SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

**APRIL 2, 2025** 

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

**/OLUME 6, NO. 4** 

# Enster For Everyone

## Easter Egg Hunt to be held April 19

Easter Egg Hunt to be held Sat., April 19 on the Island from 9:00-10:00 a.m. If the weather should be bad, the event will be moved to the American Legion. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to visit with the kids and Easter baskets will be handed out. Age Groups are 1-4 years old and 5-10 years old. The Easter Baskets will be donated by Community Club members along with help from any Fairbank citizens who would like to donate. Monetary donations will also be accepted to cover some of the expenses. This project will be headed by Cindy Woods who can be reached at (319) 231-4251 for more information. Baskets and donations can be dropped off at Modern Building Products.



### Easter Basket Donations Needed

By: April 13, 2025
Price: You decide
For: Children at the
Fairbank Community Club
Easter Egg Hunt on April 19.
Baskets can be dropped off

Baskets can be dropped off at Modern Building Products or contact Cindy Woods at 319-231-4251

## City Wide Clean Up Day and Spring Garage Sales announced

SPRING GARAGE SALES

City-wide garage sales will be held on May 3, 2025. CITY WIDE CLEAN UP DAY

Scheduled for Mon., April 7, 2025. Please stop at City Hall if you need an appliance tag. All appliance tags need to be purchased by 5 p.m. on Fri., April 4, 2025.

## Recognizing 'Mr. Fairbank' for 60 years of service:

## Vorwald honored with key to Fairbank

BY TAYLOR NOHRENBERG

reporter@oelweindailyregister.com

"It is not a key to any lock, but is the true key to the hearts of the citizens of Fairbank," a recent City of Fairbank proclamation read honoring one of Fairbank's own.

Ted Vorwald, better known as Mr. Fairbank to many residents and neighbors, has been a go-to for the city for decades, having fought many fires, provided medical care and assisted in countless rescues with the Fairbank Fire Department for over 57 years and worked as the city's right

COURTESY PHOT

Fairbank Mayor Jason Kayser (right) presented Ted Vorwald the Key to the City during the Fairbank Fire Department's annual banquet. hand man when it came to city maintenance.

"I believe it was very early 80's, maybe '79, '80, we only had one city guy. He became the city maintenance man — he was the guy and he retired out of there after 30 years," Firefighter and Fairbank Mayor Jason Kayser said about Vorwald's service. "He still volunteers in many aspects, still helps on the Fire Department, still helps with the Community Club. I couldn't think of a better person to receive the award."

### The proclamation reads:

"WHEREAS: Theodore Vorwald will be honored by friends, relatives, and fellow firefighters on the occasion of formally honoring and recognizing his retirement after 57 years of service to the city; and

WHEREAS: Theodore Vorwald joined the Fairbank Volunteer Fire Department on December, 1st 1966, and remained active in

See VORWALD, A12

## Sharks visit at Fairbank Elementary

BY MRS. BACHMAN'S 3RD GRADE STUDENTS

On March 11, the Mississippi River Museum brought three sharks to Fairbank Elementary School. Fairbank PTO paid for the three sharks to be displayed for the students to see, touch, and learn. Students learned that the epaulet shark has two large dark spots on its back. The spots look like eyes, so they scare away its predators. Their predators are other sharks, octopus, other big fish, and whales. The epaulet shark is the only shark that has the ability to hold its breath for up to 3 hours. It is the only shark that we currently know that can crawl over land to reach tide pools.

The coral catsharks are fed off the bottom of the ocean floor. Their eyes are like cat's eyes. They

See SHARKS, A2



On March 11, Mississippi River Museum brought 3 sharks to the Fairbank Elementary school for students to see, touch and learn.

**A2** APRIL 2, 2025 FAIRBANK ISLANDER

## A NOTE FROM THE MAYOR



**MAYOR JASON KAYSER** 

Spring is here and with that brings evaluating street conditions and deciding what streets need maintenance this upcoming construction season.

We have at least one street that needs serious attention and will receive some repairs. This week our public Works Director Nick Kuker and myself spent a morning with Prairie Road Builders evaluating every street and alley identifying those in need of some preventative maintenance. Once the list is compiled with costs, it will be further evaluated and presented to the full Council for a

That being said, city employees, councilpersons, and myself have fielded a number of concerns with the current chip-seal method the city utilizes to surface our streets. Simply put, a lot of people want us to look at something different. In the past couple of weeks. I have met with area mayors and public works directors to discuss their street repairs

and surfacing. I have also visited many cities in our area, around Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin to observe their street surfaces. There are many options available to us and as you are aware, there are varying degrees of condition of streets. On the spectrum of street surfaces, concrete is the most expensive and durable where limestone chip seal is the least expensive and least durable. For the first time in recent memory, we are going to seriously evaluate our street surfacing. The main driver in this evaluation will be available funds, and whether some street maintenance can be deferred if the Council chooses to go with a more expensive option. You may be asking yourself

how some towns our size, or even smaller, have all asphalt or concrete streets? The answer could be higher taxes, or an assessment to the property owners when the street is constructed. To my knowledge, a special street assessment to adjacent homeowners has not been done here, and the current council and I do not want to go that route. I'm sure most of you do not either. So, you can see the challenge ahead of us. I CAN NOT, AND WILL NOT PROMISE you that we will change anything concerning our current street surfacing! but I will promise you we are looking into it, and the City Council will make the final determination.

BASEBALL SEASON'S UNDER-WAY! GO CUBS GO!

#mayor\_mike\_harter #pat\_miller

## St's Basebal Season

## Sharks visit at Fairbank Elementary

hide in coral and caves to stay safe. They like to be in small tight areas, which make them feel comfortable and safe.

The students were able to touch the sharks. Their skin felt like wet sandpaper.Students learned that falling coconuts are more dangerous than sharks.



On March 11, Mississippi River Museum brought 3 sharks to the Fairbank **Elementary** school for students to see, touch and learn.









**SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 · 4-6 PM Wapsie Valley High School Multi-purpose Room** 

3 yr old Preschool - 6th grade **CLS - Readlyn - Fairbank** 

TEA BOMBS by Lynn Ott for purchase DJ with a Bea Nick Tobey **Doese Photography** 

Deadline for the May publication is April 28. Please contact Melaine at 319–404–7116 or email fairbankislander@gmail.com

### Fairbank S SERVING FAIRBANK AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES Sponsored by:

Fairbank Community Club Fairbank, Iowa 50629

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





**Chris Boehme** Crop and Farm Specialist The Osborne Agency

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## BIRTHDAY



Happy 3rd Birthday Lillian Davis Celebrate big on April 13th. Daughter of Shawn and Jennifer Davis.



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**A4** APRIL 2, 2025 FAIRBANK ISLANDER

### CITY OF FAIRBANK APRIL NEWSLETTER

### CITY HALL OFFICE CLOSED **DUE TO OFF-SITE TRAINING**

City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, through Friday, April 11, 2025, for offsite training. We will open regular business hours on Monday, April 14, 2025. If you need assistance, please call 319-635-2869 and leave a message. We will return your phone call when time allows. Sorry for any inconvenience.

### **PET LICENSING**

Reminder all city residents with pets over the age of four months are required to be licensed by the city. This license is to be renewed annually. The cost is \$10.00 per animal if purchased on or before June 30th of each year. On July 1st an additional \$5.00 penalty attaches. If the animal

is purchased July 1st or later, the license can be obtained for \$10.00 with a dated bill of sale proving the date of purchase. Also, to be licensed, you must show proof that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies. It is prohibited to have animals running at large within the city limits.

### GOLF CART PERMIT

Reminder all Golf Carts are required to be licensed to be operated within the city limits. This license is to be renewed annually. The initial cost is \$30.00 per vehicle. New owners must have vehicle(s) inspected by the police department prior to receiving permit. Once a person has purchased a permit, the annual renewal is \$20.00.

**SPRING GARAGE SALES** 

City-wide garage sales will be held on May 3, 2025.

### CITY WIDE CLEAN UP DAY

Scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2025. Please stop at City Hall if you need an appliance tag. All appliance tags need to be purchased by 5pm on Friday, April 4, 2025. FLOWERS ON MAIN

Please call City Hall if you are interested in sponsoring flowers on Main Street this year.

\$50 per basket. Thank you! UTILITY PAPERLESS BILL &
AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

The City of Fairbank offers paperless utility bills and/or automatic withdrawal. Please contact City Hall at 319-635-2869 for more informaResolving customer complaints
All of us at Fairbank Municipal Utilities do our

best to make sure your utility service is as good as it can be. So, if you have a complaint, we'd like to resolve it as quickly as possible. By calling (319) 635-2869, you can reach a utility representative qualified to assist in resolving complaints as they

If your complaint is related to service disconnection, safety, or renewable energy, and Fairbank Municipal Utilities does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board at 1375 E. Court Ave. Room 69, Des Moines, IA, 50319-0069, 1-877-565-4450 or email at customer@iub.iowa.gov



"PS" is Project Share – a program that assists needy households in paying their winter energy bills. You can help this effort by adding a regular Project Share contribution to your utility payment, or by making a direct donation to Project Share. These funds are distributed to your neighbors in need.

A local social service agency carefully identifies those residents who qualify, and a local committee oversees Project Share to guarantee that all contributions are handled equitably and efficiently.

Adding a "PS" – a Project Share contribution to your utility payment each month is a simple way to share some warmth with those who need it.

City of Fairbank

PO Box 447

P: 319-635-2869

PS Project Share 零

Yes. I'd like to help a neighbor with a tax-deductible contribution to Project Share.

Name

Address

per month to Project Share I understand this amount will be billed to me monthly

1 I have enclosed a \$ donation to Project Share.

## Fairbank City Wide Clean Up Day

Monday, April

**RESIDENTIAL PAYING CUSTOMERS ONLY!** 

All items must be placed curbside at your normal garbage pickup location by 6:00 a.m.
All small items must be in a garbage bag or box.

No items shall be put out more than 48 hours on advance. All appliance and electronic tags are \$20 per unit and must be purchased at City Hall by 5pm on Friday April 4, 2025.

### ITEMS ACCEPTED FOR PICKUP

- Box springs, mattresses, bed frames
- Sofas, tables, chairs, dressers, desks, bookshelves
- ~ Bathroom fixtures, toilets, sinks
- ~ Children's toys ~ Paint cans (must be open & dry)
- ~ Outdoor patio furniture, garden tools, gas powered items (must be fully drained of fuel, oil, or hazardous materials)

### URCHASE A TAG AT CITY HALL FOR THE

FOLLOWING ITEMS:
APPLIANCES – Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, freezers, furnaces, humidifiers, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, washers, water heaters

ELECTRONICS – Televisions, computers, monitors

#### **UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS**

- ~ Items on trailers, building materials, excessive remodeling materials
- Roofing, shingles, bricks, concrete
- ~ LP tanks, vehicles, vehicle parts ~ Chemicals, hazardous materials,
- wet paint, items of excessive weight
- Yard waste, including trees and branches

EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF MATERIAL MAY NOT BE TAKEN. All items must be small enough to be picked up by one person. All items will be collected at the discretion of Kluesner Sanitation.

> **Call Kluesner Sanitation with** questions at 563-927-5977.

### **BOOK YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURE TODAY!**

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## DON'T BE SHY

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Just email fairbankislander@gmail.com or call **319.404.7116** to start spreading the good news!



319-635-2207

## Wapsie Valley's Meyer named DIII All-American

BY GIDAL KAISER

sports@oelweindailyregister.com

Welcome to Across Campus. the Oelwein Daily Register's weekly look into area prep athletes participating in college athletics. If you know of a college athlete not listed, please email sports@oelweindailyregister.

Out of order just once because Wapsie Valley's Gunner Meyer was named an All-American. The junior hurdler/jumper at Central College was named a Division III All-American after placing eighth in the 60-meter high hurdles at the the NCAA DIII Indoor Championships (8.17 seconds) after qualifying with a timer of 8.03 in the preliminary race.

"Happy but still hungry," Meyer wrote on a social media post, noting he accomplished one of his two indoor season goals reaching the national championships in the hurdles.

"Really wish I could have done better in the finals, but in the end I achieved my goal and more," he wrote. "Outdoor is right around the corner, and I have big goals in mind."

The Dutch begin the outdoor season at the Central Invitational was on March 29.

### **BASEBALL** Simpson College

Jaymison Howard is a Sumner-Fredericksburg graduate and freshman pitcher. The Storm (5-8) went 2-2 during its road trip to Florida.

Jake Schoer is a Wapsie Valley graduate and freshman outfielder.

### **Wartburg College**

Brandon Cushion is a West Central graduate and sophomore outfielder for the Knights (6-5).

Carter Jeanes is an Oelwein graduate and sophomore pitch-



Tucker Ladeburg is a Wapsie Valley graduate and freshman pitcher.

#### **BASKETBALL**

Chris Jans is a Wapsie Valley graduate and third-year head coach of Mississippi State. The Bulldogs (21-12) face Baylor in the first round of the NCAA tournament today. The game began at 11:15 a.m.

MSU averages 79.8 points per game and 74.2 ppg allowed. MSU shoots 45.1 percent (945 for 2,095) from the field and averages 38.2 rebounds, 15.3 assists, 9.2 steals and 4.5 blocks per game.

#### **GOLF**

Anna Curley is a Wapsie Valley graduate and a freshman for Simpson College.

The Storm begins its spring season March 28-29 at the Graceland Spring Invitational in

Emma Smock is an Oelwein graduate and sophomore for Wartburg College.

### **TRACK AND FIELD**

Aidan Shannon is a Wapsie Valley graduate and freshman distance runner for the University of North Texas.

The Mean Green begins the outdoor season at the TCU Alumni this weekend in Fort

Hillary Trainor is a Sumner-Fredericksburg graduate and freshman distance runner for the University of Iowa.

The Hawkeyes begin the outdoor season at the UCF Black and Gold Invitational this weekend in Orlando, Fla.

Elle Voy is a Wapsie Val-



Wapsie Valley graduate Gunner Meyer, seen here during a meet last season, earned All-American honors by placing eighth at the Division III National Championships last weekend.

ley graduate and a sophomore thrower for Wartburg.

### Coe College

Lane German is a Starmont graduate and sophomore distance runner.

Lily Mayo is a Sumner-Fredericksburg graduate and sophomore distance runner.

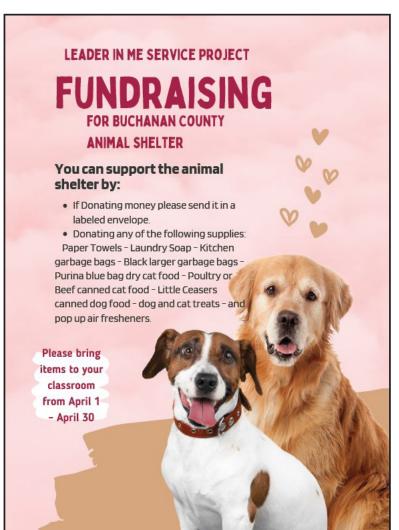
The Kohawks begin the outdoor season with the True Blue Open on April 4 in Jacksonville,

**Iaxon Weber** is an Oelwein graduate and sophomore athlete for Hawkeye Community Col-

The RedHawks began the outdoor season with the Central Invitational was on March 29 in



MSU head coach Chris Jans and the Bulldogs secured three NCAA tournament appearances, fueled by a trio of 21-win campaigns with Coach Jans at the helm.





**A6** APRIL 2, 2025

## Celebration of life Beverly Ann Duffy

May 14, 1936 -March 8, 2025

Beverly Ann Duffy age 88 of Waterloo passed away on March 8, 2025 at Oelwein MercyOne. Beverly was born May 14, 1936 in rural Fairbank as the daughter of Bernard "Allie" and Florence Gardner. Beverly would spend her younger years growing up in



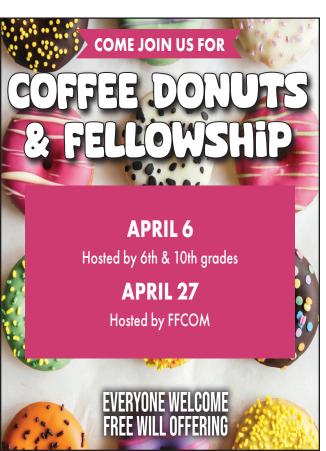
Fairbank where she attended and graduated from Fairbank High School.

Beverly would go on to marry Warren Duffy in the winter of 1955. They spent the rest of their lives together in Waterloo until Warren's passing in 2008. Beverly worked as an engineering analyst for John Deere in Waterloo until her retirement in 1993. Beverly enjoyed spending her days outside in her yard and garden where she had quite the green thumb for raising beautiful flowers. Her neighbors could never seem to keep up with her well-kept yard as she was known to spend many hours working on it. When she wasn't working in her yard or watching the birds that she enjoyed so much you could find her trying her luck on the slot machines at the casino.

Beverly is survived by: One son Craig (Chaluay) Duffy of Waterloo; Granddaughter Jennifer (Tregg) Scott of Idaho; Grandson David (Maigua) Duffy of Florida; One sister Brenda Fox; and 6 great grandkids. Brother-in-law Norman (Shirley) Duffy of Fairbank.

She is preceded in death by: Her parents, Bernard and Florence; husband Warren; and one brother Dale Gardner





## Celebration of life

## **Mary Ellen Youngblut**

March 31, 1923 -March 21, 2025

Mary Ellen Youngblut age 101 of Sumner and formerly of Oran passed away Friday, March 21, 2025 at Cobblestone Court Assisted Living In Sumner, Iowa just 10 days short of her 102nd birthday.



She was born March 31, 1923 in Iowa Falls

the daughter of Martin and Elizabeth (Klinger) Klenzman. Mary Ellen attended and graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic School in Oelwein. She married Francis Youngblut on July 1, 1942 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oelwein. Mary Ellen and Frances spent their entire married life in Oran, where the raised their four daughters. She worked alongside her husband Franny "Tuff" at Youngblut Feed and Fertilizer and later Youngblut Elevator in Oran. For a short time she worked at a women's clothing store in Oelwein but with four daughters she was spending more in merchandise than she was making so she didn't stay there long. She then returned to helping Franny at the elevator until they retired.

Survived by: her four daughters; Barbara Yungtum, Carol Youngblut, Marilyn (Larry) Briddle and Darlene (Bruce) Smith, six grandsons, 17 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren and one on the way.

Preceded in death: her parents, her husband, one brother, Gene Klenzman and one son-in-law, Dennis Yungtum.

Funeral Mass was held at 11:00 AM Tuesday March 25, 2025 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with a visitation from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Immaculate Conception Parish Center, Fairbank, Iowa

Interment: Immaculate Conception Cemetery Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation



## Celebration of Life

### **Richard James Wenger**

December 8, 1955 -March 4, 2025

Richard **James** Wenger age 69 of Fairbank passed away Tuesday, March 4, 2025 from injuries he sustained in a truck accident near Marshalltown. Rich was born December 8th, 1955 in Oelwein the son of Duane and Marion (Buchholz)



Wenger. He grew up on the family farm just north of Fairbank. Rich attended and graduated from Wapsie Valley Community Schools Class of 1974. He married Ruth Vandersee on June 2nd 1979 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Maynard. Rich began his truck driving career at Oran Ag Services hauling mostly grain from the elevator and for area farmers. His next truck driving job was at Renard & Seegers who had several John Deere dealerships in northeast Iowa hauling all different types of farm machinery. He dedicated the rest of his working days there which included three different owners during his time there. He truly loved what he did and enjoyed all the people he met along the way, especially the customers he delivered equipment to. When he wasn't working his day job he could be found working in his very organized shop on most anything he could get in the door. Whether it be woodworking or tinkering on a lawnmower he loved working with his hands. He will be missed in the neighborhood as he was the go to guy for most any project. Rich also could be found helping Ruth occasionally with some of her countless projects or maybe just chasing each other around town on bicycles. Rich loved anything to do with trucks, he made many trips to the Mid-American Truck Show which is held annually in Louisville, Kentucky. He enjoyed playing cards and many different board games and he didn't even mind playing an occasional game of Pickleball.

Survived by: his wife of 45 years, Ruth, a daughter, Lisa (Jeremy) Bro, two brothers; Kenny Wenger and Bob (Mavis) Wenger, his mother-in-law, Gwen Vandersee, four sisters-in-law; Carolyn Wenger, Vivian Wenger, Barb (Dale) Lowe and Elaine Gallagher, one brother-in-law, Paul Vandersee along with many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by: his parents, two brothers; Steve and Roger Wenger, his father-in-law, Laverne Vandersee, two brothers-in-law; Mike Gallagher and Vernon Vandersee.

Funeral Service was held at 11:00 am Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at Woods Funeral Home.

Interment: Fairbank Cemetery

Lunch was served after the service at the Immaculate Conception Parish Center in Fairbank.

Memorials may be directed to the family for later designation.

Online condolences can be left at www.woodsfuneralhome.net

## **SEND OBITS TO**

fairbankislander@gmail.com



Sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church

## Friday, April 11, 2025

4:30-7:00 PM

Immaculate Conception Parish Center, Fairbank



**MENU:** 

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

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### **United Methodist Church**

107 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Fairbank, Iowa 50629 319-635-2932

Worship Service: 9:15 AM



### St. John Lutheran Church

(MISSOURI SYNOD) 208 N. 4th Street Fairbank, Iowa 50629 319-635-2181

Worship Service: 10:30 AM



### **Immaculate Conception** Catholic Church

302 W. Main Street Fairbank, Iowa 319-635-2211

### Father Ray Atwood

Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM Wednesday Mass: 8:30 AM 1<sup>st</sup> 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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## **FAIRBANK**

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**A8** APRIL 2, 2025 FAIRBANK ISLANDER

## **4-H ATOM** BOMBERS



FROM THE DESK OF **CAMBREE HAPPEL** 

Atom Bombers 4h club held our monthly meeting on Sunday, March 9, at the I.C. Hall. Our meeting was called to order by president, Cece Sweeney. The roll call question was, "What is your favorite thing about spring?" I said, "baby animals

and the flowers.' There were 17 members present and 7 guests.

Gavin Gross brought his dog, Ruffles, in for his presentation. Ruffles is a beagle who likes to play with big dog toys! Jorgie Wendling did a report on her favorite animal. Her favorite animal is a camel. How cool! She even gets to help take care of some at Red Rock Farms.

Our special guest speaker was Pat McIntosh from the Farmer's

Wife In Jessup. We did an Easter painting by using easter napkins and using the modge podge to glue the napkins on. Pat taught us how to blend paint colors. We blended different paint colors to make the sky and grass. We had so much fun! This is a great, easy, project to bring to the County Fair.

Other important dates for 4H coming up:

Sheep and Goat weigh-ins for fair are April 5th

YQCA training will be April





Left, above and below right: 4-H Easter painting activity.







Above left: Leo Kemph, Macoy Kelly, Koen Kelly, Gavin Gross and Ruffles. Above right: Jorgie Wendling with her favorite animal, camels.



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102 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Fairbank, IA ~ 319-635-2139 Open: 7:30am -7:00pm M-F; 7:30am - 6:00pm S&S

Check Out Our Complete Ad at fairbankfoodcenter.com

## Bite Size Delights





### **MONSTER ENERGY BITES**

### **Ingredients**

- 1 1/2 cups quick oats
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/4 cup mini m&ms
- 1/4 cup mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 tsp vanilla

#### Instructions

In a large bowl, combine all of the ingredients and then stir until the honey and peanut butter is well combined with the other ingredients. Using a large spoon, or portion scoop, measure a small amount of the doug and roll it into a ball shape, about 1 1/2 - 2 inches in size.

After shaping it into a ball, place it on a cookies sheet lined with parchment paper. Repeat the process until all of the dough is used. Chill the bites for about 30 minutes and the cover in a sealed container until ready to

Nora Levendusky, Fairbank. 4th grader at Wapsie Valley Elementary



**VENDOR FAIR** 

5:00 – 8:00pm Fairbank American Legion

- ~ Handmade Crafts
- ~ Sweet Treats
- ~ Direct Sales
- ~ Door Prizes
- ~ Bar Refreshments & Snacks

Don't miss this fun night out with your friends and neighbors!

Vendors interested in reserving a space - call Tammy Erickson (319) 215-7693



Call me, your **LOCAL** Expert! it's almost . . . OPEN ENROLLMENT!

Review or change your plan from October 15th to December 7th

### Amy Rechkemmer

319-635-2526 | amy@vandaeleins.com

### VanDaele Insurance

119 E Main St. Fairbank, IA

Call or E-mail me, I'll help answer all your health insurance plan questions!

"Currently we represent 9 organizations which offer 29 products in your area. You can always contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-MEDICARE, or your local State Health Insurance Programs for help with plan choice

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Fairbank Community Club

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FREE

**ADMISSION** 





A 10 APRIL 2, 2025



### "Financial Fitness"

WITH ASHLEA (KLEITSCH) JONES

### The other side of the table...

What do clients want to know when they think about hiring an advisor?

To some, returns are the biggest priority.

Some will prioritize an easy-to-use software interface.

Some want to preserve capital.

Some want to know you'll include their children in legacy planning.

To some, their trust / relationship with their advisor is more important than anything else.

No one size fits all and no two clients are the same.

On my side of the table, getting to know a new client is my biggest priority. Sometimes, prospects come in with folders and boxes of statements... they want to get right to business and have expectations laid out (sometimes literally) on the table during meeting #1.

Others come in with no agenda at all. They would rather just listen to us present before "showing their hand". They do not want to open up until they have a level of confidence in us. Are we knowledgeable? Are we trustworthy? Are we fiduciaries?

Either of these "first dates" works well for us. We call them "Discovery Meetings" because we're both trying to get a feel for expectations and long-term fit. It does us no good to force a relationship or a pace that doesn't work for either party. For us, it is completely normal to have 2, 3, 4 or even more meetings to keep getting to know each other and decide whether or not to enter a professional relationship. No matter how smart, competent, or capable an advisor is, if you feel excommunicated or like your goals are on the backburner you deserve more.

Like any long-term relationship, it is better to take your time, be transparent, ask good questions (Google is your friend if you need a starter list!), and above all: TRUST YOUR GUT!!!



### Ashlea (Kleitsch) Jones

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

### A few ideas to get you going:

- 1. On the day of the meeting, bring a pen and paper to take notes and keep your thoughts on track.
- 2. Allow plenty of time for elaboration and Q&A.
- **3.** Don't be afraid to ask the advisor(s) to repeat or further explain anything that isn't clear.
- 4. It is 100% FAIR (and in your best interest) to ask how the advisor is being compensated.
- 5. Ask about the onboarding process while becoming a client.
- **6.** Ask about what it looks like after you become a client. a. i.e. Review cadence? Account viewability? Communication expectations? Etc.

It is OK to be disorganized. It is OK to be curious. It is OK if you don't have every statement or detail. It's even OK if we meet a few times and decide we're not the best fit for each other. It is OK!!

It is OUR JOB to make this easy on you and we LOVE to do it!

Scan Here to Learn More About Me!



## WAPSIE VALLEY WARRIOR ALUMNI

## Leon Costello named an FCS AD of the Year by NACDA

### **MSU SPORTS INFORMATION**

BOZEMAN, Montana – Leon Costello, Montana State University's Director of Athletics since 2016, earned a National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics AD of the Year Award for 2023-24, the organization announced March 17.

Costello is one of four honorees from the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision, or FCS. NACDA presented 28 awards, four each in seven divisions: Football Bowl Subdivision, FCS, Division I-AAA, Division II, Division II, NAIA and Junior/Community College.

"Montana State University is privileged to have Leon Costello as our athletics director," MSU President Waded Cruzado said. "Leon has added energy, focus, academic performance and an institutional sense of pride and belonging to MSU. We are proud to call Leon a Bobcat!"

Bobcat Athletics has enjoyed unprecedented success under Costello's leadership. During the 2021-22 academic year, MSU became the first school in Big Sky history to finish in the top three in each conference sport in which it competed. The Bobcat men's basketball program played in three consecutive NCAA Tournaments, the MSU women's basketball team won 30 games this year, both Big Sky Conference bests, and the MSU football team played for the FCS championship following the 2021 and 2024 seasons and has advanced to the playoffs in a program-best six straight campaigns.

Under Costello's guidance, Bobcat student-athletes have combined to win one Big Sky Conference Presidents' Cup, two men's All-Sports Trophies, the school's first Women's All-Sports Trophy, and all nine Brawl of the Wild Trophy Series competitions encompassing all sports between MSU and the Univer-



BORCAT CREATIVE SERVICES PHOT

Leon Costello, Montana State University's Director of Athletics since 2016, earned a National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics AD of the Year Award for 2023-24.

sity of Montana.

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized by NACDA and I truly believe this is an award for Bobcat Nation as a whole, as this award speaks to the accomplishments we have achieved together," Costello said. "I am fortunate to work at an institution that values athletics and to also work with an incredible team of student-athletes, coaches and staff that put in the time and energy to make Bobcat Athletics what it is today. I thank them for their commitment to our vision and excellence achieved in the classroom and competition."

With the support and leadership of President Cruzado, Costello has remade the school's athletics facilities. In the last five years, the department has added the Bobcat Athletic Complex to house MSU football offices and support servic-

es, a renovation to all areas supporting student-athletes in Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, and – awaiting completion this summer – the Stark-Kennedy Indoor Athletic Center providing a practice facility for football and a training and competition venue for track and field.

Student-athlete support has also been the focus of staff additions during Costello's tenure. Those include an embedded sports psychologist, a sports dietitian, and enhanced staffing of the sports medicine and strength and conditioning staffs.

Academic success has remained part and parcel of the program's progress and success. Bobcat student-athletes compiled a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 (out of 4.0) in the last 46 consecutive semesters, and that was before last fall's 3.42 mark.

Costello arrived at Montana State in 2016 after six years of progressively increased responsibilities at South Dakota State, culminating with two years as Deputy Athletic Director from 2014 to 2016. He began his intercollegiate athletics career as a marketing assistant at Northern Iowa in the fall of 2002, becoming that department's director just three months later. In 2005 Costello became Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing and Promotions, and in 2008 was elevated to Associate Athletic Director for External Relations. During his time at South Dakota State he helped spearhead SDSU's massive facilities improvement project, was involved in sport oversight of nine Jackrabbit programs, and managed the department's external operations. After Cruzado tabbed him as the school's 13th Director of Athletics, he assumed that position on July 1, 2016.

"I also need to thank President Waded Cruzado and the entire MSU community for their unwavering supporting our athletic department, our dedicated fans and supporters that stand with us through every contest and support us at a championship level, and my family that allows me to live out my dream," Costello said. "Thank you doesn't say enough but I am truly humbled by this honor and excited about our future. The best is yet to come."

Originally from Fairbank, Iowa, Costello starred in basketball at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, where he captained the DuHawks as a senior and earned Bill Bradley Scholastic All-America honors before graduating in 1998. He and his wife Heather spend much of their time following the blossoming athletic academic careers of their daughter Cailin and sons Michael and Griffin.

NACDA's AD of the Year program is in its 27th year, recognizing over 600 of its members with this award. Costello will be honored during the organization's convention in June.

### Brooks McKowen named Missouri Western head men's basketball coach

### MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. – "A model of consistency and a proven winner."

Those are a just few common phrases to describe Brooks McKowen, who was announced Tuesday as the seventh head men's basketball coach in Missouri Western history.

"Having watched Brooks coach while we both were in the NSIC, there was something about him and the way his teams played which caught my attention," said MWSU Director of Athletics Andy Carter. "He is a winner and his teams play with such energy and toughness."

McKowen comes to MWSU from Upper Iowa University, where he spent 12 seasons guiding the Peacocks, amassing a 209-148 career record and three NCAA Tournament appearances. Upper Iowa competed for 10 years in the Northern Sun

Intercollegiate Conference before moving to the Great Lakes Valley Conference the past two years.

McKowen's teams have won at least 21 games in three of the previous four seasons, including a 21-9 mark in 2024-25, a 22-10 record in 23-24 and a program best 26-6 season in 21-22. The Peacocks have posted winning seasons in 10 of McKowen's 12 years on the sidelines. Known for their trademark fast-paced brand, the Peacocks have averaged at least 80 points per game in each of the last 12 seasons.

"I am incredibly honored and excited to join Missouri Western and am thankful for the opportunity to lead the men's basketball program," McKowen said. "I look forward to bringing an exciting and uptempo style of play to our city. My family and I can't wait to be a part of Griffon Nation."



MISSOLIBI WESTERN STATE LINIVERSITY PHOTO

Brooks McKowen becomes the seventh head coach in MWSU mens basketball history.

"I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Brooks during the process as he shared his vision for Griffon Men's basketball and I am fully confident in his ability to move our program forward," Carter said. We welcome Brooks, his wife Amanda and their family to St. Joseph."

Prior to UIU, the Fairbank,

Iowa native spent two seasons as the top assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Southwest Minnesota State in Marshall, Minn.

A 2007 graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, McKowen was a four-year letter winner at point guard, ranking second all-time in assists

and fourth all time in minutes played. Playing for head coaches Greg McDermott and Ben Jacobson, He helped lead the Panthers to three 20-plus win seasons and three NCAA Tournament appearances. Following graduation, McKowen spent three seasons (2007-2010) on the coaching staff at UNI, while earning his master's degree in physical education and coaching.

The Fairbank, Iowa native also holds the Iowa state high school record for both points in a season (1,002 in 2003) and points in a career (2,831 from 2000-03).

Brooks and his wife Amanda have four children: Kahler (8), Banks (6), Kelik (4) and Lanik (2).

The McKowen family was formally introduced in a press conference on Friday, March 28th in the Spratt Stadium Hall of Fame room.

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## Recognizing 'Mr. Fairbank' for 60 years of service: Vorwald honored with key to Fairbank

CONTINUED FROM A1

firefighting and emergency medical care until September 01, 2024 and continues to be an active auxiliary member of the department and city activities; and

WHEREAS: Theodore Vorwald's decades of service to the City of Fairbank and the surrounding community, during which time Theodore (Ted) has earned the respect, love, and affection of fellow citizens and has been a stabilizing influence in the City and Fire Department of Fairbank, Iowa: and

WHEREAS: the citizens of the City of Fairbank, Iowa wish to honor Theodore Vorwald for his passion and commitment to the City and Fire Department, his example as a role model to other members of the Fairbank Fire Department, and his service and dedication to the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE: by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Fairbank, on behalf of the Fairbank City Council and all citizens hereof, I do hereby present Theodore (Ted) Vorwald with this Key to the City; it is not a key to any lock, but is the true key to the hearts of the citizens of Fairbank.

In further, urging all citizens to join me and the City Council in honoring Ted Vorwald on his nearly 60 years of selfless service to the city and extending best wishes for his continued success in his future endeavors."

Vorwald joked that sooner or later they would get him retired, and the awards he has earned over the years "must mean something" about his honorable and exemplary work. A brief conversation with Vorwald revealed that if there is anything to know about Fairbank, he's the guy, and



COLIBTESY PHOTO

Ted Vorwald was honored with family and friends on March 22 during the Fairbank Fire Department Firefighter's Banquet. Pictured is: back row (from left): Andrew Buzynski, Brent Even, Dalton Huebner, Anna Huebner, Ted Vorwald and Adam Etringer; front row: Mallory Buzynski, Ivy Buzynski, Jane Even, Jan Vorwald, Mya Etringer, Leo Etringer, Rivers Huebner, Sara Etringer, Cayle Huebner and Jaycie Dixon.

that he remains humble about his longlasting passion for volunteerism — even with a quick quip here and there.

"I can't afford to move, and I never ever had any intentions of moving from Fairbank," Vorwald said jokingly. "I've always had a job. The main reason is because there's plenty of volunteer work to do in Fairbank, other than plain being a nice, clean town."

While he may not be from Fairbank, all roads lead back to the services he has provided over the years, whether that be seen through the lights adorning poles along Main Street or through other city beautification means. Vorwald was honored with two plaques — the proclamation framed and the key to the City of

Fairbank — at the Fairbank Fire Department's annual banquet surrounded by friends, family, fellow firemen and women and neighbors.

"Those are two very nice awards I received from the city," Vorwald said. "It was nice to get the awards."



## EMT and Firefighter of the year



COLIBTESY PHOT



COURTESY PHOTO

Iowa Firefighter's Association Past President Roger Carr, Chris West-Chief, FFD Chaplin Fr. Attwood, and Collin. Fr. Atwood was recognized by the Iowa Firefighter's Association for his service to the FFD.

Chief Chris West, Ryan Rausch-Firefighter of the year, Bryce Kleitsch-EMT of the year, Collin Woods, Association President

## A lifetime of love

### BY BETTY BRANDT PASSICK

bbpassick@comcast.net

Thank you for the many cards and kind words of condolence we received following the death of our granddaughter, Brittany Corrine Wilson, 36, on February 1, 2025, at Unity Point Hospital in Waterloo. She fought valiantly for over three years to defeat cervical cancer. Her whole life revolved around her son Dillon. She was profoundly loved and admired by family and friends, particularly for always treating others with kindness and respect. She was a budding, talented artist - and writer. In recent years, she had begun writing a book of life lessons to pass on to Dillon. One of the subjects was "setting boundaries," where she encouraged him to only let people into his life who would love and support him-and let others who didn't have his back... fall away. In her short lifespan, she worked briefly for Waterloo Processing in Waterloo, Birch Manufacturing in Jesup, Two Brothers in Independence, and other places before getting hired by John Deere in Waterloo. She embodied a beautiful soul, and her absence leaves a great void in the lives of many. Thank you to those who supported Brittany and her son via her Go-FundMe page, and in myriad other ways. The family is grateful for the exceptional Hospice care at Unity Point Hospital.

Days have quickly turned into months since her passing...and reflections of her vacillate between great joy and great sorrow. Joy because-though it was cancer that in the past six months returned her to our home in the Twin Cities, whenever she had 3-5 days of Mayo appointments-that precious time turned into resplendent opportunities to recount childhood memories of when she (and her two sisters) visited us over long weekends...to attend Disney on Ice or a Children's Theatre production, take trips to Lake Phalen to picnic and feed the ducks, enjoy volleyball in the backyard, bake cookies in the kitchen, and much more the kinds of things most grandpar-





COURTESY PHOTO:

Brittany Wilson, 36 passed away on Feb. 1, 2025 after a three year fight to defeat cervical cancer.

ents do with their grandchildren.

Britt recalled I had introduced her to children's books, like The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams, still exclaiming I had read the book so many times that eventually, whenever I brought out the book in the evening before bed, she'd moan, "Not again, Grandma!"

In my defense, I maintained the book had a powerful message to imbue on young minds and reminded her that she had been the grandchild who incessantly begged to borrow the book (and stuffed rabbit) to carry home with her, with the promise of returning them the next time she visited. Eventually, the book and rabbit remained in her permanent care. She still had them, she said.

The memory of Britt also invokes weighty sorrow, of course...from losing her so young. She suffered a great deal. Yet, somehow her brilliant spirit remained intact to the end.

We are reminded that death is just a word... The bonds of a life-time of love can never be broken.

What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit. "Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by hit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

## Community Club holds March meeting

The Fairbank Community Club met on March 19th at the Fairbank Legion. Meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 23 members in attendance.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Amanda Jipson. It was suggested to put \$5,000 into a short-term CD at the bank. Motion was made and seconded.

The Fairbank Islander financial report was read by Kathy Risse.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Concerning "Music In The Park", the dates for this year will be June 5, July 10 and August 21. The time will be 6:00-8:00pm on the June and July dates, and 5:00-9:00pm for the August date, which will be our "End of the Summer Bash" with a larger band and kid's activities. The group discussed several ideas for the final event. Sponsorship for the bands is being covered by area businesses.

Another "Ladies Night Out" Vendor Fair will be held April 10th from 5:00-8:00pm at the Fairbank Legion. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to assist with the set-up and tear-down. The Legion will offer a special drink and there will be snacks. Vendors will not tear down if people are still there after 8:00 to accommodate late-comers.

Plans for Easter include: Easter Egg Hunt to be held Saturday, April 19th on the Island. If the weather should be bad, the event will be moved to the American Legion. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to visit with the kids and Easter baskets will be handed out. The Easter Baskets will be donated by Community Club members along with help from any Fairbank citizens who would like to donate. Monetary donations will also be accepted to cover some of the expenses. This project will be headed by Cindy Woods who can be reached at (319) 231-4251 for more information. Baskets and donations can be dropped off at Modern Building Products.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Community Club will again be sponsoring a Spring City-Wide Garage Sale on May 3rd. Fairbank Clean-Up Day will be held earlier this year, on April 7th, instead of the Monday after the garage sales.

Buchanan County Tourism contacted the Community Club in regards to any special activities that we would like added to their website. We added Fairbank Days, the Garage Sales, and the Music in the Park dates. Any additional dates should be reported to Brittany at the City Hall.

Fairbank Days Donation: The Community Club donated \$2,000 and the Fairbank Islander newspaper donated \$500. With the donations, the group will receive free tickets for the weekend which will be raffled off at the next meeting to club members.

April 27th is the Fairbank Fire Department Breakfast. Next meeting for the Community Club will be held May 21, 2025 at the Legion with doors opening at 5:00 and meeting starting at 6:00.

Meeting was adjourned.





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

Wednesdays at 10:00AM



Phone: 319-635-2487

### Fairbank Public Library **Board of Trustees!**

Fax: 319-635-2487

Website: Fairbank-ia.org

Do you have a passion for community service and a love for libraries?

Fairbank Public Library is seeking an enthusiastic individual to join our Board!

As a board member, you'll play a vital role in shaping the future of our library, ensuring it continues to be a cornerstone of our community. This is your chance to make a lasting impact and help us provide excellent resources, programs, and services to our Help us make a difference ~

212 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 426, Fairbank, IA 50629

applications available at the Library and City Hall!



**OUR ANNUAL** SPRING BOOK SALE

> will run from Thursday, April 24th to Saturday, May 3rd!

Free Will Donation and Book Grab Bags Available for purchase!

**Used Book Donations will be** accepted Now until April 23!



Stop by the library before May 22nd to nominate a veteran or activeduty service member for a chance to win a patriotic quilt made and donated by Joan Fox. Winner will be announced on

Friday, May 23, 2025. Remember & Honor FAIRBANK PUBLIC LIBRARY WEDNESDAY, **APRIL 2, 2025** 

**NO SCHOOL NO PROBLEM!** 

JOIN US FOR SOME **LIBRARY FUN** WITH A VISIT FROM **FONTANA AT 1:00 PM** @ FAIRBANK PUBLIC

LIBRARY!



Please consider donating your extra Wapsie Valley Clothing Items to the Fairbank Library for a Future Library Project!





Special Thanks to Sarah Seemann for leading this Chunky Blanket Night!







### **Dawn Haislet**

The Boxcar Librarian

Monday 1-5 pm

Tuesday 1-5 pm;

Thursday 1-6 pm

Friday 1-5 pm Saturday 9-12

1-5 pm

Wednesday 9 -11 am

..... from Gary Fink

### **Richard Wenger**

Inside the Park

from Mike & Sandy Tagtow

All Our Beautiful Goodbyes

.... from Dave & Pat Chase

We All Live Here

.....from Pat & Julie Lansing Family

The Gnomes of Grimblewood from Pat & Julie Lansing Family

A Long Time Gone

..... from Kenny, Matt Wenger & Ann Johnston Girls on the Rise

.. from Kenny, Matt Wenger & Ann Johnston

Wings of an Eagle from Kenny, Matt Wenger & Ann Johnston

I Don't Like Birthday Parties ... from Jasper Babinat

**Presumed Guilty** 

... from Kenny, Matt Wenger & Ann Johnston

As Sure as the Sea

. from Kenny, Matt Wenger & Ann Johnston

Three Days in June

...... from Kenny, Matt Wenger & Ann Johnston

Mr. and Mrs. Phelps Need Some Help

.....from Ron & Lou Babinat

**Hold Strong** 

.. from Randy, Jodi & Carson Woods

Dinosaur Day

...... from Doug & Janice Martins Family

### **Monetary Donations**

Arnola Siggelkow Midwest Contractors, Inc.





**Coloring Time!** 

NEW BOOKS ADDED IN MARCH























## Wapsie's Kleitsch wins AAU state championship

### Oelwein's Josh Tegtmeier places top-4 at AAU kids state tournament

**OELWEIN DAILY REGISTER STAFF REPORT** 

Wapsie Valley Wrestling Club's Evan Kleitsch won the Class B 5th-6th grade 114-pound championship at the Iowa Kids AAU state championships in Des Moines.

Kleitsch went 5-0, with three pins, a 17-0 technical fall, and 6-0 decision during his run.

His semifinal and championship wins were both 35-second pins.

He was one of two area wrestlers to earn a podium placement. Oelwein's Josh Tegtmeier placed fourth in the Class B 5-6 108 bracket, going 6-2. Tegtmeier claimed two pins, two decisions, a 16-3 major decision and an 18-3

His pins were both in the first period, and his decisions were seven-point wins (7-0, 11-

Josh's brother, Joe, went 1-2 in the Class B 5-6 120 bracket. He won 9-0 before falling twice.

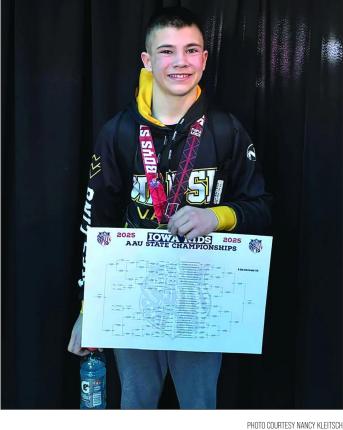
Wapsie Valley saw four other wrestlers participate in the tournament.

Jace Klendworth (C 7-8 145) went 3-2 with three pins. Jackson Brunscheon (B 5-6 80) went 2-2, while both Calvin Jones (A 3-4 90) and Ray Murphy (B 5-6 148) both went 1-2. Jones won, 18-5, and Murphy won, 10-4.

Starmont's Griffin West went 1-2, with a 10-4 decision.

PHOTO COURTESY MAC

Joe and **Josh Tegt**meier, from left to right, pose with coaches after the Iowa Kids **AAU** state tournament in Des Moines.



Wapsie Valley's Evan Kleitsch won the B 5-6 grade 114 pound Iowa AAU Kids state championship last weekend in Des Moines to lead all area wrestlers from Wapsie Valley Wrestling Club, Oelwein Wrestling Club and Starmont.



## WAPSIE VALLEY SCHOOL CORNER



**CHRIS HOOVER** 

Recently, we have had some questions regarding Educational Savings Ac-

(ESA/Vouchers). Below is a brief summary of the program.

In Iowa, the Education Savings Account program was introduced as part of the Student

First Act, which was signed into law in January 2023. The program is designed to provide financial assistance to families who want to send their children to private schools, giving them more educational options outside of the public school system.

Here's how the program works:

1. Eligibility:

• Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, the program is available to families with children who are entering kindergarten through 12th grade.

• Initially, priority was given to families who were below a certain income threshold or those whose children are currently enrolled in public schools.

Eventually, the program was phased in to provide wider access.

2. How the ESA works:

The state provides a funding amount per stu-

dent, which can be used to pay for tuition and other qualified educational expenses at participating private schools. • For the 2024-2025 school

year, the amount is \$7,826

per student. This amount can vary slightly depending on the final budget and legislative changes. • Families can use the ESA funds for tuition, fees,

books, educational therapies, or other services related to the child's education at a private school.

3. Account Management:

 Once eligible families are approved, they receive funds in the form of an Education Savings Account, which is managed by a third-party provider.

• The funds are deposited directly into a designated account for each student. Families can then use these funds to pay for approved expenses related to private school education.

 The public school plays no part in this money NOR does any of this money funnel through the public school.

### 4. Impact on Public **Schools:**

• While the program provides an alternative for families, it does reduce the funding that public school districts receive because the state funds are diverted to the ESA accounts.

• This can lead to potential challenges in public school budgeting, especially in areas with high numbers of families using ESAs.

Hopefully this information can answer any other questions that may be out there. Thank you for your support and Go Warriors!

Chris Hoover, Wapsie Valley Superintendent

## Wapsie Valley turns to alum Bellis

BY GIDAL KAISER

Sports@oelweindailyregister.com

Blayde Bellis saw how close Wapsie Valley was last year to reaching the state baseball tournament.

Bellis was an assistant as the Warriors went 32-8 and lost in the 2024 substate championship game. He wants to help it "get over the



Bellis was named head coach for his alma mater's program last week. He replaces Tom Joecken, who went 173-179 in 11 years.

It means a lot. If you would have asked me when I graduated high school if I ever thought I'd coach the baseball team, I probably would have laughed at you," Bellis said. "But I'm excited. It means a lot coaching a sport at my alma mater that means so much to me. I had a lot of good times, a lot of wins, and coming back and giving back to the program is important."

Bellis is an also an assistant coach for Marty McKowen's boys basketball pro-

"Coach Bellis brings a wealth of experience and passion for the game that aligns perfectly with our athletic department's vision," Athletic Director Brett Bergman said. "His commitment to developing not only skilled players, but also young men of character, made him the standout candidate in our search.

'We are confident that under Coach Bellis' leadership, our baseball program will continue to grow and compete at the highest level while upholding the values of sportsmanship and dedication that define Wapsie Valley athletics."

Bellis was selected as an Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association third-team honoree in 2020. The pitcher/ center fielder batted .370 (20 for 54) with 22 runs, 13 walks, 12 runs batted in, nine singles, eight doubles and three triples during the truncated 2020 year. He was 12 for 14 in stolen bases.

He was 1-1 with a 3.75 earned-run average and 25 strikeouts in 18 2/3 innings.

As a sophomore, Bellis went 4-1 with two saves, 58 strikeouts and a 0.67 ERA.

He hit .383 (51 for 133) with 50 runs, 39 RBI, 25 walks, 17 doubles, two triples and a home run as a sophomore. He was 15 for 17 in stolen bases.

Bellis did not play as a senior because of a summer commitment to Wartburg football; he played multiple seasons for the Division III in-state powerhouse.

"(I) Have an opportunity to give back to the school, and an opportunity to do some good things this year," Bellis said. "Obviously trying to get this team over the hump to a state appearance, which would be our first one. The goal is to win — if you're not coaching to win, then why are you doing

Wapsie has increased its win total every season since 2020 and won 56 games combined in 2023 and 2024. Since 2019, the program has reached three substate semifinals and was knocked off in upsets, record-wise, in 2020, 2022 and 2023.

'Coach Bellis and I have been meeting and preparing for the upcoming season," Bergman said. "He is excited to build upon the strong foundation of our baseball program and create new opportunities for our student-athletes."

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## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

REGULAR MEETING
The Fairbank City Council met in regular session at 5:00 pm on Wednesday February 26, 2025. This Wednesday February 26, 2025. This Wednesday meeting was a re-scheduled meeting for the Monday February 24th meeting as it was cancelled due to not having a quorum. Members present: R. Woods, Williams, and Erickson. Gruetzmacher attended via Microsoft Teams. Absent: T. Woods. Also, present at City Hall: Heather Prendergast, City Attorney; Michelle Laube, Deputy Clerk; and Brittany Fuller, City Clerk. Mayor Kayser called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Allegiance.
Erickson/Williams to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

agenda. Motion carried. There were no public hearings. Williams/Erickson to approve the following consent agenda items as presented: February 10, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting, Setting the next budget workshop for 5:30 pm on March 10th, Approving Resolution 2025-07 – A Resolution Setting Time and Place for a Public Hearing Concerning a Tax Statement Showing the Proposed Tax Levies for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget. The public hearing will be held on March public hearing will be held on March 24th at 6:00 pm. Ayes: Four. Nays: None.

Councilman T. Woods arrived at 5:05

pm. There were no informal public com-

pm.
There were no informal public comments.
Gruetzmacher/T. Woods to approve the second reading of Ordinance 368
— Chapter 92 Water — Section 92.02
Water Rates adding a \$5.00 infrastructure fee per month. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.
T. Woods/R. Woods to approve the third reading of Ordinance 369 — Chapter 99 Sewer and Sewer Rates. Ordinance 369 ends 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.
Williams/T. Woods to approve Ordinance 369 — Chapter 99 Sewer and Sewer Rates. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.
Gruetzmacher/R. Woods to approve the Davis Lawn Care 2025 Lawn Treatment Program for \$4,531.00. Ayes: Five. Nays: None.
During the council/mayor comments or concerns, Councilman T. Woods stated he'd been questioned on what the UTV hours of operation were in town and wanted to clarify to the community that since the hours of operation section was removed from the City's UTV Ordinance, there is no city restriction on driving times. There were no department reports. Williams/T. Woods to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 pm. Motion carried. Jason Kayser, Mayor Brittany Fuller, City Clerk

### City of Fairbank: Seasonal Mowing for Fairbank Cemetery

Send bid in envelope marked "Cemetery Mowing Bid" to Brittany Fuller, City Clerk.

116 East Main Street Fairbank PO Box 447, IA 50629-0447 by April 10, 2024 - 5:00 PM.

The City Council expects to consider and take action on all bids at its meeting on April 14, 2025.

The meeting begins at 6:00 PM in the council chambers at City

The City has the right to reject any and all bids.

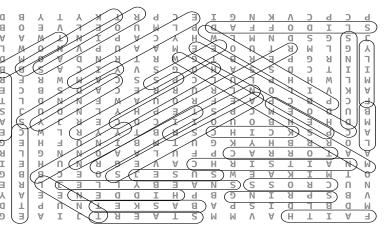
### Cemetery Seasonal Mowing 2025 Season

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOWING OF THE FAIRBANK CEM-

- 1. Maintains and cares for the City cemetery property and makes recommendations concerning its maintenance.
- 2. Mows lawn with hand or power mower; trims using weed eater
  - 3. Trim, Mow and Rake leaves.
  - 4. Establishes a cooperative relationship with the city.
  - 5. Multiple year bids are welcome.

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## **EASTER WORD SEARCH**

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

### **WORDS**

**APOSTLES** 

BASKET BONNET BUNNY CANDY **CARROT** CELEBRATE CHICK CHOCOLATE CHRISTIAN **CROSS** DAFFODILS DUCKLINGS EASTER EGGS FAITH FAMILY HIDDEN **JELLYBEANS** JESUS LENT MARSHMALLOW MIRACLE PEEP PRAYER RABBIT RESURRECTION RISEN SAVIOR SPRING SUNDAY **TOMB** TREATS

### Wapsie Valley CSD Public Hearing & Regular School Board Meeting

Wapsie Valley CSD
Public Hearing & Regular School Board Meeting
March 20, 2025
Pledge of Allegiance
1. President Wolfe called the Public Hearing on the 25-26 Property Tax Statement to order at 6:00 PM. Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Auel-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye Motion carried 5-0
A. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe
B. Supt. Hoover, Secretary Arndt, & Principal Murphy
C. Others: Dave Hunt, Annette Hyde, Brett Bergman, Donald Fratzke, Kyle Martin, Jon Biederman, Brian Stark,
Vaughn Gross, & virtual participants.
2. Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0
3. President Wolfe read opening statements regarding public hearing requirements and property tax statement. Superintendent Hoover stated the property tax statement was published at the highest property tax rate due to supplemental state aid not being set by the legislature at the time of the public hearing notice. Different scenarios with lower property tax rates will be presented at the April 23, 2025 Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting.
4. Public comment-No written or verbal comments
5. Closed the Public Hearing and adjourned at 6:06 PM-Roll call-Aiello-Aye, Auel-Aye, Sauerbrei-Aye, Kaufman-Aye, & Wolfe-Aye Motion carried 5-0
1. President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:06

President Wolfe called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:06

M. Directors: Aiello, Auel, Kaufman, Sauerbrei, & Wolfe Supt. Hoover, & Secretary Arndt - Principals excused Others: Dave Hunt, Annette Hyde, Brett Bergman, Donald Fratzke, Kyle artin, Jon Biederman, Brian Stark, Vaughn Gross, & virtual participants. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Aiello to approve the agenda as premted. Motion carried 5-0 Public Comment: Vaughn Gross talked about looking at a 4-day school sek, & Robotics Bill 278 Prian Stark presented vision and schools previously worked with regard-

3. Public Comment: Vaugnn Gross talked about looking at a 4-day school week, & Robotics Bill 278

4. Brian Stark presented vision and schools previously worked with regarding track and football field projects.

5. Consent Items: Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Kaufman to approve the consent items including the bills being reviewed by Brent Sauerbrei with Kelsey Kerns requesting to open enroll her 1st grade daughter from Tripoli effective the 25-26 school year. Motion carried 5-0 Also, funds will be transferred from the Activity interest account to support minimum registration fees for Future Business Leadership of America (\$100-5 students), Family Career & Community Leader of America, (\$240-12 students), Future Farmers of America (\$100-5 students) & Skills USA (\$100-5 students), \$500 will also be transferred to National Honor Society to start the program.

6. Communication & Reports: Board: None. Superintendent: Mr. Hoover's report included budget comments, area tax rates, enrollment trends, and Every Student Succeeds Act. District-PK-12 Principals: Report includes student led conferences, professional development, literacy week, NICL academic conference, intervention period, blood drive, spring activities, POPS concert, & FFA district contests.

7. Personnel Actions- Resignations: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by

Personnel Actions- Resignations: Moved by Kaufman, Seconded by

Auel to approve the resignations of Austin Jeanes-JV Girls Basketball Coach, & Heidi Shannon, Teacher Leadership Instructional Coach effective 6–30-2025 and thank them for their service to Wapsie Valley. Motion carried 5-0 Contracts: Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to approve contracts for Jordan Smith-Van Driver-\$26.10 per route, & Elizabeth Bergman - Co-Head Golf Coach-\$3,008 Base 1/Year 0 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

tracts for Jordan Smith-Van Driver-\$26.10 per route, & Elizabeth Bergman - Co-Head Golf Coach-\$3,008 Base 1/Year 0 as presented. Motion carried 4-0

8. New Business-Arndt presented the FY26 preliminary budget, FY26 budget guarantee and FY25 budget amendment Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Auel to publish the proposed budget with a tax rate of 14.37514 & set the public hearing date for the FY26 budget, FY25 budget amendment for April 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Moved by Sauerbrei, Seconded by Kaufman to approve WV/CLS 25-26 PK Agreement as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Sauerbrei to approve 25-26 AEA Purchasing Agreement as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Moved by Aiello, Seconded by Auel to approve the 25-26 girls tennis agreement with Oelwein as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve sharing girls soccer with Denver for the 24-25 season as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to approve sharing girls soccer with Denver for the 24-25 season as presented. Motion carried 5-0 Went into Closed Session at 7:16 PM with a Roll call vote: All Ayes Motion carried 5-0 21.5 (g). To avoid disclosure of specific law enforcement matters, such as current or proposed investigations or inspection or auditing techniques or schedules, which if disclosed would enable law violators to avoid detection. Came out of Closed Session at 8:12 PM with a Roll call vote: All Ayes Motion carried 5-0 Went into Exempt Session at 8:13 PM with a roll call vote: All Ayes Motion carried 5-0 Went into Exempt Session at 8:13 PM with a roll call vote: All Ayes Motion carried 5-0 Went into Exempt Session at 8:13 PM with a roll call vote: All Ayes Motion carried 5-0 Went into Exempt Session at 8:13 PM with a roll call vote: All Ayes Motion carried 5-0 Repolations listed in section 20.9. Came out of Exempt Session at 8:33 PM with a Roll call vote: All Ayes Motion carried 5-0

11. Moved by Auel, Seconded by Kaufman to adjourn at 8:33 PM Motion carried 5

March 20, 2025 Bills: ADAMS, LANDON \$32.00 AGVANTAGE FS \$15,809.13 ALLIANT ENERGY \$397.46 ALPHAGRAPHICS \$133.66 Amazon \$339.29 APLINGTON-PARKERSBURG \$182.00 ARNOLD MOTOR \$259.43 AUDIBLE \$8.51 AWARDS GIFT \$113.75 BEACHY, RACHEL \$57.39 BEHNKE, NOLA \$37.00 BLACK HILLS ENERGY \$446.24 BREMER COUNTY DARE \$506.16 BUTLER COUNTY BEC \$3,804.90 BUZYNSKI, AMY \$170.00 CASEY'S \$40.00 CEDAR FALLS CSD \$8,218.46 CENTRAL IA DISTRIB \$320.00 CHEMSEARCH \$221.65 CITY LAUNDRY \$1,378.63 CITY OF FAIRBANK \$4,311.31 CITY OF READLYN \$4,010.67 COLUMN SOFTWARE \$51.92 COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOLS \$44,273.30 CONAWAY, XANDER \$14.00 CONTINENTAL RESEARCH \$1,289.57 DENVER CSD \$6,495.30 EAST-CENTRAL IA REC \$523.72 Employee Benefit Systems \$81,152.84 EMS DETERGENT \$52.05 FAIRBANK FOOD \$6.38 FAREWAY \$24.29 HAWKEYE CMMNTY CLLGE \$41,127.57

HERSHBERGER, MARY BETH \$85.01 HESSE, RACHEL \$0.00 IASBO \$245.00 IADHS \$6,514.88 IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES \$519.27 IOWA TESTING PROGRAMS \$1,716.00 IXL LEARNING \$5,250.00 JANESVILLE CSD \$6,017.40 Kaufman, Adam \$2,800.00 KAY L. CHAPMAN, CPA \$4,700.00 KENWORTHY, STOREY \$3,109.76 KLUESNER SANITATION \$640.00 KUM & GO \$51.04 LARRY'S SRVC \$694.36 LITTLE WAPSIE COMM \$175.08 Menards \$533.44 MENZEL, EMMA \$149.94 MERCYDIES \$110.00 MILLER, BEN \$18.00 MILLER, CATHERINE \$76.50 MODERN BUILDING \$73.06 NEW HAMPTON CSD \$5,255.08 OELWEIN CSD \$393.73 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$161.00 QUALITY TRUCK RBLOOG S860.63 RABER, EDNA \$85.01 RAISA A HALLELUJAH \$1,400.00 READLYN TELEPHONE \$196.54 SCHOOL BUS SALES \$110.60 School Fix \$88.29 SCHULTZ, LANDRY \$34.00 SCRIBNER, RACHEL \$403.20 STICKFORT ELECTRIC \$304.50 STREET SMARTS \$1,368.00 TAYLOR PHYSICAL THERAPY \$1,272.50 Teacher Synergy \$79.15 TIMBERLINE \$115.46 UBIQUITI STORE \$6.00 UNI \$150.00 UIU \$1,368.00 Walmart \$478.27 WATERLOO CSD \$4,181.26 WAVERLY CSD \$59,742.85 WEEDS ON FIRE \$2,445.00 GENERAL TOTAL \$329,786.39 Employee Benefit Systems \$4,546.25 MANAGEMENT TOTAL \$4,546.25 BLUUM OF MINNESOTA \$3,187.36 BOOMERANG \$143.81 Central Rivers AEA \$4,038.85 FERGUSON \$1,875.69 ORAN MUTUAL TELEPHONE \$100.00 YOUNG PLMBG & HTNG \$2,071.30 PPEL TOTAL \$13,080.31 Amazon \$8,630.51 BRAIN POP \$175.00 GOBILDA \$649.48 GRIZZLY \$1,888.49 \$2,000 J.W. PEPPER \$660.33 REV ROBOTICS \$336.22 SEWING PARTS \$1,569.15 WEST MUSIC \$866.00 GALLUP TRUST \$3,821.70 ALLISON BETT. DICKINSON RELAYS \$50.00 EDDY, JACK \$85.00 EGGS & JAM \$82.02 ELITE SPORTS \$295.50 FCCLA \$28.00 FAREWAY \$42.73 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) \$80.00 GLEN SNYDER \$170.00 GOBILDA \$276.60 HELMER, AXTON \$120.00 HESSE, KORVIN \$20.00 HILSENBECK HAYDEN \$375.00 HOME DEPOT \$59.99 Iowa AAU Wrestling \$220.00 IOWA FCCLA \$2,691.80 IHSAA \$646.00 J.W. PEPPER \$11.50 JERSEY MIKES \$127.29 JOERGER, LAKIN \$200.00 JOLESCH ENTERPRISES \$50.00 Jones, Ashlea \$98.89 KELLEY, SABRINA \$70.00 Krall, Briar \$203.17 MAPLE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB \$500.00 MICHELL'S \$496.32 MILLER, JOHN \$45.00 NATIONAL FFA ORG \$198.00 NE IA HUSTLERS \$160.00 NITZ, KATELYN \$25.00 PEYTON, JAYDEN \$350.00 SAM'S CLUB \$248.92 SCHIPPER, ADAM \$85.00 STUBER, ELY \$200.00 STUBER, LOUNTRY CLUB \$248.92 SCHIPPER, ADAM \$85.00 STUBER, ELY \$200.00 STUBER, \$200.00 TEXAS ROADHOUSE \$243.42 TIEDT, MARSHALL \$20.00 TownePlace Suites by Marriott \$2,486.40 U.S. POST OFFICE \$8.35 UNI ATHLETICS \$200.00 VIBES KITCHEN \$76.80 Waskow, Dave \$85.00 WENGER, ERNIE \$250.00 WESTERN DUBUQUE CSD \$90.00 WIERSMA, BARNEY \$120.00 WILLE, CARMEN \$116.34 ACTIVITY TOTAL \$15,182.89 COCA-COLA \$302.89 EMS DETERGENT \$328.15 KWIK TRIP \$20.87 MARTIN BROS. \$14,339.03 PRAIRIE FARMS \$2,854.87 WILSON RESTAURANT \$589.03 LUNCH TOTAL \$18,434.84

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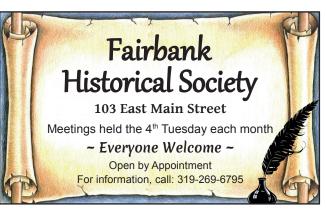
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A18 APRIL 2, 2025

## 2024-25 All-ODR Wrestler of the Year

Decker credits community for lifelong accomplishment

BY GIDAL KAISER

sports@oelweindailyregister.com

Kanen Decker changed up his appearance, but only slightly.

Ninety-five percent of the season, roughly, Wapsie Valley's senior 175-pounder wore the same singlet: black, with yellow trim around the neck, shoulders, and legs with Wapsie Valley printed in yellow across the front, the school logo printed across the back.

Warrior wrestlers have a myriad of singlets to choose from for 'special occasions' — namely, reaching a championship match during a tournament. Most Wapsie wrestlers select a gold- or yellow-based colored singlet, reflecting either the championship match or a topfour placement match.

Decker deviated from his everyday singlet a couple times, but one would not notice unless one was paying attention. The singlet was quite similar — black, with yellow trim around the neck, shoulders, and legs. Instead of the school's name



and logo, there was just a small Native American head on the left leg.

And a couple was just that — twice.

Once for his final Chris Davis Invitational championship match, Wapsie Valley's annual home tournament, and the second for his Class 1A state championship match, the final match of his prep career.

"I'm not really much of a flashy guy," Decker said. "The (different) singlets and all that, it's cool, but I always think back to ... you gotta go with what got you there. The basic Wapsie Valley singlet, with the school's name across the chest, I like it because you've got to be proud of where you come from."

Head coach Brian Krall smirked as he stood next to the four-time state qualifier inside Wapsie Valley's wrestling room.

"Yeah, he is a smart kid," Krall noted. "Kanen is a great, great ambassador for what Wapsie wrestling is. He's humble, works hard. True team guy."

Decker closed his career 2-1 in title matches at Wapsie's home tournament, and on top of the 1A podium. He went 41-2 as a senior, sweeping his way through the postseason with titles at the North Iowa Cedar League conference meet, the Denver district meet and as Wapsie's eighth state champion.

Decker joined 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.

"That's a goal every little kid sets out for, but to begin the season I didn't know if it'd become reality," Decker said of a gold medal at Wells Fargo Arena. "It was always in the back of my mind, but — as the season progressed, (I had) two losses. That's not going to define you, only going to make you grow."

He placed fifth as a junior and held a 7-6 state tournament record through three seasons. When did the words 'state champion' enter his thought process?

"I think it was after the last time I beat (Sumner-Fredericksburg's Noah) Henderson (for the NICL title)," Decker searched his mind. "I was like, 'Maybe I can do this. Maybe I can hang with the pretty good kids.'

"If you believe in yourself, then that's all that matters. I believed I could be a state champion."

Again, Krall smiled.

"It comes from a couple different directions," the coach said. "Kanen's work ethic and his ability to lead the team through things speaks to where his goals were. He worked hard every day in the room; there was

See DECKER, A19

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## 2024-25 All-ODR Wrestler of the Year

**CONTINUED FROM A18** 

no question about where he wanted to be.

"If you were to ask any of the coaching staff, every one of us would tell you he's the best 175-pounder in the state. We know that. He had to believe it."

Decker closed his career with a 159-38 record, and 11-6 at state.

Decker's work ethic also gave him pause to express joy at nearly every turn. Notoriously reticent to smile after winning on the mat, he cracked every so often while being catcalled by teammates, friends, or family after tournaments.

Even at state, with the wrestling done, Decker allowed small smiles just twice — as Krall leaned in for a private moment after draping the gold medal around his neck, and a few minutes later when the pair took a photo with the enlarged bracket.

Kanen then broke out a full smile when asked to take a father-son photo with Justin.

"I think the biggest thing was (something) my grandpa said — he always said I've got to smile," Decker said. "I'm very competitive, so I don't really like to smile. When it comes to that, I like to be serious and get business done.

"But if you do all that, then it does bring joy. So, I started to have more fun. Especially (since) it was the last couple months I'd be with these guys. It was my last sport in high school. I was like, 'Well, I might as well enjoy it while I'm doing it."

Added Krall: "Kanen turned that switch on during the back half of the season. You could tell he was confident with where he was (as a wrestler). He was happy and enjoying the ride."

Belief and motivation, both noted, are separate entities.

"I don't know how to explain it," Decker re-

sponded when asked what the word motivation means. "You have to set a goal for yourself, and then that gives you motivation. I guess. It's a hard question, for some reason."

The motivation was there from Day 1 as a freshman, growing up the son of a wrestler. Justin Decker is the lone state champion in West Central school history, winning in 1992 and 1994

"The father/son connection in wrestling is like no other sport," Justin texted the Daily Register after the tournament. "We know all the sacrifices and discipline it takes to get here. Our fan and family support down at the state tournament was unbelievable. ... I truly believe Kanen was doing this for Wapsie Valley. Not the only reason, but a really huge part of it. I hope he can look in the mirror and have the feeling and satisfaction that he did this for himself, as well."

Kanen also looked up to both former Warrior champions Donny Schmit (2016, 2018) and Kaleb Krall (2017) as a youth; Krall is a current Wapsie assistant coach.

His guides include Upper Iowa grappler Dawson Schmit, a multi-year practice partner 1A state runner-up in 2023, and current volunteer assistant Easton Krall, among many.

He's not quick to forget — or remind others his success is not his alone.

"It's not me that's done it all," Decker said. "It's my teammates: (fellow senior) Dallas (Tisue), Easton, Jake Schoer, Dawson Schmit. The high school kids I grew up watching — Donny, Kaleb, those guys.

"You want to be like them, and then, with the help of all your coaches, that's Wapsie wrestling. I wouldn't want to do it any other way. The last I don't know how many years, maybe 12. You dream of being a Wapsie wrestler. I can't say anything better about it because I wouldn't do it any other way."

## Odneal wins Buchanan County Farm Bureau coloring contest



COURTESY PHOT

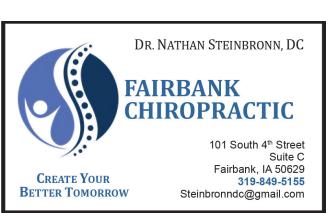
## Collins Odneal, Buchanan County Farm Bureau coloring contest winner.

Recently at Fairbank Elementary students who participate in Ag in the classroom with the Buchanan County Farm Bureau were given the opportunity to enter a coloring contest for National Ag Week. The theme this year was Many Colors of Ag.

Many students throughout Buchanan County participated in this contest and our very own Collins Odneal from Mrs. Studebaker's PK/TK classroom was the top preschool entry in the county.

Collins will receive a gift certificate to Dairy Queen and other small prizes. Congratulations Collins!









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