrude Gardner, Leo Shannon, Charles Corkery, and Edgar Corcoran.

In May 1923, the school obtained accreditation from the Iowa Committee on Secondary Schools. Rev. (later Msgr.) Kearns served as associate pastor with Msgr. Halpin, 1919-1920. Rev. Robert R. Ormsby replaced Rev. Kearns, serving 1920-1921. In 1929, Msgr. Halpin oversaw the addition of the drive to the south side of the church.

Rev. William J. Torpey was appointed pastor in 1931, assisted by two associate pastors: Rev. William C. Michael, 1944-1945, and Rev. John F. Quinn, 1945-1948. A kindergarten program was added in 1933. Rev. Torpey began the 'envelope system' in 1935, and oversaw an addition to the school in 1948 with the faculty growing to six teaching Sisters.

Rev. Torpey retired in 1948 and was replaced by his nephew Rev. Bernard G. Collins, who would serve as pastor and superintendent of the school until 1966, assisted by two associate pastors: Rev. Joseph Hsu, 1959-1961, and Rev. Walter Kleinfehn, 1961-1966. Rev. Collins oversaw the 1955 addition of a \$112,000 parish hall, gymnasium, and additional classrooms. Before the gym was built, home basketball games were played in the Fairbank public school gym. Plays and other programs were performed at a small building next to the Opera House (currently, the site of Costa's), which had theater seats and a stage. Rev. Collins organized a home-school Association, and parent-teacher conferences were inaugurated.

Rev. Kleinfehn is credited with making and wiring two new



signs on the church property.

Due to a large sum of money left to the church following the 1962 death of Susan Kerns Trebon, a Blessed Virgin shrine was purchased and placed on the parish grounds. At night the shrine is lite and very beautiful.

In the mid-1960s, the priest began facing the people during mass, and readings were spoken in English. The fancy altars, candelabra, and many of the statues were removed. At this time there were about 340 families in the parish.

Msgr. John Thornton replaced Rev. Collins in 1966. Assisting him was Rev. John Carpenter, Immaculate Conception's final associate pastor.

The high school closed in 1965. In its final year, the school consisted of four Sisters, one lay teacher, and 58 students – graduating 16, compared to three graduates in the first class in 1898. The grade school consisted of 158 pupils at its closing in 1969. Students transferred to Oelwein Sacred Heart High School and Fairbank public school.

The writer had the occasion in 2016 to interview Leo Beierschmitt, 85 – great-grandson to John and Maria Beierschmitt – as research for a historical novel set in Fairbank, Gangster in Our Midst: Bookkeeper, Lieutenant, and Sometimes Hitman for Al Capone. Louie La Cava came to Fairbank in the early 1920s and bragged he was bookkeeper to Chicago Kingpin Al Capone. He and his wife Josephine – both Catholic – resided in the town off and on for the next 60 years.

Leo was the youngest of two sons born to Walter and Anna M. Bohan Bierschmitt and grew up on the family farm. He initially attended a country school, "walking three-quarters of a mile each way," he said. In third grade he began attending the academy.

"The nuns were tough – you had to behave yourself, but they were sweet underneath." He got a ruler to his hand a few times for saying the wrong thing, talking back.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Maurice Welsh, great grandson of John and Maria Beierschmitt and Wilma Bradley were married at I.C. Church in 1951.**

He served as altar boy for Father Torpey, which required lighting candles on the altar, helping the priest move missel/prayer book, and getting water for the priest for blessings. Mass was at 8 and 10 on Sunday mornings – the Gospel message was in Latin. Leo received his First Holy Communion at seven years of age and was confirmed at age 14. "Louie La Cava and his wife always occupied the last pew in the sanctuary," Leo recalled.

Leo spoke fondly of the years he played sports at the academy. Since the mid-1920s, the school had a boys' baseball (and basketball) team which competed against Oran, Dunkerton, Fairbank, and Hazelton public schools – plus Sacred Heart. The priest served as coach. Home games were played on the baseball diamond at the public school until the late 1930s, when the church finally built a diamond south of the quarry. Eventually, a portion of the quarry's north side was filled in to expand the church parking lot.

After graduating high school in 1949, Leo married Barbara J. Koch in 1953. They became the fifth Beierschmitt generation to reside on the family farm where they raised their five children. The Beierschmitt farming legacy continues today.

Maurice Welsh is among John and Maria Beierschmitt descendants who continue to attend the church. His grandmother Matilda "Tilly" Beierschmitt in 1891 married Edward J. Welsh, Maurice's grandfather. Maurice and Wilma Bradley (pictured) were married at Immaculate Conception in 1951.

Following the school's closing in 1969, the Parish Auxiliary gave a farewell reception to all the Sisters. Rev. Thornton and Rev. Carpenter were assigned to other parishes.

Father Maurice L. Scallon served as pastor from 1969-1979. The year he arrived there were 355 budget holders and 1,012 members. The church budget was \$61,307.

Father Wilbur Ziegler served as pastor from 1979-1982. Father Donald Kruse followed his departure.

Father Paul C. McManus served the dual parishes of Immaculate Conception and St. Mary in Hazelton from 1986-1991—assisted at I.C. by Patricia Kayser, director of religious education, and religious teachers who had involved almost all students in the twelve grades.

Father John F. McTarsney became pastor in 1991, but due to ill health he left in September 1996. Father Mark McGovern

took over as administrator, then became pastor in 1997.

Father Kenneth C. Stecher was appointed pastor in 2000. He was transferred to St. Athanasius in Jesup in 2006. That was the final year Immaculate Conception had a resident pastor.

Father Frederick Fangmann, pastor at Sacred Heart parish, was appointed sacramental priest to Immaculate Conception's 318 members – before retiring in 2007.

Father Harry Koelker was appointed pastor of the two parishes. Deacon James D. Patera became parish life Coordinator for Sacred Heart and Immaculate Conception. Immaculate Conception celebrated 150 years in 2008, and a special 3-D sun-catcher ornament was designed to commemorate the anniversary. Rev. Koelker went on medical leave before retiring in 2013.

Rev. Paul C. McManus was then called to serve both parishes as sacramental priest. He became known for his candor during the homily, when he spoke of growing up with an alcoholic father and a mother who rarely said "I love you"—his forthrightness was met with dislike by some parishioners. Rev. McManus too became an alcoholic and eventually went through treatment. Officially he retired from the priesthood in 2009. In the years that followed, he served as hospital Chaplain in Dubuque and Waterloo, part-time Chaplain at the Mental Health Institute in Independence, and became a certified substance abuse counselor and clinical pastoral educator. In 2015, Rev. McManus celebrated his 50th ordination anniversary. That same year the school-gymnasium was demolished to make room for the new Parish Center. Construction began the summer of 2016 under the leadership of Deacon Patera. People from well beyond parish membership contributed financially to the construction.

Rev. Ray Atwood became sacramental priest for both parishes in 2017.

The Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Oran Township recorded the first burials in 1867—Henry Owen McGuire and Francis Schmeltzer. Before that year, deceased Catholics likely were interred in one of two public cemeteries: The Union Burying Ground at Kier south of Fairbank, which holds the remains of the earliest settlers in the township, and Fairbank Cemetery whose records indicate the first burials happened in 1856.

A 1977 Immaculate Conception historical record notes a total of 17 women entered religious communities, seven men entered the priesthood, and four were religious brothers.

The beautiful campus of Immaculate Conception parish at 405 Fairbank St. currently comprises 297 families.



# January

## COMMUNITY POTLUCK



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**JAN. 15, 2025 AT 11:30 AM**

Tableware and beverages provided.  
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## Church + Services



### United Methodist Church

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319-635-2932  
Worship Service: 9:15 AM



### St. John Lutheran Church

(MISSOURI SYNOD)  
208 N. 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Mass: 8:30 AM



### Lord of the Harvest

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



### First Baptist Church

304 Grove Street  
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**Rev. Mike Anderson**  
Worship Service: 9:00 AM  
Sunday School: 10:00 AM

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# RECYCLING BENEFITS YOUTH

For many years, Immaculate Conception, Fairbank, was a destination center where one could take cans and bottles to be recycled!. When Bob Bellis had a pick-up load, he would take the cans/bottles to a redemption center in Cedar Falls and all money went into IC's General Fund.

Fast forward, it didn't take long for area residents to use this service. Bob and Dan Cutsforth (now retired DRE) realized this project of recycling could benefit the youth at Immaculate Conception. Soon word spread about the recycling and Bob needed help. Ted Vorwald volunteered and then before long Mark Rourke and Duane Schmidtke and sub, Joe Rubino became involved. What was once a small redemption center has now become a huge convenience for the people of Fairbank. Volunteers continue to go through all the cans and bottles that are dropped off and Metro Area Redemption, Inc. out

of Cedar Falls was hired to pick up the items that were sorted and bagged with a monthly charge for this service of \$60.00.

Since 2018, \$31,542.96 has been deposited to the National Catholic Youth Fund at I.C. from the redemptions. These funds are used to help defray the cost of Juniors & Seniors attending the NCYC In Indianapolis. The 3-day conference is held every other year. The next conference is in 2025.

In the photos, you will see Bob, Duane, Mark and Joe handle 74 large bags with over 300 cans in each bag, and 21 boxes of glass bottles. This is the average monthly redemption of cans and bottles. The volunteers work daily in a building that is cold and drafty, with a crushed rock floor to make sure the area is kept neat and boxes and sacks do not get ruined from the weather.

Soon these conditions will change due to the generosity of a parish family.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bob Bellis and Duane Schmidtke work at the redemption center.



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# Buchanan County Emergency Management offers text alerts to citizens

The City of Fairbank has teamed up with Buchanan Emergency Management to offer citizens access to emergency and important information via text on their phones, free of charge.

In addition to local and state-wide weather and emergency alerts, you will receive important information from the city. Some examples are: any local emergency, snow emergencies, road closures, event cancellations due to weather or other disruption and incidents that may disturb your normal routine.

To sign up visit: <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=BuchananCountyAlert> or download the Smart911 app on your smart phone. To ensure you receive the latest weather and emergency alerts, as well as local Fairbank announcements, we encourage you to register through system.

When you sign up, you will have the option



to choose what incidents and/or emergencies you want to be notified of. BE SURE TO CLICK CITY OF FAIRBANK.

Additionally, Fairbank residents will have the option to receive Fayette County notifications. If you need assistance signing up please contact Buchanan County Emergency Management. [chare@co.buchanan.ia.us](mailto:chare@co.buchanan.ia.us) 319-334-6411.

Thank you, Jason Kayser, Mayor

# Armchair lawyer



COLUMN BY  
**JD FRANCIS**

My wife usually turns in for the night several hours before I do, so I get kind of lonely and restless at night, or in the morning, depending on how you perceive it. At around 1:00 o'clock am, I switch the channel to America's Court with Judge Ross. I'm guilty of becoming that armchair lawyer and try to decide each case before Judge Ross makes his ruling. As the show goes, somebody is suing another somebody and the plaintiff lays out their case to the judge, who decides who is right or who is wrong. I watched a case the other night that touched a nerve within me and I started wondering how John Q. Public would rule on the case as they believed appropriate. Understand, these are people's lives at stake here, on both sides of the fence.

There were two people in the courtroom, the plaintiff and the defendant. The plaintiff was suing the defendant for the maximum allowed in that particular state, \$25,000. Apparently, he and his 5-year-old daughter, who has autism, were walking down the street, when the 5-year-old took off running and screaming. The owner of a nearby store heard the screaming and stepped out onto the sidewalk to see what was going on. As it happened, the little girl ran into the lady storekeeper's arms. The lady had no idea what was

going on but she seen the little girl's distress. She grabbed the girl, took her into the store, and locked the door behind her.

The girl's father pounded on the door and explained that she was his daughter, and she had autism. The storekeeper refused his entry and told the father she was calling the police. The storekeeper placed a chair in the middle of the picture window and sat the girl down so the father could see her. The father complained that he could only see her back and that he too, was calling the police.

Obviously, the police came and all was sorted out and the child was released to the father. The father took the child to appropriate doctors, claiming she was damaged by the storekeeper's efforts to help. He brought to court various doctor billings that totaled a few thousand dollars. The rest of the \$25,000 was for damages into the girl's future.

Now then, I had made my armchair ruling and without much hesitance, I might add. As I see it, there was a screaming child running from the male person. The store keeper heard the commotion and tried to be of assistance. It's true, the man identified himself as her father but the lady had no way of knowing that. The storekeeper was right to not allow the father in to take the girl home. Calling the police was the right thing to do, in both cases.

THE RULING: Judge Ross was sympathetic to the father's position but ruled that under the circumstances, the father had no claim and ruled for the defendant. Judge Ross stated that times we live in today are notably different and care must be entirely given to the safety of the child. Seems to me, we need more people like the storekeeper who was looking out for the best interest of the child. Are there any other armchair lawyers out there? What say you?

Looking Back on Giving Back

DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS	DOWNTOWN MURAL PROJECT
LITTLE ISLAND DAYCARE	FUTURE LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS
ISLANDER NEWSPAPER	BALL DIAMOND PROJECT
INDUSTRIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT LOTS	MAIN STREET AMERICAN FLAGS




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shared back right where it began

## Fairbank Island Days contributions from recent years, totaling over \$60,000

The holiday season is near, and we're reminded how important it is to give back to our amazing community of Fairbank Iowa.

Here's a look at where YOUR contributions from recent years of Fairbank Island Days support have gone too! Totaling over \$60,000, we take pride in giving back to projects, organizations, improvements, that make our small town community so special!

2024-2025



WAPSIE VALLEY BLOOD DRIVES

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

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

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## SPORTS &amp; RECREATION

## MODICUM OF MOMENTUM

**Warrior boys, girls head into break winning three of four combined in less than 24 hours**

BY GIDAL KAISER

sports@oelweindailyregister.com

Two games apiece. Less than 24 hours between them.

Wapsie Valley's pre-Christmas break schedule is an annual intrigue, with a North Iowa Cedar League East game followed by an Upper Iowa Shootout contest on a Friday-Saturday turnaround. Wapsie Valley faced Oelwein in division play this year, followed by games against Cedar Valley Christian (boys) and Osage (girls).

Marty McKowen's club went 2-0, with a 55-38 win in Oelwein and an 80-62 win against CVC. Tim Kelly's program went 1-1, beating Oelwein (54-41) and falling by a basket against the Green Devils (35-33).

The Warrior boys (4-3, 1-2 NICL East) scored 51 points in the second half Saturday to break open a tight game. Briggs Boehme shot 56 percent (15 for 27) in scoring a season-high 36 points. He sank five 3-pointers. Landen Moulds added 11 points and 10 rebounds while Jayden Griese contributed eight points, 13 rebounds and four steals.

Wapsie hit 10 3s, with three from Moulds.

Boehme scored 21 as Wapsie was up 16-4 after eight minutes and scored double digits in each frame the night prior against the Huskies (0-6, 0-3). Griese added six points, nine rebounds and two blocks and Braden Bantz added six points and nine rebounds.



PHOTOS BY GIDAL KAISER | OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER

**Wapsie Valley's Peyton Curley shoots during a North Iowa Cedar League East game against Oelwein on Friday. The Warriors went 1-1 in a 24-hour span.**

"I really liked our defensive pressure tonight," McKowen said Friday. "We've struggled a bit on the defensive side before, and what we were able to do tonight was not only put good pressure on the ball, but then get that second guy to come up and jump (into help). And the steals we got were on that third guy coming up into (the passing lane) on the rotation. They are getting more accustomed to doing that."

Griese averaged six points, 8.5 rebounds, 1.5 steals and a block while adding more responsibility since Tanner Bergmann's injury

earlier in the week.

"A couple days ago, it was a pretty big switch. (Griese's) used to having Tanner in there with him. All of a sudden, we have to change our entire scheme. It's only been four practices, but I thought the kids did a great job (tonight)."

Brady Burkhardt netted 17 and Conall Sauser scored 11 for the Huskies.

Kelly's team led by five heading into the fourth Saturday. Osage erupted for 17 in the final stanza, winning on a buzzer-beater.

"In the end our first half shoot-

ing and going 9 for 19 from the free-throw line was too much to overcome, but I was really proud that the kids did not give up and got themselves back in the game," Kelly wrote in an email.

Peyton Curley scored 12, Kenzie Snyder grabbed 11 rebounds and Bailey Murphy contributed nine points and seven rebounds.

Wapsie (4-4, 3-0) is at the top of the division alongside Jesup (5-2, 3-0) at the break after Friday's win. The Warriors scored 20 in the third to extend a six-point lead into a 21-point advantage.

Curley (14), Murphy (10) and Snyder (10) all scored in double digits. Curley added nine rebounds, four assists and four steals.

The Warriors earned both of their division wins this week on the road.

"Getting two conference road wins this week was pretty big accomplishment for our program," Kelly wrote. "I think it will give our girls a lot of confidence as the season moves on. The game with Oelwein was probably our most complete game on the year."

Oelwein (2-8) celebrated McKinzie See eclipsing 1,000 career points prior to the contest, and she scored 10 on Friday.

Haydin Becker netted 11 and Hannah Patrick added seven for the Huskies, who led 13-12 after one but trailed by six (28-22) at halftime and scored just five in the third frame.

**West Central swept by South Winneshiek**

The Blue Devils fell during an Upper Iowa Conference double-header Friday in Calmar. The boys lost, 79-27. The girls lost, 51-8. No other statistics were available as of press time.

**Starmont swept by Edgewood-Colesburg**

The Stars fell during a Tri-Rivers West doubleheader Friday in Edgewood. The boys lost, 68-31. The girls lost, 69-16. No other statistics were available as of press time.

**Sumner-Fredericksburg splits at Union Community**

Sumner's girls broke a losing streak with Friday's 45-34 NICL East victory at LaPorte City. A 17-point second quarter and 14-point fourth quarter helped the Cougars (2-5, 1-2) get the win. No other statistics were available as of press time.

The Knights won the battle of the top two boys division teams by holding Sumner to six second-quarter points. The Cougars (4-3, 2-1) nearly completed the comeback thanks to 39 second-half points.

Ty VanEngelenburg scored 20 while Joe Kroenecke added 12. Kinnick Gordon added 10 points and five assists.

**Bowling Sumner-Fredericksburg sweeps Oelwein**

Sumner claimed both victories Friday at Viper Lanes. The Cougar boys won, 2,471-2,306 to move to 1-3. The Cougar girls won, 2,069-1,726 to move to 1-3.

Kyler Smith (379) and Westin Osborn (377) broke 370 in their respective two-game series. No scores for Oelwein (0-4 boys, 0-4 girls) were available as of press time.

**Wrestling Boys**

Wapsie Valley 24th at Battle of Waterloo

The Warriors won one match during the two-day tournament at Young Arena, topping Clear Lake, 40-30, in Bracket D.

Wapsie fell to Clarion-Gold-

See MOMENTUM, A11

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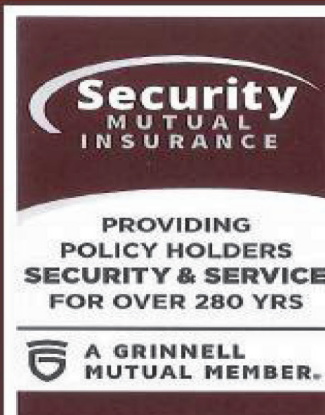
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# SPORTS & RECREATION

## MODICUM OF MOMENTUM

CONTINUED FROM A10

field-Dows, 56-17; North Scott, 58-15; West Des Moines Valley, 45-27; Cedar Rapids Prairie, 59-13; and Waterloo East, 54-28.

Garrett Miller went 5-0 at 165 with three pins, a major decision (13-4) and a decision (10-7). Both Kanen Decker (175) and Sawyer Krall (126) went 5-1 at the event. Decker earned three technical falls and Krall earned three decisions (14-11, 8-0, 9-8).

### Sumner-Fredericksburg fourth at Al DeLeon

The Cougars scored 149 points to place fourth at the six-team Al DeLeon Invitational on Saturday in Britt.

Sumner put four in championship matches, with title wins from Sam Egan (132, 2-0, two pins) and Noah Henderson (175, 4-0, four pins) in the round-robin tournament.

Linkan Suckow (120, 1-1, pin) and Dylan Hunt (157, 2-1, technical fall) placed second.

### Girls

### Sumner/Wapsie girls sixth at Bubba Randles Winter Classic

Sumner-Fredericksburg/Wapsie Valley placed sixth with 110.5 points Saturday in Cedar Rapids.

Cameryn Judisch (115 pounds) and Jamie Jones (155) both placed second; each went 3-1. Jones snagged three pins. Judisch picked up a pin, technical fall (15-0) and major decision (8-0).

Braelyn Suckow (110, three pins) placed third and Isabel Christensen (130, two pins) placed fourth after medically forfeiting out of the third-place match.



PHOTOS BY GIDAL KAISER | OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER

**Briggs Boehme puts up a shot between Landen Whitaker (2) and Conall Sauser (15).**



PHOTOS BY GIDAL KAISER | OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER

**Above left Blake Hesse lines up ball to make a basket during Wapsie game. Above right Jayden Greise dribbles the ball down the court.**

## Celebration of Life

### Charles "Chuck" Duane Moulds

June 8 1934 - December 20, 2024

Charles Duane Moulds, age 90 of Fairbank, passed away peacefully with his family at his side Friday, December 20, 2024 at his home in rural Fairbank.

Chuck was born June 8th, 1934 in rural Dunkerton the son of Charles Edward and Kathryn (Niebuhr) Moulds. He grew up on the family farm and attended school in Fairbank, as well as Dunkerton. Chuck proudly served his country when he was stationed in Ulm, Germany as an active member of the United States Army from 1955 to 1957 and in the Army Reserve through 1962. He married Joan Keniston on May 10th, 1957 in Elkader, Iowa. They made their home in rural Fairbank where they raised their three children. Chuck was a lifetime farmer and an excellent steward of the farm expanding it and making many improvements. He was an adept bulldozer owner/operator and left his mark all over Northeast Iowa with the dozens of farm field waterways that he skillfully created to combat soil erosion. He especially enjoyed raising and caring for his cow/calf operation and was certainly a cattleman at heart. He had a special place in his life for the generations of Collies, Shetland Sheep dogs and Border Collies that grew up on the farm. His last Border Collie, Reba, was his close companion for the last 14 years. Chuck enjoyed traveling to see friends and family in Montana, California, Florida and Germany and going to the casinos in Las Vegas, Kansas City, as well as here locally. Decades of annual summer fishing trips with family and friends to Ontario, Canada provided hours of relaxation and many happy memories. He always very much enjoyed time spent with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. For many years Chuck and Jo enjoyed playing "500" at the several card clubs that they belonged to. In his later years he enjoyed playing cards with his friends at Jerry's Auto and he was a regular at the Fairbank Food Center Deli. He also served on the Wapsie Valley Board of Education for a number of years. His happy place was in his timber where he enjoyed cutting wood, lots of wood, so if you couldn't find him in the house or outside working on equipment, he was most likely in the timber. Even after his health started to decline, he would drive his pickup or van to the timber just to check on the crops and the wildlife.

Chuck is survived by his three children; Ron (Kelle) Moulds, LaDell (Jim) McCabe and Susan (Kelly) Ryan, five grandchildren; Michael Ryan, Elizabeth Escobedo (Adam Pooch), Rachael (Patrick) Murray, Keith (Kate) Ryan, Staci (Luke) Kinney; three step-grandchildren, Joshua and Rachel VanErsvelde, Mandie Martin, eight great grandchildren; Mikaela and Briggs Escobedo, Calvin, Lane and Ryan Murray, Charles, Natalie and William Ryan, Evelyn Lendt and Annika Kinney and three step-great grandchildren, Harper, Cash and Whitten; two sisters; Helen Heth and Beverly Morris.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, a brother, Elmer in infancy and a sister, Elizabeth at birth, sisters and brother and their spouses, Eileen and Harold Fratzke, George and Marjorie Moulds, Doris and Joe Weiden, Lois and Dave Enyart, and two brothers-in-law Elmer Heth and Paul Morris.

Visitation: 9:00-11:00 AM Friday, December 27, 2024 with funeral to follow at Woods Funeral Home.

Interment: Private burial at Fairbank Cemetery immediately following the service.

Military Rites: Fairbank American Legion Fortsch-Duffy Post 552

Memorials: may be directed to the family for later designation.

Lunch was served at the Fairbank American Legion following the service

Online condolences can be left at [www.woodsfuneralhome.ney](http://www.woodsfuneralhome.ney)







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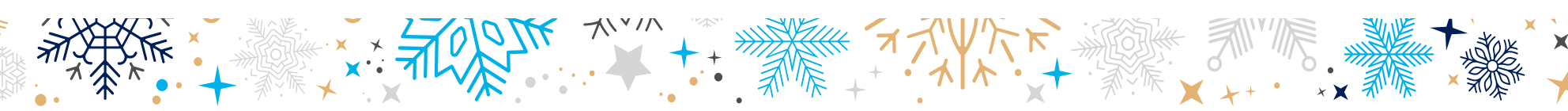


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# “Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

## Happy New Year!!

I hope your Christmas season was fulfilling and you got to be in the company of people you love. Here is to hoping that 2025 has amazing things in store for all of us!

If you find yourself making a list of resolutions and things like investing, saving, budgeting, or paying off a debt are on that list, we should talk!

Financial fitness aspirations are our jam.\*

*\*If you have “regular” fitness goals, you should hire someone else... I am on the same struggle bus!*

There is a cliché about the New Year and setting goals. “New Year, New Me” is often easier said than done and when it comes to financial goals, we prefer finding sustainable small steps rather than drastic changes. I love sitting down with someone who has big goals in mind and getting to help them break it down into small attainable tasks that help turn their goals into a reality.

Sometimes we present full blown financial plans to help our clients know they’re on the right path and sometimes it’s just giving one little piece of advice that makes a difference.

I remember being given a piece of advice that helped my husband Cody and I start to prioritize saving and getting ahead early in our marriage: It was to open a savings account separate from our primary account. We had a small amount from each pay period deposited into the held-away account, sight unseen. When the savings came out before the money hit our primary account, it wasn’t as noticeable as trying to find a few coins to stretch into our savings at the end of the month.

After a few months, we had a few hundred dollars saved. Soon, it was a few thousand. Before we knew it, we used this separate account to pay off Cody’s student loan. This small piece of advice helped us get one step closer to freedom from debt and, most importantly, we never noticed the difference in our budget.

For those further ahead in the saving/investing game than we were as newlyweds, there are new guidelines out every year for retirement contributions. This year, Roth IRA and Traditional IRA contributions remain the same at \$7,000 annually + \$1,000 catch-up for those 50 years old+. 401K contributions went up from \$23,000/year to \$23,500 with a catch-up provision of an additional \$7,500. Thanks to the SECURE 2.0 act, there is also now a super catch-up for those aged 60-63 of \$11,250! There are more limits listed on the IRS.GOV website, or if you have questions, an answer is always a quick phone call to me away!

Financial goals can be easier said than done but partnering with someone who can help keep you accountable and help you prioritize where to start can make it all less overwhelming. It is never too late to start and there is no dream too big! This year, make your money work as hard for you as you do for it!

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones



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# Fairbank Public Library

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Fax: 319-635-2487

Email: [library@fairbank-ia.org](mailto:library@fairbank-ia.org)

Website: [Fairbank-ia.org](http://Fairbank-ia.org)

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1-5 pm  
Thursday 1-6 pm  
Friday 1-5 pm  
Saturday 9-12



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Wednesday, January 29  
Wednesday, February 5

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## Santa visits Fairbank Library!



Sylvia & Weston Costello visiting with Santa.

Fairbank Island Queen  
Kennedy Kane  
assisted Santa.



This program was brought to you by:  
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The Fairbank Public Library is excited to announce that we  
will have guest speaker

**Peter Komendowski on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**

He will be presenting 2 programs this day,  
one for the children and one for adults.

Peter Komandowski is one of Iowa's leading advocates for healthy, drug-free communities. In the face of the opioid epidemic, a resurgence of meth use, and a marijuana industry targeting Iowa youth, he is a sought-after speaker as an expert in substance abuse prevention and high-risk behavior management.

Peter serves as president of The Partnership for a Healthy Iowa and the Face It Together (PDFI/FIT) coalition, and co-director of the Iowa Digital Literacy & Wellness Project. He succeeded Senator Grassley as Chair of Face It Together Coalition's healthy communities' initiative, which still stands to this day as the oldest statewide coalition of substance abuse prevention resources in Iowa.

Peter travels throughout Iowa coordinating projects including the Iowa Media Literacy Project., Take5Iowa, the Drug-Free Workplace Program, Speak Out 4 Kids, the Power of Grandparents, the Blueprint for Healthy Communities, and the Iowa Caring Communities Tour.

Peter can be reached at [Peter@AHealthyIowa.org](mailto:Peter@AHealthyIowa.org) or at 515-729-7334.

Additional information is available at [www.AHealthyIowa.org](http://www.AHealthyIowa.org)

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Den of Iniquity

..... from Gary Fink

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**Barb Miller**

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The December Market

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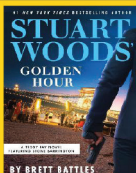
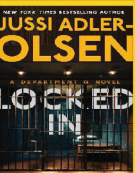
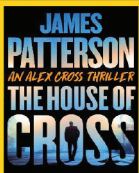


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# Local News & Updates

## WAPSIE VALLEY SCHOOL CORNER



**CHRIS HOOVER**  
SUPERINTENDENT

It is hard to believe that we are already into the month of January! Our winter activities are off to a great start and we hope that you have had the opportunity to see our students in action.

This month's school finance article is about three funds that are very important to all Iowa school districts. The Nutrition Fund, SAVE Fund, and Management Fund.

### 1) Nutrition Fund

The Nutrition Fund is specifically designated for the operation of school food service programs. It covers the costs associated with providing meals to students, including both breakfast and lunch. These funds are primarily derived from the following sources:

**Federal Funds:** The federal government provides reimbursements for free and reduced-price meals, as well as additional funding through programs like the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP).

**State Funds:** Iowa provides additional funding to support school nutrition programs, including funding to assist with food quality, training, and sometimes specific nutrition-related initiatives.

The goal of the Nutrition Fund is to ensure that every student has access to nutritious meals, particularly in districts with higher levels of poverty. The fund must be self-sustaining, meaning that it cannot be subsidized by general education or other operational funds.

### 2) SAVE Fund (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education)

The SAVE Fund is a critical source of funding for school districts in Iowa, primarily used for infrastructure improvements. It was established through a state sales tax (also known as the school infrastructure sales tax) that generates revenue for the fund. The key points of the SAVE

Fund include:

**Revenue Source:** The SAVE Fund is funded by a portion of the state sales tax revenue, which is directed to school districts.

**Usage:** The funds are intended to be used for specific infrastructure-related projects, such as the construction or renovation of school buildings, repair and maintenance of school facilities, technology upgrades, transportation equipment (e.g., buses), and safety improvements.

**Flexibility:** While the majority of the funds are intended for physical infrastructure, districts also have the flexibility to use some of the revenue for technology initiatives that support the educational environment, such as providing devices for students or upgrading network infrastructure.

The SAVE Fund is essential for maintaining and improving the physical learning environment, particularly in districts with aging facilities or those that need to adapt to increasing student enrollment.

### 3) Management Fund

The Management Fund is a school district fund that is used to pay for specific operational expenses related to risk management, insurance, and other legally required services. This fund is used for:

**Insurance Costs:** This includes insurance premiums for property, casualty, and liability coverage. In addition, it may cover insurance for workers' compensation.

**Employee Benefits:** Some districts use the Management Fund to finance the cost of employee benefits, such as early retirement programs or unemployment benefits.

**Other Risk Management Expenses:** This may include costs associated with emergency preparedness, legal settlements, or other situations that require risk management or financial contingency.

The revenue for the Management Fund typically comes from local property taxes. The district can levy taxes specifically for the Management Fund, and the amount levied is subject to certain limits as defined by the state.

Together, these funds play an essential role in maintaining the overall health, safety, and quality of the educational experience in Iowa's school districts. As always, if you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me and Go Warriors!

*Chris Hoover*  
Superintendent



## What's Cook'in

Education is what you get from reading the small print.  
Experience is what you get from not reading it.

### Broccoli Bake

4 c. seasoned croutons      8 oz. can water chestnuts  
2 cans cream of chicken soup      8 oz. can mushrooms  
½ c. mayonnaise      1 lb. bacon, fried and crumbled  
16 oz. pkg. frozen broccoli, chopped, thawed & drained



Grease a 9x13 pan and spread 2 cups of the croutons on bottom. Combine soup and mayonnaise. Spread half over the croutons. Top with broccoli, drained water chestnuts, drained mushrooms and half of bacon. Spread with the remaining soup mixture, croutons and bacon. Cover loosely with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake 15 minutes longer. *Great for company!*



### Cherry Salad

3 oz. black cherry jello      Topping:  
3 oz. raspberry jello      1 c. sour cream  
3 c. boiling water      1½ c. mini marshmallows  
1 can cherry pie filling

Dissolve jello in the boiling water. Add pie filling. Pour into casserole dish. Chill for 2 hours. Whip together sour cream and marshmallows and spread over the jello.

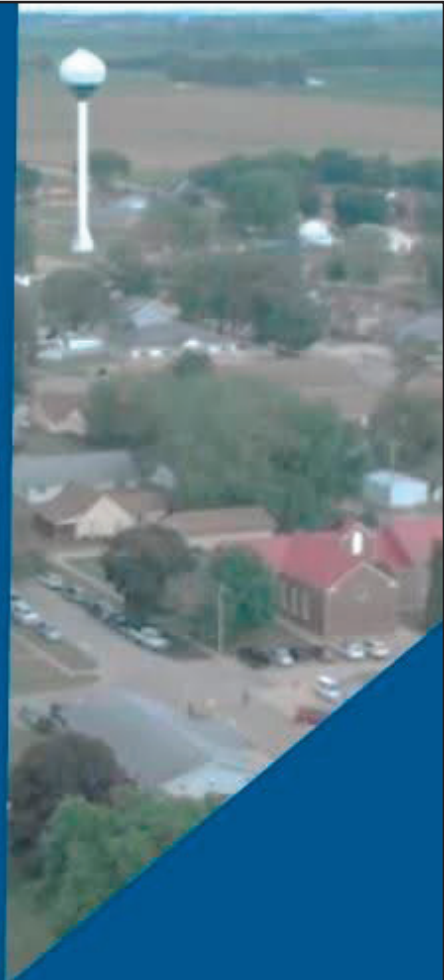
We need recipes to publish. If you would like to share your favorite recipes, you can drop them off at the Fairbank Library or email them to: [Fairbankislander@gmail.com](mailto:Fairbankislander@gmail.com)

## Help Wanted FAIRBANK, IOWA

### PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE

#### Help Wanted City of Fairbank

Come join our Team! Due to an upcoming retirement, we will have an opening and an employment opportunity for someone that wants variety in their workday. This employee would be closely working with our other employees to maintain our water, wastewater, electrical, natural gas, streets and parks. Experience is welcome but a great learning attitude is required. Pay will be based upon experience and qualifications and whether part-time or full-time. For full-time employment, the wage will range between \$45,000 and \$60,000. The hired individual will need to acquire or have a valid Class B CDL driver's license, with a good driving record. Full and part-time employment applications will be considered. Please contact Fairbank City Hall for more information and a list of benefits. The City of Fairbank will pay for and help you receive any certifications that may be necessary for the position. The City of Fairbank is an equal opportunity employer.





# SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

## Wapsie Valley CSD Annual, Organizational & Regular School Board Mtg

December 16, 2024  
Pledge of Allegiance  
1. President Wolfe called the Annual Meeting of the Board to order at 6:30 PM  
A. Directors: Aiello, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, Wolfe-Declare quorum Auel (excused)  
B. Supt. Hoover, Secretary Arndt & Principals- Murphy, & Myers. Forsyth (excused)  
C. Others: Vaughn Gross  
2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the amended agenda striking Spotlight on Education as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
3. Public comment - No comment  
4. The FY24 reconciliation financial report was accepted by the board as presented.  
5. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the minutes of November 18, 2024 as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
6. Unfinished business -Nothing  
7. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn the Final Meeting of the Board at 6:32 PM  
Motion carried 4-0  
1. Arndt called the Organizational meeting to order at 6:32 PM.  
2. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
3. Arndt took nominations for President. Sauerbrei nominated Wolfe. Nominations ceased. Moved by Aiello,  
Seconded by Sauerbrei to name Wolfe as board president with a roll call vote ALL AYES, Motion carried 4-0.  
Arndt took nominations for Vice President. Wolfe nominated Auel. Nominations ceased. Moved by Wolfe,  
Seconded by Aiello to name Auel as Vice President with a roll call vote ALL AYES, Motion carried 4-0. Arndt administered the Oath of Office to Jeannie Wolfe (President). The oath will be administered to Angie Auel

within  
10 days of this meeting by the board secretary.  
President Wolfe led the meeting from this point on.  
4. Aiello nominated Arndt with a second from Sauerbrei to appoint Kim Arndt as Board Secretary & Treasurer for the 24-25 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
5. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve Readlyn Chronicle and Fairbank Islander for publication of minutes and the Waterloo Courier for publication for budget information for the 24-25 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
6. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve Ahlers & Cooney, P.C. as the legal counsel for the 24-25 school year as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
7. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve our financial depositories as Northeast Security Bank (\$5,000,000 limit) and Readlyn Savings Bank (\$2,000,000 limit) as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
8. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve Level I Investigator – Guidance Counselor or Lead Teacher, Level II Investigator – Building Principal opposite the incident & Level III Investigator – Bremer County Sheriff's Office, Fairbank Police Department, or Readlyn Police Department as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
9. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve Homeless Liaison-Brett Bergman, Equity Coordinator-Supt. Hoover, Migrant Liaison & Foster Care Contact - Katelyn Nitz as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
10. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn the Annual Organizational Meeting at 6:39 PM.  
Motion carried 4-0  
1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the board to order at 6:40 PM  
2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
3. Public Comment - Vaughn Gross discussed fund raising for FCCLA and having 22 students attend state

conference. Also if there is a cell phone policy implemented by legislature, make sure the liability doesn't fall on teachers.  
4. Consent Items - Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Angie Auel with no open enrollments. Motion carried 4-0  
5. Board - Brent inquired about Science scores being low in ISASP data from Community Report. Mr. Murphy discussed the OpenSciEd Curriculum that is being worked on and intervention being revamped. ACT scores were discussed as they are lower than the state average due to the number of students taking the test. Superintendent Hoover: Report includes link to student progress, and the dates and times of the Rural Christmas concerts.  
District/PK12 Principals Report includes Events, Professional Development, & Activity updates..  
6. Personnel - Resignations - None  
Contracts: Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve a contract to Gunner Rodgers-JHG/ Wrestling Coach Base 1-Year 0 - \$1,905 as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Addendum-Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the addendum for Tina Kaufman-Increase effective 1-1-25-Salary from \$56,067.43 to \$58,656- Based on regulations issued under section 13(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act implementing the exemptions from minimum wage and overtime pay requirements for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees as presented. Motion Carried 4-0  
Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the early retirement resignations- Brian Weepie- Elementary PE Teacher-Effective 5-31-2025, Kathy Bachman-

Elementary Teacher-Effective 8-31-2025, & Roxie Gipper-Special Education Associate-Effective 5-31-2025 and thank them for their service to the students and staff  
of Wapsie Valley CSD as presented. They will be missed. Motion carried 4-0  
7. New Business-Adam Kaufman was appointed to the Buchanan County Conference Board, Aiello to the Bremer County Conference Board, and Angie Auel to the Fayette County Conference Board. Wapsie Valley doesn't have a board member that lives in Black Hawk County so no county conference board appointment was assigned. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve 24-25 At-Risk/Dropout Modified Supplemental Amount of \$114,832 as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the SBRC request for Modified Supplemental Amount Open Enrollment Out not in Fall 2023 (\$41,812) as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the SBRC request for Modified Supplemental Amount for ELL Beyond 5 Years (\$8,228) as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Aiello to approve the quote from Primary Systems for Fire Alarm upgrade to voice evacuation \$133,545 as presented. Motion carried 3-0 Wolfe-Abstain  
8. Board Talking Points-Parking issue at Fairbank is not a problem. Snow removal bids for upcoming years will be posted/mailed soon. Thanks for everything you do to make the board meetings run smoothly.  
9. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn at 7:20 PM. Motion carried 4-0 Respectfully, Kim Arndt

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING

## REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in regular session on Monday December 9, 2024. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Gruetzmacher. Absent: R. Woods. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Brian Delagardelle, Water/Wastewater Operator; Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.  
Motion by Gruetzmacher, second by Erickson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.  
There were no public hearings.

Gruetzmacher/Erickson to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: November 11th Regular Meeting Minutes, Liquor License for Fairbank American Legion, Setting the first budget workshop for Monday January 13th at 5:00 pm, Approval of the Police Chief's attendance at the Iowa Sex Crimes Investigators Conference, and the Payment of Bills. The bill listing will be placed at the end of the minutes. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

There was no informal public comment or unfinished business.

Lisa Kremer was present from the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission to present the council with information regarding a leadership program they are conducting in 2025 called Lead Buchanan Academy and it is to help unlock leadership potential in participants and they are hoping to get at least one individual from each community in Buchanan County.

Matt Mahoney and Craig Codner from Butler County REC were present to give a yearly update. They stated that the City's electrical grid system has been sitting very good and is continually improving. Matt explained that there was a 4.5% increase set in place for this next year starting January 1, 2025. They thanked the council for the working relationship and stated that they really enjoyed working with the city and the city crew. Matt also stated that he wanted to congratulate Brian on his upcoming retirement and that he will be missed.

The agreement with Tristan Dille, one of our part-time officers, was not ready for approval yet. Williams/Gruetzmacher to table the agreement until the next council meeting. Motion carried.

Carrico Aquatic Resources submitted a two-year water management assistance program option for the Fairbank Aquatic Center. The last few years the council has approved an annual assistance program. Attorney Prendergast wanted clarification on section 6.1 regarding termination otherwise she was good with the two-year contract. Gruetzmacher/Williams to approve the agreement with Carrico Aquatic Resources pending the City Attorney's approval of section 6.1. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

An extended warranty option was discussed for the new skid loader. There was already an issue with the skid loader after only eight hours of use. The skid loader was picked up and worked on and said to be in good condition again. For only \$1,300.00 the council could get a Full Warranty package for up to 60 months or 2,000 hours. T. Woods/Williams to approve the purchase of the \$1,300.00 warranty option on the skid loader. Ayes: Three. Nays: Gruetzmacher.

Employee health insurance options were discussed regarding the renewal due by February 1, 2025. The renewal showed just a 1.4% increase in premium costs but also an increase of \$500.00 for single and \$1,000.00 for families on the deductible and out-of-pocket maxes. Mayor Kayser stated that he and the administration committee met and had a recommendation for the council. They suggested going with the health insurance renewal with Wellmark, increasing the dental plan to the Blue Dental 2000 with Orthodontia plan, and offering a vision plan. They also recommended increasing the HSA contribution amount from the city by \$10.00. The city covers health insurance for the employee at 100% and 50% of the cost for a family plan.

Employees are responsible for 20% of the cost of dental and 50% of the cost for the vision plan. The HSA contributions from the city would go from \$250.00 a month for families and \$125.00 a month for single to \$260.00 a month for families and \$135.00 a month for single. Gruetzmacher/T. Woods to approve the insurance recommendations from the administrative committee. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

A draft resolution from the administration committee was presented to the council that would set a one-time bonus for the city staff and part-time officers and one additional paid day off for the full-time employees. They explained that during the past year all reports, exams, and inspections went very well, and they thought of this small gesture to show appreciation for the dedication the employees have to the community. T. woods/Gruetzmacher to approve Resolution 2024 – 28 – Resolution Setting One-Time Bonus and an Additional Day Off for the City of Fairbank Full-Time Employees. City Hall will be closed on Monday December 23rd in addition to the 24th and 25th for the holiday. Staff will be available for emergencies and can be reached by calling Fairbank City Hall. The five full-time employees will receive a \$500.00 bonus paid on January 2nd and the six part-time officers will each receive a \$100.00 bonus also paid on January 2nd. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

Williams/Gruetzmacher to approve not having a second meeting in December due to the Holidays. That would change if something came up where a meeting is needed. Motion carried. During the council/mayor comments, Councilman Gruetzmacher stated that the poles at the Ball Diamond should be set this weekend and wanted to thank Cody Cripe for his help with it. During the department reports, Brian stated that the Christmas lights had been completed since the last meeting and that it was quite the process. Next year will be easier since they won't all need to be put together. He also stated that public works had been working on cleaning up the compost pile, swept streets, installed some new gas and electric connections, and gas regulators were tested. Mayor Kayser thanked them for putting up the Christmas lights and that he had received tons of compliments on how nice the downtown looks. Ted Vorwald was able to get a crew together and they got the poles wrapped at Riverside Park and West Bentley Park. Mayor Kayser then presented Brian with a plaque in appreciation for his work here with the city. He was thanked again and wished off on a happy retirement.

Williams/T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. Motion carried.

Bills for the Month of December 2024  
Amazon Capital Services, Office Supplies \$ 186.25

Arnold Motor Supply, Supplies \$ 648.61  
BMC Aggregates L.C., Supplies \$ 481.38  
Bodensteiner Implement Co., Services \$ 1,776.02  
Bound Tree Medical, LLC., Ambulance Supplies \$ 111.54  
Denise Bowers & Stacy Griffiths, Utility Deposit Refund \$ 200.00  
Lonnie Brewer, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00  
Buchanan County Fireman's Ass., Annual Dues \$ 30.00  
Butler County Rec, Electric \$ 45,705.64  
Casey's General Store, Gas \$ 534.75  
Cedar Valley Pump, LLC, Equipment Rentals \$ 1,100.00  
Clayton Energy Corporation, Natural Gas \$ 3,177.39  
Clayton Energy Corporation, Reservation \$ 12,409.41  
Community Bank of Oelwein, Interest \$ 1,096.25  
D & D Tire Inc., Services \$ 755.00  
Dakota Supply Group, Supplies \$ 541.09  
Danko Emergency Equipment, Supplies \$ 225.19  
Brian Delagardelle, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00  
Display Sales, Supplies \$ 131.00

Don's Truck Sales, Services \$ 6,972.42  
Doosan Bobcat North America, Equipment \$ 64,604.29  
Echo Group, Inc., Supplies \$ 295.69  
City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas \$ 3,970.88  
City of Fairbank, Utility Deposits Applied \$ 130.36  
Farm Win Co-Op, Diesel \$ 1,215.66  
Addilyn Fuller, Services \$ 30.00  
Brittany Fuller, Cell Phone Reimbursement/ Mileage \$ 122.57  
Gordon Flesch Company Inc, Copier/Printer Fees \$ 166.51  
Grainger, Inc., Supplies \$ 360.17  
Groebner & Associates, Supplies \$ 136.07  
gWorks, 2025 License & Support \$ 15,000.00  
IMFOA, Re-certifications \$ 100.00  
Iowa Finance Authority, Interest \$ 14,800.50  
Iowa Regional Utilities Assoc., Water \$ 7,329.96  
Ipers, Benefits \$ 5,765.05  
Nicole Kastli, Utility Deposit Refund \$ 69.64  
Kirkwood Community College, Training \$ 36.00  
Kluesner Sanitation, LLC, December Pick-Up Fees \$ 7,534.80  
Nick Kuker, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00  
Kwik Trip Inc, Gas \$ 13.03  
Michelle Laube, Cell Phone Reimbursement \$ 75.00  
Lifemed Safety, Inc., Supplies \$ 383.80  
Little Wapsie Communications, Static IP Addresses \$ 64.06  
Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Testing \$ 599.00  
Modern Building Products, Supplies \$ 1,255.17  
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 11/1/24 \$ 10.00  
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 11/15/24 \$ 8.71  
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 \$ 290.28  
Premier Technology, Services/Protection \$ 389.15  
Prinsco, Inc., Supplies \$ 1,468.73  
Lynn Purinton, Utility Deposit Refund \$ 200.00  
Malena Rumelhart, Utility Deposit Refund \$ 200.00  
Quick Med Claims, Ambulance Billing \$ 396.91  
Roberts, Stevens,Prendergast, Attorney Fees \$ 1,106.25  
Storey Kenworthy/Matt Parrott, Supplies \$ 50.49  
Stuart. C. Irby Co., Supplies \$ 329.45  
Sun Life Assurance Comp, Life Policies \$ 164.15  
Treasurer-State of Iowa, Nov 2024 Sales Tax \$ 1,852.76  
Treasurer State of Iowa, Nov 2024 Water Sales Tax \$ 1,791.73  
True North, AD&D Renewals \$ 452.20  
U. S. Treasury, 941 Taxes \$ 7,363.77  
Verizon Wireless, Cell Phones \$ 178.24  
Visa, Supplies/Training/Microsoft Email Accounts/Avaya Phone System/Pre-Stamped Envelopes \$ 4,743.65  
Wellmark, December 2024 \$ 3,979.56  
Windstream Enterprise, Gas Alarm Phone Line \$ 68.23  
Carson Woods, Utility Deposit Refund \$ 200.00  
Collin Woods, Services \$ 2,175.00  
Woods Construction, Inc., Services \$ 750.00  
The Fairbank Library Board Approved the Following Bills on December 4, 2024:  
Amazon Capital Services, Supplies \$ 112.55  
Baker & Taylor Inc., Books \$ 654.44  
Angela Berg, Mileage \$ 53.60  
Brock Berg, Services \$ 210.00  
Erin Hill, Supplies Reimbursement \$ 11.55  
Fairbank Public Library, Replenish Postage Cash \$ 66.74  
City Of Fairbank, Electric & Gas \$ 123.57  
Premier Technology, Services \$ 57.50  
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 11/15/24 \$ 1.29  
Visa, Santa Visit/Microsoft Email Accounts/Avaya Phone System/Pre-stamped Envelopes \$ 266.07  
Jason Kayser, Mayor  
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

# SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

## Wapsie Valley Community Schools December 16, 2024 Board Bills

Vendor Name Amount  
Avantage Fs 6,139.34  
Alliant Energy 167.16  
Amazon 2,137.94  
Arnold Motor 94.80  
Audible 8.51  
Beachy, Rachel 57.38  
Black Hills Energy 164.97  
Bockholt, Amanda 333.76  
Buenzow, Debra 9.98  
Butler County Rec 3,333.59  
Central la Distrib 498.00  
Central Rivers Aea 57,642.10  
Chemshare 221.65  
City Laundry 1,258.16  
City Of Fairbank 2,273.96  
City Of Readlyn 1,966.04  
Collegeboard 126.72  
Column Software 86.53  
Continental Research 633.46  
Don's Truck Sales 777.89  
East-Central la Rec 416.64  
Employee Benefit Systems 81,946.02  
Fareway 38.13  
Ferguson 953.56  
Gruetzmacher, Tracy 110.00  
Hawkeye Alarm 161.00  
Hawkeye Comm Clge 3,830.00  
Hawkeye Comm Clge 40.00  
Hershberger, Mary Beth 80.75  
Hometown Pest 43.86  
Imagine Learning 1,100.00  
Inspire To Create Enterprises 455.71  
la Regional Utilities 474.57  
Joann Fabrics 41.94  
Kluesner Sanitation 1,165.60  
Lessonpix Inc. 112.54  
Little Wapsie Comm 175.08  
Maple Lanes 35.00  
Martin Bros. 65.52  
Medical Enterprises 350.00  
Menards 338.41  
Menzel, Emma 154.37  
Merycone 220.00  
Miller, Catherine 85.00  
Modern Building 174.36  
Mount Vernon Hs 300.00  
Oran Mutual Telephone 161.00  
Raber, Edna 78.63  
Raisa A Hallelujah 1,400.00  
Readlyn Telephone 201.70  
Rochester 100 Inc 145.00  
School Bus Sales 585.02  
School Date Books 876.68  
Sherm's Septic Svcs 3,197.20  
Streetsmarts 380.00  
Taylor Physical Therapy 3,385.00  
Timberline Billing Service 174.90  
Ubiquiti Store 6.00  
Walmart 1,283.66  
Waverly Csd 28,523.88  
Weeds On Fire 3,778.75  
General Total 214,977.42  
Employee Benefit Systems 6,310.55  
Management Total 6,310.55  
Ceramic Shop, The 4,087.75  
Matt Construction 50,000.00  
Northwest Automation & Controls 444.00  
Stickfort Electric Co 3,208.55  
Save Total 57,740.30  
Access Systems 1,663.30

Amazon 510.83  
Appliance Plus 870.98  
Best's Powerhouse 170.00  
Bluum Of Minnesota 1,687.74  
Central Rivers Aea 2,034.34  
Doors Inc. 1,120.00  
Hawkeye Alarm 380.00  
Oran Mutual Telephone 100.00  
Wood's Construction 1,515.00  
Young Plumbing & Heating 16,597.63  
Ppel Total 26,649.82  
Umb Bank, N.a. 300.00  
Debt Total 300.00  
Sam's Club 22.98  
School Base Enterprise Total 22.98  
Concord Theatricals Corp 379.35  
Denver Csd 174.00  
J.w. Pepper 424.83  
Parrish, Nathaniel 200.00  
Vernon Middle School 36.00  
Warner Chappell Music 225.00  
West Music 810.86  
Gallup Trust Total 2,250.04  
4 Seasons Fund Raising 2,014.80  
Alphagraphics 525.30  
Amazon 159.05  
Becker, Greg 140.00  
Chidester, Steve 255.00  
Dreckman, Bob 250.00  
Elite Sports 2,045.59  
Ewell Ed 390.00  
Fccla 42.00  
Fareway 417.10  
Floports 101.00  
Formsite.com (699.95)  
Frost, Ryan 225.00  
Hoffert, Casey 140.00  
Innovative Ag Svcs 255.06  
la Girls H.s. Ath. Union 1,150.00  
la Track & Field Coaches Clinic Banque 50.00  
Jpw Industries 150.99  
Kalvig, Michael 140.00  
Knights Of Columbus 100.00  
Kwik Trip 43.32  
Lake, Brad 225.00  
Litterer, Dave 250.00  
Live Aquaponics 104.65  
Marley, Jay 140.00  
Martin Bros. 1,044.71  
New Hampton Lions Club 360.00  
Olive Garden 256.45  
Pries Promo 879.00  
Sam's Club 385.54  
Sickles, Dan 140.00  
Snyder, Glen 180.00  
Steege, Nate 140.00  
Subway 130.46  
Voss, Jared 225.00  
Walmart 95.65  
Waskow, Dave 265.00  
Werkman, Dean 140.00  
Wv Fia Alumni 2,135.78  
Yant, Evan 150.00  
Yessak, Jordan 140.00  
Youngblut, Foxe 250.00  
Activity Total 15,531.50  
Atlantic Coca-Cola 861.86  
Ems Detergent 319.76  
Kwik Trip 2.97  
Martin Bros. 12,354.63  
Menards 59.99  
Prairie Farms 2,942.73  
Webstaurant Store 195.62  
Wilson Restaurant 2,324.67  
Lunch Total 19,062.23



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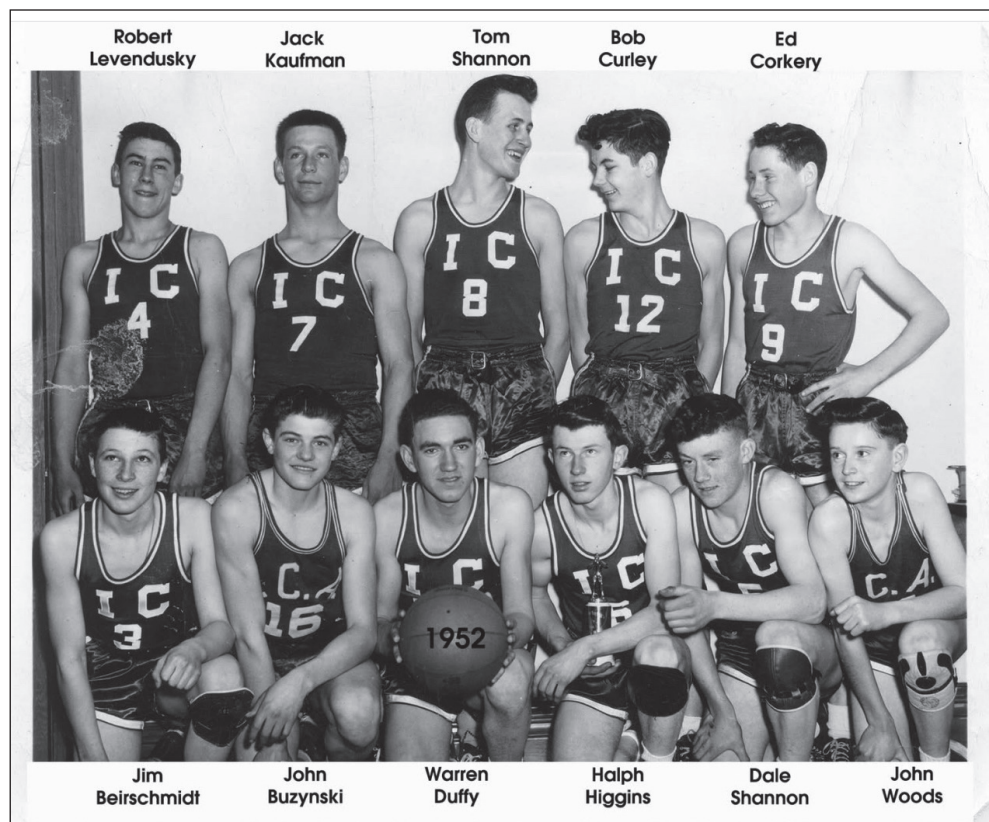
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Interior of Lehmkuhl Hardware on November 27, 1950.



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### Schmidtke Video Systems

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### Wapsie Valley High School

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Fax (319) 638-7061

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### Fairbank Aquatic Center

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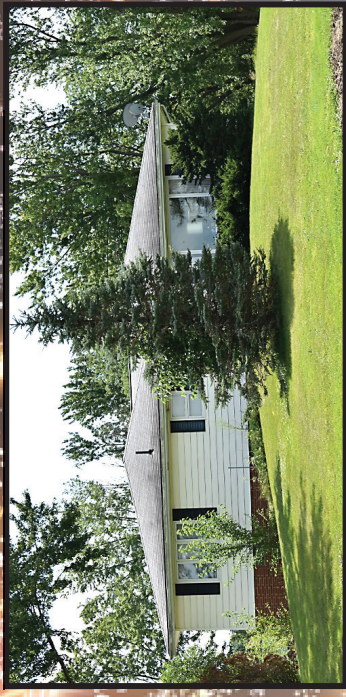
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