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Fairbank ISLANDER

SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

MARCH 4, 2026

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

VOLUME 7, NO. 3



Visit with the
EASTER BUNNY
Saturday, March 28th
Easter Egg Hunt
on the Island in Fairbank
9:00-10:00AM

Age Groups
1-4 years old 5-10 years old

If you are lucky enough to find a special egg, you will receive one of the filled Easter Baskets donated by members of the community!

In case of bad weather, the event will be held at the Fairbank American Legion.

Event sponsored by:
Fairbank Community Club

Anyone interested in donating an Easter Basket or making a monetary donation can contact Cindy Woods at (319)231-4251 for info. Baskets & donations can be dropped off at Modern Building Products.

Fairbank Elementary playground project reaches phase 1 goal

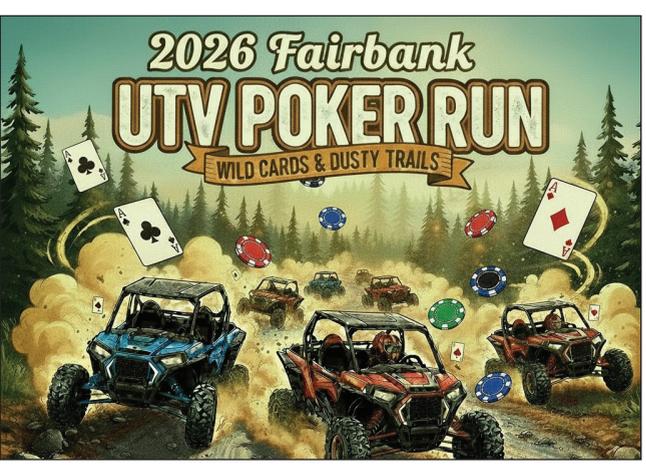
Additional community support needed for phase 2

Fairbank Elementary School is celebrating an exciting milestone for the Every Child Plays at Wapsie Valley playground project. Thanks to the incredible support of our community, we have reached our fundraising goal for Phase 1 of the project! Installation is tentatively planned to begin in June 2026, bringing new and improved play opportunities to our stu-



See PLAYGROUND, A15 Partial playground project shown above.

2026 Fairbank UTV Poker Run to take place April 4



The annual Fairbank UTV Poker Run will take place on Saturday, April 4 at 8 a.m. starting at the Fairbank American Legion. The proceeds raised will go towards the playground equipment at the elementary school and the Fairbank Aquatic Center.

The stops include.
Fairbank American Legion - 8 a.m.
Outbanks, Fairbank - 8 a.m.
Costas, Fairbank - 8 a.m.

See UTB, A13

Fairbank, Oran and Westgate Fire departments come together for ice water rescue training

On Feb. 13 and 14, members of the Fairbank Fire Department, together with personnel from the Oran Fire Department and Westgate Fire Department, participated in ice water rescue training. We extend our appreciation to all who volunteered their time for this important training, and to PRI for providing the instruction. Also, a huge Thank You to all our donors who help provide us the funding to purchase all the tools to keep the communities we serve safe.



Jordan Michales, Carson Woods, Ryan Rausch and Cody Kleitsch.

COURTESY PHOTO

A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR



MAYOR JASON KAYSER

Celebrating Fairbank's Generosity
 One of the greatest strengths of Fairbank has always been the kindness and compassion demonstrated by the people who call this community home. Over the years, I have highlighted our public services, local businesses, and the many individuals who contribute to our shared success. Today, I want to shine a light on something even more remarkable—our community's unwavering generosity.
 This past winter and spring have once again revealed the true heart of

Fairbank and the surrounding area. Time and time again, our residents have stepped forward to support neighbors, families, and organizations in need. Whether through public winter gatherings, side-by-side rides, auctions, card tournaments, community meals, game nights, or other events, the outpouring of support has been extraordinary.

These efforts not only provide direct assistance to those facing challenges but also strengthen the bonds that make Fairbank such a special place to live. It is both inspiring and deeply humbling to witness the dedication of those who plan, organize, volunteer, donate, and participate in these events.

To all of you who give your time, talent, and resources to uplift others—thank you. Your actions reflect the very best of who we are as a community, and they demonstrate that Fairbank's spirit of generosity is alive and well.

Together, we continue to build a stronger, more connected community for everyone.

Fairbank Elementary students participate in Blokus Tournament

On Feb. 25, Fairbank Elementary's first through fourth grade students participated in a Blokus Tournament held at the IC Parish Center in Fairbank.

Blokus is an abstract strategy game where players score points by placing as many of their colored pieces on the board as possible. Students did an amazing job flexing their brain power, using strategy, problem-solving skills, and creative thinking throughout the tournament.

Award Winners:

- Best Competitor Award: Kallen Bentley
- Fast Thinker Award: Orion Warnke
- Fastest Thinker Award: Daxton Destival
- Most Creative Thinker Award: Orion Warnke
- 3rd Place: Joseph Gallery
- Grand Champion: Orion Warnke

Congratulations to all participants. It was a fun-filled day of learning, leadership, and friendly competition.



Fast Thinker Award: Orion Warnke



Fastest Thinker Award: Daxton Destival



Most Creative Thinker Award: Orion Warnke



3rd Place: Joseph Gallery



Grand Champion: Orion Warnke

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
 March 8, 2026

Easter Basket Donations Needed
 BY: March 24th
 PRICE: You Decide!
 FOR: Children at the Fairbank Community Club Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th
 Baskets can be dropped off at Modern Building Products or contact Cindy Woods at 319-231-4251

HAPPY Easter

Fairbank ISLANDER
 SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

Sponsored by:
 Fairbank Community Club
 Fairbank, Iowa 50629

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PTO plans exciting family events this spring

The PTO is busy organizing several special events for our school community, including our annual Family Fun Night and a unique student learning experience later this month.

The PTO has coordinated a memorable educational experience for our students. The Manta Rays from the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium will visit our school on Tuesday, March 24. Students will enjoy an engaging presentation and have the opportunity to gently touch the manta rays.

Auction items will be on display during the Spring Book Fair and throughout Parent-Teacher Conferences March 10th and 12th. We focus on offering experiences and activities that families can enjoy together. Each classroom has created a special project for our annual Family Fun Night on April 24 at Red Rock Farms. Students and teachers have worked hard to design one-of-a-kind items that will be featured in this year's auction.

This year's auction includes an incredible selection of items such as passes and tickets to: The Iowa Children's Museum, Iowa Cubs, AirFX Trampoline Park, Phelps Youth Pavilion, Ninja U, Maple Lanes, Knoxville Raceway, Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, Palmer's Family Fun, Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, Club Car Wash, Fun Station, Kwik Star, and Casey's — just to name a few. The auction will officially wrap up at 7:00 p.m. during Family Fun Night at Red Rock Farms, so be sure to place your final bids before the evening concludes.

It's shaping up to be an exciting spring filled with family fun, hands-on learning, and wonderful community involvement. The PTO looks forward to seeing everyone there!

RETIREMENT



Tom Buzynski retires after 41 years with MasterBrands in Waterloo.

No alarm clock. No deadlines. Just Living. Congratulations on your Retirement!

BIRTHDAY



Happy 10th birthday to Elsie Weepie on March 4.

Please send us your celebrations.

Celebrations are free to submit. fairbankislander@gmail.com

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OF IOWA

Lew Boehme
319-415-5547

Mitch Coffin
319-415-2472

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Wapsie Valley FCCLA participated in the District FCCLA STAR event competition at Dunkerton Community Schools

Wapsie Valley FCCLA had 23 members participate in the District FCCLA STAR event competition that took place alongside other FCCLA chapters in our area. 16 members will be advancing to the State Leadership Conference in late March 2026.

The Iowa FCCLA State Leadership Conference (SLC) is the state organization's largest annual event, bringing together student leaders from across the state to celebrate achievements, build leadership skills, and compete in events related to Family and Consumer Sciences. Held each spring, the conference is considered the culminating experience of the Iowa FCCLA year, where members who advance from District Leadership Conferences have the opportunity to showcase their work and represent their chapters.

During the conference, members participate in STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) Events and other competitive events that allow students to demonstrate skills in leadership, career preparation, and community-focused projects. These events recognize students' ability to research real-world issues, create solutions, and present their projects individually or as a team.

In addition to competitions, attendees take part in leadership sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities with other youth leaders from across Iowa. The conference is designed to help students grow personally and professionally while developing skills they can use in their schools, careers, and communities.

The 2026 Iowa FCCLA State Leadership Conference is scheduled for March 22-24 in Cedar Rapids, where members will gather to compete, learn, and celebrate their accomplishments for the year.



Arizona and Addison Frank with their presentation.

COURTESY PHOTO



Above left: Layla Thompson. Above middle: Reagan Szurley and Danika Jergens. Above right: Evelynn Boyle and Makenna Boevers.

COURTESY PHOTO



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Waiting on spring thunder



MASON SCHARES

This past weekend, the day after helping coach the Wapsie Archery team competed at Independence—where two of our teammates, Reagen Szurly and Ellie Mason, shot their very first 50-point rounds—I headed to a spot I knew would help me clear my mind and take in the sounds the woods had to offer. It was also the perfect opportunity to begin some early spring scouting for this year’s turkey season and to study this winter’s deer movement for the upcoming bow season.

I stepped out of the truck and made my way into the timber, crossing several trails and taking note of each one before moving on. I found a few rubs scattered here and there, but I was searching for a heavily traveled path. After coming across a handful of lightly used trails, I finally found what I was looking for—almost every other tree along a muddy stretch showed fresh rubs. This was clearly a buck’s travel route.

I marked the location on my OnX app and followed the trail slowly and carefully, not wanting to miss anything that might offer a clue. Eventually, I reached the back side of the Wapsie, where the trail continued on the opposite bank. After studying the icy river for a moment, I decided it wasn’t worth the risk of crossing. Instead, I turned east and continued searching for more sign.

Along the way, I noticed deer browsing on soft twigs and new growth—woody plants and red dogwood in particular. I kept walking until I reached the top of a small ridge. Looking down at the snow below, I spotted turkey tracks heading straight toward the spot where I had shot my very first bird. I walked over and looked at the ground where



COURTESY PHOTOS

Right: Mason Schares holds his first turkey after an exciting first hunt.

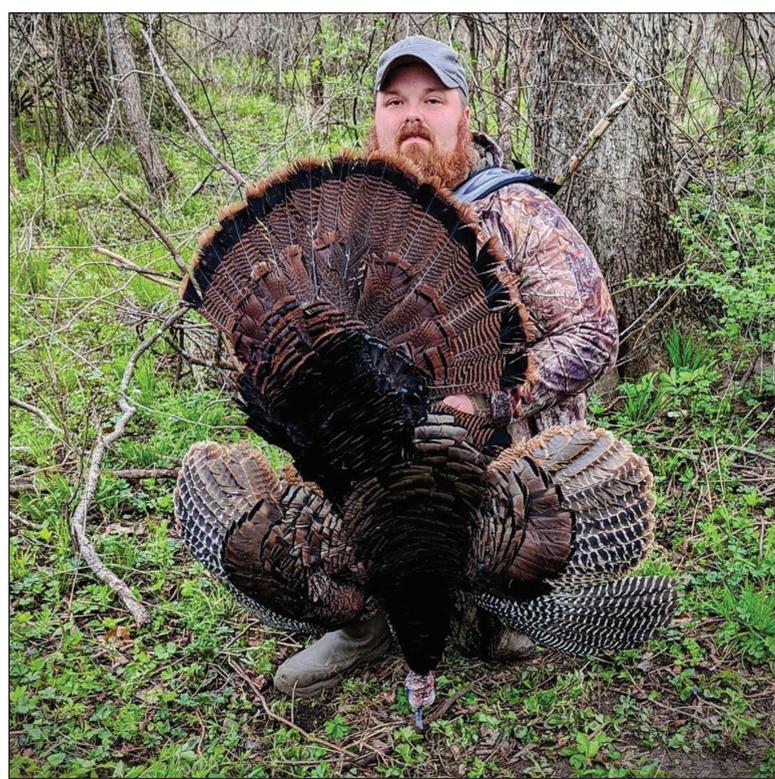
that turkey once lay, then back at the tree I had leaned against that morning.

One evening, a buddy of mine, Colin, gave me a call. We talked through our plans for the next morning and discussed where we should hunt. He knew the better spots, having already filled a tag earlier in the season and picked up another for the fourth season. I, on the other hand, only had a fourth-season tag after not filling mine earlier. We decided on a public spot along the Wapsie, agreed on a meeting time, and hung up.

The next morning my alarm went off, and I crawled out of bed. I turned on the coffee pot, pulled on my Realtree gear, filled a Yeti with coffee, grabbed my gun, and headed out the door. We met in the parking lot early enough to drink coffee, give each other a hard time, and talk through a plan.

A little later, we gathered our gear and headed down the trail. After about 300 yards, we stopped. Colin slipped a mouth call in and let out a couple of yelps. I stood in the darkness and listened—nothing. He tried again, but still no response. We moved farther down and stopped once more.

Minutes later, a barred owl sounded off in the distance with his familiar “Who cooks for you,



who cooks for you all?” Then, cutting through the quiet, the thunder of spring rolled across the river to the north—a gobbler answering back. We looked at each other, grinning. The owl called again, and the gobbler responded.

I checked my phone. It was nearly shooting light, but we still had time to decide whether to call the bird across the Wapsie or move south. Colin told me to hold on and pulled out the pot call I had made for him. Using his hickory striker, he ran a few yelps and cuts. Almost immediately, two gobblers answered to the south. They sounded far off, and the public ground ended near private land we didn’t have permission to hunt.

As the woods began to lighten, we debated our options. Colin yelped again on the walnut pot I call “Gold Digger.” The gobbler to the north fired back, and the two to the south answered as well—but this time they sounded farther away, likely off the roost and on the ground.

We hurried to the base of a large silver maple and set up. Co-

COURTESY PHOTOS

Left: Shows the turkey tracks in the snow.

lin softened his calling. Moments later, the turkey across the river gobbled again—this time from the forest floor. Minutes felt like hours as we tried to determine whether he was coming our way.

Colin had more experience than I did. He grew up hunting turkeys with his dad. Some hunters say turkeys are easy, but that morning they felt just as challenging as deer. They can see color, nearly 360 degrees around them, and hear the slightest movement. If they could smell, people say, they’d be impossible. From watching them at a distance to hunting them up close, we both agreed: turkeys are the dumbest smart birds in the woods.

It may have only been 15 minutes, but it felt like all day.

Then we heard another gobbler. Colin leaned toward me and whispered that the bird was about 80 yards away—he had just seen his tail fan in the distance.

My patience was wearing thin. “Get your gun on your knee and don’t move,” he whispered. He let out a couple of soft yelps, then added, “I’m done calling. Let him wonder where the hen went.”

The gobbler kept sounding off, like he was announcing to

the whole timber that it was his morning.

Closer.

Another gobble—louder this time.

For a split second I saw him—his head bright white as he headed straight toward us. When he stepped behind a large ash tree, he let out the loudest gobble I had ever heard. Then I heard it for the first time in person—the spit and drum of a gobbler. He stepped out from behind the tree and put on a show like none I had ever seen. Wing tips dragging the sandy ground, tail fanned wide, body puffed up. He took a few more slow steps, dropped his feathers slightly, and gobbled hard again.

Colin whispered loudly, “If you have him, take him!”

I swung my gun. The turkey was just off to my right. I settled the bead just below his head and pulled the trigger.

When the smoke cleared, I saw the bird flopping on the ground.

“You got him!” Colin shouted as he jumped up and ran toward the turkey. “Come on! Get your turkey!”

I tried to stand, but I had no feeling in my left leg and nearly fell over.

“I can’t!” I said. “I’ve got dead leg.”

Using my shotgun as a cane, I hobbled toward my bird.

Once I finally made it to my bird, the feeling slowly started returning to my leg. Colin was already there, grinning from ear to ear, congratulating me on my first turkey and laughing about how perfectly the whole hunt had played out—like the bird had read the script.

I knelt down beside him and took it all in.

I admired the thick beard, the wide tail fan, and the sharp spurs—features I had seen in pictures and videos so many times before, but now they were right there in front of me. This was my bird.

What caught my attention more than anything, though, were the colors in his feathers. They weren’t just brown and black like they seem from a distance. When the light hit them just right, they shimmered with purples, greens, reds, and even hints of pink. The iridescence almost didn’t seem real. It was hard to believe that something so colorful could blend so perfectly into the woods just moments before.

Knelling there in the sandy soil along the Wapsie, I realized this was about more than just filling a tag. It was about the early mornings, the long scouting walks, the close calls, the lessons learned, and the patience it took to reach that moment. Most of all, it was about the memories being made with family and friends in God’s creation.

My first turkey was finally in my hands—and it was a hunt I will never forget.

Wapsie Valley FCCLA visits Iowa State Capitol to advocate for career and technical education

Wapsie Valley FCCLA students had an incredible experience at the Iowa State Capitol on Thursday, February 19th, learning firsthand about state government and advocating for Career and Technical Education (CTE), Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), and FCCLA programs. A special thank you goes to the Iowa Association for Career and Technical Education for making this opportunity possible.

Delegates had the privilege of meeting with Director Snow, who leads Iowa's Career and Technical Education efforts statewide. Students learned about how CTE programs are supported in schools, how decisions are made at the state level, and how CTE continues to grow to meet workforce needs. They also gained insight into effectively working with legislative aides to communicate with policymakers and advocate for programs that matter most to students. Touring the Capitol library was a highlight, and the students enjoyed connecting with other student leaders from across Iowa who share a passion for leadership and career readiness.

The chapter also had the unique opportunity to meet with Iowa Representative Chad Ingels, who serves District 68 in the Iowa House of Representatives. Elected in 2020, Representative Ingels has served on committees including Agriculture, Natural Resources, Local Government, and Transportation. He graciously provided Wapsie Valley FCCLA with a personal tour of the Capitol, including climbing the 300+ steps to the top of the dome.

Thank you, Representative Ingels, for giving our chapter members this hands-on opportunity to learn more about how our Iowa state government works. We truly appreciate your time and leadership.

Throughout the day, Wapsie Valley FCCLA delegates met with members



COURTESY PHOTO

Left to Right: Wapsie Valley FCCLA Adviser, Jenni Gross; Officer Delegate, Thomas Brown; Chapter Photographer, Reagan Szurley; Central Rivers District President, Olivia Suhr; Chapter Delegate, Jayden Suhr; Vice President, Landry Kane and Representative Chad Ingels. Front: President, Layla Thompson.

of the public, state representatives, and senators to share the impact of CTE and FCCLA programs on their school and community. Students used their voices to highlight the importance of leadership development, career readiness, and life skills education.

The Wapsie Valley FCCLA chapter is proud of its students for representing their school and demonstrating what it means to be leaders in action.

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The Wapsie Valley FCCLA chapter is proud of its students for representing their school and demonstrating what it means to be leaders in action.

Celebration of Life Mary Ann Rogge

November 24, 1937 - February 3, 2026

Mary Ann (Cowlshaw) Rogge, 88, Loves Park, passed away on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, in Rockford. She was born on November 24, 1937, the daughter of Fearl and Alice "Ally B" (Beatrice) Cowlshaw, in Independence, Iowa. She married the love of her life, James "Jim" Rogge on August 6, 1960, in Fairbank, Iowa.



For thirty-four years, Mary Ann devoted herself to teaching, sharing her wisdom, patience, and passion with students in Illinois and Iowa. She spent six of those years teaching at St. Bridget Catholic School. Education was more than a job to her; it was her calling.

Mary Ann was the embodiment of positivity. Her sunny disposition made her not just a devoted wife and mother but also a beloved grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. With all of the hats she wore, she was the gold standard.

Christmas held a special place in her heart. Mary Ann filled her home with the spirit of the holidays. Her love for decorating, filling stockings, and bringing magic to the season was legendary among her family and friends.

An avid reader, Mary Ann not only indulged in her own love for literature but made it a mission to instill that same passion for reading in her family. She cherished the moments spent sharing stories and discussing books. An active lifestyle was important to her, as she kept herself fit by working out twice a week. She also enjoyed her weekly book club and bridge club gatherings, where laughter and connection thrived.

Mary Ann had a love for shopping, especially when it came to shoes, reflecting her vibrant personality and zest for life. Her interests were as varied as they were rich, each contributing to the tapestry of a woman who lived life fully and with unfettered joy.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Jim Rogge; her children, Mike Rogge, Susan (Terry) Peterson, and Karen (Mitch) Cannell; her grandchildren, Kristina (Andy) Thomas, David

(Shannon) Stone, Evan (Kate) Peterson, Brogan (Kailey) Fischer, and Emma (Tim) Heinemann; her great grandchildren, Grace Randich-Stone, Lyla Stone, George Peterson, Joanna Peterson, Dorothy Peterson, Taya Fischer, Judah Fischer, Jayden Fischer, Peter Heinemann, and one more on the way; and her sisters, Jane Monaghan and Susan (Robert) Burns. She is preceded in death by her parents, Fearl and Ally B; her mother and father-in-law, Frank and Esther Rogge; her grandson, Adam Rogge; her daughter-in-law, Diane Rogge; her brother and sister-in-law, Leonard (Virginia) Ring; and her brother-in-law, Edward Monaghan.

We would like to thank OSF Hospice and all of the nurses that attended Mary Ann.

A visitation took place on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. with a funeral Mass following at 11:00 a.m. at St. Bridget Catholic Church, 600 Clifford Ave, Loves Park IL, 61111. Burial at Scandinavian Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to OSF Home Health and Hospice (online here) To share memories and condolences online, please visit www.fitzgeraldfh.com.

To order memorial trees or send flowers to the family in memory of Mary Ann Rogge, please visit our flower store.

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4-H ATOM BOMBERS



ALIVIA WEEPIE, REPORTER
JENSEN BECK, PHOTOGRAPHER

The February meeting of the Atom Bombers 4-H club met at the Wapsie Valley high school on February 1st at 5:00 pm. The meeting was called to order by Cece Sweeney, pledge allegiance was led by Gavin Gross.

Roll call question; "if you have a dog, what breed is it?" was answered by 16 members present.

Guest speakers, Rhonda Bus-san and Susan Kauten from Buchanan County Fair Dog Program talked to the group about an opportunity where they can train their dog or someone else's dog in obedience and tricks. In-formational meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23 at 5:30 at the Agribition Center in Independence. This is a great oppor-

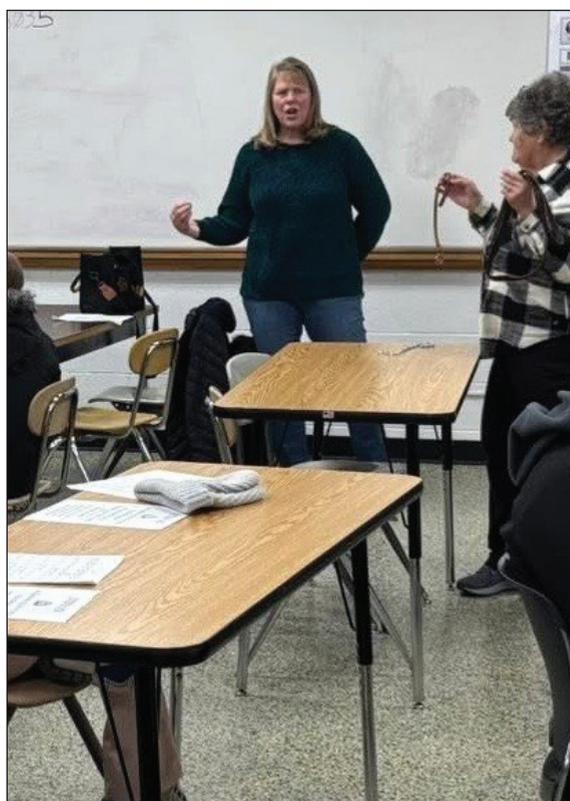
tunity to learn more and be able to show your dog at fair.

Mrs. Gross gave a presenta-tions on baking cookies with sugar alternates. In this presentation we learned about how different sugar alternates affect cookies by comparing taste, texture and appearance. We were able to try chocolate chip cookies that were made with coco-nut sugar, honey, unsweetened applesauce, monk fruit, and maple syrup. We learn how each of these sugars are made and which sugars do they replace the best such as white sugar, brown sugar or fats. Thank you, Mrs. Gross for a very interesting presentation.

Mr. Gross gave a presentation on robotics. He presented a basic understanding on what robotics is and we were able to make the robots talk and move. Thank you Mr Gross for taking the time to introduce assess to robotics.

Four T-shirt designs were introduced to the group each member will receive a shirt to wear to the 2026 Buchanan county fair. The group voted for their favorite design.

Next meeting will be March 9th with the Happel family serving as hostesses





March POTLUCK

Please Join Us!!!

Please bring a vegetable, salad or dessert

March 18, 2026 @ 11:30 AM

Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, Fairbank

Sponsored by IC Parish Life Committee



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MENU:

Cod, Baked Potato, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Roll, Dessert



ADULTS \$12

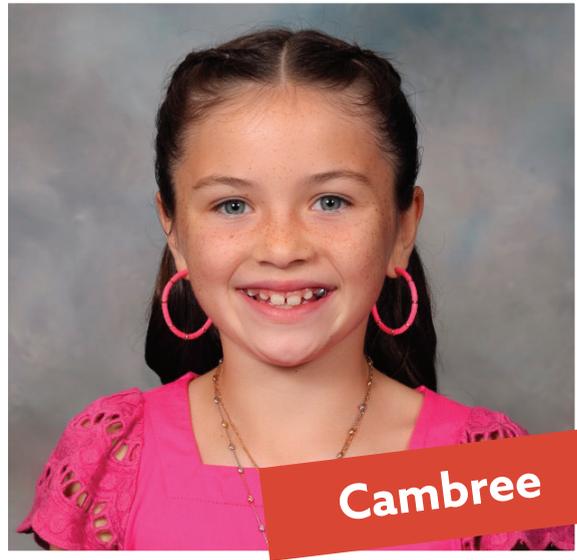
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DINE-IN & TAKE-OUT



Fairbank Elementary Student News



Cambree

Leader in me: Habit #6

- Getting along with others.
- Valuing their strengths and learning from them.
- Asking others for their idea.
- Accomplishing more as a team than on our own.



Kasen

Introducing Ms. Jen!

BY KASEN MANGRICH

Have you ever noticed how clean our school is? That's thanks to Ms. Jen Goran, our awesome janitor at Fairbank Elementary!

When asked what she likes best about our school, Ms. Jen says she enjoys that she can and chooses to interact with the kids each day. She also loves when students are willing to help out when something needs to be done. Ms. Jen helps students every day by making sure classrooms and hallways are clean and safe, along with many other important jobs that help our school run smoothly.

Ms. Jen's favorite part about working with students at Fairbank Elementary is teaching life lessons—things students can use now and in the future. She enjoys helping kids learn responsibility and teamwork along the way.

Here's a fun fact about Ms. Jen: she loves softball and wrestling! She has even coached softball before and hopes to get back to coaching someday.

We are thankful for Ms. Jen and all the hard work she does to make our school a great place to learn!



Meet Mrs. Amy Buzynski, aka Mrs. B!

BY KASEN MANGRICH

Have you met Mrs. B yet? She's been teaching at Fairbank Elementary for the past 12 years, helping students in K-4 reading and K-6 TAG. Before coming to Fairbank, she taught for 19 years in one of Wapsie Valley's rural schools. Mrs. B received her teaching degree from Upper Iowa University, and she and her husband, the Sheriff of

Buchanan County, are lifetime residents of Fairbank!

Mrs. B has been teaching for an amazing 32 years! Her favorite part about teaching? She loves helping people overcome obstacles and inspiring students to do their very best. One big lesson she hopes all her students take away is that mistakes are meant to happen—it's all about what you do differently next time.

When asked what she loves most about teaching, Mrs. B said it's seeing her former students become productive adults and knowing she played a part in their success.

Outside of school, Mrs. B has a busy and fun family life! She has four grown children—Andrew, Abby, Isaac, and Ian—and a cute Cavapoo named Ruby. She also has three grandchildren, Ivy, Kipp and Beckett and is expecting two more over the next few months. She's loved grammar and writing since she was in school, and she just finished reading *Let Them* by Mel Robbins, which she says is a must-read! She also loves spending her free time with friends and family, and her favorite food is a steak dinner.

If Mrs. B wasn't a teacher, she says she'd love to be a professional traveler.



Let's Get to Know Ms. Lori!

BY KASEN MANGRICH

Have you ever wondered who helps take care of students when they visit the office? Meet Ms. Lori Jergens, one of our amazing school secretaries!

Ms. Lori says her favorite thing about her job is that no two moments are ever the same. She loves the variety in



her day and the opportunity to help both students and staff. When students come into the office, Ms. Lori is often there to help—whether that means giving an ice pack, taking a temperature, or handing out a bandage.

Ms. Lori also helps in the lunchroom during lunchtime, works at the lunchroom terminal, enters attendance records, and supports classrooms whenever help is needed. She truly does it all!

Her favorite part about working with kids at our school is building positive behaviors and seeing students grow. She loves watching their confidence increase and enjoys seeing their smiles every day.

Here's a fun fact about Ms. Lori: students stop by the office at least once a week—not just for bandages or ice packs, but also for kind words and encouragement! That just shows how much students trust her and enjoy seeing her.

We are so lucky to have Ms. Lori helping make our school a caring and welcoming place!

Meet Mrs. Sullivan!

BY KASEN MANGRICH

Mrs. Sullivan has been our amazing school secretary at Fairbank Elementary for the past 13 years! What she loves most about her job is the daily connection she gets to have with students and staff, who she says feel just like family.

From preschool through 6th grade, Mrs. Sullivan enjoys watch-



ing students grow each year—not just academically, but in their confidence, friendships, and unique personalities. She loves being a familiar, welcoming face with an extra smile for everyone who walks through the door. Whether she's helping students solve a problem, calm their nerves, or celebrate a small success, Mrs. Sullivan feels lucky to play a part in making each school day a little better.

Her favorite part of working at Fairbank Elementary is being part of students' everyday lives. She gets to see them at all stages and loves being someone students recognize and feel comfortable with. Making sure every student feels supported is what makes her job so rewarding.

A fun fact about Mrs. Sullivan is that one year some special 5th and 6th grade students gave her the nickname "Secretara"—a clever combination of her job and her first name! Even years later, she still hears, "Hi, Secretara!" and it always reminds her of the special connections she's built with students.

Thank you, Secretara, for all that you do for our school!



Fairbank Elementary Student News

Important school March dates

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>March 2-6 Literacy Week
 March 2: Guest Author Malynda Zuck Breakfast with Books
 March 3: Breakfast with Books
 March 4: NO SCHOOL Big Wednesday Teacher In-service
 March 9: PK-1st grade visit Gallagher Bluedorn-Curious George
 March 10: Early dismissal 1:18-Parent-Teacher Conferences
 March 12: 2nd grade visit Gallagher Bluedorn Cat K Comic Book Club Musical
 March 12: 1:18 Dismissal- Parent Teacher Conferences</p> | <p>March 13: NO SCHOOL
 March 16: Board Meeting at High School
 March 18: No School Preschool only
 March 19: ART
 March 20: ART
 March 20: TAG students Shark Tank Competition
 March 20: End of 3rd Quarter
 March 20: ART
 March 26: ART
 March 27: ART</p> |
|---|--|



Cael

RECIPES WITH BODIN

ONE BOWL CHOCOLATE CHIP BANANA BREAD

for 6 servings

- 3 ripe bananas
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- salt, to taste
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).
 In a bowl, add the bananas and mash until smooth. Add in the melted butter and stir until well combined.
 Add the sugar, egg, vanilla, baking soda, salt, and flour, and stir until the batter is smooth.
 Add in the chocolate chips and pour the batter into a greased loaf pan. Top with additional chocolate chips.
 Bake for 50 minutes to an hour, or until a toothpick comes out clean.
 Cool completely before serving.
 Enjoy!



Bodin



JACE'S JOKES

- Q: What goes up when March rain comes down? A: An Umbrella.**
- Q: Why was the sports fan acting so crazy? A: He had March madness!**



Jace



Fairbank Public Library



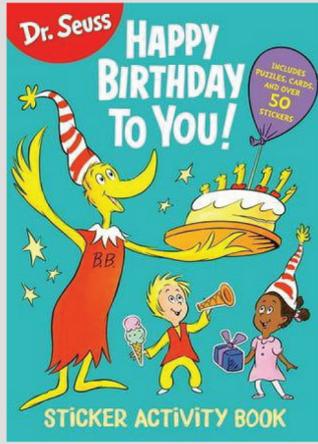
LIBRARY STAFF

Angela Berg, Director
Susan Frost, Librarian
Therese Steggall, Librarian
Erin Hill, Librarian
Brock Berg, Custodian

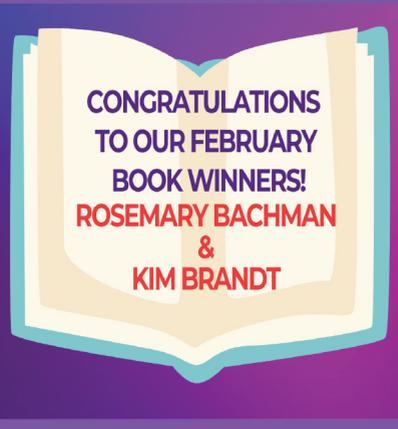
212 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 426, Fairbank, IA 50629
Phone: 319-635-2487 Fax: 319-635-2487
Email: library@fairbank-ia.org Website: Fairbank-ia.org

Like us on Facebook!

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



Stop by the Library in March for some fun Dr. Seuss Activities!



Add your email address to your library account for a chance to win!

In Loving Memory

MONETARY DONATIONS

From the Bill Cowell Family
In Memory of Bob Byersdorfer
from Pam Byersdorfer

Evelyn Brickman

Once There Was a Town
..... from Randy, Jodi & Carson Woods

Family Drama
..... from Pat & Julie Lansing Family

Linda Letson

The Little Engine That Could
..... from John & Sue Frost

THANK YOU!

The digital library is always open.



OPEN 24 HRS

Libby. The library reading app.

CHECK OUT KANOPY AND HAVE A MOVIE NIGHTS ON THE LIBRARY!

Using your Fairbank Library card, you can access Kanopy. With an expertly curated collection of narrative and documentary films we think you'll enjoy, we're pleased to bring this streaming service to our community.

Go to kanopy.com to get started today or visit the Library!



Train set donated by Erin Hill!

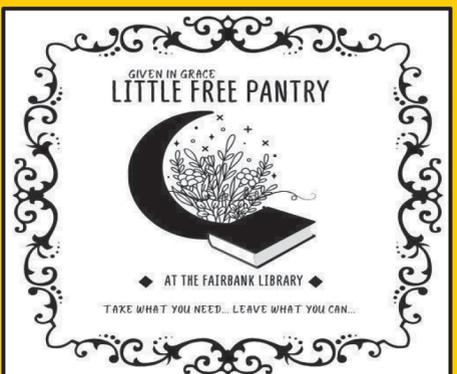
Library Fun!



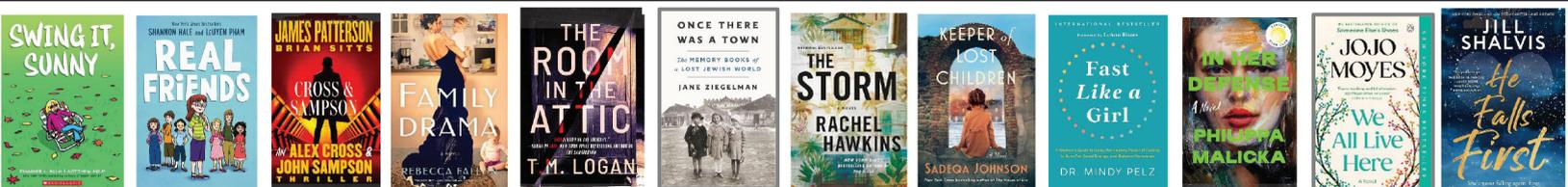
Adult Craft Night

Diamond Art Bookmarks!

Next Craft Night will be in April!



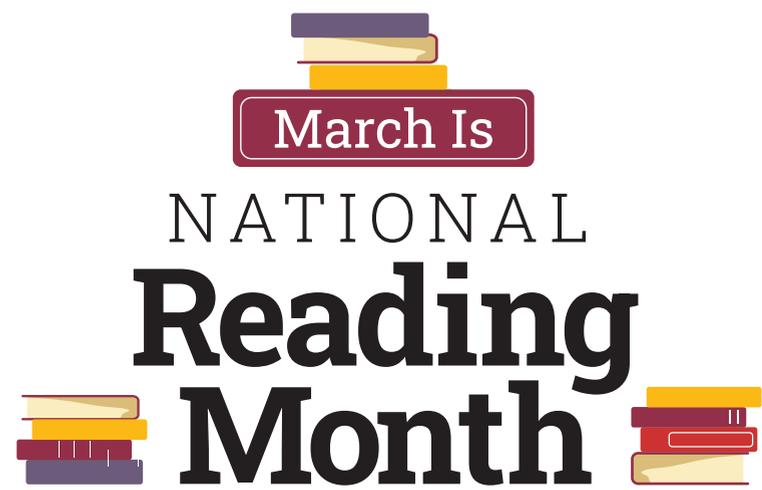
JUST ARRIVED



Fifth and sixth Fairbank Elementary students host Valentine's Day Carnival

On Feb. 13, the fifth and sixth grade students hosted a Valentine's Day Carnival for all the students at Fairbank Elementary. It was a fun-filled morning packed with exciting games and activities, all planned and run by the older students and Mrs. Bockholt.

Everyone had a great time, and it was wonderful to see the fifth and sixth graders stepping up as leaders. What an awesome way to spread kindness, build school spirit, and make special memories together!



Fairbank Library launches nonprofit organization: Fairbank Friends of the Library

The Fairbank Library is excited to announce the launch of Fairbank Friends of the Library 501(c)(3), a newly formed nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening and sustaining the library's impact for years to come.

Created to support and collaborate with the library, Fairbank Friends of the Library will focus on developing, maintaining, and enhancing programs, resources, services, and facilities through fundraising, volunteering, and advocacy.

From children's programming and lifelong learning events to technology access and welcoming community spaces, the library plays a vital role in the Fairbank community. The Friends group provides a structured, community-driven way for residents to contribute directly to that mission.

The Fairbank Friends of the Library board members include Angela Berg, Christy Kayser, Samantha McCombs, Kari Kamp, and Megan Stammeyer.

More information about membership and involvement opportunities will be shared soon. In the meantime, if you wish to make a gift in support of the mission of the Fairbank Friends of the Library, please contact the Fairbank Library at 319-635-2487 or email FairbankFriendsOfTheLibrary@gmail.com.

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Fairbank Elementary

Everyone is invited to shop a wonderful selection of books for all ages while supporting our school library.

Book Fair Dates & Times:

- Monday, March 9 from 3:15–3:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 10 from 1:15–2:15 p.m. and 4:00–7:30 p.m. (during conferences)
- Thursday, March 12 from 1:15–2:15 p.m. and 4:00–7:30 p.m. (during conferences)

The fair will be located in the Fairbank Elementary Library — just follow the signs! Every purchase helps our school. The library receives a percentage of total sales, and the more we sell, the higher the percentage we earn. These funds go directly toward purchasing new books for our students.

Deadline for the April publication is March 20

Please contact Melaine at 319-404-7116 or email fairbankislander@gmail.com

Unique ways to strengthen your faith during Holy Week

Spring is a special time of year for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the season is a particularly meaningful time for individuals of various faiths. Sacred days for many of the world's religions are celebrated in spring, including Easter.

Christians celebrate Easter, which commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, after a lengthy period of spiritual preparation known as Lent. Directly preceding Easter, Holy Week is a time for prayer, reflection and renewal. Holy Week also can be an ideal opportunity for those who may not be as fully immersed in their faith as they would like to return to the church and embrace all that Christianity has to offer. The following are some unique ways people can deepen their faith this Easter season.

Attend Mass
Various liturgies take place during Holy Week, including the Palm Sunday procession, Holy Thursday (Last Supper) Mass, Good Friday services, and the Easter Vigil. Each of these liturgies carries a special

message and significance that offers powerful ways to be in the presence of God.

Pray the Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are commonly prayed during Lent, particularly on Good Friday. Traditionally there are 14 Stations of the Cross, each depicting a different moment in Jesus' Passion and Death. Praying the stations often is a group church activity, but they also can be prayed solo. Getting an up close and personal understanding of the final moments in the life of Jesus Christ can have a transformative effect.

Confess your sins

Reconciliation, commonly referred to as "going to confession," is a practice that certain Christians denominations, but not all, participate in as part of their faith. Catholics engage in confession as a sacramental grace. While confession is encouraged as often as a person desires, being absolved from sin in preparation for Easter and other major holy days is

particularly encouraged.

Visit a holy shrine

People can take a trip to a holy site or shrine during Holy Week as a powerful way to connect with God and deepen their faith. Many church communities have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapels where people can view a monstrance, which is used to hold the consecrated Eucharist.

Serve others

Use Holy Week as an opportunity to serve others, whether through charitable efforts at a soup kitchen, visiting the elderly in a nursing home or through participation in another charitable endeavor. Certain religious communities conduct "washing of the feet" events when parishioners can cleanse others' feet as Jesus cleaned the feet of his disciples. This demonstrates humility, love and service, and also can strengthen faith.

Holy Week is a prime time for individuals to learn about their faith and embrace it more fully.

Church + Services



United Methodist Church
107 2nd Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
904-505-5230
Pastor Daniel Search
Worship Service: 9:15 AM



St. John Lutheran Church
(MISSOURI SYNOD)
208 N. 4th Street
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
319-635-2181
Pastor Grant Tapken
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
Saturday Night 7:00 PM
Sunday Service: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 9:00 AM



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

#3 Ag Lender in Iowa*
Top 50 Ag Lender in the Nation*
* Source: Top 100 Farm Lenders Ranked by Dollar Volume, FDIC, Data as of 4Q 2021.

Adam Schaufenbuel
Vice President, Waverly

Megan Niewoehner
Loan Officer, Oelwein

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joseph.kleitsch@ozark-national.com

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Check us out on Facebook or our website:
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* Weekly Housekeeping & Linen Washing
* Emergency On-Call System
* 24-Hour Security and Staff Availability
* Utilities and Cable Included
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!



FAIRBANK FIRE AND EMS ASSOCIATION NEWS

2026 Fairbank UTV Poker Run to take place April 4

CONTINUED FROM A1

Fairbank, Oran and Westgate Fire departments come together for ice water rescue training



The Outpost, Oran - 9 a.m.
Bank Bar and Grill, Westgate - 9 a.m.
Woo Woo's on Main, Maynard - 9:30 a.m.
Barneys, Wadena - 10 a.m.
LeRoy's, Aurora - 9:30 a.m.
Fat Boy's Saloon, Hazelton - 9 a.m.

There will be rule sheets available the morning of the ride, this will also include your poker hand card. You will need to get a stamp or signature from every bar you stop at, this will determine how many cards you will be awarded to play your hand. There will be prizes for top 5 hands.

Registration will begin at 8- 9:45 a.m. at the Fairbank American legion. The Legion will open back up at 4 p.m. with poker hands starting shortly after. Everyone should be back to the legion not later than 5 p.m. where you can play the poker hands, there will also be a silent auction and 50/50 drawing winner will be announced. Card playing will end at 6 p.m. Make sure to leave yourself enough time to play your hand when you return.

Truck/Trailer parking will be available at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church - just on the west side of the bridge.

Fairbank Little League sign up information

T-Ball League: This league is for 4 year old Preschool and Kindergarten students. Its purpose is to introduce the players to the baseball/softball game. All batters will hit from a tee and each player will play on the field accompanied by a parent/guardian or older sibling for on-field assistance and safety. We are looking for at least 2-3 volunteer coaches per team. Teams are co-ed and all games will be played solely in Fairbank on Sundays in June with start times TBD based on how many teams we have. (each team will have one prac-

tice at beginning of season)
Minor League BB/SB: This league is for all girls/boys currently in 1st and 2nd grade who are interested in playing Baseball/Softball this summer. Boys will play baseball and girls will play softball. This league is a coach pitch league that further introduces the players to the game, and continues to develop their batting, fielding, and throwing skills. A batting tee will be used when necessary. Games will be played evenings starting in mid May and go through the end of June and played against

surrounding community's teams. Once we get a volunteer coach, they will get the practice and game schedule out to you. Because some communities may play on different nights we cannot say games will be on a certain night.
Additional Information:
• Grades listed on this form are current school year grades.
• Games that are canceled due to weather may or may not be made up, based on League Coordinators discretion.
• This non-profit organization is composed of people volun-

teering their time to help your children to introduce the basic fundamentals of the sport and also introduce good sportsmanship while being safe and having fun. Please also be reminded that although we will be as safe as possible, injuries in sports do happen and it is up to the parent/guardian to provide insurance for their children.
• Each player must have their parent/guardian sign this permission slip and have it returned by Thursday, March 19th. There will be a sign up fee of \$30 per player to help with the cost of

the shirts, equipment, chalk, and other expenses. Any entries received after March 19th will be charged a \$5 late fee (also your child may not receive a shirt). The registration forms may be dropped off at Fairbank Elementary or City Hall in an envelope marked FAIRBANK LITTLE LEAGUE. Please make checks payable to: Fairbank Little League.
If you have any questions, please call or text Mike Gruetzma-cher 563-608-5383 or e-mail fairbankwapsielittleleague@gmail.com

RETURN BY THURSDAY March 13th, 2026

Player Name: _____

Current Grade: 4yr old PK TK K 1st 2nd

Gender: Male / Female

Youth Shirt Size: X-Small Small Medium Large

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Information:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Text messaging? Yes or No

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Text messaging? Yes or No

Address: _____ City: _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

We agree to hold harmless the volunteers of Fairbank Little League for any injuries sustained by the below named minor while participating in the program. We realize that the volunteers of the program DO NOT PROVIDE ANY INSURANCE OF ANY NATURE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM.

We the undersigned parent(s)/guardian(s) of _____, a minor, hereby consent to the above named minor to participate in the Fairbank Little League program for the 2026 season. Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

We also ask that any parent/grandparent/older sibling be open to coaching/helping, as there are several teams, and it takes multiple coaches per team to really help these players develop skills, stay focused, and get the most out of the league as possible. Coaching can consist of pitching, base-coaching, throwing grounders in practice, lining kids up on the bench in their batting order, etc. Kids love telling their friends that their family member is helping "coach" their team. If you want to help, but don't know how, we will find a spot for you!

If you would be willing to assist, please indicate on the form below. Additional information will be sent at a later date.

_____ Yes, _____ would be willing to Coach.

Adult Shirt Size: Small Medium Large XLarge XXLarge

WAPSIE VALLEY SCHOOL CORNER

Wapsie Valley Year-in-review 2025-26



CHRIS HOOVER
SUPERINTENDENT

The Wapsie Valley Community School District is celebrating a year filled with achievement, growth, and pride across academics, activities, and student programs — with exciting facility improvements on the horizon as well.

One of the district's biggest highlights comes from the latest Iowa School Performance Reports, where all six Wapsie Valley attendance centers earned strong marks. Fairbank Elementary, Wapsie Valley Junior High/High School, and our Rural Amish buildings all received "Commendable" ratings, reflecting steady academic performance and a continued commitment to student success. Readlyn Elementary earned a "High Performing" designation. On top of that, Readlyn was named the #3 Best Elementary School in Iowa for the second consecutive year by U.S. News & World Report — an honor that places it among the very top schools in the state.

Athletics brought plenty of excitement to Warrior fans this year as well. Wapsie Valley teams made impressive postseason runs, with football, volleyball, cross country, wrestling, basketball, track, baseball and softball going deep into the post season or qualifying for state competition. These appearances reflect not only talent, but the dedication, discipline, and teamwork shown by student-athletes and coaches throughout the year.

Beyond the classroom and the playing field, students continued to shine in career and technical organizations. FFA and FCCLA members once again found success at district and state events, demonstrating leadership skills and real-world knowledge in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and community service. The district's robotics program also maintained strong participation and competitive performances, giving students hands-on experience in engineering, coding, and problem-solving.

The fine arts programs added to the list of accomplishments. Students in band, vocal music, speech, and visual arts earned top ratings at contests and showcases, while performances and



exhibitions throughout the year highlighted the creativity and talent of Wapsie Valley students. These programs continue to play an important role in developing confident, well-rounded learners.

An exciting improvement is coming to Fairbank Elementary this summer with the installation of a new all-inclusive playground. This playground is designed to be accessible and welcoming to all children, ensuring that students of all abilities have a place to play, socialize, and belong. What makes this project especially meaningful is that it is being completed through 100% donations and community fundraising, demonstrating the incredible support and generosity of our families, staff, and community members. This playground will be a lasting investment in our students' physical, social, and emotional well-being and is another example of how the Wapsie Valley School District community comes together to support kids.

Looking ahead, the district is also making significant investments in its facilities to support students for years to come. This spring, work will begin on a major HVAC project at the junior high and high school, improving climate control and creating a more comfortable learning environment throughout the building. In addition, plans are moving forward for a new synthetic turf football field and a state-of-



the-art 8-lane track, upgrades that will enhance physical education, athletics, and community events. These improvements reflect the district's commitment not only to academic excellence, but also to providing top-tier spaces where students can learn, compete, and grow.

Taken together, the year's achievements reflect a district that remains focused on opportunity, excellence, and growth for every student. From academic recognition to state-level competition, thriving student organizations, and forward-looking facility improvements, Wapsie Valley continues to prove it is a place where students are supported, challenged, and celebrated.



Fairbank Elementary playground project reaches phase 1 goal

CONTINUED FROM A1

dents.

Phase 1 includes the removal of an outdated piece of playground equipment and the installation of a new, inclusive structure designed for children of all abilities. Our current playground consists of multiple levels, which has created accessibility challenges over time. It also includes a few new freestanding pieces of play equipment. Phase 2 includes replacing the swingsets and swings and replacing some of the current surfacing. While some existing equipment will remain in place, one of our key goals is to replace portions of the surface beneath the equipment with pour-in-place surfacing and rubber mulch to improve safety and accessibility.

Completing Phase 2 at the same time as Phase 1 would allow us to address many of these challenges at once, reducing long-term

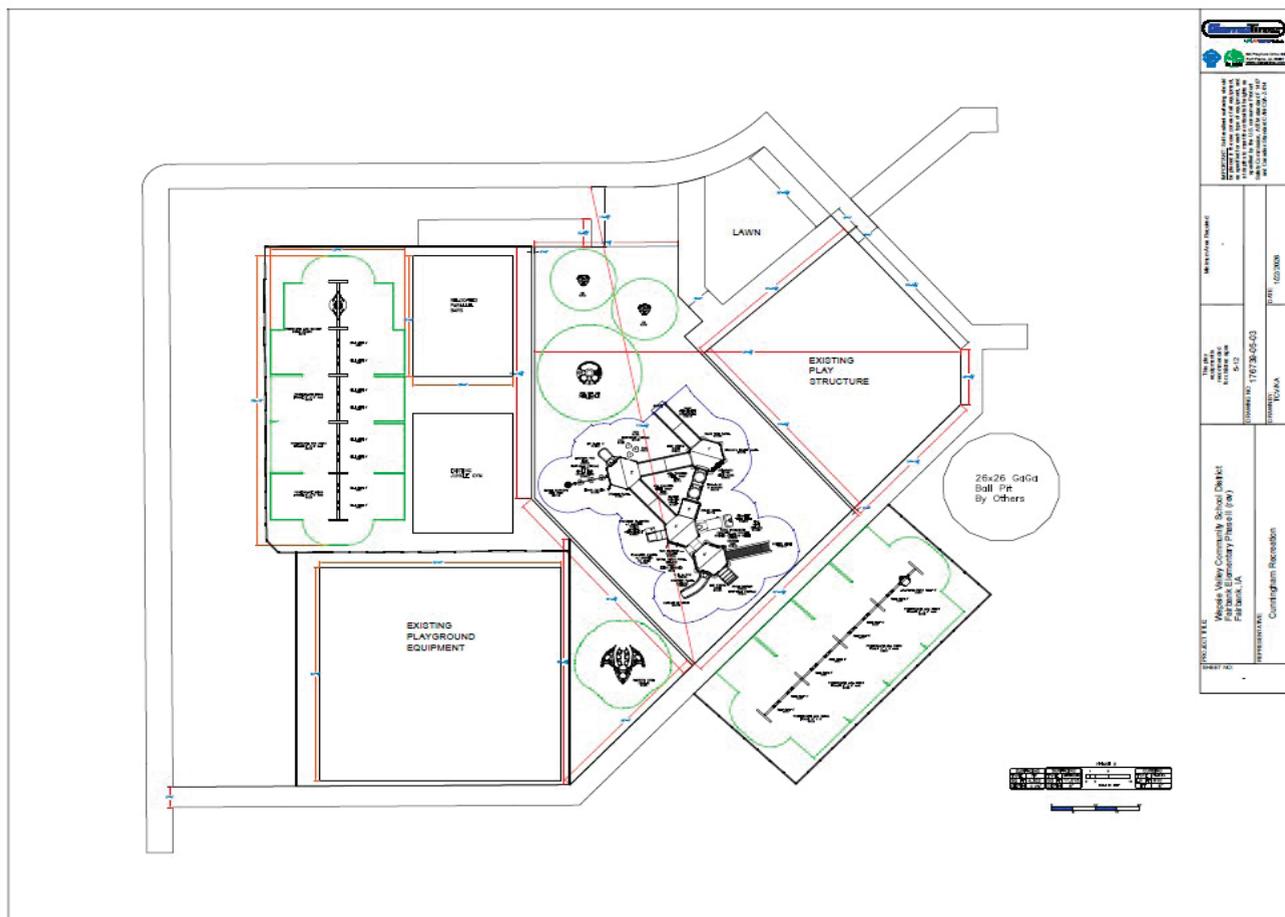
issues and creating a more cohesive and accessible play space. To make this possible, we are still seeking additional community support to help raise the funds needed for Phase 2. We are actively applying for grants and working to keep costs down by utilizing local contractors and community volunteers for removal and installation.

Total Expense Phase 1 & 2: \$398,837.72

Total Revenue Phase 1 & 2: \$250,421.88

Needed to complete Phase 2: \$148,415.84

Any donation, large or small, will help bring this vision closer to reality and ensure that every child has a safe and accessible place to play. Donations are currently being accepted at Fairbank Elementary and Northeast Security Bank. Anonymous donations are acceptable. This entire project is being funded through grants and donations. We appreciate all of the support we have received so far!



Above is a birds eye view of the total project.

COURTESY PHOTO

Wapsie Valley CSD Regular Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance
President Aiello called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:02 PM.

A. Directors: Aiello, Becker, Broten, & Kaufman. Auel (6:23)

B. Supt. Hoover, Secretary Arndt & Principals Forsyth, & Murphy. Myers (excused)

C. Brett Bergman, Ron Sadler, & Mandy Bockholt

No changes to the agenda

Moved by Broten, Seconded by Becker to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Public comment: None

Consent Items: Moved by Broten, Seconded by Becker to approve the consent items including the bills reviewed by Amy Becker and Open enrollments-Beth Albrecht request to open enroll her kindergarten son to WV from West

Central for the 26-27 school year-deadline has been met. OUT-Corinne Schares request to open enroll her 9th-grade daughter to Sumner-Fredericksburg effective immediately. Both superintendents agreed on approving this application. She was previously open enrolled to Clayton Ridge. Faith Eastman request to open enroll her 10th-grade son to Waverly effective 26-27 school year. The deadline has been met. Ashlee Eckerman request to open enroll her kindergarten daughter to Waverly effective the 26-27 school year. The deadline has been met. Currently attending PK in Waverly, Brandi Thompson request to open enroll her kindergarten son to WSR effective 26-27 school year. The deadline has been met - Her son currently attends Waverly Headstart as presented. Motion carried 4-0

6. Board-Steve Aiello & Kyle Shores were the first on the scene. During the incident, we attempted to communicate with

families however, we discovered two technological issues that created confusion. It also created delays in the messages being

delivered. (These concerns have since been addressed and test messages will be going out later this week to ensure those

issues are completely fixed.) Superintendent: Report includes SBO position, Interest Based Bargaining, Contracts for the Track/Football Field, Fairbank

playground, & Track coach. District-PK-12 Principals: Report included professional development updates, 100th day of school, valentines, Leader in Me, & activity updates..

7. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to approve the resignations of Cindy Shupe-Study Hall

Teacher-effective immediately, Teresa Duffy-Special Education Associated-effective-6-30-2026, Brittany Anderson-Assistant

High School Volleyball Coach, Joey Rigdon - Assistant Football Coach, Tyler Fall - 7-12 Vocal Music Teacher/Musical &

thank them for their service to the students and staff of WV as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Contracts: Moved by Becker, Seconded by Broten to approve contracts for Tara Sullivan - \$21.00 P/H District Administrative Assistant-effective June 1, 2026, Davie, Justin \$3,860.00 Head Boys Track Base 5/Year 22, Chris Hoover \$2,230.00 Asst Boys Track Base 1/Year 0, Bergman, Brett \$2,520.00 Asst High School Track Base 3/Year 11, Foster, Duane \$3,570.00 Head Girls Track Base 3/Year 13, Zane Sittig \$2,230.00 Asst Girls Track Base 1/Year 2, Danny Adams \$1,968.00 JH Boys Track Base 1/Year 4, Roberts, Brenda \$3,860.00 Co-Girls Head Golf Base 5/Year 25, Liz Bergman

\$3,280.00 Co-Boys Head Golf Base 1/Year, Blayde Bellis \$3,280.00 Varsity Baseball Base 1/Year 1, Collin Bergmann \$2,375.00 Assistant Baseball Base 2/Year 7, Kaci Beesecker \$2,230.00 Assistant Softball Base 1/Year 4, Logan Flack \$1,968.00 JH Baseball Base 1/Year 2 & \$2,132.00 JH Boys Basketball Base 1/Year 1, & Tiffany Beyer \$1,968.00 JH Softball Base 1/Year 3 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

8. New Business: WV Education Association (Amanda Bockholt) presented their interest-based bargaining proposal to the WV Board of Education.

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to accept the interest based bargaining proposal from the WV Education Association

Association. The board commits to engaging in the bargaining process in good faith, with the shared goal of reaching a

mutually beneficial agreement that serves the best interests of our students, educators, and the entire school community as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten to set the public hearing date of March 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM for the 26-27 school calendar as presented. Motion Carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Broten to approve publication of the property tax statement tax rate at a maximum rate

of \$14.00 and set the public hearing date for March 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve Ava Aiello as an early 2027 graduate pending all requirements are met as presented. Motion carried 4-0 Aiello-abstain

Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Auel to approve the 5-year lease to purchase diesel bus option with the total cost of approximately \$170,868.60 per bus. Will be leasing to purchase option three buses as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Moved by Auel, Seconded by Becker to approve the Engagement Letter with Piper Sandler & Co. Sales Tax Revenue Bonds, Series 2026A & Series 2026B General Obligation School Capital Loan Notes, Series 2026 as presented. Motion carried 5-0

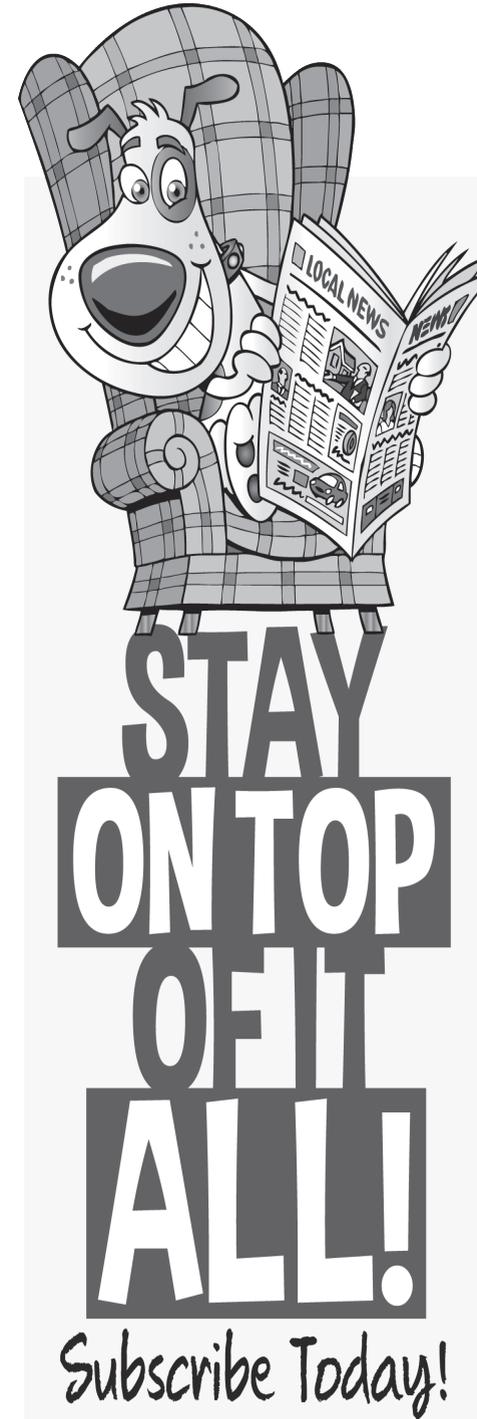
9. Board Talking Points-Angie Auel presented on behalf of the Archery fundraising event, \$303 to the lunch program to help

with negative lunch balances. Thank you!

10. Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by Broten to adjourn at 6:52 PM. Motion carried 5-0

ACCESS SYSTEMS \$62.43 AGVANTAGE FS \$14,422.01 AHLERS & COONEY, P.C. \$55.00 ALLIANT ENERGY \$475.92 Amazon \$673.67 ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY \$69.26 AUDIBLE \$16.00 BEACHY, RACHEL \$40.50 BLACK HAWK SPRINKLERS \$495.00 BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$465.00 BUTLER COUNTY REC \$1,035.52 CAM CSD \$12,755.64 CAROLINA BIOLOGICAL \$365.05 CENTRAL IA DISTRIB \$2,990.00 Central Rivers AEA \$27,157.25 CENTRAL RIVERS AEA \$18,913.90 CHEMSEARCH \$443.31 CITY LAUNDRY \$1,782.68 CITY OF READLYN \$3,715.64 CLARKSVILLE CSD \$260.00 COLUMN SOFTWARE \$270.48 COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL \$55,438.50 CY & CHARLEY'S FIRESTONE \$351.60 DENVER CSD \$66,650.68 DEPT. OF EDUCATION \$50.00 DON'S TRUCK SALES \$45.64 DUNKERTON CSD \$6,550.20 EAST-CENTRAL IA REC \$487.45 Employee Benefit Systems \$82,417.91 FAREWAY \$10.99 FERGUSON \$42.88 Gordon, Jenn \$11.49 Hawkeye Alarm & Signal \$2,100.00 HERSHBERGER, MARY BETH \$81.00 IOWA ACTE \$110.00 IASB \$50.00 IOWA REGIONAL

UTILITIES \$431.73 ISFIS \$300.00 IXL LEARNING \$8,436.00 JANESVILLE CSD \$6,137.10 JESUP CSD \$21,338.13 Kaufman, Adam \$3,600.00 KAY L. CHAPMAN, CPA PC \$5,000.00 KENWORTHY, STOREY \$2,555.90 Keyston AEA 1 \$205.54 KLUESNER SANITATION \$640.00 KWIK TRIP \$68.57 LARRY'S SERVICE \$30.00 LITTLE WAPSIE COMM \$175.08 LOCKSPERTS \$243.00 Menards \$22.99 MERCYONE \$110.00 MILLER, CATHERINE \$90.00 MODERN BUILDING \$310.36 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$161.00 ORKIN PEST CONTROL \$1,272.53 PIONEER VALLEY BOOKS \$56.98 RABER, EDNA \$42.75 RAISA A HALLELUJAH, LLC \$1,400.00 READLYN TELEPHONE CO \$183.99 RELAYHUB LLC \$169.65 SADDLEBACK ED \$30.25 SAM'S CLUB \$291.90 SCHOOL BUS SALES \$421.38 SCHULDT REPAIR LLC \$189.23 STELLER TEACHER \$29.00 SULLIVAN, HEATHER \$40.60 TAYLOR PHYSICAL THERAPY \$3,725.00 Teachers Pay Teachers \$47.70 TEAM LABORATORY \$1,060.00 TRIPOLI COMM. SCHOOL \$12,802.89 UBIQUITI STORE \$6.00 Walmart \$411.60 WAVERLY CSD \$44,212.87 WEEDS ON FIRE \$3,735.00 WEST CENTRAL CSD \$23,694.55 YOUNG PLUMBING & HEATING \$1,022.50 GENERAL TOTAL \$445,564.37 Employee Benefit Systems \$5,571.86 QUALITY TRUCK RBLDRS \$2,000.00 WORLD INSURANCE \$1,348.00 MANAGEMENT TOTAL \$8,919.86 Farmers State Bank \$29,361.75 SAVE TOTAL \$29,361.75 ACCESS SYSTEMS \$1,569.00 AGVANTAGE FS \$3,635.00 Central Rivers AEA \$19,312.50 DON'S TRUCK SALES \$4,120.00 GAMETIME \$89,818.72 GIGFIRE \$70.00 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$100.00 QUALITY TRUCK RBLDRS \$4,465.11 STICKFORD ELECTRIC \$2,271.70 Varsity Group \$825.00 XELLO \$2,884.00 YOUNG PLMBG & HTNG \$21,628.32 PPEL TOTAL \$150,699.35 FAREWAY \$25.98 Warrior Café Total \$25.98 Amazon \$1,792.69 BAROBO \$2,040.80 Teacher Synergy LLC \$227.67 WVEF Total \$4,061.16 Amazon \$49.08 J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC. \$41.00 SARIN SYSTEMS \$75.00 Gallup Trust Total \$165.08 ALLMAN, STEVE \$140.00 Amazon \$95.33 ANAMOSA CSD \$120.00 BAROBO \$645.32 Behn, Scott \$140.00 Brehmer, Isaac \$140.00 BSN SPORTS \$1,908.00 CASEY'S \$189.91 CEDAR RAPIDS KENNEDY WRSTLNG \$400.00 CEDAR RIDGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL \$120.00 CF JR TIGER BB \$165.00 CHIDESTER, STEVE \$95.00 CLARK, KYLE \$140.00 College of Engineering, U of I \$350.00 COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT \$147.62 DEUTMEYER, DEAN \$265.00 DIVIS, ETHAN \$110.00 DYRLAND, DANIEL \$150.00 ELSEY, PAUL \$140.00 EMILY KOCH PHOTOGRAPHY \$300.00 FCCLA \$28.00 FAREWAY \$61.16 FORMSITE.COM \$76.25 Forsyth, Alyson \$83.72 FORSYTH, BRADY \$150.00 FRESE, JEFF \$110.00 GLEN SNYDER \$370.00 HARTER, RYAN \$140.00 HOFFERT, CASEY \$140.00 HOMEISTER, KELBY \$140.00 HUDSON ATHLETIC BOOSTERS \$25.00 IOWA EVENTS CENTER \$525.00 IFCA \$650.00 IGCA \$350.00 IA STATE FAIR \$16.00 JASPER, JACK \$150.00 KOBER, ROBERT \$140.00 KWIK TRIP \$45.82 Lechtenberg, Ben \$150.00 MORROW, JONATHAN \$150.00 NEARFALL \$470.00 NITZ, KATELYN \$139.00 NORDSCHOW, MARISSA \$140.00 OAKES, CODY \$140.00 PAYNE, DAYN \$95.00 Power Lift-Conner Athletic Products, Inc. \$10,278.00 PROUTY, JIM \$150.00 RUD, DAWSON \$140.00 SAM'S CLOTHING \$47.70 SAWSTOP \$15.60 SCHANTZ, DERRICK \$110.00 SCRATCH CUPCAKERY \$440.00 SHAW, CHRIS \$140.00 Signs and More \$609.41 SKILLS USA \$113.00 STEEGE, NATE \$140.00 Walmart \$91.75 Waskow, Dave \$445.00 WE HELP TWO \$219.69 YESSAK, JORDAN \$140.00 YOUNGBLUT, DELANEY \$180.00 ACTIVITY TOTAL \$23,506.28 COCA-COLA \$203.96 EMS DETERGENT \$314.10 MARTIN BROS. \$16,031.22 PRAIRIE FARMS \$3,263.74 LUNCH TOTAL \$19,813.02



CLASSIFIEDS

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in a budget workshop at 5:30 pm and then regular session following at 6:00 pm on Monday January 26, 2026. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Gruetzmacher. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Nick Kuker, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council discussed potential FY2027 budget numbers with some of the other general fund departments including pool, parks, and streets.

Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

T. Woods/Erickson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Williams/T. Woods to open the public hearing on the rezoning request for the property located at 605 West Main Street Lot 7, 8, 9, and 10 from R-1 to R-2. Motion carried. There were no comments received. Kaleb Bentley was present and explained again the plan to build a two-unit zero entry condo that is planned to be geared towards anyone seeking a retirement home to purchase. Jean Richards was present to express her concern about the water pressure on West Main Street and what adding more connections would do to her pressure in her home and the neighborhood. It was said that the main line should be big enough to handle current and future changes like everywhere else in town. That will have to be looked into as the project moves forward and she was thanked for bringing it forward. Gruetzmacher/ Erickson to close the public hearing at 6:05 pm. Motion carried.

Williams/Erickson to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: January 12th Regular Meeting Minutes and setting the 3rd budget workshop for February 9th at 5:30 pm. Motion carried.

There was no one present for the informal public comment section. Chris West, Fairbank Fire Chief, attended the meeting to again discuss the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). Chief West reported that he had received responses from Karla regarding questions he previously raised and stated that the program is generally comparable to a 401(k) plan for fire and ambulance volunteers, with the city retaining ownership until the participant's retirement. Chief West further stated that approximately 46 fire departments have enrolled in the program. Attorney Prendergast advised that participation in the program could have significant implications for the department's status as a volunteer department and emphasized that any approved documentation must clearly state that the program applies to volunteers and not employees. Councilwoman Erickson expressed concern that the process felt rushed but indicated support for the concept as a benefit for volunteer fire department members. Gruetzmacher/R. Woods, to approve moving forward with the plan process, with disclosures added to confirm that the benefit applies to volunteer members and not employees. A resolution will be drafted, and additional information will be discussed at the next meeting. Ayes: Five. Nays: none.

The Council again discussed vehicle insurance valuation options related to the ICAP renewal. Following discussion at the previous meeting and further review, the Council indicated an interest to move forward with switching to an actual cash value basis reflecting the current market value of each vehicle. This matter will be discussed with Adam Kerns, the city's insurance representative, and additional discussion will take place at future meetings. Gruetzmacher/Williams to obtain quotes for the Veteran's Park Shelter now that the specifications and drawings are complete. Ayes: Four. Abstain: R. Woods. Nays: None.

The council discussed the continued evaluation of options for the 657A property located at 506 Patterson Street. The possibility of developing a Homes for Iowa home on the property was discussed, and the Council expressed interest in this option. Discussion included whether the city would take on all associated risks or if they'd want to seek a developer to complete the project. No action was taken, as additional research and

REGULAR MEETING

The Fairbank City Council met in a budget workshop at 5:30 pm and then regular session following at 6:00 pm on Monday February 9, 2026. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, T. Woods, and Gruetzmacher. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Brandon French, Police Officer; Nick Kuker, Public Works; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council reviewed proposed budget numbers for FY2027 and information regarding the proposed property tax levy notice mailing.

Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There were no public hearings.

Gruetzmacher/Erickson to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: January 26th Regular Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Reports for January 2026, Approving Class "B" Retail Alcohol License for Costa's Market, Setting the 4th budget workshop for February 23rd at 5:30 pm, and the Payment of Bills. The bill listing will be placed at the end of the minutes. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Treasurers Report for the Month of January 2026: Revenues - General, \$13,431.41; Special Revenue, \$30,761.46; TIF, \$334.97; Capital Projects, \$33.07; Permanent Funds, \$17.44; Proprietary, \$215,298.72; and Transfers In, \$28,055.00. Disbursements - General, \$23,280.53; Special Revenue, \$12,629.15; Proprietary, \$194,126.84; and Transfers Out, \$28,055.00. Balance on hand at close of business on January 31, 2026 was \$4,739,387.63.

There was no one present for the informal public comment section. Cole Johnson with Financial Decisions Group was present for discussion regarding the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP). Financial Decisions Group is a financial organization that could administer the program if the city chose to participate. It was reported that another company had also been contacted, along with Knox Financial Services, which had visited the Council at the previous meeting; however, Chris stated that Financial Decisions Group would be able to provide additional assistance with the paperwork and administrative requirements of the program. Mr. Johnson provided a brief overview of the program and the services their organization could offer. The Council expressed continued interest in the program for the fire and ambulance volunteer members.

Gruetzmacher/Williams to approve Resolution 2026-05 - Resolution Adopting a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) and Authorizing Administration of the Program, with Financial Decisions Group to administer the program. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Chris West reported that he is having difficulty determining the actual cash value of the department's equipment for insurance purposes, as previously requested by the Council. He stated that he will continue researching vehicle and equipment values and will contact Adam Kerns, the city's insurance representative, for additional information and assistance.

There was no update on the proposed park shelter for Veteran's Park. Quotes are still being obtained and will be reviewed at a future meeting.

The council continued discussion regarding the 657A property at 506 Patterson Street. It was discussed that development of a Homes for Iowa project would be a huge undertaking for the city. The possibility of selling the property with a requirement that it be developed for residential purposes within a certain time frame was discussed. The council felt that a discussion with the attorney was needed and that they could do that at the next meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on Monday January 26, 2026 for a rezoning request for the property located at 404 Forest Street from Sharon Woods and Richard Woods. The request was asking to rezone the property from R-1 to R-2. After that meeting, the Council received a written recommendation from the board to consider approving the request and continue the process of amending the zoning ordinance to reflect that change. Williams/T. Woods to approve the recom-

information are required before proceeding.

The Council revisited discussions regarding the proposed personnel manual flow chart for the city, which had been previously tabled. It was explained that the development and interpretation of a flow chart is subject to interpretation of the city code and how it is applied. The code directs that the Council appoints and therefore oversees many positions. Attorney Prendergast advised that the Council serves as the legislative body and that adoption of an organizational flow chart would be a political decision rather than a legal one, to be determined by the elected council as to whether adoption is appropriate or necessary as a policy. She further stated that the flow chart could potentially create legal issues related to employment matters or could also help prevent them in certain circumstances. Councilwoman Erickson stated that there have been no issues with current operations. Gruetzmacher/R. Woods, to table the proposed personnel manual flow chart indefinitely unless brought back for future consideration. Motion carried.

An ordinance needed to be read regarding amending the official zoning map after the public hearing had been completed for the rezoning of 605 West Main Street Lot 7, 8, 9, and 10 from R-1 to R-2. Williams/T. Woods to approve the first reading of Ordinance 377 - Ordinance Amending Official Zoning Map. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

T. Woods/R. Woods to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance 377 - Ordinance Amending Official Zoning Map regarding rezoning 605 West Main Street Lot 7, 8, 9, and 10 from R-1 to R-2. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Williams/Gruetzmacher to adopt Ordinance 377. Ayes: Five. Nays: None. The Council discussed a new lease agreement from LeAnne Siggelkov regarding the flood dike on her property. Attorney Prendergast reported that she had reviewed the proposed lease and updated the Council on the terms of the agreement. Council members stated that continued use of the dike is important due to its role in managing water flow.

T. Woods/Williams, to approve Resolution 2026-03 - Resolution Authorizing Mayor to Enter into Siggelkov Lease. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Gruetzmacher/T. Woods to approve the Davis Lawn Care 2026 Lawn Treatment Program for \$4,731.00. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

There was no one present for the quail discussion.

Williams/T. Woods to approve the city committee appointments. Motion carried.

During the council/mayor comments, Councilman Gruetzmacher wanted to inquire about if someone could be hired to rake the ball diamonds this summer. Age and driving the lawn mower are things to consider and that will be researched. Councilman Williams wanted to state that the new broom on the skid loader does a great job with the sidewalks and expressed compliments to the city guys on their snow removal especially compared to all other towns that he has been through. Mayor Kayser stated that he was drafting up a simple form for the employees to fill out to help with conversations during the budget season regarding raises. He wants to meet with each employee one on one and review the forms in hopes of helping wage conversations during budget season smoother.

During the department reports, Chris West said that they had three new members join in January and they will be coming to council for approval after their six-month probation period. Nick reported that he and Lonnie got their pool certifications renewed and that Ken was going the next day. He also said that Nick Vandegriff from IAMU visited to help review different gas operations. Lakeside Drive was also scheduled to be scoped that Thursday and that they were able to get some offices cleaned up at City Hall. Chief Robinson said that he had nothing major to report and said that he had just sent out his monthly report for December.

Williams/T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm. Motion carried.

Jason Kayser, Mayor
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

mendation from the Planning & Zoning Commission and continue with the process of amending the ordinance for the rezoning request. Ayes: Four. Abstain: R. Woods. Nays: None.

After the council approved the recommendation to allow proceeding with the zoning change from the Planning and Zoning Commission, a public hearing would need to be set to allow for public input. Erickson/T. Woods to approve Resolution 2026-04 - Resolution of the City Council of the City of Fairbank, Iowa Setting a Public Hearing Regarding the Rezoning of a Property. Abstain: R. Woods. Motion carried. The public hearing was set for Monday February 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Fairbank City Hall.

The Council received another quote this year from Frontline Warning Systems for a service contract for servicing the warning sirens. The \$850.00 contract included inspecting the warning sirens twice a year. Williams/Gruetzmacher to approve the one-year contract with Frontline Warning Systems. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

During the council/mayor comments, Councilman Gruetzmacher stated that the Little League forms were going on that week. Councilwoman Erickson asked if the pool had an idea when the job openings for this next season would be posted and it was explained that the office received them that day and that they would be posted this week as well. Councilman Gruetzmacher asked when the roads are being reviewed this spring if he could get a quote to see how much it would cost to seal coat the ball diamond parking lot. Mayor Kayser stated that the guys had been busy working on a couple of water main leaks that past couple of weeks with the most recent one happening on Super Bowl Sunday.

During the department reports, Nick said that Roto-Rooter got about 2/3 of the neighborhood done but then they broke down and he didn't know when they were returning. Ken is now certified as a pool operator. Angie Berg, the library director, reported that they were almost complete with the process of creating a Friends of the Library Group with a 501c3 status. Chris West reported that three new members joined the department and touched on his monthly report. Officer French stated that they had been working on a theft, a burglary, an assault, and handling general calls. Mayor Kayser also stated that he had heard that Fayette County was continuing their property appraisal assessments into this year.

Williams/T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Motion carried.

Bills for the Month of February 2026	
Advantage Administrators, Services	\$300.00
Amazon Capital Services, Supplies	\$80.02
Appliance Plus of Oelwein, Inc, Services	\$120.00
Arnold Motor Supply, Supplies	\$608.64
Olivia Becker, Services	\$30.00
Bound Tree Medical, LLC., Ambulance Supplies	\$1,140.69
Lonnie Brewer, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Butler County Rec, Electric	\$73,159.22
Campbell Supply-Waterloo, Supplies	\$46.98
Casey's General Store, Gas	\$628.47
Clayton Energy Corporation, Natural Gas	\$20,831.61
Clayton Energy Corporation, Reservation	\$21,183.68
Dakota Supply Group, Equipment	\$5,315.00
Delta Dental of Iowa, February Premium	\$21.96
Don's Truck Sales, Services	\$1,910.63
Electrical Engineering & Equip, Services	\$7,679.41
Fairbank Postmaster, Utility Bills Feb 2026	\$183.00
City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas	\$5,969.09
City of Fairbank, Utility Deposits Applied	\$400.00
Farm Win Co-Op, Diesel	\$1,757.99
Frontline Warning Systems, FY 26 Siren Service	\$850.00
Brittany Fuller, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Gordon Flesch Company Inc., Copier/Printer Maintenance	\$114.14
Grainger, Inc., Supplies	\$82.87
Groebner & Associates, Supplies	\$734.71
Hawkeye Community College, EMS Annual Agreement	\$275.00

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COMMUNITY CLUB MEETING

The Fairbank Community Club met on February 4th at the Fairbank Legion, with 10 members attending. The meeting was called to order by vice-president, Cindy Woods. The treasurer's report was read by Amanda Jipson.

OLD BUSINESS

Troop Packages: No more packages are needed for the troops currently. It was decided to buy gift cards for when they come home and throw a party. Might be more donations needed at a later date.

Christmas Parade & Santa at Assisted Living: The Community Club plans on doing the parade again next year, possibly getting the library Santa and combine Santa events. A discussion will be held as to the date.

Library Santa: Fifty-one kids came to visit Santa in December. This was the best turn-out they've had so far. Date for this year will be December 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

"Ladies Night Out" Vendor Show: Tammy Erickson, who chairs this event, was not present at the meeting. Ladies Night is only held in the fall.

Blood Drive: The last Blood Drive was held January 20, 2026 at the Legion. LifeServe was very pleased with the turnout.

NEW BUSINESS

Music in the Park: The "Music in the Park" series will be held June 3rd, July 8th, August 21st?, and Sept. 2nd.

Entertainment arrangements made so far include: Adyn Duffy, Gina Owens, and possibly Amy and the Nitpickers. Hope to see you all there. The event is held at the Gazebo Park. Food vendors are available.

Dues: Community Club dues are \$30 per year. 50% of the dues have been collected. For anyone interested. Send to:

Community Club c/o Amanda Jipson, 1060 102nd St., Fairbank, IA 50629. Newspaper Advertising: JJ Little has been collecting for the advertising. There are a few businesses who still owe for the current year. Please try to take care of this. The Fairbank Islander years run from June 1 - May 30th, so advertisers will be contacted in April and May to sign up for June 1, 2026-May31, 2027.

Election of Officers: Election of Officers is normally done at this meeting, but due to low attendance it was tabled till the next meeting on March 18th.

Fall In Love With Fairbank: This event was held on February 12th. No information as to how it turned out.

Fundraising Plans: A Puzzle Competition is in the works. Possible dates are March 5th or April 16th. Watch for details!

City-Wide Garage Sales: These are planned for the 1st weekend in May and the 1st weekend in October. These dates are pending the coordination with the garbage company.

Next meeting: Community Club will meet March 18th at the Legion. Doors open at 5:00 and meeting will start at 6:00. Meeting was adjourned.

Layne Hilsenbeck, Equipment	\$3,982.50
ICAP, Premium	\$106.00
IMFOA, Membership Dues	\$70.00
Iowa Codification, Inc., Dec Supplement	\$379.00
Iowa One Call, Locates	\$19.90
Iowa Prison Industries, Supplies	\$53.16
Iowa Regional Utilities Assoc., Water	\$9,647.00
Iowa Society of Fire Service, Membership	\$140.00
Ipers, Benefits	\$6,454.66
Kirkwood Community College, Training	\$23.00
Kluesner Sanitation, LLC., Pick-up Fees	\$7,777.00
Nick Kuker, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Michelle Laube, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Little Wapsie Communications, Static IP Addresses	\$64.06
Mercyone Waterloo Medical Center, Drug Testing	\$30.00
Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Testing	\$605.75
Modern Building Products, Supplies	\$568.27
Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., Supplies	\$159.95
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 1/2/26	\$10.00
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 1/15/26	\$8.52
NE Security Bank, Utility ACH Service Charge	\$10.00
NE Security Bank, Non-Sufficient Check Charge	\$4.00
NSB/HSA - H S A Contributions	\$520.00
NSB/HSA - H S A Payroll Deductions	\$200.00
Oelwein Publishing, Publications	\$344.00
Premier Technology, Services	\$196.90
Quick Med Claims, Ambulance Billing	\$574.50
Roberts, Stevens, Prendergast, Attorney Fees	\$612.50
Roto Rooter Sewer-Drain Service, Services	\$1,890.00
Sandee's, Supplies	\$64.00
Ken Schnor, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Scott Pharmacy, Supplies	\$2.50
Stan's Small Engine Repair, Services	\$80.05
Stuart, C. Irby Co., Supplies	\$95.00
Sun Life Assurance Comp, Life Policies	\$92.75
Team Laboratory Chemical Corp., Shipping	\$14.50
Treasurer-State of Iowa, Jan 2026 Sales Tax	\$3,710.71
Treasurer State Of Iowa, Jan 2026 WT Excuse Tax	\$1,331.89
U. S. Treasury, 941 Taxes	\$8,704.91
U.S. Bank, Jan 2026 PEFA Commodity	\$22,660.13
Utility Equipment Co., Supplies	\$390.30
Van Meter Inc., Supplies	\$117.96
Verizon Wireless, Cell Phone	\$170.33
Virginia Steil Estate, Ambulance Reimbursement	\$667.50
Visa, Microsoft Email/Avaya Phone System/Training/Supplies	\$1,314.42
Wellmark, February Premium	\$3,335.56
Windstream Enterprise, Gas Alarm Phone Line	\$68.52
Woods Construction, Inc., Services	\$2,435.25
Collin Woods, Grave Opening	\$1,050.00
Elaine Zimmerman, Training Reimbursement	\$199.00
The Fairbank Library Board Approved the Following Bills on February 4, 2026:	
Amazon Capital Services, Books & Supplies	\$1,060.33
Brock Berg, Services	\$160.00
City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas	\$222.43
Kanopy, Inc., Movies	\$17.00
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 1/15/26	\$1.48
Visa, AVAYA Phone System/Microsoft Email Accounts	\$52.73
Jason Kayser, Mayor	
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk	

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“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

As we flip our calendars from February to March, there is a wonderful reverberation of optimism that you can almost feel in the air. I know we live in Iowa and there is still plenty of time for cold and snow and whacky weather, but you also can't help but notice a momentum of people slowly clawing out of hibernation and getting more productive with the new rush of vitamin D!

When you think about spring cleaning, you may also feel a little overwhelmed with everything that comes to mind. Yard work, home cleaning, tax time... maybe by now you've even had to “adjust” your New Year's resolutions? Stay optimistic and don't forget the year is young!

This time of year, I am usually very busy with client reviews, sometimes in concert with our clients' tax advisors. It has been a great last few years in the markets, but gains = taxes and this is the only time of year it “hurts” to recognize that success. While gains in your investment account are almost always the goal, we do our best to stay ahead of any tax implications that come with it so our clients aren't surprised when it comes time to file. There are multiple strategies to help offset gains or harvest losses, or even to mitigate short-term versus long-term tax implications, but at the end of the day we want to make decisions that follow our financial plans and are advantageous to long-term goals rather than just thinking about one fiscal year at a time.

Sometimes, when you have an advisor or team that actively manages your accounts, there can be some confusion about realized gains and losses. You may have not taken any money out of the account, but there may have been trades within the account that grew in size.

Example: If I buy a position for \$100 on January 1, it grows to \$150 a few weeks later so I sell it. I have a realized (short-term) gain of \$50. I might take this \$150 and invest it all into a different position, but I still owe tax on the \$50 gain even if I didn't cash out the account. I would still have a 1099 coming for trades placed with overall growth (this is a GOOD thing!!)



Types of tax implications:

Short-Term Gain (STG): A position was held for less than one year, taxed as ordinary income on any gains above the cost basis.

Long-Term Gain (LTG): A position was held for more than one year and sold for a higher amount than the cost basis, taxed as capital gains rates rather than income.

Types of Investment Account Tax Forms:

Brokerage / Individual / Joint accounts: **1099**

IRA / ROTH IRA / 401(k) accounts: **1099-R** (if there were any required minimum distributions (RMDs) or redemptions)

If your tax advisor or financial advisor aren't helping you navigate what is best for your long-term investments (and legacy of passing onto loved ones!), it would definitely be worth your time to search around for a more full-service professional.

Don't forget the distinction:

Suitability (broker dealers / commissions-based sales): Only has to prove suitability at the point of the investment/sale.

Fiduciary (Fee-based advisors, financial planners/advisors...ME!): Constant ongoing relationship, legally bound to act in the best interest of the client at all times.

Advocating for our clients in good times and in tax times is all part of the job and we are proud to be a small part of their legacy of success!

Anytime is a good time to “spring-clean” the dust off your financial aspirations.

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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319-238-1963

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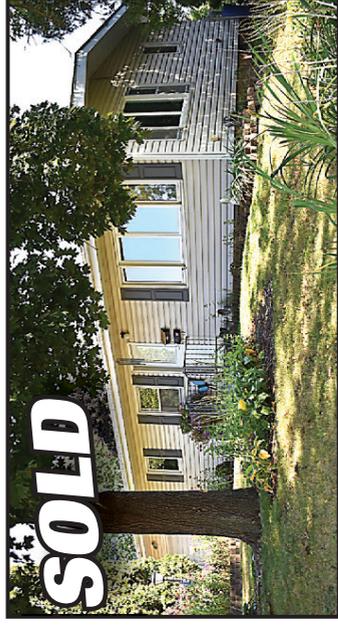
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