

Fairbank ISLANDER

SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

MARCH 5, 2025

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VOLUME 6, NO. 3



Level up your Literacy

Each year the elementary buildings host Literacy Week. It is being celebrated March 3rd - 7th.

Throughout the week, we encourage students to enhance their literacy skills through games and books. One annual event that is hosted is Breakfast with Books. Participating students receive a free activity book/book donated by the Wapsie Valley Education Foundation. The students and guardians enjoy a light breakfast sponsored by the Northeast Security Bank, Casey's, and Kwik Star. Family games and book bundles are also given out in a free raffle. We hope this week sparks creativity and a passion for reading in our students and staff.

This year's theme is "Level Up Your Literacy". How can YOU level up your literacy?



Ever wondered how you can contribute to your town while having fun doing so?

Come check us out on March 25th during our membership drive! One of the big events the Development Corporation puts on is the Fairbank Island Days Celebration in June. We'd love to meet you and show you how you can get involved.

Save the Date: March 25, 2025 at 6:16 p.m. at the Fairbank American Legion.

Wapsie Valley's Decker wins Class 1A 175-pound title

BY GIDAL KAISER

sports@oelweindailyregister.com

DES MOINES — Kanen Decker kept a secret.

Kanen Decker kept a promise.

On Sept. 15, 2018, 12-year-old Carson McGrane — Decker's best friend growing up — lost his life because of a riding lawnmower accident.

"I haven't told anyone this, but when we buried him that day, I promised him I'd win a state title someday," Decker said. "It's not about me ... in a couple of days, I'll be done with my high school (athletic) career, and no one is going to remember it. I'm going to work on being a better person, and there is life after wrestling. There are bigger things in life."

Wapsie Valley's senior stalwart wrestler became the latest Warrior to win a state championship after he beat West Hancock's Creighton Kelly, 7-2, at 175 pounds Saturday night at Wells Fargo Arena.

Decker joins Dennis Wegner (1962, Class B), Rollie Kane (1981, 1982, Class 2A), Cory Davis (1995, Class 1A), Donny Schmit (2016, 2018, 1A) and Kaleb Krall (2017, 1A) as Warrior champions.

"First off, I want to thank all my family and friends," Decker said. "My grandpa Rusty, he's always believed in me and he's one of my biggest fans and I love him so much."

"It's everyone else around me who helps me get here."

Decker had Kaleb near his corner alongside head coach Brian Krall and assistant coach Beau Sorenson on Saturday as the No. 4 seed completed his 4-0 record with two pins and two decisions: An 8-6 quarter-final win against No. 5 seed Gage Muller of Osage and the championship decision against No. 2 seed Kelly.

Decker pinned Iowa Valley's Noaln Kriegel (2 minutes, 45 seconds) in the second round and No. 1 seed Shayden Washburn of Alburnett in 3:06.

"Miles of heart," Brian Krall said. "Kanen's an undersized wrestler for 75, but it doesn't matter. There's not been a doubt in any of the coaches'



GIDAL KAISER | OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER

Wapsie Valley's Kanen Decker won the Class 1A 175-pound state championship 30 years after his father, Justin claimed his second state championship for West Central. Decker, seen at the TV announcers table, announced his son's semifinal and championship victories. Decker went 41-2 his final season and fulfilled a promise he made to childhood friend Carson McGrane.



COURTESY PHOTO

Carson McGrane, Decker's best friend growing up, lost his life in a riding lawn mower accident in 2018 at 12 years old.

minds or his mind that he could go out and take care of business. When he's on his offense, moving his hands, moving his feet, I really don't know anybody that can stop him. He's a very talented young

"I haven't told anyone this, but when we buried him that day, I promised him I'd win a state title someday."
- Kanen Decker

man."

The cherry on the cake?

After roaring to the heavens at the final whistle, getting his hand raised and hugging his coaches, Decker walked toward the announcer near the 1A table, paused for a second and hugged his father, Justin, who provided TV broadcast color commentary for the 1A semifinal and championship matches.

Justin Decker won the only two school titles in West Central wrestling history at 152 pounds in 1992 and 1994.

"He just gave me a hug. He's got a job to do," Kanen said of the brief

See DECKER, A5

A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR



MAYOR JASON KAYSER

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the sorting station in Dubuque that receives all the city's recyclables. Dittmer Recycling has large facilities in Dubuque and Maquoketa and utilize impressive ingenuity to sort, contain, and sell your recyclable material. In the past, the city has received concerns of speculation and allegation that recyclable materials get picked up with waste and simply sent to the landfill. In speaking with co-owner Scott Dittmer, recycled materials are market-driven. For example, if the market price of recycled glass is so low at a certain point that it is not profitable to process it, Dittmer's store it until it becomes feasible to process and sell it. Scott Dittmer stated "every piece of material brought here is recycled". This is a very impressive facility.

The City of Fairbank welcomes back Police Officer Brandon French to the Fairbank Police Department's Police Force! Officer French previously worked for us as a part-time officer, but relinquished his part-time position when he was hired full-time

with the Evansdale Police Department. Now that he has settled into his full-time routine with the Evansdale Police Department, Officer French has agreed to come back and serve the City of Fairbank on a part-time basis once again.

Recently, Officer French was selected as Evansdale's "2024 Officer of the Year" which illustrates the high degree of dedication and professionalism that he provides to his work as a police officer! The Evansdale Police Department's Facebook page states in-part "Officer French's dedication and commitment to this department and this community has already made a big impact. Without a doubt this community and its roadways are safer in this community and beyond."

The City of Fairbank would like to welcome back Officer French! We are excited to have him, serving our community, once again. Officer French and his family reside here in Fairbank. Officer French is excited, to once again, provide high quality community-oriented policing services for the community that he calls home.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday in Heaven

Jerry R Van Daele

March 8

Our lives are forever changed ;
we will always miss him.

Thank you to our great family, friends, and community for all your love and support. We appreciate the help to finish our Harvest 2024.

May God continue to bless us all.

Lynn, Doug, Aaron and Eric Van Daele.



Happy Birthday Elsie Weepie. Celebrating her 9th birthday on March 4, 2025.



Happy Birthday to this lucky Grandpa, Mike Weepie. Celebrating on March 21, 2025.

Please send us your celebrations. Celebrations are free to submit. fairbankislander@gmail.com

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Deadline for the April publication is March 25. Please contact Melaine at 319-404-7116 or email fairbankislander@gmail.com

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MAKING A *Difference*



Do you know someone that is making a difference in our neighborhood?
Please submit a photo with a short story describing what they have accomplished.

Turning waste into warmth for someone in need

This group of energetic ladies are making a difference with their community service project “Mats for the Homeless”.

They have been creating durable sleeping mats for those in need entirely from plastic grocery bags.

They started their group in 2020 and have crocheted 50 to 60 mats so far. Each mat requires at least 800 bags that have been cut into strips linked together, rolled into a ball and crocheted to make a 3'x

6' mat. They are then sent to “Mats for the Homeless” in Hartford, Wisconsin to be distributed.

This group meets every other Wednesday at 9 AM at the IC Hall. Everyone is welcome to come check this out and maybe even join their group. Members include : Susan Shannon, Mary Ann Kleitsch, Jean Sauerbrei, Gail Goedken, Mary Kay Frost, Paula Farrington, Diane Shields, Lynn VanDaele, Betty Kleitsch, & Irene Peyton.



DRUG DROP BOX

The City of Fairbank along with the Fairbank Police Department are happy to announce a partnership with the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office. A drug and medication drop box is located on the front side of City Hall next to the building entry doors. The drop box is available for public access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Citizens can use this drop box for safe and proper disposal of unused, unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs and medications, including veterinarian drugs and medications.

All types of unwanted drugs and medications, including illegal drugs, may be placed in the drop box. Please do not put needles, sharps, glass, liquids, inhalers, gauze and other non-drug related items in the drop box. Drugs and medications do not need to be in their original packaging. If original packing is used, name labels do not need to be removed from prescriptions unless desired as all items are incinerated.

Citizens do not have to be Buchanan County residents to use this drop box and may do so anonymously. The purpose of this drop box is to allow citizens to dispose of unused, unwanted or expired drugs and medications safely and properly, keeping them from contaminating landfills and water supplies. It also helps combat the growing problem of prescription drug and medication abuse among teens and young adults, which can oftentimes lead to unintentional overdose deaths.

This drop box was made possible by Opioid grant funding received by the Buchanan County Substance Use Prevention Coalition, in partnership with the Buchanan County Sheriff's Office and Buchanan County Public Health.



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Northeast Iowa Dance Academy hosts successful Preview Night for Competition Team

The Northeast Iowa Dance Academy (NIDA) kicked off its competition season with an electrifying Preview Night on Friday, February 14th. Held at The Williams Center for the Arts, this special event showcased an impressive 38 routines, giving dancers the opportunity to perform in front of an audience before heading into competition season.

The night was filled with energy, excitement, and incredible talent as dancers took the stage in a variety of styles, including Jazz, Hip Hop, Contemporary, and Acro. Family, friends, and community members packed the venue to cheer on the performers, creating an encouraging atmosphere for the team.

“This event is a great way for our dancers to gain confidence and refine their performances before competition season begins,” said Anna Kerns, NIDA Owner and Competition Team Director. “It also allows our families and supporters to see firsthand the dedication and hard work these dancers put in.”

With Preview Night behind them, the NIDA competition team is now focused on their upcoming season, where they will showcase their talent at three to four competitions across the region. The team, known for their strong technique and passion for dance, is excited to represent NIDA and the Oelwein community on a larger stage.

The Northeast Iowa Dance Academy continues to grow and thrive, providing high-quality dance education to over 200 students from 20 surrounding communities. The competition team, launched in 2017, has earned numerous awards and continues to elevate the studio’s reputation in the dance world.

For more information on NIDA’s competition team, upcoming performances, or how to get involved with the studio, visit www.nidacademy.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

(Damaged, Teen Jazz) Left to Right: Front Row: Brynley Tripp, Kennedy Benesh. Middle Row: Kendall Rasmussen, Mallory Gissel. Back Row: Lydia Youngblut, Lea Knepper, Rachel Grover, Hazel Fauser.



COURTESY PHOTO

(Photograph, Contemporary Trio) Left to Right: Elzsie Fauser, Ella Weig and Ellie Meike.



COURTESY PHOTO

(Ain’t Your Mama, Junior Jazz) Left to Right: Front Row: Zola Fauser, Scarlett Benesh, Bella Jacobsen. Middle Row: Toulah Ehlers, Lyla Kruger, Raegan Terhune, Maelyn Hickey. Back Row: Allyson Castro, Natalie Kalb, Lyla Youngblut, Madi Moser, Lauren Matthias and Hannah Mahloch.



COURTESY PHOTO

(Flight Risk, Teen Contemporary) Left to Right: Natalie Kalb, Mallory Gissel, Hazel Fauser, Brynley Tripp, Rachel Grover, Kennedy Benesh.



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Wapsie Valley's Decker wins Class 1A 175-pound title

CONTINUED FROM A1

interaction. "My dad, a lot of people know him. He's done so much for me and taught me so much in this sport of wrestling."

Decker (41-2) scored a three-point takedown 22 seconds into the first. After Kelly quickly escaped nine seconds later, Decker snagged another takedown near the 1-minute mark. The Warrior then worked to keep the Eagle on the mat, which he did.

Kelly closed within 6-2 with an escape 12 seconds into the second, but the pair wrestled to a stalemate the rest of the frame.

Decker chose down to begin the third. Despite being worked on and called for stalling with 33 seconds left, he escaped soon after to clinch the title.

"Not be affected about — (Kelly) is a big kid, got big hips. Not worried about (Kelly's) leg brace. Wrestle him straight up like any other opponent — try and get to our attacks," coach Krall said of the in-match approach. "Move hands. Move feet. Get (Kelly) to put weight on his lead foot, then we're able to get to attacks. That's how he was able to score points. Had to get big and get through them hips, but he was able to get it done."

Decker won Wapsie's eighth title a year after his first state placement (fifth) and two years after former teammate and practice partner Dawson Schmit reached a 1A state title match and placed runner-up.

"He texted me here and there, but he's got college wrestling to worry about," Kanen said of the Upper Iowa 133-pounder. "I love the kid to death and he's helped me a lot."

"I've kept it short and simple

with advice for him," Dawson texted the Daily Register the night before the finals. "Don't make it bigger than what it is. You are going to have nerves. That's good."

"Don't change your style just because it's the finals. Wrestle the way you wrestle. Keep doing what you're doing. Have fun. Trust yourself"

Decker closed his career as a four-time state qualifier with an 11-6 record at the tournament. He avenged a 2023 consolation semifinal loss to Washburn that dropped him to the fifth-place match.

He ends his prep tenure with a 159-38 record, with two 40-plus win seasons and a decreasing loss mark every year.

"Everyone tells me I've got to believe in myself, and I believed in myself," Decker said. "Matches aren't going to be perfect, but if you give it all you've got, you give it 100 percent heart all the time, good things are going to happen. Look at that, I reached my goal."

Wapsie Valley's main competition match has a list of state champions etched in one corner. Soon, the name 'Decker' will join the rest of the list.

"It means a lot because my friends and all those guys left, and I stayed," Wapsie's newest state champion said. "I'm proud to be a Warrior, and now my name will be on that mat."

Classmate and 138-pounder Dallas Tissue (28-7) ended his career a match away from the blood round, and with a 2-2 mark, winning once Wednesday, Feb. 19, and once Thursday, Feb. 20. Landan Frost (132, 28-23) and Sawyer Krall (120, 33-11) both went 2-2, winning a match apiece on



COURTESY PHOTO

Wapsie assistant coach Beau Sorenson hugs Decker after Decker became the Warriors' eighth state champion in school history.

each day. Cooper Frost (106, 20-23) went 0-2.

"Four of them, we didn't end up where we wanted, but we made some gains. Won some matches down here, and (it was) a lot to learn," Coach Krall said. "Sawyer and Landan got down here for the first time, won some matches. Tissue, getting him back down here, getting him a couple match wins was great. Bittersweet."

"A lot of tears and a lot of cheers. As a head coach, I'm just proud of all the effort these guys put in all year long."

COURTESY PHOTO

Decker holds onto West Hancock's Creighton Kelly. Decker beat Kelly, 7-2, to win the title.



AAU State qualifiers 2025



5 area boys qualified for State which was held March 1 and 2 at the Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines. From Left to Right: Jackson Brunscheon of Readlyn, Son of Keith & Tanya Brunscheon. Evan Kleitsch of Readlyn, Son of John & Spencer Kleitsch. Jace Klendworth of Fairbank, Son of Mac & Rachael Klendworth. Ray Murphy of Fairbank, Son of TJ & Beth Murphy and Calvin Jones of Fairbank, Son of Cody & Ashlea Jones.



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Celebration of Life

Dorothy Frances Wenger

September 4, 1939 - January 30, 2025

Dorothy Frances Wenger passed away Thursday, January 30, 2025, at her daughter's home surrounded by her loving family, at the age of 85. She was born on September 4, 1939, west of Oelwein on her family farm. She was the second of four children born to Cletus and Margaret (Suhr) Fettkether and raised on the family farm in rural Maynard. While attending Maynard High School in 1956, Dorothy played six on six girl's basketball, with Maynard beating Garrison 62-51 to claim the title of State Champs before a crowd of 13,517 people. Dorothy's love for girls' basketball never ended! She would often challenge the grandkids to a game of basketball, she always had girls' basketball on the radio, and as she laid in the hospital room she was watching basketball on TV.

Dorothy married Johnny Wenger June 4, 1956 at Sacred Heart Church in Oelwein, Iowa. Together, they had three children. Dorothy was predeceased by her beloved husband Johnny on September 13, 1993, at the age of 57. Dorothy was always known as a hard worker and continued to farm after her husband passed away. She could be found on her farm doing chores, feeding cattle, fixing fence or baling hay, right up until her illness. In addition to farming, Dorothy also worked at Pronto Market in Fairbank for many years, Dr. John A. Johnson, DDS in Oelwein for 20



years, and was still currently working for Life of Iowa in Oelwein until she was hospitalized in December. Dorothy loved to cook and everyone looked forward to her homemade bread at family gatherings. Before, her passing, she was putting together a cookbook of all her favorite homemade recipes to give as a gift to all her children and grandchildren. She was also known for her beautiful handmade quilts which she gave as wedding gifts. She also made sure each grandchild and great-grandchild received a special cedar chest for their graduation as a personalized gift from their grandma.

Her passing was sudden and unexpected, but she took her last breathe surrounded by her loving children and grandchildren in peace. Dorothy is survived by her partner of 24 years, Richard "Dick" Lehman, her son, John (Joan) Wenger of Fairbank, her two daughters, Dorothy (Scott) Wehling of

Oelwein and Doreen (Michael) Bixeman of Fairbank. her grandchildren, Jill (Jeremy) Michael, Dr. Jean (Ben) Hermesen, Janette (Matthew) Brincks, Jessica (Travis) Michaels, Julia (Andy) Sperfslage, Jonathan (Jennifer) Wenger, Jacob Wenger, Dortha (Travis) Bovy, Scott (Sara) Wehling, Chris (Kelsie) Wehling, Alisha Lucas (Terry Shephard), Austin Lucas and Mikayla Bixeman. two sisters; Eileen Lee of Hawkeye and Anna Kay Woodson of Fairbank, and a sister-in-law Shirley Fettkether of Maynard. She is also survived by Dicks children, Randy (Jen) Lehman of Brandon, Rick (Karen) Lehman of Gilbert, AZ, and Doug (Denise) Lehman of Rowley as well as his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dorothy is also survived by a couple neighbor girls, whom she held a special bond and thought of them as her "other daughters", Donna Ott-Brown and Amy Ott-Scott.

She was preceded in death by her husband Johnny Wenger, her parents Cletus & Margaret Fettkether, her brother Cletus Fettkether, her father and mother-in-law Virgil & Edna Wenger, three brothers-in-law; Donnie Lee, Bob Woodson, Duane Wenger and a sister-in-law, Marion Wenger.

Mass of Christian Burial: was on Tuesday, 10:30 am February 4th at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Fairbank.

Celebration of Life

Theodore "TJ" James Welter

August 19, 1994 - December 31, 2024

Theodore "T.J." James Welter, 30 of Fairbank, passed away at home very unexepectedly on December 31, 2024. A Celebration of Life will be from 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, March 29, 2025 at the Fairbank American Legion. As per the family's request, everyone is encouraged to wear Steeler's apparel or the colors black and gold. Honorary pallbearers will be Kaysen Grigg, Kenneth "Kenny" Little, Dan "Dano" Sharp, Brandon Cornwell, Russell Benhart, Jake Garlow, Derek Macke and Layne Fischels. Brosh Chapel and The Avacentre in Cedar Rapids are in charge of arrangements.



Theodore "T.J." was born August 19, 1994, at 8:19 a.m. at Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo, the son of Terry and Shelley (Johnson) Welter. He graduated from Wapsie Valley High School in 2013. He was employed at Advanced Drainage Systems until they shut down the production line. He was injured on July 26, 2017, in a work-related accident that caused a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). He was dealt a tough life, but he tried to work at Prinsco but due to seizures he was unemployable.

He is survived by his mom Shelley Johnson-Welter; his brother Tyler Alan Welter; sister Chrystal (Jon) Harkrider; niece Hailie (Kaiden) Niederhauser; nephews Aaron Harkrider and Jon Harkrider; as well as his aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Terry Alan Welter in 2002, maternal grandparents Diane and Lorraine "John" Johnson, paternal grandparents Alvin and Marian Welter, and his uncle Dave Ryan.

Theodore "T.J." was a fun-loving guy who was devoted to his family. He loved his niece and nephews with his whole heart. He loved everything life had to offer. His friends were very important to him. He was a friend to whomever regardless of circumstances.

Memorials may be directed to the family. A Go Fund Me account has been setup by the family at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/funeral-fund-for-theodores-loving-spirit?qid=6b2a8ea2cd0c2f4935612abf9c3cfd48>

Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.broshchapel.com

Kingsmen's song, 'Louie, Louie'



COLUMN BY
JD FRANCIS

Somewhere down the list of most wanted fugitives in 1963, was an American band of 5 teenagers called the Kingsmen. They had just released their version of the world's most infamous party song called Louie, Louie. If you've ever been on a dance floor in

the last 50 years, you've likely laid down footprints to this lovelorn classic. Every song has a back story and Louie, Louie is one for the books.

Louie, Louie was a written by American musician, Richard Berry in 1955 and released in 1957. The song tells a story about a love-sick sailor who laments to a bartender (Berry's actual bartender named Louie) about wanting to get back home to his girlfriend. The song didn't really catch on with Berry and the Pharoh's and several other subsequent bands of the 50's and early 60's. It wasn't until a Portland, Oregon band, named the Kingsmen decided to record the song in April of 1963, when everything came unraveled and the Fed's got involved.

On April 6th., The Kingsmen booked a 1-hour session in a local studio costing each of the 3 band members \$15.00, to record two tracks, the A-side called Haunted Castle, and the B-side called Louie, Louie. The night before, the band had just performed a 90-minute marathon and were to report to the studio the following day at 10:00 o'clock in the morning. Needless to say, the session didn't go well.

The Kingsmen's lead singer, Jack Ely, had a raspy, hoarse voice from the night before and the band hadn't practiced either song at all. The studio only had a boom microphone that was suspended from the ceiling, so Ely had to stand on his very tiptoes to sing. To add insult to injury, the braces Ely was

wearing on his teeth, resulted in slurred, unintelligible, lyrics. The band only had the time for 1 "take" for each side of the record and the end result was unsanitized and unmanaged. The band absolutely hated the copy.

In October of that year, Wand Records released the song, only because the president of the label, Florence Greenberg, felt that his friends forced him to. He said he was ashamed of the Kingsmen song. As the song generated its public "airtime," teenagers couldn't understand the lyrics, therefore, they simply created their own. That became an issue because the substituted lyrics the teens sang, were considered "dirty." Immediately, the Kingsmen found themselves on the front

page of every newspaper in the land, stating that the band was corrupting the moral fiber of Americas youth.

The song was banned for play in several states because it was believed that if you play the 45-rpm record on the 33 and one-third speed, the lyrics are vulgar.

Secondly, it was believed that Ely was intentionally slurring his words to hide the profanity.

The end result to this 2-year investigation was the Kingsmen testifying before the FCC. The judge heard the song in both speeds and determined the song to be unintelligible junk. He immediately lifted the ban.

Louie, Louie, was a song so bad that it was good. To date it has sold 12 million

copies for the Kingsmen, with another 300 million copies from hundreds of cover versions.

Actual lyrics by Richard Berry: Louie, Louie, me gotta go. A fine little girl she wait for me, me catch a ship across the sea. me sail the ship all alone, I never think I'll make it home. Three nights and days we sailed the sea, me think of that girl constantly. On the ship I dream she there, I smell the rose in her hair. Me see Jamaica moon above, it won't be long I see me love. Me take her in arms and then, me tell her I never leave again.

That's the rest of the story of the song Louie, Louie, and me gotta go now!

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Worship Service: 9:15 AM



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



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



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



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

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* Source: Top 100 Farm Lenders Ranked by Dollar Volume, FDIC, Data as of 4Q 2021.

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4-H ATOM BOMBERS



FROM THE DESK OF
CAMBREE HAPPEL

Atom Bombers 4h club held our monthly meeting on Sunday February 9th at the I.C. Hall. Our meeting was called to order by president, Cece Sweeney. The roll call question was, "Who do you want to win the super bowl?" There were 14 members present and 3 guests. The secretary's report was given by Charlie Sweeney and the treasurer's report was given by Kennly Happel. Morgan Jipson gave a presentation on silkie chickens. Cora Wright gave a presentation on how to make oreo fluff. Heather Thompson from HT Photography came and talked about taking photography projects to the county fair. We also got to practice taking professional pictures with one of her cameras. We worked on creating goals for this year's county fair. We believe having good goals is important to our success.



ABOVE LEFT: Cora Wright gives a presentation. ABOVE RIGHT: Morgan Jipson gives a presentation. LEFT: Heather Thompson from HT Photography shows 4-H Atom Bombers pointers on the camera.

Shark Exhibit coming to Fairbank Elementary

Fairbank PTO is sponsoring an assembly on March 11. The Shark Exhibit from the Mississippi River Museum will be coming to Fairbank Elementary. In order for our students to fully engage in this experience, 2 assemblies will be held, one for the lower grades and one for the upper grades.



Spring book fair March 17-20

The Fairbank PTO is sponsoring a Scholastic Spring Book Fair during Spring Conference Week at the Fairbank Elementary Library. It will be open to the public:

Monday, March 17: 3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18: 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 19: 3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Thursday, March 20: 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The school benefits by receiving up to 40% of all sales. We use this money to purchase books for our school library. These make great additions to Easter baskets! Thank you for supporting our students!



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- ♦ Sandwiches ♦ Soup ♦ Entrees ♦ Desserts



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Bite Size Delights



Cake in a Mug

BY SOPHIA HESSE

Ingredients

- ¼ cup + 1 ½ teaspoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- dash salt
- 2 tablespoon butter, melted
- 3 tablespoon milk
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Add flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt to a mug and stir together.

2. Stir in milk, melted butter, and vanilla extract until smooth, being sure to scrape the bottom of the mug. Stir in sprinkles.

3. Cook in microwave for 70-90 seconds* (until cake is just set, but still barely shiny on top). Allow to rest in microwave for 1 minute before consuming.

Notes

*Because all microwaves are different, it's difficult to give a precise cook time. Start with 70 seconds, wait 1 minute while it cools, then look to see if it is set. Add an additional 15-25 seconds if needed. Allow it to rest in the microwave for 1 minute.

The trick with mug cakes is to stop cooking the cake earlier than you think, because you want it to be soft on the inside, and the cake will also continue to cook as it cools.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE BRADEN BANTZ



Braden Bantz, a junior at Wapsie Valley High School has made the honorable decision to serve his country by enlisting in the Army National Guard. The son of Nicole and Corey, Braden is set to begin basic training this summer, preparing for his future role in the guard.

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“Financial Fitness”

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

Let’s talk about the hot word of the industry: Fiduciary

.....“a person or entity that is legally obligated to act in the best interests of another person or entity.”

The Golden Rule. Easy enough, right?

Iowa is notorious for being the Annuity and Insurance capital of the world and there are a lot of professionals who enter those fields with the intention of helping people and making a good living for themselves. On the surface, that is all fair and well-intended...

I started there too!

Unfortunately, sometimes, the “make a good living for themselves” starts to out-pace the “help people” part, and it can get messy quick.

When I worked in captive sales roles for previous contractors, we would often train on conversational prospecting and being ready to “commercial yourself” should the opportunity arise. If someone asks “what do you do for work?” you would want to quickly describe yourself as a financial professional (because Salesperson sounded too icky).

We could not say we were a “Financial Advisor” “Investment Representative” or “Fiduciary” as we did not have the licensing and the true ability to deliver on what those titles encompass. I always wondered how the differences mattered and thought as long as we were honest and treated people with dignity and respect, it was all kind of the same thing.

Fast forward.

Almost four years ago, the opportunity to be a true Fiduciary and Financial Advisor with Prime Capital Financial fell into my lap and I started to realize that I didn’t even know what I didn’t know. I had to start drinking from a firehose and earn more licensing to really wrap my head around what it meant to be held to a true independent fiduciary standard.

Now, after over three years of serving clients in this role, I can fully appreciate that I have to have the entire spectrum of investment line-ups to truly be able to serve my clients according to *their* needs and ambitions. Whatever they need, we can go get it...and if those needs change, we can pivot and adapt.

In my opinion, our investment management team is the best I have seen (you can hear directly from them on our Prime Capital Financial YouTube page!), our leadership is constantly seeking and vetting improvements to our client centric approach, and my team of Fiduciary Financial Advisors (Joe Harrish, Taylor Yaw, and I) keep a very high standard of service. We serve our clients the right way for the right reasons, by keeping their financial goals in focus, and doing what is in their best interest.

The ability to work with a Fee-Based Independent Fiduciary means we meet you where you are, we talk about where you want to be, and we fill the gaps with the necessary tools to get there.

That’s it. No pressure. No pushiness. No “act now!”, etc.

Just a team working together to identify your ambitions and help you find the most efficient path to get there. All that is left is to take an honest look at whether or not *your* investments are aligned with *your* ambitions. If not, take the time to gather your thoughts and let a fiduciary give you an independent second opinion.

When our people are more financially confident, our communities, country, and world are too.

Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

Financial Advisor
Prime Capital Financial
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
pciacedarrapids.com
(319) 269-7143



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Fairbank Public Library



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Therese Steggall, Librarian
Erin Hill, Librarian
Brock Berg, Custodian

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1-5 pm
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In Loving Memory

Dorothy Wenger

Shattering Dawn

..... from Kenny, Matt, Ann & Jesse

One in a Million

..... from Kenny, Matt, Ann & Jesse

A Truth Revealed

..... from Kenny, Matt, Ann & Jesse

B is for Bonnet

..... from Rick & Cindy Woods

Lie for a Million

..... from Randy, Jodi & Carson Woods

Lawbreaker

..... from Kenny, Matt, Ann & Jesse

Tooth and Claw

..... from Ken & Lamar Little

See How They Hide

..... from Teresa Ryherd, Lisa Wanek
& Tina Dodge

Miss Edmonia's Class of Wildfires

..... from Rich & Ruth Wenger

The Color Monster

..... from Rich & Ruth Wenger

How to Catch a Groundhog

..... from Kenny, Matt, Ann & Jesse

Heartfelt

..... from Kenny, Matt, Ann & Jesse

Better Than Friends

..... from Dave & Pat Chase

Survival in Space

..... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia, Weston &
Ophelia Costello

Larry Probert

One Last Stand

..... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia, Weston
& Ophelia Costello

Charles Moulds

Identity Unknown

..... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia, Weston
& Ophelia Costello

Barb Gruetzmacher

The Love Shack

..... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia, Weston
& Ophelia Costello

Garry Meier

Variation

..... from Adam, Julie, Sylvia, Weston
& Ophelia Costello



February Library Fun!

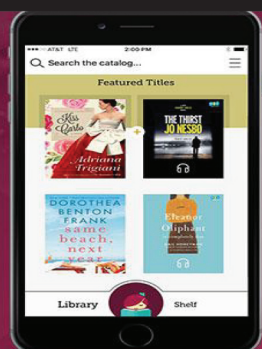


Meet
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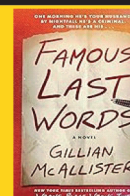
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**NEW
BOOKS**
ADDED IN FEBRUARY



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 27, 2025. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, Erickson, and T. Woods. Gruetzmacher attended via Microsoft Teams. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Lonnie Brewer, Public Works; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council reviewed proposed budget numbers for FY2026 and information regarding valuations and property taxes.

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

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

There were no public hearings.

Williams/R. Woods to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: January 13, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting, Setting the next budget workshop for 5:30 pm on February 10th, Approving the liquor license for the Fairbank Food Center, and Approving updates to the Personnel Manual section 2.7 Health Insurance Benefits. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Chris West presented more financial information to the council regarding purchasing a new ambulance. He projected that they would need around \$328,800.00. He calculated spending roughly \$160,000.00 from their savings account with the city and that would still leave them with some cushion in their savings. He also estimated a trade in value of around \$50,000.00 and that the Fireman's Fund was looking to spend around

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 10, 2025. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, T. Woods, and Gruetzmacher. Present via Microsoft Teams: Erickson. Absent: None. Also, present at City Hall: Nick Kuker, Public Works; Dakota Drish, Police Chief; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

During the budget workshop, the council reviewed proposed budget numbers of FY2026 and information regarding the proposed property tax levy notice page.

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.

T. Woods/Gruetzmacher to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: January 27th Regular Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Reports for January 2025, Setting the 3rd budget workshop for February 24th 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 2025: Revenues - General, \$21,361.74; Special Revenue, \$32,216.57; TIF, \$1,845.00; Capital Projects, \$34.63; Permanent Funds, \$20.44; Proprietary, \$184,502.34; and Transfers In, \$27,055.00. Disbursements - General, \$35,826.30; Special Revenue, \$8,913.85; Proprietary, \$180,746.79; and Transfers Out, \$27,055.00. Balance on hand at close of business on January 31, 2025 was \$5,571,224.98.

There were no comments during the informal comment section.

The current water rates were discussed. After reviewing revenue numbers and the costs incurred and projected to keep maintaining the city's water infrastructure system, it was decided to keep the rates the same but to add a \$5.00 a month infrastructure charge to the utility bills. Williams/R. Woods to approve the first reading of Ordinance 368 – Chapter 92 Water – Section 92.02 Water Rates adding a \$5.00 infrastructure fee per month. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Gruetzmacher/T. Woods to approve the second reading of Ordinance 369 – Chapter 99 Sewer and Sewer Rates. Ordinance 369 reads a price increase from \$0.00322 to \$0.004 per gallon ran through the sewer plant. That rate would increase annually every July 1st by 1%. The \$15.00 monthly fee and \$40.00 infrastructure fee would remain the same. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

A few meetings ago, a resident addressed the council asking if the hours of operation could be changed in the City's UTV Ordinance. He stated that the hours did not match the county's rules and was asking if the council would consider amending the ordinance and removing the hours of operation section. Some research was done and Police Chief Drish stated that he would have no problem with it and that it would comply more accurately with state law. Everything else in the ordinance would still apply and the police department could still enforce those items. Gruetzmacher/R. Woods to approve the first reading of Ordinance 370 – Chapter 75 All-Terrain Vehicles and Snowmobiles – Repealing Section 75.10 Hours of Operation. Ayes: Four. Abstain: T. Woods. Nays: None.

Gruetzmacher/R. Woods to waive the second and third readings of Ordinance 370 – Chapter 75 All-Terrain Vehicles and Snowmobiles – Repealing Section 75.10 Hours of Operation. Ayes: Four. Abstain: T. Woods. Nays: None.

Gruetzmacher/Williams to approve Ordinance 370 – Repealing Section 75.10 Hours of Operation in Chapter 75 All-Terrain Vehicles and Snowmobiles. Ayes: Four. Abstain: T. Woods. Nays: None.

Nick stated that they could remove the shelter at Veteran's Park and in order to help decide what kind of shelter will be put in its place another quote was received from Woods Construction for a shelter with two bathrooms. That quote came in at just under \$59,000.00. A shelter with no bathrooms was quoted at \$28,750.00. The council thought to see what one family bathroom would do to the quote. More information will be at the next meeting and grants will be pursued.

The Council received another quote this year from Frontline Warning Systems for a service contract for servicing the warning sirens. The \$800.00 contract included inspecting the warning sirens twice a year. Williams/T. Woods to approve the one-year contract with Frontline Warning Systems. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Chief Drish asked the council to consider hiring another part-time officer, Brandon French. He currently works for the Evansdale Police Department

\$60,000.00 towards the purchase. With all of that, it would leave just under \$60,000.00 that would still be needed for the purchase. He thought maybe an internal loan with the city or there are still two years that more money could be raised or if the essential service levy passed that could possibly provide some money from that. Chris stated that they are in a better financial situation this time compared to the last time an ambulance was purchased as they had to borrow just under \$140,000.00 at that time as an internal loan through the city. Williams/T. Woods to approve ordering the new ambulance especially knowing that over the next two years they would be fundraising heavily. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

R. Woods stated that he and T. Woods and Nick were able to sit down with six applicants and interview them for the open position in the public works department. He said that they were all very good candidates. T. Woods also stated the same. R. Woods said that they recommended to the council hiring Ken Schnor. Ken was present and stated that he was able to take some time out that past week to tour some city facilities with Nick and that he was still interested in the position. Gruetzmacher/T. Woods to approve Resolution 2025-04 – Hiring Public Works Employee. Ken Schnor was hired at \$26.00 per hour with additional raises when certifications are completed. He stated that he could start on February 10th. Ayes: Four. Abstain: Williams. Nays: None.

The current rates set for Electric and Sewer services were discussed. The utility committee planned to meet with Matthew Mahoney from Butler County Rec to discuss with him about their rate increase and the city

but previously worked for Fairbank a few years ago. Drish stated that they would not go over on their hours that were already approved and budgeted, and that this employee would be a tremendous help to the department. Gruetzmacher/R. Woods to approve Resolution 2025-05 – Resolution Hiring Part-Time Police Officer. Brandon French was hired at \$29.50 per hour. Brandon was present and he was sworn in by Mayor Kayser. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Since our electricity rates were raised by Butler County REC, it was suggested to have an electric cost-of-service study done to make sure that the rates charged by the city reflect what the city is paying for electricity. The last one was completed in 2008 with the results delivered in February 2009. Gruetzmacher/Williams to pursue getting quotes since it has been fifteen years since the last study was completed and then go from there on any decisions. Motion carried.

T. Woods/Williams to approve Resolution 2025-06 – Resolution Establishing New Energy Cost Adjustment. The Energy Cost Adjustment was increased from \$0.02704 to \$0.03107 per KWH. This would help cover the increase in costs that the city received from Butler County REC. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

The City of Fairbank is currently classified as having a natural gas transmission line even though it is a distribution line due to the way the Iowa Code read when the system was installed. With that, recent changes to the verbiage and meaning of a natural gas transmission line in the Iowa Code have made it possible to request a change in the City's classification of a transmission line to the correct classification of a distribution line. This change would allow for easier reporting and help alleviate the requirements needed as a transmission line system. In order to try and get that changed a letter must be submitted to the Iowa Utilities Commission. Williams/T. Woods to approve sending in a petition to the Iowa Utilities Commission for a reclassification of the City's Natural Gas Transmission Line to a Natural Gas Distribution Line. Motion carried.

The City's current accounting software (gWorks Desktop) is changing into a cloud-based system by December 31, 2025. There have been many issues reported from other cities with the launching of their new cloud-based system and since it is not up and running properly there is great concern about switching to the new system. gWorks will no longer be supporting the desktop version and there is only a short window of time to figure out what the city is going to do. In order to weigh out all of the possible options, Michelle and Brittany have had one demo performed with a quote from Edmonds Govtech and they received another quote from Tyler Technologies. They are waiting to hear from Civic Systems. Switching to a new company will come with a big cost upfront but their systems are properly running systems. This decision will need to be made sooner than later. The council requested to try to set up an in-person demo with Edmonds Govtech as the office staff really liked what they saw in their demo. There is another company called Town Cloud hosting an online demonstration in Dunkerton on the 13th and the council agreed that the office staff should attend. This will be discussed at the next meeting as a decision will need to be made soon. During the council/mayor comments, Councilman Gruetzmacher informed the council that the scoreboards for the ball diamonds were ordered and that the project will be completed very soon. He thanked everyone involved for helping to make it possible. Mayor Kayser stated that he believed the police department needed a different area to conduct business instead of being at City Hall. If anyone has any ideas, let him know.

During the department reports, Police Chief Drish thanked the council for their support in hiring Brandon French and went over what the department had been up to in the last few weeks. Nick stated that they were able to trim some trees on the Northeast side of town, they are still working on learning the sewer plant as numbers are back where they should be, they are attending a water conference, and Lonnie was able to achieve his Water Distribution Certification. Also reported that Ken Schnor started that day. Williams/T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm. Motion carried.

Bills for the Month of February 2025	
Advantage Administrators, POP Services	\$300.00
Amazon Capital Services, Supplies	\$102.22
Arnold Motor Supply, Supplies	\$80.49
Bound Tree Medical, LLC., Ambulance Supplies	\$731.48
Lonnie Brewer, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Stan & Susan Broten, Utility Deposit Refund	\$200.00
Buchanan Co Recorder, Recording Fee	\$12.00
Butler County REC, Electric	\$ 67,889.68
Carrico Aquatic Products, Equipment	\$5,109.61
Casey's General Store, Gas	\$560.37
Clayton Energy Corporation, Natural Gas	\$ 18,928.13

utility billing differences. The council agreed that the Sewer rates needed to be increased slightly due to the operating costs of the plant. Williams/Erickson to table the first reading of Ordinance 368 – Chapter 111 Electric Utility and Electric Rates until more information could be researched. Motion carried.

Gruetzmacher/Erickson to approve the first reading of Ordinance 369 – Chapter 99 Sewer and Sewer Rates. Ordinance 368 reads a price increase from \$0.00322 to \$0.004 per gallon ran through the sewer plant. That rate would increase annually every July 1st by 1%. The \$15.00 monthly fee and \$40.00 infrastructure fee would remain the same. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

Gruetzmacher left the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Documents for the Fourth Street Project needed to be approved. T. Woods/Williams to approve the Title VI and IA DOT documents needed for the project. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

Nick Kuker received a letter from Outer Road Development, LLC requesting natural gas services from Fairbank Utilities. They are planning to build four duplexes along Outer Road in Oelwein. They would each consist of two condo units. Williams/T. Woods to explore this opportunity. Motion carried.

Two quotes were received for a brush that attaches to the skid loader to help with snow removal and street cleaning. One quote was from BDS Equipment for \$4,999.00 for an 84" Jenkins Hydraulic Angle Broom and one quote from Echo Eqpt for \$5,500.00 for an 84" Power Angle Skid Steer Sweeper Broom. The one from BDS Equipment is able to connect right into the factory wiring while the other one would need to have a new

electrical wire ran. Williams/R. Woods to approve the brush purchase from BDS Equipment since it is cheaper and would work better for the city's skid loader. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.

During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Mayor Kayser stated that he wanted to start reviewing the UTV ordinance at the next meeting and he also stated that a new backdoor was ordered for City Hall. During the department reports, Lonnie stated that during this last cold snap the sewer plant behaved as expected and that it tends to behave a little differently during those times. They are handling it so far and the tests are still coming back well. He is working on a gas meter corrosion and inspection report. He has almost completed the west side of town and is looking for ventilation abuse or paint corrosion. So far, he had found that there was a dog leash attached to a gas meter which is very dangerous, so it was a good thing to be doing an inspection like this. Lonnie also stated that he qualified as a CPO Pool Operator and Nick did further education for the pool as well. Lastly, he mentioned that the Ragbrai route was released, and they will be traveling from Cedar Falls to Oelwein one of the days and it is more than likely going to be routed through Fairbank. Once that is confirmed, discussing sooner than later about traffic and what the city will need for that would be best.

Williams/T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm. Motion carried.

Jason Kayser, Mayor
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

Clayton Energy Corporation, Reservation	\$ 13,260.41
D & D Tire Inc., Services	\$165.00
Daktronics, Inc., Equipment	\$9,795.00
Delta Dental of Iowa, February Premium	\$21.96
Dakota Drish, Conference Reimbursement	\$571.20
Fairbank Postmaster, Feb 2025 Utility Bills Postage	\$196.00
City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas	\$5,576.71
Fehr Graham, Engineering	\$236.25
Frontline Warning Systems, Siren Contract	\$800.00
Addilyn Fuller, Services	\$60.00
Brittany Fuller, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Gideon Mast, Utility Deposit Refund	\$200.00
Gordon Flesch Company Inc., Copier/Printer Fees	\$168.54
Grainger, Inc., Supplies	\$236.12
Region 1 AWWA, Conference	\$135.00
IAMU, Natural Gas OQ Training	\$1,870.00
IMFOA, Memberships	\$70.00
Iowa One Call, Locates	\$3.60
Iowa Regional Utilities Assoc., Water	\$8,161.74
Iowa Sport Supply, Supplies	\$135.00
Iowa Utilities Commission, Conference	\$350.00
Ipers, Benefits	\$6,911.00
John Deere Financial, Supplies/Clothing Allowance	\$187.96
Kluesner Sanitation, LLC., February 2025 Pick-Up Fees	\$7,534.80
Nick Kuker, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Michelle Laube, Cell Phone Reimbursement	\$75.00
Lifemed Safety, Inc., Supplies	\$383.80
Little Wapsie Communications, Static IP Addresses/SW Phone	\$64.06
Lumber Ridge Home Source, Shipping	\$16.12
MercyOne Waterloo Medical Center, Drug Testing	\$30.00
Metering & Technology Solution, Supplies	\$66.40
Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Testing	\$555.00
Mitko Specialty Sales & Service, Supplies	\$149.91
Tom Montanez	\$200.00
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 1/2/25	\$10.00
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 1/15/25	\$8.50
NE Security Bank, Utility ACH Service Charge	\$10.00
NSB/HSA - H S A Contributions	\$500.00
NSB/HSA - H S A Payroll Deductions	\$200.00
Oelwein Publishing, Publishings	\$490.29
Premier Technology, Services	\$419.15
Quick Med Claims, Ambulance Billing	\$241.44
Alexis Rausch, Fire Training Reimbursement	\$50.00
Roberts, Stevens,Prendergast, Attorney Fees	\$2,287.50
Rydell of Independence, Services	\$85.34
Sun Life Assurance Comp, Life Policies	\$44.85
Superior Welding Supply Co., Oxygen	\$76.46
Treasurer-State Of Iowa, January 2025 Sales Tax	\$3,811.03
Treasurer State Of Iowa, January 2025 Water Excise Tax	\$1,308.24
U. S. Treasury, 941 Taxes	\$6,050.48
U.S. Bank, December 2024 PEFA Commodity	\$ 14,399.42
U.S. Bank, January 2025 PEFA Commodity	\$ 17,422.99
USA Bluebook, Testing Supplies	\$55.94
Utility Equipment Co., Supplies	\$244.30
Utility Safety & Design Inc., Natural Gas Odorant	\$2,441.20
Verizon Wireless, Cell Phones	\$178.29
Visa, Records Check/Microsoft Email Accounts/AVAYA Phone System/Adobe	\$947.41
Wellmark, February Premium	\$3,025.28
Wesco Receivables Corp., Supplies	\$1,576.38
Wilnat, Inc., Supplies	\$1,730.28
Windstream Enterprise, Gas Alarm Phone Line	\$68.31
The Fairbank Library Board Approved the Following Bills on February 5, 2025:	
Amazon Capital Services, Books & Supplies	\$217.86
Baker & Taylor Inc., Books	\$600.98
Brock Berg, Services	\$160.00
City of Fairbank, Electric & Gas	\$229.06
NE Security Bank, Payroll Processing Fee 1/15/25	\$1.50
US Cellular, Hotspots	\$118.56
Visa, AVAYA Phone System/Microsoft Email Accounts	\$52.77
Jason Kayser, Mayor	
Brittany Fuller, City Clerk	



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WAPSIE VALLEY CSD
Special Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2025
The February 21, 2025 special board meeting of the Wapsie Valley School board was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Board President Wolfe.

Those present were:
Directors: Wolfe, Auel, Aiello, Sauerbrei, Kaufman, and Supt Hoover.

Absent: Secretary Arndt (excused)

Approval of the agenda: Motion by Sauerbrei and second by Kaufman to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of bid letting and public hearing for the FCS, Art, Auditorium, and Music room/offices HVAC project. Public hearing to be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025: Motion by Aiello and second by Auel to approve bid letting and public hearing for the FCS, Art, Auditorium, and Music room/offices. This project will not include FCS hoods. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval to amend the December 16, 2024 board minutes: Motion by Auel and second by Kaufman to amend the December 16, 2024 board minutes that approved the SBRC Modified Supplemental Amount for At Risk / Dropout Prevention in the amount of \$114,832 for the 2024-25 school year. The minutes shall be amended to approve the SBRC Modified Supplemental Amount for At Risk/ Dropout Prevention in the amount of \$114,832 for the 2025-26 school year. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn: Motion by Sauerbrei and second by Kaufman to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 a.m.

WAPSIE VALLEY CSD
Public Hearing, & Regular Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2025
Pledge of Allegiance

1. President Wolfe called the Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 School Calendar to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call- Aiello, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe. Motion carried 3-0

A. Directors: Aiello, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe. Auel & Kaufman (excused)

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

C. Vaughn Gross, Robotics student team, Heather Robinson, Readlyn Lighthouse student team & John Kleitsch.

2. No public comment on the 2025-2026 School Calendar

3. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to close the Public Hearing and adjourn at 6:33 PM Roll call- Aiello, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe. Motion carried 3-0

1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:33 PM.

2. No changes to the agenda

3. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0

4. Spotlight on Education: Readlyn student Lighthouse team presented the process of WIG Math & Reading goal setting sessions. The students joined the team to achieve goals, have a say in decisions, help other students, & keep everyone involved. The Robotics team presented two robots that were built and their capabilities.

5. Public comment: Vaughn Gross- discussed grant applications for supplemental supplies for science curriculum, Robotics being in legislation to become a part of CTSO, FCS micro-waves and ventilation.

6. Consent Items: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the consent items including the bills that were reviewed by Steve Aiello and Open enrollments- Micayla & Josh Farley request to open enroll their 9th-grade daughter to WV from Independence and Morgan Reinking request to open enroll her son to WV the 25-26 school year from WC as presented. Motion carried 3-0

7. Superintendent: Report includes HVAC project, & board meeting date changes.

District-PK-12 Principals: Report included professional development updates, & virtual snow days, WE time intervention, Anxious Generation, & activity updates.

8. Personnel-Resignation: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve the resignations of Brianna

Decker-Paraprofessional-effective 2-19-25, & Beth Fagerlind-Custodian-effective 5-31-25 and thank them for their service to the students and staff of WV as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Contracts: Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve contracts for Davie, Justin-\$3,588.00-Head Boys Track-Base 5/Year 21, Kleitsch, Ethan-\$2,190.00-Asst Boys Track-Base 2/Year 7, Bergman, Brett-\$2,335.00-Asst High School Track-Base 3/Year 10, Foster, Duane-\$3,298.00-Head Girls Track-Base 3/Year 12, Zane Sittig-\$2,045.00-Asst Girls Track-Base 1/Year 1, Cushion, Cain-\$2,095.00-JH Boys Track-Base 3/Year 11, Roberts, Brenda-\$3,588.00-Co-Girls Head Golf-Base 5/Year 24, Blayde Bellis-\$3,008.00-Varsity Baseball-Base 1/Year 0, Collin Bergmann-\$2,190.00-Assistant Baseball-Base 2/Year 6, Beesecker, Kaci-\$2,045.00-Asst Softball-Base 1/Year 3 Logan Flack-\$1,805.00-JH Baseball-Base 1/Year 1, Tiffany Beyer-\$1,805.00-JH Softball-Base 1/Year 2, Jeanes, Austin-\$1,950.00-JH Girls Track-Base 2/Year 6, & \$3,008.00-Varsity Softball-Base 1/Year 3 as presented. Motion carried 3-0

9. New Business: Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar as presented. Motion Carried 3-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to increase the Preschool Tuition from \$375 to \$400 per month effective the 25-26 school year as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve publication of the property tax statement tax rate at a maximum rate of \$14.65 and setting the public hearing date for March 20, 2025 as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve Ella Morarend as a early 2026 graduate pending all requirements are met as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to table hiring Assistant Baseball Coach due to lack of current need as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

HVAC/Music office room project-died due to lack of motion. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Aiello to approve the 28E Agreement with Jesup, CF, Hudson, & Sumner-Fred for the 25-26 year for CAPS Director (\$22,676.55) as presented. Motion carried 3-0

10. Board Talking Points-None

11. Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Motion carried 3-0



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Activities include: mini golf, basketball, skee-ball, bags, jumping pillow, picture opportunities, many animals, cookie walk, face painting, temporary tattoos and dancing!

FRIDAY
4/4/2025
Rain Date: Sat April 5th 12pm-2pm

5:30PM - 7:30PM

Red Rock Farms

\$5 PER PERSON
2 AND UNDER ARE FREE
PARENT/ADULT NEEDS TO ACCOMPANY CHILD(REN)



FOOD
\$5.00 Meal
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Submission Deadline for the 3rd Annual Wapsie Writing Contest is March 15

BETTY BRANDT PASSICK
bbpassick@comcast.net

Submissions to the annual Wapsie Writing Contest will be accepted through midnight, March 15, 2025, according to Fairbank, Iowa native and award-winning author Betty Brandt Passick. The contest was announced January 1st. For the first time since the contest launched in 2023, a small cash prize will be awarded to each of the three winners.

The contest objective is to encourage children, youth, and adults to write more and to improve their creative writing skills. Adults (19 and older), youth (12-18 years), and children (11 years and younger) are invited to write about a subject matter of their choosing. Genres may include non-fiction or fiction, short story or poetry. The length must be 100 to 1,500 words. Participants are limited to one entry and should send their entry to bbpassick@comcast.net. Complete rules are available at www.BettyBrandtPassick.com.

The 2024 winning entries were: Alyssa R. (child), Evansdale, short story "Mistake"; Kailaigh J. (youth), Cedar Falls, short story "Luna"; and Beth K (adult), Evansdale, poem "Friday Night Lights".

"Entering a writing contest is a great way to grow one's writing skills," Passick said.

Winners and losers alike receive positive written feedback from the judges. The judging is done by writing / teaching pro-

RULES


Children, youth, and adults are invited to participate in the annual **Wapsie Writing Contest**.

Write about a subject matter of your choosing, short story or poetry—fiction or non-fiction. Length: 100-1500 words.

Each individual may submit only one entry. Submissions must be typed in MS Word, and include the author's name, phone/email, and entry. Send to bbpassick@comcast.net by no later than **March 15th (midnight)**.

A winner in each of the three (age) categories will be chosen and the winners notified. Their stories will be submitted for publication in regional newspapers.

Questions: bbpassick@comcast.net. Complete contest rules are posted at www.BettyBrandtPassick.com.



3rd Annual Wapsie Writing Contest

Subject: Of your choosing
Length: 100-1500 Words
Genre: Short Story, Poetry—Fiction or non-fiction
Format: MS Word

3 Age Categories:
Adults — 19 years and older
Youth — 12 to 18 years
Children — 11 years and under

Judging: By Committee
Cash Prize! (each age category)
Submitted for publication in regional newspapers

Submissions: bbpassick@comcast.net

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

Contest Rules: BettyBrandtPassick.com

CONTEST STAGES:

- 1) Submission: **Jan. 1st**
- 2) Deadline: **March 15th**
- 3) Judging: **After March 15**
- 4) Winners* Announced: **May 15**

fessionals and avid book readers.

Passick was a young girl of about 11 years when she took the initiative to correspond with renowned Iowa poet Lillian Dirksen, whose poems she found published in the Sumner Gazette. Her grandmother subscribed to the paper.

"I wrote to ask for feedback on my poems, and to my surprise she took the time to respond and offered a few kindly-worded suggestions."

The Des Moines Register published her first poem "In Between Fall and Winter" in 1982.

Passick remembered Dirksen's encouraging words when she launched the Wapsie Writing Contest in 2023—words that had come from a professional inspiring her to persist in honing her writing skills.

The small cash prize to be given to winners of the 2025 contest

is meant to incentivize sub-missions,

Passick waited to launch a career as an author until after retiring a decade ago. Since, she has written and published four books, and her poems and short stories continue to be published in newspapers, magazines, and books throughout the Midwest.

Two historical crime novels, set in northeast Iowa—Gangster in Our Midst (2017) and The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse (2021)—have won "Indie Book Awards" from Shelf Unbound book review magazine. Book #3 in the gangster series will be available in mid-2025.

In February 2025, Reader's House magazine in the UK awarded her the prestigious "Editor's Choice Award of Literary Excellence," an honour reserved for a select group of outstanding international authors.

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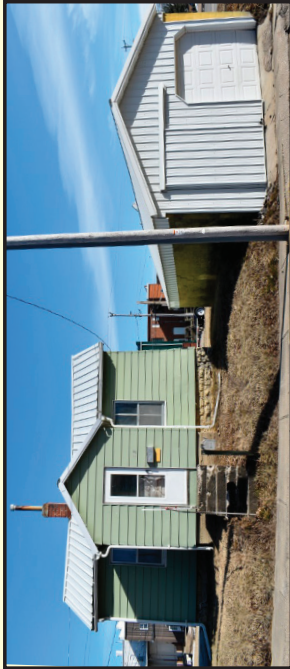
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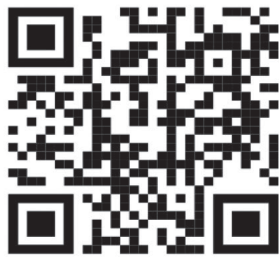


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